



# CONKERS!



See back page

**NORTHEND CONKEROR SURVIVES TYSON-STYLE TACTICS**

## Forestry shelves link-road plans

**U-turn on road will force rethink for Arran's harvest strategy**



*After harvesting of forests like those around Meall Buidhe, the Forestry will have to deal with Arran's more remote western plantations*

DUE TO HIGH costs and environmental concerns, the Forestry Commission has opted to postpone plans to develop a road connecting Shedog and Glenscorrodale forests. The route was suggested as part of major strategy to harvest the large stock of mature timber now mounting on the island. Designed as a way of relieving some of the pressure on both the Ross and the String roads, it would have diverted harvested timber from forest areas in the west (Shedog and Kilpatrick) directly down the Monamore Glen into Lamlash and then north to the Brodick loading slip on Market Road.

### TOO EXPENSIVE

But financial restraints and environmental issues have led Forestry officials to reject the proposal. 'We were looking at constructing a new strategic

timber haulage route which would link the String Road and the Ross Road but we've decided to shelve it for the moment,' a forestry spokesman told *The Arran Voice* earlier this week. 'A thorough assessment of the route showed it would be prohibitively expensive,' he added.

The proposed link between Shedog and Kilpatrick via Beinn Tarsuinn — planned to avert the need to shuttle timber lorries on the Ross Road — has also been shelved. It was estimated that the construction of the forestry roads would cost in excess of £700,000 and the Forestry was keen to benefit from £317,000 from the government's Strategic Timber Transport Fund. The grant was conditional on the FCS securing a positive environmental impact assessment and the FCS will now lose out on this.

*Continued on page 7*

**IN THIS ISSUE: HIFAR update / Scary Toddlers / Lamlash 30mph / Coffee Morning / Red Squirrel Support**

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# HIFAR sets sights on woodland crofts

**Forestry's new 'social conscience' could promote rural housing**

THE HOUSING Initiative for Arran Residents (HIFAR) hopes to become one of the first communities in Scotland to develop woodland crofts on Forestry Commission land.

Last week the island-based group held a constructive meeting with Forestry Commission officials, who outlined the process for making an application under the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS). In May this year, an amendment to the NFLS opened up the opportunity for community groups to purchase Forestry land. 'Under the scheme we can give communities first shout to buy any land that is surplus to the estate,' explained Forestry Commission (FCS) district manager Malcolm Wield. 'It is even better than the community right to buy, because the land doesn't have to be for sale.'

## THE ONLY WAY TO GO

Chair of HIFAR Henry Murdo has felt stymied by much of the bureaucracy of the local planning system, and he agrees with Malcolm. 'It's the only possible way we can go now,' he said. HIFAR feels that the woodland crofts scheme offers a route to build affordable housing of a rural design without being encumbered by the planning restrictions set down by the local authority. HIFAR was formed two years ago as a groundswell of community opinion recognised a need to address the shortage of affordable housing on the island, and it now has a signed support of over 500 members.

The small fishing village of Embo near Dornoch looks set to be the first ever community in Scotland to submit a woodland croft application. Sandwiched between two landowners and consisting of just 230 people, Embo, like Arran, is adversely affected by inflated house prices. When a house comes on the market it starts out at over £200,000. 'An ordinary youngster just can't afford it,' said Rona Grigg, secretary for the Embo Trust. 'Over 30% of the local population is now over 65 years old. It's not healthy. We have youngsters in the village, but we need to keep hold of them. Without them the village will die.' The Embo Trust has applied for 120

hectares of woodland on a site called the 'Fourpenny Plantation', which could provide space for ten or twelve croft houses, each in four hectares of land. The rest of the Plantation would be jointly owned and run under a common woodland management scheme.

## SELF-BUILD

Rona says that there is considerable interest in self-build options for the crofts. As she points out, 'A lot of the young people who are interested have the skills to self-build, and that would help make it affordable.' Water mains, electricity connections and additional access roads will have to be provided, but the Elmo Trust hopes that support from the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) will assist the housing project once the application is underway. The croft houses would be built using local timber and support small businesses in the area.

'It's trees instead of sheep,' explained Malcolm Wield. 'It's croft land within a forest.' The community purchase will be outright, drafted to prevent any speculation by the purchasing community.

If the Forestry Commission has developed a social conscience, it could be excellent news for Arran.



*The National Forest Land Scheme provides for quite a different ownership structure to other woodland-sited dwellings on Arran*

## Arran Artists Calendar 2009

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## Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall

**Annual General Meeting**  
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# Toddlers wear to scare at Halloween party



*The Halloween event was also a good excuse for a tasty tea-party*

TODDLERS FROM AROUND Arran dressed up in some ghoulish costumes earlier this week at the Arran Childminders' Halloween party. Brodick church hall was teeming with dozens of scary wee characters — from skeletons to pirates, including a very muscular mini-Spiderman! The Arran Childminders' group is holding a bingo night at Whiting Bay Golf Club on 15th November to raise funds to cover the group's regular trips away. Some of the funds raised will also be used to donate some portable DVD players to the Arran War Memorial Hospital. The event promises to be a fun night for all the family and all are welcome.



*A very impressive Spiderman outfit*



*Ben Worthington from Kildonan splashes on some gruesome-looking face paint*



*Caitlin pulls off a good haunting look to go with her witch outfit*



*Not all of costumes were too ghoulish*

## Were Icelandic warnings ignored?

NORTH AYRSHIRE Council have rejected suggestions that they knew the risky nature of investing in Icelandic banks before they deposited taxpayers' money in Glitnir and Landsbanki banks in January this year.

Evidence is mounting that local authorities throughout the UK had access to advice warning of the dire financial straits of the Icelandic banking system via their treasury consultants. However, North Ayrshire Council insists that the investments of £15 million 'were made before the full impact of the global financial crisis became apparent.' Their report continues, 'Until June 2008, there was no firm indication that the two Icelandic banks with whom the Council currently has deposits were in serious difficulty. The first clear sign in relation to Glitnir Bank was in July when its ratings did not appear on the counter party list. Meanwhile the Fitch ratings for Landsbanki remained unchanged until October.'

This assertion is put in doubt by a string of financial news reports documenting Fitch's move to place Iceland's three biggest banks

(including both Glitnir and Landsbanki) on negative watch ratings on 1st April 2008. Fitch is an international credit ratings agency widely relied on to grade banking institutions before making cash investments, and it issued the following statement in April: 'While Fitch believes that the three banks' liquidity is currently sufficient, diminishing confidence in the sector has increased the risk of unanticipated calls on liquidity while severely restricting funding options.'

Fitch had flagged up concerns about Iceland's central bank as early as February 2006, despite maintaining that they were 'stable' due to their 'large capital bases' and 'geographically diverse loan portfolios' — in other words, that the sheer scale of the international investments lodged with them made them invulnerable.

NAC says it was 'not in a position to retrieve the funds when the banks' financial position deteriorated' because its deposits with the two banks are not due to mature until November 2008 and January 2009.

NAC's Chief Executive of Finance

Alastair Herbert confirmed to *The Arran Voice* that the council is advised by its approved Treasury Management Consultants to 'determine which banking institutions can offer attractive rates with a guaranteed return.' Its consultants are Sector Treasury Systems, who advise local authorities on the basis of data from the Fitch credit ratings agency.

The Scottish Government has said it will try to help any Scottish local authority which has cashflow difficulties arising from deposits not being returned at the contract times. NAC does not anticipate that it will need this, but says it is 'helpful to know the support is there.'

Sector Treasury Systems are a subsidiary of Capita, an IT company that gained a number of key contracts with the UK government. It hit the headlines when its then CEO Rod Aldridge was revealed to be making secret loans of around £1million to the Labour Party. Mr Aldridge subsequently resigned from Capita.

## Arranvoice.com Online Poll

This week's question is:

Would you like British Summer Time to continue through the winter?

Share your opinion, visit [www.arranvoice.com](http://www.arranvoice.com) and cast your vote!

Last week's question was:

Do we need better communication with NAC?

Yes: 100% (13 votes)

No: 0% (0 votes)

Not sure: 0% (0 votes)

## New rhodie-basher appointed

LIZ POULSOM, a woodland ecologist with Forestry Commission Scotland, was appointed in October this year to lead a two-year project advising land-owners and managers on rhodie elimination and control.

'Rhododendron ponticum is a big problem for important woodland habitats in western Scotland,' said Liz. 'It severely affects biodiversity, limiting the quality and variety of habitats by shading out other plants and preventing tree regeneration.' Arran and Holy Isle have developed some impressive expertise in dealing with the rhodies, but at best, it remains an exercise in damage-limitation. Liz, however, plans to use 'co-ordinated control programmes' and sounds upbeat about her chances of beating the vigorous shrub. 'Once we get started, woodland biodiversity and forest productivity will very quickly recover,' she says.

The project will be managed through a partnership steering group that includes Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park and the Argyll and Bute Biodiversity partnership/invasive species forum.



# Editorial

## CONSULTANTS AND BINS

Our quote of the week was uploaded to the paper before we heard of NAC's venture into expensive consultancy. It was chosen — and remains in place — because it touches on a very common cause of suspicion and resentment. Until recent years, local authorities, in common with most organisations, managed their affairs without any expensive help from paid consultants. Such a function was unknown, and apart from a staff of local government officers and a lot of industrious shorthand typists, all the work was done 'in-house'.

This is all the more remarkable when one remembers that at every council used to own and run a large stock of rented housing, together with the administration, accountancy and hands-on maintenance involved. When talking to housing professionals today, the conversation often alludes to the fact that it would be hard to re-establish social housing, because the structure of local management has been dismantled. The people who understood how the complex organisation of housing schemes were set up and run are lost now, together with their knowledge and their experience. Instead, we have consultants. North Ayrshire Council is to buy in over £600,000 worth of work from international consultancy companies to advise on roads, transportation and civil engineering services. Strangely, they have not given 'any guarantee as to the nature or value of work to be awarded under the framework agreements.' Such a

decision speaks of a continuing blind faith in the power of large organisations, and in the unresolved aftermath of the Icelandic banking experience, its wisdom is clearly questionable.

Turning to a more detailed question, there was a mutter of discontent on Tuesday of this week from people whose bins had not been emptied. On phoning the Council, it was explained that cleansing department workers would not now be uplifting bins unless they were positioned with their handles facing out towards the road and their lids properly closed. It was not clear on that day whether this edict is a new regulation or a form of 'working to rule', but whatever the cause, it was being badly received — and with some reason. A full wheelie bin can be very heavy. It is, of course, equally heavy for anyone paid to convey it to the bin lorry's hoist mechanism, but such a person has presumably been selected to do that job because of reasonable physical strength and fitness. An old person with arthritic joints may find it extremely hard to haul a bin into the required position.

While being fully supportive of the right of workers to decent conditions and pay, there does come a point where the provision of service needs to be respected as a principle. If villages are to be clean, pleasant places, it is reasonable for the community to accept Council Tax as a contribution to the provision of upkeep services. If those services cannot properly be paid for, perhaps it is time for a little more money to the bin men and a little less to consultants.

Quote

**'Personally, I think all consultants should be shot at dawn. And anyone in a top job who needs their advice on how to do the job ought not to be in it.'**

*Michele Hanson, writing in the Guardian, 21.10.08.*

*Well said, that woman. Ed.*

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# Voice mail

## Readers' News and Views...

### ANDY IN AUSTRALIA

Arran friends of Andy and Ruth (and Jack and Megan) might like this cheerful picture from Australia. They are all doing very well and send greetings to everyone — with apologies for not getting round to sending e-mails fast enough!



### THANK YOU

We would like to say thank you to all who helped with, and attended, the Jumble Sale and Musical Soiree in Corrie Village Hall on Saturday. There is enough jumble left for another one if anybody is interested. Hopefully there will be another musical event before too long.

*Iain and Joyce MacLean*

### GOOD NEWS FOR VALDETE

*Readers who contributed to Sue and Julian Davidson's fund-raising campaign to bring the crippled Albanian girl, Valdete, to Arran for life-changing surgical treatment, will be glad to share their good news.*



At last, thirteen months and three visa applications later, we have success.

Valdete and her parents went to the British Embassy in Tirana on Monday and were so happy to be given a medical visa to come to the UK for treatment. It is a multi-entry visa, valid for 6 months, which can be extended if necessary.

I don't know which was worse, being

there with her as on two previous occasions, or waiting here for a phone call. Monday was a nerve racking day for all concerned, but the outcome was well worth waiting for.

Now we are just waiting for an appointment to see Mr MacKay, the orthopaedic surgeon who will see her and decide what treatment she needs. We have £6,500 in the Valdete Fund at the moment and we need to know if this is enough to cover her treatment before we begin.

We are so grateful for the help we have received from people with more knowledge than us about Immigration laws and dealing with medical personnel to obtain the documents we required.

Thank you to all you people who have been concerned about our progress and have constantly shown us how much you care.

We will keep you informed about Valdete's arrival in Arran and her medical care.

*Sue and Julian Davidson*

### BUS ROVER TICKETS — A REPLY

I cannot decide if Mr Baumgärtner (*The Arran Voice*, page 4, 23rd October) had the luck to escape a couple of days to Edinburgh, in which case he has my congratulations, of if he escaped FOR a few days to that city, in which case he has my sympathy. However, it is clear that he more or less answered his own question, "Why are the day passes on Edinburgh's buses cheaper than those in Arran?" It's easy to say, "That's different", but there really are different circumstances in this case.

