



WHAT'S GOING ON IN LAMLASH BAY?

Photos by Howard Wood



THE RESEARCH VESSEL Alba na Mara has spent the last week surveying Lamlash Bay and surrounding areas of the Clyde. The vessel was launched in February 2008 and handed over to the Scottish Fisheries Research Service in April. It has a crew of eight plus accommodation for up to five scientists using the latest state-of-the-art equipment. For more information on the Research Vessel check out: <http://www.frs-scotland.gov.uk/FRS.Web/Uploads/Documents/OR10Albaweb2.pdf>

Full story on page 3

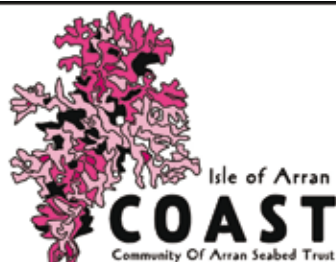
Chance to question the high heid yins

HOW OFTEN DO we hear it said on Arran that 'the authorities' never consult us or listen to what we think? That is all set to change on Friday 7th November at the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 7.30pm. Leading people from both local and national government have agreed to answer whatever posers islanders fire at them, in Arran's own Question Time, complete with TV cameras.

Katy Clark MP and Kenneth Gibson MSP will both be there, as will David O'Neill, leader of North Ayrshire Council. John Michel of the NAC Planning department initially promised to come, but there will be an equally weighty representative if he is unable to make it. David McIndoe, director of Housing Development for Trust Housing, promises to attend. He represents the parent organisation of which Arran Homes is part, and has said he will bring at least one other expert in the field.

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE: Icelandic Banks — Latest / The Future is Local / Arran's own Currency / Scam Warnings / Bible Bus



Show your support by
becoming a member of COAST
www.arrancoast.co.uk

HIFAR
Housing
Initiative For
Arran Residents

HIFAR Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. Company No. 317445.
Scottish charity No. SC039180

**Give your opinion
Tell your story
www.hifar.co.uk**



Sat-nav seeks Lidl supermarket in Shiskine



The lorry-driver finds his way back to Ardrossan after his visit to Blackwaterfoot

A LITHUANIAN LORRY driver pulled up outside Cameron's garage in Blackwaterfoot last week, looking for 'Shiskine Drive.' He'd travelled all the way from Germany to deliver 300 shopping trollies to a Lidl supermarket in Glasgow's Maryhill, but his satellite navigation system had sent him to the village of Shiskine on Arran. It was only when he'd crossed the Firth of Clyde and driven his consignment over the String Road that he began to think something must be wrong.

Failing to find a Lidl supermarket in Shiskine (or indeed anything bigger than 10 metres of carpet in the Harbour Store), he trundled on southward, and stopped at Blackwaterfoot Garage to ask for directions. Colin Cameron said, 'We tried to help him by making phone calls and getting him a route-planner map for his journey.'

OFF HIS TROLLEY?

The driver of the 20 tonne lorry shook his head with a smile when asked for his name — but the misrouting was not

his fault. LKW Walter International, the German firm who run Lidl, had sent him out with about five tonnes of supermarket trollies from Austria, but got the geography seriously mixed up. When the driver questioned the directions given by his satellite navigation system, he was told to carry on with the journey, though he thought it was a bit odd when he found himself on the ferry to Arran.

Communication was a bit tricky, too. 'In Slovakia no problem,' the driver said. 'Slovenia no problem, Russia, Germany, Estonia, Belarus no problem, I speak a little. France I speak a little, Spain I speak a little. English I speak a very little.' The text message received on his mobile phone left our reporter baffled. It said, 'Isle of Arran del keltor dar aiskinuosi gall buti kad bus is Dunkerque.' Any translations welcome...

Anyway, the driver turned his truck round in the Kinloch car-park and was last seen heading with his five tonnes of trollies for the 4.40pm ferry and Maryhill. We do hope he got there.

Chance to question the high heid yins

Continued from front page

THERE IS NO agenda. There will be no speeches and no political ding-dong. The panel is assembling purely to answer questions from Arran people, and nobody can guess what those questions will be — they might range from the serious and urgent to the purely frivolous. The genial Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Keith Robertson.

Spontaneous questions on the night are absolutely welcome, but if a thoroughly researched reply is sought, it could make sense

to give notice of the matter you want to raise, so that information can be gathered. Send any such question in writing to Chris Attkins at Belvedere, Alma Road, Brodick, who will forward it to the appropriate panellist. The evening should be a lot of fun as well as solidly informative, and anyone who wants to ask something of the people who really should know the answers is urged to turn up. It's an opportunity that may not happen again for a long time.

Warden service still needed



TONY GURNEY, SNP Councillor for Ardrossan and Arran, is one of a group of councillors urging that the warden's service to the sheltered housing complexes in North Ayrshire should be restored. They have lodged a motion to be discussed at the November meeting of the council, and Cllr Gurney has no doubts about its urgency. He said:

'We opposed the original removal of this much needed service from the vulnerable elderly people within sheltered housing. Since the removal of the service, as predicted, we have seen various problems emerge. There has been a rise in complaints from the Fire Service following an increase in false alarms originating from sheltered housing complexes. There are also issues about accessing the properties following a false alarm, as there is now no designated person responsible for holding keys to the individual complexes. This issue has been raised all over Ayrshire.'

Councillor Gurney continued, 'The other disturbing issue is the demise of most of the coffee clubs and other social aspects of sheltered housing. We said back in January that this would happen and were assured that steps would be taken.

'Nothing has been done and again, this valuable service to those who live in sheltered housing has been lost. This may seem like a trivial thing to those that manage council budgets, but to a recently widowed resident, these social outlets represent a lifeline. It is disgraceful that this has been allowed to happen.'

The group supporting the motion hope to see a speedy resolution of this damaging situation.

The Burnside Christmas Market

Calling Arts and Crafts people
Undercover space available to let
weekends in December

To find out more contact The Burnside
telephone: 01770 303 888
or e-mail info@theburnside.com

Let's promote shopping at home!

The Burnside

Auchrannie Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8BZ
Tel: 01770 303 888 E-mail: info@theburnside.com



**TAXI SERVICE
& PRIVATE HIRE MINI-BUS**

for weddings, funerals & all other occasions

Day: (01770) 700 345
Night: (01770) 820 286
Mobile: 07967 587 481

THE BAY GARAGE

ARRAN HAULAGE SERVICES Ltd.

- General Haulage
- Express Parcels
- Temperature Controlled
- Animal Feeds
- Building Materials
- Coal Supplies
- Propane & Butane Gas Cylinders

Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DD

Tel: 01770 302 777 Fax: 01770 302 500

E-mail: info@arranhaulage.co.uk www.arranhaulage.co.uk

Mainland Depot:

4 Queen Elizabeth Ave, Hillington Industrial Estate, Glasgow G52 4NQ

Telephone: 0141 882 6608



CALOR Gas

What's going on in Lamlash Bay

Continued from front page

SO WHAT EXACTLY HAS IT BEEN DOING AND WHY?

With the No Take Zone (NTZ) now in place, it is important to carry out a baseline survey of the NTZ area. If you were doing this on land you would be able to use one of numerous maps, such as Ordnance Survey, as your canvas. This would enable you to mark accurately where you are, what elevation you are at, if you are in forestry or on a moor etc. However, although we have charts of the area a much more accurate picture of the seabed is needed. So for the first few days the research vessel was towing a side scan sonar transducer approximately five metres above the seabed. This sends back to the vessel, through an umbilical cable, millions of sonic pings which build up a very accurate picture of the seabed. Each pass of the vessel covers a track of 100 metres across. Once the vessel has covered most of the bay these tracks are put together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. This acoustic survey picks out stones and cobbles as small as 10cm, so it had no problem in identifying one solitary rock of 10 metres in height in the middle of the bay. Depending on the strength of the returned sound signal a different colour comes up on the computer screen, and from experience the scientists generally know which colours represent sand, rock, mud or other marine sediments.

To verify the acoustic map produced by the side scan sonar the area is surveyed independently by a process known as ground truthing. In Lamlash Bay this will be accomplished principally by video and stills photography so that the physical nature of the sea bed and associated fauna can be confirmed. Additionally, in some areas small samples of the sea bed sediment may be taken by grab sampling. What comes up is then analysed for both bottom sediment and creatures within it. This is repeated over the whole area, slowly building up a habitat map. All the information is of use to both organisations involved in doing the survey, namely, our government's own Fisheries Research Service (FRS) and Sea Star Surveys of Southampton, who are working on behalf of Scottish Natural Heritage



Picture of the drop down cage to monitor scallops.

(SNH). FRS is looking at the possible effects of the NTZ relating to fished species, in this case both to King and Queen Scallops, while SNH is looking at possible changes in biodiversity that result from leaving an area of seabed undisturbed.

In addition to the habitat survey FRS is developing a low impact visual method for assessing scallop densities in Lamlash and other areas. The steel pyramid, drop camera frame used in this assessment has been used successfully in the USA for the last few years and is currently being adapted by FRS for use with our scallop species. The frame stands approximately two metres high with a 2.2 metre square base and is lowered onto the seabed from Alba Na Mara. Attached to it are a number of lights, video and still digital cameras. These have direct feeds through an umbilical cable to the laboratory up in the vessel. Every time this pyramid is moved to a new location an area of seabed is recorded, allowing a map of scallop abundance to be drawn up.

SNH's contractors have a similar but slightly smaller frame that is again fitted with lights, cameras and other sensors. It records what creatures are attached to the seabed or are scuttling around it.

Another survey being carried out in all parts of the bay is the taking of CTD samples, which measures conductivity, temperature and depth in the water column. This tells us the makeup of the seawater at all depths, such as its salinity and where the temperature thermo-cline lies on that particular day.

Once the present survey is completed Alba na Mara will return to her home port of Fraserburgh on the east coast. The process of data analysis, started on board, will continue after completion of the voyage. The results from the baseline survey will be important in monitoring future changes in the NTZ and add to the knowledge gained from previous surveys done by Millport marine station — and, last but not least, COAST divers' own Seasearch surveys done in and around the Bay since 2003.

COAST would like to thank the crew and all scientists aboard the Alba na Mara for their hard work and cooperation over the past week and look forward to their return in future years. They are also very grateful to Tom and Jim of the Holy Isle ferry hire and Charlie Weir of the fishing boat Kimberley for their help and cooperation during the survey.

Icelandic Banks — latest

LAST WEDNESDAY, 15th October, Treasury officials from London met with NAC Leader, Cllr David O'Neill, Secretary of State for Scotland, Jim Murphy MP, the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance, John Swinney MSP and Cllr Pat Watters, President of COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities).

The Treasury group made it clear that no guarantees to cover local authority deposits have yet been provided. The discussions are complex and it may take some time before the situation is fully resolved. However, should the Treasury offer support, this will apply to Scotland as well as England.

The Scottish Government has indicated that it will consider ways to facilitate any Scottish Council which has cash flow difficulties arising from deposits not being returned at the contract times. It is not anticipated that NAC will require this but Council representatives felt that it is helpful to know this support is there.

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson is relieved to hear that Scotland will be on an equal standing with England if Treasury support is needed. He has spoken again to John Swinney about any possible effects of the situation on Arran people, and received a further reassurance that 'people on Arran who enjoy the services of, are employed by, or pay council taxes to North Ayrshire Council will not suffer as a result of this crisis.' The statement continued: 'The Scottish Government will protect North Ayrshire from any cash flow problems that may arise while the return of these monies is pursued.' COSLA will represent Scottish Councils at future Treasury discussions and will hold a meeting of all Scottish authorities affected, which David O'Neill and Alasdair Herbert will attend.

The first deposit of £5m from Landsbanki is scheduled for repayment on 14th November, 2008, and it is to be hoped that the situation will have been clarified by then.

Arranvoice.com Online Poll

This week's question is:

Do we need better communication with NAC?

Share your opinion, visit www.arranvoice.com and cast your vote!

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:

Would you like to see an increased ferry service from Lochranza to Kintyre during the winter months?

Yes: 94.4% (17 votes), No: 5.8% (1 vote), Not sure: 0% (0 votes)

Editorial

UPON THE KING

It is a very comfortable thing to have someone to blame. If all difficulties are due to the shortcomings of an ineffectual agency elsewhere, then we can justify our claim to be innocent and deserving. Sometimes, it is almost a joke. 'I blame the parents,' is closer to a quotation than a real opinion — but the attraction of finding a scapegoat remains undiminished.

On Arran, it is seductively easy to ascribe blame to outside influences. Most fundamentally, there is the weather. Coupled with its immediate adjunct, CalMac, it tends to produce a conviction that there should, somehow, be a way of combining wind, ship and waves to produce a more satisfactory equation. Nobody would like to take on the mammoth task of sifting truth from fiction within this assumption, let alone face the prospect of designing and running a better ferry service, but meanwhile, there is a certain complacent pleasure in the rolling of the eyes that greets every missed sailing.

The same is true of our relationships with government, both national and local. Since the new administration came into power, we take a less censorious view of Holyrood and its workings, largely because our current MSP provides constant information about new proposals — but Westminster still tends to be seen as something not far from a gaggle of dubiously sane foreigners. However, this makes it a formless, unsatisfactory scapegoat, and most blame is dumped squarely on our local authority. Insular in more than the geographical sense,

we have a strong tendency to see our mainland-based Council as remote and operating on urban assumptions that do not fit Arran.

Wanting to provide real connection, the Transition group has organised a high-level Question Time, to take place on Friday 7th November at the Ormidale Pavilion. It now waits a little nervously to see if this opportunity for a direct meeting with the leader of NAC and representatives from its housing and planning departments will be taken up. Kenneth Gibson MSP and Katy Clark MP will also be there. They are, ironically enough, better known on the island than the leading figures from Irvine, but the relative rarity of the opportunity for face-to-face conversation with those who run the local administration should stir intense interest. But will it? The mind flinches from the suspicion that people prefer to stay at home and grumble.

It is perhaps a function of government that it exists to accept blame. Shakespeare put an accurate finger on this when he had Henry V musing on the eve of Agincourt about his heavy responsibilities:

Upon the king! — Let us our lives,
our souls,
Our debts, our careful wives,
Our children and our sins,
lay on the king!
We must bear all.

When the king, using his royal 'we', faced his almost impossible burden, he expressed the full dilemma of government. Five centuries on, we should be trying, when we can, to share it. The king is dead. We meet at the Ormidale.

Quote

'Well, we know now that money is not made in banks. It's made by real people working hard at real jobs.'

Icelandic fisherman Asbjorn Jonsson, reported in the Guardian 17.10.08.

Those who still have real jobs, that is. Ed.

THE ARRAN VOICE PRODUCTION TEAM

Editorial Director: *Alison Prince*
Chief Reporter: *Nick Underdown*
Trainee Journalist: *Kelly Donnelly*
Advertising Manager: *Janis Murchie*
Business & Admin Manager: *Claire Berrie*
Online Director: *Graeme Atkins*
Fishing Correspondent: *John Kinsman*
Poetry Editor: *Jason Watts*

Newspaper designed by: **Buchanan Lindsay Design**
Website designed by: **Frecosse Online Solutions**
Printed by: **Caledonian Offset Ltd, Edinburgh**

The Arran Voice is registered as a newspaper

PRESS POLICY

We welcome contributions from readers for all sections of *The Arran Voice*. Material can be submitted online or posted to our office and may be used, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the Editor. All contributions must bear contact details and will be attributed unless anonymity is requested. Anyone submitting material must warrant that they hold the copyright and agree to its publication in both *The Arran Voice* and/or *ArranVoice.com*. Copyright thereafter remains with the author. Views expressed in *The Arran Voice* are not necessarily those of the management team.

Voice mail

Readers' News and Views...

THANK YOU FROM ARRAN RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

On behalf of Arran RDA, we wish to thank Joni Keen for her recent fundraising concert which along with the raffle on the night managed to raise the total sum of just under £500.

Thank you to all the local companies who donated prizes for the raffle, which itself raised nearly £300.

