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season's greetings

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New crackdown on underage drinking



by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A wide-ranging initiative aimed at tackling underage drinking on Arran has been just been launched.

The formation of the Arran Community Alcohol Partnership is seen as a positive way to collectively tackle the problem which, a recent survey confirms, is not uncommon in the island.

There is concern that on the island youth drinking is being accepted and condoned within the community and that parents and other older adults may be contributing to the problem.

The aim is that, through the establishment of a Community Alcohol Partnership, or CAP, to develop a culture where both adults and young people drink responsibly, young people under the age of 18 are only able to access alcohol under responsible and informed supervision, and safe consumption limits are understood.

As well as helping to reduce



It's the big finale with all the cast at the brilliant panto Peter Pan staged over three days by the Lamlash Drama Group and Friends last week. See lots more photographs inside. 01_B50pan01

the instances of underage drinking, the aim is to reduce the harm caused through education and diversionary measures, working with key partners and people in the community. Steps have already been taken to monitor and help licensed premises become compliant with their conditions and legal responsibilities.

Underage drinking has long been prevalent on Arran, as with communities across Scotland. However, there are specific issues on Arran in relation to availability. With the Co-op operating a strict Challenge 25 policy and limited other retail outlets, getting alcohol from the shops can be problematic for would-be underage drinkers.

That is where proxy purchasing by older adults, often family members comes in. A lot of youngsters are also thought to take alcohol from their homes, sometimes with their parents' consent, and use secluded locations for its consumption.

New posters and billboards have been produced, some with stark warnings stating

that it is illegal to buy alcohol on behalf of someone who is under 18 with a penalty of up to £5,000 or a possible prison sentence. Others highlight the dangers to youngsters by drinking.

The multiple effects of underage and irresponsible alcohol consumption in the community mean that there are a number of interested

parties involved. Activity under the CAP is intended to complement the existing work of retailers and enforcement agencies, without increasing resources in the long term.

The CAP was launched at Arran High School last week with representatives from the majority of the partners

Continued on page two

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It is with regret, therefore, we have to announce a small increase in the cover charge which rises this week by 5p. This is due to increased costs for newsprint, fuel and distribution.

The company has also invested heavily on the continuing development of the Arran Banner website and more and more people are taking advantage of our online subscriptions.

At 85p, we still consider the Banner to be worth every penny for its comprehensive coverage of all island life and we thank you for your continued support.

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New crackdown on underage drinking

Continued from page one

who are: the Arran Local Policing Team, North Ayrshire Council, Arran High School, Arran Youth Foundations (AYF), Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS), Arran Community Council, the Co-operative and Asda (Ardrossan) and independent alcohol retailers. Further partners will be invited to join the group as appropriate.

An operational group will be responsible for the day-to-day operations and delivery of the action plan with the first meeting in early January 2020.

There are a number of Community Alcohol Partnerships across the country including six in Scotland.

The idea to launch one on Arran came after PC Sam Davison, who was on a summer secondment on Arran,

carried out surveys on the level of drinking of young people on the island.

There were two confidential surveys conducted of groups of young people aged between 13 and 17 years and also an adult residents survey. The surveys are being used to inform the partnership and, due to their confidential nature, the results are not being published. However, the surveys confirmed that underage drinking is not uncommon on Arran and are also assisting in identifying how young people are acquiring alcohol and what diversionary opportunities they may be interested in.

Arran Sergeant Dougie Robertson said: "Through the establishment of the Arran Community Alcohol Partnership, we hope to encourage a culture where both adults and young people



Among those at the launch of the new Arran CAP were, left to right, CAP adviser Alan Simpson, community councillor Julie Graham, Brodick Co-op manager Liz McLean, PC Sam Davison, community councillor Liz Evans, Arran High deputy head Suzie Dick and Sgt Dougie Robertson. 01_B50cap03

drink responsibly, young people under the age of 18 years are only able to access alcohol under responsible and informed supervision and safe consumption limits are known by all.

"We also want to look at the ways in which alcohol falls into the hands of young people and deal appropriately with the issues around the unlawful or irresponsible supply of alcohol to them. The partnership comprises of individuals with roles in education, engagement with young people, retail of alcohol, the police and of course the community and therefore the partnership will approach these objectives from various angles in an effort to reduce the harm that can be caused if young people have an unhealthy relationship with alcohol."

CAP adviser for Scotland and England (East), Alan



The gathering at the launch of the Arran Community Alcohol Partnership. 01_B50cap02

Simpson, added: "Alcohol can be seriously damaging to the health and development of young people and can impact negatively on the wider community."

"For our part, CAP offers a great opportunity to make a real and lasting difference to the nation's relationship with alcohol, starting with the

current generation of young people. The Arran CAP is an excellent example of how, when partners come together for a common purpose, it can produce innovative, creative and engaging ways of tactfully encouraging young people to reassess their alcohol consumption and follow a healthy lifestyle."

First winter storms batter Arran

Storm Atiya and Storm Brendan swept over Arran at the start of the week causing widespread disruption to travel with high winds and heavy rain battering the island.

The first named storms of the winter season saw Atiya battering Arran on Sunday and Monday and this was immediately followed up by Brendan, which saw all ferries cancelled for the day on Tuesday.

The high winds, which were measured at up to 80mph, and driving rain brought travel chaos on roads, rail and ferry services across Scotland.

On Arran, the turbulent weather, and the

subsequent disruption to ferry services, was less severe but it resulted in Arran being temporarily isolated from the mainland on Tuesday with a number of events, including a jobs fair at Arran High School, affected by participants being unable to attend.

Forecasts for Arran for the weekend predict the unsettled weather to continue with gales, high winds and rain and even some snow falling over higher ground. The long-range forecast predicts unsettled weather dominating for the remainder of December, including Christmas, before a period of drier and longer spells of cold will take over in early January.

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Little monsters help raise charity cash

A group of pupils at Arran High School have been getting their creative juices flowing and came up with a whole host of craft items which they sold at a charity stall at the recent Santa's Sparkle in Lamlash.

Grand total

As a result of their efforts they raised a grand total of £162 which this week they handed over to crew members of the Arran RNLI.

Among the items they made were little stone monsters, stone cacti, Christmas candles, tree decorations and cards.

The pupils involved were: Jemma Totty, Ben Worthington, Michael Nicholl, Kyle Farquhar, Gordon Bloy, Kayleigh Easton, Caitlin McGarry, Rhys Jackson, Catherine Smith, Ruben Bowers, Rhianna Fox, Megan Green,

Kaitlyn Haddow, Caitlin Fraser and Neha Bino. They were working under the direction of teachers Jen Christie and Eileen Gregg.

Volunteering

All of them are working towards a Saltire Award for volunteering and are now coming up with new products for the Easter Brodick market. The charity for this new venture still has to be decided.



Ben Worthington at work on a Christmas candle.



Caitlin Fraser, Jemma Totty and Kayleigh Easton at the stall at Santa's Sparkle.



Catherine Smith tries out the goggle eyes as she and Michael Nicholl make the stone monsters.



The pupils and teachers hand over a cheque for £162 to members of the Arran RNLI crew. 01_B50sparkle01



Michael Nicholl, Caitlin McGarry, Rhys Jackson, Gordon Bloy, Kayleigh Easton and Ben Worthington paint the monsters.

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Local community comes together for nativity fun



The Three Wise Men – Tony Baboolal, Archie Cumming and Douglas Coulter – with innkeepers Richard Wright and Robert Cumming.

Lochranza and Catacol village hall staged their 2019 nativity and Christmas carol concert which, with more than 70 people attending. It was a fantastic success earlier this month.

Organised jointly by Aileen Wright and Sharon MacKenzie, the audience were treated to an hour and a half of festive enjoyment, including some solo performances which were wonderful.

Iain MacKenzie, secretary for the hall, commented:

'All the parts in the nativity were played fantastically by local children and our thanks go out to them, and their parents, for their wonderful performances.'

Carols

'However, we cannot forget the adults who were the Three Wise Men and innkeepers and Fiona Henderson who read Twas the night before Christmas.'

After the carols, the audience were treated to mince pies and mulled wine or

cider before the Christmas raffle. To close the evening, everyone went outside for the countdown to Light up Lochranza, when the village hall lights were switched on by Margaret Kerr.

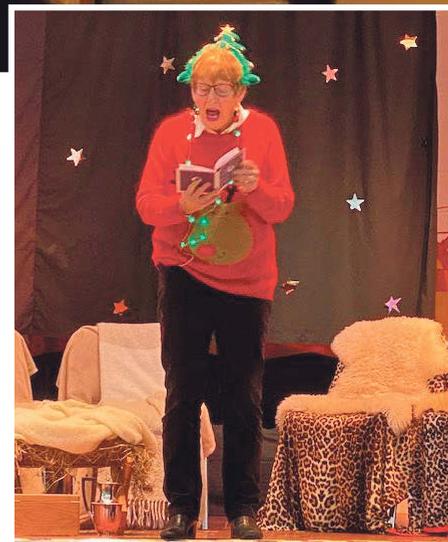
Iain added: 'The event wasn't about raising money for the community, we will do events next year for that, this was about bringing the community together, both adults and children, to share enjoyment at this special time of year.'



