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Co-op handouts give charities a big boost

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Three Arran charities are celebrating a windfall of nearly £40,000 from the latest community fund handout from the Brodick Co-op.

The latest bumper pay out, which amounted to £38,703,62 was handed over to the three charities at a special community event last weekend.

Representatives of Mary Davis Trust, Cats Protection Arran, and teachers, parents and pupils from Brodick Nursery, attended the cheque presentation and thanked the Co-op for their share of the money which is made up from the sale of one per cent of own-branded products purchased by customers.

Receiving £13,099.99 was the Mary Davis Trust who provide therapeutic treatments to Arran residents who have been identified as requiring feel good therapies by their doctor.

Spokesman Chris Atkins said: 'On behalf of the Mary Davies Trust, I wish to pay tribute to everyone who



Teachers and pupils at Brodick Nursery made a special banner to say thank you for the support.

supported our charity - and of course to our wonderful Co-op for making this possible. We're so lucky to have such a community-focused

supermarket on Arran. The magnificent sum raised will enable island residents to benefit from hundreds of therapeutic sessions at

Heather Lodge.' Linda Wood for Cats Protection Arran, who received £12,688.87, said: 'On behalf of Cats Protection Isle of Arran Branch, thank

you to the Brodick Co-op for enabling us to be one of the charities this last year. Thank you also to all those

Continued on page two

Demand for hotel site clean up

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Pressure is mounting on the owners of the McLaren Hotel to clean up the eyesore on Brodick shorefront.

Both building control and planning officials from North Ayrshire Council have inspected the rundown hotel, following the Banner story last week.

We told how a video on YouTube, which had been shared by the community forum on Arran, showed intruders roaming inside the building which they posted online.

Police on Arran contacted the owners, the Norfolk-based abodeGroup demanding it improve security and island sergeant Dougie Robertson told Arran Community Council this week they were continuing to monitor and check it.

Arran's new operational support officer at North Ayrshire Council, Rosslyn Mills, told the meeting that she had inspected the building with building control and found 'two broken window and the back fire door open'. She also said the planning department may have powers to intervene under the conditions of the planning application.

Continued on page two

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Co-op charity handouts

Continued from page one
who chose us as their charity for this year. I am thrilled that with everyone's help it will enable us as a branch to continue our work by replacing the present vehicle. Funds we raise do not enable this to happen as they are for day-to-day work of rehoming, neutering and education. The terms under which we applied for the Community Fund are for the replacement vehicle only and will mean that we can stop using valuable day-

to-day funds to keep repairing the existing one. Thank you so much to everyone.' Brodick Nursery which received £12,914.76 was equally delighted with the financial assistance. Aileen Brand said: 'We are extremely grateful to the Co-op members and the Brodick Co-op for this generous donation. As a voluntary nursery that only receives basic support from North Ayrshire Council we need to fund raise to support ourselves. This donation will

go some way in assisting us as we look towards the nursery provision hours being hugely increased in the near future. 'We will also be developing our outdoor area at the nursery which will be beneficial to the children, their development and enjoyment. On behalf of all of the teachers, pupils and parents, thank you to everyone for your continued support of Brodick Nursery.'

Manager Liz McLean, who now runs both Brodick Co-ops, said: 'We are delighted to be handing over these cheques on behalf of all of our members whose one per cent of what they spent on own-branded products and services will help to make a real difference in the community. 'All of the causes are very worthwhile and we are particularly pleased to see that they will have a real impact on the community. I would urge everyone to sign up to be a Co-op member, the more members that take part, the more the community benefits.'



Parents, teachers and pupils of Brodick Nursery visit the Brodick Co-op to say thank you for their support. 01_B48coop04



Linda Hartley and Kay McWilliam of Cats Protection proudly show off their cheque with Liz McLean and Carol Harwood. 01_B48coop03



The Co-op's Liz McLean and Carol Harwood present Janice Small with a cheque for the Mary Davis Trust. 01_B48coop02

Over the last year the Co-op has contributed £17 million to more than 4,000 causes in the communities where they operate.

The three charities that members can select their one per cent to go to this year are: Brodick Improvements Committee, ArCaS and the Arran High School Mountain Bike Club. Members can select either their favourite cause, or all three, to benefit from the Co-op community fund.

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Demand for McLaren Hotel eyesore to be cleaned up

Continued from page one
Corrie representative Frances Westwood said the worry was that the video may have gone viral worldwide, since a Frenchman was found squatting in the hotel by the video pair, who first posted the film three months ago.

But chairman Bill Calderwood said that, away from Facebook, the concern for the community was the 'dangerous building' and the general slightly appearance of the site. He also said there was concern from local residents of the spread of vermin from the hotel and surrounding grounds.

'The best way of making that building safe is to pull it down,' he said.

Council workmen recently cut away overhanging branches from shrubs and bushes at the front wall which were causing an obstruction on the pavement. And the bouncy castle, which always provoked a mixed reaction on the front lawn of the beer garden, still lies buried in the undergrowth.

North Ayrshire councillor Timothy Billings said he had

written to the owners twice, without reply and had now contacted building control.

'I hope they will do what they can to improve the situation,' he said.

It is a year next week since the abodeGroup received

planning permission to demolish the hotel to make way for a controversial £9 million, 88-bedroom aparthotel.

The Banner contacted the owners last week who have promised an announcement on the development soon.



The McLaren Hotel lies dilapidated in its overgrown grounds this week. 01_B48mclaren01

Fish farm planning decision is delayed



by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A planning decision on the controversial fish farm proposal on the north east coast of Arran will not be made until next year, it has emerged.

The plan by the Scottish Salmon Company for a 20-pen fish farm at Millstone Point had been due to be discussed by the North Ayrshire Council planning committee next Wednesday.

However this has now been

postponed at the request of the applicant and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The application is now expected to go before the next planning committee on Wednesday January 22, when councillors will discuss the proposal after hearing a recommendation from officials. The meeting which starts at 2pm is open to the public and it is understood several groups, including Arran Community Council, hope to state their views there.

The application for the

development of 20 salmon cages, each measuring 120 metres in circumference, was lodged in August this year and has been overwhelmingly opposed by a large section of the community on Arran.

At the closing date for public comments at the end of September, planning officials received 186 objections to the proposal and 20 in support of it. A number of high profile and well attended demonstrations, and a campaign by local environmentalists, also voiced their opposition to the proposal.

In September, in one of the biggest protests seen on the island in recent years, more than 200 people made a 7km round trip from North Sannox to Millstone Point to make their feelings known at the site of the proposed development.

Turn to letters pages.



A computer generated image of how the new fish farm would look.



More than 200 people joined a number of kayakers, paddle boarders and boats to voice their opposition to a fish farm development at Millstone Point back in September.

01_B38coast01



Chairman Bill Calderwood with candidates left to right: Patricia Gibson (SNP), David Nairn (Green Party) and Cameron Gilmore (Labour). 01_B48elect01

Candidates battle it out at General Election hustings

Three candidates took to the stage at a hustings event held on Arran on Wednesday night ahead of polling in the North Ayrshire and Arran seat at the General Election.

Around 60 turned out to hear Patricia Gibson of the Scottish National Party, Cameron Gilmore of

Scottish Labour and David Nairn of the Scottish Greens taking part in the debate held by Arran CVS in Brodick hall and chaired by Bill Calderwood.

Scottish Conservative and Unionist candidate David Rocks sent his apologies due to a prior arrangement and a

statement was read out on his behalf. Louise Young, candidate for the Scottish Liberal Democrats, did not attend.

Polling stations will open 7am to 10pm on Thursday December 12. It is anticipated that a declaration will be made in the early hours of Friday December 13.

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The hidden menace of drink and drugs on Arran

Survey launched to improve services

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There is a hidden problem on Arran and that is the twin menace of drink and drugs which can have a devastating

impact on families and the wider community.

Now a psychologist is looking for participants to take part in a year-long study looking into how to improve drug and alcohol services on

the island. Heather Still has been taken on by the Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS) as an embedded researcher and she is presently undertaking a comprehensive study looking at the causes and cures of the problems which, she says, are often hidden in a variety of ways.

Independent

This will provide an evidence-based and independent report, a holistic overview of all aspects of service in relation to drug and alcohol misuse, this includes any quantitative and qualitative information reporting on current status around access, availability, location, barriers and demands. The study is being funded by the Corra Foundation, as part of the



Heather outside the Arran CVS office in Lamlash which is her base. 01_B48 drugs02



Heather Still is undertaking a year long study into the effects of drink and drugs on Arran. 01_B48drugs01

recovery services specific to the island's needs.

Heather said: 'Part of this process is to capture experiences of family members and people with drink/drug issues through either through interviews and focus groups or having them more involved proactively in the research process. I've recruited quite a few but need one last recruitment push so I can start analysing the results.'

The project began a year ago when Arran CVS facilitated a local focus group to engage on the new alcohol and drug strategy developed by the Scottish Government. The focus group consisted of service providers, police representative, members of public, health and social care employees and Alcoholics Anonymous representatives. During discussions, it became clear that communication between agencies, support and information for service users and families, and earlier intervention needs, on the island, required review.

Please contact Heather at heather.still@acvs.org.uk if you would like to find out more or wish to take part. You do not need to have been involved in any alcohol or drugs services to contribute.

There is also an online survey on the community and personal perceptions of drink and drugs on Arran: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GK5NLYQ

substance misuse challenge fund.

Among the findings she has made so far is that Arran has its own particular set of the problems which are very different from the mainland.

Although Arran is often viewed as an idyllic destination evidence points to an increasing amount of time spent dealing with issues created by alcohol and drug misuse with minimal resources. Recreational drug and alcohol misuse have dramatically increased, both among the young as well as the island's ageing population, and there is a need to identify the extent of issues and recognise what is required to help resolve them.

For example Heather has found that many people escape to Arran because they see it as idyllic and cut off without dealing with their problems, making them either vulnerable to addiction or more likely to continue their addiction.

The population is also significantly older adult, retired and has a good source of income in contrast to the working population, who often working in hospitality trades and poorly paid to reflect the tourism industry.

Heather said: 'There isn't that mainland visibility where people ingesting alcohol and drugs are more likely to do so in public spaces. This helps fuel the assumption that there isn't an issue here.'

Visible presence

'Also there isn't a visible presence of alcohol and drug support on the island which are largely mainland based so not everyone knows what is available for people on Arran. Parents whose children were taking drugs were unsure on where to go for help and anxious on how to communicate openly with their children,' she added.

