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# Bid to make Fisherman's Walk more accessible

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

take care around the new section of path under construction. Warning signs are in place and a section of the walk may have to be completely closed for around a week while a section of the work is carried out.

Work to make the Fisherman's Walk in Brodick more accessible, even at high tide, is currently under way.

The Arran Access Trust is spending £16,000 to extend the existing boardwalk another 70 metres along the shore to raise the height of the walk above the high tide.

The work has been made possible by a grant of £6,000 from the visitor gifting scheme, the Arran Trust, with the remainder of the cash coming from the Arran Access Trust.

The work is being carried out by Arran Footpaths and Forestry, which was established on the island by Scott Murdoch, but now carries out work across Scotland.

Already the foundations of the new stretch of path across the two concrete bridges, which regularly flood at high tide, have been put in place and timber work to complete the job is well under way and is due to be completed before Christmas.

Chairman of the Arran Access Trust Malcolm Whitmore said the aim of raising the walkway was to make it more accessible all year round.

Extensive repair work was carried out in the spring to the existing section of boardwalk which was badly damaged by last year's winter storms and the additional foundations appear to have bedded in well.

Mr Whitmore said the improvement works were part of a plan to further promote the Fisherman's Walk to visitors. 'We want to promote it at the ferry terminal and Tourist Information Centre as a walkable route to Cladach for all abilities,' he said.

The new route will take walkers along the path and back out to the main road past the Big Wooden House along the main road pavement and

However, walkers should

Continued on page two

## Carols for Christmas



The congregation, in fine voice, sing Once in Royal David's City, supported by the Arran Soul Choir on the balcony at the Island Carol Service held in a packed Brodick Church on Monday night. See also page 17. 01\_B49carolfront01

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# New signs warn cold callers are not welcome

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The signs have gone up to show that Arran is the first official 'no cold calling' island in Scotland.



The sign pulls no punches to prospective cold callers.  
01\_B49cold02

Warning notices have been put up at both Ardrossan and Brodick warning unscrupulous workmen and bogus callers that they are not welcome on Arran.

Clearly visible as vehicles turn out of the ferry terminal into Market Road the signs state: 'Welcome to Arran. You are entering a no cold calling island.'

They add: 'Uninvited callers will be reported to the police and Trading Standards.'

There have been concerns for some time that the island is seen as a soft touch of unscrupulous workmen and bogus callers, who target Arran's ageing population. Since the introduction of RET, it has also been much cheaper for them to bring their vans on to the island.

The Banner first reported the bold initiative in September

and the authorities believe it is already having an effect.

Scott McKenzie, senior manager, protective services, at North Ayrshire Council, said: 'Criminals find it easy to come on to islands and then simply get on a boat and leave without trace. There is often a large population of elderly residents on islands, which makes them an attractive place for criminals to target.'

## Support

'We want to make sure that doesn't happen in Arran. We want to make it a place that cold callers and scammers won't want to visit. We have had great support from the local community. Without that support or buy-in to what we're doing, then it wouldn't work. It's about the whole community coming together to make a stand against cold callers.'

'This initiative is not about



Scott McKenzie says the signs are sending a clear message.  
01\_B49cold03

the right to say no on your doorstep, but more that it is right to contact Trading Standards and police to inform them that unscrupulous individuals are in the area. This gives enforcement an opportunity to protect our more vulnerable neighbours.

'We've now got the signs up in Brodick and Ardrossan. It is sending a clear message

that cold callers are not welcome in Arran.

'We're confident that by making Arran a no cold calling zone that we will see a reduction in overall crime, including less doorstep crime and distraction robbery.'

A new leaflet has also been produced by Arran Community Council to help communities deal with the

menace. Doorstep caller warning stickers are also available for householders to post to their front doors.

The leaflet is entitled 'Who's that knocking at my door?'. It explains that a No Cold Calling Zone (NCCZ) is about helping local residents and communities to have confidence to say 'no' to uninvited salespeople and to warn rogue traders they are not welcome.

The leaflet has been produced with the financial assistance of the North Ayrshire Council, Trading Standards Scotland and Police Scotland and 2,000 have already been distributed with 2,000 more being delivered this week.

Last year a petition campaign was launched spearheaded by Lamlash resident Liz Rose, after a personal experience by of a cold caller at her home, that gained hundred of signatures.

## Bid to make Fisherman's Walk more accessible

Continued from page one then past Arran Heritage Museum and across the short section of the golf course to the recently upgraded path to Strabane and out past Home Farm to Cladach, rather than using the whole coastal route.

The work on the new boardwalk is expected to be finished before Christmas.

Meanwhile, the tireless work of the Arran Access Trust goes on. Since inception in 1999, the Trust has evolved from a community group set up primarily to resolve issues

between landowners and walkers to the leading access organisation on Arran taking a strategic approach to the management of access provision throughout the island.

At present they are replacing stiles with self-opening gates across the island and have just completed four gates at Sandbraes in Whiting Bay and are replacing six gates in the Strathwhillan and Lamlash areas.

The Trust has also purchased more 'non-slip' strips for the boardwalk which links

Cordon with Kings Cross.

Mr Whitmore said: 'The Trust is continuously working to improve the paths and trails on Arran for visitors and locals alike and the more members we can attract the more work we can do.'

The Trust is always regularly looking for volunteers to carry out path repairs and maintenance, cutting back brambles and bracken and clearing drains.

For more information visit: [www.arran-access-trust.org.uk](http://www.arran-access-trust.org.uk).



The boardwalk is being raised over the two concrete bridges which regularly flood. 01\_B49walk01



Men at work building the new boardwalk. 01\_B49walk02

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# Postcards for Kindness

Montrose House had some very special young visitors last week. Pupils from Kilmory early years dropped in at the Brodick care home to meet some of the residents they had sent a postcard to.

The nursery is involved in the worldwide Postcards for Kindness initiative which sees them send postcards to care homes across the UK to raise the spirit of residents.

The pupils themselves decide where to send them on a map and one of them chose Arran, so a postcard was dispatched to Montrose House.

### Early years

That gave early years practitioner Eveline Thomson and classroom assistant Ishbel Gordon the idea to follow up the postcard with a visit to the home. And last week they took along the four early

years pupils with pancakes and games to meet some of the residents and engage with them.

Eveline said: 'We send Postcards of Kindness to care homes all over the country so when one of the pupils chose to send one on Arran, it seemed a good idea to follow it up with a visit which I think both the pupils and residents enjoyed.'



The Kilmory early years pupils left to right: Katie Furze, Tod McNeish, Trixie Earle and Fergus Sturgeon enjoy their pancakes. 01\_B49montrose01



Tod and Trixie meet Brenda Jones. 01\_B49montrose02



Rosemary Walker with Fergus. 01\_B49montrose03



The children with two of the residents. 01\_B49montrose04



Eveline Thomson and Ishbel Gordon with the children. 01\_B49montrose05



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# Seeking your vote – the c

The country goes to the polls on Thursday December 12 in the General Election. In the North Ayrshire and Arran constituency, five candidates are seeking office. Here we give each of them the chance to say why they should get your vote.



Patricia Gibson, SNP

## Patricia Gibson Scottish National Party (SNP)

I enjoyed participating in last week's Arran hustings, where a host of local and national issues were raised. It was a pity that the Tory candidate was a no-show and the Liberal Democrat did not respond to the invitation, particularly as it was the only hustings held in North Ayrshire and Arran constituency. I know that

islanders were keen to put their questions to us.

This election will have far-reaching and long-lasting consequences.

We face the prospect of Scotland being dragged out of the European Union, against the votes of 62 per cent of us who voted to remain.

England has voted to leave the EU and will leave. Wales voted leave and will do so. Northern Ireland voted remain and will enjoy a special deal. Scotland voted remain and has been ignored, despite our attempts to compromise and work across party lines. Indeed, the Prime Minister's Brexit Withdrawal Bill runs to 548 pages and does not mention Scotland once.

Make no mistake, the mantra of 'Get Brexit done' is a con. Brexit will drag on for years and we still face the prospect of crashing out of the EU next year if talks

don't go as planned. We have no guarantees on workers' rights, consumer rights, environmental standards, protection of our NHS in future trade deals and increasingly we will see standards in these and other areas diverge from the EU and not to our advantage.

The only people who should determine Scotland's future are the people who live and work in Scotland, including having the choice of independence.

We can choose to take that future into our own hands and build the kind of society we want, a more equal and more compassionate society.

This election provides an opportunity to lock our current Prime Minister out of Downing Street and in this constituency only the SNP can beat the Tories.

I ask that, once again, you place your trust in me to be



The candidates who attended the election hustings in Brodick last week.

your voice in Westminster and raise the issues that matter to you.

As your incumbent candidate, I have been a hard-working, accessible and hands-on MP, acting to improve lives on Arran. Not just on the many broader issues of helping those suffering under Universal Credit, or the relentless attack on older people set to lose their free TV licences and suffer due to changes eligibility for Pension Credit.

I have also stood up for Arran's whisky industry, speaking at Westminster against the 25 per cent import tariffs on malt whisky levied by the US; tackled 'not spots', which can pose a danger to life in emergency situations and where there have been recent improvement in this regard; worked with constituents to secure effective broadband connections; campaigned against the discrimination islanders face in relation delivery charges, climate change and helped establish the Arran WASPI group, as they pursue the return of their pensions, denied them by the UK Tory government.

On December 12, I urge you to put Scotland's future in Scotland's hands. Vote SNP and let Scotland's voice be heard.



David Rocks, Conservative.

## David Rocks Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

I was sorry to miss last week's hustings in Brodick but

rather surprised that Mrs Gibson felt she could attack my absence as 'shocking' in a tweet the next day. The London Bridge incident was shocking. The NHS crisis in Scotland is shocking.

I have had a long-term commitment as co-founder and accompanist of the North Ayrshire Workplace Choir of council employees (not schoolchildren as she denigratingly mocked) and agreed to be with them at a charity concert in West Kilbride, long before the election was called.

The only reason that I can think for her comment is she knows her coat is on a shaky peg.

The Conservatives in North Ayrshire and Arran are fighting a strong campaign and people who voted Remain or Leave, say no to a second independence referendum or both are pledging support to me (including many Labour voters) to ensure that we get Brexit sorted and deny Nicola Sturgeon her independence referendum. Jeremy Corbyn is happy and willing to promise indyref2 in return for the keys to Number 10. Is that really a risk worth taking?

I fought this seat in 2017 and slashed the SNP majority from 13,573 to just 3,633. This truly is a two-horse race and the stakes have never been higher.

Let's turn to Arran matters. No-one in the SNP-run Scottish Government has been properly held to account over:

■ The failed CAP IT system which couldn't pay our farmers.