Joesph (Michael Innes) with Mary (Louise Soffa) with Baby Jesus and donkey (Jack Innes) in the stable.



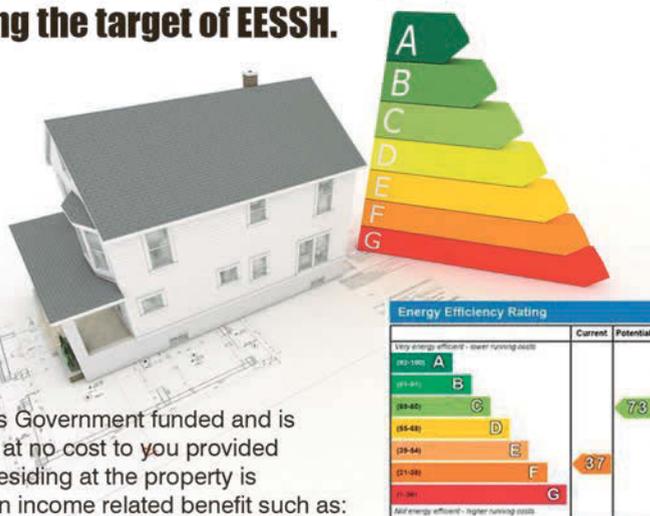
The Three Wise Men visit Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus in the stable.



Fiona Henderson reads 'Twas the night before Christmas'.

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The angels appear at the stable.



The Three Wise Men in the stable.



Wise Man Archie Cumming brings his gift to the stable.



The Three Wise Men lead the carols.



Mary and Joseph are surrounded by shepherds and angels in the stable.



The brightly coloured scene outside Lochranza hall after the lights were switched on.

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Tree felling will have a 'major impact' at falls

Forestry chiefs are warning that the urgent need for the removal of diseased ash trees in Glen Ashdale will have a 'major impact' on the environment.

The recently reopened Glenashdale Falls path will also have to be closed again for short periods over the winter months as the diseased trees are felled and removed from the site.

Many ash trees along this route have been affected by Chalara and are dying. Felling the trees will help inhibit the further spread of the disease and will help prevent dead branches falling on to the path.

Disease

Andy Walker, of Forestry and Land Scotland's Arran-based team, said: 'As well as dealing with this hugely damaging tree disease, the felling work will help ensure that visitors stay safe.'

'Both the disease and the felling are going to have a major impact on the environment of this area but the safety of visitors to the forest is extremely important.'

'Before we begin any work we will inspect the trees for the likelihood of presence of bats and any trees that might be used as roosts will be left until the spring when a bat survey can be carried out.'

'The path will be closed for short spells during operations and we would urge anyone



The entrance to the Glenashdale Falls walk which will again be closed for short periods over the winter months.

01_B47giant01

using the path to please obey any signage on site.'

Chalara first appeared in the wider environment in Britain in 2012 and immediate action was taken to determine the extent of its range, and to prevent imports of ash seeds, plants and trees as well as movement of ash within the UK. Nevertheless, ash trees

across the country were devastated by the disease.

Andy added: 'Tree pests and diseases can dramatically affect the health of trees, upset the delicate ecosystem balance and devastate large areas of woodland.'

'We're doing everything we can to tackle these challenges, but pests and diseases hitch a

ride in mud and debris on shoes, paws and tyres, ending up in new forests, so we need your help, too.'

'Keep it Clean'

'Just think "Keep it Clean" and take a moment before you visit to brush off any visible dirt or wash your shoes, bike, any toys or equipment and maybe even your dog too.'

The local FLS team has also advised that the footbridge at Glencloy, to the west of Kilmichael House, is to be removed in the near future because of its very poor condition.

The bridge is not on a designated path but the team apologises for any inconvenience that this may cause.

New flood protection scheme

New proposals for a flood protection scheme to reduce the risk to properties in Brodick and Lamlash are being drawn up by North Ayrshire Council.

It is one of three schemes the council's cabinet has agreed to submit to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for the next stage of evaluation for potential funding. This is one of the first steps required to be taken for the schemes to be considered. The others are in the Irvine Valley and Fairlie.

David Hammond, interim head of commercial services at the council, said: 'These proposals are still at the very early stages. If they are successfully accepted by SEPA, it will allow us to develop more detailed proposals which would then be subject to comprehensive public consultation.'

A decision on whether or not any of the schemes will be taken forward is expected to be made by SEPA at some point during 2020.

Club draw results

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 club draw for October were: first prize Ellen Derrick, second prize Rosie Allison.

The winner of the Brodick 200 Club for December is Norma Davidson of Brodick.

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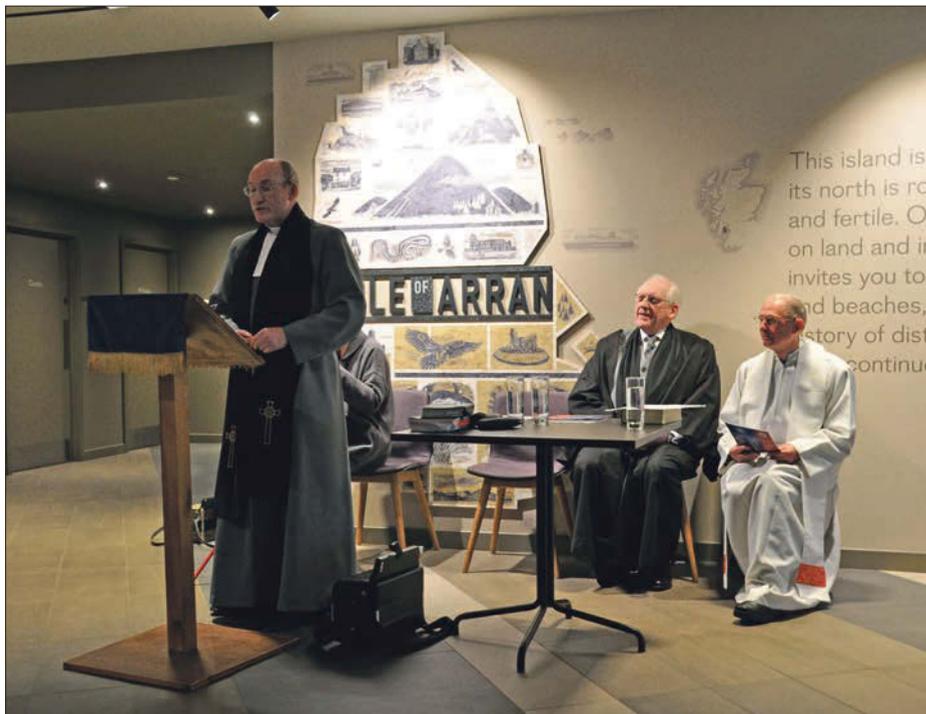
Dedication service is held at Lagg Distillery

A service of dedication was held at the new Lagg Distillery last Saturday. The inter-denominational service was conducted by the Rev Angus Adamson and he was joined by the visiting moderator of the Presbytery of Ardrrossan Allan Richardson and Father Noel Colford, who read from the scriptures.

Music was provided by Robbie Adamson on the Scottish and Irish pipes, including a rendition of the moving Isle of Arran, while the Rev Adamson, on the accordion, and wife Susan, on the violin, provided the music



Robbie Adamson opens the service with a tune on the pipes. 01_B50lagg01



The Rev Adamson dedicates the new distillery. 01_B50lagg02



Presbytery moderator Allan Richardson, Father Noel Colford and the Rev Angus Adamson after the dedication service. 01_B50lagg04

during the Christmas carols which were sung.

The Rev Adamson joked that it was perhaps strange for the Church of Scotland to be involved in a dedication to a distillery when the church had for centuries tried to dissuade followers away from the demon drink, but he said he was sure the 'angels' share' was enjoyed in Heaven.

The small congregation who gathered for the service afterwards enjoyed tea, coffee and mince pies provided by the distillery.



Carol singing at the dedication service. 01_B50lagg03

Help for hearing aid users

NHS hearing aid users on Arran are being invited to a charity's drop-in session in the run up to Christmas so they can join in the festive fun.