Now Heather is looking for local people to get involved to help raise awareness and shape the development of

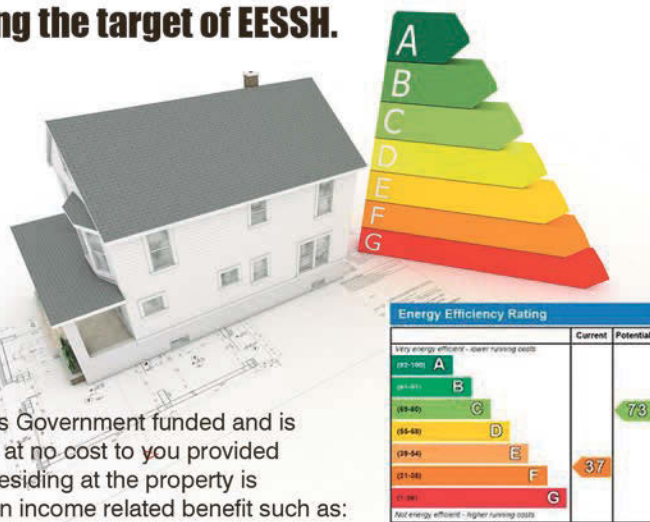
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Are you a family member of someone who has or has had an addiction?**

Arran CVS are hosting a study aimed to improve our understanding of how alcohol and drugs are used specific to the Arran population to better our awareness and recovery services.

Personal experiences and knowledge are a vital set of expertise we are underusing in alcohol and drug service development. This study will attempt to readdress this.

But we need you.

We are recruiting for 1-1 interviews, focus groups, surveys and lived experience steering group to guide the study. You will be treated in the strictest confidence. All data you provide will be anonymous.

Please contact Heather Still on 01770 600611 or heather.still@arrancvs.org.uk
You need to be aged 18 or over to participate and live on Arran.

Santa's Sparkle kicks off island festive celebrations

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The community-organised Santa's Sparkle event enjoyed huge support from the community and visitors at their third annual 'Sparkle' held at Lamlash last Saturday.

Santa's arrival, by lifeboat, kicked off the proceedings – and excitement – as Santa and a parade of vehicles, emergency services and spectators created a long procession towards Santa's grotto at Arran High School.

Awaiting the throngs of visitors, a number of stallholders and activities were on offer for the large crowd who filled the school's entrance, cafeteria, theatre, sports auditorium and just about every corridor in between.

Visitors enjoyed a large

indoor market, live music and performances and a range of activities along with fine food and drink and generous helpings of festive cheer.

Face painting, singing, story-telling, games and crafting were just a few of the attractions for the younger ones but undoubtedly the largest attraction was the opportunity to meet up with Santa in his grotto and to ensure that he would be visiting, through the chimney, later in the year.

Children met Santa, assisted by his elf helper, and after having their photograph taken with him, they received a small present.

Heather Queen Imogen Allison also provided her assistance, both in the parade and later switching on the lights of the village Christmas tree.

For the adults, those that had finished stocking up on essential Christmas purchases at the market, the largest attraction was in the community theatre where the Arran Soul Choir got everyone into the Christmas spirit with a number of festive and upbeat songs.

The Youth Soul Choir also impressed with a group performance and a number of individuals singers taking centre stage.

A very busy afternoon of festive fun, food and entertainment was rounded off with the ceremonial lighting of the village Christmas tree before an impressive fireworks display paved the way for the Arran Brass Band to perform a number of Christmas carols which the audience heartily joined in.



Hayley Carey meets Santa in his grotto at Santa's Sparkle. 01_B48santa01



Children brave the cold of Lamlash Pier to catch a glimpse of Santa who arrived by boat. 01_B48sparkle01



Santa arrives at the pier with the assistance of the Arran RNLB who brought him safely ashore for his Arran visit. 01_B48sparkle02



A large crowd of parents and children prepare to join Santa and the procession to the grotto at Lamlash High School. 01_B48sparkle04



Santa and his elf are loaded onto his sleigh in preparation for the parade through the village. 01_B48sparkle03

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Jane Howe of the PHT, and one of the organisers, provided visitors with spiced mulled wine and a selection of drinks. 01_B48sparkle06



Shiona and Tom McGarrigle of the Arran Gift Box company with an extensive display of their range of popular gift boxes. 01_B48sparkle07



Dani Fleming occupied a corner where she sold second-hand toys and books in aid of Lamplash Improvements. 01_B48sparkle08

'Tis the season to



Suitably attired, Bruno Baumgärtner, sold a number of detailed artworks and original pictures, postcards and jewellery. 01_B48sparkle09



The ladies of Eco-savvy spread their message of sustainable living along with a number of fun activities. 01_B48sparkle10



Jenny Bowles, Linda Sillars, Mary Raeburn and Janie Maclure at the ARCAS stall. 01_B48sparkle11



The Arran Soul Choir set the mood with a number of festive songs



The junior Arran Soul Choir impress with a well-rehearsed performance. 01_B48sparkle24

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01_B48sparkle20



Shona Catriona Dunsmuir of Bregaha Holistic Beauty works her magic on a patient with a sore back.

01_B48sparkle12



Santa is joined by his elf helper Cecilia Paul and the Heather Queen Imogen Allison.

01_B48sparkle16



Emma Giering Campbell gets to work painting a young girl's face. 01_B48sparkle18



Kirsty Park of Blueberry Village meets with customers and fans of her craft work. 01_B48sparkle15



Timothy Billings of Lamlash Improvements at his stall selling festive decorations.

01_B48sparkle14



Heather Queen, Imogen Allison, switched on the Christmas tree lights.

01_B48sparkle22



Visitors who braved the cold enjoyed a spectacular firework display.

01_B48sparkle21



Marion Melvin and Kat and Steve Sparshott of Bay Wool and Crafts at their stall. 01_B48sparkle13



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Shop local, shop Arran

There is no getting away from it - there is only one thing on our readers' minds this weekend - shopping.

Many, we know, will be delving into Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals with abandon. Despite claims it is all a con, there are some decent discounts around, but it has to be something you need - not just crave - for it to be a real saving.

However, we believe there is an even more important shopping extravaganza this weekend - our own Shop Arran.

We all love a bargain, so why go anywhere else than the island's many shops and businesses over the next couple of days, where there are discounts of 10 per cent and more to be had? Indeed, many outlets will be throwing in a glass of prosecco or mulled wine, whether you are tempted to buy or not.

Shop Arran is now firmly established in the Christmas shopping calendar and gives a welcome festive boost to island shops and businesses. What is needed is for residents to get out there and support it.

Yes, there is a place - particularly in an island community like our own - for online shopping. But take one look at high streets on the mainland and you should know we need to give a helping hand to the local shops we cannot afford to lose.

Thought for the week

'Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.' Matthew 24: 44

Tooth and nail opposition

Sir,
We are indebted to you for a headline and 28 column inches on the proposed forestry slipway at Imachar (Arran Banner, November 23). The Troon Tug Company and Tarbert-based RDS Forrestry Ltd are seeking to build a slipway at the iconic Imachar Rocks beauty spot.

I appreciate the need for a safe and effective slip for forestry extraction on the West Coast. I strongly advocate business on Arran diversifying outside tourism. Imachar, however, is simply the wrong place.

The Arran coastline's special charm derives from its geological diversity, from the way in which the road alternately leaves and joins the shore, and from the unspoiled stretches between villages.

While a formal Coastal Way is a relatively new concept, the Arran coast has been used for exercise, recreation and relaxation since Victorian times, and has few equals in Scotland, maybe in Europe.

On Arran, residential development is restricted to villages. It therefore is ironic that unspoiled coastal segments are now being targeted just because they are 'remote'.

We are now threatened with the destruction of one of Arran's top scenic sites, while continuing to fight the fish factory at Laggan. And we already have untreated distillery waste pumped into the Kilbrannan Sound at Lennimore, because it is 'in a location removed from settlement, and other built development'.

By the way, the photograph of Imachar, managed to portray a fantastic gem of our geological heritage as a cross between the Brodick coup and the burial of Pompeii.

So, Troon Tug Company, don't rely too much on whatever advice the planners give you. They have been wrong before. You should have asked the community first. Expect tooth and nail opposition.

Yours,
Malcolm Kerr,
Brodick.

Never forgotten

Sir,
After reading the moving and heartfelt letter from your correspondent Mr Rory Cowan (Arran Banner November 16) regarding the war memorial services held on the island, I felt that I must comment.

Having been a regular visitor to your enchanted island for many years, until age and infirmity have put a stop to long distance driving, I vividly remember the number of war memorials dotted around the island and the large number of names engraved on them. So many from such a small population, and I suspect, mostly volunteers. In addition to the individual names there are the historical Scottish regiments to which they belonged - many no longer in existence. May these brave men never be forgotten.

Thank you Rory for putting the views of so many of us so eloquently.
Yours,
Jack Hollick (ex RAF),
West Midlands.

Well balanced

Sir,
I thought that last week's article on deer culling was pretty well balanced - the culling of wild creatures is an emotive subject and needs careful thought as well as firm action when required.

Declaring an interest, I have been a supporter of ACLI since its inception, although not involved in its organisation.

It is a long-term project and like a lot of government-supported projects it was funded well at the beginning but was expected to be self-funding after a fairly short period.

The problem that ACLI has had with deer over the last two years is about their habit of coming down the hill and trashing the allotments and eating any trees and bushes that are not very well protected. They have not so far knocked over my beehives.

I have no idea how much it would cost to keep deer out of the whole

parcel of land but I believe the trustees that they simply cannot afford it. Also, keeping deer out of one parcel of land sends them to another.

There is another problem. Lyme disease can be a serious infection and deer are vectors of the ticks which inject the bacteria into the blood of humans who are unfortunate enough to pick them up as they walk through land where deer (and sheep) have grazed. It is a bacterial disease which if diagnosed early is treatable without any long-term effects. However if left untreated for reasons of neglect or misdiagnosis, the long-term effects are serious and the longer it takes to diagnose the condition the worse the long-term effects are.

The condition is relatively rare but its seriousness means that it must be an important factor in any decision to cull deer.

Yours,
Dr John M Cruickshank,
Whiting Bay.

Quiz winner

Sir,
May I, through the Arran Banner, thank Arran Active, Book and Card Centre, Mara, Rosaburn Museum and Stags Restaurant for selling our quizzes and to all who supported us.

Of the 14 correct entries, the winner, drawn at our November meeting, was Linne MacLeod from Bernera, Isle of Lewis.

Yours,
Elma Stevenson,
Corrie and Sannox SWI.

Opened out

Sir,
The closure of the Giants' Graves track for repairs is bad news. But the reason - that so many visitors have been using it - is good news.

When I first visited the monument in the early 1970s, it was a bitter disappointment - hidden deep in the forest, encroached on by conifers, devoid of context. Now the trees have been cleared, it is spectacular. You can at last appreciate why its builders chose this difficult site -

visible for miles across Arran, down the Firth of Clyde, from Holy Island and even from the Dun Fionn area.

Carn Ban too has been opened out, revealing its spectacular site - though trees still obscure the view to Goatfell. And sadly the sculptured stones at Stronach, once in sight of Brodick Bay and Dun Fionn, remain darkly obscured by conifers.

The Forestry Commission's utter vandalism in cutting these important monuments off from their context within the landscape and other monuments is dispiriting. Let us hope that, in replanting, they do not do exactly the same again.

