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Merry Christmas to all our readers

Famous castle sundial to be given major makeover

Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The famous walled garden at Brodick Castle is to undergo a major makeover.

The sundial, which has been the focal point of the garden for more than a century, is to be remodelled along with the gardens surrounding it. The walls surrounding the garden are also being repaired.

The National Trust for Scotland, which owns the property, has applied for planning permission to re-surface around the existing sundial area, including amendments to landscaping which involves the removal of the bedding plants and a new corridor of mixed foliage.

The A-listed sundial has stood as the focal point in the centre of the famed garden for more than 100 years. It was erected in 1908 as a gift to Lady Mary Louise Douglas-Hamilton, the only daughter of the

12th Duke of Hamilton, who married James Graham, 6th Duke of Montrose, and moved into the castle in 1906. The rose garden was also sunk around this time.

The plan would see the "tired" crazy paving around the sundial being lifted and replaced with new red sandstone cut to sizes in a radial pattern. A new gravel border would be formed around the perimeter of the paving.

To the higher sloping ground side of the sundial area, new random stone walling is to be constructed with a stone seat to match the paving. Existing soft landscaping borders would be reshaped around the central area.

In a supporting statement, the castle bosses have told planners: "The proposed work to replace the existing paving around the sundial should greatly improve the "feel" of the space. The

Continued on page two



Santa has been busy on Arran handing out gifts to youngsters across the island. Here he is handing out presents in Brodick and there is more great coverage of the Christmas parties on pages four and five. 01_B51gift01

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There are no substantive archaeological concerns

In its response to the application, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service states: 'Both the walled garden to the south-east of the castle and the sundial that sits within it are also A-listed.

'A carved stone at the entrance to the garden indicates that it was constructed in 1710, when it was built for Duchess Anne of Montrose as a kitchen garden. It later served as a tree nursery, and was laid out as a pleasure garden in the mid-19th century at the same time as the earlier 19th century extension to the castle was built.

'A photograph of circa 1900 shows a pavilion on the site now occupied by the sundial. The sundial is a composite piece consisting of an 18th century baluster, with a specially-made plinth and 19th or 20th century brass dial. It was

purchased in 1908, at the time the new rose garden was sunk.

'From this, it is apparent that the sundial does not represent an original feature of the garden, and indeed has only been in place since the early 20th century. It is also the case that the garden as a whole has been recast a number of times during the course of its existence, and is likely to have been subject to fairly extensive levels of ground disturbance.

'This will have reduced the potential for significant sub-surface archaeological material to be present. In addition, resurfacing the area around the sundial is unlikely to require excavation to a significant depth. As a result of these factors, I would not consider the current application to raise a substantive archaeological issue.'



A close up image of proposed sundial works.

Sundial to be given a makeover

Continued from page one existing sundial will continue to provide the centrepiece for the walled garden and be greatly complemented by the use of British red sandstone for the paving that will closely match the original walls.

'Red sandstone as a material is of major importance to the property at Brodick Castle.

'The current "crazy paving" is very tired. By replacing it, the space will become more inviting for visitors to use, and dwell time will be increased in the walled garden.

'Access will also be im-

proved with the space being easier to use for visitors with mobility issues. By building seating into the design, the area should also become more functional while becoming much more aesthetically pleasing to the eye.'

The sundial has a famous inscription at its base, which would be retained. It reads: 'The kiss of the sun for pardon; The song of the birds for mirth; You are nearer God's heart in a garden; Than anywhere else on earth.'

Operations manager at Brodick Castle Jared Bowers told the *Banner*:

'The projected start date for the redevelopment of the sundial is mid-February with an April finish.

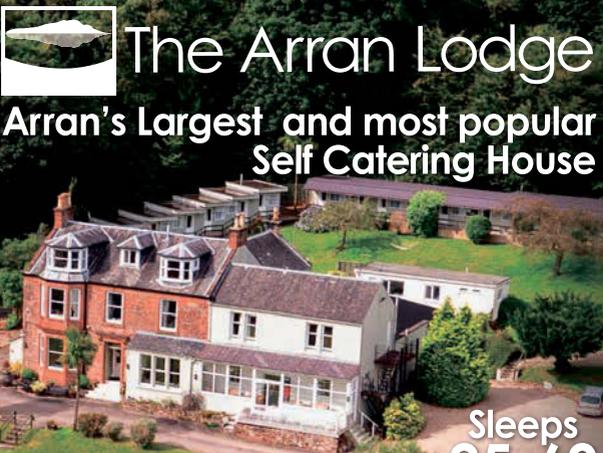
'This work is part of the larger gardens project happening at the castle at the moment, which will see other exciting changes and improvements to the walled garden and grounds.

'The newly designed space at the sundial will widen the current area and have new planting and seating features.'

The application is currently under consideration by North Ayrshire Council planning officials.



A graphic image of how the new sundial will look at dawn.

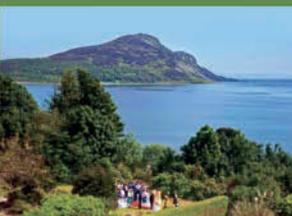


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Snow White production is the fairest of them all



The Queen presents a poisoned apple to an unsuspecting Snow White.

The entire Whiting Bay Primary School performed the Brothers Grimm classic Snow White at its annual concert.

Taking place in the Whiting Bay village hall, with each child wearing an elaborate costume, the production included all of the elements of the fairy tale from the Queen to a poisoned apple and a magic mirror.

Parents, grandparents, family and friends attending commended the pupils and teachers on the hard work that went into producing the heart-warming, amusing and well-rehearsed production.



The Snow White cast fill the stage at Whiting Bay hall.



Snow White and the handsome prince are joined on the elaborately decorated stage by all of the characters.



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Santa saves the

The annual Brodick Christmas party held in the village hall last Sunday was one of the biggest in living memory with nearly 100 children joining in in the festive fun and games.

Parties have been taking place across the island, including Whiting Bay, which was held the previous day and more are being staged this weekend.

The Brodick party is a community-funded event run by volunteers and is open to all children from babies to primary five age.

A huge raffle, with donated prizes and proceeds from the ticket sales funding the following year's party, saw a large number of tickets being bought by the adults who brought their children to attend the event, which was held during the afternoon on Sunday.

For the children, it was an afternoon of fun, games, craft tables, cookie dec-

orating and dancing to Christmas music. Children also enjoyed a festive feast with snacks and the highlight of the day, a visit from Santa who had a gift for every child in the village.

Sitting in a long line and on their best behaviour, the children waited for their names to be called out to go up and collect their gift from Santa. For many of the children it was exciting and wondrous but for some the sight of Santa brought tears and they clung to their parents who collected the gifts on their behalf.

Santa had been busy handing out gifts at Whiting Bay village hall the night before making a dramatic entrance at 5pm in a packed and expectant hall after he had been summoned by a rousing rendition of Jingle Bells. Earlier games and party food had kept the children and the grown-ups happy during an afternoon of festive fun.



Children enjoy a game of pass the parcel. 01_B51brodick01



A young child with a painted face thanks Santa for the present. 01_B51brodick08



Michelle Williamson and Karen McKinnon do a roaring trade with raffle tickets. 01_B51brodick02



A popular place, children enjoy the ball pit. 01_B51brodick03



Getting their hands dirty, children create Christmas baubles and decorate cookies. 01_B51brodick04



Children wait for their name to be called to meet Santa. 01_B51brodick07



A little girl is delighted with her gift from Santa. 01_B51brodick06

day on his sleigh



Santa says hello to one interested youngster. 01_B51bay05



Carol singers in full voice at Whiting Bay. 01_B51bay02



Elves Greta Litton and Anna Wilkinson with the giant Christmas bear. 01_B51bay01



Santa greets some of the youngsters who had been eagerly awaiting his arrival at Whiting Bay. 01_B51bay04

Your cash back in your pocket



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W. Brodie GM, Lamdash

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Whitehouse Woods' trees to get the chop

The owner of the Whitehouse Woods site in Lam-lash has received planning permission to cut back some of the trees in the area covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

Following a request by the roads authority seeking to make the trees – which overhang the A841 in Lam-lash – comply with legislation, site owner Iain Thomson submitted the application which was approved, but subjected to a reduction in scope.

Consent was sought to undertake treeworks involving: crown lifting of a large beech tree to provide clearance of 5.1m above the public road and 2.5m above the associated footway; the removal of a dead tree; and the removal of seven smaller self-seeded trees around the perimeter of the grounds.

