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SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER, 2017

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CARE IN THE COMMUNITY - FEATURE ON PAGES 12-13

Second year-round ferry service sought

Expanded Lochranza route would be big boost

Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A bid is being made to turn the Lochranza summer ferry route into a year-round service, making the island more accessible and boosting trade.

The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee want to see the Lochranza to Claonaig route become an all-year-round service with as many as seven daily sailings between the two ports – even in winter. An alternative timetable drawn up for bad weather would see three ferries a day crossing to Tarbert.

A present, there is just one sailing a day between Lochranza and Tarbert in

winter, a journey which takes 90 minutes.

The new proposal, seen by the *Banner*, will now go to operator Caledonian MacBrayne for consideration of the likely costs and any operational issues, but it will be Transport Scotland which will make the final decision. However, the proposal will have to be seen as cost-effective, or at the very least cost-neutral, for it to have any chance of success.

The ferry committee argues the move is justified since Lochranza passenger numbers increased by 4.8 per cent in 2016/2017 and it estimates that a full winter service would triple numbers on the service

with an average of 700 passengers a week.

The committee wants to see the new service introduced for a trial period of three years. It says the daily service would allow visitors a return journey from Kintyre and provide residents and businesses with a winter option to visit the mainland locations with return same day. The MV *Catriona* is considered optimal for the route in terms of capacity and familiarity with the ports, since it presently services the route.

At present, the MV *Catriona* services both Lochranza and Portavadie from Tarbert during the winter months but the Arran pro-

Continued on page two

Festive five in Santa fun run



Triplets Reece, Harry and Finn with sister Grace and brother Jack Popplewell after completing the 5K Santa Dash in Glasgow.

The Popplewell clan, comprising triplets Reece, Harry and Finn, along with their sister Grace and brother Jack, joined more than 8,000 runners who took part in the Santa Dash in Glasgow last weekend.

The Glasgow 5K run, an annual event now in its 11th year, saw a record number of runners, as well as a number of dogs, dressed up in their Santa outfits and defying the sub-zero temperatures to take part in the charity fundraiser.

The Popplewell family joined the sea of red and white Santas at the start of the race in George Square, where the race also ended, and completed their run in a time of 50 minutes. They ran to raise money for the Beatson Cancer Charity, which was the beneficiary of this year's run.

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Search for missing John draws a blank



John Smith.

A new extensive search for missing man John Smith has once again failed to find any trace of the pensioner, who has now not been seen for more six months.

As reported in last week's *Banner* the Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Team and the Arran Mountain Rescue Team joined together to form a 28-strong search party that did a shoulder to shoulder search at Machrie Moor over two days last Sunday and Monday.

Despite the thorough and painstaking methods employed by both teams of



Arran and Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Teams receive an early morning briefing before setting out on their search, Photo by Arran MRT

professionals, who are highly skilled and experienced in searches, there was no sign of the missing man.

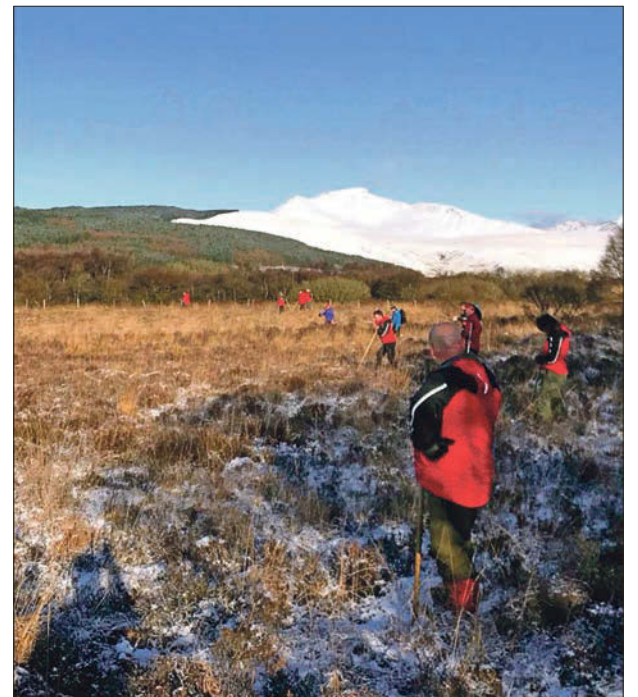
Chief Inspector Brian Shaw said: 'I can advise that the search went ahead

with 14 members of Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Team in partnership with 14 members of Arran Mountain Rescue Team. Unfortunately, we were unable to find any trace of Mr Smith.'

The 77-year-old disappeared from his home in Machrie on Tuesday May 30.

He was last seen by a neighbour near to Machrie Golf Club around 6.10pm that evening.

However, Police Scotland remain committed to finding missing John and appeal for anyone who might have any information to get in contact with officers at Lamlash or Irvine police stations via 101 quoting incident number 4049 of Tuesday May 30, 2017.



Searchers comb through tussocky ground in freezing conditions on the undulating expanse of Machrie Moor. Photo by Arran MRT

Second year round ferry service

Continued from page 1
 mates do not include financial gains for these further destinations.

The report adds: 'Previous requests to expand the service from Lochranza were rejected due to perceived limitations due to a lack of lighting at Claonaig. However, we understand that this is being addressed by CMAL and will not be a limiting factor for the 18/19 winter timetable.'

'This will complement the Ardrossan route development and potentially attract additional visitors to the Kintyre peninsular and beyond. Our cost benefit esti-

mates do not include financial gains for these further destinations.

'The economic development of the island is dependent on the extension of the ferry services as outlined in the ferries review and other consultations. We have engaged with the Lochranza community to develop this proposal, which has been refined in discussion with businesses, residents and the operator.'

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'In line with the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract, CalMac recently consulted with local communities to

gather timetable requests for winter 2018/19. Only requests that are broadly cost-neutral or have exceptional justification will be considered. CalMac and Transport Scotland will now liaise to assess the requests, with the winter 2018/19 timetables to be approved by Scottish ministers and published in March 2018.'

Meanwhile, the ferry committee has successfully negotiated extra sailings on Tuesday January 2 which will see the MV Isle of Arran operating three services each way on the Ardrossan to Brodick route.

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Getting ready for winter weather

Arran has two new grit bins to help householders keep their paths and driveways clear as the island prepares for the worst of the winter weather.

The bins, which will be kept filled with rock salt, are available for the public to use at the Brodick recycling centre and at the council office car park in Lamlash.

Addition

They are the latest addition to the many sand-filled bins already available around the island to help keep local paths and roads clear, and have been secured as a result of the efforts of Councillor Timothy Billings.

Councillor Billings told the *Banner*: 'I was aware of the new bins being distributed on the mainland so I asked if Arran could have one and we were offered two. Initially they will be in Brodick and Lamlash but we will gauge how they are used and they could be moved depending on their use. Other communities can also apply for grit bins.'

A new winter information leaflet has also been published which gives details and advice on North Ayrshire Council's winter roads programme.

The council insists that it is an urban myth that you will be held legally respon-

sible for any injuries occurring on footpaths you have cleared. Only those who are negligent can be successfully sued. People walking on snow or ice are responsible for themselves.

The council says it aims to treat as many roads as possible when snow and ice are forecast, although there is a finite amount of money available to carry this out. Therefore it operates a priority system of roads treatment.

This means that the most important roads are treated first and, the council says, that while it is not responsible for maintaining private roads, it may treat them during extended periods of bad weather if resources are available.

Weather watch

The council's roads team is currently on weather watch for snow and ice, which are forecast from now right through until April next year. A 1,600-tonne stockpile of rock salt is being kept at its depot in Brodick.

☐ If your community would benefit from a grit bin, you can apply for one by calling 01294 310000 or by visiting the council website.



Island officer Gus MacLeod, Councillor Timothy Billings, community council chairman Bill Calderwood and Brodie Pearcey with one of the new grit bins and the winter information leaflet. 01_B50winter01



A snowplough and gritter beside the stockpile of rock salt in Brodick. 01_B50winter02

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Christmas fair bonanza



Shoppers browsing at the Corrie craft fair. 01_B50fayre01

Last weekend there was a Christmas fair bonanza on the island. On Saturday there were no fewer than three fairs and markets in three different villages – and the Banner was at them all.

In Corrie and Sannox village hall, the annual Christmas craft fair brought plenty of festive cheer with coffee, tea and cakes supplied by Red's Vintage Tea



Marion Melvin is all smiles at her stall



Customers at Tracy Gibson's stall at Corrie. 01_B50fayre04



Lavinia Hendry and Val Sim at the St Bride's ladies' tombola stall. 01_B50fayre11



Mary Mackinlay sells tickets for the festive hamper in Brodick. 01_B50fayre11

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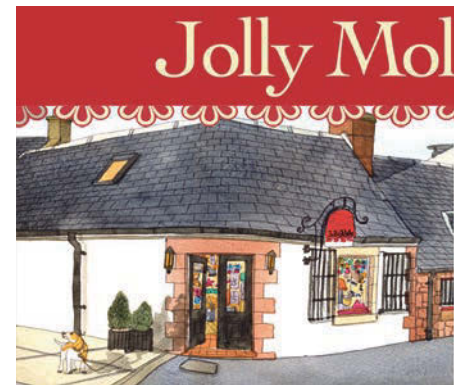
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Manza on Arran

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While in Brodick Church hall the St Bride's ladies' festive fair did a roaring trade in the tearoom as well as at the stalls and at the tombola and hamper.