Despite his disparaging remarks about Arran's roads, they are not too bad (surfaces aside) in that they are not clogged up to gridlock point with traffic from a densely populated city and from neighbouring counties, to say nothing of a large influx arriving from all directions and all parts of Britain at any time of day or night. In order to induce visitors and locals to keep cars off the city streets, it is necessary to issue an all-day ticket at such a low price that it is an attractive proposition — it worked for Mr Baumgärtner did it not? I don't know how many of the Auld Reekie bus routes are run on a commercial basis, and how many are subsidised by the local council, but since it is in the interest of everybody in the city's transport hierarchy to reduce the numbers of cars on the streets, I have no doubt that there is some sort of arrangement in force. In any case, Lothian Transport has many more buses than Arran has route-miles, so it is likely that the £2.50 tickets sell in such numbers that the law of diminishing returns applies and that if there is not much profit, there will be no loss either. This is particularly so since most of these tickets will be taken by city centre workers for just one return journey from (say) Balerno or Barnton to work and back, or by visitors who will only use the tickets for a few short distance journeys like Leith Walk shops to the Royal Mile or Haymarket to Gorgie Road.

In Arran we have no congestion to complain of, even though it is often the subject of complaint by those who cause it. We have less than 100 miles of motor bearing road used by a population of around 5,000 — many of whom are not car users anyway — and the number of incoming cars is restricted by the capacity and frequency of the ferry,

*Continued on page 6*



# News in Brief...

## LUPUS

Kenneth Gibson has secured a Members' Debate on Thursday 30 October on Lupus, a disease that has never before been debated in the Scottish Parliament and affects up to 5,000 people, 90% women, in Scotland. It has strong cross party support, rightly, as this is a dreadful disease. Lupus is the Latin name for 'wolf', and was coined in the mid-19th century to describe the ravaged face that is so often a symptom of the illness and was thought to resemble a wolf-bite.

This is currently Lupus Awareness month, and the focus is on the need for research. There is little known about what combination of genetic, hormonal and environmental factors cause Lupus, but it is established that the disease is triggered by an immune system disorder that produces 'auto-antibodies' which damage organs and tissues. The symptoms can include joint and muscle pain, fever, swollen glands and extreme fatigue as well as red rashes, commonly on the face.

## BIG CONSULTANCIES GET £600K FROM NAC

North Ayrshire Council will contract out over £600,000 worth of work to international consultancy companies. At a meeting this week the NAC executive met to approve the award of 'framework agreements' to three external consultants for the provision of 'professional services in relation to roads, transportation and civil engineering services.'

The NAC Executive said the tenders were evaluated 'on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender in terms

of cost and quality.' Dutch engineering consultancy Grontmij submitted a tender for £217,880, and consulting and business company Mouchel estimated a fee of £214,657.90. URS Corporation — which amongst many other things provides systems engineering for the development of weapons systems for the US government — tendered for £215,364.

The council says the costs are allowed for within existing revenue and capital budgets, but adds, 'it should be noted that the Council has not given any guarantee as to the nature or value of work to be awarded under the framework agreements.'

## CENTRAL HEATING FUNDING

A reader phoned us to ask for a contact number about additional central heating support this winter, but on looking back at the original communication from Kenneth Gibson MSP, it is clear that this proposal is still working its way through the Scottish Parliament. We will publish all details of how to apply as soon as they are available.

## PETS ON BONFIRE NIGHT

Pets get very distressed on fireworks night. Keep all pets indoors if you can. To make things calmer you should close all the curtains and keep your pets as far away from the loud noises as possible.

It's not just your own fireworks that cause distress, so you may have to keep your pets indoors for several nights when other displays are taking place.

Before lighting your bonfire, check that there are no animals (or children!) inside.

# NTZ infringement?

LAST TUESDAY 21st October, 'one or possibly two' fishing vessels were spotted entering the No Take Zone in Lamlash Bay and seemingly dropping their dredging equipment. The incident took place just days after a government research vessel undertook a baseline survey of the bay's seabed at a cost of well over £100,000. Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency officials are currently looking into the alleged incident.

Local residents who had seen the boats took a note of the registration details of the vessels and have informed the Scottish Marine Directorate, the body responsible for monitoring the conservation area. The NTZ was established just one month ago.

## VIDEO FOOTAGE

Video footage of the vessels in the No Take Zone was also recorded during the incident. *The Arran Voice* was unable to contact the fishermen for comment, as their identity could not be confirmed. It is not currently known whether the boats operated locally. Prior to being contacted by *The Arran Voice*, the Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) had no knowledge of the alleged infringement. Secretary of the CFA Patrick Stewart said: 'I do not comment on gossip. We support the No Take Zone and our members know the consequences of transgressing it. It is not so much a No Take Zone as a scallop regeneration area.'

A spokesperson for the Scottish Government said 'it would be inappropriate to comment any further on the specific circumstances at this stage,' adding that 'most fishermen do adhere to rules, and we want to ensure that those who choose to ignore regulations are suitably punished.'

## WORKING RELATIONSHIP

Howard Wood from COAST said he was disappointed by news of the possible breach, but added: 'The last thing we want is a breakdown of a working relationship with the fishermen. We really don't want such incidents to continue, because I genuinely believe that they [Clyde fishermen] will be the first people to benefit from it.'

A Scottish Government spokesperson sent an equally upbeat message about the newly-protected area of Lamlash Bay — which is only 1.6 square miles in size. 'The protected area — backed by both environmentalists and the fishing industry — will help conserve an important marine habitat and it is anticipated that as a direct result scallop beds in adjacent areas will become more productive, benefiting local fishermen. We are watching the project closely to see what lessons can be learned for the future.'

However, the case underlines the difficulties in policing Lamlash Bay and indeed any UK marine reserves. The Inshore Fishing (Prohibition on Fishing) (Lamlash Bay) (Scotland) Order 2008 gives powers of seizure to sea fishery officers where an offence had been committed, but enquiries by *The Arran Voice* prompted a cautious response from a Government spokesperson, who said, 'Each case has to be considered on its merits and ultimately it is a matter for the courts to determine.'



*The SFPA vessel cannot be in two places at the same time*

## GAP IN THE LAW

Jean-Luc Solandt from the Marine Conservation Society believes the existing law is not up to scratch. 'Even if we filmed someone with their gear in the water, we can't legally prosecute them, because of the wording of the legislation,' he said at a recent presentation in Brodick. The MCS would seem to be arguing for a change to the evidential burden of proof for such cases, so that there is a presumption of fishing activity if nets or dredging gear are in the water. It would then be for the fisherman to prove otherwise.

## REAL-TIME TRACKING?

Currently all fishing vessels over 15m in length must use transponders that send 'position reports' including course and speed to the competent authorities every two hours. However, this means that a boat can sail into a protected area for a short time and return within two hours, without the SFPA being any the wiser. It may be that more sophisticated real-time tracking technology could help to police commercial vessels, but the equipment is expensive and would probably need to be heavily subsidised by the Government.

It may be that the real solution lies at the local level. The Scottish Government declined to mention any specific legislative changes required, but said that the recently piloted Inshore Fishery groups (IFGs) will work closely with the Government to identify 'any additional regulatory requirements' that might be needed. At present though, Inshore Fisheries Groups — a precursor to the forthcoming national Marine Bill — represent only the commercial interests. Steve Bastiman from the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network told *The Arran Voice* he believes the IFGs are a 'good idea' but argues that it should not just be the commercial sector that is involved in their management. The same point was also raised by Sally Campbell of COAST at a recent MCS meeting on Arran.

## PENALTIES FOR NTZ INFRINGEMENT

Laura Chalmers of the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) sent the following information to Kenneth Gibson MSP on the meaning of the Lamlash Bay NTZ and the penalties that can result from breaching it.

By virtue of section 4 of the Inshore Fishing (Scotland) Act 1984, any person who contravenes a prohibition contained in this Order shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to £5,000, and on conviction on indictment, to an unlimited fine.



## Arran Council for Voluntary Service

(Scottish Charity No. SC004057)

## Annual General Meeting

to be held in

Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick

at 7.30pm on Friday 14th November 2008

Speaker: Alex Anderson

Economic Development Manager, North Ayrshire Council

All Welcome!

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

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E-Mail: jim.nichols@arranvcs.org.uk

Chairman: Jim Lees  
Manager: Jim Nichols



# Voice extra mail

Continued from page 4

so while it may well be fashionable (as well as naïve) to subscribe to the current carbon footprint hysteria, it is not necessary to take such drastic action to reduce road congestion here.

I have most of the timetables and many of the fare tables for bus services in the island from 1884, and in the last 115 years Arran's buses have declined until recent legislation gave local councils an obligation to subsidise rural services. Insofar as it is possible to compare this island with other places on a "like for like" basis, the level of services and fares (set by the council, not the bus company) is far better than in many other rural areas. Our winter timetables are almost identical to those of the summer months, whereas in many counties more than half of the buses are up against the wall all winter. Arran buses run to and from all parts of the island, connecting with all arrivals and departures of the ferry at Brodick. In addition, they run roughly every hour — sometimes more often — from the first run out from Brodick at 6am to the last departure from Whiting Bay at 10.20pm. No doubt, the local authority would be willing to increase this frequency, and run buses even later if the waybills showed full standing loads, and passengers left behind, but they show no such thing.

As to fares, a passenger travelling from Brodick to Whiting Bay will be charged £2.25 single or £4.50 return. A 10p discount is available in the form of an all-day ticket which gives the passenger the chance — often taken — of a further 55 miles round the island, then round and round again four times. The £25 weekly ticket is even better value than that. Last time I got them, the day-tickets in London and in south Devon were more expensive than those in Arran (let alone Edinburgh), but the remarks I made in respect of use in Edinburgh apply to London and, speaking as one who knows south Devon well, and has all their timetables as well, I don't think it is possible to screw as much value out of a Devon brief as from an Arran ticket. In any case, if you compare the fare from Lamlash to Blackwaterfoot with similar mileage fares elsewhere — Exeter to Torquay, or Loughton to Bishop's Stortford, for example — you'll see that the fares are not excessive. In fairness (and in case I'm picked up for not pointing it out) I must admit that there are cheaper fares in some other places; the 12-mile journey from Lesmahagow to Hamilton is 45p cheaper than the 12-mile journey from Brodick to Tormore or to Kildonan, but they have full standing loads, not half empty buses, in Lanarkshire.

I am often irritated by people who write to newspapers with complaints or queries that should more properly and sensibly be addressed to the company, shop or other outfit concerned. I assume it is because such people want the whole world to know that they have a grievance in preference to getting the grievance sorted out, or as a more pleasant alternative to finding that they don't actually have a grievance in the first place. For this reason, I shall refrain from asking *The Voice* why Whiting Bay eating places do not bring their prices down to the level of those in Wetherspoon's at Brixham, or stay open as long as the Star Truckstop.

B.J Mitchell-Luker, Lamlash

# Bonfire Night Safety

Have a safe and enjoyable fireworks night!

A SIMPLE SPARKLER reaches a temperature of up to 2,000°C, over 15 times the boiling point of water. A rocket can travel up to 240km (150 miles) per hour. All kinds of fireworks need handling with extreme care.

New legislation on the misuse of fireworks is designed to improve safety:

- It is illegal for retailers to sell fireworks to anyone under 18 years old.
- Retailers are not allowed to sell fireworks which are louder than 120 decibels.
- It is now illegal to let off fireworks between 11pm and 7am.
- It is an offence to throw or set off fireworks in a street or public place.
- It is illegal for anyone under 18 to possess fireworks in public.

It is a fact that most accidents are caused by improper use of fireworks and by carelessness. Therefore we are appealing to everyone who is either having a display at home or attending an organised display to take great care this bonfire night. Please follow the firework code.

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114.
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light at arm's length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five. Keep pets indoors.

## BONFIRE DO's and DON'Ts

- Site your bonfire well away from houses, garages, sheds, fences, overhead cables, trees and shrubs AND ALWAYS AWAY FROM FIREWORKS.
- Build the stack so that it is stable and will not collapse outwards or to one side.
- NEVER use flammable liquids such as paraffin or petrol to light the fire.
- Don't burn foam-filled furniture, aerosols, tins of paint or bottles.
- Children must be supervised all the time.
- Keep a bucket of water or the garden hose handy, or a fire extinguisher.
- Pour water on the embers before leaving.

# Extraordinary Ebenezer follow-up

*SOME WEEKS AGO, we reviewed The Book of Ebenezer le Page by G.B. Edwards, the story of a Guernsey man who lived through the German occupation of the island during WW2. The book was dedicated to Edward and Lisa Chaney, but quarter of a century has gone by since its delayed publication in 1981, and any living connection with its author seemed unlikely. But Edward Chaney himself e-mailed us this week, having picked up the review on The Arran Voice website.*

*He sends us the story of how he came to know Gerald Edwards and how he managed to get this classic book into print, five years after its author's death. His full account can be seen on our website, [www.arranvoice.com](http://www.arranvoice.com), but due to lack of space, we can only include a much-shortened version, based on the mass of information that Mr Edwards provides.*

EDWARD CHANEY WAS an art student, spending the summer in a Dorset village, when he first met Gerald, introduced by a young pianist whose parents took in lodgers. Gerald Edwards was regarded as the closest equivalent of D.H. Lawrence at the time, and had been asked to write a first study of him, though Lawrence had died before this could be done.

Though the fictional hero, Ebenezer Page, was a devoted islander, Gerald himself left his native island as soon as he could, via the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, and went on to study English at Bristol University. He seems not to have graduated but migrated to London where he soon entered the Bloomsbury literary circle. When in 1924 Gerald's mother died she bequeathed him the substantial family Guernsey house which had been in her name, worried that his father might otherwise exclude him, but partly out of pity for his father, he tore up his mother's will. His father then sold the house and married the housekeeper, just as Raymond's father, Harold, marries the dreadful Mrs Crewe in the novel.

After his marriage broke up, Gerald taught at Toynbee Hall and for the Workers' Education Association but eventually had to settle down as a minor civil servant working in an employment exchange in London. He visited Guernsey occasionally, as well as wilder shores elsewhere, but was imprisoned by his meagre earnings. But he wrote his great book, and on 3rd August 1974, despairing of finding a publisher, he made a formal present of it to Edward Chaney, saying he was free to publish it and to own the copyright.