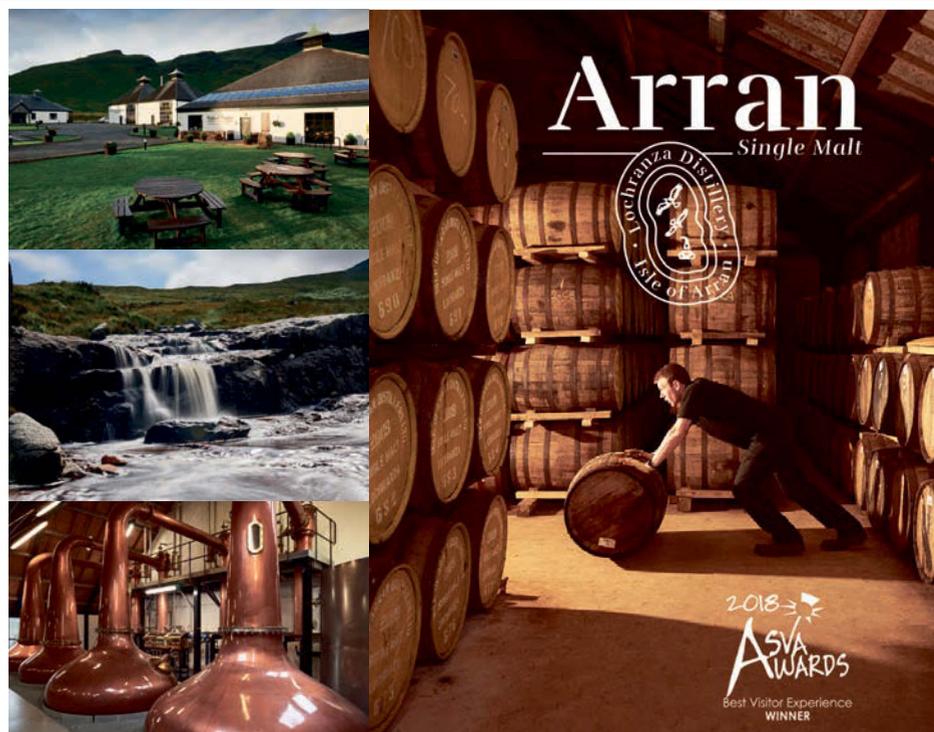
Action on Hearing Loss Scotland's Community Hearing Support Service volunteers are offering support to local NHS hearing aid users so that they can hear more clearly and follow conversations with friends, family and neighbours.

The volunteers, who have been trained by NHS audiology, will be on hand to clean or replace hearing aid tubing and provide new batteries during local drop-in sessions.

The next drop-ins will take place at the Arran Library in Brodick on Wednesday December 18, between 11am and 1pm.

For information about Hear to Help, call 0738 8227407 or email: scotland@hearingloss.org.uk

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LETTERS

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Partnership is way forward

Arran may not be a hotbed of underage drinking, and it may not be in plain sight, but there is no point in pretending it does not exist.

So the creation of a Community Alcohol Partnership seems a sensible approach to a difficult and sometimes complex problem. To bring both the authorities and the retailers, who find themselves on the front line, together to form a coherent and workable strategy to tackle the issue is a good starting point.

Of course there has to be an enforcement side to underage drinking but there has also, importantly, to be an educational side as well as the use of diversionary tactics.

Community Alcohol Partnerships are working well in other parts of the country but each one has to address individual issues and Arran has its own peculiar set of problems.

While it may be harder for youngsters on the island to purchase alcohol in the Co-op and elsewhere than it is on the mainland, there seems to be no lack of it available to them, taking it from their homes – with or without their parents' permission – or getting adults, often siblings, to buy it for them.

There will be many challenges ahead for this new partnership but we are sure if everyone is working together they can make a big difference.

We wish them every success.

Thought for the week

Jesus said, 'I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than any man who has ever lived.' Matt 11: 11

Opposition premature

Sir,
The opposition to the prospect of a timber loading facility at Imachar expressed in Malcom Kerr's recent letter to the editor is somewhat premature, given that a planning application has yet to be submitted and therefore the details of the proposal and the rationale behind it have still to be made available.

For the time being, the prospective applicants are only seeking to establish the level of environmental information which would be required by the planning authority and their consultees in the event an application is made.

Once any application has been submitted, the planning authority would place the project details in the public domain and would invite comments from third parties to which they would have regard in their decision-making.

It is not appropriate for third parties to seek to ward off a project at its inception before due process has even been commenced. We have a planning procedure which has been specifically constituted as a public one, so that representation on matters material to the decision can be properly advanced in response to the full detail of whatever is on the table.

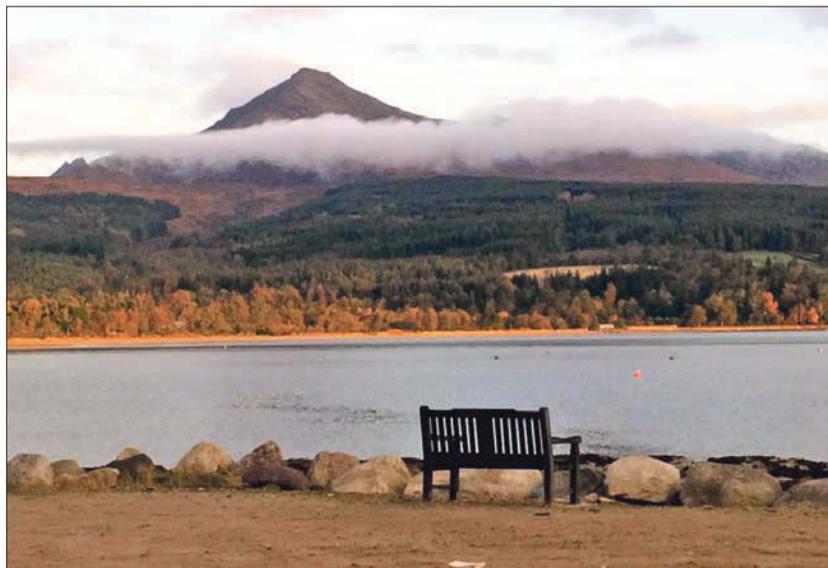
I have no doubt that when the time comes, North Ayrshire Council in reaching any decision will weigh in the balance the requirements of the timber sector against the need to protect the environment, having had regard to all representations received, both for and against.

Yours,
J Robin Dixon,
RDS Forestry Ltd,
Tarbert.

Carol success

Sir,
We are writing to express our thanks to everyone who made the recent island carol service in Brodick such a great success. The church was packed with people of all ages, everyone seemed to leave with

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



The top of Goatfell emerges above cloud level in this autumnal photograph of the week taken from the slipway in Brodick by reader Kathleen Boag of Brodick.

a smile on their faces, and a fantastic £950 was raised for CLIC Sargent.

Events such as this don't happen without the efforts of so many people. So we would like to thank Arco, Arran Brass, Ain't Misbehavin', Arran Soul Choir (Youth and Adult), Arran Singers and Vivace for their uplifting musical contributions, and in particular Douglas Hamilton for accompanying the carol singing with such energy and enthusiasm; the readers for reminding us of what Christmas is all about; those who prepared the church to accommodate so many, and to Angus Adamson and Brodick Church Board and Session for making us so welcome in such a beautifully decorated setting. Not forgetting Diana Hamilton who made sure that brass, strings and organ all played in the same key!

Finally, a huge thank you to the congregation for turning out in such great numbers to welcome the festive season. Merry Christmas!

Yours,
Susan Dobson,
Andrew Walsh
and Katy Penn.

Fundraising for SSPCA

Sir,
As part of the many seasonal events happening around the island, the local branch of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) held a mulled wine and mince pie fundraiser at Arran Active on November 29 which, together with our stall at the Whiting Bay Christmas market the following day, raised £497 to help animals in distress.

The branch thanks Andrew Walsh of Arran Active for the use of his premises, the singers and musicians who entertained beautifully, all who contributed to baking and other stalls and, of course, our volunteers, without whose enthusiasm nothing could happen.

A special thank you to my chocolate Labrador, Poppy, who graciously allowed people to guess her vet certified weight for the benefit of her fellow animals. For the record, it was 30.95kgs, but she is trying hard to increase that!

Yours,
Christine Drennan,
Scottish SPCA.

CalMac praise

Sir,
CalMac, which gets so much bad press, was extremely helpful on Friday November 29 when my vehicle which was booked the 18.00 boat from Ardrossan broke down in Perth.

The Ardrossan port staff spoke to the captain who held the gangplank for a few minutes as I advised them that I was in a taxi from Perth to return home to Arran with me being unable to meet the on boarding time of 10 minutes prior to travel.

I arrived at Ardrossan just around 18.00 and due to CalMac holding the gangplank for a few minutes I got home after a very long and tiring day. Thanks to CalMac both on board and at Ardrossan.

Yours,
A grateful Arran resident,
name and address supplied.

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

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Bernie's lights still shine bright after three decades

Bernie Jackson has delighted and entertained children with his impressive Christmas illuminations adorning his house in Whiting Bay for 30 years.

