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Arran milk is out to lick the opposition

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran milk is out to lick the opposition when it goes back on sale to the public - five years after Arran Dairies stopped production.

Many believed then it was the end of the road for island produced milk which, then, could not compete in the global market.

However, so successful has the saving of Arran milk production been that the businessmen behind the plan are now bringing the product back to the public.

That will see the first vending machine selling Arran milk opening in Brodick in the New Year.

Those who can't wait that long can get their first taste for free this week at Arran Dairies in Market Road. All you have to do is take your own container to fill - one or two litre bottles work best. The vending machine is available around the clock, however, stocks may be

limited each day. This offer will be available until Sunday January 5.

Arran Dairies boss Alastair Dobson and Gordon Kinniburgh of Bellevue Creamery joined forces to keep milk production going on the island when it looked doomed after First Milk pulled out after they shut the Torrylinn Creamery earlier this year, as previously reported in the Banner.

It was originally intended for use to keep Arran milk available for ice cream production at the dairy and for the cheese made at the Blackwaterfoot creamery.

Now the businessmen are to set up their first vending machine to sell Arran's premium milk to the public. And if the first outlet is successful vending machines could be set up in other villages across the island.

Alastair said: 'I am excited to see it back. It is five years since we stopped production which broke my heart but

Continued on page two

Young naturalist awards



Outdoor enthusiasts from the Young Naturalist Club run by the Arran Ranger Service celebrate with Callum Glistler who was awarded the young naturalist of the year award for 2019. Rosie Ferguson and Eoin Jones were named runners-up and received prizes in recognition for their enthusiasm and dedication. See full story on page 15.

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CalMac community board calls for decisive action

The independent CalMac community board is calling on Scottish ministers to urgently accelerate the process for a fleet and port investment programme for Scotland's west coast and islands ferries network.

The call comes as the fall-out over the news last week that the cost of the new Arran ferry, the MV Glen Sannox, and her sister ship was to double from the original £97 million contract cost. It they are ever finished at the Ferguson Marine yard at Port Glasgow it will not be until the end of 2021 for the MV Glen Sannox and the following year for Hull 802.

Board chairman Angus Campbell said: 'At a meeting in April 2019 with the minister for energy, connectivity and islands Paul Wheelhouse MSP, members expressed concern at the lack of transparency for a long-term plan

that is required to address an ageing fleet of vessels operating on Clyde and Hebrides services causing increasing disruption to customers and businesses across remote, rural and island communities.

'Whilst the Scottish government's intervention in acquiring Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd is to be welcomed, the board learned this week that delivery of vessels 801/802 is delayed further to late 2021 and mid 2022 respectively. As the 'major and minor' fleet ages, service failures are becoming increasingly frequent and on numerous occasions replacement vessels are often not available to provide alternative services. Board members are being asked by their communities if there is a commitment from ministers for significant funding to be made available to rectify these issues.



The MV Glen Sannox at her launch more than two years ago. 01_B47front01

'At a community board meeting in November members were briefed by Kevin Hobbs, chief executive officer of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) who provided an overview of the current fleet and outlined a comprehensive vessel procurement plan. Members strongly supported the proposals for a programme of

investment from the Scottish Government. An updated assessment of growth in traffic, increased demand, including tourism, and a strategy for ferry services for 30 years and beyond, must accompany future budgetary provision for vessels and ports. The board calls upon Scottish ministers to commit to publishing a fully supported cross-party

Ferries Plan as soon as practical in 2020.

'Recognition by ministers that urgent action is required will go a significant way to reassure remote and rural communities across Scotland's west coast and islands that their concerns will be addressed, despite the significant disappointment of the delays to the introduction of the two vessels currently under construction. Community board members, led by the chairman, encourage ministers to support CalMac, CMAL and Transport Scotland in their joint task in reversing the decline of the current Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service network and implement a strategy to increase economic prosperity and population growth in vulnerable island and rural communities.

'The board wholly supports this critical agenda going

forward and looks forward to ministers taking decisive action in addressing these increasingly serious issues.'

Meanwhile, it was claimed this week CMAL was ready to cancel the contract with Ferguson's in May, but this was vetoed by the Scottish government. The shipyard, then owned by businessman Jim McColl, later went into administration and has now been nationalised to try to get the work finished.

It also became clear remedial work will have to be carried out on the MV Glen Sannox and her sister ship before any progress can be made on completion. A report by marine engineer Tim Hair, the turnaround manager hired by the Scottish government, said it would take seven months and £12.8 million to remedy these faults before new installation work can take place.

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

Arran milk is out to lick the opposition

Continued from page one

then it was no longer commercially viable. Now we have a new contemporary business model and with a fair wind we will keep on going.

'I now believe there is a groundswell of public opinion which hopefully will get behind the milk sale and that it is both commercially sensible and environmentally sound and gives us a chance to produce a great product.'



Matthew McNeish fills the storage tank with milk at Arran Dairies. 01_B52milk02



How the vending machine will look once it has been branded.

The milk for the venture is being produced by John Murchie at Tigheanfraoch at Blackwaterfoot and Alastair said: 'The Murchie family are doing a great job. They are already producing more milk than they were previously and their volumes are also up. It has also created a part-time job for Matthew McNeish who carries out the three-times-a-week milk runs.'

The milk is stored in a tank at Arran Dairies.

Alastair said he hoped that

further down the line other farms may look to return to dairy farming.

He added: 'I hope everyone will give it a try and enjoy it and support Arran milk being produced for island consumption.'

CONTACTUS
email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
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Young and old enjoy a special Christmas party

A special Christmas feast was served up by Lamlash lunch club at McKelvie Road sheltered housing last week.

After lunch, the older people were joined by youngsters from Lamlash early years to take part in games.

It is the second time the lunch club, organised by Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS), has had the youngsters

visiting after a successful Hallowe'en party.

It was James Conlon from ACVS who came up with the idea of getting older and younger ones together.

Helping

Games played were: 'Snow, Snow, Man' - aka 'duck duck goose', pass the parcel, the four corners game and a dance competition.

Helping teachers Eileen

Gregg and Jen Christie were high school first year pupils Neha Bino and Jemma Totty.

All the food for the Christmas lunch was donated and the club thanks Liz at the big Co, Arran Dairies, the Cheese Shop and James's chocolate shop.

The lunch was cooked and served by volunteers Lynsay Scott, Mairi Smeir, Susan MacLeer and Debra Willett.



A youngster peels another layer of paper off the pass the parcel prize. 01_B52games03



Jemmy Totty helps the pass the parcel winner unwrap her prize. 01_B52games06



All the gang at the Lamlash Christmas lunch. 01_B52games07



Lunch club members enjoy their Christmas feast.

