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Merry Christmas
to all our readers



FREE INSIDE
2020 wall calendar

ArCaS funds first cancer support nurse for Arran

'For 30 years ArCaS has been helping the cancer patients on Arran with transport, wellbeing therapies and other services'

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran is to get its first ever dedicated cancer nurse who will help coordinate care support and services across the island.

The new post is being funded by Arran cancer charity ArCaS and Kate Jenks, already a well known community nurse, has taken up the role.

The support nurse post has been created in order to try and improve the experience for people on Arran, either with cancer or those who are affected by cancer, with a pledge that patients will be at the centre of decision making.

The part-time role within the NHS, which ArCaS is initially investing £30,000 a year for three years, will be administered by the North

Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

ArCaS has long offered cancer support on the island and organises free transport to and from mainland hospital for appointments, but this marks yet another expansion of the services the charity provides.

A spokeswoman said: 'We are aware that everyone is different and would like you to know that Kate is available to help answer any queries or help with any arrangements, should you wish.'

'As well as seeing individual people and working alongside the health and social care team, the aim of this role is to work towards a sustainable service for Arran residents, that is in the best interests of those affected. In order to do that it will be helpful to know what has worked for you, or

Continued on page two



These three youngsters – Henry Ribbeck, Betty Fleming and Callan Park – were among the shining stars at the Brodick Nursery nativity play held last week in Brodick Hall. For the full report and more charming photographs, turn to pages four and five.

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NEW TO THE MARKET – 3 BEDROOM, GREAT VIEW

First Minister visits Waspi group

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon took time out from the General Election campaign last week to visit the Waspi group which represents the women of Ayrshire and Arran who were denied their pension at 60.

The Little Art School in Ayr arranged a Waspi painting class and both the First Minister and the, now elected, Dr Phillipa Whitford MP joined in the event.

A spokeswoman for the group said: 'Waspi has always maintained a non-political stance and we remain committed to working across political parties to find a solution to this ongoing injustice.'

'We look forward to working with new and existing MPs and raising this critical issue with them.'

Rest assured

'We will also continue to hold the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson to account in pledging to revisit the Waspi question. Regardless of the General Election result, politicians can rest assured that WASPI women are not going away.'

The official group for Ayrshire and Arran is Cunninghame Waspi group and you can contact them at: cunninghamewaspi@outlook.com



First minister Nicola Sturgeon and Dr Phillipa Whitford MP with the local Waspi group and their artwork.



Lamlash Primary School had 27 absences in one day. 01_B51lamlash01

Arran hit by flu outbreak

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A flu outbreak is sweeping Arran which, along with other respiratory viruses, has led to widespread illness.

Dozens of children have been felled by the outbreak leading to many absences at primary schools across the island as well as at Arran High School. Teachers have also been hit by the seasonal flu.

In one day alone there were 27 absences at Lamlash Primary School and Kilmory Primary were forced to reschedule their Christmas show as so many of the pupils were off ill.

Virulent

However, it is not just children but adults, too, who have been laid low by the virulent flu strain with many reported absences from work, and older residents are being urged to take extra precautions.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran

say anyone who is eligible and has not yet had the flu vaccine this year should act now.

They also say that since the flu virus is spread in the small droplets of fluid coughed or sneezed into the air by an infected person, anyone with the condition should avoid unnecessary contact with other people while they're infectious, and stay off work or school until their symptoms have improved.

Dr Elvira Garcia, consultant in public health medicine at NHS Ayrshire and Arran told the Banner: 'Seasonal flu (influenza) is currently circulating within Ayrshire and Arran, as with all of Scotland.'

Other respiratory viruses, such as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), are also being detected by national surveillance.

'Flu is a common infection from which most people will recover without any treatment. However, people aged

over 65, pregnant women, young children or adults and children with chronic conditions are at greater risk from the effects of flu.

'NHS Ayrshire & Arran strongly encourages any eligible person, such as adults and children with chronic conditions, children aged two to five years, pregnant women or carers, to take the offer of flu vaccination in order to provide the best protection possible in the community against seasonal flu.'

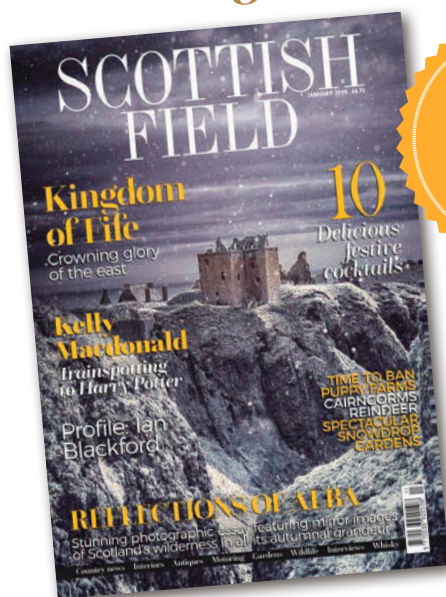
Appointment

'It is easy to get the flu vaccination if you are eligible – simply call your GP practice to make an appointment or speak with your midwife if you are pregnant. Primary school children have also been offered vaccination at their schools.'

For more on flu see: www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/get-the-facts-about-flu

SCOTTISH FIELD

January issue



OUT NOW

Cairngorms reindeer... Trainspotting actor Kelly Macdonald... Ian Blackford under the spotlight... The Kingdom of Fife... Glorious winter snowdrops... The Lauderdale Hunt... Christmas cocktails for every party

ArCaS funds first cancer support nurse for Arran

Continued from page one
someone you know; what challenges you have faced and what you would like to see done differently.'

If you have ideas and/or are willing to share your story – please contact Kate on 01700 601052. Messages can be left on voicemail.

ArCaS chairman Douglas Johnston said: 'For 30 years ArCaS has been helping the cancer patients on Arran with transport, wellbeing therapies and other services. We are delighted to have Kate, our support nurse, to help us

identify those things which can make such a difference to people's lives at a time of great stress for them and which we can help with. We look forward to a long and beneficial partnership.'

Anyone who wishes to know more about ArCaS and the support offered to cancer patients can pick up our booklet from the shop or visit www.arrancancersupport.org



ArCaS support nurse Kate Jenks.

Arran still faces a two-year wait for new ferry

About £83m of public money has been spent on the vessels to date

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The troubled Arran ferry, the MV Glen Sannox, will not be ready for another two years, the Scottish Government has revealed.

In an announcement delayed by the General Election finance secretary Derek Mackay also announced on Wednesday that the cost of completing the MV Glen Sannox and her sister ship has more than doubled from the initial £97 million cost.

But even if the new dual fuel vessel, which has caused many of the problems, leaves the now privatised Ferguson yard at Port Glasgow at the end of 2021, after at least three months of sea trials it will be the spring of 2022 before she would even start on the Brodick to Ardrossan route – a staggering four years late.

Following the public takeover of the yard in August a new assessment of the vessels, and how long it will take to complete them, has established that the MV Glen Sannox will not be ready until the last three months of 2021.