Thank you to Fellview Bed & Breakfast, Bar Eden in Whiting Bay, Arran Graphics, Island Cheese Company, Arran Aromatics, Arran Lamb Company, Kiscadale Engineering, Paterson Arran, Island Porcelain, Thomas Taylor Bowls, The Arran Banner, Holy Isle ferry, Brodick Bar, Arran Carriage Hire, Whiting Bay Post Office, Bay News & Whiting Bay Village Store and not forgetting CalMac who donated the travel tickets for the musicians on the night — the generosity of local companies never ceases to amaze! Thank you all again.

*Janis Heaney
Arran RDA.*

LAMLASH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lamlash primary school are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 25th October at 10.30–12 noon in the school gym hall. It will be a good morning out, so come along and enjoy a nice cuppa and some excellent home baking. We will have a home baking stall as well, so you can buy some nice treats to take home to enjoy later. We will also have a small second hand toy stall, so the children can enjoy browsing through the toys. Please come along and join us!

*Ninna Crisp,
Lamlash*

BUS ROVER TICKETS: WHY SO DEAR ON ARRAN?

This Monday and Tuesday, Frédi and I had the luck to escape a couple of days to Edinburgh. Having heard horror stories from

guests about the traffic situation in the capital — mainly due to the preparation for the construction of the new tram line from the Airport over Princes Street down Leith Walk to the Ocean Terminal — we decided to leave the car in an outside quarter near a bus station. So we did, and found a very quiet residential road with enough space to park. We took up our baggage and entered the first City-bound bus about 2pm. I bought two day tickets at £2.50 each and asked the driver how long they were valid. He said, '24 hours'. I could hardly believe this. On Arran the rover ticket costs £4.50 and is only valid on the day of buying.

So, a guest who comes here to this apparently tourism-friendly Island and wants to use public transport instead of clogging our horrible roads and dispersing CO² arrives, say, on the 12.30 boat and leaves next day on the 13.40 — and he will have to spend £9 for two Rover tickets. This is a whopping 360% more compared to Edinburgh — and they have a bus nearly every 5 minutes until well into the small hours. Add to this horrendous price on Arran the minimal number of bus connections, and no one will wonder why we are not seeing a big take-up of bus transport by our guests.

Arran really needs far more connections; every half hour in each direction from 07.30 to 20.00 and then every hour until midnight is a minimum. This would certainly also be a boost for eating out, if one can enjoy a glass wine or two without a bad conscience or rather not go out at all. The single fare prices ought to be cut in half compared to what we pay now and there must be weekly, monthly or yearly tickets with substantial discounts. This would immediately cut down the use of cars. It would also be welcome UK-wide Public Relations news that Visit Arran could publicise extensively.

*Bruno Baumgärtner,
Whiting Bay*

News in Brief...

MOVES AGAINST SALMON PARASITE

Scotland's rural affairs secretary has welcomed moves by the Norwegian government to eradicate a killer parasite that devastates wild salmon stocks. Gyrodactylus salaris (Gs) is estimated to cost the Norwegian economy £30 million per annum and has been described as 'without doubt one of the most important potential problems facing Atlantic salmon managers in Scotland today.'

Andrew Wallace, MD of the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland said: 'Its emergence in the UK would have incalculable repercussions and would render all the hard work on behalf of the salmon over so many years, by so many people, almost valueless.' The parasite can be transferred by fishing and canoeing equipment exposed to foreign waters and anglers have been urged by

angling associations to disinfect their gear if returning from fishing trips in Norway.

KILMORY CURRY NIGHT

Thirty diners enjoyed a varied curry menu at Kilmory Hall on Saturday night. The delicious dishes were served up by Charlie Hunter and Alan Dillon, ably assisted by Norma and Janet. These ever-popular fund-raisers take place about twice a year and tickets are always snapped up as soon as available.



COAST campaign 'inspirational' — but more to do



Jean-Luc Solandt (MCS), Tom Vella-Boyle, Howard Wood, Don MacNeish and Calum Duncan (MCS)

ON MONDAY EVENING in the Ormidale Pavilion the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) reviewed the health of Scotland's marine environment and paid tribute to the long, hard years of 'inspirational' campaigning undertaken by COAST. Calum Duncan of MCS Scotland pointed out some shocking facts to the 30 or so islanders present. Scotland accounts for 65% of UK fishing by weight of fish going through British ports, but only eight of the UK's 47 fish stocks are keeping up their numbers, and 27 UK marine invertebrates face extinction. As Scotland and the UK devise their new Marine Bills, support from the public against this dangerous situation will be essential.

Conservation officer Jean-Luc Solandt gave a fascinating insight into the struggle

to achieve a No Take Zone in Lundy Bay near the Isle of Man — the UK's only precursor to Arran's NTZ. It led to an increase in scallop density from 2.5 per 100m² to 22 per 100m² in just 8 years. Solandt made an eloquent case for the closed areas and how they will benefit marine ecosystems and — by extension — the fishermen, who, he said, 'are not feeding the nation like they used to. They are just feeding a rich business. There is a moral dimension to changing the way we fish.' He stressed that the Scottish Government must follow the lead of nations such as Australia who have protected huge areas of sea to conserve a variety of different, interconnected habitats. He said, 'We need to have hundreds of sites. We've got to be more confident about what these measures can do.'

ARRAN ARTISTS

2009 Calendar on sale this Friday

Christmas Advertising with *The Arran Voice*

11 adverts for the price of 9
Book now to take advantage
of our discounted advertising

Christmas Business Messages
Wish your customers a Merry
Christmas and Happy New
Year in our Christmas
Issue for £20

Personal Christmas Messages
Wish your friends and family
a Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year in our Christmas
Issue — it's FREE!

Contact Janis on 01770 303 636 for more details,
or e-mail: janis@arranvoice.com

SPACES ARE LIMITED — BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

Silk Screen Printing Workshop

By **Sibbie Sangster**



JENNY SMITH, a well-known artist, came to Arran last weekend to give her 6th workshop for Arran Visual Arts. The weekend's speciality was "Silk Screen Printing" and ten enthusiastic individuals spent two days making a terrible mess and much to their amazement, finishing the weekend with some attractive prints to take home.

Silk screen printing is complicated because of the number of techniques that can be used to build up the layers of colour needed to produce a final print. On Saturday we were shown two different ways of applying the first layer of print using stencils or paper 'masked' into shapes, and how to print one or more colours at this stage. The next layer involved painting directly onto

the screens and on Sunday we learned how to print this over the first images. Some people stopped at this point but others went on to do a further stage. This involved coating the screen with photosensitive emulsion, attaching a line drawing, for example, and exposing it on a 'light box'. When the emulsion was washed off the image was left, etched on the screen and this was then printed on the paper as a final layer.

There was a wide variety of 'final' prints ranging from purely abstract designs to more formal pictures.

Everyone agreed that it had been great fun though pretty exhausting! Thank you, Jenny, for another excellent workshop.

Funding boost for central heating

FROM APRIL 2009 the Scottish Government's 'fuel poverty' programmes will be extended to include families on income support with children under five or with disabled children under 16 — an additional investment of £10million over and above the £46million allocated this year.

Kenneth Gibson MSP said, 'This will ensure the provision of even more central heating systems this year than the record number installed in 2007/08, when 1,230 were installed in Ayrshire.' He added, 'Extending the programme from April will ensure that vulnerable families hitherto excluded from the central heating will benefit from it.'

NOTES:

1. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing made a statement on Fuel Poverty in Parliament on 22 May, and announced prioritisation within the Central Heating Programme to focus on those householders most likely to be fuel poor. From 27 October this prioritisation will be extended to cover the following pensioner households:

- Those who have never had a central heating system;
- Those who have a system which is broken beyond repair and are in receipt of the Guarantee Element of Pension Credit;
- Those who have a system which is broken beyond repair and are aged 75 or over;

- Those who have a partial or inefficient system and are in receipt of the Guarantee Element of Pension Credit; and
- Those who have a partial or inefficient system and are aged 80 or over.

2. The Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum was established to advise the Scottish Government on tackling fuel poverty. Chaired by Rev Graham Blount it published its recommendations on the reform of fuel poverty policy on 10 October 2008. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon, is considering the recommendations and will respond fully later in the year.

3. The Scottish Government's Central Heating Programme delivered a record 14,371 central heating systems in 2007-08. Scottish Gas delivered 14,203 and local authorities delivered a further 168 systems, in total the highest number ever delivered to private homes by the programme.

4. The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2006 set out the criteria governing the existing fuel poverty programmes, the Central Heating and Warm Deal Programmes. The Scottish Government will seek the approval of Parliament to amend these Regulations to include help for families on income support.



Arran HideAways & The Arran Team Ltd Holiday Home Services

New Services for Self-Catering and Private Holiday Home Owners

Secure Key Holding & 7 Day Access (Friends, Family, Trades, Paying Guests)
Relocating to Arran? Enquire about our services (measuring, furniture assembly, photos, accompany trades, services etc) • Pre-Letting Advisory Services with 10 Years of Local Experience • **Fire Risk Assessments** • P.A.T. Testing • **Guest Services (please ask for more info)** • Contract Laundry Services • **Changeover Services** • Exit Surveys
Winter Checks & Property Reports • Post Storm Checks & Reports
Access Statements (Disabled Facility Properties) • Inventory Preparation

In other words — Complete Peace of Mind For Your Property

E-mail: marie@arran-hideaways.co.uk Telephone: 01770 303111
The HideAway, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ

Retailers 'not to blame' for fuel prices

Delayed drop in island petrol prices may reveal hedging by Arran's oil supplier

ARRAN MOTORISTS AND hauliers are questioning the still sky-high cost of petrol on the island, despite falls in global oil prices. The price at the pump has dropped to below 99p per litre on the mainland, but on Tuesday of this week, Arran drivers were still paying over 120ppl for petrol and even more for diesel.



PROFITEERING?

'The retailer cannot put the price down until the supplier puts its price down, and it is the supplier who is controlling the marketplace,' said Margaret Haddow of Arran Transport. 'Every time that our supplier puts the price down, we pass on that price drop,' she added. Arran Transport, the island's major fuel supplier, has had to deal with a number of angry customers, some of whom have accused the local retailer of profiteering.

'Our profit of pence per litre has never changed,' explains Margaret. 'Our margin is fixed regardless of the price of the product.' Arran Transport takes about six pence per litre to pay for the costs of running the business. As Margaret makes clear, 'The higher the price, the higher the VAT element. So in fact the higher the price per litre, the lower percentage profit we make.'

SO JUST WHY IS ARRAN FUEL SO EXPENSIVE?

The Arran Voice ran a front page article in early June, detailing the background to rural fuel distribution (Arran fuel stitch up? *The Arran Voice*, 6th June 2008). Transport costs, restrictive health and safety laws and a host of other reasons mean that the island's major supplier, Scottish Fuels, has to charge high wholesale prices just to make an average margin of 1.5p per litre (ppl).

With oil prices dipping to below \$70 a barrel last week (albeit followed by another surge this week), Arran customers are wondering why the prices at the pumps have not fallen accordingly. Motoring groups have warned that fuel prices will not fall so quickly at the more remote garages, as they receive less frequent deliveries and so will be forced to continue selling the old stock at the same rates until it runs out.

OTHER ISLANDS ARE CHEAPER

But on Islay, the other side of Kintyre, Bridgend Petrol Station currently sells petrol for 115 ppl and diesel for 130 ppl (down from peaks of 128ppl and 143ppl respectively). Owner of the Islay store Mr Campbell receives his fuel from Gleaner Oils and said: 'Fuel prices have been dropping fairly steadily over the past few weeks. It certainly seems that Gleaners are competitive.' He explains that big retailers have massive purchasing power and are subsidising fuel at the supermarket forecourts to lure in customers to buy other products. 'They are using it as a promotional tool,' he said.

Like Arran, Portree Filling Station on Skye is supplied instead by Scottish Fuels. Its prices have dipped over the past few weeks from 125ppl for petrol and 132ppl for diesel to 104.9ppl and 116.9ppl at the start of this week. 'Every island differs. It depends on a multitude of factors,' the garage owner said.

The discrepancy of prices between the islands could suggest that Scottish Fuels is selling stockpiled fuel which it bought at rates before the major dip in oil prices. A spokesman for the company was non-committal when asked about this, and said, 'In a lot of ways the answers to your questions can only be explained when we go into the detail, the math if you like of our distribution and business in the different areas we supply. There are a lot of things which we can't say, because they are commercially sensitive.'

'Bible bus' coming to Arran

By John Roberts

A HIGH-TECH, multimedia mobile classroom, Bibleworld SBS Studios will be visiting Arran from Monday 27th to Friday 31st October. Brought in by the Scottish Bible Society, local schoolchildren and other groups will be enjoying this highly acclaimed education resource that has all the latest technology to delight, entertain and educate its visitors.

The huge 'Tardis-like' trailer, containing what is effectively a travelling classroom customised to resemble six sets in a film studio, will be parked at Arran High School in Lamash, where it will be visited during the school day by parties from local schools.

Using the multimedia computer activities and involving visitors through hands-on experiences, the facility is designed to bring the story of the Bible to

life. Since its launch in 2005, more than 21,000 children and adults have enjoyed the Bibleworld SBS Studios programme; 'It's fun, but you are learning at the same time,' said one pupil.

The 45ft, 14 ton vehicle is taken to towns and villages throughout Scotland, and Arran's Churches are delighted to have an opportunity to support this venture. After the schoolchildren have experienced it in the daytime, the general public will have their chance. Extending beyond the school day, accompanied children can experience Bibleworld SBS Studios for themselves by visiting on Monday and Thursday evenings from 6-8pm, and there are special Open Events for the community at large, adults, young people and children, in the High School social area on the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm.

Book review Sponsored by Book and Card Centre

Book Review

By Graeme Atkins

THE DRUID KING

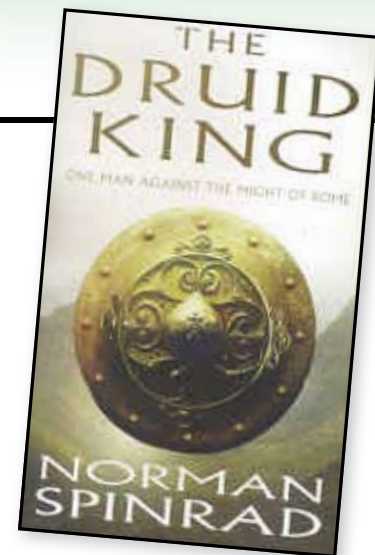
Ever since I was a younger lad and picked up my first Asterix comic book, I have been intrigued with the struggle between the people of Gaul and the invading Roman army led by Julius Caesar.

While Asterix is fantasy, there appears in a couple of his stories the character 'Vercingetorix', and he is very much a real life character. As a boy, Vercingetorix's father sought to unite the tribes of Gaul against the invading Roman Empire by declaring himself King of all Gaul. This led to dissent among his fellow nobles, who had him executed.

Here, the story of Vercingetorix gets a bit vague, as he drops out of public view for a few years, though it is widely believed that he was taken in by the druids and taught in the ways of their knowledge.

When he burst back on to the scene, he did manage to unite Gaul against Rome, and while only achieving minor victories in his early years, he inflicted heavy losses on Caesar's army at Gergovia before he was finally crushed at Alesia.

Much of what is known about Vercingetorix comes from Caesar's own accounts, and it's obvious that he



held this 'barbarian' in high esteem as a tactical leader and worthy foe.

The Druid King by Norman Spinrad takes what is known about Vercingetorix and Caesar, and spins a tale around the facts which results in a fast-paced book that mingles fact and fantasy without ever getting bogged down in the minutiae of dates and battle tactics. Spinrad's book is a gem, and the central characters on both sides are well-rounded and believable, as they battle to shape the future of Europe.

The Druid King

By Norman Spinrad

Published by Time Warner Paperbacks

RRP £6.99

ISBN 0-7515-3530-3

You can buy any book reviewed in *The Arran Voice* from the Book and Card Centre at a handsome reduction of £2.00 on the published price.

Out & About

Do you have an island-based event you want to promote?
Add it to **ArranOnline.com** free of charge, and it will automatically appear in these listings (subject to space and suitability).