Chaney's struggle to find a publisher during the author's lifetime failed. 'Gerald,' he says, 'took the repeated rejections with extraordinary stoicism, even writing civilized replies to their letters. Only after his death, when I migrated to postgraduate work in Italy and met a former Hamish Hamilton editor there, did I manage to get it accepted.'

Edwards compares *The Book of Ebenezer le Page* to Lampedusa's *Il Gattopardo*, (*The Leopard*), saying that 'both are nostalgic vestiges of a pre-modern world, both casting a jaundiced eye on the new, middle-

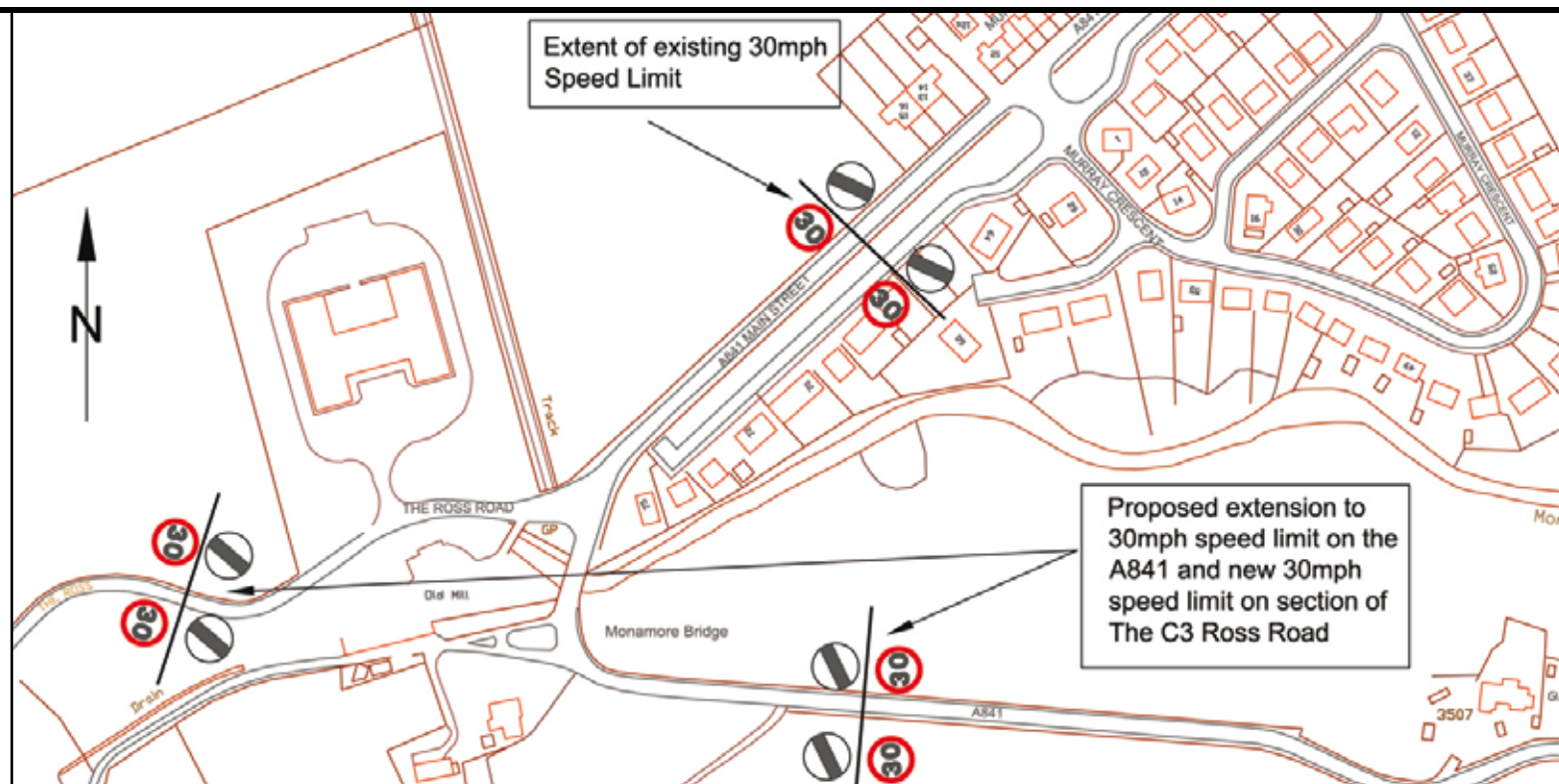
class vulgarity that encroaches upon their island.' He continues, 'The fact that Don Fabrizio is an aristocrat and Ebenezer a peasant only sharpens the symmetry, for both are essentially anachronisms whose ancient wisdom encourages them to resist change.' For both Lampedusa and Gerald, the Second World War was perceived as definitively detrimental to the island's cultural memory. During his regular visits to Guernsey after the war, Gerald questioned his fellow-islanders about the German occupation and subsequent liberation, meanwhile observing what he described as the next invasion by tourists and tax-escapees from mainland Britain. As he says through the Guernsey voice in his book, 'When I think what have happened to our island, I could sit down on the ground and cry...'

*We are most grateful to Mr Chaney for contacting us, and hope readers will avail themselves of the full text he supplies.*



# 30mph area to be extended in Lamlash

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL has given the go-ahead for the extension of the 30mph speed zone at the southern end of Lamlash village. Currently the speed restriction ends close to the road entrance to Murray Place, but concerns about the speed limit area have recently been considered. In particular, the area committee has noted that the location of the existing 30mph restriction does not give adequate warning of the residential area to motorists approaching from Whiting Bay or the Ross Road. The committee has approved a traffic regulation order that will extend the 30mph zone by 320 metres to a point 100 metres east of Monamore Bridge. The order will also introduce a new 30mph speed limit on the Ross Road to a point 155 metres west of its junction with the main road in Lamlash.



## Forestry shelves link-road plans

*Continued from front page*

### DEVELOPMENT MUST BE 'ESSENTIAL'

Baseline studies of Arran's rare peatland habitats have also flagged up the dangers of building the roads. The Forestry spokesman said the environmental assessment 'identified potential negative impacts from the proposal.' Two stretches of the proposed road between the forests pass through wetland, mudland and peatland habitats which have SSSI and SPA status. These designations presume that if the development adversely affects the habitat then it should not go ahead unless it is essential.

The barriers to development are high and although the route between Shedog and Kilpatrick wouldn't have sparked any SPA problems, the Shedog to Glenscorrodale link road would have been very likely to disrupt the habitats of the hen harrier.

In an early scoping report meeting, the road proposals also raised a number of questions about Arran's tourism strategy, as some argued that it would help open up the island. Others said that many visitors are attracted by Arran's areas of unspoilt wilderness (for an in-depth article on *The Arran Voice* website, see 'Chop Logic,' 13th April 2007).

### LOOMING PRIORITY

Arran still currently harvests 60,000m<sup>3</sup> of timber per annum, although this figure will now be revised as part of a wider strategic plan. Scottish Enterprise has predicted that 200,000 tonnes per annum (roughly equivalent to 200,000m<sup>3</sup>) will be available from Arran by 2010 and a means for transporting the timber without placing undue stress on the island's roads is becoming a looming priority.

*Book review Sponsored by Book and Card Centre*

## Book Review

By Tim Pomeroy

### MOONSHINE IN THE MORNING

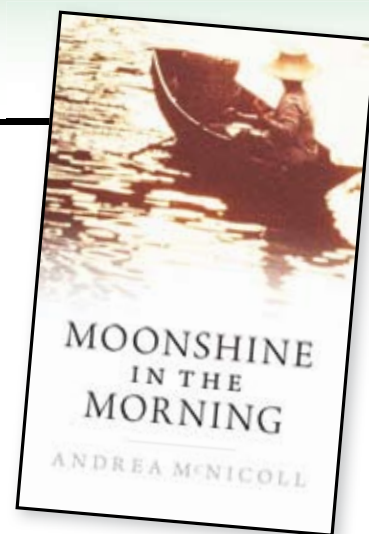
*Moonshine in the Morning* is a first novel by Ayrshire-born Andrea McNicoll. It opens with the tastes and smells of Thai cuisine, and these set the flavours of both the village and the book. In laying out her stall of initial characters and the place they live in, the author writes richly of market life. Throughout her book, the milestones marking the way through the narrative all taste and smell of native Thai foods.

The ways in which people make a living are a central to the book. Auntie Wassana mans her noodle stall and Mother Suree sets out her green papaya salad for sale. Mother Pensri sells illegal lottery tickets, and villagers weigh their chances of winning in the shadowy area where superstition and Buddhist belief meld. Dreams and omens pervade village life, affecting behaviour as directly as the weather. An ancient banyan tree becomes a barometer of the spiritual well-being of the village.

Monks, policemen and a schoolteacher debate the moral and historical health of the village although they themselves have hidden pasts (and sometimes a hidden present.) Drink problems

and trouble with prostitutes or minor wives are revealed as the plot unfolds. Leading woman characters seem disenchanted and less prone to the dreaming that their men experience, both literally and metaphorically. They are more workaday, less fantasist, stronger willed than their male companions. And although, as with all small communities, the protagonists nurse a sense of escapism, this remains for most of them no more than that last amber trickle at the bottom of a whisky glass — the 'moonshine' of the title. But there are exceptions. The return of Dee from the city is an eye-opener, and for some, the dream arrives bizarrely in the shape of a film crew recruiting villagers for a war film.

McNicoll has said her book has a 'soap operatic' style, and it does concern ordinary lives and how they become or fail to become extraordinary. The influence of Bangkok features large, and so does the Burmese border where illegal immigrants cross to find work in Thailand, not to mention the effect of western European tourists on traditional village life. The novel, being set in the eighties, accepts that 'traditional' includes televisions, fridges, cars and mopeds in the village — no mud huts or primitivism here.



The comparisons to any small community are only too obvious. Despite deaths and unrequited loves, despite dreams and belief in ghosts, village life will continue and change. Some people bemoan it while others embrace it. Some work for the greater good while others inhabit the moonshine stall. It is truly a naturalistic look at people and their reactions to ordinary events. This, plus the beautifully realised scents, smells and tastes of the village, make this a book that will inspire and satisfy.

**Moonshine in the Morning**  
Andrea McNicoll  
Alma Books,  
RRP £7.99  
ISBN 978-1-84688-069

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 since Friday 24th —Friday 31st october

## 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  
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 31ST

Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, cancelled, restart 24th October, 10.30am  
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick,

9.45am  
Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 2pm  
Children's Halloween Party, Kilmory Hall, 6pm  
Halloween Party, Montrose House, Guisers welcome to join in dooking apples etc., Montrose House, Brodick, 6pm  
Kids' Club, Games Night, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–8pm  
WRI Kildonan, Halloween Party, Kildonan Hall, dress up, 6.30  
Children's Halloween Party, Shiskine Hall, 7pm  
Arran Pipe Band Practice Session, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
Jazz Café—Halloween Dance, dress up & BYOB, Whiting Bay Hall, 8pm  
The Curse of Northend Thistle—Halloween Party, dress up, Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall, 8pm  
Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm  
Over 21's Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

## SATURDAY 1ST

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All day  
Autumn Fayre—BBQ, Tombola, Games, Raffles, Kilmory Primary School, 11.30am–1pm  
Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 11.30–12.30am  
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  
Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

## SUNDAY 2ND

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 3RD

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.30–10.30am & 10.45–11.45am  
Ways 2 Walk Group, Ormidale Pavillion Car Park, Brodick, 11am  
Kenneth Gibson MSP Surgery, Whiting Bay Hall, 11.30am–12.30pm  
Kenneth Gibson MSP Surgery, Pirnmill Hall, 13.30–14.30pm  
Scottish Country Dancers, Beginners & Improvers, Corrie Hall, 2pm  
Kenneth Gibson MSP Surgery, Brodick Health Centre, 15.15–16.15pm  
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  
Sannox Cricket Club AGM, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 7.30pm  
General Knowledge Quiz, Cameronia, Whiting Bay, 9.30pm

## TUESDAY 4TH

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 5TH

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  
Bonfire, Butterhill, Kilmory, 6.30pm  
Bonfire, Whiting Bay Beach beside the Putting Green, 6.30pm  
Hockey, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 7–8pm  
Arran Brass Band Rehearsal, Lesser Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.15–9.15  
Lamlash WRI, “The best of photography and how to get it” with Bill Cowal, Arran High School, Lamlash, 7.30pm  
AA Alcoholics Anonymous, Lamlash Church Hall, 8–9.30pm

## THURSDAY 6TH

Mugenkyo — Taiko Drummers, Lamlash Community Theatre, 7.30 pm  
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 8TH

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All day  
”.anishing Points”.mdash;Paintngs by Roberta McRae, Burnside Gallery, Brodick, 10.30 pm  
Safe the Children X-mas Fayre, Brodick Hall, 10.30am–1.30pm[B]  
[/B]Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 11.30am–12.30pm  
Family Games, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 3–4pm  
Fun in the Pool, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 4–5pm  
Lamlash Bonfire Night, 6.30pm  
Arran Music Society Concert—Mr. McFall's Chamber, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

## SUNDAY 9TH

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  
Corrie Film Club, “Jindabyne “(Australia 2006) by Ray Lawrence, Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 8pm

## PLAN AHEAD

Art Exhibition at Brodick Castle, 13th–16th November  
Schools' In-Service Day, Friday, 14th November 2008  
Farmers' Market, Kilmory Hall, Saturday, 22nd 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**

## Time of Day

I HAVE ONE of those magic clocks that is linked to Greenwich, or wherever time lives when it's at home, so it knows when changes happen, and adjusts itself. But last Saturday night it didn't. I looked at it on Sunday morning, expecting it to confirm that I was up an hour earlier than I would have been at the same time yesterday (isn't it difficult?) and it was still on the old time. Either Greenwich had blown up or my clock's battery was flat — which seemed more likely. I gave it a new battery, and it leapt into life, whirling its hands round until it reached 12.00 then panting for a bit while it thought about what to do next. The leaflet that came with it said it was 'seeking'. Rather sweet, really, like a spaniel scurrying in the undergrowth, tail wagging like mad. I left it to get on and when I next looked, it had connected with Greenwich again and was telling the new time, looking virtuous and efficient — which is difficult when the boffin who designed your case made you so thin that you fall over if anything shoogles the table.