Having first started with just a single Christmas tree in his front garden in 1989, the display has now grown to such an extent that there is no longer any space for another Santa, snowman, reindeer, bell or sleigh in his terrace garden or the front facade of his house.

The illuminations not

only entice visitors to go and have a look each year, many returning night after night, but a voluntary donation box at the gate also collects money for worthwhile local causes. This year the collection is for Whiting Bay Improvements.

Tune

Over the years Bernie has amassed a huge collection of decorations, some are decades old, but he has also kept up with the times and his collection now boasts a number of flashing lights, inflatable characters and



Bernie Jackson with his festive illuminations at his house in Whiting Bay. 01_B50bernie01



The illuminations feature neon signs, inflatable characters and festive themed lights. 01_B50bernie03

some even play a tune. Bernie said: 'I am getting a bit too old to be putting these up every year and I am no longer fit to be scaling the ladder to fix the decorations to the side of the house.'

'Every year I say this is the last year but when I see the smiles on the children's faces and see that the donations help good causes, I go ahead

with it anyway. I have all of the decorations, so why not?

'It is also very difficult to say there will be no light this year when so many children ask me when the lights are going to be put up and switched on. But it is all worth it for the number of smiles and visitors who come and look at the lights every year.'

The lights, in Montrose

Terrace, Whiting Bay, are switched on around 4pm every evening and remain switched on until around 9pm at night.

Visitors are encouraged to go and have a look and to take any children along who will be mesmerised by the display which features many popular characters and festive favourites.



Keeping Scotland Warm and Cosy For Over 35 Years

Join The Arran Renewable Heating Revolution



In the past two years TK Murray have helped 82 people on Arran revolutionise the way they heat their homes and water by installing an air source heat pump. You probably know some of them

All now enjoy warmer more comfortable homes and lower energy bills...As well as doing their bit to help save the planet.

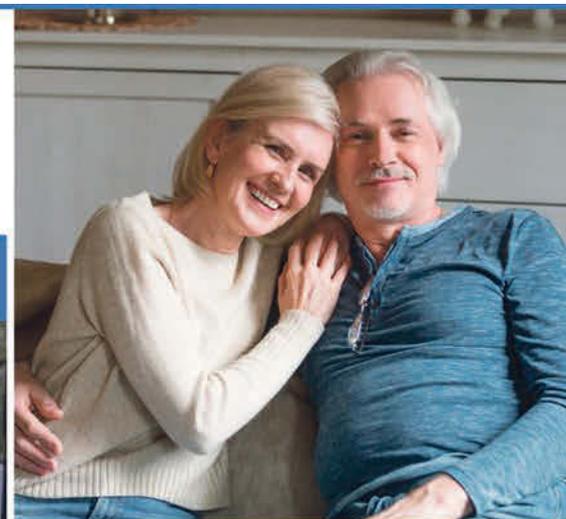
Don't wait until its cold to think about keeping warm. It can take up to 3 months to design, get the necessary Government approvals and install a new renewable heating system. Act now and be ready for the cold nights



Right now the Government will pay you an incentive of up to £10500* to replace your existing oil, LPG or storage heaters with a renewable air source heat pump.

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



Don't miss out on this generous government incentive. It won't be around for ever.

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

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

GEORGE CLARKE

Architect, writer and TV presenter

Arran Banner



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Large range of goods and gifts handmade on Arran plus wool, haberdashery and GF & Vegan puddings.

Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay
Open Tuesday-Saturday 11am-3pm,
closing Weds at 4pm and Saturday
before Christmas at 7pm.
01770 700481

Christmas gift guide

Christmas has come round again, the festive lights are on, the shops are bustling and Santas are appearing in shop front windows. So now it's time to sort your way through all the presents and gift ideas for family, friends and loved ones with the *Arran Banner's* great gift guide.

To help get your mind in the festive spirit, we've got a huge range of gift guides with suggestions for everyone. Whether it's to help Santa with toys for the children, a present for a wife or girlfriend, husband or boyfriend, something for your parents or a novelty prezzie for your co-worker there should be something here to fit the bill this year - all of which can be found on Arran.

Happy shopping!



Gift Boxes (Chutney, Mustard, Shortbread and Oatcakes) for sale at £12.50
Free gift when you spend more than £20 from now til Christmas
Merry Christmas to all of our lovely customers!

Arran Fine Foods
T: 01770 600118



Pyjamas for all the family from £9 to £22'
Bell's of Arran,
Shore Road, Brodick.
01770 303787



Arran Viewpoints - an Arran version of Cards Against Humanity and perfect for a party of people who know Arran and might have a bottle of gin to go round at the same time. The embroidered beanie hats are very popular at this time of year and are available in 6 colours.

Arran Graphics, Cladach, Brodick
01770 303698 or online:
www.arrangraphicsonline.com

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Arran Banner



At the Glenisle hotel we are more than a little bit dog obsessed. We wanted to create a truly dog-friendly dining experience in Lamlash so we created "doggy Sunday" Book a table under your dog's name and we'll roll out the carpet for all arriving pups - treats and good times are had by all, hounds and humans alike!
Book now 01770 600559



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T: 01770 600201 www.chameleon.com
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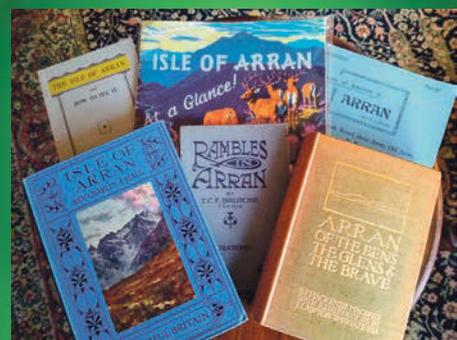


Forestry and Land Scotland
Tall, short, fat, thin - we have a tree to suit all tastes & houses. All our trees are fresh-cut from Arran's forest but are not netted. They come in 3 types - Noble fir, pine or traditional Norway spruce. The popular 6 feet tree is £23 for fir & pine and only £18 for spruce. We stock trees from 4 to 8 feet so any other sizes must be ordered.
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web: www.islandporcelain.com
E: info@islandporcelain.com

Christmas gift guide



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Arran Banner



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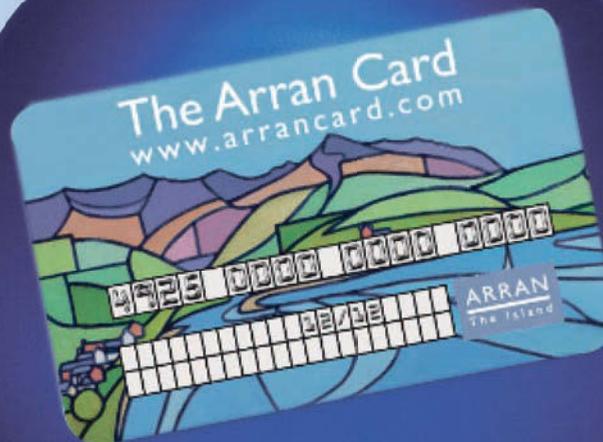
Beautiful gift ideas from the Harbour shop in Blackwaterfoot. Handmade Xmas cakes, tablet, macaroon and shortbread and made to order gift baskets.
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Christmas gift guide



The Shore, Whiting Bay
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Old Pier, Lamlash
Tel: 01770 600333



The PHT have lots of amazing beer – chose your own selection to take away in a gift box. Christmas Beer boxes offsales 3 x bottles or 6 cans for £15

Tel: 01770 600 418

Children's Fund launches its first Christmas appeal

Crosshouse Children's Fund is calling on Arran residents to support its first ever Christmas appeal.

The fund, which launched in May this year, is now raising funds to purchase specialist heated cots and equipment for the Ayrshire Maternity Unit (AMU) to allow more premature and sick babies to receive the extra care they need by their mothers' bedsides.

Each year, over 3,000 babies from across Ayrshire are born at the AMU, with many hundreds born prematurely or sick. Being born early or poorly can result in babies being taken to the Neonatal Unit for special treatment, where they are separated from their mothers. With its latest appeal, Crosshouse Children's Fund hopes to help prevent these admissions by supporting the Transitional Care Unit.

Amy Aitken, regional

fundraising manager at Crosshouse Children's Fund, said: 'This is Crosshouse Children's Fund's first Christmas appeal and it will support premature and sick babies from across Ayrshire and Arran.'

'We hope to purchase additional specialist cots and enhanced medical equipment for the Transitional Care Unit to keep more mums and babies together during those precious early days.'

'Local communities have already shown their incredible generosity over the past six months for Crosshouse Children's Fund, and we're calling on them again to help make our Christmas wish a reality for Ayrshire's babies and their families.'

Find out more about Crosshouse Children's Fund's Christmas appeal at www.CrosshouseChildrensFund.org.



The Crosshouse Children's Fund will help to purchase special heated cots to keep mothers and newborns together at the Ayrshire Maternity Unit.