Yours,
Eamonn Butler,
Lamlash.

Foodbank donations

Sir,
Arran Foodbank, which is run by Arran Churches Together, has received generous donations this year and will be able to use some of this money to purchase luxury items such as boxes of biscuits, selection boxes and Christmas puddings. This money is also used to pay for heating fuel for those in need.

We would be grateful for donations of basic items to help us make up Christmas bags which will be delivered to those in need. These items can be left in the big Co-op foodbank basket or in the vestibule of Brodick Church which is always open. The foodbank is available to anyone who finds themselves in need of help, this may be temporary or long term. It is situated in the vestibule of Brodick Church.

Thank you to all who support the Arran Foodbank, it makes a big difference to the individuals and families who use it.

Basic items required: tinned meat and fish; tinned/packet soup; tinned fruit; tinned/packet puddings; sugar; long life milk; tinned vegetables; tinned baked beans and spaghetti.

We have plenty of the following: dried pasta, pasta sauces and tinned tomatoes.

Yours,
The Arran Foodbank Team

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Anything in before 1pm is guaranteed next morning delivery on the Island. Let us know your requirements when you book in with our office, as well as our speedy parcel service, we offer 2 man delivery and Tailift Service throughout the island. Forklift at depot.

Adrossan Depot

Arran Deliveries
Parcelpoint Adrossan
Ayrshire, KA22 8BZ
Call us on 01475 676255
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

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

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

Fish farm meeting

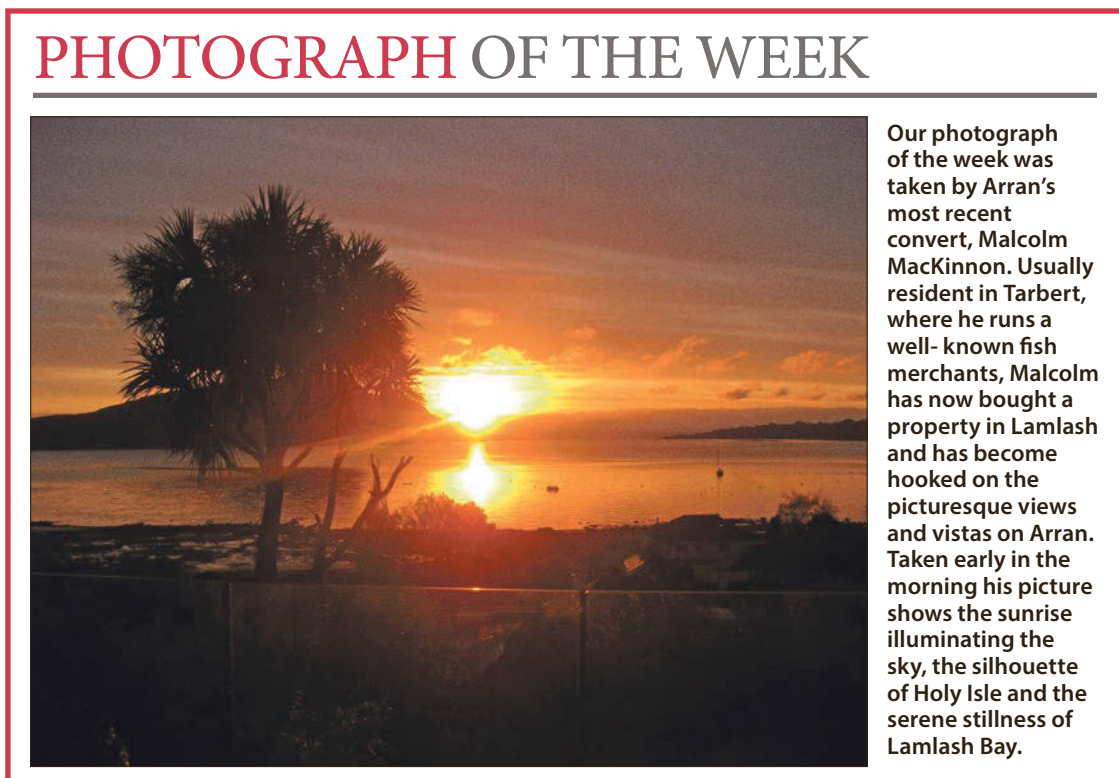
Sir,
North Ayrshire Council planning committee had been due to consider the application by the Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) for an extensive fish farm off Arran's presently pristine north east coast on December 4.

However, I understand application has now been postponed to the NAC planning committee meeting on January 22 at the request of the applicant and Scottish Natural Heritage. The committee meeting is from 2-4pm and is open to the public.

The SSC proposal is for 20 salmon cages each 120 metres in circumference. Much has been made by the applicant of the generation of employment in the island community which presently sometimes struggles to find employees in other industries and businesses. Indeed, for example, North Ayrshire Council has a shortage of labour at its waste and recycling unit in Market Road, Brodick.

SSC states it is 'committed to Scottish provenance'. The SSC already has multiple sites in Scottish waters but it is hardly Scottish. Although the SSC is registered as a Scottish company its parent company is registered in Jersey but listed on the Oslo stock exchange.

There can be added to that the fact that a significant shareholding is held by P/F Bakkafrøst a company based in the Faroe Islands. Its prin-



PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK

Our photograph of the week was taken by Arran's most recent convert, Malcolm MacKinnon. Usually resident in Tarbert, where he runs a well-known fish merchants, Malcolm has now bought a property in Lamlash and has become hooked on the picturesque views and vistas on Arran. Taken early in the morning his picture shows the sunrise illuminating the sky, the silhouette of Holy Isle and the serene stillness of Lamlash Bay.

cipal owners are Oddvar Jacobsen and her son Regin, who together hold nearly 20 per cent of the shares.

Bakkafrøst has 3,000 different shareholders from 22 countries. So much for the claim of Scottishness.

On the merits of the application it is worth the planning committee noting that a ban has been introduced by the Danish government on the introduction of new fish farms in its waters. The purpose of the

ban is the protection of the marine environment.

The committee should also not forget the input from the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research which drew attention to the likelihood of sea lice from farmed salmon affecting the wild salmon population.

In 2018 four SSC farms failed to control farmed salmon sea lice leading to the receipt of warning letters from Marine Scotland.

There is also concern from campaigners that the release of untreated waste and chemicals fed to the farmed salmon will be detrimental to all forms of marine life.

Hopefully, all of the above will be seriously taken into account in the decision making process by the planning committee.

Yours,
**Jamie Gilmour,
Brodick.**

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To Join The Arran Renewable Revolution and start reducing your energy bills and help save the planet simply call us today on 01236 730 579 or send an email to info@tkmurray.co.uk. We are on Arran twice a week, every week and would be happy to drop by for a chat.

"To benefit the planet by reducing carbon emissions, not use fossil fuels and reduce my annual energy bills, the technology is a no-brainer"

GEORGE CLARKE

Architect, writer and TV presenter

*This refers to the Governments Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme. For more information go to website: www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/domestic-rhi

Community drop-in sessions

Do you want to become more involved in the community and get your voice heard?

If so, North Ayrshire Council and North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership are holding two drop-in community engagement sessions on Arran next week.

There members of the public can find out more about the work of Arran Locality Partnership and the Health and Social Care Locality Partnership Forum, as well as hearing about funding opportunities available for groups or projects.

The sessions will be held on Monday December 2, at Arran High School, Lamplash, between 3pm and 5pm and Tuesday December 3 at Brodick Library, between 9.30am and 10.30am. All are welcome to go along.

CONTACTUS

email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
telephone 01631 568000

Help plant 40,000 trees in Glen Rosa



Volunteers are being invited to take part in an Arran Ranger Service initiative aimed at reforesting large swathes of land in Glen Rosa.

The project, which will see 40,000 trees being planted in Glen Rosa over the next few years, has already welcomed the Thistle Campers, a working holiday group, who have planted 3,362 native broad-leaved trees in the area.

Now the Rangers are offering residents and visitors a chance to get involved during a tree planting day on Thursday December 5, between 10am and 3.30pm, when volunteers can help bring back the trees that once thrived in the glen.

With the help of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds as well as contractors, the Arran Ranger Service will help to repopulate the glen with trees that will significantly increase biodiversity in the



The Thistle Campers have already planted 3,362 native broad-leaved trees in Glen Rosa as part of the regeneration project in the area.

Photograph: Arran Ranger Service

area, recreating some of the woodland that once covered its slopes that have been lost through hundreds of years of overgrazing.

The day involves around a 30-minute walk up the glen, carrying trees, tree protection spirals and canes. Planting will be on rough pathless

terrain, some of it up steep slopes, so volunteers will need to be at least 16 years of age with under-18s requiring adult supervision.

For logistical reasons, spaces are limited, so bookings need to be made by telephone on 01770 302462 or via the event link on Facebook.

Shoppers warned against Black Friday sales scammers

Bargain-hunting shoppers in North Ayrshire are being urged to be wary of too-good-to-be-true deals this Black Friday and Cyber Monday weekend.

Black Friday's popularity means that unsuspecting

shoppers have become one of the main targets for criminals looking to offload counterfeit goods and make a profit.

As well as costing Scottish business millions of pounds each year, fake goods can be dangerous and harmful to

health, especially counterfeit cosmetics, tobacco and alcohol.

The Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) is urging consumers to be vigilant this Black Friday weekend and only buy from credible retailers.

The illegal trading of fake goods is often also used to support organised crime gangs, human trafficking and exploitation of workers.

David MacCrimmon, the serious organised crime and counter-terrorism lead at SBRC, added: 'What a

customer might think is a brilliant bargain might in fact be helping to fund serious organised crime and even terrorist groups.

'It's not just the money from fake goods that criminals are profiting from - it's also the exploitation of the workers who have made the products, some of whom may have been trafficked.'

SBRC has revealed some tips for shoppers to stay safe online this Black Friday weekend, including:

- Only buy using secure methods for transactions

such as PayPal;

- Look out for the language on websites - poor grammar or spelling mistakes in product descriptions;

- Be wary of sites with no refunds policies;

- Take care when buying from sites like Gumtree and Facebook;

- Spend time on the website reviewing it before making any payments.

If customers suspect a website is selling fake goods or an item they have purchased is counterfeit, they are advised to go directly to Police

Scotland by calling 101.

SBRC's unique connection to Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Scottish Government gives it exclusive access to the latest information on legislation, criminal trends and threats, allowing it to provide the very best advice to safeguard staff, customers and business.

The Scottish Business Resilience Centre is a non-profit organisation which exists to support and help protect Scottish businesses.

Christmas greetings from Lochranza!

Sunday 1st December 3pm

Carols, Nativity,
Mulled wine,
Mulled cider,
Mince pies
and Raffle

Followed by
Light up Lochranza!

For all the family...
Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall

ARRAN FARMERS SOCIETY Annual Dinner Dance

Saturday 4th January in Kinloch Hotel
7pm for 7.30pm

Tickets (£30 each) can be booked from Margie Currie
email: margie.currie@btinternet.com
or tel. 01770860525 / 07990556513

Closing date 22nd. December.