This lady dressed up for the festivities.



Young and old take part in pass the parcel at the Lamlash Christmas lunch. 01_B52games02

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Charlotte Karsemeijer of Charlotte's Flowers with an attractive collection of wreaths and festive decorations. 01_B51Arcas06

ArCaS cracker a bang

Arran Cancer Support (ArCaS) hosted their annual Christmas Cracker event which was well supported throughout the Saturday afternoon it was held earlier this month.

Taking place in Brodick Hall, visitors were treated to a huge selection of home baking, good company and lashings of tea and coffee.

Collectable

Equally abundant were the prizes for the huge tombola and the optimism of people who purchased raffle tickets with the main prize being a very collectable official Arran version of the game Monopoly.

Filling the hall and providing something of interest for

all visitors was a gathering of stalls offering everything from jams, chutneys and preserves to clothing, wreaths, flowers, hand-cut pictures and jewellery.

Young children who visited with their parents were treated to an amazing rendition of The Grinch, all recited from memory and told with unbridled passion by Cameron Rennie, whose telling of the story captivated both the young and old.

The event was a huge success and will help contribute to funds which will assist those affected by cancer with transport to and from treatment and for complementary therapies following conventional treatment.



Donna Gold's homemade preserves, jams and oils are snapped up by eager shoppers. 01_B51Arcas05



Tombola ticket sellers do a roaring trade at the entrance of the hall. 01_B51Arcas02



Aileen Auld and Janet Rawlin sold Christmas cards and raffle tickets. 01_B51Arcas09

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Grace Popplewell treats herself to a bright bow from Blueberry Village run by Kirsty Park.
01_B51Arcas08



Karen Bell of Karebell Designs enticed Christmas shoppers with her hand-cut pictures.
01_B51Arcas03



Mike and Ellen Stagg with their collection of bright and reasonably priced hats.
01_B51Arcas07



Visitors enjoyed a selection of home-baking to take home or enjoy with their tea and coffee. 01_B51Arcas04



Cameron Rennie recites the entire The Grinch from memory leaving the audience, young and old, spellbound.
01_B51Arcas01

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Shiskine show dazzles with Lights, Camel, Action



Dancing angels go through their routines.



One of the older performers shows her acting talent.

Early years perform My First Nativity

Shiskine Primary School pulled out all the stops to produce a fantastic performance of its Christmas show Lights, Camel, Action.

The entire school took part in the re-scheduled nativity show which featured lively camels and a disco star despite illness besetting some of the performers.

The original show had to be postponed because of the General Election.

Younger pupils from the early years class also had the chance to enjoy some acting fun with a performance of My First Nativity, which they staged for senior citizens at the Kinloch Hotel.

A school spokeswoman said: 'The children worked hard at school and at home to learn their lines for the performance.'

'They were supported by their families to learn all the songs and provided make

up, costumes and props for the show. We raised £612 at the concert for school funds.

'Thank you to all the pupils who took part and for the support of everyone who helped to make these productions possible.'

'We also thank Utter Nonsense Films which provided the equipment to film the show.'



Young singers perform one of the many songs in Lights, Camel, Action.



Mary and Joseph tend to the young baby Jesus.

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An amusing scene from Lights, Camel, Action.



The cast of Lights, Camel, Action take to the stage.



There was a lot of dancing in the production .



The cast of My First Nativity.



The boys have their time to shine.



A young actor recites her lines.



Nursery pupils point out the bright shiny star.



A shepherd on stage.

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LETTERS

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or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ

Milking it

It really is great Arran milk is to be on sale to the public once again.

Given it is five years since Arran Dairies stopped production and it disappeared from the shelves, we wonder where the time has gone.

Then it was found to be no longer commercially viable to continue the production of milk on the island given the loss leading cut price milk deals offered by the Co-op and other supermarkets on the mainland.

And while that largely stays the same, there are several good reasons why this new Arran milk venture has every chance of succeeding.

Firstly, there are no bottling costs. The fresh milk will come straight from the vending machine into your own reusable vessel provided. So that's a win, win from the start.

Secondly there is no third party involved - only Arran Dairies, with the support of Bellevue Creamery, and the farmer John Murchie, who is producing the milk from his own dairy herd.

Thirdly, there is now a growing demand - even from five years ago - for local produce.

However, for the venture to succeed it must be supported and we hope the public will get behind it.

The free milk offer has this week been hugely popular but for Arran milk to be returned to its rightful place people will have to put their hands in their pockets and buy it.

Only then will the opposition be licked.

Thought for the week

'When the wise men saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him.'
Matt 2: 11

Decent service

Sir,
I write with a feeling of trepidation and exasperation at the ferry situation. Trepidation because I hope to make my fifth visit this year to the island to see in the New Year but fear the ferry will be cancelled while I am enroute as happened during my journey in August. At least I have taken the hotelier's advice and taken out travel insurance to cover any financial loss.

But I am exasperated at the news this week that it will be years and many more millions of pounds of public money required to get a new ship on the service.

Recently, a private operator introduced a new ferry, for the Gills Bay to St Margaret's Hope crossing to Orkney, costing only £14million. The MV Alfred can carry 430 passengers and 98 cars or 54 cars and 12 articulated lorries and is claimed to be the greenest ferry operating in Scotland.

The MV Glen Sannox hopes to carry 127 cars or fewer cars and 16 heavy vehicles.

The money which has been spent to date could have bought two of these catamarans to shuttle back and forth and still have many millions left to invest in the retraining of Ferguson Marine's staff who are 'incompetent' - according to Scottish minister Derek Mackay.

It also seems to me more likely that the twin hull design of MV Alfred would be more resistant to side wind and swell so would not roll as much when adjacent to Brodick pier.

Is there no possibility of a private operator which can manage a decent service?

Yours,
Ian A Brown, Blairgowrie.

Lovely surprise

Sir,
Thank you Pirnmill Stores. The children of Pirnmill Primary School and Early Years Class were thrilled to receive fantastic advent calendars as a gift from Hazel and Susan.

Your kindness overwhelmed



Pirnmill Primary pupils with the advent calendars gifted by Pirnmill Stores. See letter below.

everyone in the school. It was such a lovely surprise and we are sure the calendars will be handed down to future generations.

We will all remember and cherish this moment in time. Thank you.

Yours,
Alison Campbell,
Education assistant (support),
Pirnmill Primary School.

Thanks Scooter!

Sir,
I should like to take the opportunity to thank the families and friends of Brodick Primary School for joining us at our Nativity Service in Brodick Church on Tuesday December 17.