■ The competent delivery of ferry services to the islands.

■ Undue criticism of our farmers when it comes to meeting climate change targets.

■ The investment in rural services with reduced Council budgets

I will support our plan for a new farmers' support scheme

which meets Scotland's needs, designed and backed by a Conservative majority government, pledged to match the current annual budget available to farmers, in every year of the next parliament so that, by finally getting a Brexit deal agreed, our farmers, producers and crofters will have certainty for the future.

I recognise the importance of affordable housing to the island's future.

I will fight tooth and nail to support our thriving tourism industry on which so many local jobs depend, and which can only be achieved through proper connectivity, decent transport links and reliable ferries.

The failure to complete the Glen Sannox for the Arran run at Ferguson's at Port Glasgow is an absolute disgrace – shocking even! The action by the SNP government to fail to give you a timescale for the completion of the ferry is unacceptable to the island community, dependent on aging vessels. I support Scottish Conservative MSPs in their call for a public inquiry into the provision of ferries in Scotland. I will take a close personal interest in this on-going saga and support the island in its demand for a comfortable and reliable ferry service.

In this General Election, I am standing to be your voice at Westminster – a voice which works with the UK government, not against it.



Cameron Gilmore, Labour.

## Cameron Gilmore Scottish Labour Party

I'd like to start by thanking Arran CVS for the opportunity to come over and attend the election hustings in the Brodick Hall. It was a really positive experience and I'm glad that we had a constructive discussion about our different policies for the forthcoming election.

It was a disappointment, yet not particularly a surprise, that the Tories and Liberal Democrats made the decision to abstain from attending the

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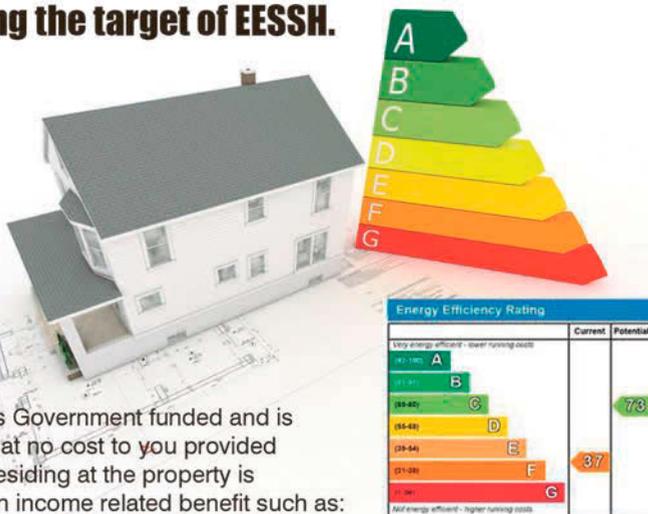
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# Candidates have their say



The audience listen to the hustings in Brodick Hall.

debate. I feel that the party in power in our country should be present to justify their policies and decisions in the face of appropriate scrutiny, however, this is not only being avoided locally, but nationally as well as we see Boris Johnson duck out of debates.

Arran isn't just a beautiful part of our constituency – it is a vital part. The tourism trade lies at the heart of our local economy and the goods sold from the island – its cheese, beer, aromatics and whisky, to name only a few – play a massive role in our exports.

At a political level, it is our duty to ensure that the island is able to thrive and able to function.

We all know the housing challenges Arran faces. There are not enough social or affordable homes, the average house price is through the roof and there is an increasing market for holiday lets which has made things even more difficult for locals.

Our Labour-led council built the first council houses on the island for a generation and they have been working with the housing trust to realise their ambitions.

This, however, is only a start. Our manifesto outlines an ambitious social house building programme for Scotland – we are targeting the building of 12,000 eco-friendly social and council homes a year for 10 years.

This will be paid for from our National Transformation Fund, with Scotland receiving £32 billion – £10 billion will be used for social house building and £6 billion is to be used to tackle fuel poverty by retrofitting every home in Scotland, whether privately or publicly owned.

This will help to drastically cut our carbon emissions and help people save money on their energy bills.

At the debate, I spoke at length about my personal reasons for running. I worked in the 'gig economy' for years and understand the inequality which this creates

inherently by its design. If you look at the example of Auchranne on Arran, there we have an excellent example of a good employer. They have invested in staff accommodation, secured living wage accreditation and made the decision to convert to employee ownership.

We need to make sure this example is followed elsewhere. We will introduce a Living Wage of £10 p/h for workers of all ages and ban exploitative zero-hours contracts.

We will also introduce free, high quality broadband, to help the self-employed and ensure our islands are connected and stay competitive.

As your MP, I will fight for these transformative policies which can bring so much to our constituency. We need to use this opportunity to remove the Tories after nine years of failure and elect a government with the vision and the desire to instil real change.

Accept no half measures for Arran. Vote Labour.



David Nairn, Greens.

## David Nairn Scottish Green Party

David Nairn is the Scottish Greens candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran. He is asking for your vote to demand climate action as only party that has a realistic proposition for tackling the climate emergency and rising global temperatures. David is a marine ecologist and involved with monitoring the marine life with the Clyde Marine Mammal Project. Arran residents and anyone

working in outdoor environment will be sensitive to our changing weather patterns with conspicuous changes in temperature, rainfall and snow cover. This is causing significant shifts in the growing, breeding and migration seasons, as well as species abundance and diversity. Higher river flows are leading to flood risk and sea level rise contributing to coastal flooding. Reducing emissions of greenhouse gasses by 80 per cent by 2030 is a key to Scottish Greens manifesto and climate change strategy and Scottish Green New Deal.

The social and environmental protections achieved in the EU are now in the hands of a chaotic Conservative government openly calling for a bonfire of regulation that risks lives. We need a Green voice to fight for these protections, backed by a Green vision to strengthen and deepen them for the future. We must co-operate with our European neighbours which is why the Scottish Greens stand firmly against Brexit. The Scottish Greens support independence for Scotland and the right of the people of Scotland to decide their future. But while Scotland is part of the UK, we have a duty and right to try to extend this democracy. Devolution of powers must continue. We will fight for more powers over tax, social security, employment, migration and energy to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament, local councils, rural and island communities.

The current economic system has brought us to the brink of climate collapse, while stagnating wages and job insecurity have left millions in poverty. The Green parties of the UK are offering a Green New Deal that will tackle the climate emergency by accelerating the transition to a zero-carbon economy, create 200,000 good quality secure jobs in Scotland and improve wellbeing and build a fairer and equal society. The Green New Deal cannot be delivered by the private sector alone. We will rebuild the public sector to work alongside a well-regulated private sector to deliver a transformational programme. We will end the scandal of working poverty by abolishing exploitative zero-hours contracts, upholding employment and trade union rights and closing the gender pay gap. Those who do the same work deserve the same wages, regardless of age.

Health, social care, education, housing and many aspects of transport are already devolved to the Scottish Parliament where Green MSPs are continually pushing the minority Scottish Government to go further, creating a better Scotland through bolder parliament. A vote for Scottish Greens is not just for emergency action and a healthier planet but also a vote for a fairer and more inclusive society, with rebuilt public services and sustainable transport for all. A just society and Green future for Scotland.



Louise Young, Scottish Liberal Democrats.

## Louise Young Scottish Liberal Democrats

Louise Young, the Scottish Liberal Democrats candidate was invited to submit a statement for inclusion in this article but did not respond to either the Arran Banner or the office of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

The following statement was submitted by the party's Edinburgh office and not the candidate herself.

A vote for the Liberal Democrats is a vote to stop

Brexit, stop another divisive independence referendum, focus on local issues and build a brighter future for Scotland in the United Kingdom.

Politics starts at home. Liberal Democrats want to focus on the issues that matter to local people. We want to make sure communities' voices are heard when it comes to new planning developments, changes to the bus service or closures to bank branches. But what is at stake in this election is more of the same or a fresh choice for the future in our new leader Jo Swinson, a stark contrast to Jeremy Corbyn and Boris Johnson who are stuck in the past.

We are aiming high in this election. We have a once in a generation opportunity to reshape our politics and give hope to the millions of people who want a fairer, brighter future.

Both the Conservatives and Labour have failed time and again to build a better future. We beat the old parties in Scotland in the European elections, and we intend to do the same again this month.

We've seen the chaos and uncertainty that Brexit has brought. Why on earth would the SNP want to start that all over again with independence, which would mean borders and checks between Scotland and the rest of the UK?

This General Election is about the direction of our country for the next generation. The Liberal Democrats have an ambitious plan to change the future of our

country, where every person, every community and our planet can thrive.

Brexit has caused economic pain and uncertainty from Caithness to Cornwall and prevented us from tackling the real issues facing our country. That's why we are committed to stopping Brexit and using the £50 billion Remain bonus to invest in our public services and tackle inequality.

In government, Liberal Democrats will invest in education and provide the money for the Scottish Government to recruit more great teachers, so that every child achieves their potential. Our Liberal Democrat vision is for Scottish schools to be the best again.

We are also committed to transforming mental health services so that mental health is treated with the same urgency as physical health.

Scottish Liberal Democrats have led the campaign for better mental health services in Scotland. At the moment children wait up to two years for the treatment they desperately need and services are hundreds of staff short. The SNP were 15 months late with their flagship strategy, delaying critical decisions and investment.

We want to see new mental health staff in all schools, GPs, A&E and police stations.

Rather than ploughing on with a damaging exit from the European Union or breaking up the UK with independence, Liberal Democrats want to deliver a brighter future for all of us.

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# Busy weekend for Shop Arran



Brisk trade at Arran Aromatics . 01\_B49shop2



Janelle Paton in Janelle's in Lamlash. 01\_B49shop04



Lynn Raeburn outside her Driftwood shop in Brodick. 01\_B49shop07

The weather could not have been kinder to Shop Arran this year with a weekend of dry, bright – if a little chilly – conditions bringing out Christmas shoppers in their droves, writes Hugh Boag.

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 with prosecco and mulled wine on offer, along with host of delicious treats.

Brodick seemed to be particularly busy this year but there was brisk shopping across the island. Many of the shoppers had come over from the mainland for it and got lots of gifts in Arran's unique shops that they would not have found otherwise.

One visitor wrote on the Shop Arran Facebook page: 'We had a lovely weekend on the island and bought lots of goodies! It's such a great idea, will definitely come back next year!'

Another added: 'Think it's a great idea, lots of tasty treats in each place, and Christmas shopping too. Hope it happens next year.'

Photographs: Colin Smeeton



Andrew Walsh and his staff at Arran Active had a splendid Shop Arran weekend.