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Imachar slipway does not need impact assessment

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Planners have ruled that the proposal for a timber slipway at Imachar Point does not require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) carried out.

Tarbert-based RDS Forestry Ltd had asked North Ayrshire Council planners for a screening opinion on whether there would be the need for an EIA to be carried out ahead of any future planning application. However, they have been told such an assessment will not be required.

Temporary

The company, in association with the Troon Tug Co Ltd, want to build a transshipment slipway, with associated timber stacking yard and a temporary timber pier at Imachar to enable timber export by boat to the mainland.

In making the ruling, the NAC planners stated: 'The applicants claim that the proposal arises from

the requirement to export maturing timber from the island and that the chosen location would generally have more positive environmental impacts than the alternative transportation by road.

'The proposal lies within a landscape/seascape on the west coast within the vicinity of existing forestry plantations and it is claimed that the export facility is modest in scale in this context and that the characteristics of the development and the sensitivities of the receiving environment are unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects.

'Initial discussions were held by the developer with planning services and Scottish Natural Heritage, and it is recognised that the developer has previously made considerable efforts to identify a suitable site on the island for the timber extraction facility.

'They have identified this as being a relatively acceptable site in terms of

environmental sensitivities and population use, upon which any adverse environmental impacts could be reduced by mitigation measures secured through the planning application process.

'On the basis of the information supplied and taking the advice of the statutory consultees into account, it is considered that EIA would not be required for this project.'

Assessed

However, they add that in order to allow a wide range of environmental impacts and mitigation measures to be assessed more fully, any subsequent planning application will have to be accompanied by a number of supporting documents including: a habitat survey, landscape capacity evaluation, a design and access statement, visual and noise impact assessment, an archaeological report, including a marine archaeology assessment, and forecast forestry demand report.

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN

A feast of fun at Peter Pan

Words and photos
by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Peter Pan proved a pure pleasure when perfectly performed by fine players last week.

But enough of the alliteration for the show merits some heartfelt praise for the largely young troupe who brought the pantomime to life in the Lamlash community theatre over three days and four performances last week.

Peter Pan can be difficult to stage – given the desire for Peter Pan and his friends to fly – not to mention Tinkerbell, or coming up with a plausible crocodile, but both feats were pulled off with success.

Then there is the walking the plank scenes which again were well executed in the finale of the show which was expertly staged by the Lamlash Drama Group and Friends.

But let's go back to the beginning. The panto starts with Wendy Darling – excel-



Captain Hook has the Lost Boys tied up. 01_B50panto26

lently played by Zara Wilson – in the nursery at her home with brothers John, played by Harry Gilmore, and Michael, played by Annie McKelvie.

But things take an unexpected twist with the arrival of Peter Pan, played by Iona Summer, and the nimble-toed Tinkerbell of Rosie McNamara. Iona really ex-

celled in the lead role, which sees her regularly on stage throughout the show, but she pulled off the dialogue and singing with aplomb.

Credit must also go to the pantomime dame Nana Smee – the always brilliant Sheila Gilmore – who kept the audience entertained during the story and between

scene changes with the help of pirates Rum, Ryan Wilson, and Coke, James Smith, who were a fun pair.

But, of course, a pantomime needs a baddie and there can't be a Peter Pan without a Captain Hook, splendidly played by a menacing David Simpkin, or a crocodile, unmasked at the end as Daisy McNamara.

Special mention has to go to the wonderful mermaids Chardonnay, Nickey Summer, and Prosecco, Jill McKillop, as well as to the set designers for their underwater home and the rest of the splendid sets.

Everyone involved really deserves a mention, but collectively the Lost Boys, the pirate crew and the Indians did their support jobs brilliantly, as did Tiger Lily, Charlotte McKillop, and Indian Chief, the always fun Trevor Helliwell.

Of course, none of this happens by accident and a huge thanks must go to the producer and director Maureen Smith and all the behind-the-scenes team for making the pantomime and shows happen year after year.

Peter Pan proved a panto to remember.



Tinkerbell prepares to sprinkle fairy dust on Peter Pan and the children. 01_B50panto02

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Peter Pan proved to be



Pirates Ryan Wilson and James Smith try to poison a sleeping Peter Pan. 01_B50panto22



Wendy, Tiger Lily and Peter Pan round off the first act with a song. 01_B50panto14



Wendy sings to the Lost Boys. 01_B50panto21



Captain Hook, David Simpkin, takes centre stage. 01_B50panto03



A stern Peter Pan, Iona Summer, tells off the Lost Boys. 01_B50panto09



Captain Hook and the motley pirate crew. 01_B50panto05



Chardonnay, Nickey Summer, and Prosecco, Jill McKillop, in their mermaid cove. 01_B50panto11



Nana Smee helps release an imprisoned Tinkerbell. 01_B50panto23



Nana Smee, Sheila Gimore, tells the pirate crew a joke. 01_B50panto07



The first sight of the crocodile later exposed as Daisy McNamara. 01_B50panto13



Peter Pan comes face to face with Captain Hook in a sword fight. 01_B50panto28



The Lost Boys in their underground hideout. 01_B50panto08

a panto to remember



Mrs Darling, Jo Godwin, reads the Lost Boys a story as the panto ends. 01_B50panto32



Peter Pan tries to revive Tinkerbell after she drank the poison. 01_B50panto25



Captain Hook is forced to walk the plank. 01_B50panto29



The pie fight scene in the Lost Boys' underground hideout. 01_B50panto20



The crocodile goes in chase of Captain Hook. 01_B50panto30



Pirate Patrick Scott begs Captain Hook for his life. 01_B50panto27



The children creep back into the nursery. 01_B50panto31



The crocodile unmasked as Daisy McNamara. 01_B50panto33



Wendy and her brothers have a pretend sword fight in the nursery, 01_B50panto01



The Indians perform a dance routine. 01_B50panto15

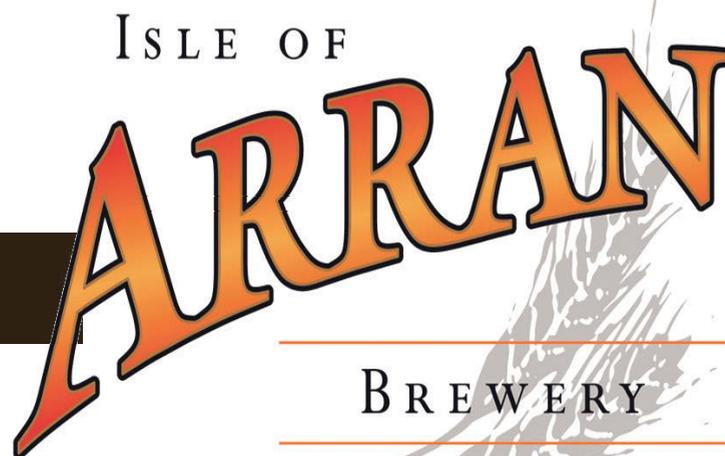
Captain Hook tries to trick Tinkerbell. 01_B50panto18

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

CRAFT BREWERY TOURS AVAILABLE DAILY



Every day

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

Saturday 14th December

Christmas at the Castle Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
 Young Naturalists' Club Christmas party Rangers' Centre, Brodick Castle, 10.30am
 Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
 ArCas Christmas Cracker Fair Brodick Hall, 11am - 4pm
 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

Sunday 15th December

Christmas at the Castle Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
 Christmas wreath workshop Arran Rangers' Centre, Brodick Castle, 10.30am
 Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
 Live music - Michael Clark Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 1pm - 4pm
 Arran Pace Makers - Santa Dash Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 2pm
 Christmas Market at Kilmory Hall Kilmory Hall, 2pm
 Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
 Live music - Joni Keen and Dan Brown 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 16th December

Morning fitness Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am-10.30am
 Christmas at The Castle Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
 JogScotland mixed ability running group Whiting Bay, 5.30pm
 Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
 Circuit training Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
 Rink games Brodick Bowling Club, 6.15pm
 Kilmory Primary School show Kilmory Hall, 6.30pm
 Rink bowls Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.45pm
 Arran High School S1-S3 party Arran High School, 7pm - 9.30pm
 Winter bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
 Live music - Ealana Boyle Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 17th 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 and 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
 Eco Savvy Food Share
 Trev's pop music quiz
 Traditional music sessions

KA Leisure, Lamlash, 6.45pm - 7.45pm
 Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
 Brodick Bar, 9pm

Wednesday 18th 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
 Knit and Blether Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 2pm - 4pm
 Arran Pace Makers Running Group Brodick, 5.30pm
 Kettlecise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
 Tae Kwon Do kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
 Arran High School S4-S6 Party Arran High School, 7.30pm - 10pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Live music - Tim Pomeroy Crofters' Musi Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Pub quiz The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Rock'n'pop bingo Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 19th December

Christmas at The Castle Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
 Kettlecise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 11am - 11.45am
 Arran Youth Soul Choir Community Theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
 Body Blitz (booking essential) Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
 Arran Soul Choir Community Theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm
 Winter bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb Little Rock Cafe, 7pm for 7.15pm
 Arran Hockey Club - Seniors (12 yrs +) Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamlash, 7.30pm
 Brodick Embroidery Group Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Live music - open session Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 8pm
 Eco Savvy Food Share Brodick Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm
 Eco Savvy Food Share Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm
 Tommy's general knowledge quiz Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 20th 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 - Arran Dawn Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
 Friday night quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
 Eco Savvy Food Share Octopus Centre, COAST, Lamlash, 9pm
 Disco with DJ McGarrigle The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Saturday 21st December

Christmas at The Castle Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
 Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
 Christmas craft fair Brodick Hall, 11am - 3pm
 Visit Santa Gordon Bros, lamlash 1pm - 3pm
 Pop-up evening, BYOB (bookings only) The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm
 Live music - Shindig Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Live music - ThunderRoad are an all-round rock covers band The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Dining and disco or disco only The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
 Over-21s disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm



A Southend festive feast

The senior citizens of Kilmory and Kildonan got their festive celebrations off to a good start with a Christmas lunch at the Kildonan Hotel last Saturday.