The application was considered by planning officials with advice from an arboricultural officer owing to the area being cov-

ered by the Tree Preservation Order, which was designated in December 2002 and which relates to an area of approximately 5.01 ha of mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland.

The original proposal included the removal of a significant mature beech tree as well as lopping of smaller trees and removal of a dead specimen. The application stated that the beech is over-mature and in danger of falling across the adjacent roadway.

Site visit

Following a site visit by the North Ayrshire Council arboriculture officer it was determined that there was no clear rationale for the request to remove the large beech tree which appears healthy with no die back, root lift, fungal decay, hung up limbs or split unions evident.

The deceased tree listed in the application was discovered to be alive but in poor condition with die

back in the crown and major decay extending from a historic wound down the lower bole. The official advised that the tree should be removed to eliminate any risk associated with its poor condition and close proximity to the adjacent road.

The arboricultural officer found no objection to the small trees listed for lopping in the application and concurred that they should be cut back to prevent causing a minor disturbance to the footway.

The application was approved without the requirement for replanting as the removal of the smaller self-seeded trees 'would still retain a significant number of trees around the perimeter of the site and so would not have a significant adverse effect on the overall visual amenity of the conservation area'.

The site was once the grounds of the Whitehouse Hotel which closed nearly 40 years ago.



Some of the protected overhanging trees which will be cut back following planning approval. 01_B51trees01

Get ready for Christmas health service closures

With GP practices closing on Tuesday December 25 and Wednesday De-

cember 26, Arran residents are being urged to prepare to cope with any common health concerns

Over Christmas, when GP practices are closed, patients can still get advice from a community pharmacist or NHS 24. On Arran all pharmacies will be open as normal on Monday December 24 but will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

If anyone needs a doctor or dentist and it cannot wait until their GP or dental surgery is open, call NHS 24 on 111.

The War Memorial Hospital in Lam-lash will be open for accidents and emergencies.

NHS Ayrshire and Ar-

ran and the three Ayrshire health and social care partnerships have also produced a comprehensive guide to winter health and care services.

Eddie Fraser, director of East Ayrshire health and social care partnership and lead for unscheduled care, explains: 'Winter is traditionally a busy time for health and care services, with coughs and colds, flu and bugs doing the rounds. Whatever your health and care needs, we want to make sure you receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.'

To find out more, visit www.nhsaaa.net and click on the button at the bottom of the home page.

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Festive fun at the Messy Church

This month's Messy Church gathering at Lam-lash Church was festive themed with activities and crafts all centred around Christmas fun.

The Messy Church meetings which take place on the second Thursday of every month are activity-filled afternoons for Early Years to Primary 7 children hosted by the church.

Aimed specifically for the age group, Messy Church involves storytelling, singing, games, crafts, delicious food and a puppet show known as the Fonzles.

At last Thursday's meeting children learned of the story of the Three Wise

Men from the Fonzles before getting their hands messy with crafting. Making Christmas wreaths, decorated spoons, angels and baubles and crowns, the children decorated their creations before placing them on a Christmas tree.

Clockwise: The Fonzles tell the story of the three wise men through story and song. 01_B51messy01 Children and parents gather in the nave for the puppet show. 01_B51messy02 Parents and volunteers help the children with their decorations. 01_B51messy03 Crafting fun – children decorate their angels and Christmas decorations. 01_B51messy04



The true meaning of Christmas

A devotion by Rev Benjamin van Rensburg, chairman of Arran Churches Together.

'Let's take a selfie!' An all too common phrase that you hear all over the world today as people enjoy the convenience of taking a photo of themselves with their phones. Especially true if there is something interesting or someone famous in the background! It reflects the reality that, as humans, we don't like to be just spectators, but like to be a part of something significant: whether it's the Rugby World Cup final, the appearance of a famous movie star or a spectacular waterfall. A selfie makes us

part of whatever is happening.

Christmas invites us to be part of the most significant event in history: God became human through the birth of Jesus Christ.



Rev Benjamin van Rensburg

He entered this world because He deeply cares about us. Terrible things are happening in the world every day, but God loved the world and entered it in Jesus Christ to redeem

it. This redemption is also for us. We can experience the love and grace of God. Jesus was born in a stable where he was approachable by shepherds from the fields and wise men from a foreign country. People could come to Christ regardless of their status in society or their place of origin. The birth of Christ is good news of great joy for everyone.

When you take a selfie at the Christmas tree, remember that you can be a part of Christmas in a much more profound way through your faith in Jesus. He came into the world so that you too can personally experience the love of God!



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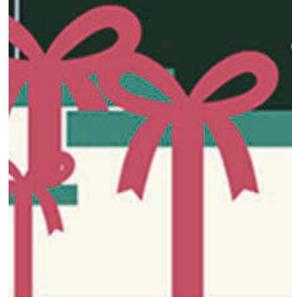
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Editorial

All change

We are sure the proposal to give the walled garden at Brodick Castle a major makeover will spark some debate, but gardens can't stay still, they have to evolve.

It is one of the most loved places in all the castle gardens and grounds, and it is good that a major change in landscaping of the sundial is going through the planning process so that people can have their say.

Changes to the walled garden have been in the pipeline for sometime.

Several years ago the National Trust for Scotland commissioned renowned international gardener Andy Sturgeon to come up with a makeover, but the costs of his proposals were just too prohibitive.

Now the castle gardeners have come up with a more cost effective in-house plan – but some of the changes will still be fairly dramatic.

Gone are the bedding plants – changing the colours of the garden throughout the season – to be replaced by a corridor of mixed foliage.

The crumbling walls of the garden – first built in 1710 – are also being repaired and along with other works should see the garden resplendent again in time for the Easter re-opening of the castle next year.

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.' Matthew 2:10

Cinema support

Sir,

I think the proposed cinema is a fabulous idea. For a huge number of reasons:

1 Keeps our community from being excluded from the real world.

2 Gives our kids a chance to feel that they are not 'cut off'.

3 Gives tourists something to do on our frequent dreich days.

Personally I've never managed to get to the screen machine due to shift and work commitments.

My advice to these people to make this work successfully would be to work the screenings with the timing of the buses and alleviate unnecessary parking. After all the bus depot is next door. Just takes a genius IQ to work the timetables out.

I still do have concerns over parking but this is a very small island and whatever you do will always have an 'anti' due to parking etc, but we cannot get away that virtually every time you switch the TV on, Arran is on the box somewhere. Add to the mix that the people who have been here in the past invariably come back.

For all the natives and oldies who remember and who know them – and I have to say, I am one of them – you cannot stop progress, you can only bend it to suit the circumstances better.

Yours,
**Sandra Brown,
Lamlash.**

Budget cuts

Sir

At the full council meeting of North Ayrshire Council in November, we received a report from our finance officer showing that our budget was £92m less than

it needed to be versus the situation in 2010/11. Add to that the effects of the SNP's Council Tax freeze from 2007, and the sum is nearer £100m. That's £100m short of what we need to deliver vital services.

On Wednesday, Derek MacKay presented his budget to Holyrood. Mr MacKay suggested there was an increase in council budgets, but there isn't – there is a cut. That's another cut in a succession of cuts from the SNP. According to COSLA, the cut is £273m for 2019/20. So the NAC budget will be cut again, we just wait to see by how much.

We all suffer from these cuts. Cuts make it more difficult to address potholes in our roads, books and teacher shortages in our schools, care shortages for our ill, elderly or infirm. They make it difficult to find the money to invest in local causes: community centres, town centres, town halls, libraries, roads and pavements. The other victims are council workers whose jobs have been cut and whose wages have fallen behind since the SNP came to power in 2007. Nobody voted for these cuts. Derek MacKay even denies they exist, but they do, and they are destroying our local infrastructure and our vital services. That's your vital services.

One problem we have, which I find very frustrating, is that SNP councillors in North Ayrshire refuse to fight the cuts from the SNP at Holyrood. Can I suggest that anyone who depends on council services, or has relatives or neighbours who depend on these ser-

vices, write to your local SNP group of councillors at Cunninghame House demanding they oppose any further cuts to our budget and to your services?

It will register your concerns and, who knows, it might even give our SNP councillors a bit of backbone to fight for North Ayrshire rather than just cave in to their own party interests.

Yours,
**Alex Gallagher,
Labour Councillor
North Coast and Cum-
braes.**

Corrie quiz

Sir,

May I, through your columns, thank those who supported our quiz.