Over in Lamlash, the high school also hosted a Christmas market with a variety of hand-made arts crafts and a tearoom.



Dorothy Dillon with a range of festive knitted toys and treats in Lamlash. 01_B50fayre07



Gozia Gwizdowska of Whiting Bay at her plant stall in Lamlash. 01_B50fayre05



...itting stall at Corrie. 01_B50fayre02



Megan Green with her festive facepaint browses Diana Scott's stall at the high school. 01_B50fayre06



Margaret Bryce and Jean Robertson at the St Bride's ladies' baking stall. 01_B50fayre09



Jane Sloan and Rachel Phillips at the Corrie baking stall. 01_B50fayre03

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Reality of homelessness

Four high school pupils from Arran braved icy conditions to raise money for and awareness of the homeless by sleeping out in sub-zero temperatures in Edinburgh last weekend.

On Saturday, the four girls made the journey from the island to Princes Street Gardens where they took part in Sleep in the Park. This event, organised by the homeless charity Social Bite, involved 8,000 people sleeping out in the park in order to raise money for and awareness of homeless people. The girls – Louise Shankland, Jessica Miller, Rachel Janse Van Rensburg and Lauren Robertson, all 17 or 18 – had to raise a minimum of £100 each in order to take part, and they returned to school this week to reflect on everything they had learned from this unique, revealing and powerful experience.

The key aims of the event

were to raise money – £3.6 million at final count, an incredible sum – and awareness, but the girls all came away thinking about something else which had been raised within them: an increased empathy for those who are homeless and the hardships they face. The night was by no means ideal for sleeping outside: temperatures dropped to -8°C, and the participants woke up with frost on their noses and in their hair, their sleeping bags crunchy with ice.

For Rachel, this experience brought to life the difficulties of people sleeping on the streets. If it was hard enough for them, prepared for this night with all their ‘fancy’ equipment, then they realised how devastatingly difficult it must be for people with none of these advantages, and no choice but to sleep out in the cold every night.



Rachel Janse Van Rensburg, Jessica Miller, Lauren Robertson and Louise Shankland are all wrapped up in Central Station on their way to a cold night in Edinburgh.

In the morning, when they woke up, the girls went to Edinburgh Waverley to catch the train, and paid their entry fee for the public toilets so that they could brush their teeth. ‘I hadn’t realised that there were all these little things we do, such as basic acts of hygiene, that we take for granted,’ Louise said. ‘And

if I found so much joy and relief in being able to do that after just one night, imagine how much this huge event must mean to people coping with these hardships day in, day out,’ she added.

Ignorance towards the homeless is one of the major difficulties they face, and the girls heard count-

less stories about the way that they are treated. People walk past the homeless every day on the street, and it is easy to avert eyes and avoid the reality; to ignore the signs, the blankets, the requests for help. One man spoke to the girls about how dehumanising this experience is, and how much it means to him when someone approaches him and actually treats him like a human being. Another man spoke about the repeated view he has every day – the feet passing him by, endless streams of people who keep their faces turned fixedly ahead. Over and over again, the girls heard that what homeless people want, more than anything, is to be acknowledged, and Sleep in the Park was an effort to do that.

And, according to the girls, it has done just that. On their journeys to and from the event, they were

met with many people thanking them for what they were doing – both homeless people and commuters. The donations and support they have received will go towards Social Bite’s five-year plan to tackle homelessness in Scotland – providing new homes and accommodation, a nationwide jobs programme, and addiction rehabilitation services.

Louise, Rachel, Lauren and Jessica will all be continuing to support Social Bite, fundraising for them both in and out of school, and they are keen to encourage everyone to find out more – which you can do at www.sleepinthepark.co.uk and www.social-bite.co.uk. For the girls, this has been an incredible, eye-opening experience, and one which they hope will become a tradition for Arran High School pupils each year.

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Cruickshanks B&B gets first five-star gold rating

A bed and breakfast establishment has been awarded Arran's first five-star gold rating by the AA after only months of trading.

Cruickshanks boutique B&B in Whiting Bay, which opened in May, has just scooped the top award after extensive renovations to the property overlooking the sea.

The grading represents the culmination of two years of hard work by Nanette and Rob Cowieson, who bought Benview on Golf Course Road in the summer of 2015 and have worked full-time since to turn the former family home into a very special destination.

Rob said: 'We have spent the past five years looking all over Scotland for the perfect property, a place that would allow us to combine all of the great places where we have stayed but to do this with a distinctively local flavour.'

'The key thing for us was the recognition that visitors seek a level of comfort at least as good as, and ideally exceeding, their own homes. And in working with local company Armitage we were fortunate to find a builder who showed as much passion for the quality of the customer experience as ourselves.'

The result is a small and intimate establishment offering three luxury en suite bedrooms, all with fantastic views and a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The centrepiece is the Ceilidh Room – so named after a former sea captain who converted the space to indulge in his favourite pastime – now equipped with a library of books and maps and wood-burning stove, and frequently used as a relaxing and welcoming communal area.

AA gold stars are only awarded to the very best properties offering excellent levels of quality throughout and outstanding levels of hospitality and service.

Stephen Wilkinson, sen-

ior AA inspector, said: 'The property has been finished to a very high standard and offers exceptional levels of comfort and wonderful open sea views with the range and quality offered at breakfast worthy of an AA breakfast award to complement the five-star gold rating.'

In their first season, Cruickshanks has operated at a near maximum capacity. Nanette said: 'What fascinates us is the breadth of visitor types from young to old and from all over the world; we find it extremely

heartening that visitors choose Scotland as their special destination and people ranging from NASA space scientists to Swiss chocolatiers, US Olympic cyclists to Hollywood actresses have all chosen to come and stay at Cruickshanks.'

Two other Arran businesses were recently recognised in the 2018 AA Caravan and Camping Awards. Runach Arainn in Kilmory was named glamping site of the year and Seal Shore in Kildonan was named small campsite of the year.



Nanette and Rob Cowieson have been awarded a five-star rating for their boutique B&B in Whiting Bay.



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Editorial

A boost for all

The proposal for a full year-round service between Lochranza and Kintyre is a sound one.

Making Lochranza more accessible for more of the year will not only benefit the north but the whole of the island with the ability to attract more visitors and allow Arran residents and businesses easier access to the mainland.

We at the *Banner* are not alone in making regular trips to Oban, which invariably involves a three-day trip in winter to attend one day of meetings.

The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee has estimated a potential winter passenger volume of 18,200 passengers, triple the present number and averaging 700 additional journeys a week.

Of course, it is only a proposal at this stage. CalMac gets first chance to give its opinion on likely costs and any operational issues, but it will be a decision at the end of the day for Transport Scotland.

We hope that the additional revenue that the service would generate will persuade the powers-that-be that it would be, at the very least, 'cost neutral' and that the benefits of the year-round service would be a real boost to the Arran economy.

Thought for the week

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matt 2:10)

Distillery sea outfall

Sir,
Over the past number of weeks there have been various letters published in the *Banner* which contain inaccuracies which are giving the wrong impression of the proposed long sea outfall near Lennimore.

The SEPA application is over 100 pages long and cannot be explained through the media and letter pages of a newspaper. If there is anyone concerned with the implications of the outfall, I would encourage them to come to speak to me at the distillery where I will go through the application and hopefully address any issues they feel concerns them.

Yours,
James MacTaggart,
Production director,
Isle of Arran Distillers.

Carol concert

Sir,
The annual carol concert has been running for over 35 years, and continues to be an excellent start to our Christmas celebrations, with Lamlash Church providing an enthusiastic audience from around the island to be entertained by the exceptionally talented musicians and singers, of all ages, who showed their appreciation by donating the collection of £1,020 on behalf of CLIC Sargent.

Thank you all.

Yours,
Robert Marr,
Lamlash Church.

Motorhome woes

Sir,
I refer to your correspondent Mr MacGregor's comments about facilities on Arran for motorhomes and his comparison with such across the English Channel.

Firstly, his five euro pay-

ment is probably the Kulturförderabgabe (culture tax also known as the bed or cure tax), a nasty little earner which most of our, soon not to be, European partners use to swell local coffers as Mr MacGregor points out. But it is not just levied on those poor people with motorhomes – all visitors have to pay it in one way or another and it is payable for every day of your stay.

Secondly, we do have facilities for motorhomes on Arran: they are called campsites and, having lived in Germany, I am aware that country is also well provided with excellent campsites too. However, as is evident from his letter, Mr MacGregor and his ilk would prefer not to pay too much, or better still nothing at all, to park their motorhomes overnight.

Of a summer's evening, they are found littered all over the island, shoehorned into any space to be found. At Lochranza, they are not on the campsite, but rather the Castle Spit, the hard-standings opposite the Sandwich Station, even the ferry marshalling area and at the Sailor's Grave. On one morning in August there were four which had been parked overnight in the car park at the entrance to Glen Catacol, three of which were obviously travelling together.