More than 70 people enjoyed the festive lunch with a visit from Santa, live music and Christmas carols, all adding to the atmosphere. On offer for the visitors was a host of traditional Christmas fare of turkey and Christmas pudding, along with some

variations including salmon teriyaki and mango pavlova.

Mairi Christie said: "The cheery staff, headed by hotel owner Anne Acuna, and the wonderfully bright decorations made us all feel sure of a great afternoon. We had started to smile before we even reached the dining room as we began to meet old friends and make new ones."

"The hard work of locals Sandra Smith, Wilma Currie

and Phyllis Picken, who organised transport, entertainment and tickets, all paid off and the afternoon was a huge success. They got everything just right. Fiddlers Mark Brown and Mhairi Thomas played Christmas carols and traditional fiddle music."

The festive fun was rounded off with the visit from Santa who made a special appearance and presented all of the visitors with a gift.



The lunch provided visitors with good food, good entertainment and an opportunity to socialise with others.



Attendees with their Christmas presents from Santa.



Fiddlers Mark Brown and Mhairi Thomas performed Christmas carols and traditional fiddle music.



Participants enjoy a festive lunch in the well decorated restaurant at the Kildonan Hotel.



Organisers share a laugh with Phyllis Picken.



Santa makes a welcome appearance.



Two of the ladies smile for the camera.

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Two 'firsts' for Arran as wintering birds arrive

**Bird
notes**
by Jim Cassels
NOVEMBER

November this year was colder and drier than November last year. The mean temperature was two degrees lower and there was 40 per cent less rain.

The weather on the colder continent may have had a bearing on the outstanding number of species recorded in November. Last November 94 species were recorded while this year it was 104. Among these were two firsts for Arran, having never been recorded on Arran before. On 24 November a female type surf scoter, a North American species, was photo-

graphed in Catacol Bay. A few days later on 28 November a Siberian chiffchaff, a species that winters in the Indian sub-continent, was photographed at Clauchlands.

Not surprisingly in November, winter visitors were to the fore. Throughout the month there were widespread reports of foraging fieldfare and redwing, sometimes in mixed flocks. The largest groups were 400 fieldfare at High Kildonan on 2nd and 250 redwing at Sliderry on 16th. There were 14 reports of snow bunting from three locations including

two on Cleats Shore on 17th. Another snow bunting by the shore by the Fisherman's Walk from 15th to 19th was particularly confiding, giving excellent views.

Other records of wintering birds included: 150 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot on 3rd; 30 twite also at Machriewaterfoot on 6th; eight lapwing at Kilpatrick Point on 14th; 100 rook on Sliderry Shore also on 14th; four records of merlin included one at Levencorrach on 16th; 200 starling at Sliderry also on 16th; four yellowhammer at Sliderry on

17th; two purple sandpiper at Silver Sands on 18th; a greenshank at Kingscross also on 18th; three jack snipe on Sliderry Shore on 22nd; 27 turnstone at Silver Sands on 23rd; a first winter Iceland gull in Catacol Bay on 24th and 25th and over 300 common gull at Mossend Pond on 29th.

Reports of wintering wildfowl included: 83 teal at Kilpatrick Point on 14th, a male goldeneye at Mossend Pond on 15th, 250 greylag geese on Cleats Shore on 17th, a whooper swan flying up the Ross also on 17th, 50 wigeon at Kilpatrick Point on 18th and a common scoter off Dougarie on 30th.

Gardens are safe refuges during the winter months with many people providing regular food and water for their feathered friends. These are a small selection from the many reports from gardens round the island in November: 10 long-tailed tit in Newton on 2nd; a great spotted woodpecker in Invercloy on 3rd; seven blackbird in Lagg on 8th; a male blackcap feeding on crab apples in Sliderry on 14th; four goldcrest in Brodick on 24th; four greenfinch in Torbeg on 25th; and a treecreeper in Lamlash on 29th. In addition from 21st to 23rd a male black redstart was in a garden in Kildonan. The last Arran record of this scarce passage migrant was at Cordon on 24 June 2017.

Perhaps less welcome were the reports of magpie. As well as the now long-staying one in Kildonan there were four reports from Sannox between 8th and 10th and six reports from the Alma Park area between 16th and 30th. The Sannox and Brodick records



Siberian chiffchaff: this bird should be wintering on the Indian subcontinent. Another first record for Arran.

Photo Arthur Duncan

could be down to one bird. Magpie is a vagrant to Arran.

Finally here is a further selection of highlights from what has been an exceptional month for bird-watching on Arran. After the dearth of eider round Arran in September for the annual Clyde eider census, in November there were widespread reports including 77 off Pirnmill on 2nd, 117 in Lamlash Bay on 18th and 75 in Whiting Bay on 24th. Little egret reports, all of a single bird, continued throughout the month from 4th to 29th with reports from eight coastal locations on the east of the island from Carlo to Cordon. In addition there were two long-eared owl in Glenscorrodale on 8th, two black grouse in Kilmory on 10th, six great northern diver

off Cnoc Buidhe also on 10th, two white-tailed eagle seen from North Sannox car park on 14th, 12 black-throated diver off Aird nan Ron on 16th and a sparrowhawk was harassing 19 common crossbill at Cnocan Biorach on 23rd.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2017 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Snow bunting: this bird on Brodick beach by Fisherman's Walk was a very confiding bird.

Photo Charlotte Clough

Kildonan and District

SHEEP DOG TRIAL

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Contact:

Geoff 01770 820221 or Iain 01770 600897



Iceland gull: another winter visitor from the north and the first record this year.

Photo Alex Penn



Surf scoter: this bird that breeds in the Arctic of North America was recorded on Arran for the first time.

Photo Alex Penn



Black redstart: the first record since 2017 of this scarce passage migrant.

Photo Nick Giles

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 18, 1999

Super trooper

The show must go on. That is the maxim of the theatre and it was to be played out at the Lamlash Drama Club performance of Cinderella this week.

Helen Mcfarlane was playing the part of wicked stepmother in the pantomime at Lamlash when she tripped and fell back stage, being knocked out cold and suffering a broken arm.

Those who know Helen know that it would take more than a broken arm to stop her and, after the services of Dr Graham Tinto were called upon during the break, she was back on stage for the second half as if nothing had happened.

Lochranza hall

Lochranza will soon have a new village hall. After 18 months of fundraising, £63,000 has been raised by locally and, after initially

being rejected, the hall committee will receive £222,414 from the National Lottery and a further £164,00 from the Scotland Office, NAC, the TSB and AIE.

They hope to build a new public hall in front of the existing one starting in February 2000. Once the hall is open the present wooden hall, which was built in 1927, will be knocked down to make way for an area for tennis, basketball and inline skating.

Chocolate factory

The butcher's shop in Brodick is to become a chocolate factory. On the market since the end of the summer, it has been bought by Ian McClery of the Island Cheese Company.

Ian's son James has been making luxury chocolates at the Home Farm shop and will now move into the centre of Brodick where visitors and chocoholics will be able to watch them being made. He hopes to be up and running by March 1.