The sum of £261.23 was raised on behalf of Canine Concern Scotland. This charity was chosen by our pupils to say thank you to Scooter, our therapist volunteer in school.

Scooter visits us weekly and works with small groups of children allowing them to relax and boost their self-confidence in reading aloud. This, in turn, helps children gain confidence in their own ability and improve their enjoyment of reading.

We would also like to thank Mrs Iris Syme, who accompanies Scooter each week.

Yours,
Shirley MacLachlan
Head teacher.

Stroke support

Sir,
On behalf of all of us at Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us this year.

We have had an amazing year supporting people across Scotland - and none of it would have been possible without your help.

We have successfully campaigned to bring Thrombectomy back to Scotland and have been blown away with the support.

More than 5,000 people have signed our petition to bring back the life-changing stroke operation.

Thanks to everyone's efforts we are now working with the Scottish government and the NHS to get this service back in Scottish hospitals.

This is a massive step forward and one that has only been possible

thanks to our wonderful supporters and inspirational stroke survivors campaigning for change.

I also want to say special thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time to support us - whether it is through working in our shops, taking part in our fundraising events or helping care for people through our rehabilitation support service.

In particular, I want to thank those who never underestimate the power of a cup of tea - our amazing volunteers attending and supporting our peer support groups.

We would not be able to support the people who need us without your generosity.

None of the work we do would be possible without the invaluable contribution of our staff, volunteers and participants who have taken part in our fundraising events and all the people who have donated money to us over the course of the year.

There is so much more still to do and I hope we will have your continued support in 2020. Together we can and will make sure there is no life half lived in Scotland.

Yours,
Jane-Claire Judson
Chief executive,
Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland.

Christmas invitation

Sir,
Re-engage wishes to thank Arran High School for their invitation to its annual Christmas party. We enjoyed delicious food and great entertainment. It was very well done and well received.

Thanks go to the headmaster, Mr Smith, organisers, the music teacher and the first year students who made it such a success.

Here's wishing you all a very happy New Year.

Yours,
Maureen Dockerty and
Siobhan McGinlay, Re-engage
co-ordinators.

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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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A look forward to the year ahead

New Year message from North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane

The last 12 months was another rollercoaster year and no doubt there will be further twists and turns ahead.

It looks like Brexit, after months of chaos, will now happen and that will bring with it a degree of uncertainty for communities across the country.

The delay in the UK and Scottish budget is a concern at a time when council officers are estimating a £17million budget gap next year. After a decade of cuts, which saw £102million removed from North Ayrshire Council's budget, a budget gap of this size would be devastating for local services and jobs.

So, while we don't know exactly what 2020 will bring, what I can say is that the council will be redoubling our efforts to bring positive change to North Ayrshire within the resources we have.

And despite the clear challenges there is a lot to be optimistic about.

Having successfully secured £250 million for the local economy

through the Ayrshire Growth Deal, we are working hard to make sure this investment will benefit people and communities across Ayrshire.

We cannot simply spend the money and expect things to improve – that old model of inward investment has not delivered the transformational change it so often promises.

We've pursued this traditional approach to economic development for decades and it hasn't worked for the people of North Ayrshire. The investment simply does not trickle down to people and communities.

Instead, we must ensure that this time the investment lands in Ayrshire for the benefit of our people and communities.

For some time, North Ayrshire Council has been leading change on the local economic front, developing a new approach to economic development called Community Wealth Building.

And we believe Community Wealth Building has the potential

to reconnect the local economy with economic and social justice, putting fair work at the heart of the local economy and supporting alternative, more inclusive forms of business ownership.

Through Community Wealth Building we will use the economic levers available to us, including the hundreds of millions of pounds the public sector in Ayrshire spends each year to build the Ayrshire economy from the ground up.

And we will seek to use the Ayrshire Growth Deal as a £250 million Community Wealth Building opportunity, creating high-wage, high skilled jobs available to local people and ensure the investment is transformational for Ayrshire.

We've seen the benefits which Community Wealth Building has brought to areas like Preston in Lancashire and the people who live there.

It has never been delivered in Scotland so we will be at the forefront of this new way of creating an economy which works for the many.

We'll be working hard on Community Wealth Building over the next 12 months and I look forward to seeing the progress we make.

The council will continue to deliv-



North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane.

er the most ambitious council house building programme in the country with 340 new council homes either in construction or to be completed in 2020/21.

Our investment in schools will continue, including the construction of the new ASN campus in Stevenston.

And 2020 will be the year we set out our plans to tackle the climate emergency with a pathway to becoming a net-zero council.

Finally, as we enter 2020, I would like to wish you and your loved ones the very best wishes for the New Year.



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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



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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

Waverley fundraising appeal hits £2.3m target

Paddle steamer will be back 'doon the watter' next summer



Waverley's new boilers take shape at the yard in Annan.

The Waverley will again be a regular visitor to waters around Arran next summer after a fundraising appeal to save the last seagoing paddle steamer in the world reached its £2.3 million target in just seven months.

The Boiler Refit Appeal has attracted donations from more than 8,000 individuals with support from the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, several trusts and £1 million from the Scottish government.

Arnold Clark and the Swire Charitable Trust have confirmed their support taking the appeal to its target.

Eddie Hawthorne, chief executive officer and group managing director of Arnold Clark, said: 'I'm delighted we're able to contribute £50,000 towards the restoration of the Waverley.'

'Arnold Clark understands how significant the ship and its heritage is to Glasgow and we were keen to help towards the £2.3m fundraising target.'

I'm looking forward to seeing the Waverley on her way back 'doon the watter' soon.'

Waverley's new boilers are being built by Cochran's Ltd in Annan and are due to be completed in February.

Work required on the ship will involve the removal of the famous twin funnels to allow access to the boiler room.

Waverley Excursions general manager Paul Semple, said: 'Thanks to the fantastic generosity of so many people and organisations, we are now able to push 'full ahead' with Waverley's boiler refit which will be the most substantial refit since her rebuild was completed in 2003. I thank everyone who has donated to the appeal and supported our efforts to save the last seagoing paddle steamer in the world.'

Waverley is owned by a registered charity and operated on a not-for-profit basis. The recent appeal for cash has been the most successful in

the ship's preservation career but ongoing support will be required given the annual cost of dry docking and refit.

Mr Semple added: 'The trustees of the Waverley charity believe ongoing charitable giving must now form a greater part of Waverley's long-term operational survival to ensure she remains in service.'

'We are deeply grateful to all those who have helped this year and, in the months and years ahead, will ask those who care and who are able to help to add Waverley to their permanent thoughts.'