Before anyone starts banging on about Scottish access rights and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, these do not apply to motor vehicles, of any description including parking the family saloon, getting a tent out of the boot and pitching next to it. Further, the Road Traffic Act 1988 states that 'you can drive a vehicle up to 15 yards off a public road for the purposes of parking, but this does not

confer any right to park the vehicle. Most un-metalled roads, unfenced land and beaches are private property, and you do not have the right to park unless it is authorised by the landowner by verbal agreement or signage.'

Thirdly, with regard to the state of Arran's roads, take it up with North Ayrshire – we've tried!

Finally, there are the claims of 'benefiting the local economy'. By such do they mean the Morrisons/Tesco back home and the petrol station at Asda?

Yours,
P W Yates,
Catacol.

Cry for action

Sir,
The central truth of ecology is that everything in nature is related to everything else. Often we do not realise just how much we depend on our environment for our very survival and wellbeing.

Blue Planet II has so clearly shown us all that we influence our seas around us whether by industrial or domestic effluent pollution, overfishing and methods of fishing, through creating climate change by use of carbon fuels, which is raising water temperatures, increasing ocean acidity and creating storm surges, by pesticide use and by our own individual carbon footprint, be it by car use, flying and use of plastics.

The Firth of Clyde is a microcosm of the world's marine environment. It has warmed a degree or so in 10 years. It hosts 17 industrial fish farms, with no containment of the wastes they produce, some wanting to expand with further gross pollution data to concern everyone.

The Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd is committed

to emptying its untreated effluent into Kilbrannan Sound and its second distillery is coming to the South End of Arran, creating more effluent.

This week I see that there is yet another planning application submitted to Argyll and Bute Council (17/02839/PP) for a new distillery, this time in Loch Fyne, both for whisky and gin. What about the effects on the marine environment of Loch Fyne, an integral part of the Firth of Clyde?

Blue Planet II is a cry for action by us all. This is not a 'what an amazing programme' followed by our own individual inertia and carrying on just as before. After all, what can I, as one person, do? We live on a beautiful island set in a silver sea. We must protect it, both as an island community and as individuals. Not just parts of it, but every area of it.

We must insist that the statutory organisations like SEPA, SNH, North Ayrshire Council and our local representatives realise the importance of protecting our marine habitats from pollution, sewage contamination, untreated effluent of any sort and uncontrolled expansion.

We must use fewer plastic bags, and persuade the Co-op to change its habits too. There are some good stories to tell about local initiatives on Arran but we need to work together to have more influence on our planners and regulators.

It is just not in faraway places that recovery can happen. *Blue Planet II* is telling the world how the Firth of Lorne special area of conservation is recovering following a decade of protection.

Yours,
Sally Campbell,
Lamlash.

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Firefighters' loyal service honoured

'Both Neil and Robert fully deserve their awards and are a credit to their families'

Two Arran firefighters have been recognised for their dedication to the fire service. Crew manager Neil Young and firefighter Robert Simpson, of Lamlash community fire station, recently received long service and good conduct medals.

These medals are awarded to Scottish Fire and Rescue Service personnel who attain 20 years' service and have an excellent attendance and exemplary disciplinary record over that time.

Both Neil and Robert

started at Lamlash Community Fire Station on October 1, 1995, and have completed 22 years' service.

Station manager Jim Anderson, who presented the awards, said: 'Huge congratulations go to both firefighters. Both Neil and Robert fully deserve their awards and are a credit to their families.'

'They have both played significant roles in maintaining operational cover on Arran where they have chosen to protect the people in the communities where they live and work.'



Crew manager Neil Young receives his award from station manager Jim Anderson.



Firefighter Robert Simpson is congratulated on his long service and good conduct award.

Council meetings to be broadcast online

If you have ever wondered what goes on at a meeting of the full council you will soon be able to see for yourself without even stepping foot in the council chambers in Irvine.

North Ayrshire Council will soon begin the web-casting of full council meetings which will allow residents to view proceedings online from the comfort of their own home.

Council leader Joe Cullinane said: 'Although our council meetings are open to the public, relatively few people come along to see what actually happens.'

The first meeting to be broadcast online will be the full council meeting at 2pm on Wednesday December 20.

You will be able to view proceedings by visiting <https://north-ayrshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

SEASON'S GREETINGS from Waste Resources

Over the festive period collection days for your blue and grey bins will change.

Normal Collection Day

Monday 25 December 2017
Tuesday 26 December 2017
Wednesday 27 December 2017
Monday 1 January 2018
Tuesday 2 January 2018
Wednesday 3 January 2018

Festive Collection Day

Wednesday 27 December 2017
Thursday 28 December 2017
Friday 29 December 2017
Wednesday 3 January 2018
Thursday 4 January 2018
Friday 5 January 2018

The Household Waste Recycling Centre will be closed on **Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 December 2017** and **Monday 1 January 2018 and Tuesday 2 January 2018**

Right Stuff

Cardboard
Paper and cards
Plastic bottles/trays
Aluminium cans
Glass bottles/jars

Wrong Stuff

Polystyrene
Electrical items
Black bin bags
Nappies
Textiles

Top tips
for recycling
in your blue
bin



Please
put your bin
out for 7am on
the morning
of your
collection



Kenny is a Christmas star

The chairman of VisitArran Kenny Bone has been awarded one of the Scottish Tourism Alliance's 12 Days of Christmas Stars.

He was nominated by VisitArran executive director Sheila Gilmore, who said: 'Kenny's dedication to VisitArran is fabulous. He works away very quietly, is a great support to me in my role and is definitely one of the unsung heroes of our tourism industry here on Arran.'

'As well as being a hardworking farmer, Kenny is a successful businessman, chairman of the Arran Trust, sits on Arran Economic Group, Arran Access Trust, Arran Farmers' Society and the Rotary, and probably many more community groups that I don't know about - but which all go to make Arran's great destination package.'

Plans to change bus services a step closer

North Ayrshire Council is pushing for changes which could help pave the way for local bus services to be run and operated by the local authority.

Earlier this year, the council agreed to explore options to run local bus services, including its own municipal bus service. Now, in response to Transport Scotland's consultation on local bus services in Scotland, the cabinet is to submit proposals which could help it achieve its goal.

Confirmed

Any move by the council to take over the North Ayrshire bus services would include the Stagecoach

contract on Arran, it was confirmed this week.

Council leader Joe Cullinane said: 'The driving force behind our plans for a council-run bus service is to allow us to put the needs of local communities ahead of profits. Time and time again our locality partnerships are identifying transport as a major local issue, whether it be an obstacle for getting people back into work, preventing families from accessing local leisure facilities or poor bus connectivity driving up social isolation.'

'The Lothian Buses model shows that municipal bus services can work in Scotland and we believe there is



A bus waits at the new Brodick bus station. 01_B50bus01

no reason why we can't operate similarly successful municipal bus services in North Ayrshire that better serve the needs of our local communities.'

A motion was passed by the council in March 2017 which stated that communities have been let down by the current bus system and the council believed the interests of communities should come first and be better served by municipal bus services.

Transport Scotland has now begun a consultation on the future of local bus

services which seeks to obtain views on proposed changes to the regulatory and policy frameworks associated with bus services - and gives an opportunity to explore a wider range of options regarding the future provision of bus services in Scotland.

Response

In the consultation response, the council are calling for:

□ A new presumption in favour of municipal bus services, placing the needs of communities at the centre of service provision.

□ Funding to support the establishment of municipal bus services.

□ The 'bundling' of bus services through new franchising powers to enable the delivery of profitable routes, such as the number 11 service in Ayrshire, to support bus services that serve a social need.

□ A requirement on all bus operators to release open data on routes, timetables, punctuality and fares. This will enable bus users to better plan journeys and enable improvements to the public transport network.

Important new information on Government support for Central Heating Systems:

UPDATE NOV 2017



FACT 1

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

FACT 2

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

FACT 3

The Scottish Government in their Climate Plan 2017 have identified air source heat pumps as one of their favoured ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

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Meet Santa in Lamlash

Children from Lamlash are invited to attend a Christmas party at Arran High School next weekend where they can meet Santa.

The party will take place on Saturday December 23, and all Lamlash children up to the end of primary seven are invited. The festive celebrations start at 2.30pm for fun, games and food - and Santa will visit at about 4pm.

Children and parents are encouraged to support the event, which is organised by the Lamlash SWI and which will finish at 4.30pm.



Bernie lights up for the children

Bernie Jackson's house never fails to attract a large number of visitors every year when parents and excited children flock to see the festive lights that adorn his house and garden in Whiting Bay.

The festive illuminations and decorations have become something of a tradition for locals and visitors and any donations Bernie receives he passes on to deserving charities and organisations which, this year,

will be the Whiting Bay children's Christmas party.

With virtually every available inch of the small front garden taken up with Santas, sleighs, reindeer, snowmen, stars and the odd meerkat, the decorations extend up the front facade of his house with barely any space for other decorations.