The second vessel – known

as Hull 802 which is earmarked for the Skye/Harris and North Uist route – will not be ready until July or August in 2022.

The previous owner, tycoon Jim McColl who rescued the yard when it went bust in 2014, blamed repeated design changes by CMAL, the publicly-owned company which owns ferries and other infrastructure used by CalMac, for the delays.

Mr Mackay said in a statement to the Scottish parliament that the full extent of the problems were not revealed until administrators went in and the SNP minister pointed to ‘disastrous’ management practices.

He said: ‘The failures of management, planning and process means the vessels are behind their original programme and that significant rework is required.’

About £83m of public money has been spent on the vessels to date.

It is estimated the cost of completing the ships will be £95.1m, but remedial works and spending at the yard will push these costs closer to £110m.

Finance secretary Derek Mackay in front of the MV Glen Sannox awaiting completion at the Ferguson yard back in August.



GMB Scotland organiser Gary Cook said: ‘We have seen previous delivery dates missed because of failures in the way this contract has been managed and the botched procurement process.’

‘This highly-skilled workforce now needs to be allowed to get on with the job.’

‘There remain questions to be answered about how the yard, and hundreds of jobs, came to be threatened by this debacle but we also need unity of purpose from management, the client and the Scottish Government that they are focused on completing the vessels and securing the future of the business.’

Fears over rates relief moves

The headway being made on rates reform is at risk if MSPs remove control over the setting of the business rate from the Finance Secretary and instead hand the power to each of Scotland’s 32 local authorities.

In a four-page submission sent to Holyrood’s local government and communities committee, the Scottish Retail Consortium said the current Scotland-wide uniform business rate has brought much needed predictability and consistency to the tax over the past two and a half decades.

Last month the committee backed a Green Party amend-

ment to the Non-Domestic Rates Bill, at Stage 2, which ends the uniform business rate and instead gives each local authority the right to set their own poundage rate, rates reliefs and any local rates supplements.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson, one of seven MSPs on the committee who voted against the amendment says the move could remove £6 million of rates relief from North Ayrshire and Arran businesses.

He said: ‘This amendment will prove to be a disaster for island businesses if it is not reversed, making it even more

difficult for them to survive on a high street already facing severe online competition. The Green amendment does not even create an equivalent power for local authorities allowing them to set reliefs.’

‘One can but wonder what this unholy alliance of Green, Tory and Labour MSPs was thinking. In North Ayrshire and Arran 3,040 properties will lose out unless at least one opposition party sees sense, backs the SNP Government and reverses its position at Stage 3 of the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Bill, which will become law next year,’ he added.

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Nursery pupils shine in N



Three little angels watch over proceedings. 01_B51nativity09

Brodick Nursery pupils performed their annual Nativity play at Brodick Hall last week with an endearing performance attended by Brodick Primary pupils as well as parents and grandparents and guests from Glen Estate.

The play featured the traditional scenes of Jesus

in the manger, but with a twist in the tale, and various musical interludes that told the story of a star which could not shine. The songs were performed with great gusto, accompanied by dancing and hand movements.

The pupils' repertoire also featured a Gaelic song they

had learned during Gaelic lessons. Following a very successful performance - without a single youngster getting stage-fright - a huge Christmas hamper and a number of raffle prizes were presented to the winners.

Photographs: Colin Smeeton



The cast of the Brodick Nursery nativity. 01_B51nativity01



Two shepherds with their donkeys. 01_B51nativity02



Three wise men arrive on their horses to present gifts to Mary. 01_B51nativity07

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activity play



Nursery pupils sing a song about the star that could not shine. 01_B51nativity04



Three wise men. 01_B51nativity05



Mary and Joseph receive the offerings from the three wise men. 01_B51nativity08



Two shepherds dance around Mary and Joseph. 01_B51nativity06



Sour beer being produced in a large brewing cauldron.

Arran Brewery goes wild with new sour range

Arran Brewery is developing a new range of sour beers as part of its Arran Wild Range which will be launched in the new year.

Pilot production of the new range has started at the company's Arran View Brewery in Dreghorn, near Irvine.

Head brewer Jose Bravo, who has recently returned to the firm, said: 'I started my career as a brewer with Arran Brewery, including attending the Siebel Brewing School in Chicago, before moving away to brew at Glasgow's Clockwork Pub.

'I have returned to the Arran Brewery to head up this new venture into sour

beers. Sour beers are trending right now and have a wide appeal especially with craft beer connoisseurs.

'I will be doing a full range of beers in all the sour style formats in the coming year.

'These will be hand crafted, speciality beers coming in cask, keg and 750ml sharing bottles and 330ml bottles.'

Intentionally acidic

Sour beer is any beer which is made intentionally acidic, tart or sour.

The best known types of sour beer are Belgian lambic, Gueuze and Flanders red ale.

Arran Brewery has also been instrumental in assisting

Ayrshire College's Dr Marko Prorocic to develop a brewing apprenticeship and brewing courses at its Kilwinning campus.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said: 'It is a busy time for the Arran brewery with the start of a cider and sour beer range next year and we have a lot more new product developments in the pipeline for 2020.

'I am particularly happy Ayrshire College is supporting the sector and proud to have assisted the college team to develop a brewing offering that will help the whole industry and fill a real gap in provision.'

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Changes to bin collections

Residents on Arran are being reminded to check their bin collection arrangements for the festive period as there will be some changes to waste and recycling collection services owing to the Christmas and New Year bank holidays.

On Arran only households whose bin collections fall on a Wednesday or Friday will be affected, although the actual time of collections may vary, particularly if adverse weather affects the area. The revised timetable for Arran over the festive period will see bins that would usually be emptied on Wednesday December 25, taking place on Friday December 27. Bins that would usually be emptied on Friday December 27, will take place on Saturday December 28.

Those that are normally timetabled for Wednesday January 1, will take place on Friday January 3, and those that were scheduled for Friday January 3, will take place the following day on Saturday January 4.

Additionally, North Ayrshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres will be closed on December 25 and 26 and January 1 and 2. They will open as normal outwith these dates.

Special uplifts will stop on Friday December 20 and can be requested again on the week commencing Monday January 6, 2020.

Further information about the changes can be found at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/mybinday

Gibson re-elected with an increased majority

Patricia Gibson easily retained the North Ayrshire and Arran seat for the SNP more than doubling her majority on a good night for the Scottish National Party at the General Election.

Mrs Gibson secured her return to Westminster with a majority of 8,521, winning 48.5 per cent of the vote – more than the Conservatives and Labour combined, a result repeated across many parts of Scotland.

She is one of 48 SNP MPs across Scotland to return to Westminster this week.

Speaking after the results Mrs Gibson said: "The General Election result was a clear victory for the SNP across Ayrshire and Scotland.

"I am honoured that North Ayrshire and Arran's people have again placed their trust in me to represent them at Westminster.

"We fought this election

in the belief that Scotland's future should be in Scotland's hands. No Prime Minister, no government has the right to deny Scotland this choice. The UK Government has already accepted that the people of Scotland are sovereign. Democracy demands that the voice of Scotland's people is heard.