Waverley will be moved from Glasgow to Greenock, under tow in January, where the major 'open-heart surgery' will take place. The full works are expected to take around four months to complete allowing Waverley to undertake her regular cruises around the west of Scotland, the Mersey, Bristol Channel, South Coast and the Thames in 2020.



Waverley will return to service in summer 2020.

Financial challenges ahead

North Ayrshire Council is facing an expected £17.1 million shortfall in the next year.

A new report reveals the funding gap could reach £48.6m over the next three years as funding from central government fails to meet the rising demand for services and increasing costs.

The financial outlook was presented to a meeting of the full council on Wednesday December 18 and shows the scale of the financial challenge facing the council.

Laura Friel, executive director of finance and corporate support, said: 'Over the past decade, we have had to make savings of £102m but thanks to innovative transformation of our services, we have protected services and jobs as much as possible.'

'However, this gets harder every year. Next year, based on our current forecasts, we may have to make savings of more than £17m and this is likely to affect the services we currently provide.'

Although funding has been provided for specific areas such as early years, core fund-

ing hasn't kept pace with the rising demand and cost of services meaning there has been less money available to maintain services.

The council is currently scheduled to meet on February 26 2020 to set the budget for the 2020/21 financial year.



Finance director Laura Friel.



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That was the year that was part one - January to June

As 2019 draws to a close and the new year begins, it is time to take our customary look at the pages from the Banner over the past year.

It was an eventful six months to June, with Arran residents achieving great feats, celebrating life's small adventures and performing caring deeds. It has, once again, been a year

of many highs, some lows, but also a continuation of many dearly-loved traditional events and the beginnings of new and exciting projects.

The Banner is your newspaper and each and every single one of you makes it special. Thank you for a great 2019 and here's to 2020.



JANUARY. The year started off with the customary Douglas Dook at Brodick with dookers taking an icy plunge. 01_B02dook07



JANUARY. Arran Cheese Shop's Gordon Kinniburgh and Bellevue Creamery's dairy manager Calum Chaplin, along with cheese technician William McNally, repeated their success from last year by winning the Best Scottish Cheese Award. 01_B50cheese01-1024x680



JANUARY. The McCarthy children – Ben, Beth and James – address the haggis at the Shiskine Burns Supper which is held every two years. Photo: Stephen Garraway. No_B03burns03



JANUARY. Staff bid their fond farewells to pharmacist Ruth Parker of the Brodick Pharmacy, who retired after nearly a decade of serving the community of Arran. 01_B03frontpage01

OFFERS & competitions

WIN

A HALF DAY COOKING EXPERIENCE FOR TWO WITH NICK NAIRN



Scottish Field are offering one lucky reader the opportunity to win a Just You & Nick half day cooking experience for you and a companion, worth £795. You could have Nick Nairn and his award-winning Cook School in Port of Menteith, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2020, all to yourselves for half a day.

The prize begins with a telephone consultation with Nick. Based on your personal consultation, Nick will create your own bespoke menu featuring what you'd like to eat, cook, learn and drink on a day of your choosing.

Nick's TV career spans four decades and includes Ready, Steady Cook, Saturday Kitchen, The Great British Menu, Landward and Paul & Nick's Big Food Trip - so whether you're a serial toast burner or know your way around a kitchen, you will enjoy an utterly fabulous, totally entertaining, never-to-be-forgotten cooking experience, created by Nick Nairn, just for you.

If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.
Which anniversary is the Nick Nairn Cook School celebrating in 2020?

The prize is for one person and a partner of their choice to attend a Just You & Nick half day cooking experience at the Nick Nairn Cook School, in Port of Menteith, near Stirling. The prize is to be taken before 31st December 2020 and does not include transport. The date and time of the prize is to be agreed beforehand. There is no cash alternative.

WIN

£500 TOWARDS A SAILING ADVENTURE IN THE HEBRIDES ABOARD A CLASSIC SHIP



Sail Scotland on one of the last remaining traditional trading ketches around the Hebrides. Bessie Ellen's voyages are immensely popular, with some of the best cruising grounds, stunning scenery and bucket-list wildlife sightings. Explore the islands by boat and on foot, enjoy the first-rate food on deck and savour the taste of proper Scotch whisky on a visit to traditional distilleries. Get as hands on as you like with the sailing of this classic tall ship, or simply sit back and enjoy the skill that goes into handling it, all while watching Scotland's breath-taking scenery slide past. No sailing experience needed to climb aboard!

VentureSail Holidays are offering a £500 gift voucher to one lucky Scottish Field reader to go towards any of Bessie Ellen's sailing adventures in 2020.

If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.
What sort of sailing vessel is Bessie Ellen?

Please refer to the Scottish Field website for full terms and conditions for entering this competition. www.scottishfield.co.uk/competitions/win-500-towards-a-scottish-sailing-adventure

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 January 2020. Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

That was the year that was



FEBRUARY. Arran Soul Choir impressed the audience at their Souled Out concert which, true to its name, sold out with every ticket being snapped up soon after being released. Photo: David Hogg.



FEBRUARY. Arran winners and runners-up in the S4 to S6 section of the North Ayrshire traditional musician of the year competition were, left to right, winners Rachel Lawson, Reece O'Halon, runners-up Anna Reid, Charlotte McKillop with adjudicator Gordon Bruce and Provost Ian Clarkson.



FEBRUARY. Volunteers at the Arran Heritage Museum have been busy preparing for their summer opening next month. This year will be a special one for the museum in that it will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. 01_B08museum01

FEBRUARY. Serving up a feast for invited guests were the members of the Arran Youth Foundations, pictured with Auchrannie chefs, who helped prepare and serve a meal during their annual restaurant night. 01_B05AYF03



MARCH. All the award-winners at the 2019 Arran Drama Festival show off their trophies at the end of the three-day event. 01_B09awards01



MARCH. Members of the Healthy Outdoors Team celebrate their seventh birthday with a cake, enjoyed outdoors in a copse near Glen Rosa.

part one - January to June



MARCH. It was a proud day for the newly formed Arran Schools Pipe Band who attended their first competition only three months after forming. 01_B10pipe01



APRIL. Sack-racers make their way towards the finish line during the wacky races which are a popular feature of the Easter celebrations at Brodick Castle. 01_B17castle14



MARCH. Primary one and two pupils smile proudly after reciting their Burns poems at the Arran Schools Burns Verse Speaking Competition held during the 90th Isle of Arran Music Festival. 01_B13front01



APRIL. With work on the new Lagg distillery nearing completion, the first batch of spirit already began last month with cask number one being filled this month.