Alternatively, send details of your event to:

The Arran Voice Ltd, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX

EVERY DAY (OR MOST DAYS)

Arran Craft Gallery, beside Bilslands, Brodick—open Monday–Saturday
Arran Art Gallery, Shore Road, Whiting Bay—open 7 days, 10am–5pm
The Burnside Gallery & Exhibition Space, Sculpture Garden, Auchrannie Road—open daily all year round 10.30am–5.30pm (current exhibitions: Miniatures by Gordon Davidson and Works by Jilly Banantyne)
Maine Fine Art, Michael Maine Gallery, Douglas Centre, Brodick—open 10am–12.30pm & 2–4.30pm
Isle of Arran Distillery, Lochranza—open Monday–Saturday, 10am–6pm, Sundays 11am–4.30pm
Arran Driving Range—open every day (860 530/860 251)
Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodick—closed for the winter
Claddach Pottery, The Store, Claddach, Brodick—open 7 days
Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, Gym Inductions, Fitness Assessments, Personal Training daily
Balmichael Visitors Centre, String Road—Mondays and Tuesdays closed
Arran Adventure, beside Auchrannie Spa, Brodick—open daily for outdoor activities
Brodick Castle, closing for the winter on 31st october—park stays open
Winter Safety Week organised by Strathclyde Police—for info visit stand at Brodick Coop from Friday 24th — Friday 31st october

THURSDAY 23RD

Senior Aerobics, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.30–10.30am
Sailing Fundamentals, Arran Adventure, Auchrannie Spa, 10am–1pm
Mountain Bike Black Trail, Arran Adventure, Auchrannie Spa, 10am–1pm
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 10.45–11.45am
Cardiac Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30–2pm
Lochranza Craft Club, Lochranza Hall, 2pm
Abseiling, Arran Adventure, Auchrannie Spa, 2–5pm
Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, 3–5pm
KA Jog, all levels, KA Campus, Lamlash, 5.30–6.30pm
Pilates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–6.45pm
Sannox Cricket Club Training, 6pm
Beavers & Cubs, Theatre & Dance Studio Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.15–8pm
Junior Scottish Country Dancing, Lamlash Church Hall, 6–7pm
Legs, Bums & Tums, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–7.15pm
Outdoor Boot Camp, Ormidale Park, Brodick 7–8pm
Brodick Bridge Club, Ormidale Pavillion, 7.15pm
Brodick Embroidery Group, Library,

Brodick, 7.30pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

FRIDAY 24TH

Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning, 10am–12pm
Family Kayaking, Arran Adventure, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 10am–1pm
Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, cancelled, restart 24th October, 10.30am
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am
Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 2pm
Lamlash Friday Club, Church Hall, Lamlash, 2pm
Range Archery, Arran Adventure, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 2–5pm
Gorge Walking, Arran Adventure, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 2–5pm
Kids' Club, Games Night, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–8pm
Arran Pipe Band Practice Session, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Over 21's Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SATURDAY 25TH

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All day
Coffee Morning, Lamlash Primary School, refreshments, homebaking, 2nd hand toys—10.30am–12noon
Open Session, Arran Highland Dancers' Club, Brodick Church Hall, 11am–1pm
Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 11.30–12.30am
Carboot Sale, Kilmory Hall, 2–4pm
Jumble Sale in aid of Tsunami victims, Village Hall, Corrie, 2–4.30pm
Family Games, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 3–4pm
Fun in the Pool, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 4–5pm
Youth Club, Church Hall, Brodick—tabletop gaming, pool, PS3, dart, arts and crafts, table tennis, board games etc., 7–10pm
Musical soiree in aid of Rainbow Trust, UNICEF and Wildlife Conservation Trust, featuring local and mainland musicians, (BYOB), Corrie Hall, 8pm
Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm
Whiting Bay community meeting in the Village Hall on at 4.00pm

SUNDAY 26TH

BST (British Summer Time) ends at 2am — Put clocks 1 hour back
Boys' Football, KA Campus, Lamlash (Astroturf or Games Hall), 10–11am
Arran Wargames Club, Arran High School, Lamlash, 1–4pm
Kids' Club Sunday Matinée, 1.30–3pm
AA Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Margaret's Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm

MONDAY 27TH

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,

9.30–10.30am & 10.45–11.45am
Ways 2 Walk Group, Ormidale Pavillion Car Park, Brodick, 11am
Scottish Country Dancers, Beginners & Improvers, Corrie Hall, 2pm
Weight Wise, Hospital Bungalow, Lamlash, 5–5.30pm
Core Strength, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 5.30–6pm
Circuit Training, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–7.15pm
Ab Class Beginners, KA Campus, Lamlash 6.30–7pm
Aerobics, KA Campus, Lamlash, 7–8pm
Lamlash Bridge Club, Golf Club House, Lamlash, 7.15pm
St. Bride's Ladies, "Plant Collecting in Turkey", talk by Colin Totty, Head Gardener, Brodick Castle, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Sannox Cricket Club AGM, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 7.30pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Cameronia, Whiting Bay, 9.30pm

TUESDAY 28TH

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.45–10.30am
Pulmonary Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30pm
AA Alcoholics Anonymous, Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Indoor Bowling, Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 2–4pm
Legs, Bums & Tums, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 6–6.45pm
Body Conditioning, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6–7pm
Kids Fit, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6–7pm
Shapers, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 7–8pm
Arran Rotary Meeting, Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, Brodick, 7pm
Scottish Country Dance Class, Brodick, Church Hall, 7.30pm
Pop Music Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

WEDNESDAY 29TH

Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am
Yogalates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 10–11am
AIMS Advocacy and CAB Outreach Service, Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 11am–2pm
Archives & Genealogy at the Arran Heritage Museum, Brodick, open 10.30am–12.30pm & 1.30–3.30pm
Core Strength, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 5.30–6pm
Kick Boxing, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6–7pm
Circuit Training, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–7.15pm
Arran Rugby Club S1–U18 from 6.30pm, Seniors from 7.30pm
Hockey, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 7–8pm
AA Alcoholics Anonymous, Lamlash Church Hall, 8–9.30pm

THURSDAY 30TH

Senior Aerobics, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.30–10.30am
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 10.45–11.45am
Cardiac Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30–2pm
Lochranza Craft Club, Lochranza Hall, 2pm
Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, 3–5pm
KA Jog, all levels, KA Campus, Lamlash, 5.30–6.30pm
Pilates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–6.45pm
Junior Scottish Country Dancing, Lamlash Church Hall, 6–7pm
Outdoor Boot Camp, Ormidale Park, Brodick, 7–8pm
Brodick Bridge Club, Ormidale Pavillion, 7.15pm
Brodick Embroidery Group, Library, Brodick, 7.30pm
Middle Eastern Dancers' Practice & Lessons, Lamlash Church Hall, Beginners 7.30–8.30pm, Intermediate 8.30–9.30pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SATURDAY 1ST

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All day
Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 11.30am–12.30pm
Family Games, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 3–4pm
Fun in the Pool, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 4–5pm
Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SUNDAY 2ND

Boys' Football, KA Campus, Lamlash, 10am–11am
Arran Wargames Club, Arran High School, Lamlash, 1–4pm
Kids' Club Sunday Matinée, KA Campus, Lamlash, 1.30–3pm
AA Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Margaret's Church, 4.30pm

PLAN AHEAD

Halloween Friday, 31st October—events see next week's out & about
Bonfire Night, 5th November—events see next week's out & about
Schools' In-Service Day, Friday, 14th November 2008
Christmas Market, Whiting Bay Hall, Sat/Sun, 29th/30th November 2008
Schools off for X-mas/New Year, Monday, 22nd December 2008—Sunday 4th January 2009
Arran Drama Festival 2009—25th–28th February
Arran Music Festival 2009—25th, 26th & 27th March
Schools' Easter Holidays 2009, Monday 6th April–Sunday 19th April 2009
Arran Wildlife Festival 2009—13–30th May

On the Green

By **Alison Prince**

Delay

PUTTING THINGS OFF is a mistake. Your tyres get flatter and your toothache gets worse. But it's not the urgent things that cause the bother — it's that great mass of really-ought-to-do stuff that sits there day after day. I ought to cut out last year's growth on the cultivated blackberry and tie in the new branches. If it wasn't chucking it down with rain I would (perhaps). As it is, I'm going to make some toast and have another coffee. The lists beside the computer pile up like autumn leaves, one scrap of paper on another. Phone the plumber about the gurgling noise in the hot water tank. Buy another pair of shoelaces (Fingal pounced on one of them like a mouse-tail and left it half chewed through.) Send birthday presents to Australia. Do the ironing.

It's great when you can cross one of them off. Yesterday, with superhuman determination, I actually did clear the shower plug-hole. How many weeks has it been while I've stood there in water up to the ankles, vaguely wondering if it would go down the drain before it overflowed? The trick was to get a pair of pliers out of the tool box the day before

and put them beside the shampoo, so they'd remind me in the morning. And they did. The tricky thing is, modern showers have a kind of tube in the outflow with a criss-cross bit at the top, and you have to get that out before you can see what's going on underneath. Hence the pliers. And underneath was a dreadful wet wodge of hair and aged foam that I won't describe in case it puts you off your porridge. Anyway, the outflow is now beautifully clear and I was very pleased for at least five minutes.

Next? *Read review books*, it says on the list. Erghhh. I write book reviews for the occasional magazine, but you never know what they are going to send. Of the present batch, one is stonkingly good — a gripping, well-constructed read. It's hardly a bowl of cherries, being a tale about a woman dying of cancer who confronts her grotty past, but the author has made a terrific job of it. The next one is a different thing altogether. After reading a chapter or two and wondering what the hell was going on, I went back to the beginning and tried again — but there were too many words, too many convoluted

similes and quotes from obscure classics and shifts of time. Someone, I muttered savagely, has tried to be clever. And someone has fouled up. But there it sits as a listed job that has turned into a problem. In the midst of all this shapeless verbiage, there is probably a good idea — but where is it? Lurking in a murky fishbowl of words. But there's a deadline, so this task will have to be faced.

Actually, I love deadlines. When someone else provides them, I don't have to set them for myself, which is great. Who would ever go in for a competition that had no closing date? Who would get the Self-assessment form back if the Revenue people did not keep pointing out that late arrival will incur a fine? As far as I'm concerned, that's — well, yes — *fine*. Odd how the same word can mean such a totally different thing. Letters from friends would get answered a lot faster if they had a deadline for a reply. I love getting them, and on immediate reading there's an impulse to write back at once, like a conversation. That's where e-mail scores, as it's such a right-now kind of affair, but real letters, in real

envelopes, are longer-lasting, and every time they come to the surface from underneath newspapers, books and other correspondence, they are a little more reproachful in their silent, unassuming way. One writer even said, 'Don't answer this too soon — I'll be away.' Carte blanche for delay, of course. But that was in June, and she'll have been back many weeks ago. Sorry!

What letters need is an in-built deadline. 'If you do not answer this within a month, I will send you an envelope full of cat poo.' But the Post Office might not like that. What else would work? 'When I last came to see you, I planted an explosive device somewhere in your house that I will detonate by remote control next Friday if I've not heard from you.' No. My friends would not do that sort of thing. All else apart, they are not efficient enough — or at least, I hope not. But it's scant comfort to them to get abstract mind-messages saying I've been thinking about them. I will write to you soon, dear friends, honest I will. It's just that I have to do this book review. And phone the plumber...



the
Wee
voice

Characters and a Dictionary

By **Katharine O'Donnelly**

RECENTLY I HAVE realised a strange thing: I like the dictionary. Loads of people like the dictionary because it's useful, and it is, but it's long and boring and takes hours to find one word! (to me anyway). No, I like the very end of our own huge dictionary for there, you find, are hundreds of English names. It's fun because you can look for someone's name, see what it's short for or long for (like Tom is Thomas), find the silliest and call them that for the rest of the day!

But that's not the only reason I like it. I don't know, it's just something about names... When you see a person,

they always suit their name. When I see a name I often see a person standing below it: a character.

Characters are strange. They're there, in your head. They're in stories and plays. They're everywhere. We're characters ourselves. Our personality is our character and it is very different from everyone else's.

It's great that everyone's so different but when writing a story it's not so great, for me. All the characters are so the same. Someone's either nice or mean and that's about it. I write little notes about what they look like and their personality, but when you write

the story it sometimes just doesn't work. Probably me not working it all out! Anyway...

Characters in books are nearly always interesting. Purely the imagination of the author can create such a complete person that you can almost get to know her or him. But, other times there's something blocking you from the story. It's as if you're looking through a window onto the characters and the scene. You just see the words they say rather than hear them. Almost like, the story happened, but you weren't there.

Whether you want to look in a dictionary and find your own characters



or are simply happy reading about them in books, seeing them in plays or watching them in films, characters are everywhere, almost in the air, and we all enjoy them in some way or another...

This week's Wee Voice is by Katharine O'Donnelly and a friendly pom-pom.

PUT YOUR SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON OUR MESSAGE BOARD, FREE!

Whiting Bay Village meeting

There will be a Whiting Bay community meeting in the village hall on Sunday 26th October at 4.00pm, to continue from where we left things last time.

Sannox Cricket Club AGM

Monday 27th Oct 2008
7.30pm Ormidale Hotel

St Brides Ladies start their winter session in Brodick Church Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 27th October with a talk by Colin Totty, Head Gardener at Brodick Castle, entitled "Plant Collecting in Turkey". This promises to be a fascinating meeting to which all ladies are invited.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FORUM

The Arran Voice has been asked by HIE & Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network to host an open forum session on the Island. If you, your company, your community project or charity would like to know more about the benefits of being within a Social Enterprise Network, please contact Claire at *The Voice* office. Tel 303636.

KILMORY PRIMARY SCHOOL

AUTUMN FAYRE

at Kilmory School

Sat. 1st November 11.30-1.00pm

Bar-B-Cue (Braehead Beef)

Tombola, Games, Raffles etc.

WINTER SAFETY WEEK

The police are running a Winter Safety week from this Friday until next Friday. They will have a stand at the Co-op and the traffic police will be coming over to join them in offering advice.

LAMLASH FRIDAY CLUB

The first meeting will be held on Friday 24th October at 2pm in Lamlash Church Hall — All Welcome.



This loveable twosome are Clyde and Jed.

They would love a new and loving home. They can go together or separately. Clyde, the little black and white, is a homely cat who likes nothing better than to watch the world go by and lay on her back for a tummy tickle. Jed, the slinky black on the right, is a very independent male who loves to be adored by people. Jed would most definitely need to be somewhere well away from a road. If you would like to give these two a loving home please contact telephone 01770 820611 (evenings)

Arran Highland Dancers' Club

Open Session
on
Saturday 25th October
from
11am to 1pm
in
Brodick Church Hall

Come and watch and/or have a go!

All welcome.

Lamlash Primary School coffee morning

Lamlash Primary School are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 25th October, 10.30-12 noon in the school hall. Refreshments, home baking stall, 2nd hand children's toys stall — come and join us!

KILDONAN SWRI

Kildonan Halloween Party to be held on Friday 31st October at 6.30pm in Kildonan Hall. Games and prizes for best Fancy Dress. All welcome.

INDOOR CRICKET PRACTICE

Auchrannie Gym 7-9pm

From Monday 17th November
Indoor Cricket Practice

Auchrannie Gym 7-9pm

From Monday 17th November

Corrie and Sannox Village Hall

We are looking for someone to co-ordinate the village hall lettings over the next few months. There's a rota of helpers so no physical work is needed, just to be on e-mail. Also a temporary Treasurer. Anyone willing to help out please ring Jim on 810248 or David on 810640.

Gaelic Weekend on Gigha

Gaelic speakers and learners might be interested in a Gaelic weekend on the wee Isle of Gigha, 8-9 November. Beginner and intermediate classes in the Gigha Gallery, accommodation in the hotel beside it. Professional tutors, good food and good craic! Phone 01583 505 101 for details.

Trident Visit

By John Kinsman

DEFENCE SECRETARY JOHN Hutton MP, in a first visit to Faslane Naval Base on the Clyde since appointment to his new post, said the Trident nuclear submarine fleet was 'a vital part of our country's defence.'

Joining servicemen on board a nuclear submarine, he contended that the nuclear deterrent 'is crucial to the defence of our country, it has been for many generations and will be for many more.'