In true 'Strictly' tradition, having been 'independently scrutinised', of the seven all-correct entries, the drawn winner was Clare Jefferis from Almondsbury.

Correct answers may be found on Sannox and Corrie noticeboard and in the 'Catstone'.

Yours,
**Elma Stevenson,
Corrie.**

Forestry fight

Sir

I also was very shocked and saddened, as are all my family, about the proposal to build a road and slipway along the haven that is Imachar shore (Meriel Appleton - Arran Banner December 8).

Walking along there with children is wonderful.

Off the road, safe from traffic, cliffs on one side and the sea on the other, it is one of the best coastal walks on Arran.

To think in the future big forestry lorries will be driving along there is be-

yond belief. No we will not let it be destroyed, not without a fight anyway.

Yours,
**Margaret Craig,
Imachar.**

Christmas giving

Sir,

People make Christmas, not gifts.

However, whilst many of us will be enjoying the abundance of food and gifts at home with loved ones this year, others aren't so fortunate.

Tragically, heart and circulatory diseases kill 15,500 people in Scotland each year and 700,000 people are currently living with the daily burden of these conditions.

By donating to the British Heart Foundation (BHF) this festive season, you will be making a huge difference to help keep more families together.

To donate, please visit www.bhf.org.uk/Christmas Merry Christmas!

Yours,
**Amanda Bringans,
Director of fundraising
at the BHF**

Poppy appeal

Sir,

A massive thanks to all the shops, schools, businesses etc that displayed and helped fill the tins for the 2018 Brodick Poppy Appeal.

The total raised this year was an excellent £2,043.16.

To my loyal volunteers who do the house-to-house collections and finally Karen and superstar Calum at the RBS who did a great job of counting all 39 tins.

Many, many thanks to all.

Yours
**Jill Bunyan,
Brodick Poppy
Coordinator.**

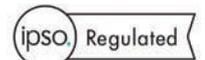
How to contact us

Arran Banner,
Brodick,
Isle of Arran,
KA27 8AJ
Phone: 01770 302142
News editor
Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Reporter
Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Advertising
Cecilia Paul
adverts@arranbanner.co.uk

Head office
Wyvex Media,
Lochavullin Industrial
Estate, Oban,
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A feast at Corrie foodfest

There was a whole host of tasty treats on offer last Saturday at the Corrie winter foodfest.

Despite the appalling weather, the village hall was packed with visitors eager to sample some of the fine fare like the Mara fish bar and deli, which was selling white fish, chorizo and butter bean stew, hot smoked salmon macaroni cheese and some delicious fresh oysters from the sea.

Arran Supper Club was serving up traditional German fayre with venison goulash, bratwurst, and very importantly, gluwein and mulled cider.

Ferghan Mhor vegan

B&B had haggis sausage rolls and hearty winter veg soup with red wine and mustard on the go. For those with a sweet tooth there were dark chocolate brownies, Dundee cake, empire biscuits and a gluten free sweetie offering.

Thai Street Food was at the festival again serving moo tod (garlic fried pork) sticky rice and laab ghai among other things while Red's Vintage Tea Parties had huge selection of cakes, cupcakes and sweet treats, some almost too beautiful to eat.

Blackwater Bakehouse was not only selling its delicious loaves but also had

Christmas specialities and grilled cheese paninis. The Isle of Arran Gin Company was also there with its new mini-sized bottle, which is the perfect size for stocking fillers, and there were some tasters too.

Woodside Arran CIC was also there selling its local produce.

'Donna's Jams and preserves' – made from lArran's fruit and veg and there were beautiful ceramics for sale by Simon Thorborn of Arran Ceramics.

There was also entertainment throughout the day to make it a real early festive treat.



Corrie hall was packed at the foodfest. 01_B51food01



Ruth McLaren with some of the treats at the Ferghan Mhor vegan B&B stand. 01_B51food07

Marie-louise Craig at her tempting Red's Vintage Tea Parties stall. 01_B51food06



Gordon and Kirsty de Caestecker at the Mara stall. 01_B51food03



Jessica Wallace, James Bryce and Beth Vipond of the Arran Supper Club. 01_B51food05



Megan Hamil and Shaun Shirkie at the Blackwaterfoot Bakehouse stand. 01_B51food04

Selling your Whisky Cask?

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

We are always searching for individuals who wish make a return on their casks, making the process simple and easy whilst offering the best market price.

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

Please send details to cask@atombrands.com

Raise your glass to Arran gin



ISLE OF ARRAN GIN CO.

Arran Gin could be distilled on the island as early as next year with exciting development plans for a micro-distillery and visitor experience in Brodick.

Other plans include a new Arran Bramble gin liqueur and contemporary new merchandise such as aprons, gin cups and T-shirts.

It has been a busy first year for The Isle of Arran Gin Company, set up by island entrepreneurs Stuart Fraser and George Grassie.

Early sales have achieved much better than expected results on the island, and the team are now lining up UK-wide distribution and even some interna-

tional export. A restaurant group in Melbourne, Australia, has already placed an order, and the team are talking to contacts in New York and Vancouver.

There is a lot of work to do in this area, but there are very exciting opportunities.

Closer to home, Arran Gin has been supported and is widely sold by almost every hotel, bar and licensed shop on the island. Arran Active has blasted through sales of over 1,500 in just 10 months, and The Bay Stores in Whiting Bay – the current HQ for the company – has hosted several tasting events and promotions, which have

helped to spread the word. A C Cameron and Pirr-mill stores have been fantastic supporters, making it island-wide retail.

Currently distilled at Glenshee Craft Distillery in Perthshire, the company are keen to produce the spirit on Arran with their new micro-distillery plans.

Stuart said: 'Connection with our local shops and bars is key to our success. This is a distinctly Arran product, and we need to have shopkeepers and bartenders as our advocates and brand ambassadors. We are not just selling gin, we are selling Arran as a food and drink destination. 'Recent events such as



Stuart Fraser and Linda Tudhope show off the new 20cl mini bottles at Santa's Sparkle last month.

01_B51gin

the two Corrie food festivals have shone a light upon Arran as a home for truly world-class small-scale producers in food and drink. Arran Gin is one of many new businesses on the island offering a contemporary twist on the rural food and drink experience.'

The key difference with Arran Gin, which is now also sold in a 20cl bottle,

has been its big taste – a result of the multiple hand-picked Arran botanicals from all around the island. Stuart and George are unapologetic about the gin's big, bold flavours and its distinctiveness. 'The flavours are born on the island: coastal and mountain.

'We have some amazing botanicals growing on Arran which, for a range of environmental and climat-

ic reasons are simply bigger and stronger than the same plants on the mainland. Our job is to forage and grow these plants, to ensure we have a true taste of the island in every glass of gin.

'It has been a chaotic and fun first year in business, and 2019 promises to be real year of opportunity for our group.

'We just want to take a moment to thank everyone on Arran who has supported us in 2018, and wish you all a healthy, happy Christmas,' Stuart added.



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More passengers but profits fall at CalMac

David MacBrayne parent company of CalMac Ferries has reported another year of increasing passenger numbers with the total carrying for the group breaking through the 5.5 million barrier for 2017/18.

Increased

CalMac Ferries' passenger numbers jumped by more than 200,000 over the year to 5.3 million while the group's other operator, Argyll Ferries, carried nearly 300,000 on the Gourock to Dunoon route over the same period. Vehicle traffic increased five per cent to 1.4 million while freight increased 1.4 per cent to 940,000 metres carried over the same period.

Revenues climbed £15 million to £210 million delivering a profit of £4 million for the year, down from £5.3 million last year. The drop in profit was due to increased costs in planned and unplanned vessel maintenance.

'The focus of the past year has been to continue putting customers and communities at the heart of what we do and using our services and influence to actively drive sustainability and economic growth,' said David MacBrayne chairman David McGibbon.

It was a successful first year of operations for CalMac's new independent

community board, which seeks to improve communications with local communities and provide greater insight and focus into the type of services that island communities need over the long term.

'We are continuing to work to improve communication with all our customers, including the launch of a new Integrated Operations Communications Centre.

Enhance

'This will significantly enhance our ability to respond quickly to customers, with better levels of consistency and frequency during periods of disruption,' added Mr McGibbon.



The MV Clansman and the MV Caledonian Isles in Brodick earlier this year.