Having illuminated his house and welcomed sightseers for more than 28 years, some of Bernie's or-

naments are well over 28 years old while others are replaced on a yearly basis.

It takes Bernie between two and three days to lay out his decorations with his son now attaching the ones on the house as Bernie says that, at 75, he is getting a bit past climbing up the ladder.

But Bernie said: 'I have been doing this for so long and the support from neighbours, visitors and little children has been fantastic. The greatest joy though is the look of wonderment and appreciation on children's faces. Visitors like to come and take photos and bring their children to have a look and many make a small donation which is also wonderful for the charities that are supported.'

The lights, which are located near Montrose Terrace in Whiting Bay, are switched on at sunset and are illuminated until around 9pm every evening.



Bernie's latest decoration is an inflatable Santa replete with reindeer and sleigh. 01_B50lights03



Bernie Jackson's house in Whiting Bay is lit up with Christmas decorations and illuminations. 01_B50lights01

Shop Arran winners

The three lucky winners of the Shop Arran prize draw have been announced.

The hugely successful Shop Arran event, held on the first weekend of December, is aimed at encouraging people to shop locally by offering three days of deals, discounts and specials. During the event, shoppers were encouraged to get their Shop Arran cards stamped and entered into a prize draw.

The three winners were: Helen How of Lamlash, who won a £200 Arran card; Eileen Howe of Ardrossan, who won a £100 Arran card; and Dawn Wightman of Lamlash, who won a £50 Arran card. These can be spent at the majority of shops and businesses on Arran.

Talk to us

Send your news and photographs to editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Lifeboat in Holy Isle evacuation

Arran RNLI responded to a second tasking in three days as the crew went to Holy Isle to perform a medical evacuation, their 22nd call out of the year.

At 12.31pm on Friday December 8, the Arran RNLI crew launched the inshore lifeboat Rachel Hedderwick to Holy Isle, responding to reports of a casualty who required medical assistance. Once meeting

the casualty on Holy Isle, the crew transferred them to Lamlash to receive further medical support.

Arran RNLI helm Mark Nelson said: 'This continues to be a busy year for the station and the crew continues to demonstrate the benefits of regular training. Our CAS care work in particular has been vitally important this year.'

A

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CARE IN THE

On Arran there is a real sense of care in the community with a wide range of services for those who may need just that extra bit of help

Whether it is hand from the food bank, the chance to go outdoors or getting out to meet new friends, there is a wealth of choice available.

Arran people too repeatedly show how generous they are in their donations to a wide range of charities – even when they are doing their shopping at the island's Co-op stores.

Ranger Service

Community is at the heart of the work of the National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service. We care for our wild places, wildlife and diverse habitats from seashore to mountain top. But we can't do this without the help of volunteers from all parts of the community. Engaging with people through our work benefits both people and wildlife and also helps promote understanding of our natural heritage.

Examples of our on-going work include our Healthy Outdoors Team. These volunteers meet once a week on a Tuesday morning and are involved in removing invasive plant species from Brodick Country Park. They also help run a tree nursery, collecting native tree seeds and growing them on until they are ready to be planted back into the woodland. The resulting woodland will give delight to future residents of Arran, both for human and native wildlife. It's not all hard work, the HOT team also enjoy being outside in company with a tea and a biscuit, and go home with a sense of achievement. Some have even noticed an improvement in their mental and physical health after getting involved in our work. Younger folk have joined the HOT team to gain valuable work experience which has enabled them gain places on apprenticeships schemes and paid employment.

The Ranger Team engages with visitors and locals alike by leading guided walks and events and through working with community groups such as the Arran Access Trust, the Arran Mountain Rescue team and the Arran Natural History Society. We actively get kids involved too, encouraging school groups to take part in conservation activities such as tree planting and Rhodie bashing. Younger children, aged 6 to 11, can join our Young Naturalist Club that meets on the second Saturday of the month for outdoor fun discovering the nature on our doorstep.

Charities receive bumper Co-op handout

The Brodick store of the Co-operative group handed over a whopping £25,815.60 cheque to three grateful charity recipients who were nominated as their charity partners.

Receiving more than £8,500 each were the Arran Cancer Support Trust (ArCaS), Shiskine Scout Group and Arran Youth Foundations who are the latest beneficiaries of the Co-op's local community fund.

The donations come from Co-op members whose purchases of selected own brand products and services contributes 1 per cent to the fund which supports local projects and organisations. Customers can then nominate local charities to receive funding.

A spokeswoman for ArCaS said: 'We would like to thank the Co-op and its members for this very kind donation which is gratefully received. The money will be used for patient transport to attend



Carol Harwood and Alix Hitching from the Co-op team present a cheque to Anne Hodge and Stan Cline from ArCaS. 01_B50coop01

mainland hospital appointments for those affected by cancer.'

While representatives of the Arran Youth Foundations and the Shiskine Scout group were unable to make

the presentation owing to ferry cancellations it is understood that the donations will be used for youth outings and trips and for new equipment respectively.

The Brodick Co-op store

undertakes the collection as part of a nationwide initiative which, throughout the UK, has raised over £20 million for thousands of local community projects.



Healthy Outdoors Team

Tuesdays 10am to 1pm at Ranger Centre

A chance to meet people and help with our conservation projects

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For more information call 01770 302462.

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The deal includes a free bowl of soup and bread. Both deals are for senior citizens and are available upon presentation of their bus pass.



Arran Churches Together

**FOOD BANK NOW OPEN
AT BRODICK CHURCH
24/7**



COMMUNITY

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals provides a nutritious meal every school day to more than 1.2 million of the world's poorest children.

Alison Page, Mary's Meals Ambassador for Arran, said: 'The population of Arran may be small in number but your generosity is huge. It costs just 7p to feed a child one meal and this year I have banked over £4000 from various fundraising campaigns.'

'During 2017 you have donated to Mary's Meals through the Kilmory Primary school backpack appeal, through all our churches, guilds, purchasing alphabet posters, I've received numerous individual donations as well as our super Arran Skinymalinks and Knit & Natter groups. You've hosted and/or supported fundraising events such as coffee mornings, lunches and even a community sing-a-long.'

'I'd like to say a great big thank you on behalf of the starving children you are providing with food and hope for the future.'

Bus Pass Club

The Bus Pass Club run by Jane Howe of the Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash is an opportunity for residents to get out to a different venue to see old friends and acquaintances as well as meet new people.

Loneliness should never happen in a small community and everyone is welcome at the club even if you only know the staff, they will make you feel most welcome.

The club for anyone who is eligible for a bus pass or carers of the elderly or disabled. The PHT has a disabled ramp to the front right

step and wheelchair access as well through the rear of the building.

Asked what inspired the Bus Pass Club Jane said: 'A lovely lady, who was a carer used to bring her clients in every week for a bowl of soup. Sadly, she passed away in tragic circumstances but it made me realise how important sharing is and never underestimate the needs that people have, the desire to be valued or cared about.'

Everyone in the club is welcome to share a bowl of chef's soup of the day and homemade bread for free at lunchtime on a Wednesday, or take up the PHT seasonal offers for special menus at a reduced price.

'If you know of anyone who doesn't get out much and might welcome some company, please invite them to come along,' Jane added.

Parkinson's Support Group

The Arran Parkinson's Support Group is a small group of individuals who share a common challenge, living with Parkinson's.

If you or someone close to you is affected by this condition and would like more information about the group activities with a view to joining them, don't hesitate get in touch. They believe no one should face this life-changing illness on their own.

The group meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month in Lamlash Fire Station from 2pm to 4pm. The group is supported by Parkinson's UK, which offers assistance and guidance on a professional level.

The group contacts are: Donald Mcniven 01770 860808 and Les Macleod 01770 700599.

Food bank is open all hours

The Arran Churches Together food bank at Brodick Church is available for anyone to make use of 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The food bank is located inside the main entrance to Brodick Church and anyone who is in need, can simply pop in and discreetly help themselves to food as needed at any time of the day or night. A team check the shelves and restock daily and there are emergency numbers to call should stock run low at any point. Social Services also use the food bank as and when they need to.

The Kind Arran Reverse Advent Campaign, highlighted last month by the *Banner*, is also providing assistance to those in need by delivering Christmas boxes to local families who could do with a little extra help at this festive time.

Once again too, through the generous help of the Co-op who have donated food vouchers, the food bank will deliver Christmas dinners to many who otherwise wouldn't be able



The Brodick food bank stocks a variety of food and toiletries and includes a fridge freezer with meat products. 01_B50food01



Christmas boxes at the Brodick food bank are ready to be delivered. 01_B50food02

to afford one. Further help is available through the fuel fund which will be used to ensure those experiencing fuel poverty, or facing a choice of eating or staying

warm, will receive a delivery of either coal, logs or an electricity top up. This will be repeated again at the beginning of February.

During the past year every single item donated has been used by people on Arran and not a single item was sent off the island. There is a real need and constant demand for the food bank which faces a constant struggle to keep the shelves stocked, not so much at Christmas time - when people are feeling generous - but during the rest of the year.