Payment requested with booking
Bacs - 800584 a/c 00124968
Not just for farmers - All Welcome!

Christmas Crafts Fair

Lochranza
Outdoor Centre CIC

Sunday 8th December
10am - 4pm

A wide range of local Arran Craft Stalls
Homemade Soup, Sandwiches, Filled Rolls,
Toasties, Home baking,
Tea/Coffee and Festive Snacks
Sit in or take Away

For information call 01770 830637



Bargain hunters are in for a treat this weekend as shops across the island get into the festive spirit by offering enticing deals, discounts and special surprises during the Christmas Shop Arran weekend.

Taking place throughout the weekend, starting today, Friday, and lasting until Sunday, the initiative also offers shoppers a chance to win a fantastic Christmas prize draw by visiting six participating stores and collecting six stamps.

With more than 26 businesses taking part the Shop Arran weekend has grown into an island wide initiative aimed at encouraging shoppers to buy locally and to support local businesses by offering discounted goods, special offers and festive cheer. And with more shops and businesses taking part than

ever, there will be something for everyone - from the stocking fillers to the complete Christmas shop. Selling everything from everyday staples to unique hand crafted products to tasty treats and indulgent spoils, there is hardly any need to go online when good quality items at reduced prices are right on your doorstep. For those who are just out and about and enjoying the attractions in the local villages, be sure to look out for a number of hotels and restaurants who are also joining in on the fun.

Starting in Brodick on the well established Christmas Shop Arran trail and going clockwise around the island, all of the participating stores will be suitably decorated with Christmas Shop Arran posters, balloons and decoration. Some might even tempt you with a refreshing glass of Prosecco or mulled wine.

At Cladach you will find the Arran Gin Company at the newly open Cladach Beach House. Along with their renowned Arran Gin during the Shop Arran weekend they will also be launching their handmade on Arran single estate cassis.

Arran Graphics is the ideal store in Brodick where you can pick up your Arran themed gifts. From their popular clothing line, including the ubiquitous Goatfell Conqueror tee shirt, to Arran games, candles, cushions and collectables, it is all there at their newly refurbished store in Cladach.

While there you may well be in need of refreshment and at the nearby Wineport you can get just that. The popular venue is open from 11am for coffee and they serve lunches from noon. Their Christmas lunch menu will be available from Sunday December 1.

Old Byre Visitor Centre, Machrie
Proud to be part of Shop Arran weekend

Enjoy 10% off all your shopping!



Also 10% off at the Byre at Brodick.



Teas, coffees, home baking, delicious lunches from our wood burning oven, loose leaf teas and fully licensed. Open 10-5, lunches 12-3.

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We can post your parcels for you, shop online at www.oldbyre.co.uk, 10% off when you enter MYXMAS2019 at checkout, Valid until 20/12/19.

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WINEPORT



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Open this winter everyday (except Wednesday) from 11am – 4pm
Lunches served 12noon – 3pm
Christmas Lunch Menu available from 1st - 24th December.
Parties Welcome. Booking Essential.

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Dog Friendly



Buy now for the Festive Season

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Christmas Turkeys & all the trimmings
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Delicious Full Sides Scottish Farmed Fresh Salmon
Tasty Gammon, Rich Steak Pies

FREE HOME DELIVERY ON ARRAN

OPENING HOURS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON
Tuesday 24th Dec 8am – 4pm, 25th & 26th – CLOSED
Friday 27th 8am -5pm, Saturday 28th 9am 4pm,
Monday 30th 8am - 5pm Tuesday 31st 8am – 3pm
1st - 5th Jan CLOSED Re-open Monday 6th Jan.

Blackwaterfoot CALL US on 860354
www.thearranbutcher.com

If you are looking for a shed, garden furniture, plants or a real Christmas tree then pay a visit to Cladach Sawmill who have Norway spruce, or Noble/Nordmann, fir trees for sale.

Producing award winning cheeses is not an easy task, but at Home Farm in Brodick that is exactly

what Arran's Cheese Shop has been doing for nearly 25 years. With Arran Blue, Arran Camembert and Arran Brie cheeses winning gold and silver awards at the World and the British Cheese Awards - and the Cheese Shop's Mustard Flavoured Cheddar being voted Best Scottish Retail Product – a commitment to quality has to be the principal motivation in producing these fine products.

As well as their own soft cheeses made in Blackwaterfoot, they produce a range of flavoured cheddars that are available at the Home Farm shop and at various outlets on Arran and throughout Scotland. They have also started to produce their own very tasty Highland Cow butcher meat and burgers which are available only from the shop at Home Farm.

Just a few minutes outside of the centre of Brodick, behind the village primary school, in the quaint and secluded studio of jewellery maker Ann Hume, visitors will receive a warm welcome and an insight into the creations made by this talented artist. Specialising in delicate, intricate and contemporary jewellery, designed and handcrafted on Arran, visitors are guaranteed to find unique gifts, beautiful precious metal designs and a 10 per cent discount to add to the allure of the very desirable and charming jewellery.

Also selling real Christmas trees is Forestry and Land Scotland (previously the Forestry commission) from their office on Auchrannie Road. They are open from noon to 4.30pm today (Friday) and you can choose your own locally sourced tree.

This year at Red Door, the ladies have gone all out to bring you the finest selection of goodies for your Christmas shopping needs. Ladies are well catered for with a fabulous selection of super-soft cashmere-mix pashminas, an array of beautiful gloves and hats for everyone's taste, some gorgeous Heaven Scent candles, not to mention the fabulous selection of jewellery and bags that Red Door is renowned for. There is also a great selection of Christmas decorations and gents' gifts for



the men of the family and as always, some lovely toys for the younger members of the family.

Around the corner you will find the Brodick Bar where you can stop and have a bite to eat with their two course lunch menu which also includes a glass of wine, or a half pint of beer, or a soft drink. In the evening they also offer an early bird menu.

Within walking distance, Arran's only chocolate factory has been producing the finest hand crafted chocolate delights for over 17 years. And at their shop, James of Arran, their years of experience is plain to see, and taste. Offering a tempting array of sweet treats, Christmas gifts, chocolate bars and gift boxes, no visit to Arran is complete without making

ann hume jewellery

delicate • intricate • contemporary



Visit me in my workshop, next to Brodick school, just a mile from Brodick pier. Open throughout Shop Arran weekend. 10% off throughout the weekend www.annhumejewellery.co.uk

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**10% OFF EVERYTHING!
DURING THE SHOP ARRAN WEEKEND**

SPEND £50 OR OVER AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT



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£25 OFF ALL FLY WINTER BOOTS

SHOP ARRAN HOURS: FRI & SAT 10:30AM - 5PM, SUN 11AM - 4PM
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Scenes of Arran
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The Arran Glass Studio
Stained Glass and Mosaics
by Jill Jeffries



Granny's Knits & Haberdashery
Baby/Toddler Wear, Tea Cosies & Dog Coats
by Linda MacCallum

Participating in Shop Arran



a mouth-watering stop at this shop.

Two doors down, Bell's of Arran sells excess stock from high street shops at bargain prices. Selling everything from men's, women's, children's and babies' clothing, to footwear, underwear, socks, nightwear, swimwear, school clothing and workwear, they stock just about every type of garment possible, and if you can't find what you are looking for, they will see if they can source it for you. This weekend for every £15 spent you get a free pair of Christmas socks (while stocks last).

Just further down the road at Arran's specialist outdoor shop with a huge amount of space and an equally large range of outdoor clothing, footwear, rucksacks and equipment and an impressive collection of whiskies and gins. Visitors at Arran

Active, which is so much more than just an outdoor store, can look forward to receiving 10 per cent off any purchase over £25 (excluding alcohol).

While there be sure to check out the Arran Gift Box Company who specialise in all things Arran with a range designed to suit all pockets. Their gift boxes contain Arran's finest produce and special treats. With a uniquely Arran inspired theme, these boxes and hampers are a must for any Arran lover and especially so with their new collection stocking Arran gin and whisky.

Still on the Arran inspired theme, right next door you will find the Taste Of Arran Shop which stocks Arran produce, food and drink and a wide range of Arran items that are difficult to find elsewhere. If it is made on Arran, chances are you will find it at the taste of Arran Shop and with a discount of 10 per cent on all full priced items it is well worth a visit.

Next to that, Driftwood strives to capture the essence of Christmas, and you are certain to find a wide selection of tempting gifts for friends and family. With a knack for stocking items that are all carefully selected to match the style of the charming shop, Driftwood offers something for everyone.

While they stock smaller gifts that are perfect for Secret Santa, they also have a large number of items for the home which are sure to enhance any fashionable living space. Driftwood will be offering 10 per cent off all purchases over the Shop Arran weekend. Also in Driftwood you can find Ailsa McNicol Jewellery and this weekend she too will be offering 10 per cent off all silver jewellery.

Heading north towards Lamlash, Christmas shoppers can continue their search for bargains with a whole new range of exciting stores to visit. Here you will find Johnston's Arran Bookroom, a treasure-trove of books of all varieties, some first editions and many rare and hard to find examples too.

A particular highlight for many is Janelle's, the interior design gift shop which stocks a wide range of unique giftware and home décor, and which always manages to stock tastefully selected and ultra-desirable items. Janelle's will be offering a 10 per cent discount to shoppers on everything in-store.

Nearby, at Island Porcelain, if the fantastic 10 per cent discount does not get you, the charming porcelain sheep, seals,

Janelle's Lamlash
10% OFF EVERYTHING Tel: 01770 600723
for Shop Arran weekend. f

ISLAND PORCELAIN
10% DISCOUNT ON FULL PRICE PRODUCTS
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ARRAN FINE FOODS
Kitchen Shop - Lamlash
OPEN Monday - Saturday
10am - 4pm
FREE GIFT with every purchase over £20
Merry Christmas everyone!

Arran Graphics
Open throughout the Shop Arran Weekend, we are proud to welcome you to our totally new look, following weeks of refurbishment.
Come and see our Goatfell Model!
Sat 30th Nov - 10 - 5 • Sun 1st Dec 10 - 4
10% OFF ALL PURCHASES
Plus, from 12 - 4pm on the Saturday only...
30 November
Heather Macleod on her harp along with her silk art prints and other gifts
We'll have a real fire & other treats!