First Minister Alex Salmond wants to rid Scotland of nuclear weapons, but defence is reserved to Westminster, and Mr Hutton said scrapping the weapons would be an 'incredible folly'. He continued, 'Terrorism is still a major threat to us, and the nuclear deterrent plays a major part in dealing with that threat, as do the brilliant people here at Faslane and I am very proud of the service they provide. The nuclear deterrent is huge for Scotland, and the UK and for our allies. When we returned to Government we would retain the nuclear deterrent and we are committed to safeguarding future generations.'

A spokesman for Bruce Crawford, Scottish minister for parliamentary business, said: 'John Hutton is completely out of touch with the people of Scotland on the issue, and the SNP Government will do all that it can to rid Scotland of nuclear weapons.'

During his visit to Faslane on October 16 Mr Hutton was also shown the base's new accommodation block, which is one of the most expensive in Europe.

Jazz Café Band

SPECIAL HALLOWEEN DANCE in Whiting Bay Hall, Friday 31st October, 8 till late-ish. All the best old trad numbers.

BYOB — and dress up! Most festively (or witchily) dressed table wins a prize!



Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**
Amateur Meteorologist

SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S FORECAST

Another accurate forecast. Thankfully the ferry kept going for most of Sunday, before diverting to Gourrock on the last sailing.

I have many memories of such trips over the years with some of them even pleasant with a bunch of cronies, when conversation turned, with some help from Bacchus, to songs and the two hours could pass very quickly. Mind you when we reached Brodick, the gangway seemed to sway more than usual.

General Summary for 23rd to 27th October:

There's another series of very complex systems all over the Atlantic. That deep depression which gave us such a horrible end to the weekend has drifted north, and again a high pressure area to the south has been teasing us and giving us glimpses of sunshine before slipping away into Europe on Thursday.

I've been keeping an eye on yet more nasty systems threatening us with more wind and rain for Thursday. Here's the optimist again ... I see some high pressure building from the west over Friday and Saturday. But I fear it may give way yet again to a wet and windy weekend for us hardy northerners, while the south coast gets the decent stuff.



Thursday

A very wet start to the period. Heavy rain all day driven by strong to gale force (even severe gale) southerly winds. Milder than of late, but so what? This is definitely not a day for venturing forth. I heard a forester saying that there is no such thing as bad weather ... just inappropriate clothing. By all means go out today if you have some of the appropriate gear.



Friday

Still some very heavy showers surviving the night. However, they will ease off later and we may see some nice sunny spells in between. It will stay very windy, maybe around 25mph from the west, increasing in the evening, and it will become much colder, with blustery showers popping up anywhere.



Saturday

The wind will swing round to the south west and increase again, touching gale or severe gale force in the afternoon, and bringing more heavy rain. The winds may ease just a little in the evening, but the rain won't. Ach, it just gives you the boke, doesn't it? Might be a wee bit milder again but it will be nice and warm and dry ... in my living room, unless the roof blows away.



Sunday

At last, a more pleasant but cold day with showers in the morning. It will stay mostly cloudy for the rest of the day with only the odd shower, and we may again see the sun from time to time. So, after your long lie with the clocks going back, it will be great to get out and about again, even if the ground is sodden. The wind will ease a bit, around 20mph from the west.



Monday

Showers again in the morning, but staying fairly light. Then in the afternoon they will become heavier. Winds will still be strong from the south west, but stout brollies will survive.

Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

Not much improvement, although the winds will continue merely strong. Lots of cloud and showers, but there could be a wee bit of sunshine around the middle of the week. It will be much colder.

Ferry Notes

On Thursday, Friday afternoon and on Saturday, I wouldn't travel unless absolutely necessary. That is the picture as seen on Tuesday. Hope I'm wrong.

CHRISTMAS TURKEY PRIZE DRAW



EVERY RESPONSE to our reader survey will be entered into a prize draw for a splendid Christmas turkey from **Aucheleffan**, Arran's prime producer of free-range, super-delicious poultry.

Please tick one box on each line, and add a comment if you would like to. No names or comments will be printed.

	Like	So-so	Don't like	Never read	Comment
Design and layout					
Paper thickness					
Photo quality					
Price of the paper					
Our website					
News reporting					
Sport reports					
Editorial					
Quote of the Week					
Voicemail					
Out and About					
Book reviews					
On the Green					
The Wee Voice					
Free Message Board					
Stef's Weather					
Getting to Know					
Poem of the Week					
Community Council minutes					
Financial Advice					
Recipe					
News from the Blues					
Church news					
Nan's Views					
It's a Car's Lot					
Golf Results					
The Inquisition					
Kelly's Music					
Puzzles					
Cartoon					
And Finally					
Please add any general comments or suggestions, including any new features you would like to see.					

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Entries can be posted or brought to *The Arran Voice*, Pier Building, Brodick, Arran KA27 8AX. You can also enter online via our website, **www.arranvoice.com**. The winner will be announced in our issue of **Thursday, November 27th 2008**.

GOOD LUCK!

CLADACH POTTERY

Workshop and Gallery

*Arran Artists Calendar
2009 on sale now*

Tel: 01770 303590 Mob: 078909 85391

E-mail: info@cladachpottery.com

The Store, Cladach, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DD

OPEN MONDAY – SUNDAY

International Mail Order Service Now Available



The Lemon Tree

.... the lovely gift shop !

Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm

Sun 12 noon - 5pm

Balmichael Centre, Shiskine Tel: 01770 860 201

GOLDEN DRAGON

OPEN
7 DAYS

**Restaurant and
Take Away open
5pm – 10pm**

Chinese Restaurant

Shore Road, Whiting Bay Tel: 700254

ROCK SOUL & BLUES

**Musical Soiree in
Corrie Village Hall
Saturday 25th October
8 till Late**

**Electric and Acoustic Music
featuring
NEWSband, Al Fresco and
the Outsiders, Tom Murdoch
and others**

In aid of Enduro India Trip

£5 at the door, BYOB

Proceeds to various charities

Arran's fish restaurant rewarded for 'slow approach

The future is local

CREELERS OF ARRAN has been selected as a leading example of the country's 'slow food' movement. Next week, the fish restaurant's owners Tim and Fran James will feature as one of nine food businesses at the BBC Good Food Show in Glasgow.

The awards are a showcase for the country's best purveyors of local food, and underline the ethos of the Slow Food movement. This was founded in Italy as an indignant response to the development of a McDonald's in the centre of Rome. It aims to preserve the valuable heritage of good food and regional diversity, and is a counter-blast to the domination of fast-food culture. By providing alternatives to our speedy consumption of overly-processed food it hopes to restore a more relaxed and sociable way of producing and eating food.

For Creelers, involvement in the BBC show is just another step in a long journey

through the constantly shifting terrain of a globalised food industry. Whilst UK supermarkets have used their massive purchasing power to source green beans from Africa and chicken from Brazil, processed by complicated food supply chains, Tim James has stuck to a very basic principle — use local food wherever possible.

BEST LARDER IN EUROPE

'We have always tried to use local food,' Tim told *The Arran Voice* in an interview at his restaurant at Home Farm, Brodick. 'Scotland has the best natural larder in Europe. Argyll alone has more coastline than the whole of France put together'. Tim is constantly using his mobile phone, much to the amused irritation of his wife and business partner Fran. 'If I don't order my fish on a Friday, then I've had it,' he explains. 'No fresh fish for the rest of the week.' It's a frenetic business and to ensure a constant supply of fresh fish is no small undertaking.

Fishing is an inherently unpredictable occupation and Tim needs to co-ordinate with his Kintyre suppliers on a regular basis. Tim sources his fish from C.M.C. Fish Sellers in Campbeltown and a few trays of chilled prawns have just arrived — they were caught off the coast just the day before. Tim says that he does use some fish that are on the list of protected species, but these are by-catch. 'The idea of dumping fish is just ludicrous,' he argues, 'so we will use what has already been caught.'

CATCH BEFORE MARKET

Sea fishing in Scotland is not what it used to be. The boom times of record catches and hundreds-strong fishing fleets sustaining



Most prawns from Kintyre end up as langoustines in Sp

a thriving artisanal trade are long gone. Many areas have been overfished and the majority of Scotland's sea-catch is now being sold to French and Spanish markets. Tim is one of only a few truly local buyers, who manages to intercept the hauls before they are transported to centralised distribution depots in Glasgow. 'I've got a lovely little network of lorries that I pick up my fish from.' As the high profile 'food miles' debate gathers pace, his would seem to be a common-sense approach to food sourcing.

Tim started fishing out of a 58ft boat from Oban in 1983 with a friend from South Uist before moving to Tarbert to fish around the Western Isles for the next eight years. He and Fran finally moved to Arran to set up Creelers Seafood Restaurant in 1990, two years after Fran had started up the legendary Seafood Cabin in Skipness, now run by her sister-in-law. Tim's grandparents had owned Skipness Estate since 1936 and although he was raised down south, he had been coming to Scotland 'since year dot. He and his sister have endured family



Bob fillets some freshly-caught fish before it is cured in the Arran Smokehouse

Positive Pictures
PROFESSIONAL VIDEO PRODUCTION
for Business Promotion & Live Events
Tel: 01770 302 397
www.PositivePictures.co.uk

Arran HideAways
HOLIDAY PROPERTY MANAGERS
user-friendly bookings
Tel: 01770 302 303 E-mail: julie@arran-hideaways.co.uk
Highest standard of customer care

Restaurant by food'



Local sourcing: Tim James unloads a tray of fresh Campbeltown prawns

tragedies over the years. Their grandfather died when the family house burnt down in 1969 and Tim's brother — who used to catch wild salmon in Ardnamurchan — was lost in a diving accident near Fasdale in 1992. Tim inherited his brother's successful smokehouse business and has since set up a restaurant under the Creelers name in Edinburgh.

THE SALMON DEBATE

He now sources his salmon from Loch Duart salmon farm in Sutherland. 'There is still a huge debate as to whether farmed salmon can be classed organic,' says Tim, pointing out the complexities of the modern food trade. 'You can control what's going into the [fish] cages, but you can't control what's going into the water. Loch Duart do everything they can within reason.'

The Sutherland fish farm differs markedly from other fish production companies. It uses no growth promoters or antibiotics, operates year-long fallowing at its sites and adheres to a low-density

stocking policy (much lower than current industry standards). The salmon are also fed in a way which mimics the irregular feeding in the wild. This gives the fish periods of rest and reduces feed waste. Watching gleaming orange fillets being stripped from silver, muscular fish in Creeler's Arran kitchen is a part of the food chain which many people don't see if they buy direct from supermarkets.

Creelers stubbornly bucks many trends in the food industry. Some people think that packaging and appearance is essential for success,' says Tim. 'My ethos is completely the opposite. I don't care what the packaging looks like. I've lost contracts because my packaging is not up to scratch. We've got to learn how to cut down on packaging as a society.'

BACK TO NATURE

The Creelers shop on Arran is open on Thursdays and Fridays for the sale of

fresh fish and produce also goes to weekly farmers' markets in Edinburgh, helping to rebuild the link between consumers and producers. Tim believes there has to be a major shift in the attitude of people buying food who currently expect the incredible range of choice afforded by supermarkets. 'I say we always try to use local food, but there is a bit of hypocrisy in there. Sea bass is an obligatory part of fish restaurant menus, but it is farmed in Greece,' he says. For this reason he is now seriously considering ditching the 'compulsory sea bass' expected by his customers and changing his whole menu next year so that it reflects genuinely seasonal supply. The idea — to return to the natural rhythms of the seasons — is both radical and obvious. It would guarantee freshness and boost trade for local suppliers, but it requires everyone to join in.

THE JAZZ CAFE BAND
Traditional Jazz Band
will be playing at
WHITING BAY HALL
on Friday 31st October
8.00pm to 11-ish
Admission a mere £3
B.Y.O.B.

Halloween Special!

Kilmory Public Hall
What's On

Car Boot Sale — 25th October, 2pm
A great chance to de-clutter and make a little cash. Tables available inside. Help raise money for the kids Halloween Party. Phone 870345 to book a space (£5)

Kids Halloween Party
31st October, 6pm. For kids and adults.

Bonfire Night — 5th November
Butterhill, 6.45pm. Hot soup for all. Bucket for donations to pay for the fireworks, please give generously!

Arran Woodfuels Ltd
modern biomass woodfuels and equipment

Wood Chips & Wood Pellets
Seasoned Firewood Logs
Biomass Stoves & Boilers

Tel: 01770 870 207
Mob: 07943 256 248
www.arranwoodfuels.co.uk
post@arranwoodfuels.co.uk

Enjoy a relaxing treatment from
Jan Attkins MCThA
at Inspirations of Arran
Tel: 01770 302 990

tlc therapies

Hot Stone Massage & Hopi Ear Candling now available

ARRAN DRIVING RANGE

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

We are closed due to the exceptional amount of rain and inability to gather the balls which are now plugging too deeply. We should like to apologise to all our users and hope that we can be open for business as usual just as soon as possible

Eleanor's Flowers
For Every Occasion

Brodick Nursery Gardens
tel: 01770-302 684
mob: 07748-671 052

The Burnside

Fine and applied Arts
Gallery, Exhibitions, Workshops
Auchrannie Rd. Brodick.
01770303888

Easy access, Parking, Sculpture Garden
info@theburnside.com. www.theburnside.com

CLADACH SAWMILL

YOUR LOCAL SUPPLIER OF HEAVY DUTY TIMBER SHEDS AND GARAGES, TOOL STORES AND COAL BUNKERS.
SAWN PRESSURE TREATED TIMBER, FENCING STOPS AND PANELS, POSTS, GATES, TRELLISING, FIREWOOD, ETC.
BRODICK 01770 302471

Should Arran have its own currency?

LEWES LEADS THE WAY

JUST OVER A month ago (9th September 2008), the community of Lewes launched its very own currency — the Lewes Pound — in an attempt to prevent money from draining out of the local community. A spokesman for the Lewes Pound explained to *The Arran Voice* how it works, and how it could help Arran's local businesses to thrive.

'SHOP LOCAL'

The idea behind the Lewes Pound is simple. The developers of the scheme point out that money spent locally circulates within the local economy and brings direct benefits. Money spent in national chains doesn't. For Arran, the local examples are obvious. When money is spent at Kildonan Stores or at Hugh McKinnon's Butcher shop, it stays largely on the island. When people spend money at Asda in Ardrossan, money flows off the island and into the pockets of its American owners.

The Rowan was set up on Arran about a decade ago as the currency for a Local Exchange Trading Scheme that enabled locals to trade services, skills and produce. For a time, it worked well within a fairly wide group of people, but, like any currency, it has to be accounted for and recorded, and eventually it failed to take hold. The Lewes Pound is different. It is similar to a souped-up book token, only with much wider applications. Customers can use it to buy anything in participating local stores, like normal money. The uptake in Lewes, a town of 16,000 people, has been amazing. At first, the group hoped to attract 15 local traders into the scheme — there are now 120 on board, over half of the town's local traders. Over £10,000 Lewes pounds were sold in the first three days after the launch and there are now £30,000 Lewes pounds in circulation.

For the East Sussex town, the launch of the Lewes Pound has generated incredible interest among local businesses. Although Totnes was the first town to set up its own currency, the Lewes Pound grabbed the headlines during the media hysteria reporting on the global banking collapse. 'There's an appetite for this in the press at the moment, but we don't really care that CNN have come over. The main thing is that people of Lewes have become aware of it,' explained Oliver Dudok van Heel, representative of the Lewes currency group. 'Instead of us having to get out there, people are now asking to get involved.'

REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT

'It's slowly starting to happen,' he continued. 'People know that they can't spend the Lewes pound in Tesco's, so they'll end up spending it in Harvey's local brewery shop, for example.' Harvey's brewery has been around in the town for 200 years and is now run by the grandchildren of the original owners. It has a strong environmental record and has good local support. So much so that when a local pub was bought up by major brewers Greene King two years ago and refused to stock the local Harvey's beer, locals boycotted the bar. Within a matter of weeks, sales from the pub fell from 27 barrels of beer to just 1 barrel per week and the new owners were forced to bring back the local Harvey's beer. Oliver says it is this strong, revolutionary spirit of 'people power' that has helped to launch the Lewes Pound.