APRIL. Brodick Castle guides welcome visitors to the island attraction after a two-year break which saw major renovations and a redesign taking place.



APRIL. Brodick primary pupils beam with delight at taking the Brodick Castle Gardens Trophy for the school gaining the most points in the Spring Flower and Bulb Show held by the Arran Horticultural Society. 01_B14front01



MAY. Youth Philanthropy Initiative representative Isabel Johnstone is pictured with Alice Lockhart, Gordon Bloy, Lewis Swandells, Cameron McNeish and head teacher Barry Smith with a cheque for £3,000 which they won for the Arran Youth Foundations. 01_B18YPI02

That was the year that was part one - January to June



MAY. Although already open to the public, Brodick Castle held an official opening event with invited VIP guests and representatives of island business. Pictured are Sheila Gilmore of Visit Arran and Jared Bowers of the NTS officially opening the castle. 01_B19castle06



JUNE. A collective of musicians entertain an appreciative audience at the 25th annual Arran Folk Festival. 01_B24folk01



MAY. Visitors pore over memorabilia at the second, and incredibly popular, Whiting Bay Past and Present exhibition. 01_B20memory11



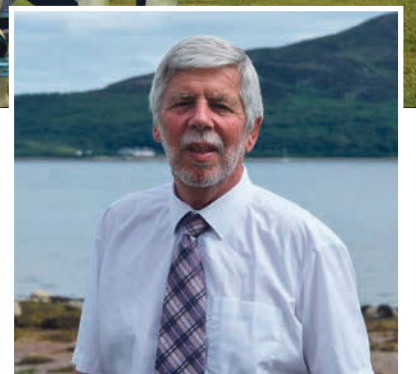
JUNE. Arran High School held its annual music concert with more than 150 high school pupils taking part. The show involved more than 50 per cent of the pupils at the school. 01_B26front01-1024x466



MAY. Alison Burnet of Shiskine has been elected deputy world president of the Associated Country Women of the World after having served in the organisation for almost 17 years in various positions. Alison, sixth left, is pictured with the new ACWW board.



JUNE. The team at Torrylinn Creamery, Allan Nicol, Richard Scott, Stewart Kilpatrick, Philip Ward and Lisa Edwards, won a Scotland Food and Drink excellence award for their vintage cheddar. 01_B30cheese01



JUNE. Retiring island officer Gus Macleod on his last day of work after nearly three decades with North Ayrshire Council. 01_B26gus01

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN

Callum crowned young naturalist of the year

Outdoor enthusiast Callum Glister has been chosen as young naturalist of the year for 2019 at the Young Naturalist Club run by the Arran Ranger Service.

Callum was presented with the award for his great enthusiasm for natural history, as his attendance at the monthly meetings certainly proves, having only missed one meeting in the last three years.

Runners up for the accolade were Rosie Ferguson and Eoin Jones, both of whom also show great enthusiasm for natural history and who received British bird books as prizes.

Callum, Rosie and Eoin, along with other club members have enjoyed another great year of activities with

the club and have enjoyed a bat walk, tree planting in Glen Rosa, beach safari and many other outdoor fun activities.

The club meets every second Saturday of the month, except during school holidays, and is open to six to 11-year-olds. The next meeting will be Rhodie bashing on Saturday January 11 2020. The Arran Ranger Service can be contacted on 302462 for more information on the club.

Ranger Jackie Kemp provides information about the various items discovered, particularly on a coastal exploration.



Rhodie bashing is a particular highlight for many of the children who learn to use equipment and enjoy the physical nature of the exercise.

Children have a rich and diverse area to explore at the Rangers Centre at Brodick Country Park.

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Santa is the highlight of Brodick Christmas party

The annual Brodick Christmas Party, organised by Brodick residents for children from the village, was a huge success with 106 children invited to attend the festive event last Sunday.

On offer for the young party goers was fun traditional games, snacks, music for dancing and the highlight, a visit from Santa who gave each child with a gift.

The party is organised

each year by a small group of parents who also fundraise to meet the costs. One of them is Clare Gilmore who is bowing out after helping spread festive joy for Brodick children for 14 years.

The funds, which enable the event to take place, are raised through a large raffle, with prizes donated by local businesses, and from donations and the sales of refreshments.

All Brodick primary and nursery pupils and every other child who lives in Brodick is invited to attend the event and the party is eagerly anticipated by the children, many of whom have been attending every year of their young lives and for whom it has become an annual tradition.



Excited children sing Jingle Bells to welcome Santa.

01_B52Brodick04



Santa hands out a present. 01_B52Brodick05



Children dance with their friends. 01_B52Brodick01



A young girl unwraps a layer of wrapping paper in the pass the parcel game. 01_B52Brodick03

SCOTTISH FIELD

January issue



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

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
Octopus Centre Old Pavilion, Lamash, Open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 11am - 2pm
Octopus Centre – tennis Old Pavilion, Lamash, 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 28th December

Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am – 11.15am
Rink Bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Live Music – Anchorline Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Live Music – Hingin by a Threed, Celtic folk band The PHT, Lamash, 9pm
Dining and Disco or Disc0 only The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Over-21's Disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Sunday 29th December

Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am – 11.15am
Live Music – Anchorline Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, Brodick, 1pm – 4pm
Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm – 3pm
Live Music – Hingin by a Threed, Celtic folk band The PHT, Lamash, 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 30th December

Morning Fitness Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am-10.30am
Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamash, 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 – Tim Pomeroy Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 31st 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 House House, 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 – Hogmanay with Shindig Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 6pm
Eco Savvy Food Share Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm
Hogmanay Party Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Hogmanay Celebration Dinner Brodick Bar from 5.30pm
Hogmanay Celebration Party Brodick Bar from 8 pm
Hogmanay Party with Rough Cut The PHT, Lamash, 9pm
Hogmanay Dance The Douglas Hotel, 9pm



Wednesday 1st January

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Douglas Dook Brodick Slipway, 12noon
Live Music – Open Session Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, Brodick, 1pm – 4pm
Gatsby Party Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, Brodick, 8pm

Thursday 2nd January

Kettlecise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 11am – 11.45am
Body Blitz (booking essential) Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6.15pm – 7.15pm
Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamash, 7.30pm
Live Music – Open Session Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 6pm
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 3rd January

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 Kwondo advanced kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
Live Music – Fatman and The Angel Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Friday Night Quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
Eco Savvy Food Share Octopus Centre, COAST, Lamash, 9pm

Saturday 4th January

Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am – 11.15am
Live Music – Cams Campbell Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Over-21's Disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

First ever surf scoter is spotted on Arran

Bird
notes
by Jim Cassels

This, the 40th year of the Arran Natural History Society annual bird report, has been an outstanding year for bird records, with three new species recorded for the first time on Arran. In February there was a long-staying water pipit, in June the black-headed bunting and in November a surf scoter.