If you feel like the food bank is a worthwhile cause that you would like to support, donations of food can either be left inside Brodick Church or in the basket provided in the Brodick Co-op. Donations towards fuel and the purchase of food as required, can be made payable to Arran Churches Together and sent to the treasurer, Mrs Jean Hunter at Shiskine Manse.

Arran Parkinson's Support Group

We are a small group of individuals who share a common challenge, living with Parkinson's.

The group meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month in Lamlash Fire Station from 2-00 'til 4-00.

Contacts are:

Donald Mcniven 01770 860808

Les Macleod 01770 700599

The Group is supported by Parkinson's UK who offer assistance and guidance on a professional level.

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Heartfelt thanks to all
the Arran community for
your generous support
during 2017.

All your acts of
kindness make an
amazing difference!

Freezing weather prompts pipes warning

Scottish Water is urging homeowners and businesses on Arran to protect their properties against the winter weather as the country experiences freezing weather conditions.

With temperatures colder in Scotland than on Mount Everest for much of last week as the result of an Arctic snowbomb, the utility firm is calling on customers across Scotland to follow a simple code to protect pipes and reduce the risk of them becoming frozen during sub-zero temperatures.

The Scottish Water winter code advises anyone with a home, holiday home or business premises to take action to heat, insulate and protect their properties, whether the property is old or new, during the cold weather.

Visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/winter for more information and advice.

Civic Pride Awards

Nominations of worthy public-minded organisations are being sought to highlight local community heroes for the Provost's Civic Pride Awards.

The awards, which are run by North Ayrshire Council, are now in their seventh year and are designed to recognise and reward the contribution made by a cross-section of committed community groups and individuals who strive to make improvements to the lives of others living in the area.

With a closing date of Thursday January 25, Arran residents still have the chance to nominate their favourite community champions for a number of prestigious civic honours. The five categories are: community group, citizen of the year, young citizen of the year, arts and culture, and the sports award.



Provost Ian Clarkson with the winners of last year's awards, including heritage museum chairman John Sillars.

Three finalists in each category will be selected by a special judging panel and will be invited to a celebration dinner at The Portal, Irvine, on Friday March 16, 2018.

Winner of the arts and culture award for 2017 was Arran's own heritage museum whose volunteers have been working tirelessly since 1976, documenting and recording Arran's so-

cial history and providing visitors and locals with a fascinating day out and informative displays.

Provost Ian Clarkson said: 'I was overwhelmed and humbled by the sto-

ries of not only our winners last year but the other finalists and entrants too.

'They each made an amazing and positive impact on the lives of so many others and serve as an inspiration to us all.

'I know we have already received some entries for this year's awards and I am really looking forward to hearing their stories - although I'm sure it will be incredibly difficult then to whittle it down to a shortlist of three finalists for each category.

'If you know an individual or group that have left a lasting and positive impact on you, please nominate and give them the recognition they so richly deserve.'

To submit a nomination full instructions are provided online via www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provostscivicprideawards

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Michael wins the young naturalist of the year award

Club enjoys fun in the snow

A blanket of snow added to the fun and excitement of the Young Naturalists' Christmas party and award ceremony at Brodick Castle and Country Park last week.

Hosted by the Arran Ranger Service, the Young Naturalists Club, for 6 to 11 year olds, meets once a month to enjoy the outdoors and natural environment under the supervision of the rangers who organise events and activities throughout the year.

At their December meeting and

award ceremony party the Young Naturalist of the Year award went to Michael Nicholl. The runners up were Eoin and Issac Jones and Callum Glister.

Dedication

Head ranger Kate Sampson said: 'Michael has shown dedication to the club and has, over the years, improved his knowledge of our natural world. Congratulations to him and the runners up.'

The next meeting of the club is on Saturday January 13 at 10.30am at the rangers centre.



Young Naturalist of the Year Michael Nicholl.



Hector McArthur and Jemma Totty enjoy the snow at Brodick Castle and Country Park.



Eoin and Issac Jones were runners up in the Young Naturalist of the Year award.



Arran ranger Corinna Goeckeritz helps the young naturalists build snowmen.



Young naturalists and Arran rangers enjoy a walk in the snow covered gardens.

There's been another Goatfell murder

The Goatfell murder has fascinated generations. Ever since Laurie and Rose went up the mountain and only one came down, there has been mystery and intrigue for nearly 130 years.

But now the story has been brought up to date in the latest novel by Arran crime writer Cicely Gill. Using the Goatfell murder of 1889 as her inspiration Cicely cleverly weaves a modern day tale into the premise of the infamous case.

For anyone unfamiliar with the story, Scotsman John Laurie was convicted of killing Edwin Rose but controversy still surrounds the case of a violent death and possible miscarriage of justice.

Rose's decomposed body was found partially hidden under rocks, his skull shattered and his spine badly broken.

Laurie, who was 25 years old at the time, would later claim at his trial: 'I robbed the man, but I did not murder him,' and would protest his innocence until his death more than 40 years later in 1930 at the age of 69.

Jump forward to the present day and investigative journalist Zara MacDonald, who we first met in Cicely's



Author Cicely Gill holds Zara on Arran. 01_B50zara01

first crime novel Ivory, is trying to find space on Arran away from her on-off boyfriend Barney.

She is spending the summer working at her friend's bed and breakfast in Brodick, but things don't go quite to plan as she gets caught up in a murder mystery and while some of the characters return from Ivory, including Detective Inspector Des, Barney and his son Ben - there's lots of new characters too.

So where did the idea to use the Goatfell murder

as the inspiration for the book come from, we asked Cicely.

She said that having lived for 49 years on Arran it was a topic which has always fascinated her, but her interest was galvanised four years ago when she was asked to write a play for the National Trust for Scotland on the history of Brodick Castle from the Bronze Age to the Goatfell murder.

Cicely said: 'I think everyone who lives on Arran or knows the island

well has a fascination with the Goatfell murder and the mystery surrounding it. The idea of trying to intersperse the two stories really fascinated me.'

However, the novel is not a gorefest as Cicely said: 'I don't like ghoulishness or violence.'

'I prefer looking at the psychology of murder and I also like a book to be a page-turner, which I hope Zara on Arran is.'

Cicely also uses her wide knowledge of Arran for the various locations used

in the book which are closely observed. 'I think I have been to them all, except where Edwin Rose's body was discovered on Goatfell.'

'I know someone who could take me, but I think there is conjecture as to exactly where it was.'

Zara has been available on Kindle since April, but like Ivory, Cicely took the next step of having it self-published through her Mallard Publishing company and it is now available in paperback.

Although this is only her second detective novel, Cicely has written novels before, but she is perhaps better known for her plays, poetry and short stories.

Three years ago her play A Horse for Every Man was staged on Arran to commemorate the people of Arran who served during the First World War and more recently had her short play Something for the Crows staged in Glasgow.

She has also published a book of poetry entitled: The Trees of Childhood.

Zara on Arran is available to buy at the Book and Card Centre, Whiting Bay Post Office, direct from Cicely or from her website www.cicely.co.uk priced £7.99.

BOOK REVIEW

Zara and a tangled murder mystery on Arran

There is no doubt Zara on Arran is a page-turner. From the moment on the first page when Zara MacDonald finds herself on board the *MV Caledonian Isles* on her way to Arran I was hooked.

But what I wasn't expecting was the tangled web of murder and intrigue I was to find in the pages that followed, the majority off it set on Arran.

Author Cicely uses her extensive knowledge of Arran to describe in detail the locations the action takes place around the island. And such is the accuracy of that information it feels like you could be there.

From the fictitious North Crag guesthouse, where Zara works - which isn't a million miles from the Glenartney - to Cicely's descriptions of locations in Sannox, Lochranza and Kildonan, to name just a few, it will keep anyone who knows the island hooked. Skillful, too, is Cicely's closely researched knowledge of police crime procedure and the workings of the press which many writers, particularly of police drama on TV, fail to achieve and that helps to give the book a realism which is to be admired.

The running thread of the infamous Goatfell murder of 1889 is cleverly woven into the modern murder mystery which has more twists and turns than the southend road.

With all good crime books there are goodies and baddies and the baddie in this book is very bad indeed, but readers are kept guessing all the way through just what his cumeuppance will be.

It is well worth the effort to go on the journey with Zara to find out.

Hugh Boag.

OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 January 2018. Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.

WIN

A PAIR OF FAIRFAX AND FAVOR REGINA BOOTS WORTH £329

A Hume Country Clothing, a lifestyle country clothing retailer based in Kelso in the heart of the Scottish Borders, are offering one lucky reader the opportunity



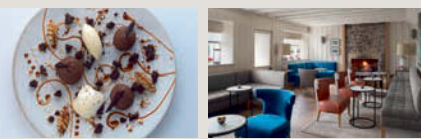
to win a pair of Fairfax and Favor Regina Boots.

Fairfax and Favor were founded in 2013 with the aim of bridging the gap between smart and casual. Whether you are required to dress up for an occasion - or down, Fairfax and Favor can provide you with the perfect blend of traditional British style and modern contemporary elegance.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: In what year was Fairfax and Favor established?