01\_B49shop06



Stacey Smith with her much sought-after homemade tablet at Red Door. 01\_B49shop03



Amanda Lawley surrounded by the birds and animals in Island Porcelain. 01\_B49shop05



Tasha Murray and Alice Kinniburgh Arran Cheese Shop. 01\_B49shop01

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# New documentary claims to expose PPP cover-up

A new documentary has been released which claims to expose a continuing cover-up around North Ayrshire Council's multi-million-pound schools PPP project.

Last year, MacAulay Gibson Productions released *The Only Game In Town*, a documentary allegedly revealing how there had only ever been one credible and viable bid for the council's Public Private Partnership deal to build four new schools – Arran High School, St Matthew's Academy in Saltcoats, Stanley Primary School in Ardrossan and Greenwood Academy in Dregorn.

The film showed that a second bid, which North Ayrshire Council claimed provided genuine competition, had come from a then newly-formed company with no accounts, no office and

no experience of building or maintaining schools.

*The Only Game In Town* also revealed that a 2006 Strathclyde Police investigation into the council's PPP procurement process had lasted just two weeks, before being passed to the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service with a report stating the police could find no evidence of criminality.

Following the release of *The Only Game In Town*, Ardrossan and Arran SNP councillor Tony Gurney tabled a motion to a meeting of North Ayrshire Council, calling for a 'new and thorough' police investigation into the North Ayrshire schools PPP deal. Councillor Gurney's motion was seconded by Saltcoats Independent councillor Ronnie McNicol.

The motion was carried by 18 votes to 11 and council



Arran High School one of the four schools built under the controversial PPP scheme.

chief executive Elma Murray was instructed to write to the Chief Constable of Police Scotland, asking that the force carry out a new investigation.

The new documentary – *The Only Game In Town 2 (The Cover-Up)* – released this week, takes up the story from where the first film ended and contains claims, including Police Scotland allegedly caught failing to tell the truth regarding paperwork

relating to its claimed 2006 investigation; how little North Ayrshire Council and councillors actually knew about the £380m schools project; who actually ran the North Ayrshire schools PPP procurement process; and the names of the companies that own the North Ayrshire schools PPP contract and receive more than £1m every month from North Ayrshire Council.

MacAulay Gibson producer Campbell Martin said: "The Only Game In Town made available to the public the facts surrounding the hugely controversial North Ayrshire schools PPP project. The new film goes further and reveals the extent to which organisations are prepared to go in their attempts to keep the public in the dark."

Mr Martin, a former MSP, added: "The Only Game In Town 2 is about the continuing cover-up of a very expensive process that will cost local taxpayers over £1m every month until 2038."

"It's the right of everyone to know what the council, the police and central government civil service want to keep secret."

■ The Only Game In Town 2 – The Cover-Up can be viewed on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=19kng8RjBXg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19kng8RjBXg)

## Phone services disrupted in Kildonan

Openreach engineers were working to restore cable damage which is affecting phone and broadband service in Kildonan, as we went to press.

A fault occurred on Wednesday and is believed to be in the vicinity of an area where tree cutting was taking place, though the cause of the damage is not confirmed and remains under investigation.

Around 180 residents have lost phone service and will not be able to make emergency calls. The emergency services have been alerted and mobile services are not affected. Around 80 have lost broadband.

An Openreach spokesperson said: "Due to conditions, the damage could not be precisely identified last night and engineers were back on site at first light this morning. We're sorry for the disruption to services."

## Blustery day for Beach Buddies



Beach Buddies Arran volunteers who cleaned up Blackwaterfoot beach as part of their November effort.

Nine adults and four children braved the dreich weather to take part in the Arran Beach Buddies beach clean at Blackwaterfoot at the weekend.

The weather turned at the end but there was a good haul of litter cleaned from the beach, including what looked like hundreds of cotton bud sticks.

At each event participants enjoy friendly competition to see who has found the most unusual item or whom has travelled the

furthest. Last month it was Suzie Dick and her children who travelled all the way from Whiting Bay to join the clean-up.

A spokesman for the Beach Buddies said: "We are taking a break in December but weather permitting we will be back on the trail of plastic in the new year. Please check our Facebook page for updates."

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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ

## Access for all

It is probably not the best known organisation on the island. Yet the Arran Access Trust quietly goes about its business keeping paths and trails across the island tip top for everyone to enjoy.

The trust was first launched in 1999 to address land access issues on Arran but much of its work now involves helping provide high quality access across the island and also looks after the much improved Arran Coastal Way.

The fact that much of its work is done in out of the way places means that it is not always high profile – until you head into the hills for a walk – when its dedication quickly becomes clear.

That is why it is good to highlight the work it does when it is in full view – such as the present project on the Fisherman's Walk. The boardwalk from the Glencloy Water bridge has already helped improve access to the walk and it was heartbreaking to see it washed away in last year's storms.

So for that to be rebuilt and now extended to beyond the often flooded concrete bridges at the golf course is good news indeed.

Anyone interested can join the Arran Access Trust, which is also are regularly looking for volunteers. So if you can help the trust would love to hear from you.

## Thought for the week

'In those days came John the Baptist preaching, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."' Matt 3: 1-2

## More objections

Sir,

I write to provide some additional and up to date information regarding the Scottish Salmon Company's (SSC's) proposal for a new salmon farm off Millstone Point.

First, there are now a total of 265 submissions in response to the planning application, comprising 22 in support and 243 objections.

Secondly, in spite of the deadline for submissions having passed at the end of September, SSC's 'consultant' – ARCUS – has made a submission in which it attempts to undermine the detailed and substantial submission made by the community council on behalf of the residents of Arran.

I believe that ARCUS, in addition to riding roughshod over the planning process by lodging its patronising and spurious commentary, is compounding the failings of its own Environmental Impact Assessment. These extend to many aspects of its 'expert' (sic) submission but most notably on the topic of migratory salmon within the Clyde estuary, which Scottish Natural Heritage has now deemed to be a critical element of any planning evaluation, requiring a delay in the planning decision in order that SSC and its expert advisers now demonstrate that there will be no deleterious impact on our indigenous salmon and sea trout.

Finally, I urge the planning committee to take careful note of the quantity and quality of objections submitted, in which the range of scientific, aesthetic and economic factors has been amply considered, in the context of the latest planning regulations, and which contrast sharply with the highly questionable claims and quality submitted by SSC and its associates.

Yours,

**Fiona Clarke,  
Shiskine.**

## Cull points

Sir,

In response to the reason given by the trustees of ACLI for a deer cull

on the community land, we, the undersigned, make the following points:

1. The community were given no say in the decision. Residents whose homes border the land were not consulted and were shocked to have a deer shot in broad daylight within yards of their homes.

2. The argument about Lyme disease does not hold up. Not all ticks carry Lyme disease and a tick has to feed on its host for between 36 and 48 hours before Lyme disease can be transmitted, providing the tick carries Lyme disease in the first place. Education on ticks should be a priority for everyone, not just those using the community land. Checks should be made after access to the land and people taught how to safely remove ticks.

3. We believe the decision to kill deer on land belonging to the community is wrong and we are afraid is going to alienate people who, in the past, supported the project.

Yours,

**Gill Gregory, Peter Neill,  
Anne Roberts, Amy Wedge,  
Sharon Wedge,  
Whiting Bay.**

## Arran: the big picture

Sir,

Further to Malcolm Kerr's 'Tooth and nail opposition' letter published in last week's Banner about the proposed Imachar Point slipway, the purpose and role of Arran's National Forest Estate, which extends to marginally over 25 per cent of the entire island's 43,000 hectares, should be better understood by residents and planners.

To go some way to help join the dots, where others are leaving a vacuum of 'no news and no responsible engagement', a website and mailing list called Imachar Group at [www.imachargroup.com](http://www.imachargroup.com) has been set up by those concerned about Imachar.

To give just one piece of valid information, for example, the following statement was made by one of the three eminent climate experts, assembled to talk sense once the political point-scoring had subsided

during the recent Channel 4 leaders' debate discussing the climate crisis.

Nathalie Seddon, an ecologist and evolutionary biologist and now Professor of Biodiversity at Oxford University, said: 'Tree planting, other monoculture, big commercial plantations are not going to save us; we need to restore our peatlands, our natural ecosystems; we need to protect what we've got, restore what we've lost and we need to do careful tree planting, the right species in the right places.'

Unless our public servants take a more mature approach to where public opinion can quickly go, fuelled in many cases by a younger and better connected generation, who are increasingly aware that previous generations have been somewhat asleep at the wheel, once Arran is fully subjected to mass forestry felling, the reputations of both people, and once much cherished places, may well soon both be in tatters.

Yours,

**The Imachar Group team.**

## Young enterprise

Sir,

There is no doubt that the schools listed in the recently published top 10 secondary state schools league in Scotland are all excellent – doing a great job in helping young people prepare for life.

Whilst this league table is determined by the proportion of students at Scottish state secondary schools achieving five or more Higher passes in 2018 and the proportions gaining five or more National 5 qualifications and two or more Advanced Highers this, in my view, is not the only measure of success by which we should rate achievement.

Each school has a different starting point regarding the demographics and the harsh realities that the students and their families might face.

I believe young people learn in many different ways and so many of them are developing the meta skills for life and work through non-traditional learning methodologies – both in and out of curriculum.

The recent credit rating of our company programme at SCQF level 6, in the main which is extra-curricular, could see up to 1,000 students gain a qualification in enterprise not recognised in the above figures.

Let us all be cognisant of not just qualifications but the wider forms of learning that our young people experience and the benefits that this brings to businesses of the future.

Yours,

**Geoff Leask,  
Chief executive,  
Young Enterprise Scotland  
(YES),  
Glasgow.**

## Methane debate

Sir,

There has been some publicity recently around how methane is accounted for in greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories.

As COP25 is held in Madrid, Gemma Miller, the SEFARI fellowship with NFU Scotland, states in her website blog that the issue is around the 'permanence' of methane in the atmosphere as compared to carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide.

These three GHGs also have different impacts on the climate, and that changes with the impact that increasing temperature is having on large carbon stores like peatlands.

However, accounting for methane in the GHG inventory is a challenge.

According to Gemma, climate scientists at the University of Oxford have adapted the accepted method to take this into account.

Gemma writes: 'However, the downside of this method is it doesn't take into account that when methane degrades in the atmosphere, it produces carbon dioxide. It's also unlikely that the international framework for reporting GHG emissions will adopt this approach any time soon.'

Read the full blog at: <https://www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog/dr-gemma-miller-the-sefari-fellowships-blog-3-december-2019>

Yours,

**Bob Carruth,  
NFU Scotland.**

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# Double awards win for Auchrannie

It was a good night for the Auchrannie at the Scottish Thistle Awards last week where they picked up two prestigious gongs.