The Lewes currency is a professional operation. Its vouchers, or 'banknotes' are printed like any other currency and feature a portrait of political radical Thomas Paine — father of the American Revolution and key thinker of the Enlightenment, who penned much of his work in Lewes. Arran may not have such lofty homegrown figures to depict on a local currency, but perhaps the familiar silhouette of Goat Fell would work just as well.

BUILDING ARRAN'S ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

The scheme will never completely replace the pound sterling, but it focuses local customers on the benefits of shopping locally and can help build community resilience to economic recession. The idea is clearly not pie-in-the-sky. In the US county of Berkshire, which has a similar population size to that of Lewes, over \$1.5 million local currency notes called Berkshares have been issued and in Switzerland, local currency is used by a startling 16% of Swiss businesses.

Although a government guarantee will probably cover North Ayrshire Council's £15 million Icelandic banking loss, the current situation underlines the shakiness of international financial trading. A vibrant local currency, even though pegged to the pound sterling, could play a valuable role in providing stable economic security within the community that uses it.

MONEY ADVICE

By Rory Cowan

MONETARY MELT DOWN

Love it or hate it, we can't do without money. Right now the media are pouring out reports of successive disasters hour by hour. It's the perceived sins of the banks that are now being exposed, and we like to brand these as greed, but we too have wanted the spoils of their actions — haven't we?

The man in the street, too, has overstretched for that mortgage, dropped too much on the plastic, taken loans, played musical credit cards for 0% interest, mortgaged the house for that holiday of a lifetime ... we've all been at it, and now the chickens are coming home to roost. Borrowers can't pay, so banks take the blame for lending money that borrowers felt they just had to have. Banks should know better — but shouldn't we, too?

Actually we are all in it together. There was a certain inevitability about what has come to pass. Last year's prophets of doom are this year's sages. Perhaps they always were, but last year we weren't listening. We need to stabilise the banks, the markets, commerce and industry, but how? Confidence is gone and government is finding eye-watering sums of cash to underpin commercial banking risk and promote lending.

Meanwhile, the problem is how to shelter from the storm. Put it in the bank? Is there a safe bank? Lend it to the government by buying gilts? Possibly. Put it into National Savings? At least it's a government-backed account but the interest rates are not too impressive.

On the other hand, although stock markets are suffering — especially banking stocks — many companies now present good value because the price of

shares is very low when compared to dividends. That's what stockbrokers see as value — a buy signal. But what do you buy now, knowing that quite large companies could just fold?

How do you decide what to do? It depends on what risk you are prepared to take and whether you are prepared to see a varying value of your capital. Right now the markets have been dropping, but that can't go on for ever. When the Footsie rose like a homesick angel those prophets of doom were saying it can't last, and equally, neither can it last on the downward run. There's value out there. Markets will recover. In time to come we'll be sitting in safety watching the markets sailing upwards. Will you be in cash or equities at that stage? If you're in cash then you'll kick yourself.

It's a good idea to look at risk in money matters. If you're very cautious you will probably prefer deposits, but we now know that they can disappear! So how do we cope with risk? The answer is to diversify, spread it around. Don't put it all in one asset class. If you are prepared to take some risk, then you will be looking at sound but sensible unit trusts and OEICs. A little more risk and you may consider unit trusts or possibly shares — but keep some cash and have a diversity of asset types.

Quality line-up for Corrie music night



THIS SATURDAY NIGHT (25th October), there will be an interesting line-up of bands at the Corrie & Sannox Village Hall in aid of Iain MacLean's Enduro India trip (see last week's *Arran Voice*). Iain says that as founder, former member of the NEWSband, the local rock legends will be involved, but hints at a few other star appearances. 'For one night only, the line-up is a bit different. On guitar we will have Fitz, at one time known as Johnny Shane (that dates him a bit), a maestro of the axe in its various forms. Bez couldn't come and instead we have Frazer (Mr

Dancing Tambourine Man) McGregor. Mr (Rock'n Roll) Miller will perform in his usual inimitable style.'

Other local bands are joining in on the night too. Way Aye Tom Buchan has agreed to play 'after his recent triumph at Catacol' and Splendid Glenda and the Lads will be performing as a special treat. Al Fresco and the Outsiders from Aberdeen will also be appearing with a mix of electric and acoustic music. There are rumours of other performers coming along as well, so it should be a great night. The music starts at 8pm this Saturday.

Getting to know John Baraclough

By Alison Prince



SOME OF THE greatest makers of theatrical magic are the 'techies' who create sound and lighting effects. Very often, the memorable thing about a production is a sudden change of mood brought about by a change in what the audience is seeing, not because of anything the actors do but because the colour and atmosphere have undergone a subtle shift. John Baraclough has been fascinated by this arcane art ever since he lit his first show at the age of 14, at school in Hertfordshire.

It must have been an unusual school, for that show was *Waiting for Godot* — not the obvious choice for teenagers. But John was lucky in that their drama teacher was David Keegan, well known as a writer. The Head must have been an enlightened man as well, for the school put on three shows a year and clearly understood the benefits that result from expressive work. John himself read physics at university and got a job with the BBC as a TV engineer, and for a long time was dealing with technicalities rather than artistic expression. However, in 1971 he was appointed to a year-long lecturing post at the BBC training school in Wood Norton. This involved a move from London, where he had been working at Television Centre in Shepherd's Bush, but it also reintroduced him to theatre, for he got involved with the wonderfully named Bishampton Barnstormers, back in his first love of stage lighting.

John and his wife Janet were due to return to London when that post ended and were casting about for a move away from 'the Smoke.' John got a job in Glasgow with the Thomson Foundation, where the aim was 'to improve communication round the

world' and found himself teaching people how to do just about everything in terms of production and engineering — and at that point established his first communication with Arran. That first holiday, he remembers, was at the Dyemills Lodges, and it was, he says, 'wonderful.' Far more connection was to come, but for the time being, he and Janet were comfortably established with their three sons in a house in Stockiemuir, where they spent the next 18 years.

STV

John was head-hunted by Scottish TV in 1976 and found himself working in the old Theatre Royal in Cowcaddens, again purely in the technical field. Not long after that, the industrial action by teachers which had curtailed all extra-curricular activities in schools came to an end, and he found himself helping his eldest son, Daniel, with lighting for a school show. Then his youngest boy, Matthew, made the same request. Holidays on Arran continued, and John and Janet were making friends on the island. On the mainland they found themselves staying next to Don Macneish's sister, and Janet went with a yoga group to Sam Ye Ling to hear the Dalai Lama speak. That led to a strong interest in Holy Isle, and the Baracloughs were among the first volunteers to work there, camping out while they helped to restore the farmhouse.

There were more changes of job, from the BBC to Motorola, and then on to Logitech. 'Not the mouse company,' John points out — the company was in industrial processes. He was looking ahead to retirement and

scaling down the commitment to work, and as the Arran connection became stronger, so did the desire to find a house on the island. It happened amazingly fast, as things sometimes do when they seem natural, and within 10 days of viewing their Strathwhillan house with its fabulous view across Brodick Bay, they had bought it. For a while, John went on working three days a week on the mainland with one day at home, but Janet had joined the Friends of Brodick Castle, and John spent his free day helping at the Castle as well, doing 'hard landscaping' and path building.



He applied the same practical creativity to the house and its big garden. Having previously belonged to Ken Weston, who supplied and maintained lawn mowers, it consisted entirely of flat grass — though nobody would suspect that now. Due to Janet's inspired concept of the contrast between leaf-forms and branches with stone and gravel, it has developed into a tranquil area of mixed growth and paved walks, and is open once a year to the public, along with many of Arran's most notable gardens. John's

retirement present to himself was ten tonnes of stone, for he wanted to build a shelter where a garden seat was backed by a curving wall that would conserve the warmth of the sun and give protection from the wind. And, of course, with the usual lack of fuss, he did it, and made a beautiful job of it.

For Arran, the great bonus is that when Janet spotted an advert by the Music and Drama association saying they were in desperate need of someone to run their stage lighting, she sensibly prompted John towards offering his services. It has led to show after show, the most recent being *The Sleeping Warrior*, and he is now making wonderful plans for the musical, *Balloons*, to be staged in November. He has also single-handedly taken on the organisation of the forthcoming Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers concert, together with its complex and demanding lighting schedule.

John is putting in a lot of work on trying to get the shortcomings of the Community Theatre addressed. He has found the sound installation sadly lacking, falling far short of the provision long established in Brodick Hall, and regards it as deeply unfortunate that advice given by a well-experienced committee of Arran's drama people was mostly ignored. He cites the first Scottish PPP deal that built Balfour High School near Stirling as the ideal approach, for the woman architect on that project asked everyone what they wanted before ever putting pencil to paper. Such robust common sense truly casts a light on any problem, and John Baraclough's vision and practicality are a tremendous asset to Arran.

I'm Neutral

By Robert Garioch (1909-81)

Poem
of the week

Last nicht in Scotland street I met a man
that gruppit my lapel — a kinna foreign
cratur he seemed; he tellt me, There's a war on
atween the Lang-nebs and the Big-heid Clan.

I wasna fasht, I took him for a moron,
naething byordnar, but he said, Ye're wan
of thae lang-nebbit folk, and if I can
I'm gaunnae pash ye down and rype your sporrان.

Says he, I'll get a medal for this job;
we're watchan ye, we ken fine what ye're at,
ye're with us or agin us, shut your gob.

He gied a clout that knockit aff my hat,
bawlan, A fecht! Come on, the Big-heid Mob!
Aweill, I caa'd him owre, and that was that.

Edinburgh-born Garioch played an integral part in the Scots language revival of the mid 20th century, although his chief influence was the 18th century poet Robert Fergusson, rather than his contemporary Hugh MacDiarmid.

The Burnside PRESENT EXHIBITIONS

Little Gems



Gordon Davidson

sumptuous Miniatures encrusted with sapphires and rubies 4th October (gallery 1). Gordon's exhibition 'Around the world in 80 images' which we showed earlier this year, is just ending at Brodies in Edinburgh, this has been a fantastically popular and successful exhibition on behalf of UNICEF, if you can, see it before it ends.

Jilly Ballantyne



solo exhibition of evocative paintings from the artist who paints and teaches in Matisse's former home in Venice, South of France, bringing a European flavour to the Island of Arran and the West Coast of Scotland. (gallery 2)

Coming Next Month: 'Vanishing Point' a fiery and seductive exhibition of paintings by the Australian artist Roberta Macrae.

The Burnside Auchrannie Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8BZ
Tel: 01770 303 888 E-mail: info@theburnside.com

A Ship of Dreams

The QE2 is the world's most famous and most loved ship

By Ann and Etta Uttley

SAILING PAST OUR own home last Sunday 5 October in brilliant sunshine was made more memorable by the fact that we saw Arran from the decks of the one and only QE2 as she steamed her way steadily up the river of her birth for the final time, like a magical floating carpet. It was an occasion tinged with real sadness for everyone on board, as all too soon she will make her one-way voyage to her new life as a floating hotel in Dubai. After several makeovers and cosmetic enhancements, at 41 years old the QE2 may no longer be a debutante but as she waltzes around the world's ocean ballroom she can still turn heads!

Her farewell celebration voyage of the British Isles has been highly emotional, with each arrival and departure being overwhelming, previously at Cobh, Liverpool and Belfast — but this one, to the river of her birth, would be the most wonderful ever.

We had asked Captain McNaught how close we would be to Arran and at what time would we expect to pass. Both details were precise as expected — some 5 miles off the Island and arriving at Holy Isle at 9.30am. We had prepared early and were in fact out on deck from 8am watching the approach past Ailsa Craig — and then Pladda lighthouse came into view. On the starboard side was our own CalMac ferry MV Caledonian Isles, making her scheduled 9.45 sailing from Ardrossan. She looked so small from the 200ft height of the boatdeck of this majestic liner.

The outline of Arran looked spectacular against the autumn sunrise. We had come home... and come home in true style on board the world's most famous ship. Some well known names were also on board for this very special voyage — Jimmy Saville, John Prescott, Carol Thatcher and Simon Weston to name a few. But the ship herself is the true star in this production.

Most of our family were involved in the building of QE2, and having sailed on this wonderful vessel for a great many years, it was particularly poignant to pass Arran at a 'civilised morning time', as all our previous Greenock calls have docked early and therefore passed Arran around 4am.

The return voyages back down the Clyde have on a few occasions been in evening daylight though not always in the best of weather, with sometimes cloud and



mist completely obliterating Arran as we sailed on by.

QE2 has made several calls to the river of her birth, with last year being a huge celebration for her 40th anniversary which not even the West Coast wet weather could spoil; but on this her final call it was made more spectacular with wall to wall sunshine and endless blue seas. Our naval escort HMS Manchester, CalMac's little Saturn and the steamer MV Balmoral once again came along, with literally hundreds of small craft following us all the way up to her berth at Greenock. Even a little mini-flotilla of canoes appeared over the bow. Helicopters whizzed past and everyone was waving like mad. There were Scottish flags and Union Jacks and not a space to be found on deck.

The ship herself was proudly bedecked for the occasion with the Scottish flag flying high on her mast and sadly, also her 39ft long paying-off pennant, (worn on a ship's last voyage with 1ft of flag for every year of service.) Horns and whistles filled the air and crowds had been gathering from as far down as Largs all the way up the coast to Greenock. The ship's whistle blew constantly as this Grand Lady acknowledged her adoring public. An estimated figure of 50,000 people was reported. We finally docked around lunchtime and were greeted on the quayside by a wonderful pipe band, every passenger being welcomed with a firm handshake and personally greeted with a 'Welcome to Scotland' from a kilted Scotsman. A really nice touch for so many of the foreign nationals on board, and for us proud Scots too of course.

The ship looked superb glistening in the late autumn sunshine, regal, serene and elegant, every inch a Queen. The little town of Greenock pulled out all the stops for this great proud day with many events around the Esplanade, but

all too soon it was time to leave — and what a spectacular send-off from Greenock! A fabulous firework display and cheers from the gathered crowds still waiting there since we berthed some nine hours earlier, and all the little boats following us out. All we could see was their lights bobbing on the water. It was a very emotional farewell. The crowds had remained right down the coast, and the firing of camera flashes was non stop. This ship must be the most photographed subject in the land — after HM the Queen herself of course! But alas, this magnificent ship, the pride of the Clyde, will never return to the land of her birth. She may soon be sailing into the Arabian sunset but the Queen Elizabeth 2 will never be forgotten by Clydeside. Clydebuilt will remain as famous throughout the world today and for many years to come.

We have one more voyage to come. We will sail with her on 11 November from her home port of Southampton to her retirement in Dubai. It will be a sentimental journey and highly emotional. She cannot go without us. She is part of us. She has a soul and there will never be another like her. We will walk down that gangway on 27th November with a heavy heart, for we will not return. The real, true glamour and style of Ocean Liners has long gone. It is truly the end of an era. We are so privileged to have been a part of it.

Recipe

By Stacie Lindsay

MICROWAVE DUMPLING (OR CHRISTMAS PUDDING)

Ingredients

- ½ pint water
- ¾ cup sugar (granulated)
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ lb plain flour
- 1tbsp mixed spice (level)
- 1tbsp cinnamon (level)
- 1tsp baking soda
- ½lb block margarine
- ½lb mixed fruit
- ½lb sultanas
- 1tbsp treacle

Method

1. Place all ingredients **except** flour, baking soda and eggs, into pot and bring to boil, simmer for 1 minute.
2. Remove from heat then add sieved flour and baking soda. Mix together. Add 2 eggs.
3. Line bowl with microwave cling film (or double layer of ordinary cling film) ensuring it overlaps the side of the bowl. Sprinkle generously with flour (to stop pudding sticking to film) then pour in mixture. **Do not cover** with cling film.
4. Place in microwave — 9 minutes on full power (650watt).
5. Allow to stand in bowl until cool.
6. Add Brandy for a Christmas Pudding if preferred.



Advertise your island business — FREE!

Interact with the island community

Comment on member posts

Recycle unwanted items

Join today — it's FREE — at www.arranonline.com

[arranonline.com](http://www.arranonline.com)

Find this and many other great recipes on our website at www.arranvoice.com

Recipes can be sent to us at info@arranvoice.com or added directly through our website.

Scottish Government funding for Malawi

IN THE MIDST of global economic turmoil, Scotland continues to play its part internationally by promoting sustainable growth in Malawi.

Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture Linda Fabiani said: 'When I visited Malawi earlier this year, I was impressed by the dedication of the many Scottish organisations whose projects have been funded by the Scottish Government, and by the difference their work is making to the people.'

The projects include £340,000 to improve land management and provide renewable energy to villages. The Aberdeen-based Macaulay Institute is to work with Entech, a Malawi environment organisation, on

developing the technologies, including the use of ethical bio-fuels made from trees.

There is also funding to help street children and others who are orphaned and vulnerable, and to assist the most vulnerable people affected by HIV, enabling them to develop more sustainable livelihoods.

£69,500 will go to Global Concerns Trust to provide carpentry, tailoring and other vocational training for adults with disabilities, working through community-based projects with the Malawi Council for the Handicapped.

As local MSP Kenneth Gibson said, 'This funding is good news for Scotland, for Malawi and for the world.'

First UHI degree on Arran

SHEILA GILMORE from Shiskine has become the first islander to achieve a degree through the University of Highlands and Islands (UHI). She was awarded a BA degree in Children and Youth Studies this year after four years of 'virtual learning education.'

Sheila, who works for the North Ayrshire's Children Outreach Services, hopes now to go on to complete the honours course in the same subject and says the 'virtual learning environment' (VLE) has been really supportive. Just like a normal university, students work in a structured course and are required to submit work according to deadlines. All the lectures are posted online and students can e-mail tutors privately and contribute to an online discussion board. For anyone who isn't the best typist, Sheila sends out the reassuring message that she has been able to submit essays even with two-finger typing!

ONLINE LEARNING

'People develop a confidence from VLE, because they don't have to stand up in front of the class,' said Sheila. She explained that one girl who had been very helpful via e-mails turned out to be a really shy and timid person when they met during registration in Inverness.

The study is also a way of helping people in different professions keep up to date with the latest qualifications, which can sometimes become a condition of employment. There



Argyll College centre manager Jenny Pattenden with 'students of the year' Lois Hodgart and Sheila Gilmore!

are currently a number of people on the island undertaking the HNC in Childcare, and Lois Hodgart from Kildonan has become the first student to pass Higher English as an external, distance learning exam through Argyll College. 'There are also two people doing the HNC in business,' explained centre manager Jenny Pattenden. There is a whole range of different subjects from hairdressing to construction to IT courses. Students can use the PCs in the college, based in the new high school in Lamlash, and people with a personal income of less than £18,000 can receive a voucher for £200 to cover the cost of a course.

'It gives people access to something that they wouldn't otherwise have had access to, and that's certainly the case on Arran,' Sheila said, adding that she would be happy to talk to anyone considering undertaking a degree through the university. You can contact her and the staff at Argyll College on 600152.

News from the Blues



14th October at 2.05pm on the A841 near Glenarry there was a road traffic accident. A vehicle went off the road and rolled down a gully. A 73 year old Whiting Bay man escaped unhurt.

15th October at 11.16am near the Heights. A 40 year old woman from the mainland fell and sustained a broken ankle. She was taken to the Arran War Memorial Hospital.

15th October at 5.47pm A 63 year old woman fell on rocks at the Cock of Arran and sustained back injuries. She was flown to Crosshouse hospital and later discharged.

17th October — 11.50pm. A 16 year old Brodick male was reported for drinking in public on Shore Road Brodick.

18th October — 11.00am Two cars were involved in a road traffic accident on the Lamlash — Brodick road. There were no injuries.

19th October — 1.00pm At the Aldersyde Hotel — a 43 year old Lamlash woman was reported for Breach of the Peace and an offence against the licensing act.

19th October — 1.20pm A 58 year old Lamlash male was reported for assault.



All Welcome

Scottish Episcopal Church

(in full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 26th October: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Revd Dr Hector Soga, Dollar.
Coffee after service.

Wednesday, 29th October: Holy Communion, 12.15pm. All Welcome.

Church of Scotland

Kilmory linked with Lamlash, "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 26th Oct., Rev. Gillelan Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
In Lamlash — Guild Dedication Service. All welcome.

Arran Free Church of Scotland

Shiskine, 11am (Church is on the road between Machrie and Blackwaterfoot)
Sunday School meets in the Church Hall

Arran Baptist Church

Sunday 26th October in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.
10.45 Communion, Tea and coffee from 11.10
Everyone welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland (continuing)

Sunday 19th Oct at 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Glen Cloy Road, Brodick
Evening Service, 7pm, 5 Glen Road.
Rev D McLeod.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday 22nd Oct, 7pm.
Rev D McLeod.

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
Worship will be conducted at the following times:
Brodick Church 10.30am
Corrie Church 12 noon
Lochranza 9.30am
Pirnmill Church 10.45am
Shiskine Church 12 noon
Service of Health & Healing 7.00pm
Service of Worship, Montrose House 1.30pm

Holy Cross Catholic Church

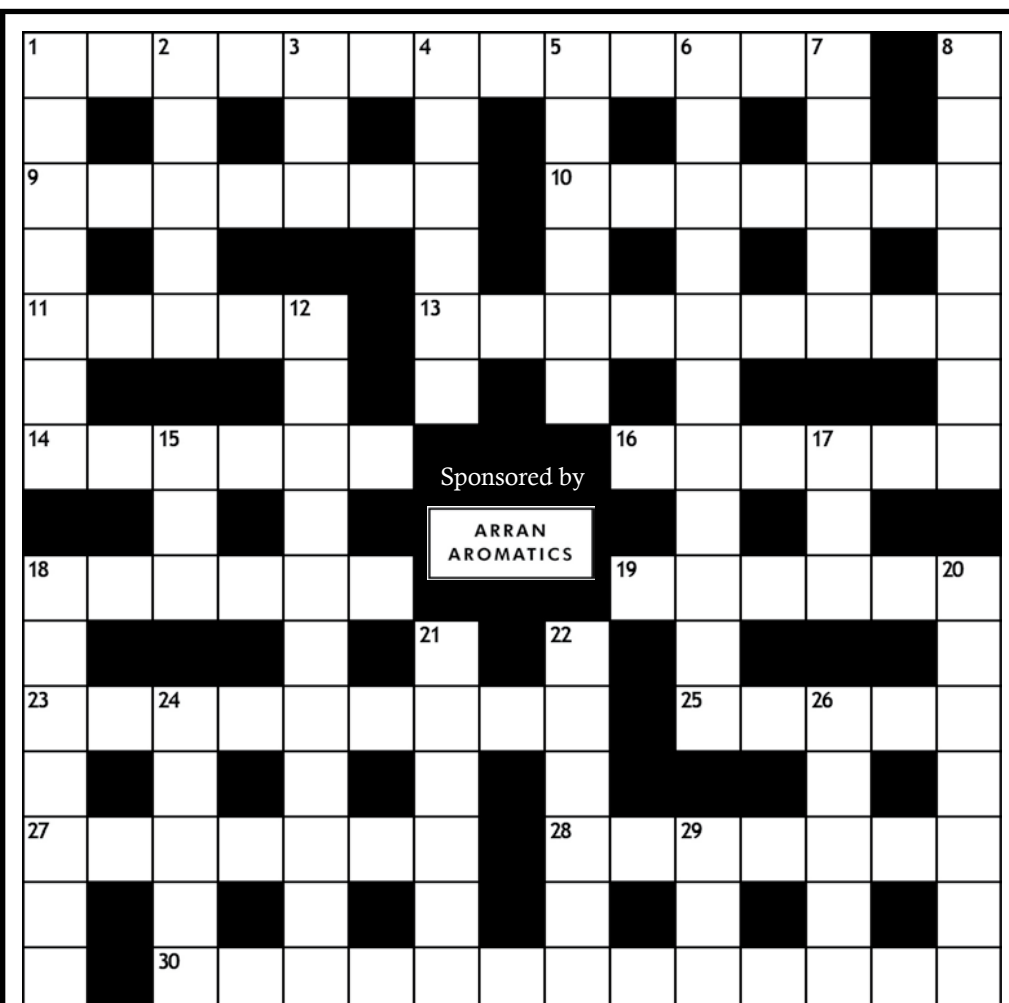
Vigil Mass 7.30pm
Sunday Morning Masses 9.30am and 11.00am

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland

Sunday 26th October 2008
Worship will be led by the Worship Group, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.
All welcome.

Weekly Prize Crossword

Compiled by **The Wee Scunner**
**One Crossword —
two sets of answers!**

**ARRAN
AROMATICS**
Win an Arran Aromatics gift box worth £30 this week
You have until Tuesday, 4 November 2008 to send in your completed cryptic crossword.
This week's crossword sponsored by Arran Aromatics, Tel: 01770 302595, Website: www.arranaromatics.com. Winners are asked to contact the shop before collecting their prize.
Answers to Issue 79's crossword can be found on page 19.


Sponsored by

**ARRAN
AROMATICS**

Please send your completed crosswords to **The Arran Voice, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX**. Alternatively, e-mail your answers to info@arranvoice.com, with the word "Crossword - Issue 81" in the subject line.

Name:

Address:

Telephone/E-mail:

Cryptic Clues

Across

- 1 Haughty rancid plus large (4,3,6)
 9 Clear and French comprehensive (7)
 10 Imprecise next CIA (7)
 11 Royal house routed English away (5)
 13 Like Edward VIII, having the status but not the name (9)
 14 Duplicate germanium stab of pain (6)
 16 Alert five move (6)
 18 Accountant, fifty five, wee Edward gave birth (6)
 19 Moans fifty mixed fish (6)
 23 Large bird or great golf score for the Ancient Mariner? (9)
 25 Fairies found within ourselves (5)
 27 I'm sub in community transport (7)
 28 'Ave rich historical documents (7)
 30 Reconstructed very lit dungeon loses unknown mollycoddling (13)

Down

- 1 Clothes in preferred surroundings (7)
 2 Happy around new lymph or thyroid (5)
 3 Initially a special knowledge quiz (3)
 4 Toured around bypass (6)
 5 Stupidity I do icy transformation (6)
 6 Ahh rage more made bleed profusely (11)
 7 Long length of time an infinite number (5)
 8 Fortress laced it (7)
 12 Unfortunate remorse list (11)
 15 Evil out of sorts (3)
 17 Energy and enthusiasm (3)
 18 School for intensive swotting rhymes with more respected secondary (7)
 20 Beginning to develop can nest (7)
 21 Bias on stunted growth (6)
 22 Sounds like I alight — on Arran? (6)
 24 Good French try drum (5)
 26 Good Arran paper. Express?
 29 Mountain pass found in Celtic oligarchy (3)

Quick Clues — just for fun!

Across

- 1 Avoiding telling the truth (13)
 9 Flummoxed (7)
 10 Ledges (7)
 11 Relating to ancient Celtic script (5)
 12 Board administering the Royal Navy (9)
 14 Lemon coloured (6)
 16 Bovine mammals (6)
 18 Mick (6)
 19 Rage (6)
 23 Give an assurance (9)
 25 Thick sticky substance (5)
 27 Toilet pit (7)
 28 Erased (7)
 30 Naturally, of course (8,2,3)

Down

- 1 Adolescence (7)
 2 Small and impish (5)
 3 Each and every (3)
 4 From part of Asia (6)
 5 Adopt (6)
 6 Activities to break down feelings of shyness in a group (11)
 7 New (5)
 8 New haircut (7)
 12 Helpful and compliant (11)
 15 Drag or pull (3)
 17 Foremost (3)
 18 Circus or fair entertainer (7)
 20 Quickly (7)
 21 Well, indeed (Scots) (6)
 22 Trojan hero (6)
 24 Chekhov(5)
 26 Ethnic groups(5)
 29 Suet (3)

THE SANDWICH STATION

LOCHRANZA (opposite the ferry terminal)



TEA, COFFEE, COLD DRINKS
 ARRAN DAIRIES ICE CREAM
 SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES
 HOME-BAKING ETC...

Closed on Friday 17th
 Saturday 18th and Sunday
 19th and from Monday
 20th will be open Monday -
 Friday 10am - 2pm.

Telephone: 07917 671913

SLEEP BETTER

with a little help from

Chris Attkins M.Dip.H, GHR Reg., GQHP

Tel 302 397

for a confidential appointment



WHISKIPEDIA

The Whisky Encyclopedia

Visit: www.whiskipedia.org

**NOW
LIVE!**

Enjoy drink responsibly

Print Ordering Service

 We are now offering prints of photographs that appear in each issue *The Arran Voice**

8" x 6" prints from £8.50
8" x 6" front page prints from £15.00
CDs — £2.50 Images from £0.50

(exclusive of Postage & Packaging)

Discounts available for larger orders. Other print sizes are available

 For more information, call 01770 303 636, or
 e-mail info@arranvoice.com

* This only applies to images where we own the copyright of the image



Best Western

Kinloch Hotel

Blackwaterfoot, The Isle of Arran KA27 8ET
 Tel: 01770 860444 Fax: 01770 860447




Spectacular scenery, excellent
 food & outstanding service.

Lunches 12.30 - 2.30pm & Evening meals 6 - 8.30pm.

Issue 79 Crossword Answers

Cryptic Answers

Across: 1 Unravel; 5 Take Off; 9 Baker; 10 Via; 11 Again; 12 Arduous; 13 Crimean; 14 Either; 16 Cherie; 18 Nobody; 20 Camper; 25 Tickled; 27 Buffets; 29 Prism; 30 Rye; 31 Briar; 32 Dab Hand; 33 Theatre.

Down: 1 Umbrage; 2 Raked; 3 Verbose; 4 Lavish; 5 Thatch; 6 Knavish; 7 Orage; 8 Finance; 15 Tub; 17 Rip; 18 Notepad; 19 Dilemma; 21 Affable; 22 Reserve; 23 Adored; 24 Abject; 26 Climb; 28 Edict.

Quick Answers

Across: 1 Surpass; 5 Bouquet; 9 Bacon; 10 Ult; 11 Patio; 12 Exposed; 13 Earplug; 14 Thread; 16 Ascent; 18 Meekly; 20 Athens; 25 Cubicle; 27 Needled; 29 Ennui; 30 Far; 31 Doric; 32 Nosegay; 33 Wayward.

Down: 1 Subject; 2 Recap; 3 Amnesia; 4 Sturdy; 5 Batter; 6 Umpires; 7 Until; 8 Thought; 15 Rye; 17 Ewe; 18 Maclean; 19 Lacking; 21 Tuesday; 22 Seduced; 23 Belfry; 24 Andrew; 26 Bunks 28 Larva.

Winner of Issue 79 Crossword:

Congratulations to Mrs Marion Spence, Dunvegan Cottage who wins the gift voucher this week.

Issue 80 Sudoku & Kakuro Solutions

8	7	4	1	3	5	6	9	2
1	6	9	2	4	7	3	5	8
3	2	5	9	8	6	7	4	1
9	8	7	6	5	2	4	1	3
4	5	1	8	7	3	2	6	9
6	3	2	4	1	9	8	7	5
7	4	3	5	9	8	1	2	6
5	1	6	3	2	4	9	8	7
2	9	8	7	6	1	5	3	4

9	7	4	1	2	6	3	8	5
2	6	1	8	5	3	7	9	4
3	5	8	9	4	7	6	2	1
5	1	2	6	3	9	4	7	8
6	3	7	4	1	8	9	5	2
4	8	9	2	7	5	1	3	6
7	2	6	3	8	4	5	1	9
8	4	3	5	9	1	2	6	7
1	9	5	7	6	2	8	4	3

			38	16		41	11	
		9	2	7		3	1	3
	8	15	8	9	19	9	8	2
14	2	7	5	4	15	8	2	1
34	6	8	9	3	7	1	16	17
	17	24	30	3	1	8	2	7
21	9	8	4		5	24	7	9
16	8	7	1	10	4	6		
	15	9	6		1	5		

Sudoku

Sudoku really only has one rule: Every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1 through 9. We've given you a medium and hard puzzle to try. Visit our website at www.arranvoice.com to find new Sudoku puzzles everyday!

	6			5				1
		2		1	7			
		1	4			9		
			1		5	7		
							6	2
			2					
				2	9		7	
4	1					5		
	8							3

			6					
	3							4
					5	1		
1								3
							7	8
6					9			
			8	3				
2		9					6	
							5	

On this day...