Surf scoter is one of the family of black sea ducks called scoters. The surf scoter is a North American species breeding in the sub-Arctic from western Alaska east into northern Canada and wintering along both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of North America with some on the Great Lakes.

It is a vagrant on this side of the Atlantic with the first

British record in the Firth of Forth in 1837. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) indicates that there are around 15 records a year in the UK, mostly in the north and east of Scotland. A search of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC) records indicates that in the west of Scotland covering Argyll, Clyde, Clyde islands, Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway in the last 10 years, there have been only seven Argyll records and two Dumfries and Galloway records, almost all of single birds. The November surf scoter on Arran is the first ever record for Arran and for the Clyde and the Clyde islands.

On Sunday 24 November, in the morning, a female

type surf scoter was seen and identified by two experienced birdwatchers from Pirnmill, Alex Penn and Georgia Platt. This is their story.

'Having stopped at Catacol to see what was around at the river mouth, we were immediately distracted by a first-winter Iceland gull flying south into the mouth to wash. While then watching this gull, we became aware of a single dark duck behind the group of gulls. It turned, showing the distinctive double white face patch of what we initially assumed would be a velvet scoter, after a velvet had been reported relatively recently further south in the sound at Machrie.

'However, as we watched the bird it did not seem to add up to being a velvet scoter. The structure and head shape did not seem right, it was rather small, and when the bird flapped soon after, we did not see the white flash we would have expected to see from the secondary flight feathers.

'This rang alarm bells and we examined the bird more closely. The stocky neck and large head, with a slightly "swollen" bill shape, rather than the smooth concave bill of a velvet, seemed to confirm that this was in fact a surf scoter. As we watched it over the next hour, the bird fed continuously, diving



The surf scoter takes flight. Photographs: Alex Penn



The first ever surf scoter recorded on Arran.

and re-appearing, resting for around 30 seconds between dives. Each time it dived, it opened its wings, revealing all-dark flight feathers.

'In the midst of this, Alex realised that he did not have his camera with him so he drove from Catacol home to Pirnmill to collect it, leaving Georgia to keep watch on the duck! Fortunately the bird remained, enabling the record shots of the bird to be taken, showing the head and bill structure, and one flap-

ping that shows the all-dark flight feathers. These images, although distant, show all the key features well enough to confirm the identification as surf scoter.

'The photographs taken together with the appropriate form were promptly submitted by the observers to the Clyde Bird Rarities Panel where there was no hesitation in accepting the record.

'The identification of the first ever surf scoter on Arran had been a memorable day for

Alex and Georgia.'

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2018 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

Owl flies from Arran to Morocco

A short-eared owl which left Arran in June has been found more than 2,000 miles away in Morocco, revealing significant new information for British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) researchers.

The owl, fitted with a satellite tag while breeding in Scotland, is something of a nomad, appearing in an area to breed in large numbers one year and then absent the next. Such changes in distribution and abundance are driven by the availability of the small mammal species on which the owls depend. The short-eared owl's nomadic nature makes it a difficult bird to study and regular movements across country borders make it difficult to deliver effective conservation action.

Researchers from BTO Scotland have been working to improve our understanding, developing methods for surveying short-eared owls in their breeding haunts and tracking the movements of individuals across the year. Even though only a handful of birds have been fitted with tracking devices so far – the aim is to track 20 individuals from sites across

their UK breeding range – we have already seen some amazing movements, the most exciting of which has just been revealed.

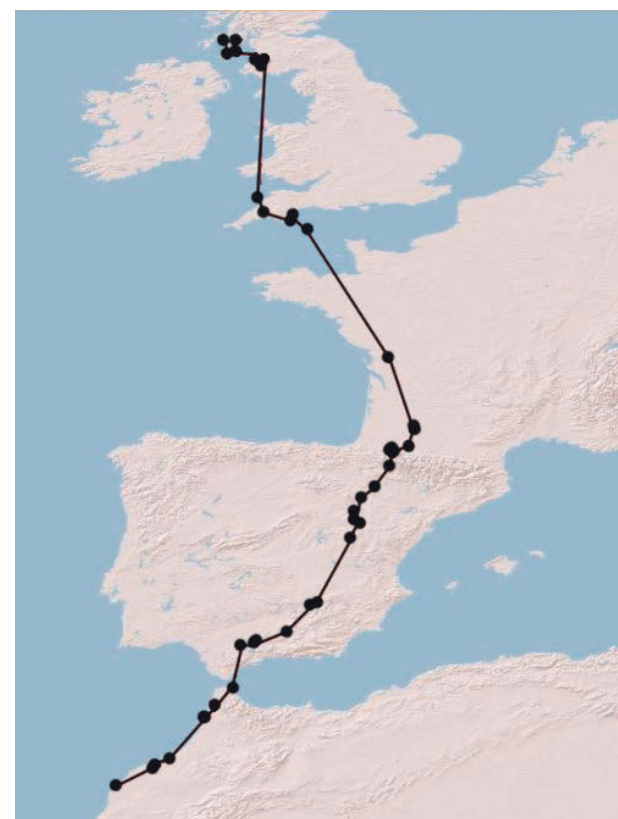
A breeding female, tagged at her nest site on Arran on 11 June this year, is currently wintering near Oualidia in Morocco. The bird left Arran to visit Bute and Kintyre from 15 – 17 July, returning to Arran for 10 days and then moving to mainland Ayrshire on 27 July. She remained here (near Dalmellington) until the end of October. She then moved to Devon, where she was present on 8 November, leaving the following evening to head south. With the help of a strong tail wind, she travelled 495km into France in just six hours – that's an average of 82.5km/h! She then continued south, crossing the Pyrenees on 13 November and the Strait of Gibraltar on 24 November to reach Morocco.

The latest fix places her near Oualidia, Morocco's 'oyster capital' (a reference to the significant role shellfish harvesting plays in the local economy), which she

reached on 29 November. It will be fascinating to see what she does next.

Senior BTO research ecologist John Calladine, who is leading the project, said: 'This is only the second UK short-eared owl to be reported from Morocco, and what makes this record all the more amazing is that it involves a breeding female. The previous record was of a young bird, which may have been dispersing from its natal area to settle somewhere else. Our tracking work has revealed the huge distances these birds can cover; in addition to this bird wintering in Morocco, we have had birds move to Norway, with some individuals seemingly making two breeding attempts in one season, one in Scotland and one in Norway.'