The fax and the computer adjust themselves, which is nice, except

that the computer clock runs fast. I've never understood that, but at least it warns me not to believe that the cyber world is dependable. The electric cooker lost one of its timer buttons when the kitchen was smartened up, so its clock is only adjustable backwards, and the CD player is still flashing green figures from the last power cut. Well, they can wait until I've got time to fiddle with time. At least the clock in the car is right, because I never put it on for the summer anyway, so it's stopped being an hour out.

### ODD

When you come to think about it, isn't it odd that everyone in the country agrees on a set day to do everything an hour later throughout the winter — which is what it comes to? But then, clocks are a very human invention, designed to give us a hold on the passing of the day, much as money is designed to give a scale of agreed values. (Not that it works very well, as we are beginning to notice.) Nature doesn't have money, and it doesn't have clocks. Its worlds go round and round at their own

steady pace, sunrise, sunset, as it says in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Wild creatures get up at dawn and go to bed at dusk, except for the nocturnal ones who go hunting in the dark, and even they are responding to what is offered to them. Dark-time, and a sleeping sparrow may be snatched off a branch or a busy mouse turned into dinner. Day-time, and the buzzard can see down through the sky to a movement in the grass far below. It's only humans who get woken by alarm clocks and haul themselves out of their warm nests to make their way to strip-lit offices.

We're a terribly mad species, really. Why do we invent all these control systems and then let ourselves be controlled by them? All we really want to do is go on holiday and lie beside swimming pools, as inert as sleeping lizards until prompted by some bodily need to move, and then only as far as a tree's shade or the toilet or the restaurant. I suppose the problem is boredom, really. Looking at the frenzied traders tearing their hair before the shifting screens of the world's stock exchanges, it's hard to imagine them contentedly dozing under an apple tree with an

abandoned newspaper on the grass beside them. They'd probably be estimating the load per twig and calculating the profit margin in terms of various currencies.

If we didn't change our clock time in the spring and the autumn, would we start making our individual adjustments, I wonder? It would be much later in the morning before daylight staggered over the horizon, so the 8.20am boat would arrive in Ardrossan to find dawn barely breaking. Would we simply sleep on, refusing any proposed meetings that involved early rising? No, probably not. People do, after all, live in terrible places up there in the northern tundra, where the sun is no more than a yellow tiddly-wink that appears for a few minutes at mid-day, and by all reports (which are, admittedly, few) are no more insane than the rest of us. But then, here I am, writing this late on a Sunday night, without much of an eye on the inaccurate clock in the corner of the screen at all. Insane? Yes, probably. Pick your personal madness and your personal time, I say, and switch off the alarm.



## the Wee voice Books

By **Catherine McEachern**

ADVENTURES, MYSTERIES, challenges... Books can be so exciting that you sometimes wish that you could be in such a story ... that you, like Harry Potter, could receive a letter informing you that you had been accepted at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry...

Unfortunately though, it is always us that have to be the boring 'muggles', and have only to read about the thrilling adventures that we know could never really happen to us. It's pretty obvious that you wouldn't be able to go to a chocolate factory and find a land made of sweets and that you wouldn't find a

ring that can drive people crazy when they get a hold of it for too long. Yet Roald Dahl, Tolkien and JK Rowling pull you in to a make believe world which seems so real. They describe it so well that you almost feel and wish you were there. You believe that someone, in the face of death, in the nick of time, can manage to make a twenty metre leap across a pool of boiling lava (or chocolate) and survive. You believe that a school in the middle of Scotland has classes to teach potions and spells.

Some books are more realistic. The Tracy Beaker stories by Jacqueline Wilson are funny but they make you

think about some very difficult situations which many young people have to deal with.

Of course though, you do get the odd bad book which instead of making you want to stay up all night reading about the dangerous quests and goings on, makes you want to go to sleep and never pick it up again ... I don't read many like that.

*This week's Wee Voice is by Catherine McEachern and her secret owl.*





## PUT YOUR SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON OUR MESSAGE BOARD, FREE!

### SAVE THE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS FAYRE

BRODICK HALL  
SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER  
10.30AM-1.30PM  
TEA, COFFEE, SOUP &  
SANWICHES

BAKING, BRIC-A-BRAC, BOOKS,  
JEWELLERY, FACE PAINTING ETC.

TOMBOLA & RAFFLE

ALL WELCOME

### ROOTS OF ARRAN AGM Community Woodland Group

Fri 29 Nov 2008  
Ormidale Pavilion

6.00pm AGM  
7.30pm Presentations  
8.00 - 10pm Social: Music, chat, food & drink

MEMBERS & EVERYONE VERY WELCOME  
inc. children/Young Rooter activities.  
Interested? Become a director? Plant a tree?  
Find out more on the night or Tel 700640

### LAMLASH WRI MEETING

Wednesday 5th Nov @ 7.30pm in Arran  
High School  
Speaker - Bill Cowal - the best of  
photography and how to get it  
Competition - Action photo  
Exhibit - an old Photo  
Members are reminded to bring the  
appropriate remittance for the rally on 6th  
November.

### KILMORY PRIMARY SCHOOL

AUTUMN FAYRE  
at Kilmory School  
Sat. 1st November 11.30-1.00pm  
Bar-B-Cue (Braehead Beef)  
Tombola, Games, Raffles etc.

### Montrose House Guisers

The residents of  
Montrose House in  
Brodick are holding  
their traditional  
HALLOWE'EN PARTY  
on Friday 31st October  
from 6pm.  
They will be delighted  
to welcome guisers of  
all ages to join them  
in dooking for apples  
and other Halloween  
activities.

Please come along.

### Royal British Legion Arran Branch Social Meeting

The final social meeting  
of the year will take place  
at 2.00pm on Thursday  
6th. of November in the  
Ormidale Hotel Brodick,  
the speaker will be  
from Erskine Hospital  
Bishopton.  
All Welcome

### Sunday 9th November

Please note a change to our  
remembrance service at Whiting Bay  
and Kildonan Church. We will begin  
the service at the war memorial in the  
grounds of the church at 10.55am. We will  
observe the two minutes silence outside  
then go into the church for a shortened  
service. It is hoped that members of the  
community feel that they can come and  
join us to remember all those who gave  
their lives. Also to remember all our  
service men and women serving around  
the world.

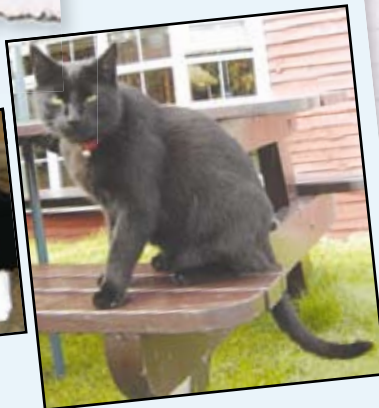
### Gaelic Weekend on Gigha

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.

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.

### The Arran Childminders group

The Arran Childminders group is holding a  
bingo night at Whiting Bay Golf Club on 15th  
November to raise funds to cover the group's  
regular trips away. Some of the funds raised  
will also be used to donate some portable  
DVD players to the Arran War Memorial  
Hospital. The event promises to be a fun  
night for all the family and all are 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)

### 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.

# Rescue from Horse Island

By John Kinsman,  
Fishing Correspondent

THREE PEOPLE WERE transferred to hospital suffering from shock after their yacht ran around and was holed on the rocks at Horse Island off the coast of Ardrossan last Wednesday. The crew of the yacht ENCORE contacted Clyde Coastguards at Greenock at around 7pm to report that they had run aground on the rocks in severe weather conditions and that their 36-foot craft had suffered serious damage. A Mayday message went out to all vessels in the area and the Ardrossan Volunteer Coastguard Rescue team went to the aid of the stricken yacht.

A Royal Navy Rescue Helicopter from HMS Gannet was scrambled and arrived on the scene with a few minutes of the call to airlift the three people on board to Crosshouse Hospital. The Troon all-weather lifeboat also attended the scene.

Clyde Coastguard Watch Manager Tarik Yassin said: "The crew aboard this vessel were lucky that rescue resources were on the scene within minutes of their being tasked, as, with the vessel holed on the rocks in gale force 8 winds, they were in an extremely dangerous situation. We would like to remind members of the public to ensure that they check the weather forecast before they embark on a journey, and consider whether their craft is suitable for these conditions."

The 36-ft ENCORE remained on the rocks at Horse Island through the night and coastguards advised other vessels to keep a sharp lookout for the yacht until arrangements were made to salvage the craft.

## Whiting Bay Improvements AGM

THE AGM OF the Whiting Bay Improvements Committee will be on Sunday November 9th at 4.00pm in Whiting Bay Hall. All members of the village community are warmly invited to come for a further discussion of future plans for the village and a report on what has already been done.





# Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**  
*Amateur Meteorologist*

## SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S FORECAST

Thursday, Friday and Saturday went according to plan. So did Sunday except that the "odd shower" happened a lot and was of the drenching variety. Monday was a bit mixed but beautiful on the mainland.

A big vote of thanks to CalMac for sailing in such atrocious conditions. OK, there were some diversions and cancellations, but they pulled out the stops with extra sailings to clear the backlog when the winds eased on Saturday.

## General Summary for 30th October to 3rd November:

The high pressure to the west and low in the east combined to bring that very cold air down from the Arctic in the earlier part of the week. Then the low pressure became a bit flat mid-week, still bringing very cold weather to the UK, and started to move south. This will allow a large area of high pressure to move in from the west and dominate our weather over the weekend. It will drift slowly eastwards leaving us with a slack period. There will be light variable winds mainly from the north, then shifting to the south west, and, wait for it — no rain.



### Thursday

A very pleasant autumnal day. Very cold (7°C) with some clouds about together with some most welcome sunshine. Winds will be light from the north east. There may be some clouds drifting in during the afternoon and evening but no rain and there could still be an overnight frost.



### Friday

Best day we have seen for a while, I think. Lots of sunshine all day, although still very cold in the northerly breeze. Get wrapped up and out if you can.



### Saturday

The wind will shift round to the east in the morning, keeping things on the chilly side under clear sunny skies. By afternoon a switch to the south west may make it feel more pleasant by a degree or so, but it will cloud over later in the evening. Another stoater of a day for all outdoor activities. The ground may be a bit hard at first from the frost but it will be a great, if short afternoon.



### Sunday

That lovely autumnal weather is due to stay with us. In a light easterly breeze it will be cold and crisp, just the way it should be. Morning probably best for those outdoor activities. More cloud coming in later around tea time, and this could keep the frost at bay.



### Monday

There seems to be more in the way of cloud which may bring the odd wintry shower, but generally it will stay dry in most places, with temperatures increasing by a degree or two.

## Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

There is a big low pressure area up by Iceland which may start to affect our weather from the middle of next week. Look out for showers and fresher winds from the south. Until then it's looking dry and not quite so cold.

## Ferry Notes

Winds are very light during this slack period and I anticipate no disruptions.

# 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
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Paper thickness					
Photo quality					
Price of the paper					
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News reporting					
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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](http://www.arranvoice.com). The winner will be announced in our issue of **Thursday, November 27th 2008**.

GOOD LUCK!



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**ONE NIGHT ONLY!**  
Friday 7 November, 7.00pm  
Arran High School (Lamlash)  
£3 per child, accompanying adults FREE

Box Office: Arran Library  
01770 302835

# Balloons — a send-up!

*BALLOONS* IS SET in a future that might be closer than we think. The sea level is rising and NAC has morphed into a body called the Office of Privatised Island Services (OPFIS). They intend to build a wall, as their boss bad-temperedly puts it, 'right round the whole blasted island.' Arran folk regard this as ridiculous. They are set on building huts on the dry land up the hill, village envelope or no village envelope.

Meanwhile a bright Arran businesswoman devises the idea of light-weight plastic houses suspended by balloons and thus needing no land at all. A troupe of dizzy young hoofers (including John Tilbury in a ra-ra skirt) is promoting this even dafter idea. The



*It takes two.  
Alan Nicol  
and Stuart  
Gough know  
how to tango.*

islanders plead for common sense — but who will listen?

In this surreal situation, the art of 'spin' is shown up as the con trick it is and bureaucrat-speak is sent up, and up — and even further up. Unlikely people fall in love, the spirit of Arran manifests itself in a Paisley tenement and songs are sung that linger long in the mind. As the pace of rehearsal quickens, many of Arran's most experienced actors are developing their roles into performances that look set to be truly memorable, and laughter mixes with wonderful music.

*Balloons* will run from November 12–15 in the Community Theatre at the High School, and tickets go on sale this week at the Book and Card Centre.



*Spirits are high amongst the Balloons cast as they prepare for the show*



## Cheque for German studies

**JULIE HUTCHISON**, Vice Captain, accepts a generous cheque on behalf of Arran High School. This donation was given by Hochtief in conjunction with Youthbridge and the British-German Association to further promote the study of German in British Schools.



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# Coffee Morning



Photos by  
Arran Photography.