- 1707** The first Parliament of Great Britain, ie the United Kingdom, meets.
- 1911** First use of aircraft in war: An Italian pilot takes off from Libya to observe Turkish army lines during the Turco-Italian War.
- 1930** The first miniature golf tournament was completed in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- 2001** The Provisional Irish Republican Army of Northern Ireland commences disarmament after peace talks.
- 2001** Apple launches the iPod.

Star Birthdays

- 1940** Pelé, Brazilian footballer
- 1954** Ang Lee, Taiwanese-born director
- 1959** Sam Raimi, American film director
- 1959** "Weird Al" Yankovic, American musical parodist
- 1966** Alex Zanardi, Italian race car driver
- 1976** Cat Deeley, English model and television personality

Kakuro

How to do Kakuro

Fill in the blank squares in the grid with numbers from 1-9 so that each horizontal or vertical line adds up to the total given in the box either to the left or above it. Horizontal totals are given in the top right corners of the shaded boxes.

Vertical totals appear in the bottom left corners. You may not use the same number more than once in any run. The number may be used again, however, in the same row or column, but as part of another run.

	15	38			8	10		
12				13				
			14				34	
20				9	11			9
	15						3	
	24							
28							4	
				3	11			
16				19				
	9			26				7
		18				15		
			4				5	



Subscribe to The Arran Voice

Annual UK Postal Subscription – £50

Annual European Postal Subscription – £80

Annual World Postal Subscription – £160

Annual PDF Subscription – £25

Annual Website Subscription – £15

All subscriptions are for 52 weeks. PDF and website subscriptions are also available - for more information please visit our website.

To order any subscription, please send a cheque for the total (to our office below), made out to "Arran Voice Ltd". Prices include postage and VAT where applicable. You can also order online at www.arranvoice.com. "Subscriptions", The Arran Voice Ltd, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX

Aye, I'll vote for yon cartoon in this reader's survey — it's awfy queer — they look just like us!



Coconut oil beats the midges?

By Peri Aston

FOR SOME YEARS, I have been using pure, 100% virgin coconut oil to cook with and on my skin, but this summer I discovered something new about it. My partner, Noel, had been wearing a midge mask when he went out to tend the vegetable patch, but he was viciously bitten by midges around his wrists, which were difficult to protect. The midges did not bother me, and I wondered if it was anything to do with the coconut oil I use on my skin every day. Noel tried rubbing it into his wrists, and it made a big difference. Only the occasional bite, and never those areas of red swelling. It may not work for you, but it's certainly worth a try. All else apart, it is marvellous on your skin, as the Polynesians found out many years ago, and rejuvenates it amazingly.

Coconut oil has other benefits as well — and let me dispel the old myth that it raises your cholesterol and might contribute to a heart attack. In fact, totally the opposite is true. The research team that tested HYDROGENISED coconut oil (a different thing) back in 1954 gave it a bad name as a saturated fatty acid — but they didn't state that

there are three forms of saturated fats. One of them, medium chain fatty acid, is essential for the health of the human body. Coconut oil belongs to this group, and has unique benefits.

What does it do for you? The list is long! Contrary to belief, it actually helps weight loss and keeps you in balance, just where you feel healthily comfortable. Your body forms it into monolaurin, which is similar to a fat contained in mother's milk, and since this is antiviral and antibacterial, it helps kill infection. It is a low carbohydrate, high fibre food, and a very safe, delicious oil to cook with, being very stable and resistant to free radical generation when heated at high temperatures. In this respect, it is better even than the next best thing, olive oil. It is easily digested by being processed directly into the liver and converted into energy, and it wards off rather than encourages heart attacks.

If you want to find out more and where to buy the pure stuff, not an inferior product made from copra, go to www.virgin-coconut-oil.co.uk or www.coconut-connections.com.

Postal Scam Warning

By Chris Attkins

THE TRADING STANDARDS Office, confirmed by Royal Mail, is warning people about the following scam: A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you receive a card with these details, then contact Royal Mail Fraud at once on 02072 396 655, or ICSTIS (the premium rate service regulator) at <http://www.phonepayplus.org.uk/>

Online Banking Scams

WHILE THE WORLD reels from the latest banking disasters, fraudsters have been quick to jump on the opportunity to play on people's fears by sending out 'phishing' e-mails that purport to come from banks. We list some simple ways to ensure you avoid falling for these scams.

1. Banks, in the main, don't send e-mails to their customers. If you receive an e-mail from your bank, alarm bells should go off immediately.
2. Banks will never request that you

verify your log-in details via e-mail.

3. You should never follow links purporting to take you to a log-in page from an e-mail that looks as if it comes from your bank — type the proper address into your address bar instead.
4. Update your browser to the latest version, or change to Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox to take advantage of the built-in anti-phishing tools.

Follow these simple steps and don't get caught out!

It's a Car's Lot

PETROL

At last — the price of petrol is falling! We have been reliably informed that the price is dropping by 3p to 118.30p on Thursday morning. Yes, a whacking great 3p, so get filling up! But not, perhaps, on Arran. (See our story on page 7)

CORRIE POOLS

Corrie now has a lovely, smooth pot-hole-free road. The residents along the front of Corrie are also now the proud owners of pools at the bottom of their driveways, which are considerably lower than the new road surface. Oops!

CAR PRICES

September saw car manufacturers cut back production in an effort to match falling demand. The ailing pound pushed UK new car prices even higher and and for most cars manufactured outside the UK, the falling pound should lead to a round or two of new car price increases in the coming weeks, particularly for those made in the US.

Used car valuations are down by more than 25 per cent year on year, according to the latest figures from the HPI Used Car Valuations Index, in both the car and light commercial markets. Combine this with lower demand, high stocking costs and shrinking profit margins and you could have a recipe for insolvent dealerships.

But there is hope that things may be about to bottom out. Some sectors are performing better than others and a few are beginning to show very small signs of a potential recovery. Buyers continue to downsize, which is having a negative impact in the Luxury, Premium and 4x4 sectors. However it is buoying demand for many City cars and Superminis. While doubts linger over the Government's vehicle excise plans, the City car will continue to benefit as people look to reduce their CO₂ emissions — and possibly their tax burden too.

However, one sector that may have fallen as far as it can is the 3 year old family car group. Both petrol and diesel family cars saw values rally a little in September, and the 12-month diesel MPV is also steady — perhaps a sign that family practicality is fighting back over image? But there is no escaping the fact that on the whole, values continue to drop. Year-on-year figures for August against September show an average fall of around 3 per cent a month for all 12 month old vehicles and 2.4% for all 3 year old vehicles.

The much-maligned 12-month-old petrol luxury sector slipped the most, falling another 6.4 per cent, followed closely by 12-month diesel Small cars at 6.1 per cent.

Martin Keighley, HPI Valuations Expert, believes tough decisions are called for to ensure the early shoots of recovery take hold. "Overall things are bleak, but as we approach Christmas it is hoped values will level out as the rate of fall begins to slow. More and more of us are making the difficult decision to cut losses. The time for sitting tight and hoping for the best has passed. Of course, it's a bitter pill to swallow, but the alternative is even worse."



CARS FOR SALE

57-07 Ford Fiesta Style 1.2
5 Door, Silver, 27,000 Miles

'07 Toyota Yaris, Diesel 1.4
5 Door, Silver, 17,000 Miles

'05-05 Nissan Almera 1.5 S
5 Door, Silver, 21,000 Miles

'05-05 Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 Life DTi
55,000 Miles

'05-54 Vauxhall Astra Estate
Club CDTi Diesel, Silver
79,000 Miles

'04 Landrover Freelander HSE
Diesel, Automatic, Dark Green
43,000 Miles

05-52 Ford Fusion 1.6
5 Door, Dark Blue, 35,000 Miles

'02 Renault Megane Fidji
Green, 43,000 Miles

'02 BMW 320D Touring
5 Door Estate, Blue Metallic

'02 Hyundai Santa Fe 4x4
2.0 Diesel, Silver
80,000 Miles

'02 Toyota Avensis
Silver, 73,000 Miles

2000 W-Reg Citroën Saxo
1.1 Forte
Red Metallic, 46,000 Miles

X-Reg BMW 320
4 Door, Black (Diesel)

R-Reg Honda CRV
5 Door, 2.0 Petrol,
Red Metallic, 71,200 Miles

VANS/COMMERCIALS


07 Ford Transit 260-85
White, Leader SWB

04 Citroën Berlingo
2.00 HDI, White

03 Nissan Navarra Kingcab
Diesel, Silver, 86,000 Miles

53 Reg Citroën Berlingo
1.9 Diesel, White

Tel: 01770 840 231
Open Monday – Saturday
8.00am – 6.00pm



THE VILLAGE STORE

deli
fresh bread
grocery
off sales
health foods
fruit + veg
homeopathic remedies

WHITING BAY 01770 700 349

MON-SAT 8-6
SUN 12-4

Arran Council for Voluntary Service
Annual General Meeting
 to be held in
 Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
 at 7.30pm on
 Thursday 6th November 2008
ALL WELCOME!

CAR FOR SALE

Citroën Xantia LX TD
 "P481 RAB"
 Tax & MOT
 until July '09
£800

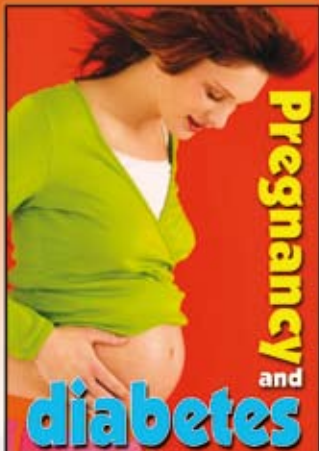
Tel: 01770 600 098



WANTED

Good home sought for short-haired collie cross dog
 3 years old, neutered, fully inoculated, lovely temperament and good with children.
 Telephone **302 141**

Diabetes DVDs



Pregnancy and diabetes

www.diabetesdvd.co.uk

FREE TO UPLIFT
2 Citroën CVs
 Blue C reg galvanised chassis, runner
 Red G reg for spare, engine and many other spares including some new parts.
 For more information phone Mark on
820 231 or 600 416

FOR SALE

Potatoes for sale — Golden Wonder, Kerrs Pinks, Marris Piper, dirty carrots and pony carrots. Regular deliveries Sliderry-Brodick. Contact W. Cook 820218

Arran Lamb Prepared for the freezer £5/kg Delivered throughout the Island. Please Contact Richard McMaster - Tel 820 253

Arran mutton available. £3/kg. Island delivery available. Please contact Richard McMaster - Tel 01770 820 253

WANTED

Wine making equipment for home use.
 Tel. 01770 860780 / 07770499995

SCAFFOLDING TOWER OR POLES 860 303

3 BEDROOM ACCOMMODATION Required — Winter Or Longer Local Person - 07810 362 984

Rowing Boat or similar - Anything considered Tel: 600 348 ask for David

Accommodation Wanted — Permanent/Long let - Detached cottage, open aspect & garden, furnished, solid fuel Raeburn/stove, mature non-smoker plus 2 cats. £400 a month max. References available. Tel: 303 636

Small Outboard Motor. Tel 600348

Wormery Big Size Tel: 600 538

HAVE YOUR SAY...

Did you know that you can comment, via our website, on any article that appears in *The Arran Voice*?

Simply visit www.arranvoice.com, register free, then add your comments about any article that has inspired, annoyed, pleased or frustrated you.

Every time you add a comment, the author of the article gets an e-mail alert sent directly to him or her, so you can be sure your view has been noted!



SERVICES

Island Blinds. All styles for home, conservatory, velux. Wide fabrics range. Estimates, fittings free. Tel: 01770 302081.

Lph roofing contractors and property maintenance specialists in roofline replacements, P.V.C maintenance free — Fascia Boards, Soffits & gutters. Re-roofs and roof repairs, roof tiles, power washed and sealed. Don't forget to have your roof slates and tiles checked free for a limited period while we are here in Arran. All Estimates and Advice are free — All work guaranteed — Tel — 0800 030 4702

Clifford Latona Plumbing and Heating Engineers. Tel: 01770 600391 Corgi, Calor and Oftec registered.

Professional Garden Services, Hedges, grass, pruning, strimming, drainage, paths, patios, decking, fencing etc. Free estimates. Call Tony 303539

STAY SAFE — AND LEGAL! PAT testing for all your electrical appliances. Call Chris — 302 397.

Tarmacadam Contractors — Roads, Drives and Car parks — While our team are on Arran — Save £££ — Free Quotes — Tel — 0800 030 4702

James McDowall & Sons

Specialist Butcher
 at the keenest prices
 Suppliers to Hotels, Pubs and Restaurants
 also household requirements

Telephone: **0141 889 2606**
 191 George Street, Paisley

BUILDING PLOTS FOR SALE

FROM £75,000. UNRESTRICTED VIEWS.
 ALL SERVICES NEARBY. PLANS CAN BE VIEWED —
 MUST BE SEEN TO APPRECIATE VIEWS.
 PLUS ARTIST IMPRESSION CAN BE SEEN.
 TELEPHONE: **01770 700 517**

FOR SALE

2 Pony Rugs, 5'9" and 5'3" plus chest extension, fit 13-14hh. Clean and good condition, £25 each. Also various items of tack and equipment, on sale at Kilmory Hall, 25th October.
 Telephone: **01770 870 295**

ARRAN CANDLEMAKERS & SPION KOP WOODWORK

OPEN: TUES; WED; THURS; 10AM TILL 5PM
 ON HILL BETWEEN LAMLASH & WHITING BAY
PHONE: 01770 600 474

FULTON decorators

MIRAMAR, LAMLASH
 TEL/FAX **01770 600705**
 Est. 1985

- All paintwork undertaken
- Any job, large or small
- Paper hanging
- Floor sanding & sealing
- Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate

RECYCLING

Bagged Manure for uplift — Tel 600 517.

Small combined wardrobe/dressing table unit with light on casters, free to uplift 830 386

Aviary 12ft by 4ft - Excellent condition - lights and heater - free to uplift - Tel 601 319

Do you have something for sale? Our competitive rates and clearly laid-out advertising will help sell your car, boat, sofa... whatever you have.

Classified listings start at just £3.50 + VAT, though charities benefit from significant savings on our standard rates.

You can add your recycle items to ArranOnline.com free of charge, and they will appear here automatically, subject to space and suitability.

CARS FOR SALE

Motorcycle — Yamaha RD 125 LC, 1 yrs MOT, good condition. £750 Tel: 700 542

CAR REGISTRATION - A 579 HOY with Volvo 360 GLS attached - 77,000 miles only, one owner, g.w.o, recent new clutch, good tyres, slight coach work, MOT August 2009 - Offers - 01770 302 611

Vauxhall Astra Estate 1999 FSH MOT APRIL 09 - TAX MARCH 09 - £950 01770 302 334

FORD FIESTA, Economical, Good Condition, M.O.T - May 2009, Tax Nov 2008. Tel: 07763363779

ROVER 220 DIESEL 'p' reg - taxed and mot'd for 6 months - £650.00 - 860 448

Ford Fiesta, V.Good condition. MOT and Taxed, 67,000 miles Economical to run £650. Tel 700542

VAN, VW LT28. 2.5lt. 02 reg. MOT/Tax Feb.09. Tow bar. £900 o.n.o. Tel- 850216

Peugeot 405 Diesel, Economical, Some M.O.T and Tax £600 Tel: 600 427

WANTED

Telegraph/Telephone Poles
 required to build field shelters
Tel: 01770 820 361

ADVERTISING TERMS

1. The deadline for receiving advertisements is 5pm on the Monday prior to publication. At this time the Publisher reserves the right to create, repeat or substitute any copy missing from booked space.
2. All advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice.
3. All advertisements must be paid for prior to publication. Extended runs of advertising will be invoiced monthly in advance, unless otherwise agreed in writing.
4. In the event of an advertisement not appearing for any reason, the liability of the Publisher will be limited either to a re-insertion, or refund of the discounted cost of that advertisement.
5. Cancellation of any advertisement must be received at least 24 hours prior to the publication deadline. Any refund will take account of any block-booking discount that no longer applies due to cancellation.
6. Any error must be notified to the Publisher within 14 days of publication. A re-insertion or refund of the price paid for the incorrect advertisement will be offered only if that error materially detracts from the advertisement.
7. The Advertiser (or their Agent) agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of any liability arising from publication of their advertisement, however caused.
8. The Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

Our ratecard is online at: www.arranvoice.com

Stevie's Decor
 Painting and Decorating



Free Estimates
 Interior & Exterior

Tel: Stevie Newall, 01770 600168
Mobile: 07901 592922
stevies-decor@supanet.com

Golf Results

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 19th October, Winter Cup, 8 played, CSS 67

1st J. Armit 33 pts
2nd I. MacDonald 32 pts bih
3rd B. Jenkins 32 pts
There were two 2s, Ewan McKinnon and Jimmy Armit

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 16th October, back nine competition, 12 played.

