



Balloons!



Balloons opened on Wednesday at the Community Theatre in Lamlash High School. It's a ferociously hard-hitting satire, sending up all the official gobbledy-gook that bureaucrats can devise, and taking a wicked look at the 'spin' that has taken the credibility out of politics. Here we see the members of OFPIS, the Office of Privatised Island Services, at their most absurd, and their opposing team, a zany troupe who want to float balloon houses.

The tunes in the show send you out humming them and will live long in the mind, specially the catchy 'Ordinary Guys' and the haunting melody of 'Find Me.' There are a lot of laughs, a fair bit of love and a very big send-up. The show runs until this Saturday. Full report next week.



Lamlash Bonfire

By Gerard Tattersfield

PLOTTER ENSURE FIREWORKS GO OFF WITH A BANG

After torrential weather on Saturday evening, the Lamlash Bonfire and Fireworks display was postponed until Sunday evening when the forecast looked a little less wet and windy! Fortunately the forecasters were correct and right on cue at 6.30pm the moon peeked out from behind the shower clouds and the wind dropped to a breeze, just perfect for lighting the huge beach bonfire.

The 200-strong crowd were treated to Hot Dogs, Toffee Apples, Soup, Sparklers and a barrage of fireworks lasting nearly a hour. The evening was a great success and testament to the dozens of willing 'plotters' who helped build the bonfire on Saturday, organise, cook and serve the food over the weekend and manage the fire and fireworks display on the evening. With the fireworks and food all gone and the fire dying to embers that would burn all night, a quick tidy up was done as the crowds dispersed for another year.

Special thanks go to members, helpers and friends of Lamlash Improvements group, all the guys from Arran TA and the Lamlash fire and rescue service.



IN THIS ISSUE: Arran Remembers / Stopgap Safety Plans / Marine News / Arran's Class of 1970 / Arran Pool League

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FREE
QUOTES

Arran remembers



The Arran Cadets mark the 90th Remembrance Day service at the Arran War Memorial Hospital

ISLANDERS UNITED IN the remembrance of the pain caused by war on Sunday, as services held across the island observed a one-minute silence as a mark of respect to those fallen in conflict.

'If all we do is remember, then it is in vain,' said the Reverend Elizabeth Watson during an afternoon service at the Arran War Memorial Hospital. She urged people to work together, learning the lessons of remembrance, and celebrate the spirit of goodwill and community. During the short service, she reminded those present about the on-going war in Afghanistan and the pain suffered by survivors of conflict and commented, 'Many acts in history have been at best misguided and at worst down-right wrong.' But she entreated everyone to have faith in the strength of the human spirit, adding that it is 'up to us in our own small corner of the world to help start building the better world.'

Patients, relatives and locals gathered in the hospital's reception beneath the memorial plaque on which are engraved the names of Arran folk who died during the two World Wars. Elizabeth Watson's message of peace and co-operation was seemingly heart-felt by everyone at the service. Some patients were too poorly to sing and yet the hymns sung chimed a strong and healing chord throughout the building.

The Rev. Watson paid tribute to the 'generous spirit of the hospital and the willingness of staff to go the extra mile for their patients,' sentiments that were echoed by many after the service. And when Billy Currie and Davie McKinnon presented wreaths, it was a fitting reminder of the role played by maritime volunteers around the world. Piper Andrew Earle then played the Lament to conclude the service.

In Brodick earlier that morning, the

island's Army Cadet Force carried the colours of the Royal British Legion Arran Branch into the church from the cenotaph. It was the first time this had happened during a remembrance service on the island. The Colour Party of David Burns, Connor Beveridge and Mark Leetham then presented the Colours to Jean Hunter who conducted the Service.

Angus Adamson held a service in Pirnmill on Sunday morning and said he thought it was the busiest it has been for quite a while. As he said, 'It may be the profile of the war going on right now and seeing injured soldiers return home. It's important to remember those who do come back, survivors whose lives are blighted by injury and the memory of war.' A joint service held in Shiskine later that afternoon by Angus Adamson and David Karoon was also well-attended.