WIN

AN EPICUREAN INDULGENCE AND STAY FOR TWO AT THE PEAT INN BY ST ANDREWS



Relax in your suite before a beautifully crafted six course tasting menu. In the morning, indulge in breakfast in your suite. The Peat Inn, by St Andrews is a luxury 5-star Restaurant with Rooms in peaceful surroundings. Michelin Star Chef Proprietor, Geoffrey Smeddle, uses the finest Scottish ingredients to create delicious and contemporary cuisine. The Residence provides eight luxurious suites with views over the countryside - heavenly for a quiet getaway.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: How many suites does The Peat Inn have?

Valid Tuesday - Thursday, subject to availability, based on two people sharing a twin or double room for one night. Drinks are not included. Must be taken by 31 May 2018.

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

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Largest UK eagle spotted on west coast

In November, winter arrived with the first substantial snow on the mountains. The mean temperature was five degrees lower than October. It was drier than October, with the month ending in a cold dry spell.

One of the highlights of the month was the appearance of two juvenile white-tailed eagles on the west coast on November 19. One observer photographed one of the birds between Imachar Point and Whitefarland Point. This is the first report of this rare vagrant to Arran this year.

Not surprisingly in November, winter visitors were to the fore. Throughout the month there were widespread reports of foraging fieldfare and redwing, sometimes in mixed flocks. The largest group of fieldfare reported was 100 at Cnoc na Dail on 9th and the largest group of redwing was 50 at Corrie on 26th. Other records of wintering birds included: a brambling and a yellowhammer in Slidderly on 5th, five purple sandpiper at Silver Sands on 11th, 25 rook in Slidderly on 15th and a male blackcap in Brodick Country Park on 26th.

Reports of wintering wildfowl included: 21 wigeon at Cosyden on 9th, a female tufted duck on Mossend Pond on 10th, a female goldeneye at Cordon on 14th, 30 pink-footed goose with 220 greylag goose in the Shiskine Valley on 30th and 122 teal at Kilpatrick Point, also on 30th.

Gardens are safe refuges during the winter, with many people providing

food and water for their feathered friends. These are a small selection from the many reports from gardens round the island in November: 14 coal tit in Blairbeg on 3rd, one goldcrest in Lamlash on 4th, six blackbird in Kildonan, also on 4th, one great spotted woodpecker in Whiting Bay on 5th, 70 house sparrow in Slidderly on 16th, 10 long-tailed tit in Lamlash on 18th and on 27th there was a report of a nuthatch in a garden in Strathwillan. This is the first Arran report of nuthatch this year. This species is increasing its range and moving north from strongholds in England into Scotland.

Other November highlights included: a kingfisher on Fisherman's Walk on 1st, 150 starling at Kilpatrick on 2nd, a merlin in Auchenhew Bay on 4th, six bullfinch on Whiting Bay Golf Course on 7th, four little grebe in Loch Ranza on 18th and 20 lapwing on Cleats Shore on 19th. In addition there were numerous reports

of common crossbill in various forests including 35 in Machrie Forest on 19th. This is the largest group reported in the last 10 years. The numbers reported may reflect the fir cone crop this year.

Finally, it was good to get reports of shelduck returning to Arran after their annual departure to moult. The first report was from Sandbraes on 4th, with three on Cleats Shore on 19th being the largest number reported in November. Look out for them in December.

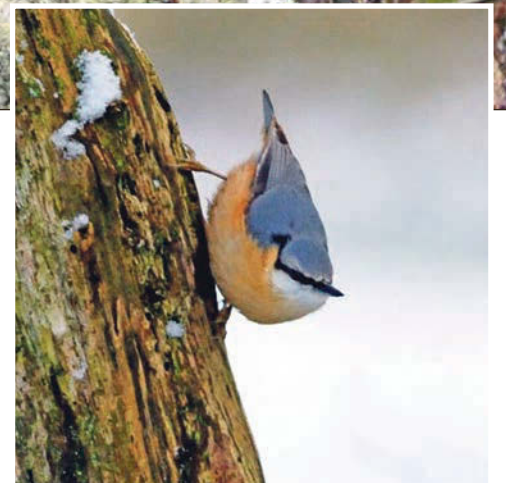
Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2016 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
NOVEMBER

A juvenile white-tailed eagle. This spectacular bird is the largest UK eagle.

Photo: David Kilpatrick



Nuthatch may soon colonise Arran.

Photo: Dennis Morrison



A purple sandpiper, one of many winter visitors to our shores. Photo: Brian Couper



A Greylag goose. Wintering wildfowl numbers are increasing.

Photo: Dennis Morrison

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT WITH ARRAN BRASS.

20th December
In Brodick Hall
At 7:15pm
ALL WELCOME

Arran Baptist Church invites you to come and join us for an evening of Carols and Readings.

Followed by Seasonal Refreshments.

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What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

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

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
Garden only open 9am-dusk
Brodick, 10am - 4pm
Open Mon - Thursday 11.30am - 4.30pm
Friday and Saturday, 10am - 4.30pm, Sun - closed

Saturday 16th December

Flow yoga
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Christmas bike build open day
Army Cadets
Santa's coming to Isle be Wild
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Panto - Sinbad's Desert Adventure
Family games
Fun in the pool
Live music - Scotch The Band from Holland
Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
9.30am - 11am
9.30am - noon
Arran High School, 10am - 1pm
Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
Brodick castle, 12noon - 3pm
Bowling Club, 1.30pm
Community Theatre, Lamlash, 2pm and 7.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Sunday 17th December

Family service including Sunday School Nativity play
Family games
Fun in the pool
AA meeting

Brodick Church, 10.30am
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm

Monday 18th December

Morning fitness
Citizens' Advice
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Over-50s badminton
Adult tennis
Arran Junior Football Club
Circuit training
Lamlash Aerobix
Badminton
Badminton
Arran Bridge Club
Tae Kwondo

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

Tuesday 19th December

Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Healthy Outdoors
Alcoholics Anonymous
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
Every Tuesday - Metafit class
Flow yoga
Pilates
Arran Rotary Club
Lamlash Junior Drama Club
Auchrannie winter bowls
Youth club
Pop quiz
Arran High School Christmas showcase concert

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

Wednesday 20th December

Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Yoga
Hydrofit
Chair yoga
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service
Knittery and Natterry
Zumba Gold
Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness)
Flow yoga
Christmas carol concert with Arran Brass (Arran Baptist Church)
Tae Kwondo
Yoga-Arran
Mixed hockey
Burger and quiz night
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Rock an pop bingo

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 5pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am
Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Brodick Hall, 4pm - 5pm
Brodick Hall, 5.50pm-6.50pm
Shiskine Hall, 6pm
Brodick Hall, 7.15pm
Arran High School, children 6.30-7.30pm, adults 7.30pm-8.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30pm-9pm
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

Thursday 21st December

Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Morning fitness
Chair yoga
Quilt Arran
Adult tennis
Brodick School Christmas service
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers
Ladies' hockey
Arran High School
General knowledge quiz

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Auchrannie Gym 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm
Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club from 5.30pm
Brodick Church, 6.30pm
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Arran Soul Choir, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

Friday 22nd December

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

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

Saturday 23rd December

Flow yoga
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Army Cadets
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Family games
Fun in the pool
The Ghosts of Christmas Past By Marty Ross
Live music - Matt Johnston
Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
9.30am - 11am
9.30am - noon
Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
Bowling Club, 1.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Whiting Bay Lesser Hall, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 20, 1997

Saving the day

Residents of Bearsden and Milngavie, who had been without water for a week, were on Wednesday told they could drink their water again, thanks to Machrie company Filtec Water Solutions.

Water filtration expertise has been an Arran export for a long time, based initially on sand from the mouth of Rosa Burn. In 1995, Billy Smith of Machrie decided to set out on his own.

He now has more than 25 employees who travel to sites all over the UK and, as was shown this week, they are respected as troubleshooters.

Last Thursday, following a diesel spill north of Bearsden, West of Scotland Water tried to stop the contamination without success, but Mr Smith and his team renewed three water filters and their expertise has saved the day.

Farmers' beef

Arran farmers have joined with their coun-

terparts from across the country in protest at the crisis in farming in part due to the legislation to combat any danger to consumers from BSE.

Four farmers from the island joined a protest at Stranraer, turning back imports of cheap Irish beef. However, the farmers involved said their protest was not against the Irish farmers.

Instead, they said, the steady increase in the strength of sterling and the weakness of the 'green pound', by which farm incomes are regulated, has made meat from abroad very cheap and Scottish farmers say that they cannot compete or tighten their belts any more.

Cheap meat has been flooding into the country from abroad and now a ban has been imposed on the sale of beef on the bone. Local farmers are as much affected as anyone else and many feel that their livelihood is under threat through no fault of their own.

Arran Antiquarians

At a recent meeting in Brodick Hall, Dr Hugh McKerrell gave his account of the Glozal scandal which has divided French archaeologists for 75 years. Glozal is in central France – the Auvergne – near Vichy and while a local farmer was clearing a field in 1924, a hole in the ground was discovered.

On investigation, clay tablets with strange writing and bone artefacts with animal carvings were discovered. Face masks, bones and harpoons thought to be 10,000 years old were unearthed and the findings published but there were accusations of fraud.