Arran pupils join Sleep in the Park to raise charity cash

By Rory Morrison,
S6 student at
Arran High School

On Saturday December 8, four students from Arran High School – accompanied by English teacher Julia Harrison, art and design teacher Tilly Armstrong and AYF leader Graeme Johnston – got to experience first-hand sleeping rough in the name of charity.

Organised by Social Bite, Sleep in the Park was a nationwide event, taking place in Dundee, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow, where the students spent their night. People who took part in the scheme would sleep outside without the use of tents or other makeshift shelters, so as to better understand what people in this condition would be going through.

Big names

In attendance at the festival were many big names such as singer Amy MacDonald and video appearances from writer Irvine Welsh and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

The group of students were successful in raising money for the event, so far totalling £1,125. This money was achieved by a non-school uniform day, various bake sales, an online fundraising page and by the generosity of the people of Arran who donated. Our online fundraising page will remain open until Christmas eve when the final total from the events will be announced by Social Bite.

While a worthwhile experience for the students, it did seem rather hard-hitting that after one night of



Pupils and teachers from Arran High School at Central Station in Glasgow on their way to the event in Kelvingrove Park.

sleeping rough those taking part would go back to their beds, their houses, their safety, but for many more this was an experience that they would have to continue to experience for the other 364 days of the year. Proof – if proof were needed – that organisations like Social Bite are needed more and more in these times.

Ms Armstrong added: 'I would like to say how incredibly proud I am of the young people who worked hard to help raise so much money. They have stood up for what they believe and they have put their community before themselves.'

'I would also like to say a massive thank you to everyone from the Arran community who put their hands in their pockets and helped to support this worthwhile cause.'

There is still time to donate at: <https://uk.virgin-moneygiving.com/Team/arran-high-school1>

Christmas
Entertainment
@ the PHT

Friday 21st - 9pm - The Elvis & Johnny Show
Sat 22nd - 9pm - LK Projection - Pop, Rock & Punk
Sunday 23rd - 4pm - The Arran B's - Local musicians have fun
Boxing Day - 3pm - Hingin' by a Threed - Celtic Folk Band
Sat 29th - 9pm - Huey Broom & The Bullets Indie Pop
Sun 30th - 4pm - Faye Donnelly multi instrumentalist
Hogmanay - 9pm - George Lindsay Wipeout Party plus pipers
Tuesday 1st - 3pm George hosts an afternoon of mellow music - young people welcome to take the mic

?ub Quiz Boxing Day 8.30pm

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on 24th and 25th DECEMBER
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THROUGH UNTIL 6TH JANUARY

SATURDAY 29TH DECEMBER
LIVE ACOUSTIC MUSIC WITH
ROB MUIR FROM 9PM

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HOGMANAY CEILIDH £20 PER PERSON
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TICKETS FOR BOTH AVAILABLE ON 01770 302968

JANUARY 1ST AT NOON
THE DOUGLAS DOOK

JANUARY 2ND FROM 12.30PM
LUNCHTIME JAZZ WITH BIFF,
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SATURDAY 5TH JANUARY
LIVE ACOUSTIC MUSIC WITH
MATT SCOTT FROM 9PM

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OUR ANNUAL R&R FORNIGHT, OPENING BACK UP
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Row over claim North Ayrshire is getting biggest budget boost

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson has welcomed North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) £23,237,000 increase in grant from the SNP government for next year.

The 8.3 per cent increase takes its grant to £303,079,000.

The increase for NAC is the highest in Scotland, the average being 4.64 per cent.

Last week's Scottish budget saw finance secretary Derek Mackay MSP announce total funding of £11,151,140,000 for local government. This is despite a reduction in Scotland's block grant of almost £2 billion – seven per cent – over the past decade.

Mr Gibson, who serves

on the Scottish Parliament's local government and communities committee, said: 'People on Arran will welcome this significant investment in their local services. Despite continued Tory cuts to Scotland's resource budget, every local authority in Scotland has seen their funding increase in this year's budget and I am delighted NAC will receive the highest increase of all, allowing it to invest more in local services.'

'These figures prove the SNP government is committed to funding councils to deliver better schools, roads and key services in communities across Scotland, including Arran.'

But North Ayrshire Labour has slammed the SNP's budget which, it says, will devastate communities across Scotland, including here in North Ayrshire.

Despite claims by the SNP that funding for local government is increasing in real terms, independent analysis by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre has shown that core revenue funding to Scotland's councils is being cut by 3.4 per cent. The average reduction in revenue funding over the past five years has been two per cent.

North Ayrshire Labour leader Joe Cullinane said:

'Since the start of austerity in 2010, more than £90 million of cuts have been made to North Ayrshire Council's budget and yet this year's settlement is probably the worst to date.'

'This is a shockingly bad budget for local government services, the workers who deliver those services

and the communities who rely on them.

'It is absolutely shameful the SNP is manipulating funding for national policies to pull the wool over the public's eyes to hide their cuts to local services.'

'This budget is absolutely unacceptable to North Ayrshire Labour and we will

be fighting for a fair deal over the coming weeks.

No doubt our counterparts in the SNP will undertake their annual exercise of welcoming this austerity budget, a budget that will oversee millions of pounds of cuts to the local services they were elected to deliver.'

Bernie's lights still going strong

Bernie Jackson of Whiting Bay has once again festooned his house with Christmas illuminations to the delight of visitors and locals who flock to see the decorations every year.

Collecting on behalf of the Whiting Bay children's Christmas party this year with a voluntary donation box, Bernie has raised thousands of pounds over the past 29 years by those who appreciate and bring their children to see the annual display.

While adding to his collection of inflatable snowmen, Santas, reindeer, trees



Bernie Jackson shows off his inflatable decorations and illuminations. 01_B51Bernie01

and sleighs, Bernie also has some decorations that have endured over the years, including an illuminated blue star which is one of the decorations he first used 29 years ago.

Bernie said: 'I know I say this every year, but at 76 my days of climbing the ladder and spending three days setting it all up are coming to a close. One of

my three sons usually helps with the set-up, but I am seriously considering making next year my last display.

'My 30th display might be my biggest but also my last.'

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

Co-op sets up grotto

Brodick Co-op worker Laura McLaren Mcallister and friend Gemma Bennett have transformed the Cosy Corner community room at the store into a Santa's grotto.

Complete with a large decorated tree, an improvised fireplace, presents, decorations and seating, the grotto also features a life-size Santa sitting in the corner of the room.

Managers and staff at the store have also joined in



Catherine Smith gets into the festive mood by joining Santa in his grotto at Brodick Co-op. 01_B51grotto01

the fun and contributed to the grotto with small festive touches of their own, including Christmas crackers, juice and nibbles. Parents and children are wel-

come to pop into the room and have a look and, if they are lucky, there might even be a present for them, delivered by a Co-op member of staff on behalf of Santa.

 An advertisement for Arran Haulage. It features a large blue truck with a white cab. On top of the truck is a large, red and white inflatable Santa hat. The truck has 'ARRAN HAULAGE' written on the side, along with the phone number '01770 302777' and the website 'WWW.ARRANHAULAGE.CO.UK'. The background is a light blue sky with some clouds.

**WOW!
CHRISTMAS
ALREADY?**

Wishing all our customers a 'truck load' of fun and good cheer for Christmas & the New Year!

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Every day

Octopus Centre – tennis
Corrie children's art exhibition
Brodick Mini Golf
Brodick Castle, garden only
Soap making and candle dipping
Arran Brewery

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

Saturday 22nd December

Corrie children's Christmas party
Winter rink bowls
Lamlash children's Christmas party
Family games
Fun in the pool
Live music – The Sensational Biff Simpson Trio
Live music – LK Projection, it's pop, it's rock, it's punk!
Christmas disco
Over-21s disco

Corrie Hotel, 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Arran High School, 2pm - 4.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Sunday 23rd December

Live music – Hingin By A Threed
Lochranza children's party
The Last Waltz, Bereavement – a time for sharing
Family games
Fun in the pool
Live music – The Arran B's, local musicians have fun
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Folk music session

Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 1pm
Lochranza Outdoor Centre, 2pm - 5pm
Heather Lodge, Brodick, 2.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Monday 24th December

Shiskine children's party
Kildonan children's Christmas party
Adult tennis
Isle of Arran Bridge Club, all welcome
Tae Kwon Do, adults and over 10s,

Shiskine Hall, 3pm - 5pm
Kildonan Hall 5pm - 7pm
Blackwaterfoot, 5.30pm
Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 25th December

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Wednesday 26th December

Festive rinks on Boxing Day, all welcome
Big Boxing Day quiz
Live music – Hingin By A Threed, Celtic folk band
Live music – Acoustic Butterfly

Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30 pm
Drift Inn, Lamlash, 3pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 3pm - 6pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm

Thursday 27th December

ACLl volunteer gardening day
Steak night, includes two dinners and a bottle of wine
Isle of Arran Bridge Club, all welcome
Arran Hockey Club – seniors (12 yrs +)
Brodick Embroidery Group
Tommy's general knowledge quiz

Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay, 11.30am - 3.30pm
Drift Inn, Lamlash, 5pm - 9pm
Little Rock, Brodick, 7pm for 7.15pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm
Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 28th December

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Tae Kwon Do
Live music – Shindig
Friday night quiz
Live music – Elvis and Johnny, tribute to Elvis Presley & Johnny Cash

Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Advanced (Advanced Class) Arran High School, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Saturday 29th December

Winter rink bowls
Family games
Fun in the pool
Live music – Tim Pomeroy
Live Music - Huey Broon & the Bullets - Indie/Rock Covers band
Over 21's Disco

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



www.arranbrewery.com

A real showcase of Arr



Charlotte McKillop on the clarsach.