ARRAN GIFT BOX
ISLE OF ARRAN | SCOTLAND
AVAILABLE TO BUY OR ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY UK WIDE
SHOP ARRAN
FRI, SAT SUNDAY
29th Nov - 1st Dec
inside ARRAN ACTIVE

Christmas @ the PHT
Lunch - 2 courses £15 Dinner - 2 courses £20
Roasted Celeriac and Thyme Soup (VG)
Pan Seared Pigeon Breast in pancetta with raspberry and red wine jus
Trio of Salmon, hot & cold smoked and a beetroot gravadlax served with horseradish cream and pickled cucumber
Mushroom and Walnut Pâté with melba toast and chutney (VG)
Traditional Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings
Slow Braised Sirloin of Beef with roasted balsamic shallots, red wine jus and seasonal vegetables
Fillet of Cod with creamy chive mash and seafood marinère sauce
Roasted Butternut Squash and Garlic Risotto (VG)
See www.thepht.co.uk/menus for menu & booking sheet
THE PIERHEAD TAVERN - 01770 600418

Call us on 01770 700161 or book online
The Shore
BYOB Christmas Evenings @ The Shore, Whiting Bay
Saturday 7th, 14th, 21st December from 6pm
Our Festive Menu can be found on our website
3 Courses £29.50pp
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Shelter

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JAMES CHOCOLATE SHOP
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Located in the heart of Brodick, where you can see our range of luxury chocolates and fresh cream truffles being made by our skilled staff

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Open 7 Days
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birds and sea animals certainly will. These elegant and collectable porcelain designs will enhance any home and are uniquely charming and are ideal as gifts. With no two the same, and each piece individually hand crafted and hand painted, you can be assured that every single piece is a unique and collectable keepsake.

Down at the pier is Johnston's Marine Stores for all your chandlery, fishing tackle and nautical gifts.

If by now all this shopping is making you hungry then head to the Pierhead Tavern - locally known as the PHT - where their amazing festive menu is being served from Saturday November 30, discounted at lunch times from Thursday to Sunday inclusive. A bespoke menu can be created upon request. Larger parties should book. The PHT have bought lots of amazing beer and you can choose your own selection to take away in a gift box. You can also win a bottle of beer a day with their Beer Advent Calendar with all proceeds going to Lamplash Events.

If it is a special afternoon tea you fancy then the Glenisle Hotel are offering Tea by the Sea which is well worth a visit.

Further down the road at Chameleon where the quality and exceptional good taste never changes, ladies can be assured of a personalised shopping experience and a wide range of desirable clothes, bags and jewellery and a good few imported designs that are hand selected from across the globe. You really should visit Chameleon Ladies' Boutique in Lamplash as part of your weekend shopping plans. Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, there will be 10 per cent off everything in the shop and further special offers and a free gift for everyone spending over £50.

Further down the road at Arran Fine Foods, which offers a delightful array of quality Arran products

including chutneys, mustards, preserves and salad dressings, along with a selection of homeware, cutlery and crockery, visitors who spend over £10 can expect a gift with their purchase.

In Whiting Bay, Bay Wool and Crafts are delighted to be supporting Shop Arran and shopping locally this November. They have all the usual Christmas gifts, cards plus wool and haberdashery and will be open on Friday and Saturday of the Shop Arran weekend from 10am to 4pm.

Additionally, on Saturday November 30, at around 1.30pm, join them and the RNLI and the Arran Mountain Rescue Team to unfurl charity scarves to reveal how much has been knitted,



and what the final donation totals will be for the two island charities. Steve, Kat, Linda and Jill are very much looking forward to seeing everyone this weekend.

Further around the island at Blackwaterfoot at the Harbour Shop, the owners are embracing the festive spirit and along with 10 per cent discount over the Shop Arran weekend they are also offering 10 percent off every Saturday for the entire month of December for customers spending over £20. The Harbour Shop is an Aladdin's cave of gifts, toys, card, homeware, sweet treats, clothing, books and a number of other items which may surprise you. Add to this a personalised gift basket and a freshly ordered supply of gifts and you will understand why a visit to the Harbour Shop is a must this weekend.

Also in Blackwaterfoot is the Arran Butcher who have

XMAS SHOP ARRAN WEEKEND

Friday 29th Nov - Sunday 1st Dec 2019

PARTICIPATING SHOPS

(look out for participating hotels and restaurants too!)

1. Old Byre Showroom	15. Book and Card
2. Arran Distillery	16. Arran Active
3. Arran Graphics	17. Arran Gift Box Co. (inside Arran Active)
4. Arran Gin Company	18. Taste of Arran
5. Arran's Cheese Shop	19. Driftwood
6. Arran - Sense of Scotland	20. Visit Scotland
7. Ann Hume Jewellery	21. Janelle's
8. Orca Krafts	22. Island Porcelain
9. Red Door	23. Chameleon
10. The Parlour	24. Bay Wool & Crafts
11. Homes & Gardens Arran	25. Mariko Clothing
12. The Byre at Brodick	26. Lagg Distillery
13. Castle Bay Studios	
14. Belle's Boutique	

Look for our bunting!

CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW

To enter: All you need is 6 stamps from participating shops, 1 stamp per purchase, no minimum spend.

"Elf on a shelf Pebble Treasure Hunt"
for children

SHOP ARRAN WEEKEND OFFERS AT LOCHRANZA & LAGG DISTILLERIES

Get 10% off

at Lochranza Distillery and Lagg Distillery during the Shop Arran Weekend

(29th November - 1st December)

Where to find us:

LOCHRANZA,
ISLE OF ARRAN,
SCOTLAND, UK,
KA27 8HJ,

KILMORY,
ISLE OF ARRAN,
SCOTLAND, UK,
KA27 8PG

Lagg Distillery is
OPEN SUNDAY
ESPECIALLY FOR THE WEEKEND



food awaits at Café Thyme. Customers will also be able to take advantage of a 10 per cent discount at the Byre at Brodick

Isle of Arran Distillers are delighted to be involved with Shop Arran weekend. Visit both Lagg and Lochranza distilleries throughout the weekend to receive a 10 per cent discount in each of the distillery shops and enjoy some festive treats. Lagg Distillery will even be open on Sunday December 1. There will be one tour for the day running at 1pm as well as a special showcase from artist Karen Bell of Karebell Designs and a special reading between 2 pm and 3.30pm from author, Alison Page, who wrote both The Tatoo Toorie and The Westie Fest.

Shop Arran has much to offer and you can use your ArranCard at most outlets. ArranCard's also make great gifts for friends and loved ones. They can be used in over 50 different shops and restaurants.

Visit www.arrancard.com to find out more.

With so much to choose from you will be spoiled for choice this Shop Arran weekend. With all of the discounts and special offers available you are bound to pick up a few bargains while supporting local business. Shop local, Shop Arran!

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Sunday 12pm - 4pm
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turkeys with all of the trimmings. But be sure to order yours by Monday December 16! Along with their famous haggis and black pudding they also have gammon, steak pies and a selection of fish along with their usual quality selection of beef, pork and lamb.

Another unmissable stop on the Shop Arran itinerary is the Old Byre Visitor Centre in Machrie which is offering 10 per cent off all your shopping and 10 per cent off all food in Café Thyme with a stamped Shop Arran card. A delightful place to relax while the children enjoy the park area, the Old Byre Visitor Centre offers visitors a pleasant shopping experience offering high quality clothing products, handbags and accessories and sheepskin products. After the family have completed shopping and taking in the views an extensive menu of good



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10% OFF SELECTED ITEMS
during Shop Arran weekend

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CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE
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Seasonal menus from 3rd December, lunch with mulled wine, evening group drinks packages

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Christmas Eve, 3 - 5 pm, booking required
Exquisite sandwiches, our own mincemeat pies, scones,
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**Hogmanay Party - those who were there last year will
not want to miss it. Music in the Bar and Brasserie to
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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN

Carol concert in Brodick Church

The second annual Island Carol Service will take place at Brodick Church at 7.30pm on Monday December 2 which is expected to be as popular as ever.

This year Arran Soul Choir – both senior and youth – will be taking part, along with other island singing groups Vivace, Ain't Misbehavin' and the Arran Singers. Arran Brass and string group Arco will accompany the carols, supported by organist Douglas Hamilton.

Formerly the John Dick Carol Concert, the event has been a fixture on the island's festive calendar since the early 1980s. As before, there will be a strong emphasis on congregational singing so everyone will get a chance to



The Arran Singers perform at last year's Island Carol Service. 01_B49carol04

sing their favourite Christmas carols.

'Once again, we are very grateful to the board and session at Brodick Church for their support. Although we thought of moving the

event elsewhere on the island, so many people agreed that last year's event in Brodick worked well. So we decided not to move this year but we would be interested in ideas for 2020,' explained Andrew

Walsh who co-organises the event with Susan Dobson and Katy Penn.

'We are delighted that Arran Soul Choir will be joining last year's line-up and we all look forward to welcoming Christmas on Arran with a traditional carol service and a good sing,' he added.

There will be a collection in aid of CLIC Sargent and everyone is very welcome.

Winter concert on the way for Arran Singers

With December almost here, the Arran Singers have been busy practising for two musical events – first the Island Carol Service, then on Sunday December 8 the Singers' Winter Concert in Whiting Bay hall.

As always, the programme will be a varied one, with Scottish music featuring in several beautiful arrangements of Burns songs...and a novelty item. The choir, with soloists, will perform a very fine medley from the musical Les Miserables. And,

of course, there will be a selection of Christmas music, including some communal carol singing. We have guest appearances by two local singing groups, Vivace and Ain't Misbehavin', each bringing its own distinctive style to enhance the concert. Completing the mix will be soloists from the choir.

Singing in the choir is great fun and new singers are always welcome – men/tenors and basses in particular (please contact conductor Diana Hamilton on 601322 if

you would like to come along – no experience necessary).

So, make it a date, and come along to Whiting Bay hall on Sunday December 8 at 2.30pm for what promises to

be a most enjoyable afternoon of music-making, with tea/coffee and mince pies included. Tickets available from choir members and the Book and Card Centre.

 **Winter Concert**
and Friends **Sunday, 8th December**
2.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall

Tickets from the Book & Card Centre or Choir Members
Adults £8 Children £3
incl. Refreshments & Lucky Programme

Christmas Concert
with **Peter Wilson and Friends**

Corrie Parish Church
Saturday 7th December
at 7.30pm
Coffee, tea and mince pies.
Donations on leaving please!
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Peter Pan is a flight of fancy



It's almost December and the community theatre is ringing with the sounds of pantomime rehearsals.

To keep everyone happy, and strike a balance, we decided to revert to a more traditional pantomime this year with all the fun of the goodies, the baddies, the principal boy, the fairy and the funnies along with a few surprises – oh and don't forget about the sweeties, that traditional panto contains.

Peter Pan, the panto, has all of these whilst retaining most of the traditional story, written by JM Barrie in 1911.

Our greatest challenge, apart from trying to keep the school corridor tidy, has been flying the actors – the stage crew have their own version of that!

Now not a lot of people know this, but it isn't an easy thing to achieve on a small stage, with no flying rails.

To be perfectly honest, it's not really possible, so this is the part where we need your help – just pretend they're flying, ok? It is pantomime after all! So just go with the flow.

Did I say flow? Well, flying, and waterfalls as well. Just don't be 'alarmed' by the crocodile – it is definitely real!