Emboldened

"We now face an emboldened Tory Prime Minister with a significant majority who has been comprehensively rejected by Scotland.

"Yet we are being asked to endure that for which we did not vote. If the SNP does not have a mandate to decide its future because it "only" won 45 per cent of the vote, then by the same token, the Prime Minister does not have a mandate, since he only won 43 per cent across the UK and 25 per cent in Scotland.

"As Labour faces up to yet



Re-elected Patricia Gibson joins Westminster leader Ian Blackford and her new colleagues outside parliament this week.

Full results

Patricia Gibson
Scottish National Party (SNP), 23,376

David Rocks
Scottish Conservative and Unionist, 14,855

Cameron Gilmore
Scottish Labour Party, 6,702

Louise Young
Scottish Liberal Democrats, 2,107

David Nairn
Scottish Green Party, 1,114

another catastrophic failure to win voters' trust, Scotland has embraced the message of hope; rejecting austerity and Brexit and continuing our path towards a more inclusive, just, fair and equal society. That is what Scotland wants. No Prime Minister has the right to deny the Scotland's people that opportunity and our voice will be heard."

Conservative candidate David Rocks finished second in the poll. North Ayrshire and Arran constituency

chairman Richard Wilkinson said: "This election has proven locally that the Scottish Conservatives are the only party in a position to challenge the SNP – both nationally and locally.

"Nicola Sturgeon continues to call for a second independence referendum claiming a mandate when their national vote was 45 per cent on a 66 per cent turnout.

"She says herself that many people lent their vote to the SNP this time – 55 per cent of

voters backed Unionist parties. I believe that it is time all Unionists came together to counter Ms Sturgeon's bid to break up the most successful union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland."

The percentage turnout for North Ayrshire and Arran 65.6 per cent – this compares to 64.9 per cent in the previous UK Parliamentary Election held in 2017.

The total number of votes cast was 48,269, with 115 rejected ballot papers.

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Coffee roasting venture for Duchess Court

A bid to set up a coffee bean roasting business in Brodick has taken a step forward.

A planning application has been made to convert the pottery shop and studio of Simon Thorborn, which recently closed at Home Farm, for the new business.

The Isle of Arran Coffee Company Ltd will take over Unit 1 at Duchess Court and owner Duncan Russell is delighted to welcome them on board. He said: 'We are very excited for something new which will compliment the current mix. We are obviously gutted that Simon had to vacate the premises, but his health comes first.'

In a supporting statement to North Ayrshire Council planners the applicant, Ms Alix Hitching, explains what she proposes: 'I am in the process of setting up a coffee bean roasting business on Arran. I would wish to use the space for the roasting of green coffee beans and to have a small retail offering from the site. The split would be approx. roasting 80/20 retail. Most of my sales will be the business to business market.'

'The new machine (Toper 10kg), I will be using, will

come fitted with an afterburner. The installation of the afterburner will ensure that all unburnt components, smoke, smell and dust particles are re-burnt before being discharged. The exhaust air of the roaster meets International EPA standards.

'As the proposed site is in an area with a mix of production and retail, there is already provision for car park spaces. Immediately adjacent to Duchess Court is an area containing 24 dedicated car parks.

'At start up, the business would be run by myself, with the hope that within 24 months, I may be able to employ further staff. I would envisage actual roasting of the beans to initially be half a day a week, building to a full day of roasting.

Ms Hitching adds: 'I had previously applied for a site in Whiting Bay. However taking onboard the rather detailed objection of one of the potential neighbours, it was decided that in the scope of good relations from within a small community, I would look to place this business in an area more set up for a commercial enterprise.'



The Isle of Arran Coffee Company will take over the front half of the now closed Simon Thorborn's pottery premises.

01_B51coffee01

Column sponsored by the Scottish Government

Become a Healthcare Professional and Get Ready for a Life-Changing Career.

A new campaign is shining a spotlight on a career in healthcare – highlighting the range of opportunities available and encouraging young people to consider it as a suitable profession.

A huge variety of careers (within nursing, midwifery, the allied health professions and healthcare science) are accessible and there are plenty of jobs available. What's more, you can work in a wide range of settings from hospitals, GP practices, care homes, community clinics, people's homes, or schools.

As well as an undergraduate bursary of £10,000 for those choosing to study nursing or midwifery from 2020, a healthcare degree is highly valued, both here in Scotland and all over the world.

It's a stable and valued career for life – more people studying nursing related degrees go on to find a job after their course than any other degree.

The new 'What did you do today?' campaign shows the significant variety of opportunities within all healthcare professions including nursing, midwifery, healthcare science and the allied health professions such as radiographers, dietitians and paramedics, featuring real people sharing their real stories.

If you're a young person or know one who's still trying to figure out their career path, then working in healthcare could be a great route. No two days are the same, it's rewarding, and you get to make a real difference to people's lives.

To find out more about the career paths available and where to study visit CareersInHealthcare.scot

Be prepared for Christmas closures

With all GP practices and pharmacies closing on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 December, Arran residents are being urged to prepare to cope with any common health concerns.

Roisin Kavanagh, director of pharmacy, explains: 'You can do a number of things to make sure you are prepared to deal with common illnesses for the coming months. Have a sufficient supply of medicines like paracetamol, sore throat and cough remedies, as these will help to relieve the symptoms of common ailments.'

'If you take regular medication, you should check your existing supplies and only order what you need to ensure you have enough to see you through the holiday weekend. It is also a good idea to make sure you know when your local GP practice and community pharmacy are closed.'

If you need a doctor or dentist and it cannot wait until your GP or dental surgery is open, call NHS 24 on 111.

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LETTERS

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Looking to the future

Providing pupils with an insight into future career possibilities, the jobs fair at Arran High School exemplified the wealth of opportunities and support that is available to pupils in the modern educational system.

The event was not only successful in helping to clarify what pupils can expect once they leave school, and helping to relieve some of the fears about what the job market will entail in the future, but also it was a shining beacon for industry and business on Arran.

Speaking to the various representatives and employers, pupils were assured that employment, in whatever vocation they choose, is available on Arran and that opportunities can still exist in the island economy. No longer is having to leave the island for employment the option that it once was, even for the most optimistic of pupils, but the established industries and organisations can offer a wealth of variety and range. Of course, further education and mainland opportunities were represented and will be the preferred option for many, but for those who wish to follow their career paths in the villages where they were raised, opportunities do abound.

Equally heartening was the level of participation from island business – of which there were many, and there would have been even more had it not been for disrupted ferry sailings. The jobs fair was a huge success, not only for the pupils, as time will tell, but for local businesses too.

Thought for the week

‘The angel said, “Mary will have a son, and you will name him Jesus – because he will save his people from their sins?” Matt 1:21

Bird appreciation

Sir,
It is just marvellous that we have Jim Cassels and supporters; giving us his first-class bird notes in the Arran Banner. His standard never varies throughout all the years he has been in charge.

For Arran to have a bird recorder as skilled and knowledgeable as Jim is most fortunate indeed. He is as rare as a Siberian chiffchaff enjoying time at Clauchlands.