French archaeologists have over the years been divided over their authenticity, but by 1972 investigative techniques had improved and, using new methods, the bones were found to be 2,000 years old.

Dr McKerrell first visited Glozal in 1974 and has been back many times. He hopes that his work with the artefacts will finally settle the Glozal scandal.



Last Thursday, 19 Lamlash Beavers enjoyed an exciting excursion when they were shown around the Lamlash police station by Sergeant Jim Weir. 01_B50twe02



Arran farmers Keith Irving, Margie Currie, George Tod and Neil Henderson all joined the picket line at Stranraer last week in protest at unfair trading conditions within the agricultural industry. 01_B50twe05



Brodick Golf Club captain Willie Innes awards an honorary membership to Jean Glen as a mark of appreciation for her meticulously researched book, *Brodick, a century of golf*.

01_B50twe01



Head ranger Duncan Stevenson and colleagues held a party for the Arran Young Naturalists where Young Naturalist of the Year was named as Lydia May and the runners-up Jonathon May and Eilidh McNicol. 01_B50twe04



Liz Kennedy of Largie-meanoch enjoyed a trolley dash at the Co-op after winning first prize at the Hospital Supporters League raffle. With Liz is Janet Cannon, deputy manager of the Co-op and from the Hospital Supporters League, Caroline Waterland, Fiona Simpson and Sandy McLeod. 01_B50twe03

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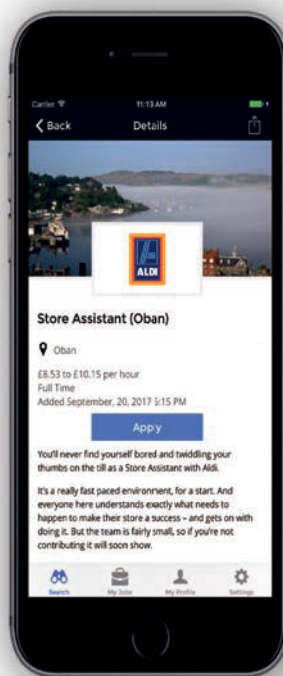
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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980 CHOICE OF SCHOOL

It is customary for children to attend the designated school for the area in which they live, other than in the case of St Matthew's Academy.

Admission to St Matthew's Academy is achieved through attendance at one of its associated primary schools.

However, parents/carers may make a written request to place their child in any other school under the management of the Council. Such a request is referred to as a placing request**.

Information concerning the Council's schools and the procedures to be followed in making placing requests is available at every school and from North Ayrshire Council, Education and Youth Employment, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE (telephone: 01294 310000). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries and on the Council's web site at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Information in relation to any particular school is available at that school.

**Placing requests for the session beginning in August 2018 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, Education and Youth Employment, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE prior to the closing date of 15 March 2018.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2018, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should proceed in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published over 3 weeks beginning the week of 25 December 2017.

JOHN BUTCHER
Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment)

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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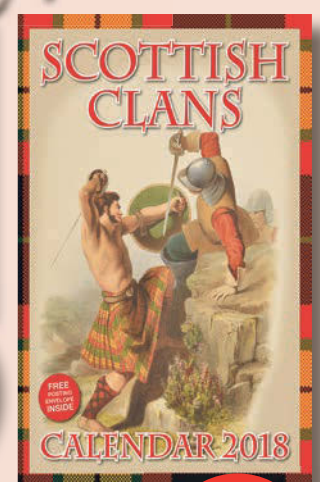
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CHURCH NOTICES

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

Saturday 16th December
Carol Singing at Brodick Co-op, 11am to 12noon.
Song sheets provided.
ALL WELCOME
- COME AND JOIN US!

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine
Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:

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

Sunday 17th December

Pirnmill, and Lochranza Churches Together - 10.15am, Morning Worship accompanied by ARCO at Lochranza Church
Shiskine Church - 12noon, Morning Worship accompanied by ARCO
Brodick Church - 10.30am, Family Service including Sunday School Nativity Play
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 17th December
11am Holy Communion.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
All Welcome.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 17th 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 17th December
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory - 10 am, Lamlash - 11.30 am.
In Lamlash Family Nativity Service.
Kilmory: Christmas Eve Service 10pm
Lamlash: Christmas Eve Service 11.30pm
No Christmas Day Service in either church
All welcome, including families; children's area.
Scottish Charity SC015072

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 17th December

An all age service for Christmas will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.

The service will include the sacrament of baptism, when Stanley Herbert Highet, third son of Mhairi and Dave Hackett, will be baptised.

All most welcome.
Tea and Coffee will be served in the transept after the service.

There will be the monthly sale of Traidcraft goods available.

There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm.
All welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 17th December

Service 11am
Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the service

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.
Telephone 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 17th December
Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

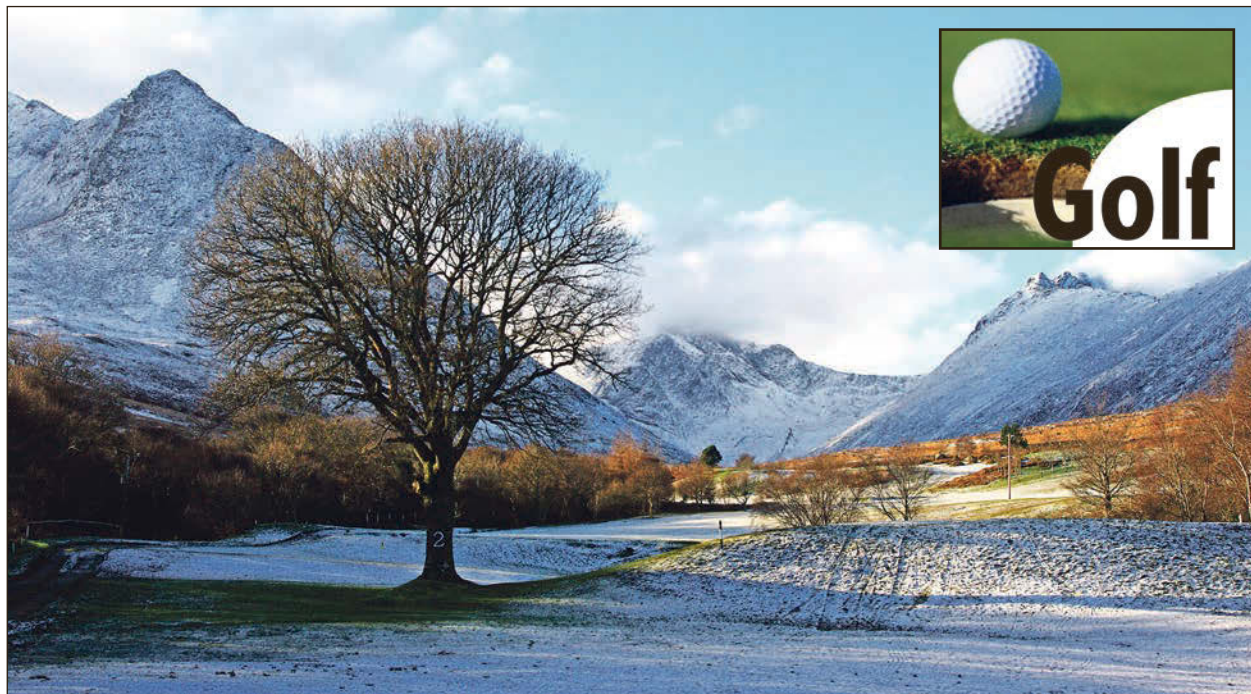
Sunday 17th December
Sunday Mass 11am

DEATH

Alexander McAfee. Peacefully at home on 4 December 2017. He was pre-deceased by his son Scott and is survived by his daughter Caroline and grand-daughter Sophia, and his son Alexander (Sandy) and grandsons Finlay and Jed. The funeral will take place in Edinburgh on 14 December at Warriston Crematorium.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Gibbs family would like to thank Dr. Hamell, the Shiskine surgery and the Community Nurses for all their help, care and kindness during Stephen's illness. We would also like to thank all those who sent us such wonderful cards which are very much appreciated.



Freezing conditions, snow and frozen ground ensured no golf could be played over the weekend at Corrie Golf Club.

Shiskine Golf Club

Saturday December 9, 18-hole medal. 1 R Betley 91-28=63, 2 P Betley 78-11=67 BIH, 3 G Andrew 76-9=67.

Scratch, G Andrew 67. Magic twos, G Andrew.

Fixtures: Tuesday December 26, Boxing Day Texas scramble.

Saturday December 31, Mahogany Trophy at noon.

Monday January 1, Alan Smith Plate at 10.30am, ladies. Monday January 1, Colditz Quaich at 1pm, gents.

Tuesday January 2, D S Bannatyne Shield at noon, ladies and gents.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday November 30,

yellow medal. The front nine were closed, so the back nine were played twice. 1 Alan Smith 72-11=61, 2 Ian Bremner 71-7=64.

Fixtures: Sunday December 17, Game with Whiting Bay at Lamlash at 10.30am.