Standard-bearer Connor Beveridge carries the Royal British Legion flag past the cenotaph on behalf of the Arran Cadets.

New youth drop-in centre now 'work in progress'

IF YOU'RE WONDERING what the big holes in the ground are at the site behind Brodick Village Hall, work is now underway to build the Arran Youth Café drop-in centre. Last Saturday, a group of volunteers started on the foundation work for the new facility and it is hoped it will be finished in a few weeks. Angus Adamson helped out at the site, as Gavin Dunn, Gregor Adamson and Matthew Dobson got to work with wheelbarrows and Murray Boal deployed the digger to prepare the ground. More news on this development in coming weeks.



Angus Adamson mucks in to lay the foundations for the new centre

Southend boost for hospice funds

By Dave Payn

ON TUESDAY, Janet Redfearn, acting Treasurer of the Arran Hospice appeal, received a cheque for £167.50; money raised from a quiz devised by Pat Geddes of Kilmory's Nittery Natterry Ladies. Pat's quiz comprised of a number of anagrams of Arran locations to be solved. 182 of the 200 quiz sheets were sold by both Bilslands and Belford Mill, to whom Pat gave a warm and heartfelt tribute. 'We couldn't have raised this much without their help and effort', she said on presenting the cheque.

The winners of the quiz were Sheena Bannatyne, Sandra McLaughland from the mainland, and Jennifer Webster, who donated her prize back to the Hospice fund.

A grateful John McFaul, who is continuing his late wife's vision of an island based hospice facility, added: 'We've already raised £10,024 towards the £50,000 required to provide the hospice facility on the island and with a number of other fund raising projects



Pat Geddes (left) presents Janet Redfearn, acting Treasurer of Arran Hospice appeal with a cheque for £167.50

in the pipeline, we're looking to achieve our target in around 18 months' time.' John revealed some of the potential fund raising events, including an island Triathlon, and a pool tournament organised by local police sergeant Bob MacKay. Arran Brass will be collecting for the hospice with their annual performance of Christmas carols on the Caledonian Isles in December (date to be confirmed).

If you have an idea for an event to raise money for the appeal, you can contact Janet Redfearn on 700244, or John McFaul on: info@arranhospice.org

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CALOR Gas

Free school meals campaign launched

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) has written to North Ayrshire Council to seek reassurance that a pledge to provide free school meals to all P1 to P3 pupils in 2010 will not become 'overshadowed' by a wider funding disagreement between local and national government. Head of CPAG in Scotland John Dickie says he will keep The Arran Voice informed as and when he receives a reply from North Ayrshire Council to the following letter:

We are writing as leading supporters of the Scottish Free School Meals Campaign (a wide coalition of anti-poverty groups, children's charities, teaching unions, health experts and church groups) to seek your reassurance that North Ayrshire Council still intends to roll out free school meals to all P1 to P3 pupils in 2010 as agreed between local authorities and the Scottish Government in the Concordat signed in November 2007.

We are concerned that the huge

benefits to children and families of a universal approach to free school meals in the early years at school, as highlighted in the evaluation of the successful pilot programme, could be overshadowed by the reported disagreement on the wider funding settlement between local and national government.

Given the consensus that exists on the importance of nutrition for children's education, health and wellbeing we believe it would be a tragedy if a scheme which has boosted healthy school meal uptake by such extraordinary levels (from 53% to 75% across the pilots) were not to be rolled out across Scotland as agreed. The further benefit to hard pressed family budgets, also highlighted in the evaluation, cannot be underestimated in these increasingly difficult economic times.

We would therefore be grateful for your reassurance that North Ayrshire Council remains committed to rolling out this vital provision to pupils in Ayrshire and Arran from 2010.