Photographs
Dr David Hogg
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Pupils at Arran High School promised an evening of outstanding talent in the performing arts and they did not disappoint at their Christmas Showcase concert last Thursday night in the community theatre.

A huge variety of musical talent was showcased along with festive favour-

ite groups such as the S1 Singers and the well-established AHS Concert Band who played alongside the amazing Lamlash Primary School Wind Band.

For the first time, new pipers who have recently taken up the instrument at the high school performed with the young members of the Arran Pipe Band.

Here are just some of the highlights.



The cast take a well-deserved bow.



One wood band member is all smiles.



Keira Willis and Greta Litton are in fine voice.



The assembled cast on stage for the



Lamlash Primary School Wind Band prepare for the curtain opening.



The new bagpipe players join in young members of Arran Pipe Band.



The cast in the finale dance routine



The choir in fine harmony.



A tune for some of the older bagpipers.



A stage full of fiddlers.

an's Christmas talent



Two young wind band members.



the finale.



Striking a tune on the a variety of instruments.



A young bagpipe player.



A turkey was the central theme of a sketch.

November visitors take refuge in Arran gardens

November this year was milder and wetter than November 2017. The mean temperature was 1.8 degrees warmer and there was almost 70 per cent more rain. There was a comparatively dry spell between the 11th and 27th.

There were almost 100 species recorded in the month and among the highlights were: a Mediterranean gull at Sliderry on 5th, the second record this year; following on from coastal records in September and October a little egret at Glaister on 15th and a red kite at Auchareoch on the 21st, the fourth recorded this year. There had been no records of Mediterranean gull nor red kite in 2017.

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 was at Cnoc na Dail on 5th, with around 200 fieldfare with 50 redwing. Other records of wintering birds includ-

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

NOVEMBER

ed: six rook and 10 yellowhammer at Sliderry on 5th; 300 common gull at Kilpatrick Point on 7th; 32 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot, 11 turnstone at Drumadoon Point, seven Brambling at Cnoc na Dail and 500 starling at Kilpatrick, all on 8th; 24 redshank at Sandbraes on 12th; a dunlin and a purple sandpiper on Silver Sands on 16th and 25 lapwing on Cleats Shore on 18th.

Reports of wintering wildfowl included: seven whooper swan at Glenscorrodale on 5th, 300 greylag geese at Sliderry also on 5th, 40 wigeon at Kilpatrick Point on 7th, 62 teal in Torbeg on 8th, 30 pink-footed geese in the Shiskine Valley on 21st and three goldeneye by the Fisherman's Walk on 30th.

Gardens are safe refuges during the winter months



There were four reports of red kite this year after none last year. Photograph: Angela Cassels.

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: 11 coal tit in Torbeg on 4th, six brambling in Cordon on 6th, three great spotted woodpecker in Glenloig on 14th, 12 long-tailed tits in Gortonallister on 15th, two Goldcrest in Lamlash on 22nd, two Treecreeper in Whiting Bay, also on 22nd, and 11 blackbird in Pirmill on 29th. Other November highlights included: an Arctic skua and a great skua off Pirmill on 3rd, a merlin at Blackwaterfoot on 8th, two goosander at Cordon on 15th, a kingfisher by Kingscross on 18th, a water rail on Holy Isle (first ever record) on 25th and a little grebe in Loch Ranza on 28th.

Finally some firsts and some lasts.

There was a wheatear, a summer visitor, at Druma-

doon Point on 1st, the last gannet was reported off Pirmill on 2nd and two shelduck at Silver Sands on 26th were the first reports of shelduck returning to Arran after their annual departure to moult.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, 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 buy a copy of the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2017 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Fieldfare with apple. This was another species which had a spike last month and there are still good numbers around. Photograph: Simon Davies.

Brodict Bar & Brasserie

Hogmanay Entertainment

From 10pm through to the small hours, piper at the bells.

Live music from award winning fiddle player Gillian Frame and highly acclaimed Scottish singer Findlay Napier

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"Splendid contemporary song craft and punchy roots-rock arrangements" The Herald

Late licence to 2am, No tickets required.

Make it a real party!

Tel 01770 302169 for bookings



Merry Christmas from all at Arran Eco Savvy!
 ♦ ECO SAVVY'S YEAR 2018 ♦ THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT ♦

ECO PRODUCTS LAUNCHED

94 ecoffee cups sold

If our customers bought 5 coffees per week before their eco purchase, that's an annual saving of around 22,560 takeaway cups from landfill!



24 water bottles & 44 eco flasks sold



Even if you only purchased one plastic bottle per day, a refillable water bottle purchase saves over 300 plastic waterbottles from ending up in landfill and/or the sea in just one year!

142 bamboo toothbrushes sold

If we listen to our dentists, we should replace our toothbrush at least every three months. That's 4 in one year, 40 a decade. Say the average age we live to in the UK is 80 something. That's around 320 plastic toothbrushes each, and then multiply that by 66 million.



OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS GAVE OVER 2500 HOURS OF TIME IN OUR SHOP

Check our website for which local Arran businesses refill water bottles for free! Currently over 50! also check for this sticker in their windows:

THE ECO SAVVY ENERGY CHALLENGE PROJECT LAUNCHED AND OPERATED

project achievements so far:

- Provided energy audits and EPCs for 170 Arran households
- 173 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent saved from uptake of energy efficiency advice
- 15 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent from uptake of renewables advice
- 24 energy efficiency drop-in advice surgeries held
- Assisting and advising over 20 households in their solar PV projects
- 292 participants in our carbon literacy initiative



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Starting only 4 weeks ago this enables the redistribution of surplus food from the Coop as a part of their new, national food redistribution program. This partnership has saved over 85kg of food waste from landfill already!

- In 2019 look out for**
- Everything continued and more
 - eBike trials & commuting scheme for Arran businesses



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OUR HALF PRICE SALE STARTS THURSDAY 27TH
Festive hours, Thursday - Saturday 10:30 am - 4 pm
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BUBBLES car wash

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers.
We are closed from Friday 21st December, re-opening Tuesday 8th January.



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A huge range of Christmas gifts and Arran Malt Whiskies, all under one roof.

CASKS CAFE-BAR
Take a break in our relaxing cafe, perfect for a light lunch or coffee and cake with festive cheer.

WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Lochranza Visitor Centre
Open Daily 10am - 4.00pm
Closed Xmas Day & Boxing Day
Closed from Jan 1st, re-opening Jan 12th

- DISTILLERY TOURS HOURLY
- TUTORED WHISKY TASTINGS

www.arranwhisky.com
Tel: 01770 830264

Gavin and Tracy at Gladach Sawmill
would like to wish our customers a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
We will be closed from 22/12 to 5/1/19 inclusive.