Thursday December 21, yellow medal, ballot at 11am.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday December 2, Lochranza Hotel Cup, CSS 65, R/O. 1 J Penny-cott 33pts, 2 C Laing 27, BIH, 3 R Betley 27.

Fixture: Tuesday December 19, Lochranza Hotel Cup.

Brodick Golf Club

Fixture: Sunday December 17, Brandon Qual-

ifier and Winter Cup. Please note, shotgun start, 9.45am for 10am to accommodate Christmas lunch, which follows at 2pm.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday December 16, sweep, ballots at 9am and 12.30pm. Monday December 18, Monday Cup at noon.

Arran Bridge Club results

The results of round three of the Boyd Trophy played at Brodick on Thursday December 7 were: 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 3 Jennifer McArthur and Sheila Logan, 4= Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 4= John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales.

The results of the match points competition played at Lamlash on Monday December 11 were: 1 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Jan and John Beattie, 3 John Baraclough and Jim Peacock, 4 Fiona Henderson and Maureen Cumming.

Charity football match

The third annual charity match between County Carpets and Armitage, with special guests on both sides, will take place at Sandbraes Park on Wednesday December 27 with a 2pm kick-off.

After the game, it's along to Felicity's and the Shurig Bar for the usual food and beverages and the prize-giving and raffle. This year there will be a twist as there are games planned back at the pub with pool, darts and some casino-style games upstairs.

This year's chosen charity is ArCaS, with all proceeds raised from the raffle and games going to them.

Cycle workshop open day

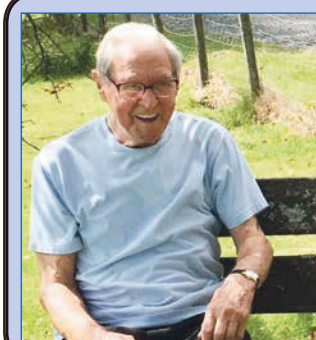
Need a hand to assemble a bike for Christmas? Help will be available today (Saturday) as the Arran High School Mountain Bike Club are hosting an open day today where they will be offering their skills to help. They will also be carrying out free MOTs and minor repairs.

Anyone wishing to bring in their bicycles or to visit the club are invited to visit between 10am and 1pm at Arran High School.

MEMORIAM

In proud and loving memory Bruce Vaughan Mitchell-Luker, 22nd January 1972 - 18th December 1992. Killed while serving with the Royal Highland Fusiliers in Belize. Still missed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 90th Birthday Ted Scott

Have a wonderful day

Love from all the family xxxx



Clubs join together for a bracing Christmas cycle

Three cycling clubs got together for a Christmas ride last Sunday.

They enjoyed the snow covered scenery at a gentle pace before meeting up for a post cycle lunch.

Arran Mountain Bike Club, the Arran Belles and the

Velo Club met in Lamlash early in the morning with a hard frost on the ground after the previous day's snowfall.

Headed for the hills

The mountain bikers headed for the hills above Clauchlands whilst the Arran Belles and Velo Club cycled the

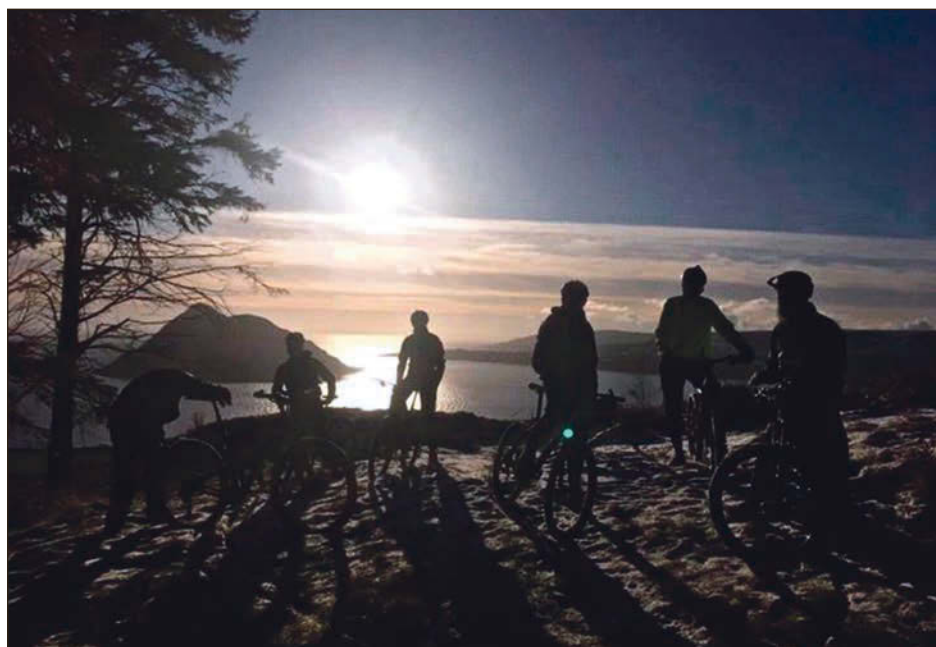
Kildonan Loop. All of the cyclists from the clubs, while cold, thoroughly enjoyed the stunning snowy scenery on a bright and crisp day but were happy to end their cycle at the Pierhead Tavern for a welcome lunch in warm surroundings.



Arran mountain bikers take in the view of Goatfell from the Clauchlands Hills.



The Arran Belles, festively adorned, met in Lamlash for their Christmas cycle.



Cyclists pull over to enjoy the view above Kildonan.

Arran mountain bikers enjoy the winter sun on a hill overlooking Holy Isle.

Club members decorated their bicycles including this one which carried a festive passenger.



Warmly dressed cyclists enjoy a friendly chat while cycling.



SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Clubs join together for a bracing Christmas cycle

Brodick bowls champions

Brodick bowlers marked the end of another successful season with a celebratory meal and prizegiving.

Brodick Bowling Club, despite disappointing summer weather, only missed a few regular rink games and their island and club competitions were successfully completed.

The excellent condition of the bowling green last summer was the subject of much favourable comment by visitors, other island clubs and mem-

bers which is a credit to the work of Stevie Bunyan and his team.

Visitors to the club included a group of players from Florida on a tour of British clubs.

Marking the end of the season, 33 members and guests of the club enjoyed a lovely seasonal meal in the congenial surroundings of Brodick golf clubhouse on Friday December 1, after which prizewinners from the season were presented with their trophies.



Some of the prizewinners at Brodick Bowling Club's annual presentation of trophies, left to right, John Lauder, Charlie Weir, Ann Hollingworth, Kenny Mabon and Andy McCrindle.

Trophy winners

Ladies singles - winner Ann Hollingworth, runner-up Lavinia Hendry.

Gents singles - winner Charlie Weir, runner-up John McConnachie.

Pairs - winners Colin Haggarty and John Lauder, runners-up Charlie Weir and Iain Hendry.

Triples - winners Charlie Weir, Andy McCrindle and Jim Gourlay, runners-up John Lauder, Teddy Kerr and Lavinia Hendry.

George Watson Trophy - Kenny Mabon and David McDonald.

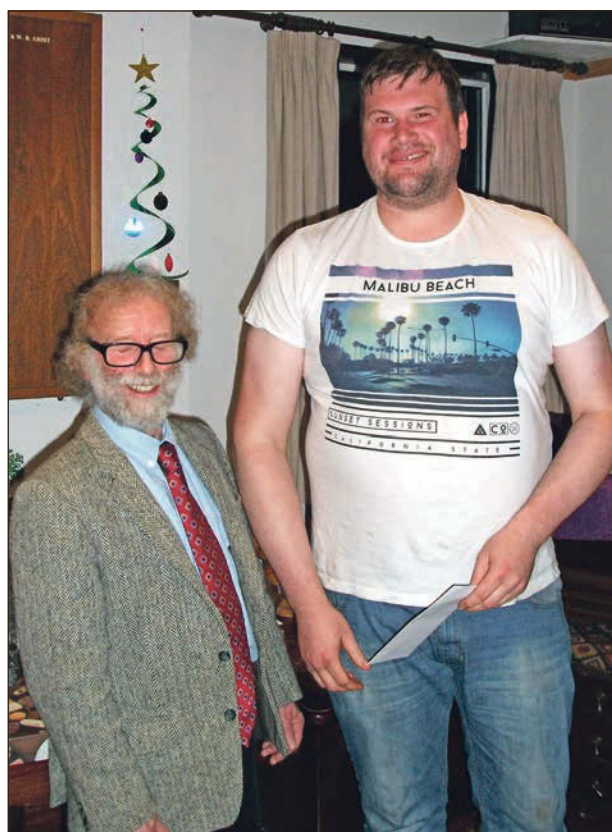
President's Bowl - Charlie Weir.

Stewart Cup - Andy McCrindle.

Arran Bowling Federation Pairs Trophy - Robert Crawford and Andy McCrindle.



Charlie Weir with the President's Bowl.



Kenny Mabon was one of the proud winners of the George Watson Trophy.




Winner of the Ladies Singles Ann Hollingworth receives her trophy from Ian Leader.



John Lauder collected the Pairs Trophy on behalf of himself and Colin Haggarty.

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