Reading his bird notes gives me pleasure, awareness and knowledge of the Isle of Arran, which I visit annually, and brings it nearer to me.

I am unable to properly write on Dr Cassels and all the work he and others do, regarding the production of bird notes, bird atlas, etc but to say thank you for all your skilled work.

Other people will be able to express their gratitude better than I can.

Yours,
Edward Jackson,
Glasgow.

Campaign thanks

Sir,
It was a privilege to stand again as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran at the General Election last Thursday.

The number of votes cast for me was higher than in 2017 and our solid performance proves we had a positive and engaging campaign. I am grateful to everyone who voted for me and I have enjoyed meeting and speaking to as many of you as possible.

With the collapse of the Labour vote locally and nationally, it is clear that only the Scottish Conservatives can and will stand up for Scotland's place in the United Kingdom.

With a majority Conservative government now in place, I believe we will soon see the benefits of finally leaving the EU across every part of our family of nations.

Our country has been on pause

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



Our photograph of the week captures the decidedly wintry feeling on Arran in the run-up to Christmas. In this picture taken by a staff photographer, the winter hues of black and blue are punctuated with a touch of colour from the Brodick Christmas tree on the shorefront which shines brightly on a frosty evening after the sun has set. 01_B51potw01

for too long. Now we can move forward together, hopeful that the divisions of the past will finally be allowed to heal.

Yours,
David Rocks,
Scottish Conservative and
Unionist Candidate for North
Ayrshire and Arran – 2019

What is a buntie?

Sir,
At the recent Arran Society of Glasgow annual dinner, one of the speakers, an Arran-born lady gave an amusing talk, during which she referred to us mainlander home owners (a little disparagingly?) as ‘bunties’.

What would our great-uncle Willy, a Cromarty man, who wrote the Book of Arran, have made of that?

We wonder what the origin of the term ‘buntie’ is.

Yours,
John Fraser MacKenzie,
Catacol.

Save those stamps

Sir,
Christmas and New Year is a time of giving and goodwill, but with a seemingly endless list of presents to buy and parties to attend, it isn't always easy to find the spare cash to donate to a charitable cause.

This Christmas, you can help support sight loss charity the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) by collecting used stamps from the cards and parcels you'll no doubt be receiving during the festive period and into the New Year.

Your stamps will be recycled and

turned into vital funds that will help RNIB break down barriers that still exist in society for people living with sight loss.

By donating your stamps, you will be supporting blind and partially sighted people and helping to tackle issues of isolation, inequality and unemployment head on.

To get involved and receive your pre-paid envelopes, visit www.rnib.org.uk/stamps or call 0303 123 9999. Then all you have to do is send your stamps using RNIB's freepost envelopes, and they'll take care of the rest. It really is that easy!

Show your support to RNIB this festive season, get collecting those stamps and help to create an equal society for people living with sight loss. Thank you.

Vanessa Feltz,
for RNIB Scotland.

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PRESSPOLICY

At The Arran Banner, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

However, we realise that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the chief reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter, by emailing: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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The true meaning of Christmas

A timely message from Arran Churches Together

One of the most remarkable Christmas stories is the account of the British and German soldiers holding a truce on the front line on Christmas Day in 1914.

After weeks of exchanging gunfire, the ceasefire began with the singing of Christmas carols, the Germans singing 'Stille nacht' and then both sides singing 'O come all ye faithful'. The soldiers exchanged gifts instead of bullets and treated each other as fellow human beings.

In this day and age, when there are so many conflicts in the world, we need to remember that Jesus was born to bring peace to the world. As the angels sang to the shepherds, 'Glory to God on high and peace on earth.' If soldiers fighting in one of the bitterest wars in history can meet in peace on Christmas Day, we too should have love and compassion for others.

This is the time to remind ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas, that we are all human beings, created in God's image. We all share the resources of the world.

We may not be able to do much to help the victims of conflict in other countries but we can help those who are suffering in our own community. As we enjoy our Christmas festivities, let us remember those who are homeless, those who are alone, and those who are unable to celebrate this Christmas. Let us pray that in some small way we may be able to show them the love of Jesus and bring the joy of Christmas into their lives.

*Silent night! Holy night!
Christ is here, all is light,
Shadows of the past are gone
With the advent of the Son,
Born to save us all.*



Dealing with loss and bereavement over Christmas

It's one year now since we, Jan Attkins and I, began the Last Waltz, a safe and supported space to share memories and recognise loss.

Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for those of us who have suffered bereavement.

Memories from the past can crowd in to make the loss feel harder. Cheerful decorations and tunes don't help.

We don't have the answers, but we have some suggestions we hope may help you through. They are gleaned from experience, both personal and shared from the community:

- Begin each day by checking in with yourself. Take a few moments to ask, 'how am I?' Feeling down or sad is allowed, it's ok. Realising how you feel allows you to set realistic expectations for your day. If you need to be at a festive gathering, ask 'how do I make this the best experience for myself that I can?' Often this will involve planning 'time out' and/or making sure you are with trusted friends. Just knowing you can leave

early if you choose can make a difference.

- If friends offer help, accept if you feel ok to do so. Allowing help says, 'I trust you'. This is a gift to that friend. Often the best help is a listening ear. Sharing memories and loss is an important part of grieving.

- Don't be surprised if you feel angry. This is natural and does not mean you are cold or uncaring.

- Treat yourself as if you are in recovery, you are! Be kind and tolerant of your moods and gentle with yourself.

You are welcome to join us for the December meeting of the Last Waltz, at Heather Lodge, on Sunday December 22 from 2-4pm. More information is available at www.heatherlodge.scot

Susan Knox

GET INVOLVED
email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Keeping Scotland Warm and Cosy For Over 35 Years

Join The Arran Renewable Heating Revolution

Wishing all our customers a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

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.

The heat pump will provide you with all year round warmth and comfort and all the hot water you need at about the same running costs as a mains gas boiler.

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

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



Linda MacCallum, Jill Jeffries and Kat Sparshott of Bay Wool and Crafts with some of the scarves that will be donated to the homeless. 01_B51scarves03

Scarf initiative cash wrapped

A scarf knitting fundraising initiative by Bay Wool and Crafts in Whiting Bay has raised £500 for Arran RNLI and Arran Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT) as well as delivering almost 50 scarves to homeless charity Seascope Ayr.

Launched with the help of Arran MP Patricia Gibson, the project started in April this year and involved visitors to the store knitting a few rows on a scarf while enjoying refreshments and the company of other knitters in return for a small donation.

The aim was to see how many scarves could be knitted before the Shop Arran week at the end of November and involved individuals and groups.

Participants eagerly contributed to the initiative. They included spinner and weaver Rory Rutherford, who spins and dyes his own wool on Arran, who donated a scarf.

Further afield, Anne and John Stephenson from

Huddersfield read about the initiative through the Arran Banner online. They donated a significant number of scarves and travelled to Arran to deliver them.