Support sought for community woodland

ROOTS OF ARRAN are hoping to re-invigorate local efforts to improve the patch of community woodland between Brodick and Lamlash. The Group has 100 members and is committed to opening up areas of forestry ex-plantation land and making it more accessible to the people of Arran. They are hoping that their AGM in two weeks time (Friday 28th) will attract people keen to chip in and learn new forestry skills.

'We are not just creating 'days out' in the woodland for people,' explained Juliette Walsh. 'It's a community woodland and everybody can get involved.' The group hopes that voluntary working parties in the forest will open up areas of the land, previously consigned to brash wood, and provide a focus for community groups and even nature-based educational opportunities for visiting schools. Other plans could help to re-establish bridle ways and paths that will help further link the villages of Brodick and Lamlash. The site has enormous potential, say members Debra Adam and Juliette Walsh, who both feel that it could be an important additional attraction to the island for visitors, especially for those with children.

The group has already partially transformed what they have named the *Lag a Bheith* site above Glen Rickard, planting an orchard of apple tree saplings which have already borne fruit. Pockets



Tree planting at Lag a Bheith

of alder and oak have been planted and there are still the remnants of an old birch forest nearby. In the centre of the site, just off the narrow Faerie Glen pathway, is an enclosure where a ring of trees has been planted to create a living willow shelter in the future. The group also hopes to build a large roundhouse there.

Roots of Arran have been exploring how the project could tie in with a Landscape Partnership bid, initiated recently by the Arran Access Trust. They have welcomed anyone to join the project. 'Even established community groups that want to plant as a group such as the Scouts and the nursery schools could get involved,' said Debra. The AGM will be held on 28th November at 7.30pm in the Ormidale pavilion. For any advance information contact Debra (700794) or Juliette (700508).

'Stopgap' safety plans for Corrie-Brodick road

A RAFT OF MEASURES are being planned to improve road safety on the A841 between Corrie and Brodick. The plans were discussed earlier this week (Tuesday 11 November) when the Brodick-Corrie Trail Support Group met with representatives from North Ayrshire Council (NAC) and transport charity Sustrans to push forward the plans for a 'multi-user trail' that would run alongside the road between Brodick and Corrie. 'Although an off-road track is preferable, cyclists will continue to use the road anyway, so attempts are being made to make the road safer in the meantime,' explained Neil Bulger of the Trail Support Group.

A contractor for NAC and the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) will commence works this coming Monday that will include the removal of trees within two metres of the edge of the carriageway. The road has been the site of a number of accidents over the years and most recently a car crash which killed one cyclist and seriously injured another.

NAC's island officer Gus MacLeod confirmed that maintenance of the road is ongoing. 'With the amount of water and debris falling, it only takes a few minutes for one of the ditches to choke.' On Tuesday three squads from the roads department were busy dealing with the routine work around the island, unplugging partially blocked culverts near the road. It is hoped that the removal of the tree canopy overhanging the stretch of road between the old travellers site and Maol Donn will enable moisture and puddles lingering on the road to clear more quickly.

The NTS is having a tough time dealing with the outbreak of phytophthora kernoviae

A bus skidded off the road near the Merkland wood entrance in May last year when approaching a lorry



(Phyto-K) at Merkland Wood, but will clear some trees on the landward side of the road. 'We are not anticipating that many big trees will come down,' said NTS ranger Kate Sampson. Kate has urged passers-by not remove any chopped timber for home fuel consumption, as it would risk spreading the plant disease Phyto-K to other areas of the island.

In addition to the physical works, the group is devising a safety awareness campaign to remind cyclists and motorists of the dangers when travelling on certain sections of the Arran roads. The measures — which will likely involve the use of blackspot signs and leaflets — are planned for Spring 2009. The group seemed aware, however, of the inevitably limited impact of such a measure. 'I don't think signage and leaflets in

themselves are going to make it substantially safer,' said Gus MacLeod. Don MacNeish added that it is a 'stopgap measure.'