Co-founder and managing director of Auchrannie, Linda Johnston, received the regional ambassador award, while the resort was named best hotel experience at the regional finals for the west, which took place last night Thursday at Òran Mór in Glasgow.

Judges praised the resort for its strong emphasis on community and for investment across a number of different areas, while Linda was praised by the judging panel for

working with the wider industry to build up a highly successful and internationally-recognised business, and ensuring the benefits are spread across the wider region.

On receiving the Fishers best hotel experience award, resort director Richard Small said: 'Being recognised by VisitScotland in the form of a Scottish Thistle Award is always a great honour. This award reflects the commitment and hard work of all the team at Auchrannie, every one of whom play an important role in the delivery of exceptional guest service.'

Receiving her award, sponsored by



Steve Brumbill (left) of Fishers presents Richard Small and Linda Johnston of the Auchrannie with the best hotel experience award.

Johnstons of Elgin, Linda said: 'I'm delighted and honoured to have won this prestigious award.'

'I've been lucky to have the opportunity to work with some amazing people over the years in building Auchrannie Resort and making a wider contribution to the tourism industry. It's absolutely a team effort and success takes many passionate people.'

The Scottish Thistle Awards, now in their 27th year, help shine the spotlight on individuals and businesses going above and beyond

to create a destination and visitor experience worth talking about amongst our valuable tourism industry.

They champion the very best of the Scottish tourism industry, celebrating innovation, success and excellence in the sector.

The regional winners have earned their place at the prestigious national final in March, where they will join the country's tourism elite to be honoured with the highest accolade in the Scottish hospitality and tourism sector.



Linda Johnston receives her regional ambassador award from Ian Dickson of Johnstons of Elgin as presenter Jennifer Reoch looks on.



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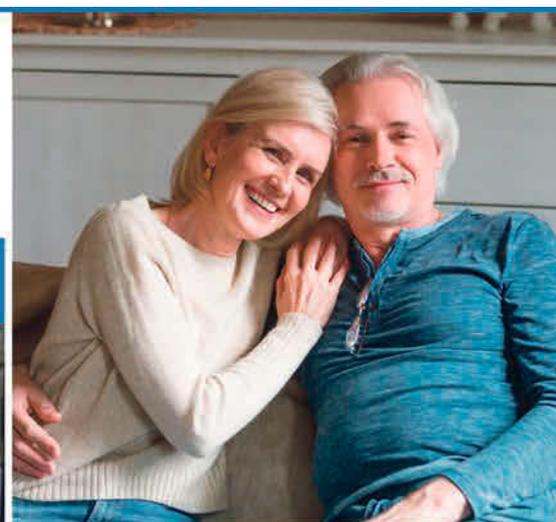
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**GEORGE CLARKE**

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](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/domestic-rhi)

# Who made all the pies?

## Wooleys shortlisted for World Championships

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Wooleys of Arran pies have always been a mouth-watering island favourite but now they have been recognised as among the best in the country.

The baker has secured a place on the shortlist of the 21st World Championship Scotch Pie Awards after a busy judging day in Dunfermline where a panel of more than 60 professional judges, including guest judge and Outlander actor Scott Kyle.

Wooleys entered pies in five categories – Scotch pie, Steak Pie, Haggis and cheesy mash, quiche lorraine and vegetarian garlic and mushroom quiche – and, during the judging, each product was assessed on its appearance, quality, consistency and taste.

‘Over 75 professional pie-makers entered over 450 of their best products into 11 categories this year and the competition has been fierce so Wooleys of Arran can be proud to have come this far,’ said head judge Ian Nelson, on behalf of Scottish Bakers which manages the competition.

### Excellence

‘The World Championship Scotch Pie Awards is the only competition of its kind recognising excellence in the preparation of a perfect pie,’ said Alasdair Smith, chief executive of Scottish Bakers.

‘The competition is now a regular fixture on the calendar as professional butchers and bakers across the country vie for pie perfection and the boost to their business that always comes with such a sought-after title.’



Edyta Dylewska and Matt Keir with a mouth-watering display of Wooleys pies. 01\_B49pies01

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This year's entries came from far and wide with lip-smacking offerings in each of the Scotch pie, football pies and savouries, macaroni pie, steak pie, sausage roll, cold savoury, hot savoury, vegetarian savoury, haggis savoury, bridie and apple pie categories.

Matt Keir of Wooleys said this was the first time in several years the baker had entered the competition and put their success in the competition down to chief pie maker at Wooleys, Edyta Dylewska, who has been with the company six years.

Matt said: 'It's great to have been shortlisted. We know

from the number we sell that our pies are really popular but it's nice to get some wider recognition.'

Wooleys made the finals after the first round of judging last week and will now be represented at a prestigious luncheon on January 14 at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld where the winner of the Scotch pie category will be declared the world champion.

### Anonymously

All the products are anonymously judged by a panel of expert and independent judges, with bronze, silver, gold and diamond awards also presented on the day.

The competition highlights the high-quality pastry products that pie-makers from far and wide create from scratch using nothing but a good recipe, great ingredients and talent. Recognising the winning products and producers in this way rewards excellence and raises quality and innovation across the industry.

Meanwhile, Wooleys famous Christmas pies are now on sale in the shop. Filled with turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and gravy – they are a traditional Christmas dinner in a pie. Get them, along with all your other festive baking needs in the shops now.

## Windfall for seven youth groups

Youth groups on Arran are to share a windfall of more than £6,000.

North Ayrshire Council's young people's participatory budgeting scheme invited those aged between eight and 25 to vote on a range of amazing projects across the area and a total of 5,583 took part.

Due to the fact there were just seven applications received from Arran they all received funding without the need for a public vote.

The groups receiving funding are: Arran Youth Foundation, £1,000; Barnardo's Scotland, £488.40; Shiskine Primary Parent Council, £1,000; Wee Mac Arran, children's book festival, £1,000; Arran High School Mountain Bike Club, £1,000; Arran Amateur Football Club, £1,000; Arran Dancers, £700. A total of £6,188.40.

Audrey Sutton, interim executive director of

communities at North Ayrshire Council, said: 'We have been overwhelmed by the response to the Young People's Participatory Budgeting scheme.'

'Last year, 56 local clubs and groups benefited through the scheme and we're delighted that even more organisations – 68 – will benefit this year.'

### Local communities

'Not only that, but the number of votes cast has more than doubled from last year, showing how much our young people care about their local communities.'

'Youth PB funding has made a massive difference to many local projects in the past couple of years. It has been fantastic to see our young people benefit from the scheme, and we look forward to seeing the positive outcomes that this funding will bring.'



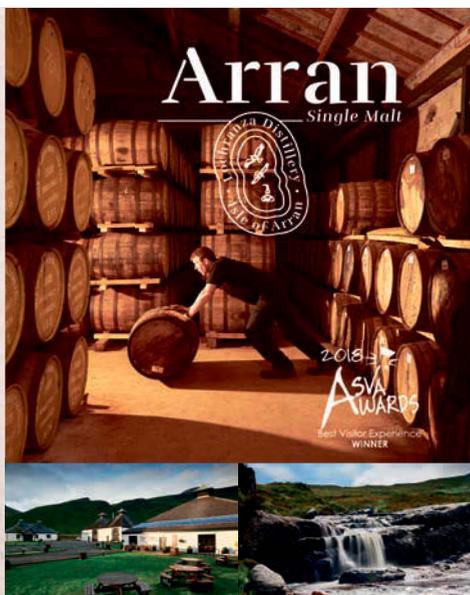
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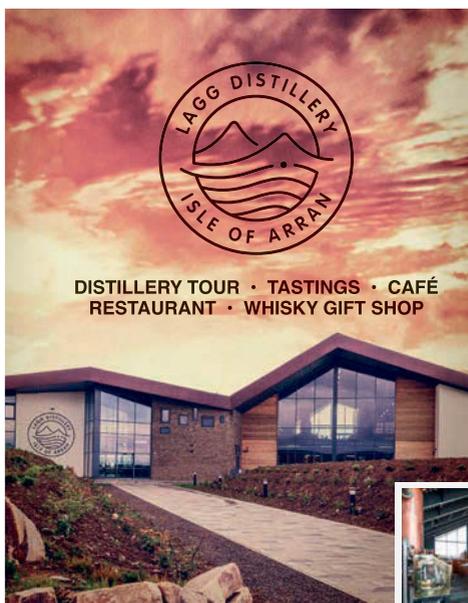


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The countdown has truly begun with the big day rapidly approaching. In no time at all, we will all be eating mince pies, tucking into great festive fayre, spending time with loved ones and sharing gifts and Christmas cheer.

And if the weather has not yet started to make you feel like Christmas is nearing then a visit to any store or restaurant will certainly put you in the festive mood. Well loved sing-along Christmas carols and songs abound everywhere you go and now that December has started, decorations, well adorned trees and tinsel area also starting to appearing everywhere.

As we look forward to the celebrations and shared time

with loved ones, it can also be a very busy time for many, with food preparation, house decorating, travel planning and purchasing special gifts and surprises - there can be so much to organise in the run up to the big day.

In the spirit of saving precious time and helping you to prepare for this Christmas period, the Arran Banner has compiled a compilation of people, places and stores to visit that are all offering festive deals and bargains galore to help you to care of all of your festive needs. While many will resort to going online or be tempted to visit mainland stores there is a surprisingly near-complete set of stores and producers right on your doorstep that can cater for your every need, from food to gifts to decorations and activities and pamper sessions, it is all right here, and shopping locally also means that that you support the communities and organisations that abound on Arran.

Shopping locally supports your neighbours the local micro-economy and encourages local commerce who in turn support other local enterprise and causes. It all makes

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perfect sense, and of course you get to take advantage of a wide choice of good quality, often unique, and all well-regarded products from sellers and purveyors of Arran inspired merchandise and services. Browse, from the comfort of your own armchair, our selection of top festive fayre over the following few pages. And all of them within close driving distance without having to travel to far-flung destinations and all with typical Arran hospitality and a warm welcome.

**Forestry and Land Scotland** can offer that enduring Arran tradition, that is still alive and well, real Christmas trees that smell and look like Christmas of yesteryear. These are available from Monday December 2nd until Tuesday December 24th at their office at Auchrannie Road, Brodick between noon and 4.30pm and on Saturday December 7th from midday until 4.30pm. Merry Christmas!

**Arran Active** have great gifts for all the family and are offering 20 off all Berghaus synthetic Hydrology men's and ladies jackets.

**Arran Cheese Shop** not only does delicious cheese and great hampers but lots of other goodies such as chutneys, biscuits and Highland Cow meat as well.