Co-organiser of the initiative with her husband Steve, Kat Sparshott said: 'With the combined and hugely appreciated help of summer visitors, Rory Rutherford of Spin Off and the lightning needles of Anne and John Stephenson from Huddersfield, we have an amazing 47 scarves to be handed to the charity for the homeless, Seascope Ayr, in time for Christmas.'

'Over the eight months we have been knitting, an enduring memory has been the Optimists Discovery Group from Kilsyth, one of the first groups of ladies to sit down and knit with us. There were six of them in total.'

'There was also a couple from Hull and their rescue dog Piper, who had followed them to their car and eventually learned how to open the

windows and escape. Then there was a young lady who spent three hours knitting an attractive and intricate design, all completely from memory, while it poured down outside. She and her boyfriend were only on Arran for the day and overnight but were content to while away the hours in the shop knitting.'

'We are very grateful to all the wonderful people we've met through this project, old and young, new knitters and those who can't remember not being able to knit.'

'A massive thanks to everyone who took part and donated. Extra thanks to Liz McLean and the Big Co-op for rounding up the final total.'

Kat and Steve presented cheques to representatives of the RNLI and AMRT who expressed their gratitude for the donations, all of which will help contribute to making the services they provide possible.



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Arran Mountain Rescue Team representatives receive a donation from Kat and Steve Sparshott. 01_B51scarves02

CONTACT US

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

has charity up



John Stephenson of Huddersfield visited a number of Arran locations during his visit to deliver the scarves.



John Stephenson visits Lamlash with some of the scarves he and his wife Anne donated.



Kat and Steve Sparshott present a cheque to Arran RNLI representatives.

Fund will support VE Day commemorations

Community groups and organisations across North Ayrshire are being given a helping hand to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day next summer.

VE Day 75 – from May 8 to 10 next year – is a three-day international event to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Many organisations will be planning to hold events or deliver activities that mark this significant event in history.

Grants of up to £1,000 are available to help support these events and North Ayrshire Council is now accepting applications for potential funding.

Rhona Arthur, interim head of service for connected communities, said: 'Although it was almost 75 years ago, the Second World War affected all of our families in some way. It's fitting we mark and commemorate what is a landmark moment in our history, when the guns fell si-



How our sister paper The Oban Times reported the VE Day celebrations in 1945.

lent across Europe and people took to the streets to celebrate peace and mourn those who would not return home.

'The 75th anniversary of VE Day provides us with an opportunity to join communities throughout Europe in remembering and honouring the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces, veterans and their families.'

Grants of £200, £500 or £1000 will be available and

applications forms can be downloaded from the North Ayrshire Council website at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/your-community/community-funding.aspx

Printed versions can be collected from or requested via North Ayrshire Heritage Centre, Saltcoats, on 01294 464174, or Irvine Townhouse on 01294 310090.

Applications must be submitted by January 6 2020.

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Merry Christmas

to all our customers

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Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

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



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Merry Christmas to all our patients and clients. Thank you for all your support in 2019 and all Good Wishes for 2020. From Charlotte, Shona, Gemma and Danielle.

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

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Jobs fair helps guide the



Andrew Binnie of Eco Savvy was in demand from children wanting to know about eBikes and 'green' careers.

01_B50career03

Words and photos by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



More than 20 businesses from Arran and the mainland provided Arran High School pupils with a wealth of information about various opportunities available to pupils at a careers event last week.

Taking place in the games hall, the jobs fair is part of the Curriculum for Excellence which includes Developing the Young Workforce, partnered with Skills Development Scotland.

The undertaking, organised by deputy head teacher Susan Foster, received a huge amount of support from local businesses and had it not been for the disruption of the ferry services owing to bad weather even more mainland businesses would have been represented.

Still, many mainland organisations attended.

These included the Construction Industry Training Board which made its offering technologically interactive with a virtual reality presentation. The maritime industry was represented by British Marine Scotland and the military provided further options through the Royal Navy representative.

Career path

Further education was presented as a career path with Glasgow Caledonian University providing information about various courses and degrees available for pupils.

A Police Scotland representative spoke to pupils about the work they do and the careers available to new recruits.

Arran businesses represented included: Auchrannie Resort, SSE, Eco Savvy,

Arran Sense of Scotland, CalMac, Stagecoach, Armitage Groundworks, Arran Haulage, VisitArran, McAlister Opticians, Royal Bank of Scotland, VisitArran and Arran Outdoor Education Centre.

Farmer Niall McMaster spoke to children about the farming industry on Arran.

Mrs Foster expressed her gratitude to all of the businesses which took part, noting it was this type of community participation and willingness of people to work together and help each other that made the event extra special, particularly relevant and of great use to pupils.

Future

Pupils from S1 to S6 took the opportunity to visit the event throughout the day asking questions about the businesses and finding out about what opportunities and careers they anticipate pursuing in the future.



Angus Raeburn of SSE - formerly Scottish and Southern Electricity - shows two young boys some of the cable SSE electricians work with.

01_B50career02



Margaret Bulger and Lois Bell of Arran Sense of Scotland speak to pupils about careers in the company and within the industry.

01_B50career05



CalMac employees Tim Crockett and Adam Brown speak to pupils about the various career opportunities with their organisation.

01_B50career06



Pupils are enthralled by a talk from forester Andy Walker of Forestry and Land Scotland who demonstrated some of the equipment used in the industry.

01_B50career04



Pupils line up to try the virtual reality headset provided by construction advisor Margaret Evans of the Construction Industry Training Board.

01_B50career19



Farmer Niall McMaster speaks to pupils about the variety of work and the positive aspects of the agricultural sector.

01_B50career18

future young workforce



Auchrannie people development manager Amanda Pirie speaks to two young girls about the various careers in the hospitality industry. 01_B50career01



Melissa Pettigrew, recruitment and events administration assistant at Glasgow Caledonian University, speaks to pupils about further education opportunities. 01_B50career10



PC Ian Thomson speaks to pupils about the responsibilities of police officers and the career opportunities available to new recruits. 01_B50career14



Alison Downs of Holy Loch Marina represented British Marine Scotland and Maritime UK and answered questions pupils had about careers in the maritime industry. 01_B50career11



Sheila Gilmore fields a large number of questions from pupils wanting to learn about destination management and marketing opportunities within the industry and VisitArran. 01_B50career15



Rachel Armitage of Armitage Groundworks provides pupils with an insight into the building and construction industry with details about careers and a fun quiz which children tried to test their construction knowledge. 01_B50career08



Optical assistant Laura Tomlinson of McAlister Opticians has a laugh and shares a sweet treat with pupils interested in learning more about the ophthalmic industry. 01_B50career12



Crawford Dick of the Royal Navy was kept busy with pupils enquiring about careers in the navy. 01_B50career16



Lauren Burns and Tracey Davy of Arran Haulage outline the numerous career paths available from the company. 01_B50career09



Two pupils listen intently to Karen Ward from Royal Bank of Scotland about the various careers in the banking industry. 01_B50career13



Ian Staples and Tom Nichol of the Arran Outdoor Education Centre speak to pupils about outdoor education and the various pursuits and careers available to outdoor enthusiasts. 01_B50career17