Find out more about this project at: http://bit.ly/BTO_shorties



The map shows the route taken by the short-eared owl.

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 31, 1999

Steady as she goes

Julia Stewart has made the record books by becoming the first female officer on the Arran ferry. She has been on the Caledonian Isles for three weeks and is enjoying the role.

Following her graduation from Edinburgh University, she took a part-time job at CalMac at the pier office and after finding her interest in ships growing, she made enquiries about training to work on ships. CalMac, who had not had an apprentice for well over 20 years, arranged a three and a half year course for her which included two deep sea voyages. With her officer on the watch ticket she was lucky to discover that a position had become available and, as luck would have it, it was on the Arran ferry.

Although a permanent appointment has not been confirmed, Julia has taken on the full role of a CalMac officer and is enjoying becoming more familiar with her new position.

Ferry limit

Passengers on the ferry last Thursday afternoon had a rougher than usual crossing. Some said the Caledonian Isles had keeled over in a frightening manner as she entered Ardrossan.

There was some internal damage although everything was back to normal by Friday.

Captain Andy McCrindle said that he was given information from the tower at Ardrossan that the wind was 43 knots. In fact it was well over 50 knots and they had passed the point of no return when this became apparent. So strong was the wind that he had put the ship hard over as the wind was driving the stern towards the breakwater. Thus the violent roll. Said Captain McCrindle: 'We went to the limit that night.'

Beacons of light

There is only one national celebration of the millennium in the whole of the UK and that is Beacon Millennium. Beacons will be lit all round the country and at least three of these will be on Arran.

So far we are aware of bonfires at Lochranza and another at Kildonan and we also hear that people will be climbing Goatfell to light a beacon there. First should be Unst at the northern tip of Shetland at 3.06pm. Then they should sweep south-west to Arran at 5.50pm, then east to Edinburgh for 9.45pm and the last one will be lit at Greenwich at one minute before midnight.



With the first phase complete and only five more houses still to be built – three of which have already been sold by estate agent Bob Brass – the second phase of Coralyn Court is about to begin. 01_B52tweY04



One of the first few lambs of the season was born just two days ago on Charles Murchie's farm at High Feoline on Christmas Eve. Pictured with the lamb and its mother are Charles's grandchildren Tracey and Robert. 01_B52tweY01



Attracting an audience of around 300 people to their gig at the Cameronia in Whiting Bay on Boxing Day, the group Stumpy's Cabin allowed guest soloist Graham Dobson to belt out a Jimi Hendrix song flanked by guitarist Andy Surridge and Iain Barbour. 01_B52tweY05



Torrential rain on Wednesday caused flooding in several parts of Arran. In Brodick, the fire brigade was called to pump water from a house which also sustained flood damage last year. 01_B52tweY02



Second officer Julia Stewart of Drumaghinier, Blackwaterfoot has made the record books for being the first female officer on the Arran ferry. 01_B52tweY03

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE
CHILDREN ENTITLED TO START P1 – SESSION 2020/2021

Children who attain the age of 5 years between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2021 should be registered for education during the week commencing Monday 13 January 2020.

As times vary from school to school, parents are asked to check registration arrangements with the appropriate catchment primary school for the area in which they live. The child's full birth certificate and proof of address should be produced at the time of registration.

A new Gaelic Medium Education (GME) unit will open within Whitehirst Park Primary School in Kilwinning in August 2020. This allows pupils to be taught primarily through the medium of Scottish Gaelic. Should you wish your child to enrol in the unit, please register at Whitehirst Park Primary School during the school's allocated registration times. Further information, if required, can be provided by contacting the school on 01294 554538.

Information on Registration can be found on the Council's web site: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages).

If you wish your child to attend a school outwith your catchment area you must register at your catchment school, then submit a placing request. This can be done online by accessing www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages).

Placing request assistance can also be obtained by telephoning 01294 310000.

Registration at your catchment area school does not guarantee entry to that school. Andrew McClelland, Head of Service (Education)

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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 29th December
Lochranza, and Pirnmill Churches together, 10.15am Morning Worship at Lochranza.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am. Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am. Prayer meeting, 12 noon Morning Worship.
There will also be a service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland
Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 29th December
Worship 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.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 29th December
Sung Eucharist - 11 am.
Rev Barry Roberts
Coffee after service
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 29th December
Morning Service at 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service at 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome
Wednesday 1st January 2020
New Year's Day Service at 11am
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 29th December
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory at 10 am
Lamlash at 11.30 am
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 29th December
Sunday Morning Mass at 11am

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 29th 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 29th 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 29th December
Shiskine at 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick at 6pm
Services will be taken by Rev Benjamin Wilks

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 29th December
Sunday Morning Mass at 11am

DEATH

PROUDFOOT:

Elizabeth, Mary
Elma died peacefully in Brodick on Saturday 21st December. Beloved wife of Lindsay, mother of Andrew and the late Douglas, mother-in-law of Ashlea and grandmother of Nathan, Samuel and Abigail. Funeral service at Holmsford Bridge crematorium on Thursday 9th January at 10:30am, with transport available to meet the ferry at 9:15 - please contact Andrew on 07800 945965. Family flowers only please.

ROBERTS:

Sheila Currie
Peacefully at Montrose House on Saturday, 21st December 2019. Sheila, aged 90 years, beloved wife of Alex, mum to Shona and Sandie and gran to the family. Funeral service in Brodick Church on Friday, 27th December at 11:30am and thereafter to Lamlash cemetery to which all are welcome.

MEMORIAM

MACFARLANE: David
In loving memory of David. Beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandpa, and great grandpa.
Passed away 29/12/2016.
'Always in our thoughts'



Marc Head presents Henry McNicol with the signed Rangers football.

Henry wins Rangers football in club raffle

Henry McNicol of Brodick won top prize in the Isle of Arran AFC grand Christmas raffle - a Rangers football signed by manager Steven Gerrard and the first team players.

There were five other prize winners in the raffle to raise club funds.

They were: three Jack Nicklaus £5 notes, Derek Flemming; Arran AFC football top, Fer Murchie, The Parlour voucher, Katie Morrison; bottle of whisky, Sam Tattersfield; Little Rock voucher, John May.

A club spokesman said: 'We would like to thank everyone who bought a ticket.

'This money will go towards helping the club.

Thanks

'It's much appreciated and thanks again from everyone involved with the club.

'Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.'

Prizewinners are asked to contact Marc Head to collect their prizes.



Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday December 22, Ryder Cup, game two - singles. Torbeg 5 v Shiskine 3, Kilpatrick 2 and 1/2 v Blackwaterfoot 5 and 1/2. The table after game two: 1 Torbeg 7 and 1/2, 1 Blackwaterfoot 7 and 1/2, 3 Kilpatrick 4 and 1/2, 3 Shiskine 4 and 1/2. Nearest pins: 4th M Adams, 10th J Salton, 12th R Traill.

Sunday December 22, 12 Hole Medal and Winter Cup. 1st class: 1 J Salton 49-7=42 BIH, 2 and scratch, W Paton 46-4=42 BIH, 3 J Faulkner 47-5=42. 2nd class: 1 R Traill 49-11=38, 2 W McNally 49-10=39, 3 S Kerr 50-8=42.

Fixtures: Sunday December 29, Ryder Cup (fourballs), shotgun start at 1pm. Tuesday December 31, Mahogany Trophy (gents), 12noon tee off. Wednesday January 1, Alan Smith Plate (ladies), 10.30am shotgun start. Wednesday January 1, Colditz Quaich, 1pm shotgun start. Thursday January 2, DS Bannatyne Shield (mixed foursomes), 12noon shotgun start.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday December 22, Winter Cup round three. At the third attempt the third round of the Winter Cup finally got underway and a field of 10 took part. Heavy overnight rain had taken its toll on the course with a lot of surface water to contend with and playing conditions drove the CSS up to 66. 1 Wolfi Kroner 14, 65, 2 Jamie Macpherson 5, 66 and lowest gross, 3 Douglas Auld 20, 68 ACB, 4 Graham

Crichton 13, 68. Fixtures: Sunday December 29, The Nearly Hogmanay Sweep, yellow tees, Stableford, one draw at 10am.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday December 28, 18 Hole Sweep, ballots at 9am and noon. Monday December 30, Winter Cup, ballot at noon. Wednesday January 1, New Year's Day Gathering, shotgun start at noon. Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to all our members.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday December 28, Two Club Competition for ladies and gents, one must be a putter, tee off at noon. Tuesday December 31, Winter Cup cancelled. Saturday January 4, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off at noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday December 22, 12 Hole

All set for the Douglas Dook

In the now annual tradition, brave dookers will take to the waters of Brodick Bay to see in the New Year.

The Douglas Dook, now in its ninth year, will take place at noon at Brodick Slipway on New Years Day with, traditionally, many of the dookers in costume.

The weather is looking promising as while it may be wet, temperatures of 8°C are expected - but not in the water.

Nursery sheep dog trial results

Dog handlers and their charges took part in the first nursery trials of the season at Southbank Farm, Kildonan, judged by Neil Henderson of Kilpatrick.

In the first of two nursery trials, in which four dogs ran, Wullie Stevenson and his dog Arran McLeod took first place with 71 points.

In the old dogs category, six dogs ran, with Iain McConnell and his dog Sam taking top spot with 82 points. In second place was Niall McMaster with Gail who earned 63 points. Following closely behind was Matthew McNeish and Pip who finished with 61 points.

GETINTOUCH

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Sweep. Captain Douglas Robertson's team beat vice captain Ann May's team. Bill Donaldson won the 12 hole sweep with 31 points. Fixtures: Sunday January 29, Winter Cup Stableford, 9am/noon. Wednesday January 1, New Year bottle and Hirsle Trophy, arrange own games or draw at noon. Thursday January 2, Course Backwards Competition, arrange own games or draw at noon.

Arran Golfers Association

Fixture: Sunday January 5, Winter League (Duncan Trophy) at Lamlash Golf Club. Shotgun start at 10am for all games.

Could all golfers arrive in plenty of time please. Go to allocated tees and wait till 10am and a clear fairway ahead. Lamlash v Whiting Bay, Brodick v Corrie, Shiskine v Machrie Bay.

A look back at a big year



JANUARY. Arran's Nicola Currie is presented with the Lady Jockey of the Year award at the Stobart Lesters. Photograph: Dan Abraham-focusonracing.com.



FEBRUARY. Arran Kayak Club members celebrated the purchase of new equipment at their indoor winter training session.



JANUARY. The first group of beginner runners graduate from the Arran Pace Makers group led by Lorna Logan and Gordon McInnes.
01_B03runners01

FEBRUARY. Rory Hunter was crowned the world champion at the WASZP International Games in Western Australia.
Photo: David Hogg.



MARCH. Corrie Shepherd and Eilidh Hamill shared a joint award for their work as sports volunteers at the Provost's Civic Pride Awards which were presented by Provost Ian Clarkson.



MARCH. Five Arran Taekwondo students show off their skills that earned them 16 medals at a recent competition in Edinburgh.

of sport – January to June



APRIL. More than 500 runners set off from Brodick beach on the first day of the Rat Race Ultra Tour which covers 100km over two days.



APRIL. Arran youngsters were put through their paces at the SFA Easter camp which saw more than 45 children enjoying the football activities. 01_B16camp01



MAY. A large contingent of local runners took part in this year's Ormidale 10k race which enjoyed a record entry of 105 runners this year.



MAY. Whiting Bay Bowling Club members pictured in front of the clubhouse at the 61st game of the season. 01_B19bowling01



JUNE. The two teams of the inaugural Happy Spider Cup join in the trophy presentation to Little Rock captain Brian Smith by David and Claire Johnston and her daughter Betty. 01_B24spider16



JUNE. Winner of the Kildonan and District sheep dog trials is Niall McMaster with his wife Genevieve, children Sophie and Euan and dog, Gail.

Two clubs enjoy ride out

The Arran Belles and the Arran Mountain Bike Club braved the biting December weather to enjoy their annual Christmas ride out.

The event, organised by Gerard Tattersfield, saw the two clubs enjoying a day out on their cycles before meeting up for a combined lunch.

Warm up

Members of the Arran Mountain Bike Club met early to cycle the trails round Brodick, experiencing cold and wet weather, before

heading in the direction of Sannox and Corrie Golf Club to revive themselves and to warm up.

The Belles were more fortunate with only one shower heading for the top of the Boguillie before joining their friends for a delicious lunch and a warming drink.

The ride out is an annual event on the cycling calendar for both clubs and members add to the Christmas cheer and social fun by decorating their bikes and helmets.



The Arran Belles safely back in Brodick after their festive cycle. Not pictured was Janice Small who was away heating mince pies and mulled wine. 01_B51Belle01



Decorated helmets added some festive cheer to the table.



The Belles enjoying lunch at Corrie and Sannox Golf Club.



The Belles back at Corrie Golf Club after their cycle up the Boguillie.




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