**Arran Fine Foods**, have a delightful array of quality Arran products along with a selection of homeware, cutlery and crockery, visitors who spend over £20 can expect a gift with their purchase.

**Arran Gift Box Company** specialise in all things Arran with a range designed to suit all pockets and are a must for any Arran lover especially so with their new collection stocking Arran gin and whisky.

**Arran Graphics** is the place to pick up your Arran

inspired gifts. From their popular clothing line to Arran games, candles, cushions and collectables, place mats and coming soon beer and spirit glasses.

Selling excess stock from high street shops **Bell's of Arran** has a great selection of hats and gloves and cosy PJs at bargain prices.

At **Chameleon** we have a wide ranging stock - think jeans and a pretty top through to dresses and trousers, as well as a great range of Fly London boots for the winter months and some cosy knitwear. If you haven't yet visited Chameleon or are struggling to come up with a great Christmas gift for someone or a new outfit for yourself - pop in and have a chat to Lynn or Jane who are here to advise on our wide range of styles.



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Sunday 12pm - 4pm  
01770 860 215

**ARRAN FINE FOODS**

**Kitchen Shop - Lamlash**  
OPEN Monday - Saturday  
10am - 4pm  
FREE GIFT with every purchase over £20  
Merry Christmas everyone!

**Arran Graphics**  
Beer & Whisky Glasses  
with Arran motif (as below)

Due in 20 Dec.  
Call 303698  
Very limited availability until next year.  
Collections only.  
Only 36 of each coming in. £6 ea

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Open everyday until Christmas  
One Stop Christmas Gift Shop

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GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

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LADIES' BOUTIQUE

**UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

HATS, SCARVES, BAGS, ARTISAN JEWELLERY  
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PARTY OUTFITS, DRESSES, TUNICS, TOPS & JEANS

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Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10:30 am - 5 pm

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28 HAMILTON TERRACE, LAMLASH  
01770 600201 WWW.CHAMELEONARRAN.COM

**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](http://www.thepht.co.uk/menus) for menu & booking sheet

**THE PIERHEAD TAVERN - 01770 600418**

**Driftwood** offers something for everyone. While there are smaller gifts that are perfect for Secret Santa, there are also items for the home which are sure to enhance any fashionable decor.

**Island Porcelain's** 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.

**Lagg and Lochranza Distilleries** both offer a full range of tours and a wonderful selection of whiskies in their distillery shops.

**James of Arran** offers a tempting array of sweet treats, Christmas gifts, chocolate bars, gift boxes and amazing chocolate shoes, what woman doesn't love her shoes!

**Johnston's Arran Bookroom** is a small bookshop in Atholl House, Lamlash specialising in rare and out-of-print books about the Isle of Arran. There are also many collectable nautical books for sale - previously in the Marine Stores in Lamlash - especially books relating

to diving, shipwreck and salvage and huge collection of vintage children's books. Many books are available online at Abebooks.co.uk, but Heather prefers to sell the Arran titles actually on Arran as a slightly different holiday souvenir or a special gift for an Arran resident. Phoning ahead recommended, 01770600344 or email heather@johnstonsarranbookroom.co.uk

**Johnston's Marine Stores** is just the place to go for all your chandlery, fishing tackle and nautical gifts.

**Old Byre Visitor Centre** is a delightful place to relax while taking in the views. An extensive menu of good food awaits in Café Thyme and the children can enjoy the play park area. The Old Byre Visitor Centre offers visitors a pleasant shopping experience offering high quality clothing products, handbags and accessories and sheepskin products, these can also be found in the Byre at Brodick.

The ladies in your life are well catered for at **Red Door**. 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.

**Taste Of Arran Shop** 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.

**The ArranCard** makes a great gift for friends and loved ones this Christmas and can be used in over 60 different shops and restaurants. Visit [www.arrancard.com](http://www.arrancard.com) to find out more.

**James of ARRAN**  
**JAMES CHOCOLATE SHOP**  
OPEN 7 DAYS - 10AM - 5PM

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

*Everyone's Favourite Gift*

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Open 7 Days  
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**WINEPORT**  
CLADACH, ISLE OF ARRAN  
Bar-Bistro

**Family Friendly**  
Bar Bistro **VOUCHERS NOW AVAILABLE**

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.

**CLADACH, BRODICK 01770 302101**

**Dog Friendly**

**Isle of ARRAN Cheese Shop**

**Christmas Gift?**  
Fantastic Arran Hampers  
Delivered anywhere in the UK  
Call in and order or go online at  
[www.ARRANCHEESE.com](http://www.ARRANCHEESE.com)  
Orders being taken NOW for Christmas

**OH THE SHOPPING,  
THE COOKING,  
THE DISHES...  
OR THE BRODICK BAR,  
£65 FOR 6 COURSES**

**The Brodick Bar on  
Christmas Day  
Children under 12  
half price**

01770 302169  
[www.brodickbar.co.uk](http://www.brodickbar.co.uk)

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The Island  
Island time.....in no time

**The Arran Card**

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The Arran Card is the island's destination card  
which can be used in over 50 businesses on the island."

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The Arran Card  
[www.arrancard.com](http://www.arrancard.com)  
Helping to support local  
business by keeping  
spend local

**CHRISTMAS MARKET AT  
KILMORY HALL**  
on Sunday the  
**15th of December at 2pm.**  
Arts & Crafts Market.  
Christmas Lights switch on.  
Hot chocolate,  
Mulled Wine & Festive  
German Hotdogs.

**The Arran Butcher** is the place to go for your fresh turkey and all the trimmings but be sure to order by turkeys Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Along with their famous haggis and blackpudding they have gammon, steak pies and a selection of fish.

**The Harbour Shop**, are offering 10 percent off 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.

Let **The Brodick Bar** do the Christmas food shop, cooking and dishes! Sensational six course Christmas day lunch or dinner £65pp. Using local ingredients, they are proud to cook fresh. They offer a warm family welcome in a relaxed atmosphere to make your Christmas fabulous! Boxing Day and New Year's Day the Brodick Bar will be open for a traditional

Roast lunch. The hogmany Celebration Dinner is eight courses for £69.95. A perfect end to 2019. Open till late with music from The Sensational Biff Simpson and her band and John Nicol's Dignity. A real Hogmany Party not to be missed!

Christmas at **Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro**. On Christmas Eve the children can meet Santa and receive a gift while the adults gather round the fire for songs and fun with Santa. Christmas cheer for all, mulled wine, minced pies and roasted chestnuts. Just like when you were a kid. On Christmas Day the kitchen will be closed but they will be open for drinks and the best Christmas jumper wins a drink voucher.

**The Pierhead Tavern**, locally known as the PHT, have bought lots of amazing beer – chose your own selection to take away in a gift box. Win a bottle of beer a day with their Beer Advent Calendar,



**CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS @ THE TEE TABLE**  
Everyone welcome to join us for a 3 course menu followed by more than a "little" disco!  
Bookings available for the 14th, 20th and 21st of December  
Join us for an evening of entertainment this Christmas at the clubhouse, Lamlash

For information and bookings contact:  
theteetable@gmail.com mob: 07931056792.

**Johnston's Marine Stores**  
Old Pier, Lamlash.  
(tel. 600333)

Chandlery and Nautical Gifts  
Fishing Tackle  
British Wool Jumpers  
Diving / Swimming Gear  
Marine Clothing / Waterproofs

**The Taste of Arran Shop and Mini-Golf**  
Stockists of Arran Produce, Gifts, Souvenirs, Toys, Ladies Joules & Baby Joules.  
Open 10am-4pm Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays (Mini Golf @ Little Rock)

beach living at  
**driftwood**  
GIFTS FOR YOUR HOME AND FOR YOU

A very merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy new year to all our lovely customers, and a big thank you for all your support

Open 10.00am – 5.00pm Monday - Saturday  
10.00am - 4.00pm Sundays and Christmas Eve.

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Holistic Beauty  
Advanced Remedial & Sports Massage

Relaxing, rewarding Advanced Remedial & Sports Massage, Holistic Therapies & Nail Treatments in a nurturing environment. Facilitating recovery from injury, tension &/or stress

Find us at The Corrie Hotel, Corrie, Isle of Arran.  
To make an appointment  
Tel: **01770 810581** or PM  
**facebook.com/breagha holistic beauty**  
**massageonarran/**

**CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE**  
Forest Office,  
Auchrannie Road, Brodick  
Monday to Friday from  
Monday 2nd to Tuesday 24th  
December & Also Saturday 7th  
Open Middy until 4.30pm

all proceeds to Lamash Events. Their festive menu is discounted at lunch times from Thursday to Sunday inclusive. A bespoke menu can be created upon request. Larger parties should book. Tel: 01770 600 418

New at **The Tee Table**, Lamash this year are their party nights with a three course menu and disco. There are still spaces on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> dates. All are welcome to attend the disco.

This festive season **The Glenisle Hotel** are not only serving delicious afternoon teas with a glass of Prosecco and they are also looking after your best four legged friend. To create a truly dog-friendly dining experience in Lamash they have created 'Doggy Sunday' at the GlenisleHotel. On the first Sunday of every month, book a table under your dog's name and they will roll out the

red carpet for all arriving pups – treats and good times are had by all, hounds and humans alike! Doggie Sausage £2.00, Steak Caserole £2.50, Ramekin of Gravy bones £0.90, Scooby snacks £0.90 and Honey dried Pigs Snout £1.50. What a treat! To book please call 01770600559.

On the beach at Whiting Bay, **The Shore** cafe offers more than just a great view & a roaring fire. Re-opening 4th December, after our annual holiday, the family-owned cafe sources local ingredients to offer delicious breakfasts, tasty lunch options & a selection of lovingly-baked homemade cakes & scones to accompany their fairtrade coffee. The Shore offer vegan & gluten free options, plus we're wheelchair accessible, dog-friendly, family-friendly & on the bus route! Celebrate Christmas with them at the Festive BYOB Evenings - 7th, 14th & 21st December. Bring your own wine, or Christmas spirit!

Great food - A Shore Thing. Outside catering for family events and holiday homes also available. 01770 700161 [www.theshorearran.co.uk](http://www.theshorearran.co.uk)

**The Wineport** has vouchers available for that special someone that would like a treat dining out. They are open from 11am for coffee and serving lunches from 12noon. Their Christmas lunch menu is now available. For bookings call 01770 30 2101

Christmas has arrived at **Kilmory Hall** and they will be holding a Christmas Market on Sunday the 15th of December at 2pm with the annual lights swith on and arts and crafts stalls. There will also be mulled wine, hot chocolate roast chestnuts and festive German hotdogs for all to enjoy!