Scott Clark speaks to pupils about the various careers available at Stagecoach. 01_B50career07

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a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
From all the Armitage gang.**



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27th & 28th - OPEN - 09.00 - 17.00
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1st & 2nd - CLOSED
3rd & 4th - OPEN - 9.00 - 17.00
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30th & 31st - OPEN - 08.30 - 17.30

JANUARY
1st & 2nd - CLOSED
3rd & 4th - OPEN - 08.30 - 17.30
5th - OPEN - 12.30 - 17.00

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



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6am - 8pm - 24th December
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6am - 10pm - Boxing Day
6am - 8pm - 31st December
6am - 10pm - New Year's Day

WEE CO, BRODICK AND LAMLASH
7am - 10pm - 23rd December
7am - 9pm - 24th December
Closed - Christmas Day
8am - 8pm - Boxing Day
7am - 9pm - 31st December
8am - 8pm - New Year's Day

Wishing you a Happy Christmas & New Year
Thank you for your support during our first year



The Shore


From The Shore Team,
Adam & Charlotte

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Christmas**

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Christmas Eve 9am -5pm
 Christmas Day Closed
 Boxing Day Closed
 27th to 31st normal hours
 New Year's Day Closed
 from 2nd Jan 2020 normal hours

THE CORRIE HOTEL

Danny and Anne would like to thank all of our customers and staff for their continued support again this year, and hope you all have a great 2020.

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Christmas & New Year Open Hours (green = open)

	December							January											
	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	M	T	W	
Brodick	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Lamlash	Closed 21 Dec - 5th Jan inclusive														9	10	11	12	

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Thank you for your continued support, we wish you a Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you to our new shoe shop opening Spring 2020!


*Christmas is near
 and Santa's on his way
 Arran Haulage wish you
 A Wonderful Day*



Personal Christmas greetings

WISHING ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE ARRAN BANNER



OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY 25TH AND THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

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 & 1 Jan



we wish you a merry Christmas

Number 16 Restaurant would like to thank everyone who has supported our Arran 'pop-up' events throughout 2019. We'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020. We look forward to seeing you again in the new year!



No Sixteen
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 Sunday 29th 10am – 430pm (kitchen closes 4pm)
 Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st 9am – 430 pm (kitchen closes 4pm)
 1st and 2nd January – closed
 Kicking off the new decade on 3rd January at 9am for business as usual©



*A massive thank you to all our customers for your continued support in 2019!
 Wishing you all a fabulous festive season and a Happy New Year!
 With love from all the team @*

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN

Who stole Santa's secret parcels?

Lamlash SWI party this year had the usual delicious buffet, competition, and Secret Santa, but for a change added in a murder mystery-type enactment, though on the gentler Christmas theme of who stole Santa's parcels.

Luckily the audience managed to work out who had stolen them away out of spite and when confronted by the evidence the character was full of remorse, so the parcels were returned to Santa ready for Christmas Eve. A happy ending to the party and an enjoyable and informative autumn session.

Remember new members will be assured of a warm welcome no matter what time of the year they join or come along as a visitor.

Janet Mair The ladies enjoy the Lamlash SWI Christmas party.



December bridge club results

Arran Bridge Club has had a busy month of competitions during December but has now finished for the festival holidays and will resume in January.

The results of the matchpoints game held on Monday December 2 were: 1. Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2. John Baraclough and Dougie Bruce, 3. Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 4. Jan and John Beattie. Five tables.

The results of the aggregate game held on Thursday December 5 were: N/S 1. Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2. Jennifer McArthur and Maureen Cumming, 3. Pat Adamson and Brenda Livingstone. E/W 1. Jan and John Beattie, 2. Margaret McGill and Tom Kelly, 3. Ellie Jones and

Elizabeth McKellar. Four and a half tables.

The results of the aggregate game played on Monday December 9 were: N/S 1. Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson, 2. Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 3. Dougie and Margaret Bruce.

E/W 1. David Henderson and Anne McKelvie, 2. Tom Kelly and Jane Davidson, 3. Margaret McGill and Liz McKellar. Five tables.

The results of the matchpoints game played on Thursday December 12 were: 1. Tricia Martin and

Douglas Hamilton, 1. Dougie and Margaret Bruce, 3. David Campbell and Anne McKelvie, 4. John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales. Six and a half tables.

The results of the aggregate game played on Monday December 16 were: N/S 1. Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2. Maureen Cumming and Fiona Henderson, 3. Pat Adamson and Brenda Livingstone. E/W 1. Dougie and Margaret Bruce, 2. Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3. Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan. Six and a half tables.

The Arran Bridge Club wishes all their members and visitors, from near and far, a Happy Christmas and a good New Year. Bridge resumes on Monday January 6, 2020 at Little Rock, Brodick at 7pm.



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Woodland revival takes root with volunteer help

Holidaymakers, schoolchildren and refugees are among the many people getting involved in the National Trust for Scotland project to revive Glen Rosa's woodland, writes Colin Smeeton.

The latest helpers, 12 people taking part in one of the conservation charity's work-

ing holidays, planted 3,500 trees in November in one of Scotland's most dramatic landscapes.

Generously supported by the players of Peoples Postcode Lottery, this project aims to revive woodland landscapes lost gradually over time, protecting Scotland's

natural environment for future generations.

Kate Sampson, senior ranger for the NTS explains more about the project and who's getting involved: 'Tree loss in Glen Rosa started with felling by the first Bronze age settlers, then grazing by community farmers, followed by sheep after the people were cleared from the glen during the clearances and now sheep are replaced by red deer.

The remaining trees in the glen cling to steep-sided gullies or crags where the deer cannot reach. Now deer will be fenced out of an area of 400 hectares, allowing the ground to recover from over grazing and enabling us to kick start the habitat revival by planting trees.

'This ambitious project aims to plant 40,000 trees this winter. Native broadleaf species have been selected for planting, including the en-



Local schoolchildren play their part in the reforestation project.



Another visiting volunteer group make their mark by planting native trees in Glen Rosa.

dem Arran whitebeam and locally sourced aspen. These will be planted with oaks, hazel, birch and willows, creating a naturalistic upland woodland.

'Arran is famous for its three endemic trees: the Arran whitebeams. Only found on Arran, they are some of the most endangered trees in the world. Over the years a local tree 'guru' Henry Murdo, has been collecting seed and propagating the Arran whitebeams. His trees will find a new home in Glen Rosa, hopefully securing the species for the future.

'Aspens on Arran are another tree species living on the edge. A DNA survey of our remaining aspen revealed that only female trees were left. Now we are planting males that have been micro propagated from root cuttings of aspens taken from other parts of the island, thanks to Forestry and Land Scotland. Only through our new planting will the aspens have a chance of producing new baby aspens.

'But it's not all about the trees, only a small part of the fenced off area will be planted, leaving open space for golden eagles that are hunting and visually the mountains will still be glimpsed through the open canopy.