The group's main ambition is to move along plans for the creation of a 'multi-user trail' which it is hoped will remove much of the cycle traffic from the main road. Landowners involved are now supportive of the idea in principle. The proposal for a hard-surfaced track will require planning and road construction consent, and will be put out to full public consultation once a full design has been drafted. It is hoped the track could bring a number of heritage benefits to the area whilst also attracting visitors to the island, explained Gerard Tattersfield from the Arran Bike Club. Anyone looking for more information should contact Neil on 810273.

Arranvoice.com Online Poll

This week's question is:

Would you support a community-run abattoir by buying more meat locally?

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

Last week's question was: Should landowners get Government funding to help eradicate plant diseases that may threaten the island?

Yes: 62.5% (5 votes)

No: 12.5% (1 votes)

Not sure: 25% (2 votes)

Editorial

THEATRICAL JOYS

The appeal of the theatre is ancient. Long before the invention of electricity and the building of cities, people dressed up as animals or wizards or as other people. Through doing this, they entered lives that were not their own — and yet these other lives were of their own making. Imagination, as Einstein once remarked, is more important than knowledge — a statement that might cause a flurry of protest in educational circles these days. Yet we have an increasingly desperate search for 'self-starting' employees who can produce innovative solutions to problems, and the owners of companies up and down the country tear their hair over the dearth of resourceful, practical recruits who can think on their feet. It could be that the abilities demanded by the theatre are just what our society needs.

Those who have never been involved in the theatre tend to pooh-pooh it, pointing to a 'lummy' culture that belongs to a mutually admiring club — but that is to be taken in by superficial appearances, missing the real thing. A child or adult who can imagine what it is like to be someone else, and who is prepared to give serious study to the persona of an emperor or a criminal, a father, a servant, a scientist or a drunkard, is taking the first steps to understanding human psychology. The theatre skills that follow on are equally valuable, though so hard to learn that

most of us can only admire those who possess them. Confidence (or at least, the appearance of it) has to be there, together with an understanding of how the body can become a supple instrument of expression, despite its tendency to shrug and humph and curl away from being brought into full use.

Surely these techniques are of huge general use? The mere ability to speak clearly, with enough breath-power to make it properly audible, is a useful one. So is the freedom to decide in any given situation how to play it. There is always a choice. An angry boss can be given the impression of contrition while the mind is dancing away on a plan to do something far more interesting. An erring child can be berated without rancour, calm can be pretended while the heart is thumping with fear. And the irreverent imagination can whistle up an alternative scenario that is deeply satisfactory. As Dylan Thomas wrote of a hen-pecked husband in *Under Milk Wood*, 'You know best, dear,' says Mr Pugh, and quick as a flash he ducks her in rat soup.' Is not this approach more productive of secret fun than tedious, horribly genuine confrontations that end up under the professional eye of a Relate counsellor? Pretending is a subtle and useful art. It brings joy to those who watch it and to those who work at cultivating it, specially when in a group with like-minded others who join together in making a new thing real. Long may the theatre and all its useful skills last.

Quote

'The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is laughter.'

Mark Twain (1835–1910)

Just a question of finding it in a hurry when it's most needed. Ed.

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Voice mail

Readers' News and Views...

GYPSY TRAVELLERS

I noticed the reference to "tinkers" in the Getting to Know piece on Zabdi Keen in *The Voice* this week. Whilst I am sure neither Zabdi nor yourself meant any offence I am concerned that this will have conformed to the normal negative stereotype about Gypsy Travellers so commonly encountered on the island. It is unfortunate that as a community we have allowed this rich part of Arran heritage to virtually disappear with the closure of the Merkland site several years ago. I am not sure there are even any references to the contribution of Gypsy Travellers in the Heritage Museum. We have simply let them go and all there is perhaps left is prejudice. For many years visiting Gypsy Travellers, some of whom stayed on the island, provided seasonal farm labour and other useful services on Arran. Many were treated with the respect and dignity by local people that they deserved, but the feeling that these people were inferior persists in the popular imagination.