**Bay Wool & Crafts** of Whiting Bay have all the usual Christmas gifts, cards plus wool and haberdashery and please remember they are also open late night on Thursdays, until 8pm.



At **Brèagha Holistic Beauty** they advocate using a good massage more frequently in Winter, than in the Summer and offer a specialist Hot Stone Therapy, that combines the benefits of heat with remedial massages well as a wide range of holistic therapies. Gift Vouchers also available. For more information please contact us via our Facebook page or on 01770-810-581

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ISLE OF ARRAN | SCOTLAND

Perfect gifts for friends and family.  
Order on our website, delivery UK wide

Free delivery for Arran residents  
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**Old Byre Visitor Centre, Machrie**  
For all your Christmas gifts and more

**OPEN EVERY DAY**

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](http://www.oldbyre.co.uk), 10% off when you enter MYXMAS2019 at checkout, Valid until 20/12/19.

**Arran Active**  
FOR ALL YOUR CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR, OUTDOOR GEAR AND GIFTS

**MORE THAN AN OUTDOOR SHOP**

- SCOTTISH GINS & ARRAN WHISKY
- MENS & LADIES FASHION CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR
- WINTER COATS AND JACKETS
- WARM HATS, GLOVES & SCARVES
- WALKING BOOTS & SHOES, WELLIES & SLIPPERS.
- ARRAN GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS
- FAIR TRADE GIFTS
- WOODEN TOYS, JIGSAWS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS
- GALLERY UPSTAIRS SHOWCASING LOCAL ARTISTS PHOTOGRAPHY & PAINTING.
- GIFT VOUCHERS

**20% OFF BERGHAUS MEN'S AND LADIES JACKETS.**

**SPECIAL OFFERS ALL WINTER MAIL ORDER - OPEN 7 DAYS**

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[info@arranactive.co.uk](mailto:info@arranactive.co.uk) T : 01770 302113

# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN



Vivace perform for the huge congregation. 01\_B49carol01

## Carols for Christmas

The Island Carol Service proved another huge success and kicked off the festive season in style when it was held for the second time on Monday night.

Brodick Church was packed to the rafters for the service which saw the combined talents of Ain't Misbehavin' Arco, Arran Brass, Arran Singers, Vivace and the Arran Youth Soul Choir and the Soul Choir, who took up the whole of the balcony.

There were also Christmas bible readings and the congregation were also in fine voice for a variety of the best loved carols. The event raised nearly £950 for CLIC Sargent, the children's cancer charity supported traditionally by the former John Dick Carol Concert, which was held annually in Lamlash.



Arran Soul Choir sang their hearts out from the balcony in Brodick Church during the carol service. 01\_B49carol03

### Corrie Film Club presents ...

It's a Wonderful Life: US 1946  
Frank Capra, 135 mins, Cert U

It's that time of year again! Time to sip mulled wine, eat a bring-and-share supper and watch a heart-warming film in good company.

Tomorrow (Sunday) is Corrie Film Club's Christmas show. Starting earlier at 7pm with the, now traditional, Dinner for One - Freddie Frinton's small comic masterpiece - served with mulled wine, the evening proceeds with supper at 7.30pm and the showing of the main feature at 8pm.

This year we are showing the Christmas classic It's a Wonderful Life, the ultimate feel-good film. A feeling boosted by seeing it on the big screen and in good company with James Stewart in one of his best loved roles.

Everyone is welcome in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall



The film poster for It's a Wonderful Life.

to share good film and supper on Sunday at 7pm or 8pm if you prefer. Free entry but visitors are invited to make a small donation to Corrie and Sannox Hall.

**THE DOUGLAS**  
Hotel • Bistro • Bar  
www.thedouglashotel.co.uk

**THIS FESTIVE SEASON COME AND JOIN US FOR A DISCO EVERY SATURDAY IN DECEMBER FROM 9PM (OVER 21s ONLY)**

NO TICKETS REQUIRED

IF YOU WOULD LIKE PRE-DISCO DINING, YOU CAN RESERVE A TABLE IN OUR BISTRO FROM 6-9PM

**GIFT VOUCHERS**  
AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS

**FOOD SERVED DAILY FROM 12-9PM**

**CALL OUR FRIENDLY RECEPTION TEAM ON 01770 302968**

**FESTIVE MENU SERVED DAILY 12-9PM UNTIL 23rd DECEMBER**

**NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED FOR BAR DINING**

**GIVE US A CALL IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A TABLE IN THE BISTRO**



Parents are invited to the dance festival to watch their children perform their various dances. 01\_B49dance12

# Primary pupils in step with Scottish dancing



Dancers, in groups of eight, prepare for the Reel for Jeannie. 01\_B49dance13



Older pupils who have performed at previous dances perform the steps by memory. 01\_B49dance09



A dancer and her partner confidently perform the steps of the dance. 01\_B49dance06



Children take turns going under the arches. 01\_B49dance02

Pupils from all of Arran's seven primary schools impressed with their traditional dancing skills at the annual Scottish Dance Festival held at Whiting Bay hall last week.

Known as the Day of Dance, the event is a highlight for many of the pupils who, after months of practice, finally get to test their skills and socialise with all of their friends from neighbouring villages and schools.

Other than the social aspect, the children particularly enjoy dancing and successfully remembering the complicated routines. The progressive nature of many of the dances also provides many a laugh and much excitement.

The event begins with a time-honoured standard bearers parade headed by a piper, which this year welcomed Cameron McCallum for the task, before the children try to squeeze as many of the dances into the allocated time they have.

Among the favourite jigs, strathspeys and reels enjoyed by the children are the Gay Gordons, The Kilbride Barn Dance, Dashing White Sergeant and The Flying Scotsman.



Pupils perform the Gay Gordons. 01\_B49dance07

Liz Kennedy was, once again, the master of ceremonies who directed many of the dances, and provided helpful reminders, while Ian Muir provided the accordion music.

In addition to all of the accompanying teachers, a great number of volunteers – some dancers and some past teachers – assisted the pupils

to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

Organisers thanked Active Schools coordinator Lauren Gilbert and all of the teachers, pupils, parents and helpers who put so much effort into teaching and learning the dance steps and for contributing to a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of dancing.

 **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

**Punch Out!**   
Arran Boxing for Fitness

- No contact Boxing Fitness Class for Adults and Teenagers
- 1on1 Training
- Monday 18:00 and Thursday 18:30 Arran High School

Achieve a new level of Fitness and be **Fighting Fit!**

Any questions please Contact  
Lukasz Switek 07506019191  
ArranPunchOut@gmail.com  
Facebook .com/ArranPunchOut

**GETINTOUCH**

email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
telephone 01770 302142



Tutors and teachers stand at the ready to assist the children. 01\_B49dance03



Piper Cameron McCallum leads the standard bearers parade with all of Arran's primary schools represented. 01\_B49dance01



Twirling invokes giggling and laughter from the pupils. 01\_B49dance08



Tutors and volunteers lead by example and show the children how it is done.

01\_B49dance04



Two pupils follow the instructions as they make their way around the hall.

01\_B49dance05



Rachel Philips, MBE recipient for services to Scottish country dancing, assists a young girl with her dance steps. 01\_B49dance11



Dancers form a large circle and surge towards the centre in the Kilbride Barn Dance.

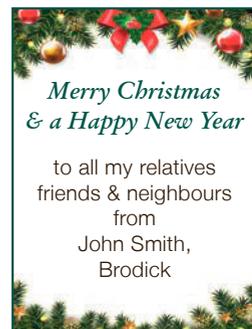
01\_B49dance10

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

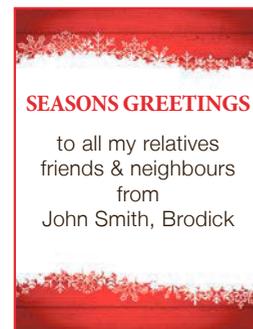
Published on 14th December

SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £20

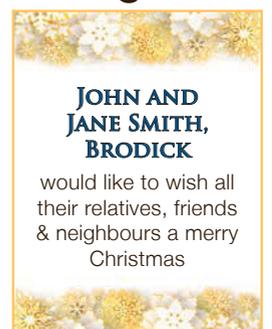
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**ONLY £20 (inc. VAT.) OPTIONS A,B OR C.**

PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or Phone in your message quoting your Master Card/Visa Number  
Deadline Friday 6th December. To appear Saturday 14th December

MESSAGE 20 words maximum

\*NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Tel.....

A  B  C

PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE TEMPLATE YOU WISH TO USE.

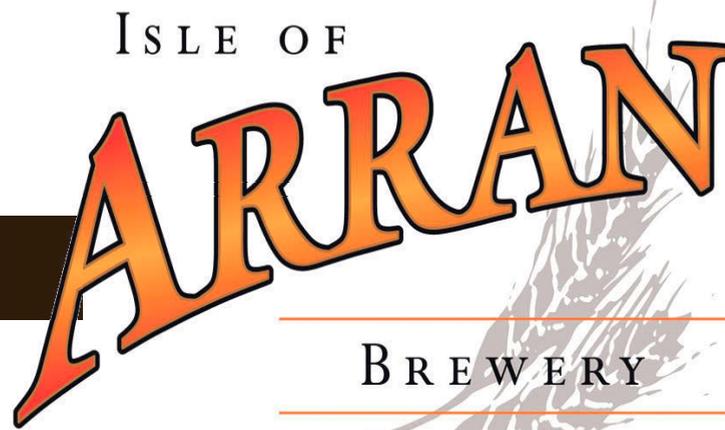
\*(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.com](http://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 7th December

Flow Yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am  
Holiday Celebration at Brodick 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  
St Bride's ladies' Christmas fayre Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
Lamlash panto - Peter Pan Community Theatre, Lamlash High School, 2pm  
Pop-up evening, BYOB (bookings only) The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm  
Live music - Matthew Cook Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm  
Christmas concert with Peter Wilson and Friends Corrie Parish Church, 7.30pm  
Lamlash panto - Peter Pan Community Theatre, Lamlash High School, 7.30pm  
Live music - Tiderays, melodic rock with folk tinge The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Dining and disco or disco only The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm  
Over-21s disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

## Sunday 8th December

Holiday celebration at Brodick Castle Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm  
Lochranza crafts fair Lochranza Outdoor Centre, 10am - 4pm  
Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am  
Live music - Matthew Cook Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 1pm - 4pm  
Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm  
Arran Singers winter concert Whiting Bay Hall, 2.30pm  
Live music - 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 9th December

Morning fitness Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am-10.30am  
Christmas at The Castle Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm  
Live music - Innes and Friends The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm - 6pm  
Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm  
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