'The 40,000 trees will have a positive impact, increasing

biodiversity, helping reduce climate change not only through storing carbon dioxide but also through reducing the impact of flood events and landslips, and reducing the risk of heathland fires.

'One of the most rewarding parts of this project has been the overwhelming positive response shown from the community.

'Many people have offered up their time to help plant trees. Others who can no longer help physically have given donations for more trees.

'The local school, Brodick Primary School, have been out planting as have Syrian refugee families. Together they are helping to make a difference and although the work may be hard with a long walk in and sometimes challenging weather conditions, at the end of the day almost everyone comes back smiling.'

For more information contact: goatfell@nts.org.uk and keep up to date with the project on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ArranRangerService/>.



Volunteers enjoy a well-deserved break during planting in Glen Rosa.

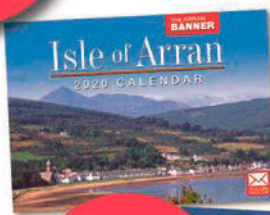
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Castle celebrates Christmas with community trees

Brodick Castle has been celebrating Christmas throughout the month and, for the first time, has asked local businesses and community groups to join in the festive fun by inviting them to decorate Christmas trees around the castle.

A total of six trees have been decorated around the National Trust for Scotland property. The tree from VisitArran has guidebooks and ArranCards, Arran Ice Cream has chosen to decorate its tree with mini tubs of its goodies, Lagg Distillery has festooned its tree with bottles

of whisky and the Auchrannie Resort has had hundreds of baubles specially made for its tree. Arts collective Crafts & Company has gone for an upcycled theme, while Arran Eco Savvy has used its tree to invite visitors to make 'eco pledges'.

Castle staff have also decorated a number of trees themselves, including one with a flamboyant crinoline, another with a train set running around the outside and a third with decorations made out of sheets of music paper.

In addition to the trees, the castle has had a full calendar

of festive fun. There's an elf scavenger hunt to find the cheeky elves hidden around the castle, a North Pole post box for writing letters to Santa, and a Christmas photo backdrop in the Drawing Room for creating that perfect Christmas card family photograph.

The castle has also been running Christmas-themed historical tours of the property that feature stories from the families that have called the beautiful building home.

Operations manager Dr Jared Bowers said: 'It's wonderful to be able to welcome visitors in to the castle at this time of year and show it off in such a magical way. It's the perfect place to get in to the Christmas spirit and help our charity to protect Brodick and Scotland's other special places too.'

Christmas at Brodick Castle is open this weekend, but closes after Sunday. All activities are included for free within the normal admission price and entry is free for National Trust for Scotland members.



A train runs round one of the castle's own trees.



The Eco Savvy tree invites visitors to make 'eco pledges'.



Little tubs of ice cream on the Arran Dairies tree.



The VisitArran tree has pride of place in the Beckford Collection room.



The tree created by Crafts & Company.



The Auchrannie Resort baubles which decorate their tree.

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Starters

Arran Whisky home cured Gigha halibut gravadlax, crème fraîche with avocado

Rosemary scented polenta, cheddar & wild mushroom fritter, sauce veirge (vg)

Main Course

Roast sirloin of Scotch beef, thyme fondant potato, creamed savoy cabbage, maple glazed parsnips & port wine sauce

Parsnip, pickled beetroot & red onion tatin, warm puy lentil salad and onion marmalade (vg)

Dessert

Chocolate brownie, raspberry sorbet, honey comb & meringue shards (vg)

Cheese Board £8.25
A selection of Arran cheeses with Wooley's Oaties
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What's on

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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
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 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 Disc only	The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Over-21's Disco	Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Sunday 22nd December

Christmas at the Castle	Brodick Castle and Country Gardens, 10am - 4pm
Q30	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
Live Music - Open Mic with Nicola Evans	Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, Brodick, 1pm - 4pm
Family games	Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Live Music - Neil Wilson - virtuoso guitarist	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 23rd December

Morning Fitness	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am-10.30am
Arran Punch Out	Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
Circuit training	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
Rink Games	Brodick Bowling Club, 6.15pm
Winter Bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb	Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Live Music - Megan Hamill	Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s	Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 24th December

Body Blitz (booking essential)	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Healthy Outdoors Team	Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Eco Savvy Energy Surgeries	Home Farm, Brodick, 10am - 3pm
Chess Morning	Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 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
Hatton Boxing	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm

Live Music - Christmas Carols and Santa
Eco Savvy Food Share
Trev's Pop Music Quiz
Traditional Music Sessions

Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 6pm
Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Brodick Bar, 9pm

Wednesday 25th December



Thursday 26th December

Kettlercise	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 11am - 11.45am
Blackwaterfoot annual Boxing Day bowls competition	Blackwaterfoot, 1.30pm
Live Music - Olivia Barker	The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
Body Blitz (booking essential)	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Arran Punch Out	Arran High School, Lamlash, 7.30pm
Live Music - Open Session	Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 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 27th December

Yoga	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Hydrofit	Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am - 10.30am
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	Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Live Music - Fatman and The Angel	Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
Friday Night Quiz	Octopus Centre, COAST, Lamlash, 9pm
Eco Savvy Food Share	The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Disco with DJ McGarrigle	

Saturday 28th December

Q30	Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
Live Music - Anchorline	Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Live Music - Hingin by a Threed, Celtic folk band	The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Dining and Disco or Disc only	The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Over-21's Disco	Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm



THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 24, 1999

Christmas memories of yesteryear



Nursery pupils at Corrie perform for their parents. 01_B51TweY01



Santa poses with pupils at Whiting Bay. 01_B51TweY07



Corrie pupils at their Puss in Boots concert last Friday. 01_B51TweY02



Lewis Kennedy was delighted to meet Santa and receive a gift. 01_B51TweY08



Claire Taylor of Corrie receives a gift from Santa. 01_B51TweY06



Santa is photographed with all of the pupils at Corrie. 01_B51TweY03



Pirrmill head teacher Carol Shaw assists Santa who is handing a present to Carrie McGloin. 01_B51TweY04

Pirrmill pupil Natalie Innes Meets Santa. 01_B51TweY05



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AGM

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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 10.01.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

19/00925/PP; Site To North West Of Margareoch, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of 1 and 1/2 storey dwelling house and detached garage.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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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 22nd December
Pirnmill and Lochranza Churches together,
10.15am Morning Worship at Pirnmill, Including Sacrament of Baptism Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am. Morning Worship, Nativity& Family Christmas Service.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship.

There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

Tuesday 24th December
Shiskine Church Christmas Eve Watchnight Service at 11.30pm.
Brodick Church, Christmas Eve Family Service at 5.00pm. and at 11.30 pm. Watchnight Service.
Corrie Church 9.30 pm. Christmas Eve Service.
Wednesday 25th December
Lochranza Church, 11am. Christmas Day Service.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland
Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 22nd December
A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service.
All most welcome.
There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm.
N.B. There will be no service at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Wednesday 25th December
There will be a short family service conducted by the minister at 10am this Christmas morning to which all children are invited to bring a gift from Santa to show.
Everyone most welcome. Offering will go to The Glasgow City Mission.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 22nd December
4th Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion at 11 am.
Richard Trewby
Coffee after service
Christmas Day
Wednesday 25th December
Sung Eucharist at 11am
Revd Adrian Fallows
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 22nd 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 22nd December
Rev Dr Ian MacLeod
Kilmory at 10 am
Lamlash at 11.30 am
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072
Tuesday 24th December
Christmas Eve
In Lamlash: Watchnight Service at 10pm
In Kilmory: Watchnight Service at 11.30pm
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 22nd 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 22nd 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.