LAMLASH PRIMARY SCHOOL Parents Council would like to thank all the parents and friends who made such a delicious mountain of cakes and buns for the coffee morning

Despite the appalling weather on Saturday the hardy souls of Lamlash braved all to make the coffee morning the success it was and helped to raise an amazing £416.00

Ninna Crisp, Chair of the Parent Council, said she was 'delighted with the amount raised and the generosity of everyone who came.' She also thanked Arran Provisions and Lamlash Co-op for their support.



## Corrie gig raises roof

AN ECLECTIC CREW of musicians livened up the Corrie hall last Saturday as part of Iain MacLean's fundraiser night. It drew an appreciative crowd, and some good dancing polished up the Corrie floorboards. Terry Moran had the pleasure of acting as MC and played a few surprise tunes during the evening. Iain and Annita Gaily from Aberdeen also entertained with some soulful, at times Spanish-style folk-rock before Tom Buchan took to the stage with a debut of the Keech Stripes, and his gutsy set upped the proverbial ante.

Scott Dude played out of his skin on the drums, and Iain MacLean noted some stand-out musical highlights, including a full-throated rendition of *Mustang Sally* by Simon Thorburn. John Fitzpatrick's talented willingness to join in with everybody on any stringed instrument joined brilliantly with Rowan's backing vocals and Frazer on muffled tambourine. Iain said his his own personal high point of the evening was a mature pillar of Corrie Society dancing to *Sweet Home Alabama* — and she knew the words! The night raised £300 despite organisers forgetting to raffle the bottle.

# Merde Alors!

By Alasdair Smith

WHAT IS IT about dogs; or more specifically their owners? The French have dogs. The French love dogs. Anywhere you go in France you'll come across a dog. What you don't come up against quite so often is dog mess. They care for their dogs and make them use those strange hole in the floor toilets you don't see so much of anymore in France (OK, I made that last bit up, but you know what I mean.)

What I really want to say is that dogs are all well and good. They are man's best friend, provide companionship for little old ladies and are fashion accessories to celebrities across the world; if someone mentions Paris Hilton, you automatically think "dog" do you not?

But by virtue of being one of our living creatures, they also have needs. Some of these needs don't interfere with my life very much. I don't really know any dogs, so never have to shake one off my leg when it chooses to get a little fruity. But their digestive and waste management systems do bother me. They bother me specifically when I'm taking my kids to school and have to negotiate the pavement slalom of steaming residue left by inconsiderate and frankly pig-ignorant dog owners.

My dad wasn't a great fan of dogs. "I'd shoot the lot of them!" he'd say. He used to hold his walking stick to his shoulder and fire imaginary bullets at all the canines he saw walking through the park across from his little flat. While this may be a little extreme, I understand what it was that bothered him. He didn't mind dogs really. He even owned a few dogs in his time — but his point was, if you're going to take responsibility for one, then you have to take responsibility for the mess it leaves.

Dog poo is disgusting. It stinks. It is a public health hazard and nobody likes to have to scrape it from those little grooves in their trainers with a toothpick. So, to everyone out there with a four-legged friend, enjoy the companionship by all means, revel in the brisk walks in this autumn weather — but always make sure you have a plentiful supply of those handy little plastic bags.



**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  
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## 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

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## Passengers queasy after rough crossing

A NUMBER OF passengers travelling on the Ardrossan to Brodick ferry last Saturday were left feeling a wee bit sick, as the boat rocked on a particularly heavy swell. 'I didn't notice anything untoward until we got into Ardrossan Harbour and there was a big tilt to port,' said a High Corrie man who was on the later sailing from Brodick. 'It took a fair old heave-ho and there was a crash of plates heard coming from the kitchen. I was having a wee sleep in the cafeteria.' He did spot a few folks who were more affected by the choppy weather. 'There were a couple of ladies who got led through looking a bit grey.' He explained that the sea was rolling from a south-westerly direction, which carried the boat reasonably evenly across some choppy waves. 'Hat off to the skipper. He did a good job.'

Arran's own musical

# BALLOONS

at Community Theatre, Lamlash

If you've ever muttered about bureaucracy, don't  
miss this — it's the send-up to end them all!

**Tuesday 12th November to  
Saturday 15th November, at 8.00pm**

Tickets £8 (£6 concession) from the  
Book and Card Centre from 1st November

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## Puppy Diary

By Margaret Kay

BELLA, MY THREE year old Yorkshire Terrier is about to have her first litter of pups. They are due around 4th November and readers in the next few weeks might enjoy a 'Puppy Diary' about Bella and her babies.



I have been breeding Yorkshire Terriers for 25 years and am an Accredited Breeder with The Kennel Club, which means that I have to adhere to their requirements about responsible dog breeding and the welfare of the puppy — all of which I was doing before the introduction of the scheme in 2004. Contrary to suggestions in the recent television coverage on dog breeding, there are huge numbers of us out here who care passionately about our dogs and about breeding healthy, well adjusted puppies. Hopefully Bella's diary will go some way to illustrating that.

Anyway, back to Bella and the preparation for her babies. I am now just at the stage where the whelping box is being brought out and dusted down so she can get used to it before her pups are born. The older "girls" who have all had pups respond to this with great excitement, but Bella just looks on, wondering what all the fuss is about. The next step is to get her lots of disposable bedding material. Fortunately, I have a great source of old newspapers. These are used to line the box and make a deep nest, as when the puppies are ready to come into the world, Bella will follow the primitive urge to dig as she would do in the wild. She will keep shredding the paper until she is ready to deliver puppy No. 1 — then she will vigorously attend to this pup until the second delivery is imminent. From then on in, her attention will need to be divided — not just for the birth, but for the next eight or nine weeks at least!

Bella's priorities at the moment are sleeping and eating — probably in that order. She is reluctant to 'shake a leg' in the mornings, at least not until she has had her scrambled egg and even then, if it's raining the way it has been, it's essential to get her out before she sneaks back off to bed. However once we persuade her onto the beach or up the forestry paths she careers up hills or over rocks, and I often hope that the wee pups inside her are either tucked well up or are wearing crash helmets!



She is having extra feeds at the moment as her tummy is being squeezed up behind the bulk of the pups, so she doesn't have room for a normal sized dinner all at one go. The others dogs in the house form an orderly queue behind her, just in case she doesn't want everything on the plate.

In the evenings she likes to stretch out and have her tummy tickled and if I place my hand gently on her side, I can often feel a puppy having a wriggle, just to get a bit more comfy. Bella is a very laid-back dog and if her pups are even half as nice as she is then I will be lucky — as will the families who are lucky enough to 'pass the test' to have one!



# Getting to know Bill and Aileen McLaughlin

By Alison Prince

AT GLASGOW University, Bill was a member of the all-conquering Debating team which still holds the record for winning the British Universities Championship — an achievement which will come as no surprise to those of us familiar with his fluency of thought and words. He met Aileen there, and they married in 1961. By May 1965 they had three children, Fiona, now Fiona McMaster, then Angus and Donald. Once the children were settled at school, Aileen decided to enter teaching and trained at St Andrew's College. 'She says I'm not to mention that she graduated summa cum laude and had been Dux of Hutchie — so I won't,' Bill promises.

Aileen's parents had met in Whiting Bay and Bill's family had come frequently to the island since he was six years old. In 1972 he and Aileen bought Taigh-an-Dara in Whiting Bay. 'It was the best investment we could have made,' he says. 'We are lucky enough to have five of our ten grandchildren living on the Island and another five who love coming here.' But there is a lot more to the McLaughlins than grand-parenthood.

Bill left computing at the end of 1987 and joined 'Centre Stage', a company that organised conferences. Part of the service provided was a star performer to warm up the audience, and it was Bill's job to represent the star during the dummy run, performing for exactly the same length of time. Warming up on behalf of Roy Castle, Bill did his take-off of Chic Murray, with the entire Board watching.

At the end of the 'real' show the next day, Roy thanked everyone for their help, but said with a laugh, "As for you Bill, I will never speak to you again — the Board thought you were funnier than I was!"

When Louise John, the owner of Centre Stage, sold the company and moved to the Caribbean, she and Bill remained great friends, and in 1994 she invited him to run a couple of Burns Suppers in Antigua. 'The idea was for me to train the local people to do the grace, sing the songs and recite a poem or two,' Bill explains, 'and I would whatever they couldn't manage.' Needless to say, it was a triumph and led to annual repeat performances. In 1996, just before the Suppers were due, Louise phoned asking for a piper, as theirs had left. Bill took his friend Niall MacDonald, who with his wife Elspeth formed a great partnership with Bill and Aileen. Bill remembers Elspeth singing one of the songs from *The Jolly Beggars*, written for the part of a prostitute. 'Tricky,' he said, 'for one who was an Elder of The Kirk!'

Music and drama were happening on Arran, too. Bill was a founder member of the Folk Festival and was Chairman in 1991 and '92. In what was then called 'the G&S' he played the eponymous lead part in *The Mikado* and Big Jules in *Guys and Dolls*. He was Rabbie Burns in the Theatre and Arts production of *The Jolly Beggars* — and of course he had long been a member of a professional group, 'The Folkal C#ords', with

whom he sang and played banjo, ukulele and occasionally guitar.

## DEVOTED GUEST

In 1984 they did weekend stints at the Douglas Hotel, where one guest in particular always took a table in the front row. His name was Gordon Brown — an MP, they were told. They sang in the Perishers Bar, which was crammed with Arran folk as well as the submariners who gave it its name. The band became the resident Saturday night entertainment at the Cameronia but, as Bill recalls, it was 'almost too attractive. Mary asked us if we could have an interval every twenty minutes so that the glasses could be passed to the bar as nobody could get to or from it.'

At a fund raiser for Whiting Bay Hall they were billed with The Kilmory Singers, and Ile Ash and Ailsa McNicol asked if they could join him to do some of 'these funny Vaudeville songs' — and so Alibi was born. The blend of soprano, contralto and baritone was a huge success. Moira McKechnie asked them to support a choir, of which her brother was a member, called Spectrum, and Bill, ever modest, recalls, 'We sat in the changing room quivering with fright at having to follow such an amazing group.' Their greatest honour was being asked to open the first Antigua Music Festival, by invitation from the Antiguan government. They appeared several times on radio and television as well as doing outreach for the local schools and



playing to a packed house at the festival itself. Aileen, much valued on Arran as a quietly fabulous organiser, managed the tour and acted as driver. She gave her own presentation on 'Arran and Antigua' so that school children could compare and contrast the two Islands — 'and even the members of Alibi sat entranced,' Bill remembers.

Aileen is still Treasurer of Feis Arainn, an Island institution with hundreds of youngsters attending over the past decade and many returning year after year. It was she who urged Bill to write a book about Molaise, the saint of the Holy Isle, to give a tangible form to what he calls 'years of enjoyable research.' On their next winter visit to Spain she took three blocks of writing paper, all his notes and his six most frequently used reference books. The draft of the book was completed on the day before their return. The first edition had to be reprinted and it is now in its second edition.

*Verse and Inverse*, as Bill called his volume of 'a lifetime's poetic meanderings' met with similar success, and this year saw the production of his play *The Sleeping Warrior*, loosely based on the story of Molaise, in the Community Theatre. 'The cast was terrific' said Bill. 'All I did was write a script.' But a McLaughlin 'all' is a lot bigger than most people's.

## Love (3)

By George Herbert, 1593–1633

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lacked anything.

"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be here":  
Love said, "You shall be he."  
"I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
I cannot look on thee."  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
"Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord; but I have marred them; let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve."  
"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"  
"My dear, then I will serve."  
"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."  
So I did sit and eat.

A Welsh orator, priest and poet, George Herbert has a neat economy of metric style that makes him seem far more modern than he is.

Poem  
of the week

## 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.

### The Burnside

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

### 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)

### CLASH OF DATES!

We realise that many of The Burnside regulars who would normally be at a gallery opening night, especially one with such an exciting, emerging artist as Roberta MacRae, would also wish to attend the unusual and very topical 'Question Time' evening on 7th November 2008. Because of this and with the artist's agreement we have cancelled the private view on the 7th November and will instead have an open day on Saturday 8th November from 11.00am until 4.00pm when anyone on the island is very welcome to come along for a coffee or glass of wine while viewing the new paintings and meeting the artist herself as Roberta will be in the gallery to discuss her work.



# Arran Community Council minutes



Meeting held on Tuesday 30th September 2008

Those present were: Campbell Laing, Chair (CL), Alison Prince, Secretary (AP), Cllr Margie Currie (MC), Harry Davidson (HDn), Ian Small (IS), Scott McMurray (SMc), Neil Arthur (NA), Howard Driver (HD), Gillian Langley (GL), John Inglis (JI), Jenny Meade (JM), and Richard McMaster (RMc).

Apologies were received from Brenda Stewart and Willie Kelso.

This being the first meeting after the ACC elections, CL welcomed new members JM, for Lamlash, and RMc for Kildonan and Kilmory. They replace Maureen Smith and Alistair Yates respectively. Steve Garroway also resigned, and will be replaced by Willie Kelso.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CL and AP were re-elected as Chairman and Secretary respectively. BS wished to stand down as Treasurer, and HDn agreed to take over this office. A vote of thanks to BS was agreed for her long service as Treasurer despite suffering from ill-health.

## CORRESPONDENCE

The Scottish Government Pilot Scheme for Community Councils to control significant amounts of money has selected ACC as its representative rural CC, with one of the Glasgow CCs as the urban one. It is proposed that ACC should administer the use of £10,000 for a chosen benefit to the Arran community. The letter was received in early September, and CL had written back

to express interest. NA said it must be made clear that ACC was a non-political body. CL agreed, but said it was an honour for Arran to be selected, and the progress of the scheme would be closely watched by those interested in expanding the scheme. MC said some of the money would be needed for professional administrative help, and this was agreed. The proposal was accepted unanimously. The next stage will be a November meeting involving representatives of the Scottish Government, NAC and ACC.