Once again we have had wonderful backcloths, lovingly hand-painted by Elanor, our in-house wonder woman. Well, the rest of her family are performing on stage so she needed something to do.

Many hands make light work and there have been many hands helping to bring this, our 39th panto to Lamlash stage, and we are grateful to them all. Some of us have been there for all 39 of them while others were not even born. In fact, most of them were not even born!

You would think by this time we'd be getting quite



A scene from the previous traditional panto, Sinbad's Desert Adventure, two years ago. Photo Gordon Provan

good at it, but that remains to be seen, so come and join us at the Community Theatre on Thursday, Friday or Saturday,

December 5, 6 and 7, and judge for yourself.

It may not be Hollywood or the West End, but it's

pure local talent brought to you with great enthusiasm as only we know how and it gets Christmas off to a 'flying'

start! Come on, you know you want to ... oh yes you do! Hope to see you there.

Maureen Smith



Open Day
Thursday 5th
December
12pm-7pm

Join us on Thursday to find the right course for you, get advice on funding, and get help with your UCAS application, including hints and tips on writing a great personal statement. **Find your future with us.**



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KA Campus Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8NG

Barclays backs Lagg distillery

Barclays has shown its support for the Isle of Arran Distillers with a £25 million funding package which helped the island's whisky producer to develop its second distillery at Lagg, which opened in June.

The financial backing has allowed the Lagg Distillery with its visitor centre, restaurant and café, to double the company's production capacity to over two million litres per annum (lpa) and will see the development of further new warehousing facilities on the site.

Founded in 1994, the Isle of Arran Distillers revived the tradition of whisky distilling on Arran when it built its operation in Lochranza, at the north end of the island. In 2020, the company will release their first 25-year-old single malt in their new packaging.

The two distilleries now employ 80 people across its operations, with Lochranza in the north offering a production capacity of about 1.2 million litres of alcohol. The

new Lagg Distillery has a capacity of around 1 million litres and is currently filling casks with the future Lagg single malt which is a heavily peated spirit. Distillery tours



Euan Mitchell, director of production and operations at Isle of Arran Distillers.

with professional guides are available at both locations to allow visitors to glean insight into the art behind Scotland's most famous export, and private casks are available for consumers to purchase from both.

The funding package is one of a number Barclays has delivered to the whisky sector and its wider supply chain, from international and micro-distilleries to grain producers and logistics firms.

Jamie Grant, head of corporate banking for Barclays in Scotland, said: 'Isle of Arran Distillers is a perfect example of a business harnessing the power of Scottish provenance, contributing to the global success of our food and drink industry.'

'We have made a significant commitment to the whisky sector by investing both time and money to become industry experts, ensuring we are able to provide bespoke solutions specific to the sector. The deal team worked closely with Isle of Arran Distillers, guiding them every step of the way, to provide a unique funding solution to aid growth and deliver their vision of opening a second distillery on the island.'

Euan Mitchell, director of production and operations of Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd,



The new Lagg Distillery which opened in June this year.

said: 'Times have never been more exciting for our company. With the re-branding of our Arran Single Malt and the opening of Lagg Distillery,

it has been a busy year and expansion and change have been at the forefront of our minds. We look ahead with excitement to our 25th anni-

versary celebrations in 2020 and are proud to partner with Barclays in securing long-term growth for the future of our company.'

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT BRODICK CASTLE

Chestnut roasting, craft stalls, yule log making,
Christmas at the Castle activities and more!



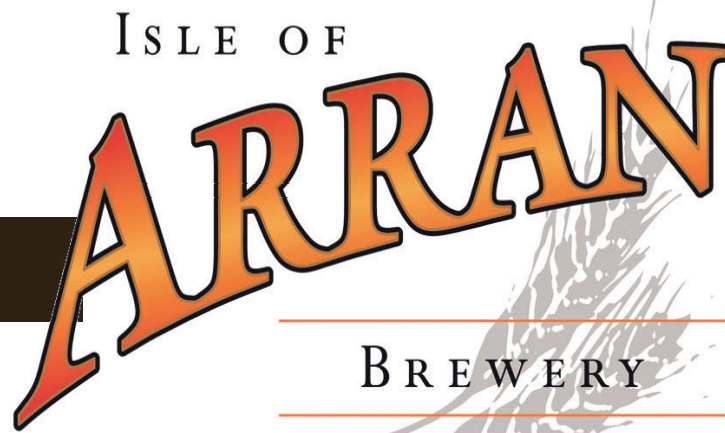
**December 7th & 8th 10am – 4pm
Brodick Castle and Country Park**

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

CRAFT BREWERY TOURS AVAILABLE DAILY



Every day

Trout fly fishing	Loch Garbad, bank fishing
Arran Geopark Information & Activity Centre	Lochranza, 9am - 5pm
Brodick Castle and Gardens	Open 10am - 5pm
Christmas at The Castle	Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
Octopus Centre	Old Pavilion, Lamlash, centre open seven days, 11am - 3pm
Octopus Centre - tennis	Old Pavilion, Lamlash, open 7 days, any time
Brodick Mini Golf	Open seven days, 9am - 5pm-ish, all weather
Public swimming	Auchrannie Spa Pool, Brodick, 10am - 4pm (last entry 3pm) and 6pm-8pm (last entry 7pm)
Swimming lessons	Auchrannie Hotel Pool, Brodick, Monday -Thursday, 4pm - 6pm
Arran Brewery	Open Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 11.30am till 4pm
	Sunday, 2pm - 4pm. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday
	To arrange a tour please call 01770 302353

Saturday 30th November

Shop Arran	Various shops around the island
Flow Yoga	Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
Christmas at The Castle	Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
Q30	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
RNLI shop open	Lamlash Pier, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Children's Christmas party fundraiser	Lamlash Church Hall, 11am - 2pm
Family games	Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Live music - Old Bohemia, Otis & Marie	Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Live music - Bluedoo	The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Live music - Rob Muir	The Douglas Hotel, Brodick 9pm - 11pm
Over-21s disco	Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Sunday 1st December

Shop Arran	Various shops around the island
Christmas at The Castle	Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
Q30	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
Live music - Old Bohemia, Otis & Marie	Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 1pm - 4pm
Family games	Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Christmas greetings form Lochranza	Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall, 3pm
Live music - Charlie Gorman	The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm - 6pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting	Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
Eco Savvy Food Share	Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 9pm
Folk music session	Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Monday 2nd December

Morning fitness	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am-10.30am
Christmas at The Castle	Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
JogScotland mixed ability running group	Whiting Bay, 5.30pm
Circuit training	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
Junior rugby (P3-P7)	Ormidale Park, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm
Junior rugby (S1-S6)	Ormidale Park, Brodick, 7pm - 8pm
Rink games	Brodick Bowling Club, 6.15pm
Rink bowls	Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.45pm
Winter bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb	Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s	Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 8.30pm
Live music - Tim Pomeroy	Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm

Tuesday 3rd December

Body Blitz (booking essential)	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Christmas at The Castle	Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
Healthy Outdoors Team	Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Eco Savvy Energy Surgeries	Home House House, Brodick, 10am - 3pm
Chess morning	Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 11am
Rink bowls	Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting	Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)	Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Arran Pace Makers - Jog Scotland beginners' group	Ormidale pavilion, Brodick, 5.30pm
Steak night - two ribeye steaks & bottle of wine	Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 5.30pm
Hatton Boxing	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
The 1st Shiskine Rainbows and Brownies	Shiskine Hall, 5.30pm - 6.45pm
Arran Hockey Club - juniors (5-14yrs)	Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm
Mini Kickers 3-5yrs (preschool)	KA Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 6.45pm
Junior Football, P4 -P6s	KA Leisure, Lamlash, 6.45pm - 7.45pm
Scottish country dancing	Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Flow Yoga	Corrie Hall, 6pm

Eco Savvy Food Share
Trev's pop music quiz
Traditional music sessions

Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Brodick Bar, 9pm

Wednesday 4th December

Yoga
Hydrofit
Brodick Gardens Volunteers
Christmas at The Castle
Kilmory Toddlers
Coffee morning
Archives and Genealogy Service
Chair yoga exercise class
Knit and Blether
Parkinson's Support Group
Arran Pace Makers Running Group
Eco Savvy Christmas cookie baking workshop
Kettlercise
Flow Yoga
Arran Riding Club AGM
Tae Kwon Do
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Live music
Pub quiz
Rock 'n' pop bingo

Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am - 10.30am
Brodick Castle and Country Park, 9.30am - 1pm
Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
Kilmory Hall, 10am - 12 noon
Lamlash Church, 10.30am - 12noon
Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
St Molios Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am
Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 2pm - 4pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4pm
Brodick, 5.30pm
Arran High School, Lamlash, 5.30pm
Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
Shiskine Hall, 6pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 6.30pm
kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 5th December

Christmas at The Castle
Chair yoga exercise class
Arran Ranger Service, Tree Planting Day in Glen Rosa
Kettlercise
Chess morning
Arran Youth Soul Choir
Arran Soul Choir
Winter bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb
Body Blitz (booking essential)
Arran Hockey Club - Seniors (12 yrs +)
Kilbride Benevolent Fund AGM
Lamlash panto - Peter Pan
Brodick Embroidery Group
Eco Savvy Food Share
Eco Savvy Food Share
Tommy's general knowledge quiz

Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am
Glen Rosa, 10am - 3.30pm
Auchrannie Spa Resort, 11am - 11.45am
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 11am
Community Theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
Community Theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm
Little Rock Cafe, 7pm for 7.15pm
Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm
Whiting Bay Church Hall, 7pm
Community Theatre, Lamlash High School, 7.30pm
Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Brodick Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm
Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 6th December

Yoga
Hydrofit
Christmas at The Castle
ACLI - Friday Garden Club
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Tae Kwon Do
Live music - The Sensational Biff Simpson
Lamlash panto - Peter Pan
Friday night quiz
Eco Savvy Food Share
Disco with DJ McGarrigle

Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am - 10.30am
Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay, 10am - 12.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
advanced kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Community Theatre, Lamlash High School, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
Octopus Centre, COAST, Lamlash, 9pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Saturday 7th December

Flow Yoga
Holiday celebration at Brodick Castle
Q30
RNLI shop open
St Bride's Ladies' Christmas fayre
Lamlash panto - Peter Pan
Pop-up evening, BYOB (bookings only)
Live music
Christmas concert with Peter Wilson and Friends
Lamlash panto - Peter Pan
Live music - Tiderays, melodic rock with folk tinge
Dining and disco or disco only
Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
Lamlash Pier, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Community Theatre, Lamlash High School, 2pm
The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Corrie Parish Church, 7.30pm
Community Theatre, Lamlash High School, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Only essential items for the journey

Many people involved in regular travel for business or pleasure, pride themselves on being able to pack only essential items for the journey. Birds involved in their annual migration have this honed to a fine art through tens of thousands of years of evolution.

Birds only carry essential items on migration and one of these items is fuel. To fly large distances a bird body needs fuel and the most efficient body fuel is fat. This is laid down in various deposits, for example under the skin. This can result in a substantial weight gain. The fat content of the body can rise from around 5 per cent to more than 50 per cent.