## Tuesday 10th 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 11th December

Yoga Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Hydrofit Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Brodick Gardens volunteers Brodick Castle and Country Park, 9.30am - 1pm  
Christmas at The Castle Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm  
Kilmory Toddlers Kilmory Hall, 10am - 12 noon  
Archives and Genealogy Service Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
Chair yoga exercise class St Molios Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am  
Knit and Blether Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 2pm - 4pm  
Arran Pace Makers Running Group Brodick, 5.30pm  
Kettlercise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm  
Flow yoga Shiskine Hall, 6pm  
Tae Kwon Do kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Pub quiz The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm  
Rock'n'pop bingo Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

## Thursday 12th December

Christmas at The Castle Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm  
Chair yoga exercise class Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 10.30am  
Kettlercise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 11am - 11.45am  
Merry Church Lamalsh Church Hall, 3.30pm - 5.30pm  
Arran High School Christmas concert Community Theatre, A HS, Lamlash, 7pm  
Winter Bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb Little Rock Cafe, 7pm for 7.15pm  
Body Blitz (booking essential) Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6.15pm - 7.15pm  
Arran Hockey Club - seniors (12 yrs +) Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Vegan Christmas dinner The PHT, Lamlash, 7pm - 9pm  
Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamlash, 7.30pm  
Lamlash SWI Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Brodick Embroidery Group Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Eco Savvy Food Share Brodick Ormidale Pavillion, 8.15pm  
Eco Savvy Food Share Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm  
Tommy's general knowledge quiz Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

## Friday 13th December

Yoga Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Hydrofit Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Christmas at The Castle Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm  
ACLI - Friday Garden Club Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay, 10am - 12.30pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Tae Kwon Do advanced kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm  
Live music - Megan Hamill Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm  
Friday night quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm  
Eco Savvy Food Share Octopus Centre, COAST, Lamash, 9pm  
Disco with DJ McGarrigle The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

## Saturday 14th December

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  
ArCas Christmas cracker fair Brodick Hall  
Pop-up evening, BYOB (bookings only) The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm  
Live music - Michael Clark Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm  
Live music - Rigid Soul, electric blues/rock The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Dining and disco or disco only The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm  
Over-21s disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm



# Market day in Whiting Bay

Whiting Bay Village Hall was transformed into a winter wonderland last Saturday for the annual Christmas market.

The lovely bright weather attracted a steady stream of shoppers all day who came in support of the local craftspeople by browsing their stalls for Christmas gifts and stocking fillers.



Gordon Davidson of Outlook at his charity stall. 01\_B49WhitingB01



Paula Beards of Craigview Crafts, selling craft kits, embroidery kits and an assortment of craft supplies, and Lynn Jones of Lynn's Art on Arran, selling original artworks and framed creations. 01\_B49WhitingB05



Janet Redfearn and Gill Gregory were raising money for Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church. 01\_B49WhitingB02



Iain Gold helped his mum at her store selling homemade jams, preserves and oils. 01\_B49WhitingB03



Handmade arts, crafts, jewellery and decorations on sale at the Christmas market. 01\_B49WhitingB09



The Earle family try their luck at the tombola stall. 01\_B49WhitingB08



Quinton Black and his helper running the tombola. 01\_B49WhitingB07



Bay Queen Annie West helps out in the tea room. 01\_B49WhitingB06



Karen Furze of Arran Candle Makers gets into the Christmas spirit. 01\_B49WhitingB04

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# Arran's Marine Discovery Centre an inspiration to all

With the year drawing to a close, the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) are reflecting on what has been a year of change, success and celebration.

Following their first full year running Arran's Marine Discovery Centre, the Octopus Centre, they would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported them with this venture.

## Better

Jenny Stark, outreach and communications manager, said: 'We couldn't have imagined a better first full year with a hub for our marine conservation education and awareness raising. We welcomed almost 11,000 visitors in the first 12 months and our summer events were even bigger and better than years past. A huge thank you to everyone who has visited the centre, attended an event or



Hypothetical concept design for a new marine discovery centre on Arran.

taken part of our new and very popular snorkel taster sessions – and, of course, a massive thank you to our

volunteers who really are the foundations of our success.'

The Octopus Centre has filled a niche on the island

and has enabled COAST to inspire people from all walks of life. Not only do they now have a wonderful centre where schoolchildren come to learn and see what is on their doorstep, but visitors to the island can be inspired to spread the word and share in the marine conservation story. Some such visitors included architects from an international firm called Woods Bagot (WB), who visited COAST while on holiday in 2018.

These architects recognised the site on which the Octopus Centre and tennis courts sit as a unique spot with a lot of potential. Inspired not only by the thought of champion-

ing community marine conservation, but by the beauty of Arran's natural landscape and history, WB ran an internal project and competition for a concept design for a new Marine Discovery Centre on the shore of Lamlash Bay.

This was led by Jonathan Leah (WB principal) as their annual corporate responsibility project at no cost to COAST or our community. The architects' concept is inspired by the 'Neolithic burial chambers and cairns across its [the island's] landscape, and the presence of the Arran Coastal Way'. Their design has been entered by WB into the World Architecture Festival later this month and

is shortlisted as a finalist in the Future Projects – education category.

COAST chief executive Paul Chandler said: 'We would very much like to be clear that this remains a concept design and any such project that COAST, as a community-led organisation, embark on in the future shall be subject to a rigorous community consultation.'

COAST very much look forward to welcoming more visitors at the Octopus Centre in 2020 and to continue to work with and strengthen ties in the local community to secure the future success of Arran's Marine Protected Area.

## Welfare

On this note, COAST have seats available on the board of trustees and are looking for people with an interest in the welfare of the marine environment to help advise and guide the charity towards their aim of a healthy, diverse and sustainable future for the seas around Arran. Being a trustee is not just having an important legal role in the governance of the charity: it is about being part of a community group and making a real difference through volunteering.

If you think you can contribute please get in touch! For an informal chat or more information, please contact Russ Cheshire, COAST chair, at russell@arrancoast.com or call 07771 463567.

## The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is looking for new trustees!

Our work started in 1995 when Arran residents saw the devastation wrought in the seas around the island and decided to change the status quo.

In the intervening years COAST has:

- Persuaded the Scottish Government to acknowledge that the seas are a public asset, for the enjoyment of all people;
- Caused the creation of Scotland's first No-Take Zone in Lamlash Bay;
- Worked with scientists from all over the world;
- Helped with the establishment of the South Arran Marine Protected Area;
- Fought off proposals for new and enlarged salmon farms;
- Won several awards for our work!

But none of this could have been achieved without the support and the help of the people of Arran – the island's community. Now COAST are looking for people to advise and guide us towards our aim of a healthy, diverse and sustainable future for the seas around Arran: we have seats available on our board of trustees.

The trustees meet regularly to discuss the past, current and future activities of the staff and volunteers; we also have important legal roles in the governance of the charity. But trustees are more than this; many are also volunteers in the day-to-day activities of COAST.

If you have an interest in the welfare of the sea around Arran and elsewhere, we'd like to hear from you. We are on the lookout for people with a wide range of business experience; so if you think you have something to contribute towards the aims of COAST, please get in touch!



For an informal chat about the role of a COAST trustee, please contact Russ Cheshire, COAST Chair, by emailing russell@arrancoast.com or phone 07771 463567



The Octopus Centre which has attracted 11,000 visitors in its first year.

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 11, 1999



Mrs Susan Gibson, formerly of Kilmory and now resident in Montrose House, Brodick, had the honour of cutting the cake last Friday when a party was held for residents and guests to mark the 25th birthday of the residential home. 01\_B49tweY01



The P&O ferry European Highlander, which ran aground at Ardrossan on Wednesday, is pulled off a sandbank to clear the harbour for other shipping. MV Caledonian Isles was diverted to Gourock. 01\_B49tweY02



The Lamlash pantomime this year is Cinderella, with Eilidh Campbell in the title role. Here Prince Charming Ann Lee looks on as a courtier Sheila Gilmore tries the glass slipper on Cinderella's foot. 01\_B49tweY03

## Housing needs

Arran Homes is to be the name of a new housing agency on Arran. It will manage both council houses and houses owned by public agencies like Kirk Care. It will also assess housing requirements and aim to build publicly rented accommodation as well as support the privately rented sector.

Last Friday those interested in the agency met at the Ormidale Pavilion to be updated on the progress of the plan. These included representatives of all the public agencies on the island as well as Marilyn Rooney, who is co-coordinator of the project. Allan Wilson MSP and various officials from North Ayrshire were prevented from coming as the ferry did not sail.

## WRI celebrations

Two Arran SWI Institutes celebrated their 75th anniversary last week. In a festively decorated Brodick Brasserie, honorary president, the lady Jean Fforde, and members of the Brodick Institutes gathered to celebrate the occasion. After words of welcoming from the Brodick president, Mrs Sheila Roberts, Lady

Jean cut the cake before proposing the toast. Mrs Elizabeth McKellar read out greetings from other institutes and after the Rural Grace had been said, they all enjoyed a fine meal.

Meanwhile, Corrie and Sannox WRI celebrated their milestone with a lunch at the Corrie and Sannox village hall where Mrs Roberts was also in attendance. President Mrs Seona MacLaren gave the Rural Grace and welcomed their honorary members, Mrs Betty Kerr and Bessie Sillars. Mrs Elma Stevenson gave a dramatic reading of a poem which had been composed as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

## Go ahead

Permission for the new Auchrannie leisure development was passed by the North Ayrshire Council planning committee on Monday. In all there were 12 representations, nine against and three for. One element which had been queried was the access road. The analysis says that it is not possible to widen it over its whole length and, as a result, traffic calming measures will be put in place. A further condition is that access must be given to archaeological excavations prior to building.



David Henderson with his reserve champion heifer at the last fatstock show of the year in Brodick known as the Arran Christmas Show. Neil Henderson, David's father, took the champion prize. 01\_B49tweY04



Santa arrived at Balmichael Visitor Centre last Saturday where he enjoyed a ride on a quad bike before meeting with excited children in his grotto. 01\_B49tweY05

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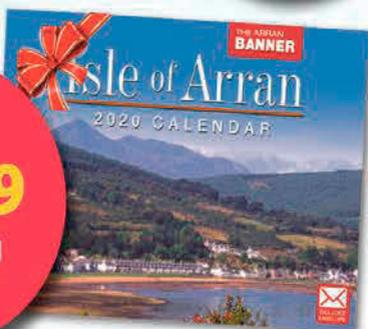
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**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION  
AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

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](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

\*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Comments should be made online at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://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 25.12.19. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

19/00893/PP; Lochranza Field Study Centre, Lochranza, Brodick, Isle Of Arran;  
Works to widen existing road access including installation of replacement culvert.