Scratch D. MacFarlane with a superb 29
1st D. MacFarlane 29-0-29
2nd Jim Henderson 38-7-31
1 Magic 2 from Dougie.

Sunday 19th October, Glenburn Cup only 9 competed, the awful weather taking its toll again!

1st Andrew Gibson 87-20-67
2nd W.O'Connor 89-20-69
The only 2 cards returned
No magic 2's.

Fixtures:

Thursday 23rd October, final of 9 hole competition.
Saturday 25th October, Arran Golf Association Grouse Final at Shiskine Golf Club from 1pm
Sunday 26th October, Glenburn Cup and captains Prize day, one starting time at 12pm

Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club

Ladies Arran Challenge 2008

Organised every year by the Kinloch Hotel, this year's Ladies Arran Challenge (Silver) was won by our very own Shiskine Lady Member, Jenni Turnbull with Mary Tod achieving 2nd place in the Bronze! Several local ladies were very close to the top, so the full results were:

Silver

1st Jenni Tunrball, Shiskine 115-24 91(bih)

2nd Katrina McKinley, Ratho Park 109-18 91

3rd Shelagh Young, Kilmarnock — 115-22 93 (bih)

Bronze

1st Irene Papwworth, Skelmorlie 117-26 91

2nd Mary Tod, Shiskine 137-44 93

3rd Elizabeth Hyett, Skelmorlie 127-30 97

Scratch Winner, Marion Quigley, Craig Millar Park 99

Well done those who braved the very mixed weather, 137 in all played.

Fixtures:

Gents Arran Challenge, starting Fri 24th October. Speak to the Kinloch Hotel or Dougie Bell for information how to enter.

Sun 26th October — 12-hole Medal (please note, not now an 18-hole Medal)

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Saturday 18th October, 8 played in the Mixed Fours Salver on a rather wet and blustery day.

1st Ian and Jean Davidson
2nd Susan Kidston and Ross Buchard

Sunday 19th — 8 played in the Hamilton Salver, CSS-66 'RO'.

1st John Pennycott (11)67 (bih)
2nd Nicol Auld (0)67
Nicol also won scratch and Jamie MacPherson had the only magic 2

Fixtures:

Sunday 26th October, Taylor Trophy (greensome), one draw only at 11.00am
2nd November, Winter League at Machrie



Copperwheat Cue Challenge

JOHN COPPERWHEAT, sponsor of the Arran Pool League, has devised a new challenge to kickstart this year's season. Copperwheat's Cue Challenge will identify a 'pool player of the year'. Each week in *The Arran Voice*, players will be informally graded, with points awarded for 'determined graft', 'flair', 'most improved performance', 'most stylish player', 'sportsmanship' and 'refereeing ability'. Points will deducted for barracking and other bad craic around the table. Ripping of the felt or a pint spilled on the table would almost certainly rule out even the best players from receiving what looks set to be a coveted award — a top quality Copperwheat meal for two.

GRAFT

John feels that the challenge will give recognition to the many and varied qualities that make a good pool player. 'Some players turn up week in week out, but they are never going to win anything,' he says. 'If it wasn't for teams like that the pool league wouldn't be here.' He believes this should be rewarded, so recognition will be given to regular attendance and hard graft,

especially if playing for a team on the receiving end of relentless whippings by rival bars. A few teams that spring to mind are Catacol and Corrie, but pre-season banter suggests both teams are secretly confident of a major upset this year.

A number of players will also benefit from the 'flair' category. Those who grind out victories with a string of snooker shots will struggle to pick up points in this area, but every team has a flair player — often a team liability, but sometimes a match-winner. John has not disclosed exactly what constitutes 'style', but hints that the lumberjack look will not score heavily. Sportsmanship, team spirit, hospitality and fluke shots of unexpected brilliance will all count.

Last year's league saw some high quality pool all-round, but the Drift Inn at Lamlash dominated the final few weeks, and their player Lee Girbow could have been in the running to win the Copperwheat Cue Challenge. In the 2007–2008 season he won the Knock-out Shield, the Arran Open, the League and the Gallon, and reached the final of the doubles. It remains to be seen who will rise to the pool challenge this year.

Cut-out-and-keep pool league fixtures

FIXTURES UP UNTIL END OF 2008...

30th October

Drift Out v Cameronia
PHT v PT 1934
Bar Eden v Kildonan
Catacol v Corrie

20th November

Corrie v Drift Out
Kildonan v PHT
PT 1934 v Catacol
Cameronia v Bar Eden

11th December

PT 1934 v Cameronia
Corrie v Kildonan
Catacol v PHT
Drift Out v Bar Eden

6th November

Cameronia v PHT
PT 1934 v Drift Out
Corrie v Bar Eden
Kildonan v Catacol

27th November

Kildonan v PT 1934
PHT v Bar Eden
Catacol v Drift Out
Corrie v Cameronia

18th December

Cameronia v Drift Out
PT 1934 v PHT
Kildonan v Bar Eden
Corrie v Catacol

13th November

PHT v Corrie
Drift Out v Kildonan
Bar Eden v PT 1934
Catacol v Cameronia

4th December

PT 1934 v Corrie
Drift Out v PHT
Bar Eden v Catacol
Cameronia v Kildonan



Arran take on Paisley

ARRAN'S RUGBY TEAM will take on league-leaders Paisley this Saturday in what promises to be tricky fixture at Ormidale Park. Paisley are currently riding high, securing 32 points out of a possible 35 from their first seven games. The team are not infallible though and Arran put them to the test in the first fixture of the season, narrowly losing out on the points with a 14-13 defeat away.

STRIP FOR VICTORY

The Paisley team might also be unsettled when they see their opponents' latest fund-raising initiative. This Saturday the Arran Rugby Football Club will be launching their much-awaited Rugby Lads calendar, which looks sure to inspire fear and dread in the hearts of their rival teams. Featuring some classy portraits of the island's rugby players in the buff, the calendar has been sponsored by a number of local businesses. It will be on sale from this weekend via the rugby club and at many of Arran's local shops. So if you want a closer look at the team, come along this weekend to watch the match, buy one of the very special calendars and help support the island's sporting ambassadors.

Last week, Arran's home fixture against Braidholm was cancelled, but four other matches were played in their league. Here are the results and the latest league standings:

Hughenden 31 – 15 Moffat
Strathaven 19 – 34 Millbrae
Paisley 34 – 0 McLaren
Carrick 40 – 0 Cowal

Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PD	Pts
Paisley	7	7	0	0	259	48	4	0	211	32
Millbrae	5	5	0	0	282	36	4	0	246	24
Carrick	5	5	0	1	227	56	3	0	171	23
Strathaven	7	3	0	4	172	113	3	1	59	16
Isle of Arran	5	2	0	3	90	66	2	1	24	11
Hughenden	6	3	0	3	135	243	2	0	-108	11
McLaren	5	2	0	3	70	145	1	0	-75	9
Cowal	6	2	0	4	54	152	1	0	-98	9
Moffat	5	1	0	4	84	116	0	2	-32	6
Braidholm	6	0	0	6	56	365	1	1	-309	2
Calder	No longer in league									
Shawlands FP	No longer in league									

♠

BRIDGE CLUB

♠

Lamlash Bridge Club Results Monday
20th October

N/S

1st M. McGill & E. Sillars + 1300
2nd. D. & M. Bruce + 1090
3rd. M. Gardner & L. Trickett + 930

E/W

1st. A. Bilsland & T. Martin + 1220
2nd. J. McClure & A. McKelvie + 670
3rd. E. Robertson & J. McBride + 330

Brodict Bridge Results
Thursday 16th October

N/S

1st T. Martin & D. Hamilton +1770
2nd D. Bruce & D. Scobie +690
3rd D. Henderson & F. Crawford -300

E/W

1st E. Duncan & A. Bilsland +2200
2nd H. Boyd & L. Paul +1070
3rd L. Robertson & M. McGill +610

♥

♥

Conker rule disputed

Continued from back page

TIPPED FOR WIN?

'I am currently seeking professional help regarding this matter and it looks like the professor is unwilling to check himself out of the Bucharest Priory this year,' said Eric. 'A real shame but we both feel that the behaviour of the organising committee is well outwith the camaradie of the European conker fraternity.' Eric progressed to the semi-finals of the prestigious tournament in 2007 and many chestnut pundits tip him for conker cup glory this year.

He suggests the new rule might be part of a conspiracy to take back the conker cup to the Southend. 'It may be said that this behaviour reeks of a desperate attempt to have the trophy returned to the Southern Hemisphere,' Eric told *The Arran Voice*. The conker committee have dismissed the allegations, adding only that 'the nuts will do the talking.'

STOLEN CONKER SCARE

Meanwhile, chair of the conker committee Jon Smith disclosed his panic when it seemed his precious stash of well-seasoned three year old conkers had been stolen, perhaps by tournament rivals. On Last Saturday morning Jon revealed that his conkers had gone missing. However, he later found the stash in an 'extra-safe' hiding place. 'I had hidden them away that well that I couldn't find them,' said Jon. 'I need to move them around every four to five weeks or so.' Jon refused to say where the conkers were stored, but did confirm that they were not held in his house. 'I know it's a shocking pun, but when I thought they had been stolen, I was going off my nut.'

The ex-champion says he is undergoing a vigorous training regime. 'I will be going for a jog on Sunday morning,' he said, adding that the regime 'involves fingerwork training and stretches.'

The proceedings commence at 3pm this Sunday at Kilmory Hall. All welcome.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION:

- Conkers must be of pure breed, and must not be modified in any way, genetic or otherwise.
- The use of the following is prohibited — nail varnish, paint products of any kind, glue polish, cement etc.
- Any type of fibrous, natural or man-made string can be used to support the conker.
- Only a knot can be used on the end of string to prevent conker slippage. No foreign objects to be used.
- String length used must be a minimum of 6 inches and a maximum of 12 inches
- Each conker entering the competition must be named.
- A new conker entering the competition cannot use the name of a previous conker entrant.

RULES OF PLAY:

- Each competitor takes it in turn to attempt a conker hit.
- An attempted hit must be conducted using an 'over-the-top' swing. No side swinging allowed.
- If an attacking player misses with their swing, this is seen as a valid conker swing and control is passed to the opposing competitor.
- If a defending player moves his/her conker when facing an opposing swing, the attacking player may have another swing
- Should a conker be disconnected from its string, or if the player releases the conker and string following a successful hit, then the 'stamping' rule applies, as follows:
 - Only the attacking player may attempt to stamp.
 - There is no limit to the number of stamping attempts made.
 - The defending player may attempt to retrieve their conker, but does so at his or her own risk.
- Games will be played on a knock-out basis over the best of three.
- A fresh conker may be used after each match.
- The game is over when the conker has been rendered unusable in further competition. Unusable being the following:
 - Conker is damaged to such an extent that it cannot be supported on its string unaided.
 - Conker damaged to such an extent that less than 20% of its original conkerage remains on the string.
- Each game is for two people only, and consists of pure aggression. Spectators are asked to try and control themselves.
- Bribes should be made payable to Southern Productions.



Bankers set to play Northend

Edinburgh's Real Tuesday will give Northend a run for their money

NORTHEND THISTLE may have suffered their fair share of defensive collapses throughout the club's history, but their opponents in two weeks' time will surely know how it feels to experience competitive meltdown. Real Tuesday are a team founded by Bank of Scotland employees from Edinburgh, and as the Scottish bank's future ownership hangs in the balance, they are travelling to Lochranza for a therapy clash against Arran's Northend. The two teams will play for a new trophy — the Forth-Clyde Cup.

Real Tuesday play regular 8-a-side matches at the Saughton Sports Complex in the Scottish capital and are hoping to give Northend — still on the bounce after their showcase victory against Southend United — a serious run for their money.

The HBOS squad has a rich history and makes respectful references to its founding players of the early 1990s in the club literature. An account of the early days of Real Tuesday describes the club's key organiser Finlay Scott as a John Gordon Sinclair lookalike. 'Finlay was at the heart of all things Real and Tuesday, collecting the weekly subs (probably about 75p a week in those

days) and organising the post-5s trip to the Wheatsheaf Inn for a pint and a punch up.'

REAL THREAT

Many of Real's past greats have moved on or developed dodgy knees, but a fine motley crew of varying banking quality remains. The team publicises in-depth player-profiles and Northend might be wise to watch out for a few of the squad members. Stuart Blackhall's defining characteristics are his 'baldy napper, willingness to put his head anywhere, occasionally 'forthright' tackling style and utter lack of any football kit.' Craig Stewart is also a potential threat on and off the pitch. His football battle-cry is 'a bowel-loosening bellow as he goes completely Radio Rental.' Other players, such as John Lawson who boasts a 'leg like a half chewed caramel' might not be such a danger to the in-form Northend defence.

The match is scheduled for Saturday 8th November in the Hayes Ewe Camp Stadium in Lochranza. In the meantime the club has invited all to its 'Curse of Northend Thistle' Halloween Party at the Lochranza & Catacol Hall next Friday, 8pm.

Winter points

THIS SUNDAY, 26th October, sees the start of the 2008-09 Winter Points at the Cairnhouse Riding Centre. Dawn Murchie, who runs the events throughout the winter months, has put together the schedule of meetings. Let's cross fingers (and hooves) for some good weather and a great season of riding!

Cairnhouse Winter Points, dates for the diary:

- Sunday 26th October 2008
- Sunday 23rd November 2008
- Sunday 14th December 2008
- Sunday 11th January 2009
- Sunday 8th February 2009
- Sunday 8th March 2009



Earlier this year, riders enjoyed some good weather for the Winter Points

CONKER RULE DISPUTED

LAST YEAR'S SEMI-FINALIST CLAIMS SOUTHEND CONSPIRACY

PREPARATIONS FOR THE Kilmory Conker Cup have been rocked by a pre-tournament dispute as Brodick's Eric Dunn hits back at hints that the conker technique he deploys is 'non-regulation.' On return from his recent Mediterranean conker training camp, Eric said he was shocked to read of alleged accusations of nefarious practices by the Romanian 'Professor Palinka' at last year's conker championship. The conker cup committee intends to implement a new maximum and minimum string-length rule which may prevent Eric's successful short-string swing technique.

Full story on page 23



And Finally ...

ANOTHER SAT-NAV TALE

The sat-nav story of the week is the driver of a German truck who got guided to Shiskine instead of Maryhill (see page 2), but that didn't stop sat-nav tales from circulating in our office. One unfortunate soul who was setting out for Fort William rashly accepted the loan of something called a Tom-tom. Warning drums? Anyway, off she went, and quite liked the disembodied voice saying, "at the roundabout take the third exit". She was reassured to discover that everyone chooses the Scottish male voice to be guided by. More reliable, she thought. That's nice.

On the way back she dropped into the shopping centre at Alexandria — just a few hundred yards off the direct route. On leaving the shops she expected to be told to turn right at the lights 100 yards ahead, but no such thing. 'Turn left,' instructed Tom-tom's reliable voice. So she did. Increasing confusion followed as she was navvied along roads that bore no resemblance to the usual route to Ardrossan. In panic, she realised she was heading into Glasgow at Charing Cross. A swift U-turn into the out-of-town rush-hour traffic followed, and a nail-biting rush to the 6 o'clock boat. She made it, with Tom-tom reduced to sulky silence. Sat-navs are fine when you don't know where you're going, she said on return, but if you do, then do yourself a favour and tell Tom-tom where to go!