Ryan Armstrong blasts the ball into the net from close range. Photographs: Tam Borland

Double hat-trick as Arran win at Troon

Troon Town	2
Arran	8
League Division One	

Arran AFC enjoyed a comfortable win over Troon Town at Hosiery Park, Troon, last weekend in their final game in the Ayrshire Sunday League before the winter break.

Helping the side to finish in fine style, goal scorers Archie McNicol and Ryan Armstrong both scored hat-tricks while Johnny Sloss scored a brace.

Ryan Armstrong was named man of the match for his commanding and versatile performance in centre midfield.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 22nd December
Shiskine at 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick at 6pm
Services will be taken by Dr Graham Keith

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 22nd December
Sunday Morning Mass at 11am
Tuesday 24th December
First Mass of Christmas at 9pm
Wednesday 25th December
Christmas Morning Mass at 11am

DEATH

McKERRREL - Elizabeth Anne nee Brown of Machrie on 12 December. Thanks to Strathcarron Hospice for their support.

A club spokesman said: 'As we finish for the winter break, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved and supported us throughout the season so far.'

Arran are currently sitting in fourth position in the league table with 15 points from five games.

Irvine CSC are at the top of the table with 21 points, having played three more games.

Killie Athletic are in second place with 18 points from six games, while Kilbirnie United, in third spot, are just one point ahead of Arran with 16 points after seven games.



Archie McNicol curves the ball around the Troon keeper to score for Arran.



Brodick Golf Club

Sunday December 15, Brandon and Winter Cup, 11 played, NC. 1 Bill Donaldson 75-15=60, 2 Alastair Dobson 77-12=65, 3 John May 86-20=66. Scratch Bill Donaldson 75.
Fixture: Sunday December 22, Mixed Captain v Vice Captain Match, 11.00am shotgun start, followed by Christmas lunch. Names on

board please for golf or turn up 10.30ish. Names required for lunch.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday December 16, Winter Cup. 1 R Burke 70-10=60(scr), 2 R McLean 75-13=62. Magic two A Smith.
Fixtures: Saturday December 21, Sweep, ballots at 9am and 12.30pm.
Monday December 23, Winter Cup, ballot at 12noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday December 17, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Alex Morrisson-Cowan 37pts BIH, 2 Phil Betley 37pts, 3 Brian Sherwood 34pts and a magic two.

Fixtures: Tuesday December 24, Winter Cup tee off 12noon. Saturday December 28, two club comp (one club must be a putter) to be played over 9 holes, tee off 12noon. Tuesday December 31, Winter Cup cancelled.

Lamlash Golf Club

Fixtures: Sunday December 22, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon starts.
Thursday December 26, Boxing Day game, one start at noon. Wishing all our members and friends a very happy Christmas.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Fixture: Sunday December 22, Christmas Sweep and Winter Cup. Draw at 10am.

Dashing Santas delight



JogScotland coach Lorna Logan arrives for the run.

01_B51Santa02



Matt and Fiona Webb dressed daughter Rachel in suitable attire for the run.

01_B51Santa03



Brodick Primary School staff prepare to set off.

01_B51Santa04



Jolly runners gather at the starting point.

01_B51Santa05



A majestic looking Goatfell dwarfs the runners as they make their way towards the finish line.

01_B51Santa07



Runners share a laugh as they make their way along the seafront.

01_B51Santa06



Carol Brown takes it all in her stride along Auchrannie Road.

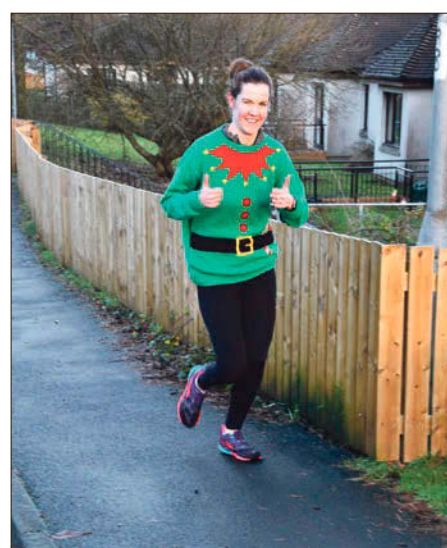
01_B51Santa14

at Brodick fun run



Hugh Boag and Jane Mack wave for the camera. 01_B51Santa10

The Webb family begin the slight incline up Auchrannie Road. 01_B51Santa09



Julie McGhee looking relaxed during her run. 01_B51Santa12

A smiling Jenny Duncan nears the halfway mark. 01_B51Santa13

Still smiling, runners make their way along Brodick Main Road. 01_B51Santa08



Bringing smiles to the faces of spectators, this Santa appears to be carried aloft by one of his reindeer. 01_B51Santa15

Maureen Laya in fine form as she nears the halfway point. 01_B51Santa16

Runners make their way along the road, as motorists wave and offer their support. 01_B51Santa17



Participants gather for a group photograph before setting off on their 5K run. 01_B51Santa01

Sack of Santas hit streets of Brodick

Curious onlookers and delighted children enjoyed the spectacle of 23 Santas and other festive themed characters running through the streets of Brodick last weekend during the annual Santa Dash.

Organised by Arran Pace Makers, the 5K event was open to everyone and prizes were awarded for best dressed, first place and for the contestant who guessed their completion time.

Starting at Ormidale

Pavilion on Sunday afternoon, the festively dressed runners made their way along Brodick promenade, turning at the ferry terminal, before making their way to the Auchrannie and Arran Heritage Museum before returning to the start line.

Participants of all abilities took part in the fun run including 11-month-old Rachel Webb who enjoyed a buggy ride with dad Matt at the reins and mum Fiona running alongside.

Once all the runners had returned, they warmed themselves from the freezing temperatures with drinks and food at Brodick Golf Club where an informal prizegiving was held for the fastest runners and fancy dress prizewinners.

Jean McInnes, who did all the hard work, thanked the volunteers who helped marshal the event which raised £100 for the Scottish Association for Mental Health.

Arran has two jogScotland registered running groups.

Arran Pacemakers meet in Brodick on a Tuesday for beginners/returning runners and run a mixed ability Wednesday session. Both meet at Ormidale Pavilion at 5.30pm. The Whiting Bay jogScotland Arran group meets on a Monday night at 5.30pm at the Coffee Pot or Sandbraes park. Both groups resume early in the new year.

All photographs by Colin Smeeton.



Clare Dale gives the thumbs up as others make their way along the road. 01_B51Santa11



LAMLASH GARAGE



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