To achieve this, birds eat more before migration and also some change their diet. For example, before migration many insect-eating warblers eat more fruit to give more energy more quickly. To compensate for the weight gain, birds reduce the weight of parts of the body not needed for the flight. For example the gizzard, liver, kidney and gut of the familiar swallow is reduced by about 25 per cent before they leave on their migration.

In the course of a migration birds can lose up to half their

body mass. While some birds complete their migration journey in one stage, others break the journey into a series of stages with stops for rest and topping up fuel reserves en route.

Let's look at just one example in a little more detail, the bar-tailed godwit. This is a wader that is seen on Arran's shores in the autumn and the spring as it migrates between one of its wintering areas in West Africa and its sub-Arctic breeding grounds.

One of its sub-Arctic breeding areas is Alaska. Bar-tailed godwit breeding in Alaska have been satellite tracked flying non-stop from Alaska to their wintering area in New Zealand. That is a journey of more than 10,000km. It takes about eight days. How does a bird manage to fly for that length of time?

Bodies of bar-tailed godwit, which had been accidentally killed in Alaska when they hit a radio tower as they set off on their migration, have been compared to bar-tailed godwit in New Zealand who had completed their migration from Alaska. This comparison showed some astonishing differences.

In the Alaskan godwits 55 per cent of the body weight was fat, fuel for the journey.

This is one of the highest fat contents recorded in any bird. The Alaskan godwits had larger breast muscles and a larger heart. These are the exercise organs or engine to power the flight.

By contrast the Alaskan godwits had very small gizzard, liver, kidneys and gut. The bar-tailed godwits seemed to have largely dispensed with parts of their metabolic machinery that were not essential during flight, presumably converting these to other tissue essential for the flight.

About a week after arriving in New Zealand, the digestive organs of the bar-tailed godwit had been rebuilt and the heart and breast muscles had reduced in size. Now, I think that that is remarkable.

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 2018 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels

Bar-tailed godwit make a journey of over 10,000km. Photograph: Dennis Morrison

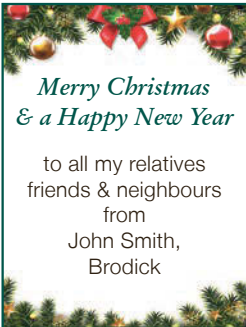
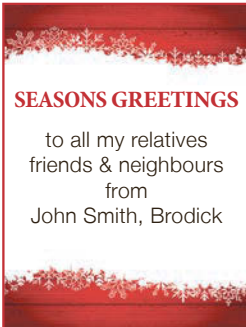



Bar-tailed godwit prepares to take flight. Photograph: Brian Couper

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 14th December

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<p>A</p>  <p><i>Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year</i></p> <p>to all my relatives friends & neighbours from John Smith, Brodick</p>	<p>B</p>  <p>SEASONS GREETINGS</p> <p>to all my relatives friends & neighbours from John Smith, Brodick</p>	<p>C</p>  <p>JOHN AND JANE SMITH, BRODICK</p> <p>would like to wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a merry Christmas</p>
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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 4, 1999



Pictured at their recent prize-giving evening are the 1999 winners of the ladies section at Whiting Bay Golf Club. They are, standing, Ann Lee, Fiona McPherson, Wilma Aitken and Margaret Auld. Seated, Hilary Bridge, Pat McDonald (club champion) and Alison Dick.

01_B48tweY05



The new fire station at Lamlash has formally opened this week. Among the Lamlash firemen are, front, Dennis Davis, Chief Inspector of Fire Services, Scotland; Dan Bremner, Leading Fireman; and Geoff Ord, Strathclyde Firemaster. Standing second from the left is David Kennedy, Deputy Firemaster. 01_B48tweY04

Barbara l'Anson, herbal medical practitioner and delicatessen proprietress, has a new role now, that of community councillor for Whiting Bay. Douglas Meldrum recently resigned and Barbara has been co-opted onto the council with fellow councillor Howard Driver. 01_B48tweY02



Road damage

Road repairs and storm damage have closed a number of roads on Arran again. As well as the Ross Road being closed to traffic, the road to Low Kildonan has been closed this week. Repairs are in progress to counteract subsidence on the stretch between Boa's Corner and Dippen house.

Access to Low Kildonan can only be gained via Church Brae. At Pirnmill the sea wall collapsed during severe weather last Sunday and a large hole appeared in the road. Repairs were very quickly carried out and the road reopened on Monday afternoon.

Arran water

We have Arran mustard, Arran cheese, now we will shortly have Arran spring water as a product carrying the island name and one which is 100 per cent Arran.

This week planning permission was granted to the Isle of Arran Natural Water Company for the construction of a water bottling plant at Balmichael.

It all began when West of Scotland Water started drilling a borehole on the String Road in early 1998. Within a month of drilling it became clear that the water was pure and could be sold as mineral water.

Margie Currie and Neil Henderson had

already bought some of the land at Balmichael when farmer Colin Currie retired. Margie explained that the water comes from aquifers that provide water in almost unlimited supply.

It can take almost 15 years to percolate down and once released, natural pressure brings it to the surface through springs. Already Shiskine is using the water on the public supply but that is chlorinated.

The intricacies of keeping it perfect and putting it in bottles is technical and Margie and Neil are still learning about it. Nevertheless they are well on their way to using a natural Arran resource to create an entirely new Arran export.

Arran Runners

On Saturday Arran Runners were represented by its newest and youngest member, Jennifer Emsley, at the Ayrshire Harriers Clubs Cross-Country Championships, held in Girvan.

Competing on her 13th birthday, Jennifer quickly pulled ahead of the rest of the girls in the two-mile race and finished a clear three minutes ahead of the next girl.

Jennifer has now added the Ayrshire Clubs title to the Ayrshire Schools title she won at the end of October.

She plans to represent Arran Runners and Arran High School at the respective national cross-country championships in the new year.



Arran's Coastguard – ready to respond. They are: Rebecca Lacey, Andy McKenzie, team leader David McKinnon, Eddie Waterland, Morag McQueen, Edward O'Donnolly and Colin Siddle. With them is sector manager David Shaw. 01_B48tweY01



Kilmory School has been awarded a Curriculum Award 2000 for 'the school at the heart of the community'. The entire school is pictured, with three from the nursery, with Mrs Clark, Mrs Watts, Mrs Barbour and Mrs Parker. 01_B48tweY03

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Kilbride Benevolent Fund

Annual General Meeting

To be held in Whiting Bay Church Hall
at 7pm on
Thursday 5th December, 2019

All are welcome to attend.

Scottish Charity No. SC001184

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Initially approx. 3 hours 2 days a week
(Mon-Fri) gradually increasing
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Please contact :
PO Box No 26

The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre
Brodict, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be
examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 09.00-16.45
weekdays (16.30 Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash
Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Written
representations may also be made to the Head Of Service (Economic Development
& Regeneration) at the above address by 20.12.19. Any representations received
will be open to public view.

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

19/00862/PP; Corriecravie House, Corriecravie, Brodict, Isle Of Arran; Change of
use of agricultural field to garden ground including relocation of existing access
and formation of driveway.

19/00878/PP; Site To The North Of Plantree, Kings Cross, Brodict, Isle Of Arran;
Variation of planning permission 16/00936/PP to amend house type on plot 2.

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

Applications for Listed Building Consent.

19/00860/LBC; Seagate, Lamlash, Brodict, Isle Of Arran; Erection of shed to side
of detached dwelling house.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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As part of our commitment to talent development we are now accepting applications from you to join as a Multi-Functional Network Modern Apprentice based in Arran. On Arran we deal with everything from Raw water pumping, river intakes, 3 No Water treatment works, treated water pumping and storage, including all aspects of networks and customer service (water, field and sewer response) and wastewater treatment and networks (septic tanks and pumping stations).

What will you be doing?

During this 4 year programme, you'll be learning everything you need to know about how we maintain our water and waste water network to ensure that our customers' services are maintained effectively and safely. That means most of your days will be spent outdoors working as part of an expert and experienced team who will support you to develop your skills and knowledge and achieve a nationally recognised qualification. This is your chance to learn as you earn, working with industry-leading teams to help deliver services that are essential to the daily lives of the people of Scotland.

Who are we looking for?

We're looking for people who are self-motivated, team players who enjoy being outdoors. You should be practical, well organised and a good problem solver with a positive attitude and the ability to work on your own initiative. You'll have five National 4 or 5 Qualifications (English, Maths and Science are advantageous but not essential) and a full UK driving licence (or currently be working to achieve this).

Due to the nature of this role it is essential that applicants live on Arran. If you're interested in starting your career in the water industry as a trainee, we'd love to hear from you!

Apply through the link at www.scottishwater.co.uk/careers by 16th December.

auchrannie
resort

Grounds Person

Required to join our busy team. Experience in grounds management essential, horticultural qualifications would be of benefit, Driving licence is essential. You should be a self-starter and have excellent attention to detail. Salary range £19-22K depending on experience plus excellent company benefits.

Please contact
amacalister@auchrannie.co.uk
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SCOTTISH FIELD

January issue



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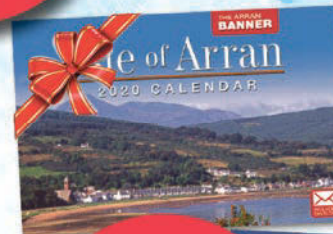
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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine Independent but working together
Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:
Sunday 1st December
Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches together, 10.15 am. Morning Worship at Lochranza with ARCO String group (Come to Church Service).
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship. (Come to Church Service).
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon. Morning Worship.
There will also be a service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland
Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 1st December
Worship for the first Sunday of Advent will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. Also, the Church Christmas Card, to be sent to all members, will be available to be signed, and all proceeds will go to the Glasgow City Mission. All most welcome. There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 1st December
First Sunday of Advent
Sung Eucharist at 11 am.
Rev Adrian Fallows
Coffee after service
Everyone is welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 1st December
Morning Service at 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service at 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 1st December
Mrs Sharon MacLeod
Kilmory at 10 am
Lamlash at 11.30 am
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 1st December
Sunday Worship at 11am
'Heather Lodge', Brodick
Left of the Douglas Hotel,
opposite the ferry terminal.
Telephone 700346, 820223
Everyone Warmly Invited.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 1st December
Service at 11am
Ormidale Pavilion
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 1st December
Shiskine at 11am (church on
road between Blackwaterfoot
and Machrie)
Brodick at 6pm
Services will be taken by Mr
Evan Macdonald

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 1st December
Sunday Morning Mass at
11am

DEATH

YOUNG - Stephen

Stephen Young 27.12.56 -
23.11.19. Much loved husband
of Jan Millar and adored son,
brother, uncle, great uncle,
friend and colleague. Stephen
died peacefully after a year
of illness that he faced with
dignity, quiet courage and
stoicism.