Arran's young naturalists with the country park rangers who introduce them each week to all aspects of nature. Last Saturday they held their Christmas party where the 'young naturalist of the year' award was given to Joanna Marr (centre). Runners-up were Thomas McMaster and Jack Ward. 01_B50twe01



This year's Lamlash Drama Club pantomime was Cinderella. Here we see Cinderella (Eilidh Campbell) has fun with Buttons (Alasdair Henderson) under the disapproving eye of wicked stepmother Devilla, played by Helen Macfarlane, who suffered a broken arm during the show. 01_B50twe03



Shiskine Brownies express their gratitude to the Shiskine Valley Sports Day committee as they were one of the many groups to receive money raised at the sports day in June. The Brownies are, left to right, Eilidh Kerr, Karen Brown, Jessica Payne, Raiann Sim, Karen Barrie, Kirsty McMaster, Yazmin Nazary and Sheena McMillan. Holding the cheque is Jennifer Ingham. 01_B50twe02



Devilla and one of the Ugly Sisters (Tom Miller) gives Cinderella a hard time as Buttons looks on. The other Ugly Sister was played by Alan Little. 01_B50twe04



Santa Claus is a busy man these days and we were lucky to catch him at the Shiskine Hall Christmas Fayre last Saturday. Visiting him at the time was young Keiran Bunyan of Portnallochan, Blackwaterfoot. 01_B50twe05

Season's greetings

Your personal Christmas messages to friends and family, near and far

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my friends and neighbours from Archie Nicol, Largiebeg

**CATE AND DOUGLAS
TEMPLETON**

Would like to wish their friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all our neighbours and friends from David and Marian Brambles, Blackwaterfoot

*Seasons
Greetings*

To all our friends on Arran from Pat and David, Lamdash

*Donald and Mary
McNiven*

Would like to wish all their relatives, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SEASONS GREETINGS

Graham, Barbara and Mark Tinto would like to wish all friends on the island seasons greetings. Donation to the Tearfund

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my friends and neighbours from Helen Macfarlane

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my relatives, friends and neighbours from Janet Mullholland, Kilmory

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my relatives, friends & neighbours from James Bannatyne, Blackwaterfoot

*John and Jean
Lammie*

Wish all their relatives, friends and neighbours a happy Christmas and all the best for 2020

*Happy Christmas
and a good New Year*

To all my friends & neighbours with Best Wishes Liz Lawrie, Brodick

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my relatives and friends from Bessie Sillars, Montrose House, Brodick

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my Arran friends, including Willie Cook! Mamie Stewart, Kildonan

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my friends and neighbours from Margaret Hamilton, Shiskine

SEASONS GREETINGS

Margot would like to wish all her friends and neighbours seasons greetings

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my friends from Marjorie Climie, Brodick

SEASONS GREETINGS

To all our family and friends and the staff at Cooriedoon Care Home from Mary and Peter Mackenzie, the Knowe.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my relatives, friends and neighbours from MURIEL TOD

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my friends relatives and neighbours from Nancy Cannon, Lamdash

**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

to our relatives, friends and neighbours from John, Pat and Johnny Turner, Slidery

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all my relatives, friends and neighbours from Sandy Kerr, Whiting Bay

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all our friends on Arran from Anne and Stan

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

To all our friends and neighbours from Betty, Andy and Gillian Ingham

THE ARRAN BANNER

Would like to wish all their readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980 CHOICE OF SCHOOL

It is customary for children to attend the designated school for the area in which they live, other than in the case of St Matthew's Academy. Admission to St Matthew's Academy is achieved through attendance at one of its associated primary schools. However, parents/carers may make a written request to place their child in any other school under the management of the Council. Such a request is referred to as a placing request**.

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

**Placing requests for the session beginning in August 2020 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Council Communities Directorate, Education Service, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE prior to the closing date of 15 March 2020.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2020, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should proceed in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published over 3 weeks during December 2019 and January 2020.

Andrew McClelland, Head of Service (Education)

NOTICE OF ADOPTION NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

On 28 November 2019, North Ayrshire Council adopted the above-named Local Development Plan.

The North Ayrshire Council Local Development Plan was published on 3 December 2019 on the Council's website and can be viewed at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/ldp Copies of the adopted plan are available for inspection at the planning authority's offices at Cunninghame House, Irvine during normal opening hours and will be available at every public library within the plan area from 16 December 2019.

If you require further information about the Local Development Plan please contact ldp@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or 01294 324021

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

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

*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Written representations may also be made to the Head Of Service (Economic Development & Regeneration) at the above address by 03.01.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1987
Applications for Listed Building Consent.

19/00901/LBC; 20 Douglas Place, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8DB; Renovation of cottage including removal of kitchen extension to reinstate original house footprint.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
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SCOTTISH FIELD
2020 MINI CALENDAR

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 15th December
Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches together, 10.15am Morning Worship at Lochranza.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship, with ARCO String Group.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship, with ARCO String Group.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland
Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 15th December
Family worship for Christmas will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
Tea and Coffee will be served in the transept after the service. All most welcome.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 15th December
3rd Sunday of Advent
Sung Eucharist - 11 am.
Revd Adrian Fallows
Coffee after service

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 15th 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 15th December
Mrs Aileen Brookens
Kilmory at 10 am
Lamlash at 11.30 am
In Lamlash: Family Nativity
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 15th 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 15th December
Service at 11am
Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the service
Wednesday at 7.15pm. Carols and readings with Arran Brass, Brodick Hall
Telephone 600222
Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 15th 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 15th December
Sunday Morning Mass at 11am

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

INGLIS - John

The Inglis family would like to express their thanks to all relatives and friends who attended John's funeral. A special thanks to the staff of the Arran War Memorial Hospital for the care and support which John received during his illness.

Troon visit for Arran AFC

In their last fixture before the winter break Arran AFC travel to Troon on Sunday.

There they will face Troon Town in a Ayrshire Sunday League match at Hosiery Park with a 12noon kick off. All supporters will be made most welcome.

Arran currently lie 4th in the 14 team league, with five wins out of five, but have played three fewer games than the league leaders Irvine Celtic Supporters Club.

Meanwhile, there are still a few numbers left for the club's Grand AFC Raffle. The top prize is a football signed by the current Rangers football team and manager, but there are loads of other prizes.

Tickets, which cost £5, are available Whiting Bay Post Office and the Book & Card Centre in Brodick. Prizes will be based on the National Lottery numbers at they drawn on Saturday December 21.

GETINTOUCH

email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
telephone 01770 302142



Bowling club members enjoy good food at their annual dinner.

Bowlers celebrate successful season

Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club held their annual general meeting on Thursday November 21 at the Blackwaterfoot Lodge.

The AGM was well attended and members were able to hear from the committee about the season past. It had been successful as there had been many visitors giving a welcome boost to the revenue stream. Although the club is small it is lively and rinks matches are well attended. The only island-wide

success was in winning the Federation Triples trophy.

The members raised a number of points about the management of the club and the committee are addressing these.

The new committee were elected and all the reports were passed unanimously. The members were shown a new publicity leaflet which has been printed and was well received, and plans to get it distributed were outlined.

The meeting closed after an hour and

the company moved on to dinner. The meal was agreed to have been delicious and our thanks go to David and Ann for this and the warm welcome we received, we especially enjoyed the open fires which had been lit throughout the building.

After dinner, the club trophies were presented and a raffle was held to boost club funds. Overall a highly successful evening.

Jenny Harper

Mountain festival booking lines open in time for Christmas

Places for sought-after events during next year's Arran Mountain Festival will be available next week when booking lines for the limited availability guided walks open.

The Arran Mountain Festival is Scotland's premier hill walking and mountaineering festival. Taking place from May 15 to May 18, 2020, the weekend is crammed full of mountain adventures.

With 24 walking and running events ranging from easy to the extreme, there is something for everyone, whether you are an adventurous thrill seeker or are looking for an introductory hill walking/running experience.

The 2020 programme covers guided walks, ridge scrambles, unique night time hikes and guided mountain

running with prices ranging from £18 to £55.

The vast majority of bookings are made as soon as the booking lines open and are often sold out months ahead of the event, especially for the popular walks, so advanced bookings are highly

recommended to avoid disappointment.

Visitors on the Arran Mountain festival website at www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk will be able to secure a place on the May 2020 festival programme from next Friday December 20.



Corrie Golf Club

Monday December 9, Monday Cup. 1 A McDonald 74-11=63, 2 A Smith 72-8=64. Scratch J McGovern 71. Magic twos J McGovern and R I McMillan.

Fixtures: Saturday December 14, 18 Hole Sweep, ballots at 9am and 12.30pm.
Monday December 16, Monday Cup, ballots at noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

No golf due to bad weather.
Fixtures: Sunday December 15, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday December 19, Yellow Medal, 11am start.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday December 7, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Phil

www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk



Betley 33pts, 2 Reuben Betley 30pts, 3 Brian Sherwood 28pts.
Fixture: Tuesday December 17, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off at noon.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Fixture: Sunday December 15, Winter Cup. One draw at 10am.

VISITUS
www.arranbanner.co.uk

Mel inspires all during her pilgrimage to the island



Mel Nicholls packed a great deal into her Arran visit: camping, two talks, walking, meeting up with friends and a visit to the Arran Banner. 01_B50Mel01

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Mel pictured in action on her recumbent handcycle bicycle.