DENIS O. BROWN
WISHING ALL OUR CLIENTS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

DENIS O. BROWN & ASSOCIATES LTD
SCOTLAND'S LEADING FARM AND RURAL BUSINESS INSURANCE BROKERS

ESTABLISHED 1969
Tel: 01786 449966 www.denisobrown.co.uk

MORNA PATERSON
119 LONGROW, CAMPBELTOWN, ARGYLL
T: 01586 554600 M: 07807 704797

C.M WEIR & SONS
Machrie Garage

Would like to wish all their customers a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year

neil young Joinery and Building
Joinery and Building Contractor
Tel: 01770 600500
Mob: 07855 758978

New Builds from foundation

Wishing all our customers and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
www.neilyoungjoineryandbuilding.co.uk

24-hour Service. Free Quotations. Friendly Reliable Service
Email: info@neilyoungjoineryandbuilding.co.uk - Lamlash, Isle of Arran



**JOHN THOMSON
CONSTRUCTION LTD.**

We wish all our clients and customers a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

PETROL & DIESEL SALES
Closed Saturday 22nd Dec –
Monday 7th Jan 2019

LAMLASH GARAGE
Closed Saturday 22nd Dec –
Monday 7th Jan 2019



LITTLE ROCK

festive opening hours

Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd - 9am – 4.30 pm (kitchen closes 4pm)
 Sunday 23rd 10am – 4.30pm (kitchen closes 4pm)
 Christmas Eve 9am – 4pm (kitchen closes 3.30pm)
 Christmas day, Boxing Day and 27th – closed
 Friday 28th - Monday 31st - 9am – 4.30 pm (kitchen closes 4pm)
 1st and 2nd January – closed
 open for business as usual 3rd January at 9am

A massive thank you to all our customers
 for your continued support in 2018.
 Wishing you all a fabulous festive season
 and a Happy New Year.
 Love from all at Little Rock.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND BEST WISHES
TO ALL
FROM
Isle of
ARRAN
Cheese Shop



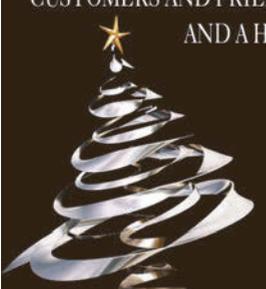
STAGS PAVILION

Val and Rino would like to wish all our customer old and new a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Telephone: 830600

HARBOUR SHOP
BLACKWATERFOOT

GILLIAN, AILEEN AND GINA WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Christmas Eve 9am -5pm
 Christmas Day Closed
 Boxing Day Closed
 27th to 31st normal hours
 New Year's Day Closed
 from 2nd Jan 2019 normal hours

WOOLEYS OF ARRAN
TRADITIONAL FAMILY BAKERS FOR GENERATIONS

Wishing all our customers a very happy Christmas and with best wishes for the new year.



Brodick Shop: 7am - 5pm (7am - 4pm in Jan & Feb 2018)
 Lamlash Shop: 7am - 2.00pm (closed Saturdays)

Christmas & New Year Open Hours (green = open)

	December											January							
Brodick	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Lamlash	Closed 21 Dec - 6th Jan inclusive																		

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all our friends and partners from everyone at VisitArran and the Arran Trust.



Gator and the team at **William Kerr & Sons** would like to wish all their clients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Tel 860208

Campbell Fuel Oils

Wishing all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The most frequent service on the Isle of Arran supplying heating oil, tractor diesel, derv and a wide range of lubricants

Call us on **01563 521925**
 Hurlford Road, Riccarton, Kilmarnock KA1 3LS
www.campbellfuels.co.uk

THE WINEPORT
Bar Bistrot

Wish all their customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are open Friday 21st to Monday 24th December and every day from Friday 28th December till Monday 7th January serving lunch from 11am.

We look forward to seeing you!





Number 16 Restaurant would like to thank everyone who has supported our Arran 'pop-up' events throughout 2018. We'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2019. We look forward to seeing you again in the new year!



No Sixteen
RESTAURANT

County Carpets (Arran) Ltd
Since 1970

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2019 from all at County Carpets

www.countycarpetsarran.co.uk
Tel: 01770 700480 Fax: 01770 700455
Email: admin@countycarpetsarran.co.uk
Whiting Bay Open 6 Days, 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

THE CARPET FOUNDATION REGISTERED SPECIALIST
one construction skills

Est 35 Yrs **ANGUS LAMBIE MOTOR ENGINEERS LIMITED** **23½ Hr Service**

BREAKDOWN • RECOVERY
REPAIRS • SERVICE • TYRES

Wish all our customers a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** and thank you for your support throughout the year

The Coffee Pot

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone.
From all at the Coffee Pot.

Golf Course Rd, Whiting Bay • Tel: 700393

Wish all their customers and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Arran Electrical & Refrigeration Ltd
Tel: 01770 860246

Wishing all our fantastic customers a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! From all the Armitage gang.

ARMITAGE

SLIDDERY SUPPLIES

Willie and Midge wish all their customers a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year.
Please note altered opening hours over the holiday period

Fri 21st Dec & Sat 22nd Dec, 8.30am – 8pm
Thursday 27th Dec, 8am – 5pm
Fri 28th Dec – Sunday 6th Jan
CLOSED
Normal opening hours from **Mon 7th Jan**
Tel – 01770 870 225/348

Arran Vets

A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our clients and their four legged friends from Charlotte and all at Arran Vets. Thank you for all your support in 2018.

The surgery will be closed for the Bank Holidays on the 25th and 26th December and the 1st and 2nd of January but please phone 302511 as usual for emergencies.



BARKS & BUBBLES



Jennifer would like to wish all her canine customers and their family's a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all my family friends and neighbours from Nancy Cannon, Lamlash

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
Betty Lennox would like to wish all friends and family and staff at Cooriedoon Nursing Home a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year



Kinloch Arran
Wishing all our customers
A very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
From Robbie, Barbara and All at Kinloch Hotel xx



Wish all our customers a Merry Christmas & a prosperous New Year.

GARAGE OPENING TIMES - Tel 860277

24th 08.30-17.00 25th & 26th Closed
27th & 28th 08.30-17.30 29th 09.00-17.00
30th closed 31st 08.30-17.00
1st & 2nd Closed

SHOP OPENING TIMES - Tel 860220

23rd 12.30-17.00 24th 08.30-17.30
25th & 26th Closed 27th-29th 08.30-17.30
30th 12.30-17.00 31st 08.30-17.30
1st & 2nd Closed

Shop home deliveries available please call or ask in store. Thanks for shopping locally.



Our 3 island Co-ops would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Thank you to all our members for assisting us in raising funds for our community.

Opening Times

BIG CO-OP, BRODICK
6am - 10pm - 23rd December
6am - 8pm - 24th December
Closed - Christmas Day
6am - 10pm - Boxing Day
6am - 8pm - 31st December
6am - 10pm - New Year's Day

INVERCLOY & LAMLASH
7am - 10pm - 23rd December
7am - 8pm - 24th December
Closed - Christmas Day
8am - 8pm - Boxing Day
7am - 9pm - 31st December
8am - 8pm - New Year's Day

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 19, 1998

Arran apart

Making a plea for a wheelie bin, Donald Cowan of Lamlash wrote to North Ayrshire Council last November after seeing in the council's free newspaper that the 'whole' district would be issued with them.

While stressing the need for wheelie bins for elderly people, he also learned of the council's blindness when it came to Arran. He received a reply from controller Jim Baird which said that mainland North Ayrshire would have wheelie bins by the end of February but 'any introduction of wheelie bins to Arran could only be considered after contractual and operational problems had been resolved'.

While that sounds suitably enigmatic, it also underlines the point that North Ayrshire Council thinks it is speaking for all of North Ayrshire when it is not.

Tourism truce

Today the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board went to the edge of a precipice. It looked down but did not like what it saw and stepped back two paces. Then disagreements broke out again, still dangerously close to that precipice. Then exhaustion took over and a sort of a truce was called.

For this was the annual general meeting of the tourist board. Waist deep in

disagreements, it was hoped this meeting might resolve matters. At the event, a rumbustious gathering took place. Words like 'blackmail' and 'rubbish' were used and the meeting at one point broke up in disarray as legal advice was sought. The word 'harmony' were used but harmony was conspicuously absent.

At the end of a bureaucratic nightmare of motions, no motions and amended motions, a new motion was tabled covering seven previous motions, which was eventually accepted and, while a compromise, it meant the meeting drew to a close with a truce of sorts being the main outcome.

Holy invitation

James Gracie, Arran's Free Church minister since 1994, is to leave in January. He, his wife Catriona and his family are moving to a church in North Uist. In the Free Kirk, ministers do not apply for positions, rather a vacancy committee can invite any minister to come. When he received the invitation, he was in two minds as he enjoyed working on Arran but he then decided to go for it.

As for a replacement, the Free Kirk was without a minister for 18 months before he came. A vacancy committee will invite possibles once Mr Gracie has left, although he does say ministers are in short supply at the moment.