Craig Hatton  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

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Single, double drawer divan with mattress and headboard, free to uplift from Sannox. Tel 01770 810600

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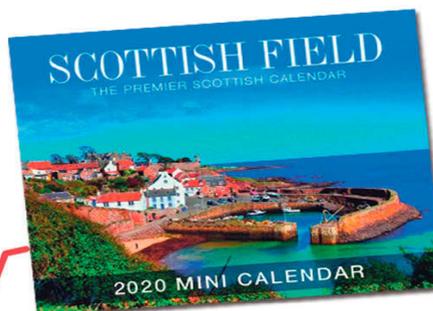
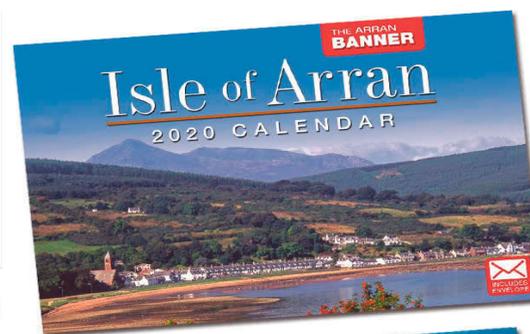
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## CHURCH NOTICES

### 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 8th December**

Pirnmill and Lochranza Churches together, 10.15am.

Morning Worship at

Pirnmill.

Shiskine Church, 12noon

Morning Worship.

Brodick Church, 10.30am.

Morning Worship, 3.00pm.

"Light up a Life" Service.

Corrie Church, 11.30am

Prayer Meeting, 12noon

Morning Worship.

There will also be a Service of

Worship in Montrose House

at 1.30pm.

All welcome

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan

Church of Scotland

Charity Number: SC014005

**Sunday 8th December**

Worship for the second

Sunday of Advent will be

conducted by the minister,

Rev Elizabeth Watson, at

10.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in

the Transept after the

service.

Also, the Church Christmas

Card, to be sent to all

members, will be available

to be signed for the last time,

and all proceeds will go to

the Glasgow City Mission.

All most welcome.

### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL

CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide

Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

**Sunday 8th December**

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sung Eucharist - 11 am.

Revd Canon Simon

Mackenzie

Coffee after service

Everyone is welcome

### ARRAN FREE CHURCH

OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

**Sunday 8th 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 8th 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 8th 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 8th 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

Everyone warmly invited.

### ARRAN FREE CHURCH

OF SCOTLAND

**Sunday 8th December**

Shiskine at 11am (church on

road between Blackwaterfoot

and Machrie)

Brodick at 6pm

Services will be taken by Rev

David Parker

### HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC

CHURCH

**Sunday 8th December**

Sunday Morning Mass at

11am

## DEATH

### INGLIS - John William

Former auctioneer to the Isle

of Arran, died peacefully

at Arran War Memorial

Hospital on 30th November

2019. Beloved husband of the

late Rona, father to Angus and

grandfather to Anne. Dear

uncle to the family. Funeral

service in Lamlash Church

on Monday, 9th December

at 11:30am and thereafter to

Lamlash cemetery to which

all are welcome. No flowers

please.



Prize-winners at Whiting Bay Golf Club with their trophies. 01\_B49golf01

# St Andrew's Day prize-giving

### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Members and friends enjoyed

a fine 2019 prize-giving

evening in the clubhouse on

St Andrew's night celebrating

past successes and anticipat-

ing those to come. Thanks to

all who attended, to captain

Andy for managing the

presentations so well - never

an easy gig when Wolfi is

in the room - and to John,

Corey, Louise and Rachael for

keeping the food coming and

the drink flowing.

Sunday December 1, WBGC

v Machrie at Shiskine. A

last-minute change in cir-

cumstances led to what would

have been the February fix-

ture being brought forward

and reduced to 12 holes due

to the shortening December

days.

Up against a strong Machrie

side, WBGC halved two

games but slipped to narrow

defeats in the two remaining

games to lose the match by a

margin of 3-1.

Fixture: Sunday December

8, Winter Cup rd 3, one draw

at 10am.

### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday November 28,

Yellow Medal. 1 Derek

Harrison 79-23=56, 2 Alan

Smith 77-13=64. Magic two

Allan Colquhoun @16th.

Sunday December 1, Winter

League at Machrie. Result

Lamlash 2.5 Corrie 1.5. Well

Done Lamlash team!

Fixtures: Sunday December

8, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am

and 12noon starts. Thursday

December 12, Yellow Medal,

11am ballot.

Fixtures: Saturday

December 7, 18-hole sweep,

ballots at 9am and 12.30pm.

Monday December 9,

Monday Cup, ballot at noon.

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday December 3, Winter

Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 60pts,

2 Ron Woods 64pts, 3 John

Pennycott 68pts. Magic twos

### Brian Sherwood and Ron

Woods.

Fixtures: Saturday Decem-

ber 7, Lochranza Hotel Cup,

tee off 12noon. Tuesday

December 10, Winter Cup,

tee off noon.

### Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday December

7, 18 hole sweep, ballots at

9am and 12.30pm.

Monday December 9,

Monday Cup, ballot at noon.

### Arran Golfers'

Association

Sunday December 1, AGA

Winter League, Duncan

Trophy at Shiskine.

Thanks to Shiskine for host-

ing at short notice, the greens

were super, thanks to Stewart

and his hard working team.

The food was fantastic, so

thanks to Alan, Siobhan and

their staff.

This match was reduced to

12 holes due to frost in the

morning.

Shiskine drew against

Brodick, Lamlash won 2.5 to

1.5 against Corrie, Machrie

Bay won 3 to 1 against

Whiting Bay. So table after

Round 2 is: Machrie Bay 4 pts,

Lamlash 3 pts, Whiting Bay 2

pts, Brodick 2 pts, Shiskine 1

pt, Corrie 0 pts

The next round will be



played at Lamlash on Sunday  
January 5.

### Arran Ladies' Golf Union

Saturday November 30. The

Arran Ladies' Golf Union's

2nd Drumadoon was held at

Machrie Bay Golf Club on a

sunny, but very bitterly cold

windy day.

The winners were: 1 Mary Jo

Todd 97-24=73, 2 Ruth Hardy

103-25=78. Scratch Ann May

87-6=81.

A very big thank you to all

the ladies who made tasty

sandwiches and lovely cakes

with endless teas and coffees

and a warm welcome at Piets.

Thanks also to greenkeeper

David Jefferies and Jamie

Gibbs for the courtesy of the

course.

The next Drumadoon is at

Shiskine on January 25, 2020.

A very Merry Christmas and

a Happy New Year to all.

## GETINTOUCH

email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk

telephone 01770 302142

# Ethiopian adventure for Arran High School pupils

## Meeting running legend Haile Gebrselassie was the highlight of the trip

Ten pupils from Arran High School have just returned from the trip of a lifetime to Ethiopia.

During their visit the S3-S5 pupils took part in Great Ethiopian Run in Addis Ababa on Sunday November 17, the biggest running event in Africa, and all completed the run. At 8,000 feet above sea level, this was a great achievement for them.

As part of the six-day trip led by deputy head Suzie Dick, pupils visited a local school and gave Arran-themed gifts to pupils, including the famous island map.

They also visited cultural attractions, the British Consulate, local restaurants to try Ethiopian cuisine and wildlife parks.

They trained and acclimatised for the race by running through the streets of the capital to great cheers from the Ethiopian residents!

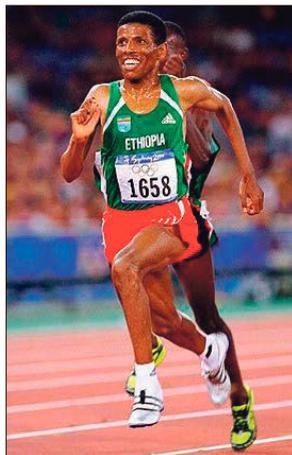
Pupils met Haile Gebrselassie, Olympic medal winner and Ethiopian running legend.

They also met with a former GP, Dr Saba, who was born in Addis Ababa and previously lived and worked on Arran,

who gave them a talk on her life and insights into medical care in the city. But the highlight for most pupils was the race itself – a carnival of colour, noise and East African celebration.

Deputy head Suzie Dick, who had previously lived in Addis Ababa, proved invaluable as a guide and leader and was able to give pupils a great insight into daily life and customs of the country.

She was assisted by Darren Townsend, who was the parent support for the trip.



Ethiopian running legend Haile Gebrselassie.



The pupils meeting Haile Gebrselassie.



Ready for the run in the heat of Addis Ababa.



Arran High pupils catch up with the Banner before taking part in the Great Ethiopian Run in Addis Ababa.



The Arran pupils help promote the equality message in Ethiopia.

# Louie well on his way to turning pro



In action in the Lyle Road event in Greenock.

Arran bike racer Louie Urquhart-Dixon has had a spectacular end to his last year of youth racing in Scotland and is well on his way to achieving his aim of becoming a professional cyclist.

Louie won the Scottish Junior Road Time Trials Council (RTTC) National Hill Climb Championships in Johnstone last month, despite an illness, and also won the Hill Climb at Cumbrae and Lyle Road in Greenock.

He added to his list of wins the RTTC Scottish Junior National 10-mile Time Trial.

On the Scottish Cycling scene, he finished third overall in the West of Scotland Road and Criterium Series which was staged over seven races, actually accumulating the same points as the eventual winner but the series being decided over the best five results.

Louie was also one of five boys and girls selected nationally by Scottish Cycling for a six-month development programme which will finish in February 2020.

Next year will see Louie joining Trainsharp Junior Race Team, an exciting new junior development team based in Brighton which will form on January 1.

Trainsharp specialise in remote training and will provide training, feedback and support for Louie to continue to develop as a road racer and climber when he enters the



Louie with his medal from the Lyle Road event.

Junior (16-18) race circuit. Through their individual development programme, they have helped to develop and coach national athletes such as Lizzie Deignan (British women's champion), Adam Blythe (Team Lotto Soudal) and Eddy Dunbar, Team Ineos (formerly Team Sky). They recently tested and interviewed 50 aspirant racers and selected 10 which will form the development race team of which Louie is one.

Trainsharp will target 12 national and international races a year, they will support Louie in building his own individual calendar which will focus on road and track races in Scotland in addition to the 12 team races. Trainsharp will also give Louie the op-

portunity to develop into the Junior Men's (18-23) circuit, but they also feed in to a domestic professional team and two pro-continental teams based in Belgium, and are regularly scouted by both domestic professional and world tour teams.

With the right support and development behind him and his committed hard work, motivation and focus, Louie is well on his way to achieving his aim of becoming a professional cyclist, home grown here on Arran. Best of luck for 2020 Louie!



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