GB paralympian cyclist and endurance wheelchair racer Mel Nicholls has once again returned to Arran, this time to recount and share her tale of how she recently broke the world record for handcycling from Land's End to John o' Groats.

Describing Arran as her spiritual home and holding a special place in her heart as the place where she was spurred on to accomplish great things, Mel, who is 42, needs no excuses to return to Arran where she regularly trains for her ultra endurance challenges while also finding time to cycle with her friends, the Arran Belles.

Mel's story of indomitable spirit started around 2008 when her life was turned upside down following a car crash which resulted in her having three strokes that left her without the use of much of the left side of her body.

Unable to walk and having previously been a horse rider, runner, cyclist and all-round adrenaline junkie, it was only four years from that life-changing year that Mel found herself racing in front of an 80,000 strong home crowd in the 2012 London Olympics, just 15 months after taking up wheelchair racing.

Continuing with a string of achieving track world records, European and World major medal success, Mel continued to push her

boundaries and in 2016 she competed in her second Olympic event when she became a paralympic finalist at the Rio Olympics in 2016.

Following that, Mel changed her focus to a new sport, handcycling, which appealed to her sense of adventure and her hunger to test herself in ultra endurance challenges. This avenue led to her latest challenge, a quest to break the world record for handcycling from Land's End to John o' Groats, and the subject of her two talks at Arran High School.

Unsurprisingly, Mel shattered the existing record of nine days to complete the challenge in just six days, 22 hours and 18 minutes. A documentary film of the adventure, called Dream Big, was screened at the high school on Sunday where Mel shared her tale and answered audience questions. Following this, Mel held another talk with school pupils who are planning a cycling trip to the Outer Hebrides. There she shared important advice with the group who were keen to learn about nutrition, motivation and handy tips and

tricks that will help them on their adventure.

Speaking to the Banner, Mel, who is originally from Worcester, said: 'Arran is an incredibly special place for me. It is the birthplace of where I discovered what is possible and where I rediscovered my sense of adventure. I always receive a warm welcome on Arran, whether it is when I am out training and strangers greet me and wish me well, or just when I am meeting my cycling friends, the Arran Belles. There is a sense of community and openness that exists on Arran and I am incredibly grateful to everyone for being so welcoming and supportive.'

Mel is an ambassador for many organisations and groups and through her public speaking and corporate appearances she hopes to inspire others to achieve their goals and to inspire others to believe in themselves and to 'dream big'. And according to reports from those who have attended her reaffirming and enjoyable talks, her friendly disposition and passionate spirit have been both inspirational as well as motivating.

Big blow as Wales pinches Grinduro

Continued from page 28
event does not belong to us and despite three excellent weekends we must bid the event farewell. On a personal level, Andy Williamson and I would like to thank you all for working with us and supporting the event. We have enjoyed the experience and learned a lot,' Brian said.

Sheila Gilmore of Visit-Arran added: 'There was a great deal of hard work from many, including the general

Arran community, which helped the last three years' events go smoothly and we are disappointed they are not returning.'

Voted 'event of the year' by the Design and Innovation Awards committee, Grinduro expanded into four countries in 2019. For 2020, Grinduro takes the Party:Race Ratio to six unique locations around the globe in Australia, USA, Canada, Japan, Switzerland and, this year, Wales.



Riders sweep through Lamlash in a shot from The Adventure Show.

Mel inspires all during her pilgrimage to the island

Bowlers celebrate successful season

Big blow as Wales pinches Grinduro

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The international Grinduro cycle endurance event will not be returning to Arran next year.

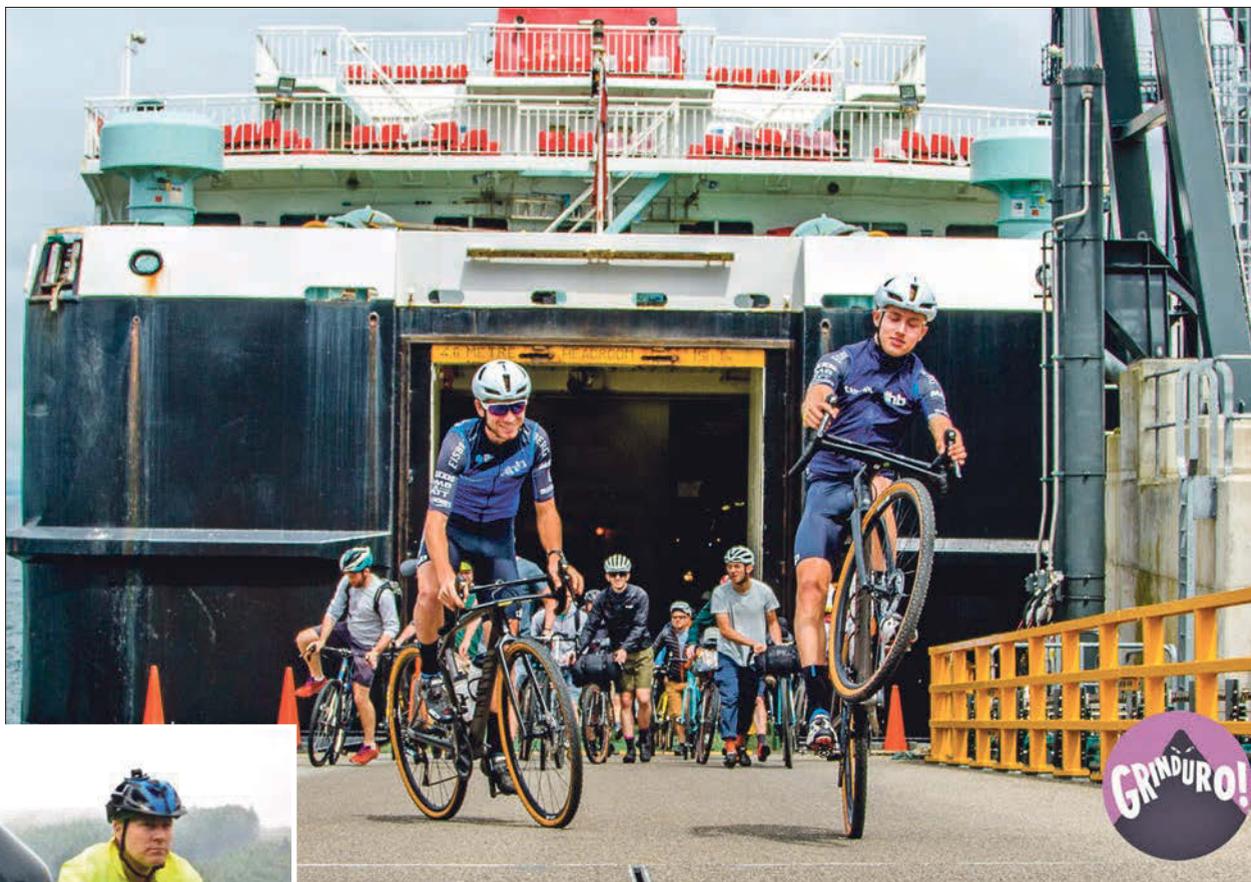
Organisers have confirmed that the UK event will instead be held in Wales. However they say, after Arran, it will have big boots to fill.

In a statement sent to the Banner from California, Eric Richter, of Giro Sport Design, said: 'The Grinduro family of riders, sponsors, promoters and supporters have enjoyed three incredible years with the community of Arran, and

we're grateful to have shared the joy of riding in new places and making new friends along the way.

'The same spirit that brought us to Arran is leading us to four new venues in 2020, as the race expands across the world. We sincerely appreciate every welcoming embrace, every friendly wave and every shout of encouragement over these past three years, and we hope that we'll see you again on the trail ahead.'

The Grinduro weekend event was staged three times on Arran and was based at Arran High School in Lamlash attracting as many



Riders at the start of a Grinduro race on Arran.

The Grinduro cyclists will not be coming off the ferry this year.

as 250 riders each year.

The unique format of Grinduro combines the best elements of a mountain bike enduro with a gravel grinder-style road race. But having a good time at the after-race party was just as important as going fast in the event.

The event was mainly staged on Arran's forestry tracks and was widely supported for the excellent organisation and competitors came from all over the world to take part, including the USA, Australia and Europe as well as all parts of the UK.

It also brought a welcome boost to restaurant, hotel and B&B trade. For while many of the entrants slept in tents at the high school base, others brought their families with them to the island.

Grinduro first started in California in 2014 and the first Grinduro on Arran in 2017 was the first held outside the USA. The 2018 event was filmed by BBC Scotland and shown on The Adventure Show hosted by Dougie Vipond.

Bryan Singleton of Focal Events, who started the

three Arran events, said they had put forward a case for Grinduro to return to Arran next year but had been beaten by the Welsh bid, the location of which has yet to be revealed.

'We are very disappointed but unfortunately, the

Continued on page 27



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