Over the past 15 months, the weekly Cameronia quiz night has raised more than £1,000 each for the Hospital Supporters League and Whiting Bay Hall. Last Monday, another cheque for £1,000 was presented to the local bowling club. Pictured are quizmaster David Thompson, bowling club president Ellen Ferguson, mine host Ross Mackay and raffle organiser Cathy Steed. 01_B51twe05



Arran's young naturalists held their Christmas party last week where those who had shown the most enthusiasm and commitment were chosen as young naturalists of the year. Bearer of that title this year is Eilidh McNicol. The two runners-up were Katy MacDonald and Sam Wheeler. 01_B51twe02



Left: Christmas fete at Montrose House: staff members Grace Kay, Hilary Steen, Betty Craig and Kate Robertson join Mrs Baker, Mrs Wood, Mr Upton, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Gibson, Mr Steed, Miss Downie and Mrs Reid with an array of items for sale. 01_B51twe04



Pirnmill Primary School's Christmas play was Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The whole school took part and parents enjoyed watching the performance as much as the children did taking part. 01_B51twe03



Left: While Frank Langley still works on the roof, the new owners Mr and Mrs McCulloch are toasted at being the first to move into Coralyn Court. Left to right: architect Barry Williams, Jane McConnell of CU Developments, builder John Corbett, Mr and Mrs McCulloch and sales agent John Campbell. 01_B51twe01

RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

Visit hijobs.net FIND A JOB SIGN UP FOR JOB ALERTS GET CAREER ADVICE ADVERTISE A JOB

KILMORY HALL MANAGER

20 hrs pw

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a suitable candidate to help in the rejuvenation of Kilmory Hall and its portfolio of businesses. Hours and pay are negotiable, dependent upon experience. You must be organised, computer literate, have experience of accounts, have excellent customer service skills, and have an understanding of community needs. This is a fantastic opportunity for the right candidate to make the role their own.

For an informal enquiry or to request an application form, please contact Naomi Boyd on 07944413152 or email naomiboyd41@gmail.com during office hours.

Closing date for applicants is **5th January 2019**.

Public Notices

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FOR ISLE OF ARRAN

Over the festive period the following collection days will change for the blue and grey bins.
If your normal collection day does not fall on these days it will be unaffected and remain the same.

Normal Collection Day	Festive Collection Day
Tuesday 25 December 2018	Thursday 27 December 2018
Wednesday 26 December 2018	Friday 28 December 2018
Tuesday 1 January 2019	Thursday 3 January 2019
Wednesday 2 January 2019	Friday 4 January 2019

Please put your bin out for 7am on the morning of your collection. The actual time of collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects your area we will return to uplift your bin when possible.

The last special uplift collection for 2018 will be Friday 21 December 2018. Special uplift bookings for the New Year will start on 7 January 2019.

Large flat packed cardboard can be placed next to your blue bin on the day of collection over the festive period.

Real Christmas trees should be placed next to your grey bin on your normal collection day, from week beginning 7 January 2019 and 21 January 2019.

The household waste recycling centre will be closed Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 December 2018 and Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 January 2019, but will open as normal every other day.

The contact telephone number for North Ayrshire Council Waste Collection Service over the festive period is 01770 600338/01294 310000 or visit our website www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE




Krisp Cards Gifts Galore
Calendars, gift subscriptions, illustrated map tea towels and quality giclee prints
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THE IDEAL GIFT... Scottish Calendars 2019



FROM **£11.95** including P&P*



FROM **£7.95** including P&P*

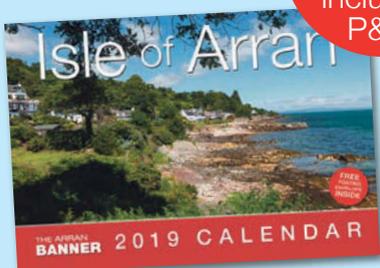
Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars.

To see all the images from our 2019 range visit:

www.scottishcalendars.co.uk



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FROM **£7.95** including P&P*



order form

I would like to order 2019 Calendars:

Calendar		U.K. inc P&P	R.O.W. inc P&P	Amount
Scottish Field Large	Price	£11.95	£12.95	£
	Quantity			
Scottish Field Small	Price	£7.95	£8.50	£
	Quantity			
Oban Times West Highland	Price	£7.95	£8.50	£
	Quantity			
Arran Banner Isle of Arran	Price	£7.95	£8.50	£
	Quantity			
Scottish Clans	Price	£7.95	£8.50	£
	Quantity			

Total £

YOUR DETAILS:

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ Date _____
Email _____

If you wish we can send calendars direct to your friends and family on your behalf. Please provide the following details on a separate sheet: Name, address, your personal message, together with a note of which calendar you would like sent.

PAYMENT DETAILS:

I enclose payment for £ _____ by Cheque payable to Wyvex Media Debit/Credit Card
Card Number _____
Expiry Date _____ Start Date _____ Issue No _____ Security Code (last 3 digits on back of card) _____
Signature _____
Name/Title (BLOCK CAPITALS) _____

ORDER ONLINE AT www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call us on 01371 851 868
OR POST ALL ORDERS TO:

Wyvex Media Limited, FREEPOST RTEY YUBG TYUB Trinity House, Sculptins Lane, Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 4AY

* additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW

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Est. 1985

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- Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate



FROM 48p PER WEEK

INCLUDES FULL website access and a DIGITAL EDITION of the newspaper

THE ARRAN BANNER

Now delivering news 7 DAYS A WEEK ONLINE
www.arranbanner.co.uk

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Drive Times

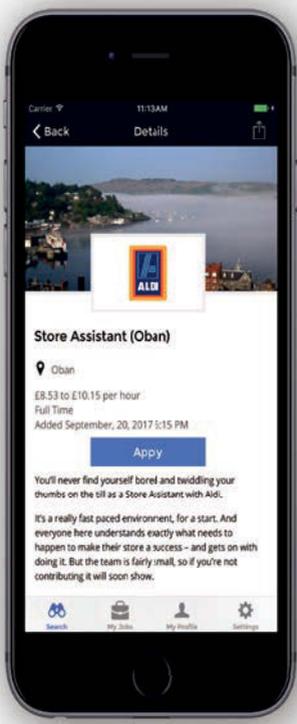
Cars sell **QUICKER** and for a **BETTER PRICE** when accompanied by a photograph. Our staff can take these for you for **FREE**. Just drive to our nearest office to place your ad.

THE ARRAN BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk



We've made it even easier to find your next job



in the perfect location.

Download our app for free at hijobs.co.uk/app



HIJOBS

HENDRY FUNERAL SERVICES LTD

15 Glen Avenue, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DQ
Tel: 01770 302233 Fax: 01770 302883

Independent Funeral Directors • All Funeral arrangements
Agents for Golden charter Funeral Plans & Robertson Memorials. A member of S.A.I.F

Telephone David or Clair Tel: 01770 302233

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Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk



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TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH!

UNDER £50 FREE!



Simply complete the form and return to the **Arran Banner office**

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE TUESDAY 4.00pm
NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS PLEASE

ITEM.....

DESCRIPTION.....

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PRICE..... TELEPHONE.....

ONLY ONE ITEM PER COUPON

The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ
Tel: 01770 302142 Fax: 01770 302021
Email adverts@arranbanner.co.uk www.arranbanner.co.uk

CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

together
Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson

Parish Assistant:

Mrs Jean Hunter:

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

Sunday 23rd December

Pirnmill and Lochranza Churches together, 10.15am. Morning Worship at Pirnmill Church.

Shiskine Church 12noon

Morning Worship.

Brodick Church, 10.30am.

Morning Worship,

accompanied by ARCO.

Corrie Church, 11.30 Prayer

meeting, 12noon Morning

Worship, accompanied by

ARCO.

There will also be a

Service of Worship in

Montrose House at 1.30pm.

Monday 24th December

Shiskine Church 11.30 pm.

Christmas Eve Watchnight

Service.

Brodick Church,

Christmas Eve Family

Service at 5.00pm and

at 11.30 pm.

Christmas Eve Watchnight

Service.

Corrie Church 9.30pm

Christmas Eve Service.

Tuesday 25th December

Lochranza Church, 11am.

Christmas Day Service.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL

CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide

Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 23rd December

Holy Communion – 11 am.

Richard Trewby

Christmas Day

25th December

Sung Eucharist 10 am.