- Several members had received letters allowing further input to the Marine Harvest appeal against the decision to refuse a new and larger fish farm at Clauchlands. The Reporter who conducted a site survey on August 12 was concerned that the origin and nature of the appeal had not been made clear, so further opinion was to be considered. ACC opposition to the appeal remains adamant, and has been expressed in letters from CL, AP and others.
- The digital loop at BBC Scotland will affect all TVs, and meetings are to be held to consider local implications.
- A letter from Energy4All Ltd urged communities to take an interest in renewable energy schemes, and said there was support available.
- A further Planning Aid event is to be held in Ardrossan in November. CL handed out Planning Aid packs to those who were unable to attend

the Brodick seminar and stressed the usefulness of the event.

- The ASCC (Association of Scottish Community Councils) conference is to be held at the Scottish Parliament on November 22nd. CL expressed an interest in attending.

## AOCB

- CL asked all members to read the ACC constitution carefully, as changes had been suggested and it is important to update it where necessary.
- The newly-formed Arran Environmental Forum (AEF), set up to provide a united voice for all existing environmental bodies on Arran, asked if ACC would consider joining it as a corporate member. NA pointed out that this might involve a clash with existing commitments. It was agreed that AP should ask AEF to provide a copy of their constitution so that this can be clarified.
- HD has a meeting with NAC on October 10th, and asked that any member with concerns on planning matters should contact him.
- David Christisen, chair of the Youth Forum, will be coming to speak at the next ACC meeting.
- NA pointed to the appalling state of the String road, despite recent works. MC said NAC had 'an ongoing issue' with the contractors concerned. Proposed white lining has been held off until the surface is properly finished. All members agreed that the present situation is dangerous and may well lead to a bad accident.

- MC congratulated HDn on his work in securing the last stage of funding for the Brodick footpath to lead via a new bridge from the Pier to the village centre. MC said yellow lines and two zebra crossings would be provided in Brodick in association with the project, to restrict parking in the narrow area at the Glencloy Co-op and at the Pier, and to assist pedestrians in crossing the road safely.
- MC reported on the Corrie multi-use track and said provision of this was probably two years away, but NAC would bring forward better signage and white lining on the Brodick-Corrie road. £500,000 was to be spent on these improvements and others on Arran during the coming winter. Meanwhile, leaflets on safer road use were to be produced and circulated, and NA suggested that cycle hire businesses should be supplied with these.
- JI asked if AP had written to National Trust Scotland with a polite request that a decision be made on land use for the multi-purpose track, and she confirmed that this had been done. No answer had yet been received.
- Last week, the No Take Zone in Lamlash Bay became law, and CL asked that congratulations be recorded from ACC to COAST on their magnificent achievement. Warm agreement was expressed by all members.

# Recipe

By Stacie Lindsay

## PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE

### Ingredients

- 225g/8oz digestive biscuits
- 60g/2oz butter
- juice and zest 1 lemon
- 340g/12oz cooked pumpkin (steamed or roasted)
- 225g/8oz caster sugar
- 450g/1lb cream cheese
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2.5g/½ tsp freshly grated nutmeg
- 4 eggs
- 90ml/3fl oz double cream
- 90ml/3fl oz natural yoghurt

### Method

- Heat the oven to 170°C/325°F/ Gas 3.
- Bash the digestive biscuits into crumbs. Melt the butter over a low heat and mix in the biscuit crumbs and lemon zest. Lightly grease a 25cm/10in loose-bottomed cake tin and press the crumbs into the base and up the sides slightly.
- Mix together the cream cheese, pumpkin flesh, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg until smooth. Beat the eggs and fold into the pumpkin mixture. Turn into the tin and bake in the oven for 90 minutes until the surface is set but the underneath still slightly squidgy.
- Take the cheesecake out of the oven and let it cool in the tin. When cool, turn it on to a serving plate, cover with foodwrap and chill overnight.
- Whip the double cream until thick and fold in the yoghurt and the lemon juice. Spread over the top of the cheesecake and serve at room temperature.



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# Arran Brewery makes another Milestone

By Willie Hamilton

AYRSHIRE'S 9th Real Ale festival took place at the Troon Concert Hall recently and was an overwhelming success. All credit to the CAMRA boys and girls, who gave up time and effort to provide a range of 100 cask ales from all over the country!

If you can imagine your local town hall being transformed into one large sprawling pub full of connoisseurs of the wheat germ or hop, stovies, 'killie' pies, mad singing bands and many braw lookin' lads and lassies, there was a recipe for much merriment.

The 9th Ayrshire Real Ale Festival has surpassed its predecessors in each and every context. Numbers of beers, number in attendance, professionally produced and controlled from start on Thursday through to a very hazy Sunday morning clear up.

Dezine and Steerach (who play at the Castlehill Taverna in Ardrossan) had vanquished the Tartan Army drowning their sorrows, with many a tender behind being flashed as some of the jovial crew got a bit feisty.

I truly had an immense feeling of pride when they announced the winner of Best Bottle Conditioned Beer ... Arran Milestone! I nearly dropped my pint glass (just in order to go and get a re-fill). But the mysterious dark stranger in our range, wading in at a hefty alc. 6.0% vol outshone the best of the nation's beers.

The recovering Arran Brewery is now well and truly on the road with a cry from all and sundry, 'thank goodness you're back guys.' To all the workers who have persevered recently,

through uncertain times, the future is looking very promising indeed, and to see how well-revered the Arran range is, and how it sits right up there with the very best, makes you realise that we have a product and working plant which is unique and enjoyed worldwide.

Wooley's bakery provided some famous oatcakes, which were being strewn with various types of Arran Cheese Co. brands. These complemented the convivial atmosphere and fortified the 'feeling' for all things Arran in the hall. There was a genuine sense that each Arran product was supporting the other, not only in name, but in quality and expertise. So thanks again to Lindsay and others who supported the Brewery's interest! This has been reciprocated in many visits to mainland restaurants and kitchens where self-promotion involves understanding just how well-established and respected our Arran brands have become.

Last night, before I wrote this article, I had the great pleasure of meeting a 30-something American international jet-setter who was preparing to fly at 5am from Prestwick. I noticed he had a 330ml 'ab blonde' bottle, which had been installed the day previously.

Needless to say, a couple of hours later, he had worked his way through Milestone, Blonde, Dark, Sunset and Ale, giving a 'thumbs up' to each one and a head down after the last — and probably conked out in his hotel room.

To Graeme, Douglas and all at CAMRA, keep up the good work. Can't wait until next year.

# Lardner lends support to red squirrels

**Tory candidate sees first hand need for Arran squirrel officer**

TORY WESTMINSTER candidate Philip Lardner visited Arran last weekend to gather local support for the conservation of red squirrels on the island. Philip met informally with local Conservative party supporters and said he was convinced of the tourism and biodiversity benefits that follow from the appointment of dedicated red squirrel officer on Arran. Until recently Shona Robertson has acted as Ayrshire's Red Squirrel Officer.

'Red Squirrels are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, but the biggest danger on Arran is currently the accidental deaths caused by drivers,' said Mr Lardner, who encountered a squirrel fatality near Strabane last weekend. 'Many of the island's trees are to be found along the sides of roads, and the squirrels often run out into the middle to gather fallen nuts. Following the meeting, some of us braved the weather to have a look at them in Brodick Castle grounds, but unfortunately I came across this wee fellow just along the road. It's hoped we can get signs up around the island where the squirrels are most vulnerable to traffic. Hopefully drivers will slow down to avoid running them over, and in doing so get a chance to enjoy seeing them up close.'

Mr Lardner pointed out that it is an offence to release a grey squirrel into the wild anywhere in the UK, and it is vital that Greys do not reach Arran. 'People should take the

utmost care that they do not accidentally carry grey squirrels to Arran in loads of wood, straw or other materials,' he said. 'It's thought that this is how they got to the Highlands, and took the squirrel pox virus with them — it is harmless to the Greys but fatal to the Reds.'

The Tory candidate also visited the Arran Brewery, where he outlined his concept for a squirrel-orientated 'Arran Red' ale to Elisabeth Roberts of the Brewery. It may turn out to be another award-winner if a certain local brewing genius runs with the idea.

Lardner's conservation ideas tie in with current forestry policy to make the island a 'red squirrel stronghold' (see Full Circle? Arran Voice, 9th November 2007).



*Philip Lardner said that he was sorry to be able to send a photo of 'a poor wee fellow which very graphically backs up the discussion at our Saturday meeting'*

## News from the Blues



Friday 24th October — 4.30pm, Shore Road, Lamlash. Police are appealing to any drivers or pedestrians who may have witnessed a Road Traffic incident in which a young Lamlash boy was knocked off his bike. Fortunately the wee lad was unhurt. If you have any information regarding the accident please contact Lamlash Police Station.

The weekend vehicle Winter Safety initiative was successful, with 150 cars being checked. There were various Vehicle Rectification Tickets issued, mainly for registration plates, seat belts, road tax discs, defective tyres and suspension faults.

Last Friday, the police safety presentation at the Co-op took place on one of the worst days, weather-wise, that we have yet seen this winter, and there were far fewer shoppers about than usual. One officer said, 'We sat there for five hours and it was freezing.' However, a good few people came in, and everyone found it extremely interesting.



## All Welcome

### Scottish Episcopal Church

(in full communion with the Church of England)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday, 2nd November: Holy Communion,

11.00am. Revd Paul Fletcher. Coffee after service.

Wednesday, 5th November: Holy Communion,

12.15pm. All Welcome

### Church of Scotland

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 2nd November Rev. Gilleen Maclean

Kilmory 10am - Lamlash 11.30am

In both churches - Sacrament of Communion

All welcome

### Arran Free Church of Scotland

2nd November 2008

Shiskine, 11am, Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday School meets in the Church Hall

Brodick, 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)

Rev David Karoon All Welcome, Tel:860426

### Arran Baptist Church

Sunday 2nd November in the Ormidale Pavilion,

Brodick. 10.45 Communion, Tea and coffee from

11.10 Everyone welcome

### Arran Free Church of Scotland

(continuing) Sunday 2nd November, 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 5 Glen Road, 7pm

Prayer Meeting Wednesday 5th, 7pm

Rev.D.Macleod All welcome

### Church of Scotland,

Parishes of North Arran; Brodick, Corrie,

Lochransa, Pirmill and Shiskine

Independent but working together.

Minister Rev. Angus Adamson, Parish Assistant,

Mrs Jean Hunter

Worship will be conducted at the following times:

Sunday 2nd November

Brodick Church 10.30am, Sacrament of the

Lord's Supper - Corrie Church 12 noon,

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper - Corrie Church

6.30pm, Service of Thanksgiving - Lochranza

10.15am - Pirmill Church 10.45am - Shiskine

Church 12 noon A service of Worship will also

be held in Montrose House 1.30pm, Sacrament

of the Lord's Supper

### Holy Cross Catholic Church

Sunday Morning Mass 11am

Mass in Polish 4.30pm

### Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland

Sunday 2nd November 2008 The Sacrament of

Communion will be celebrated by the minister,

Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. All welcome.

The Young People's Church will meet as usual

in the Hall. Tea and coffee will be served in the

Transept after the service. There will be a service

in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm and in Craigielea at

3.15pm. All welcome.

### Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Meeting for Worship, Sunday 2nd November at

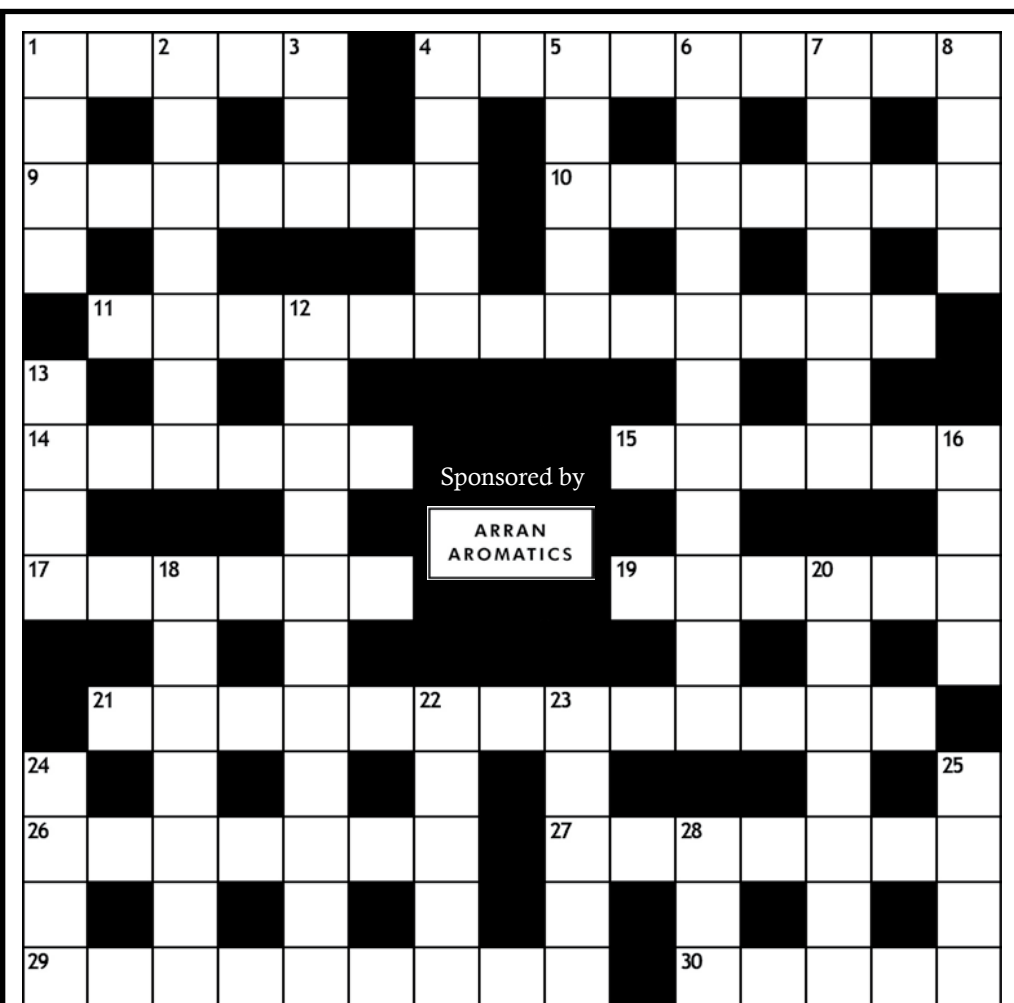
11 Glen Estate, Glencloy Road, Brodick at 11am.