Exceptionally keen golfer at
Kirkhill GC and Whiting Bay
GC and a lover of walking the
Scottish hills along with Jan
and the dogs.

A Celebration of Stephen's
life will be held on Monday
2nd December at 3.30pm in
Dalnottar Crematorium, G81
4SL.

Ladies hockey next weekend

Arran Ladies hockey team
have another weekend off.

But they return to the
playing field next weekend
with a home game next
Saturday (December 7)
against GHK Ladies 4s at the
Ormidale astroturf, with the
passback time 2pm.

Their recent lay-off has
seen teams closing the
gap in the West District
League division 3 with
Arran slipping to second
but still with the same
number of points, at 18, with
leaders Greenock Morton
Ladies, who have now
played the same number of
games.

Pool team take on Movember challenge

This Arran pool team are a right hairy bunch – but it's all for a good cause. The Kilmory PT 1934 players are taking part in a Movember challenge growing their beards and moustaches.

They are raising money for the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity because of the recent care given by the hospital to little Maisie Picken and other Arran children.

Challenge

Her dad, Jamie, is one of three Pickets taking part in the challenge and all the boys are trying to grow a beard or moustache, except Max Worthington, who



The 1934 pool team left to right are: Max Worthington, Stuart McMaster, Alan Picken, Stuart Robinson, Niall McMaster and Eddie Picken. Jamie Picken is missing.

01_B48pool01

is progressively shaving his beard every week.

The Banner caught up with the team when they took on Brodick Golf Club's second team – Brian's Brodick Beaches – in the Arran Pool League last week.

League

Six teams are taking part in this year's league, which got under way earlier this month. The other teams taking part are: Brodick Golf Club first

team, who are top of the league, Lamlash Golf Club, Whiting Bay Golf Club and Shiskine Valley, who also play at Kilmory. The games are played on a Thursday night.



Brian's Brodick Beaches pool team with captain Brian Farquhar, centre. 01_B48pool02



Shiskine Golf Club

Saturday November 23, gents' 18-hole medal, par 65, SSS 64, CSS 63. 1 and scratch, Tony Ellis 78-20= 58, 2 Colin Dair 81-11=70 BIH, 3 Quintin Oliver 94-24=70. Magic twos T Ellis, C Rutterford.

Sunday November 24, Ryder Cup. No wind at all today, which is obviously rare here, and a little drizzle. Great to see 32 gents out on the course and good fun in the clubhouse afterwards. A massive thanks to Alan and Siobhan for their hospitality. Everyone was commenting on how amazing the greens are. A huge thanks to Stewart and his team.

Game 1 results (fourballs), Torbeg 2 & ½ v Shiskine 1 & ½, Kilpatrick 2 v Blackwaterfoot 2.

Thursday November 21, la-

dies' three-club competition. Silver: 1 Sheila Gray 57-10=47 BIH. 2 and scratch, Ann May 51-4=47. Bronze: 1 Esther Henderson 69-18=51 BIH, 2 Piet Johnston 64-13=51.

Fixtures: Thursday December 5, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 10am start. Sunday December 1, Gents AGA Winter League (away).

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday November 24, Stableford.

A total of nine played on a calm but grey morning and managed to complete the round just as the weather took a turn for the worse. Scoring was generally good and Gus Macleod carried his recent midweek form into the Sunday game to win with an impressive 41 pts.

1 Gus MacLeod 14,41pts, 2 David Brookens 12,39, 3 Neil Lucas 14,38, 4 Jamie Macpherson 5,37.

There were no magic twos and as play was on a 'non counter' basis there was no CSS applicable.

Fixtures: Sunday December 1, AGA Winter League

v Brodick Golf Club at Shiskine. Tee off 11am.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday November 24, Winter Cup Stableford, 18 played, NC. 1 Donald McKinnie 11, 46pts, 2 Alistair Hume 12, 45pts, 3 Brian Smith 14, 41pts.

Fixture: Sunday December 1, sweep 9am and noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday November 25, Monday Cup. 1 J McGovern 65-10=55, scratch, 2 A Smith 69-8=61. Magic twos A McDonald and J McGovern.

Fixtures: Saturday December 30, 18-hole sweep, ballots at 9am and 12.30pm. Monday December 2, Winter Cup, ballot at noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday November 21, Yellow Medal. 1 Jim Young 76-17=59, 2 Alan Smith 75-13=62 BIH over John O'Sullivan.

Sunday November 24, Winter Stableford. 1 Iain Murchie 37pts, 2 Lee Dutton 36pts BIH, 3 Ian Bremner 36pts. Magic twos Iain

Murchie and Serge El Adm. Best scratch, Iain Murchie 31pts to Stableford.

Fixtures: Sunday December 1, Winter League. Lamlash v Machrie. Thursday December 5, Yellow Medal, ballot at 11am.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday November 26, Winter Cup. 1 Campbell Laing 62, 2 Brian Sherwood 67, 3 Phil Betley 69. Magic two Phil Betley. Fixtures: Tuesday December 3, Winter Cup, tee off 12noon. Saturday December 7, Lochranza Hotel Cup tee off noon.

Arran Golfers' Association

Fixture: Sunday December 1, Winter League (Duncan Trophy) at Shiskine Golf Club. Corrie is unable to host due to lack of catering so Shiskine is the new venue. Tee times will be as follows: 8.30am, 9.10am and 11am. Last six holes first. Shiskine v Brodick 8.30am tee off, Corrie v Lamlash 9.10am tee off, Whiting Bay v Machrie Bay 11.00am tee off.

School mountain bike club



A minor injury is dealt with before getting back on the road.



Pupils enjoy the long descents with the ramps and water providing extra fun.

A total of 18 pupils of the Arran High School Mountain Bike Club travelled to Peebles for an all too brief weekend of mountain biking, on the trails of Glentress and Innerleithen, both part of the world famous Seven Stanes, earlier this month, writes Steve Garraway.

Arriving late at our bunkhouse accommodation, we disembarked from the Kilmorey minibus and unloaded both staff cars and trailers, checking the bikes for adjustment and storing all of our weekend clothing. More importantly, our food was put away and the pizzas cooked in two ovens. Surprisingly, 24 pizzas didn't seem to take too long to cook. By now most of the club wanted to get down to the local Cardrona pump track, so Matt and Robert oversaw that adventure, even taking a quiet generator and lights to enhance the fun.

Accomplished

On Saturday morning, leaving around 9am, we split into two groups, with the more accomplished riders going by minibus to Innerleithen whilst the other group cycled mainly off road to the nearby

Glentress. Unfortunately for the first group, the rider and bike uplift service was fully booked and as this particular trail was long and steep and under very wet and cold conditions, it was suggested that they cycle up to a nearby hill, Pirn Cairn, which has many quiet trails. Picking them up later, at 3.30pm, I met a very wet and muddy crew, all beaming from ear to ear at the experience they had enjoyed, riding on unfamiliar trails. It was good to see pupils revelling in mountain biking so much, even with the weather thrown at us.

Meanwhile, back at Glentress, Kim and Ewen were still out and about with the other pupils who were all experiencing the best trails and skills sections of a very busy Glentress. Mountain biking seems to be becoming more and more popular and we came across more and more people now using e-bikes, to ride up the long hauls.

There was a group of more than 100 women riding whilst dressed up in Halloween costumes, on an annual orienteering treasure hunt and

that was very entertaining in its own joyful way.

On Sunday morning, we all cycled to Glentress again, for some more mountain biking and it was satisfying to see the more experienced pupils assisting others with their skills. After a couple of hours it was back to the bunkhouse to clean and get cleaned before we were on the road again, back to Arran.

Support

All in all, a very worthwhile weekend for the club, albeit a short one. We would like to thank Ewen McNeice, once more, and Matt Webb, of Ride Arran, for volunteering their time and assistance for the pupils of Arran High School. Readers may be unaware that we are an entirely self-funding and voluntary club, so please give us your support by voting for us in this year's Co-op Community Fund.

We are currently taking groups out three nights per week, one of which is all girls. We teach cycle maintenance and pupils volunteer for trail repairs regularly. If any readers would like to assist with trail repairs, please get in touch.



Riding high, pupils enjoy a small natural ramp.



Glentress provides excellent cycling paths in beautiful surrounds.

conquer Glentress forest



Riders stop for a quick group photograph before the descent.



Cyclists take a quick break before setting off again.



Good old fashioned exhilarating and muddy fun.

Young Arran athletes **Sportshall** make it through to finals

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A team of pupils from Arran's primary schools took second place in the North Ayrshire Sports Hall Athletics event at the Portal, Irvine and will now be competing in the finals next week.

Representing Arran, the 22 pupils managed to hop, step and jump their way to success in their heat against eight other schools from across North Ayrshire and will be going for the gold on Thursday December 5.

The event involves the disciplines of relay running, chest throwing, speed bouncing, hurdles, vertical jump and long jump.

The pupils from Team Arran had two weeks of training at Arran High School with

the North Ayrshire Sports Academy pupils, also known as NASA, and the Active Schools coordinator Lauren Gilbert. The team will also have a further two weeks of training prior to the final.

A spokeswoman for Team Arran said: 'Many thanks to KA Leisure who provided an energetic warm up, brilliant coaches and facilities, to ensure the team were prepared for activities ahead of them.'

'Thanks to Bennetts Bus Services for their excellent service and, of course, the singing bus driver.'

'We wish Team Arran the very best of luck in the final!'

The final will take place at the Portal, Irvine next week and the winning team will receive the North Ayrshire Shield, which they will hold for one year.

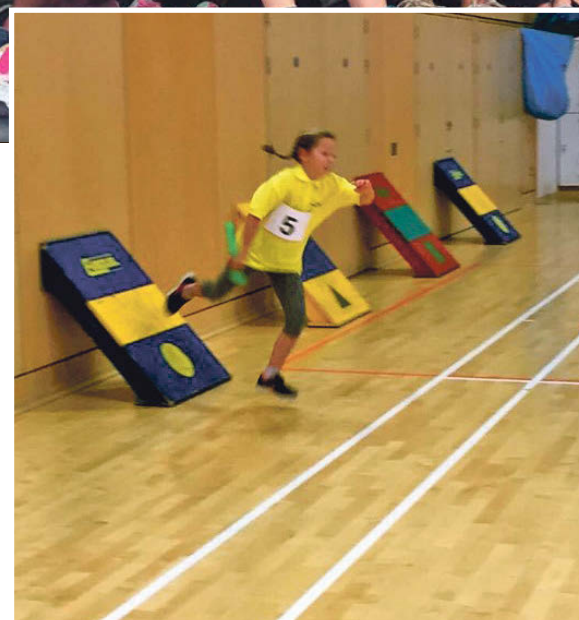


Reaching for the stars, a young boy competes in the jumping for height event.

Team Arran, above, who have qualified for the final of the North Ayrshire Sports Hall Athletics.



A young girl bounces off a backboard in the relay race.



Team Arran show off their jumping abilities under the watchful eyes of the coaches.



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