Rev Adrian Fallows

Coffee after service

ARRAN FREE CHURCH

OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 23d December

Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen

Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road, Brodick

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a

fellowship to share"

Sunday 23rd December

Mrs Liz Clarke

Kilmory - 10am

Lamlash - 11.30am.

Monday 24th December

In Lamlash: Christmas Eve

Service -10pm

All welcome, including fami-

lies; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan

Church of Scotland, Charity

Number: SC014005

Sunday 23rd December

A Service of Nine Lessons

and Carols will be

conducted by the

minister,

Rev Elizabeth Watson,

at 10.30am.

Tea and coffee will be

served in the Transept

after the service.

All most welcome.

Monday 24th December

N.B. There will be no service

at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Tuesday 25th December

There will be a short family

service conducted by the

minister at 10am this

Christmas morning to which

all children are invited to

bring a gift from Santa

to show.

Everyone most welcome.

Offering will go to The

Glasgow City Mission.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF

FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 23rd December

Sunday Worship at 11am

'Heather Lodge', Brodick

Telephone 700346

Everyone Warmly Invited

ARRAN BAPTIST

CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 23rd December

Service 11am, Ormidale

Pavilion, Brodick

Tea and coffee after

the service

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home

fellowship group for bible

study and prayer.

Telephone 600222

ARRAN FREE CHURCH

OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 23rd December

Shiskine, 11am (church on

road between Blackwaterfoot

and Machrie)

Brodick 6pm

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC

CHURCH

Sunday 23rd December

Mass 11am

Monday 24th December

First Mass of Christmas 9pm

Tuesday 25th December

Christmas Morning Mass

11am.

DEATH

WELSH: William Henry

Peacefully at Arran War Me-

morial Hospital on Thursday,

13th December 2018. Bill,

aged 79 years, beloved hus-

band of Sadie, loving father of

Rhonda, Billy and Sarah Jane,

and devoted papa of the fami-

ly. Funeral service in Brodick

Church on Friday, 21st De-

cember at 11:30 am and there-

after to Lamlash Cemetery to

which all are welcome.

Arran Mountain Festival booking lines are open

'It's the most wonderful time of the year,' as the song goes, but the clock is ticking, and the pressure is on. So, when you're scratching your head trying to come up with Christmas gift ideas that are original, different and won't break the budget, what do you do?

Don't worry: by careful planning, the Arran Mountain Festival organisers are there to ease your Christmas woes. Visit the Arran Mountain Festival website from today (Friday) and book a place on one of their guided mountain walks during the May 2019 festival programme.

The Arran Mountain Festival is Scotland's premier hill walking and mountaineering festival. Taking



Walkers enjoy a lunch break with outstanding views during last year's Arran Mountain Festival.

place between May 17 and 20 next year, the weekend is crammed full of mountain adventure. With 21 walks ranging from easy to the extreme, there is something for everyone, whether you are an adventurous thrill-seeker or are look-

ing for an introductory hill walking experience. Their programme covers guided walks, ridge scrambles and unique night-time hikes.

And with prices ranging from £16 to £55, what's not to like? Everyone loves a Christmas bargain. In re-

cent years, the bookings have been selling like mince pies as soon as the lines are open, so it is recommended that you get in quickly to avoid disappointment. Small groups, big walks, huge fun!

The Arran Mountain Festival committee wish you merry Christmas and happy New Year and they look forward to seeing you on the hills in May.



Corrie Golf Club

Monday December 10, Winter Cup, 1 A Smith 63-9=54 and scratch, 2 J McGovern 71-11=60. Magic two, R McLean.

Monday December 17, Winter Cup, 1 L Hartley 72-12=60, 2 R I McMillan 74-14=60. Scratch, A Smith 69. Magic two, J McGovern.

Fixtures: Saturday December 22, 18-hole sweep, ballots at 9am and 12.30pm. Monday December 24, Winter Cup, ballot at noon.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday December 16, friendly v Lamlash. Playing over their home course, Whiting Bay ran out winners by 2:1 to level the series. Both teams now stand on 3 and 1/2 points. In the individual Stableford, John O'Sullivan continued the trend of visiting winners with a fine 37 points.

Fixtures: Sunday Decem-

ber 23, Christmas sweep, yellow tees, one draw at 10am. Tuesday December 26, Boxing Day Stableford, one draw at 10am.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday December 13, yellow medal. 1 Ian Bremner 65-6=59, 2 Andy Smith 77-12=65. Magic twos, Serge El Adm @16th, Ian Bremner @17th, Tom Paterson @7th.

Fixtures: Sunday December 23, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12.30pm. Wednesday December 26, Boxing Day bottle (Stableford) at 11am. Thurs-

day December 27, yellow medal at 11am. Sunday December 30, Winter Stableford, 9.30am and noon. Wednesday January 2, course backwards, 10.30am for 11am.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday December 18, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 John Pennycott 31, 2 Brian Sherwood 29, 3 Phil Betley 27.

Fixtures: Tuesday December 27, two-club competition – putter and one other club, tee off at noon. Wednesday January 2, Winter Cup, tee off at noon.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary and for all the kind messages and gifts received.

Thank you also to Kinloch for a special afternoon.

John & Wilma

THERAPIES



THE LAST WALTZ

Bereavement.

A time for sharing
at Heather Lodge, Brodick
Sunday 23rd December 2:30pm

Clubs pedal together for annual Christmas ride

Three of Arran's cycling clubs joined together to enjoy their shared love of the sport on their annual Christmas ride-out.

Taking place the day after torrential rain and storms on Saturday the Arran Belles, Arran MTBs and the Arran Velo Club met in Lamlash in cold but dry conditions.

Covering a large portion of the island and keeping the groupings manageable, the Belles cycled south, completing the Kildonan Loop, whilst the Velo Club headed over the Ross Road for a southend loop. The MTBs stuck to their preferred terrain and explored the hills and trails above Brodick and Lamlash.

After an enjoyable cycle all three groups returned to the Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash for a social chat and a well-earned lunch.



Warmly dressed for the weather, some of the cyclists pictured in Lamlash on their bicycles.



The Arran Belles pose for a group photo before setting off.



High in the hills above Brodick the Arran MTBs stop for a short break and a group photo.



Cyclists enjoy a pleasant ride on their way to Kildonan with their bicycles decorated with tinsel and Christmas decorations.

Santa Dash runners enjoy some festive fun



Santa (Hugh Boag) finally loses his beard as the group heads to the Auchrannie. 01_B51dash. Photo Dr David Hogg



And they're off ... the first group of runners start the dash. 01_B51dash03



Amanda Hogge and Julie Mcgee lead from the front. 01_B51dash05



Gordon McInnes explains the route to the runners. 01_B51dash02



Fastest male and female, George Doubleday and Julia Harrison burn up the pavement. 01_B51dash04



Goatfell is hidden behind the clouds as the runners pound Brodick promenade. 01_B51dash10



Chris Hogge shows his fun side before the start of the run. 01_B51dash07



Richard Prestage is all smiles on the course. 01_B51dash11



Dougie McInnes is encouraged across the finish line with some of the other runners. Photo Dr David Hogg 01_B51dash16



Carol Brown makes her way along Brodick shorefront. 01_B51dash13



Patrick Scott shows off his best dressed costume. 01_B51dash12



Sue Francis crosses the line with partner Bill Yale, who was a marshal and quizmaster. 01_B51dash17

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Clubs pedal together for annual Christmas ride



The runners and marshals ahead of the start of the race. 01_B51dash01

Santas go dashing through the streets

More than 20 runners and their supporters took to the streets of Brodick on Sunday for the traditional Santa dash.

Wearing their Santa suits and other colourful costumes, they completed a

5km circuit of the village being cheered on by well-wishers passing by and the sounding of car horns. After the dreadful weather on Saturday, they were fortunately to get a bright day.

While billed as a fun

event, prizes were handed out at the end of the run with 1st overall and 1st male, George Doubleday. 2nd overall and 1st female, Julia Harrison. Nearest to time, 1st male George Doubleday, 1st female Sue

Francis. Most improved runner, Julie Cannon. Best dressed, Julie Mcghee and Patrick Scott.

Fun quiz

Afterwards the runners retired to the Brodick Golf Club for a couple of orange

juices and a fun quiz staged by Bill Yale.

The event was organised jointly this year by the Brodick Arran Pace Makers group and the Whiting Bay jogscotland group who both meet weekly in

their respective villages and restart again in January. A beginners' group has also started in Brodick on a Tuesday. See group Facebook pages for details.

More photographs by Colin Smeeton on Page 27

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