Enquiries to Jeny 302779. All welcome.



# Weekly Prize Crossword

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

**ARRAN  
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**Win an Arran Aromatics gift box worth £30 this week**
**You have until Tuesday, 11 November 2008 to send in your completed cryptic crossword.**
**This week's crossword sponsored by Arran Aromatics, Tel: 01770 302595, Website: [www.arranaromatics.com](http://www.arranaromatics.com). Winners are asked to contact the shop before collecting their prize.**
**Answers to Issue 80's crossword can be found on page 19.**


Sponsored by

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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](mailto:info@arranvoice.com), with the word "Crossword - Issue 82" in the subject line.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone/E-mail: .....

## Cryptic Clues

### Across

- 1 Bird fleet (5)
- 4 Flatter pudding, say (5,4)
- 9 Tropical storm bike around reverse refusal (7)
- 10 Foreign letter sounds like man from seaside town (7)
- 11 It hampers heat stadia (13)
- 14 Undertone about two drinks (6)
- 15 University union for both men and women (6)
- 17 Avaricious ashen surrounding journalist (6)
- 19 Veto a not applicable fruit (6)
- 21 Survive mixed windswept and wrinkled (13)
- 26 Goa powder mixed Arab oar (7)
- 27 Football Association Conservative Conservative shop floor (7)
- 29 Fasten pierces refuges (9)
- 30 The objective ego topic (5)

### Down

- 1 Dress fire (4)
- 2 Settler earnings right (7)
- 3 Overly besides (3)
- 4 Perfume roused to ecstasy by the sound of it! (5)
- 5 Ages English scrub (5)
- 6 Trumpet sound pitch a brown pitch note (11)
- 7 Rouses attentive bridge partners (7)
- 8 Water sprite loses unknown seaweed (4)
- 12 Dog's canine textile pattern (11)
- 13 Reversed glues make complacent (4)
- 16 Photograph unknown beam (1,3)
- 18 Confront watch globe (7)
- 20 Fear more than one — Amazing! (7)
- 22 Modern communication — a mile (5)
- 23 Shines experts (5)
- 24 Tail owner, or tale writer! (4)
- 25 Cowshed theatre (4)
- 28 Scanner (3)

## Quick Clues — just for fun!

### Across

- 1 Thread (5)
- 4 Employment Agency (3,6)
- 9 Thick oatcake (7)
- 10 Depose from priesthood (7)
- 11 Defencelessness (13)
- 12 Tree bearing oranges or lemons (6)
- 13 Infecund (6)
- 17 Expert or intellectual (6)
- 18 Tree of the salix family (6)
- 21 Native land (6,7)
- 26 Cells arranged to produce electricity (7)
- 27 Swinglike apparatus (7)
- 29 Strangles (8)
- 30 True (5)

### Down

- 1 White lies (4)
- 2 Feast (7)
- 3 Sense of self (3)
- 4 Jester (5)
- 5 Advert (5)
- 6 Removing dead skin (11)
- 7 Pig's foot (7)
- 8 Moose (4)
- 12 Sustenance (11)
- 13 Blackleg (4)
- 16 Amphibian (4)
- 18 Vagrant (7)
- 20 Theft (7)
- 22 Kingly (5)
- 23 Vows (5)
- 24 Help (4)
- 25 Enthusiasm (4)
- 28 Hole borer (3)

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## Issue 80 Crossword Answers

### Cryptic Answers

Across: 1 Paper; 4 Berserk; 8 Double Dealing; 9 Energy; 10 Bureau; 12 Bingo; 14,18dn At The Wheel; 15 Excise; 16 Window; 20 Primogeniture; 22 Regular; 23 Yokel.

Down: 1 Padre; 2 Pause; 3 Religions; 4 Beds; 5 Ria; 6 Eminent; 7 Kagoule; 11 Unanimity; 12 Bleeper; 13 Necking; 17 Drunk; 19 Bear; 21 Oil.

### Quick Answers

Across: 1 Maple; 4 Failure; 8 Ready Reckoner; 9 Action; 10 Citric; 12 Hippo; 14 Crepe; 15 Relays; 16 Apache; 20 Househusbands; 22 Yielded; 23 Elope.

Down: 1 Maria; 2 Plant; 3 Etymology; 4 Feet; 5 Irk; 6 Unnerve; 7 Earache; 11 Incapable; 12 Harshly; 13 Pollute; 17 Canto; 18 Ensue; 19 Curd; 21 End.

### Winner of Issue 80 Crossword:

Congratulations to **Y.Weir** — **Lamlash** who wins the gift voucher this week.

## Issue 81 Sudoku & Kakuro Solutions

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

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

15	38			8	10			
12	7	5	14		4	9	34	
20	8	9	3	9	11	3	1	7
	15	8	2	4	1	3	2	1
24								
28	8	6	9	5	3	11	4	1
16	9	7		19	1	2	3	5
9	7	2	9	26	7	2	8	9
	18	1	8	9	15	1	8	6
		4	1	3		5	4	1

# 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](http://www.arranvoice.com) to find new Sudoku puzzles everyday!

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

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

## On this day...

- 1925** John Logie Baird creates Britain's first television transmitter.
- 1960** Michael Woodruff performs the first successful kidney transplant in the UK at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
- 1974** The Rumble in the Jungle boxing match between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman takes place in Kinshasa, Zaire.
- 1985** Space Shuttle Challenger lifts off for its final successful mission..
- 2002** Freeview services is launched in the United Kingdom.

## Star Birthdays

- 1940** Richard Sheridan, Irish playwright
- 1893** Charles Atlas, Italian-born bodybuilder
- 1935** Michael Winner, British film director
- 1945** Henry Winkler, American actor
- 1957** Andy Archer, Scottish dramatist
- 1960** Diego Armando Maradona, Argentine footballer

# 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.

		23		37		4		17						
13					9						3		38	
12					22									5
12				8				9	17	7				
		25									6			
		16									8			
	8					21								13
23								13	9	19				
		13											5	
						17							16	



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Aye, the wifie's comin guisin' too, but I said there was nae need for her to dress up...



# It's a Car's Lot

## ARRAN ROADS

Our local councillor has this week reported to the Isle of Arran Community Council that NAC say the provision of the multi use track from Cladach to Corrie will in all probability take at least two years to come to fruition. Meanwhile, there will be improvements made to this stretch of road over the winter. NAC have also stated that leaflets on safer road use are to be produced and circulated. They have suggested that cycle hire businesses should be supplied with these leaflets and Cal Mac could be asked to warn cyclists to go in single file rather than in large groups. Some may regard it as 'too little too late', but these are steps in the right direction.

## AREN'T THEY DOING WELL?

Oil giant BP has announced mammoth third-quarter profits of 10 billion US dollars (£6.4bn) as the firm reaped the benefits of record prices. The company's huge haul for the July-September period is 148% above the same period last year. Its profits came as crude oil prices hit a new peak above 147 US dollars a barrel in mid-July, and are likely to spark fresh protests from motorists and businesses who have felt the pain at the petrol pump this year.

Oil prices have since fallen by more than half their July peak to just above 60 dollars a barrel as global recession fears mount. BP chief executive Tony Hayward said: 'Although it has since fallen away sharply, the high oil price of the third quarter obviously helped our absolute result' — which is a very nice one, at least for them. The company averaged a selling price of more than 111 US dollars a barrel, compared to just 71 dollars in the same period last year.

## BAN THE SMALL-CHESTED?

No, this is not page 3-type discrimination, but a move by the Vietnam Ministry of Health to ban people whose chests measure less than 28 inches from riding motor bikes, together with those who are too short or too thin. It's a proposal that has provoked widespread disbelief in the nation of slight people. It was unclear how the ministry established its size guidelines, and an official there declined to comment, but the average Vietnamese man is 5ft 4in tall and weighs 121 pounds. The average Vietnamese woman is 5ft, 1in tall and weighs 103 pounds.

Statistics on average chest size were unavailable, but Vietnamese bloggers have been having a ball.



**ARRAN THEATRE  
& ARTS TRUST**

**Arran Arts Festival**  
Events Programme 12th–22 November 2008

12–15th November — "Balloons"  
Community Theatre, Lamash, 8.00pm  
Tickets £8 and £6 (concessions)  
Available from Book and Card, Brodick, from 1st November

18th November — Poetry Workshop with Jason Watts  
Burnside Gallery, Brodick, 2.00–4.00pm (Free)

Made on Arran  
Music and words from Arran  
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.00pm (Free)

19th November — Short Story Workshop with Alison Prince  
Corrie Hall 8.00pm (Free)

20th November — Poetry Workshop with Jason Watts  
Burnside Gallery, Brodick, 2.00–4.00 pm (Free)

"Arran and Beyond"  
Poetry with Sheena (last year's McLellan Poetry Award winner)  
Music with Amy Hume, Robyn Keen, Tim Pomeroy  
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 8.00pm (Free)

21st November — Play Performance Reading  
by Nutshell Theatre Company  
of winner McLellan Play Award 2008 "Wasteland" by  
Fiona Connor. Corrie Hall, 8.00pm (Free)

22nd November — Poetry and Play Award Presentations  
with poet W.N. Herbert  
Food, wine, music and festival close. Corrie Hall, 8.00pm (Free)

Supported by North Ayrshire Council, Awards for All,  
Scottish Co-op

Scottish Charity No. SCO06027

## OFFICE HOURS

Our office at the Pier Buildings is manned — or womanned — from 9.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Lunch-break is from 1.00–2.00pm, but there is often someone in at this time as well, so it's worth trying us.

**The Curse of Northend Thistle**

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Whiting Bay Village Hall, 11.30-12.30  
Lochransha & Catacol Village Hall, 13.30-14.30  
Brodick Health Centre, 15.15-16.15

#### Monday 1st December

Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 11.30-12.30  
Lamlash Fire Station, 13.30-14.30  
Kildonan Village Hall, 15.00-16.00

To contact Kenneth outside these times, please contact his constituency office:

15 Main Street, Dalry, KA24 5DL  
Tel: 01294 833 687 Fax: 01294 835 662  
E-mail: [kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)



# Golf Results

## Arran Golfers Association Arran Grouse Foursomes, Shiskine Golf Club Saturday 25th.

Unfortunately due to the atrocious weather conditions the Grouse was unable to take place, a future date will be decided and posted in the next couple of weeks.

### Fixtures:

Saturday 8th November, Winter League First Round, Machrie Bay Golf Club.  
Machrie Bay v Corrie, 8:30am,  
Brodict v Shiskine, 9:20am,  
Lamlash v Whiting Bay, 11:50am.

## Saturday 15th November 2008, Corrie Hotel Cup 2008, Corrie Golf Club.

Brodict B v Lochranza B, 10:00am,  
Shiskine B v Brodict A, 10:10am,  
Shiskine A v Lamlash A, 10:20am,  
Whiting Bay A v Corrie A, 10:30am,  
Lamlash B v Machrie A, 10:40am,  
Lochranza A v Machrie B, 10:50am,  
Corrie B v Whiting Bay B, 11:00am.  
(Format will be Stableford with all four scores counting).

## Corrie Golf Club

### Monday Cup, 20th October

1st M. MacDonald 74 — 21 = 53  
2nd J. McGovern 64 — 8 = 56  
3rd L. Hartley 77 — 17 = 60 B.I.H

### Fixtures:

Saturday 1st November, Stableford, tee-off at 12pm  
Monday 3rd November, Monday Cup Tee off, 12pm  
Sunday 2nd November, Winter League at Machrie (team to be informed).

## Machrie Golf Club

### Tuesday 21st October, Lochranza Hotel Cup, Stableford

1st Brian Sherwood 32 pts  
2nd Hamish Bannatyne 29 pts  
3rd Elizabeth Ross 17 pts

### Fixtures:

Saturday 1st November, Lochranza Hotel Cup 12pm tee-off

Tuesday 4th November, Winter Cup 12pm, tee-off

Sunday 2nd November, course closed until 2pm due to A.G.A. Winter League

## Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club

### Sunday 26th October, 12-hole Medal

1st Alan Napier 46-3 43  
2nd Jimmy Morrison 55-7 48  
3rd Willie Kelso 56-4 52 (bih)  
Best Scratch, Alan Napier 46  
Magic Two's, Alan Napier (4th) and Daryl Urquart-Dixon (4th)

### Fixtures:

Gents Arran Challenge started Friday 24th Oct and will finish Sunday 9th November.  
Thursday 6th November, Ladies 12-hole Medal

## Whiting Bay Golf Club

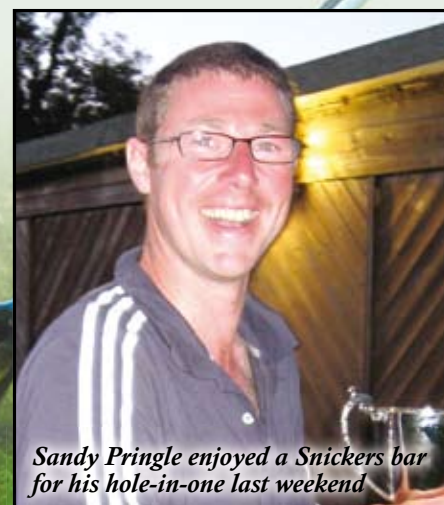
Sunday 26th October, 12 played in the Taylor Trophy Greensome on a course which has coped amazingly well with the torrential rain lately — all credit to the hard working greenstaff.

1st John Taylor & Ian Burke 57  
2nd Jamie MacPherson & Gus MacLeod 61  
3rd Ian Davidson & George McKechnie 63.

Well done to Sandy Pringle for his first ever competition hole-in-one at the 17th! Sorry there was no car or crate of champagne, only a Snickers bar!

### Fixtures:

Saturday 1st November, Mixed Fours at 12pm. Bring a partner along to ensure even numbers — all welcome.  
Sunday 2nd November, Winter League at Machrie, tee offs from 11.50am  
Sunday 9th November, Winter Cup Round 2.



*Sandy Pringle enjoyed a Snickers bar for his hole-in-one last weekend*

# Lamlash golfers launch calendar

MEMBERS OF LAMLASH Golf Club have produced a calendar featuring photographs of their local golf course to raise funds for the club.

The photos, taken by Jenny Meade, Morag Gardner, Jo Hastings and Jackie Winship, were compiled into the 2009 calendar, with each month containing details of golfing history from the year's competitions. 'This is just a prototype,' explained Jo Hastings. The pictures in the calendar show off many of the classic views on the 18-hole course and its makers hope that it will be popular with other members both on and off the island as festive gifts or alternatives to Christmas cards.

'I think the photographs illustrate the way we would like it to be all year round,' said Jo, in a playful nod to some of the bad weather experienced on Arran this year. The pictures used are not all seasonal photos reflecting each month, but members hope that Lamlash golfers will contribute photos throughout the coming year for a 2010 calendar next year.

The calendar has been hand-bound with 'sheer determination' after the club invested in a binding machine, which required a fair amount of patiently-learned know-how. The calendar is available at the golf club and is being produced on a print-on-demand basis. Next year marks the 25th anniversary of the Lamlash Open and the members hope the calendar will generate even wider interest in the event.

Contact Jackie (600330) or Morag (600623) for more details.



*Jo Hastings, Drew Crawford, Jackie Winship and Morag Gardner get to grips with the binding machine for their special edition golf calendar*

# Teams 'from the sticks' urged to win pool title

CHAIR OF THE Arran Pool league Eddie Picken has put his support behind the league's smaller teams for the forthcoming season, which cues off tonight (Thursday 30th October). 'I'm hoping that this year a team from the sticks steps up to the plate and takes the title out of the bigger villages, just for a wee change,' said Eddie in advance of the first league fixtures. Quite what teams can be described as hailing 'from the sticks' is open to interpretation, but it is likely that P.T. 1934, Kildonan and Catacol would be included in this category.

It means that Kildonan and PT 1934 will be looking to kick-start their campaign with some good performances as they face Bar Eden and new guns PHT respectively. Meanwhile, Northend minnows Corrie and Catacol will battle it out the Catacol Bay Hotel, affording the league bottom-dwellers from last season a chance to shoot straight to the top.

For the second successive season, Brodict are not fielding a team, but both Lamlash and Whiting Bay have produced two squads each this year, levelling up the numbers for an eight-team league.



# Eric is Top Nut

Continued from back page

## YOUNG BLOOD

But some new talent was waiting in the wings. Dylan from Lamlash showed he had a good technique, and Trevor who had journeyed from the Northend showed fine potential in the early stages only to be knocked out by Eddie Picken. Coach and father Dan Goronwy believes it is only a matter of time before Trevor lifts the conker cup in future years.

Some new rules had been drafted at the last minute by the committee to try and 'streamline' the proceedings and cut down on the lengthy bouts from previous years. The 'five minute rule' was strictly enforced: if no visible damage had been sustained by either conker within 300 seconds of competitive swinging, the bout would be decided by a nine-shot accuracy contest.

The first round saw the fall of some big-hitters, with Pete McKinnon being despatched by Lorna Logan and Max bowing out to the Corrie Nugget wielded by Nick Underdown who was in good form, despite taking the competition dangerously seriously. Lorna went on to beat Alan Smith in a memorably brutal bout, in which Lorna made full use of the stamping rule and somehow managed to make her opponent crush his own conker with his foot.

But eventually the field thinned out and only the big-hitters remained. Sideshow Bob was using a diamond-strong chestnut which soaked up the hits from all-comers and withstood the attacks of Nick Underdown in the semi-finals. Jon dispatched Murray Picken in the other semi-final clash to set up a massive Southend-Northend final.

## TEDIOUS FINALE

After what felt like several hours of play, Jon's conker eventually developed a small crack which Eric exploited by simply continuing to dangle his rock-solid nut in front of his opponent. Another few hits by Jon and his own conker was reduced to shrapnel on the Kilmory Hall carpet. The next bout lasted even longer and referee Murray Picken

had to nudge himself to stay awake as both players landed hit after uneventful hit on each others' nuts, without so much of a scuff-mark showing on either conker. When Sideshow Bob (aka Eric Dunn) opted to wear a cricket glove to protect his knuckles, Jonathon upped the ante, executing a massive swipe on Eric's padded hand — it was a warning of a loss of composure which ultimately cost the Southender the match.

As the second bout dragged on Jon decided to deploy the 'Mulholland technique.' Duncan had been knocked out by Eric in an earlier round, but had shown trademark accuracy with his full-shoulder lurching swing to add maximum power. Unfortunately Jon was unable to make contact using this approach and minutes later, he paid the price, somehow releasing the conker from his grip. In the scuffle that followed, Jon's response was reminiscent of the now infamous Mike Tyson ear bite, as he grabbed Eric's wonder chestnut and bit into it, crushing Eric's winning conker before conceding the match.

## MUSIC TO BLAME?

'The bout was very aggressive,' said Jon after the match. 'But I wasn't beaten outright. I had to retire, because I was smacking my own forearm with each swing and it was beginning to hurt.' He blamed his Tyson manoeuvre on a hillbilly tune coming from the CD player. 'I heard the banjo music and I thought, *I will bite his conker*. I was getting really hungry and Eric was looking like bacon.'

Eric Dunn said he was delighted with the result. In a post-match interview at the Ormidale Hotel, where he was given a champion's reception, he praised the spirit of the international conker fraternity and added 'I think Jon was using a feeble excuse for his defeat in the final. I do respect him as a player, but it seemed his training was inadequate. My intensive mediterranean training course paid dividends.' Eric said he looked forward to defending the title next year. Until then the Conker Cup will rest on the gantry of the Ormidale bar.

# Rugby lads strip for victory

Continued from back page

SOME OF THE pictures are classily suggestive, such as Chris Hogge's treatment of Ian Keen and Niall McMaster at the Auchrannie's 1869 restaurant. Others, such as Colin Ribbeck's very 'cheeky' picture of Big E in Bilslands Cafe capture the essence of 'Carry On.' Nigel Walker also coaxed out a brilliantly coy expression from Frazer Barr. The photos promote some of Arran's finest brands — Amanda Trotter's sultry shot of Murray Picken with a tub of Arran Dairies ice-cream being a prime example. The production and design of the calendar was then coordinated by *The Arran Voice* team.

## PASTY


The pictures give a daunting sneak

preview of the rugby-playing physiques that opponents will face in future matches, as Arran hope to build on their league campaign (Arran face Strathaven away this weekend). But they have also drawn comments from many Arran lassies, who have noted the very West coast complexion of the team's torsos. Ladies have expressed surprise at the extremely pasty white chests of all but one of the players — South Africa-born George De Mendonca being the bronzed exception.


Calendars are on sale throughout a whole range of island shops, all of whom have kindly agreed to stock them without taking commission. They can also be bought online at:

[www.arranrfc.co.uk](http://www.arranrfc.co.uk)





## BRIDGE CLUB



### Lamlash Bridge Results Monday 27th October

N/S

1st E. McNiven & E. Paul + 1770  
2nd. M. Jones & R. Livingstone — 90  
3rd. A. Bilsland & T. Martin — 120

E/W

1st. P. Adamson & E. McConnell + 2020  
2nd. D. & M. Bruce + 1560  
3rd. E. Sillars & J. McBride + 870



### Brodick Bridge Results Thursday 23rd October

N/S

1st D. Hamilton & T. Martin + 1820  
2nd H. Boyd & L. Paul + 1120  
3rd D. Bruce & D. Scobie + 590

E/W

1st E. McKellar & I. McArthur + 1220  
2nd J. Murchie & Libby Hay + 1170  
3rd M. Iutz & V. Iutz + 580





## ERIC IS TOP

## NUT

**NORTHEND CONKEROR  
SURVIVES TYSON-STYLE TACTICS**

THE KILMORY CONKER cup was decided in dramatic circumstances last Sunday as three times finalist Jon Smith resorted to munching his opponent's chestnut before conceding the match to Brodick's ineffable Sideshow Bob (aka Eric Dunn). The Mike Tyson-style violence concluded a spectacular conker tournament hosted by Southern Productions, with over twenty conker enthusiasts taking part in surely Kilmory's finest sporting fixture.

### LEGAL DISPUTE

Proceedings were in jeopardy when a pre-tournament spat between Eric Dunn and the Kilmory conker committee came close to miring the integrity of the competition (and indeed the journalistic neutrality of this newspaper). A barbed exchange of lawyer's letters before the tournament had threatened to create a frosty atmosphere in Kilmory hall, but any chill was quickly thawed by the hospitality and warm soup laid on by the Southend contingent.

As conker players took the opportunity to loosen up their swinging arms in advance of the first preliminary round, Jon Smith once more made clear his intentions to win the coveted title. 'I've made two of the past three tournament finals and this year, the conker cup will be staying in Kilmory,' he said — and proved equal to the substance of his steely words with an awesome display of conker prowess throughout the competition, going all the way to set up an epic final. But with the new minimum length string rule rigorously enforced, Jon's swing technique was his undoing as he repeatedly hit his own forearm with each swing of his conker. It led to a nasty bruise which upset the ex-champ's rhythm.

Ex-champion Paula Rouine was not present to reclaim the cup. And last year's defeated finalist John Picken — rumoured to have designed a more effective disguise to his last year's 'Action man's head' conker before sharp-eyed judges forced him to play a reserve chestnut — was also missing from the action.

*Continued on page 23*



*Eric keeps the cup north of the Ross and cracks open the bubbly at the Ormidale*



*Sideshow Bob celebrates with the Kilmory Conker Cup*



*Judge Murray Picken cannot suppress a yawn during the intensely dull final between Jon and Eric*

## Rugby lads strip for victory

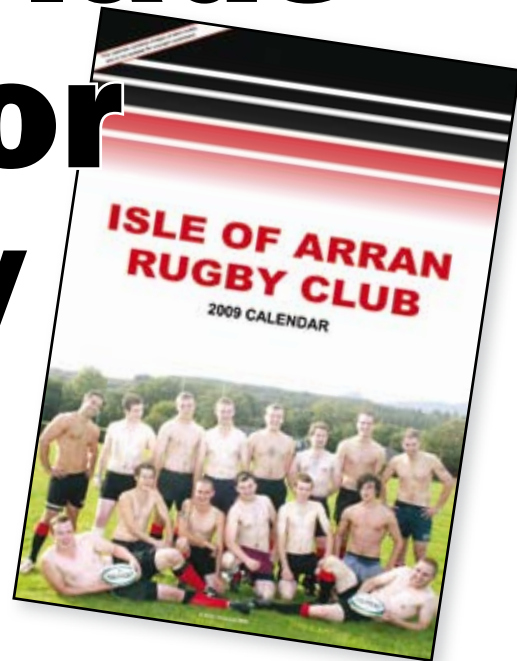
**Arran's Rugby club bares (almost) all for fundraising**

THE ARRAN RUGBY Club has launched a tongue-in-cheek 'calendar lads' 2009 calendar to help raise club funds. Members of the rugby club committee came up with the nakedly ambitious plan earlier this year and with the generous sponsorship of local businesses, sporting co-operation of players in the team, the hard work of local photographers (and err... a bit of airbrushing) the calendar is now flying off shelves throughout the island.

Arran re-joined club rugby last year for the first time in seven years and although the club currently receives support from the Scottish Rugby Union and local sponsors Murchie Sand & Gravel and The Arran Banner, regular ferry and bus journeys for away matches mean the club has consistently high transport costs. It is hoped the calendar will help to boost club finances.

### EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

Over the past couple of months, separate photo-shoots took place on the premises of local businesses, and there was some entertainingly photographic over-exposure around the island. Ben



Tattersfield endured a bath-tub of brine fresh from Brodick Bay as he posed as 'Mr October' for Arran Aromatics.

*Continued on page 23*



*Ben Tattersfield risks the tackle during a chilly bath-shot for Arran Aromatics*

## And Finally ...

### GIVE ME A BELL...

Nothing is sacred. BT have done a sponsorship deal with Disney, and for the next three months, the voice of the speaking clock has been changed to that of Tinker Bell. No, don't be silly, it's not a real fairy, it's the voice of actress Mae Whitman in a hefty promotion deal for the new Disney animated film, Peter Pan.

The original speaking clock was voiced by Jane Cain from 1936 until 1963. Jane was followed by Miss Pat Simmons until 1984, when she was replaced by Brian Cobby, whose dulcet tones informed us of the time until last year. He has since been

replaced by Sara Mendes da Costa, who won the role in a competition.

Lenny Henry took over the 123 service during Comic Relief in 2003, and helped raise £200k — but at least this temporary diversion was for charity.

Purely in the interests of research, we phoned 123 and listened without much awe to the voice that is currently lining BT's pockets. If we've got to have Peter Pan, we might as well stick with the crocodile that swallowed a clock. Fifty pence a tick, no doubt, but at least he wouldn't tinkle.