Many members of the Scottish Gypsy Traveller community have assimilated into mainstream life in recent years and buried their traditions in an effort to get work and education. Others, to their great credit, have made it their business to celebrate their culture and tackle the prejudice and discrimination their people have faced throughout the ages. This has involved the use of modern human rights aspirations and laws such as the Race Relations Act. The works of Jess Smith, which include references to childhood visits to Arran, are wonderful examples of this celebration of culture. Whilst their brethren south of the border now enjoy protection as a recognised ethnic minority, a full legal judgement has yet to go through a Scottish Court so legal uncertainty and discrimination for Scottish Gypsy Travellers continues. I have been privileged, through the Scottish Socialist Party, to be involved in campaigns with Gypsy Traveller activists in the recent past and have learned much.

Useful information is widely available: this link gives access to a guide for the media on Scottish Gypsy Travellers: <http://83.137.212.42/sitearchive/cre/scotland/gypsytravellers.html>

My daughter Rosalie was involved earlier this year, as a final year film and media undergraduate at Stirling University, in producing the short film that can be seen on google video by following this link: <http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=forgotten+experiment&emb=0&aq=f#>. This film, which graphically describes the discrimination one group of Travellers from Pitlochry have suffered, has been shortlisted for an award at the Exposures film festival in Manchester at the end of November.

Colin Turbett, Rannoch

We agree entirely with the above letter. We apologise unreservedly for any offence that may have been caused. Ed.

POST OFFICE CAMPAIGN

I was astonished to read in last week's *Voice* MSP Ross Finnie's 'pledge' that 'Liberal Democrats in North Ayrshire will continue to campaign against any further closures of local post offices.' What campaign?

In Cunninghame North three mainland post offices were threatened with closure as part of the Labour Government's plan to shut 2,500 post offices in the UK to add to the 5,864 shut since 1997. Despite holding public meetings, organising petitions and encouraging people to respond to the consultation, all three closed on 29 October, along with 40 others in the West of Scotland. The Liberal Democrats, if they exist in Cunninghame North (their 'candidate' failed to turn up at a single hustings during last year's Scottish Parliament election) did absolutely nothing whatsoever to oppose these closures. Will they now 'campaign' to save the Post Office Card Account (POCA), used for the payment of benefits and pensions, on which so many rural post offices rely on for their survival and which faces being lost following a tender placed by the UK Government for its replacement, or the Universal Service Obligation (USO)?

Post Offices provide a vital community resource. There must be no further erosion of the network. It is therefore vital to retain both the POCA and the USO which guarantees postal charges are the same in Brodick or in Bathgate.

The final report from the review of the UK postal services sector, an independent panel headed by Richard Hooper, formerly Deputy Chairman of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), is to be published soon.

The review team's initial response in May 2008 stated that competition within the sector had 'brought no significant benefits' to either the public or small businesses." The UK Government rushed into market liberalisation too quickly — some five years earlier than required by European Union legislation and some way ahead of the rest of the continent. The decision to advance liberalisation together with the pro-competition brief given to industry regulator Postcomm and the operating restrictions imposed on Royal Mail have combined to create a fundamentally skewed UK postal market, which unfairly advantages new competitor companies at the expense of the incumbent. As a result, while Royal Mail is obliged by law to provide a universal service and is subject to crippling price and product innovation restrictions, new market entrants are allowed, even encouraged, to cherry-pick business from the more profitable parts of the industry, therefore eating into Royal Mail's traditional revenues while adding zero value to the service as a whole.

The USO is vital for Scotland, particularly with regard to the many rural and remote areas where communities are dependent on reliable postal services. It is absolutely crucial that the Royal Mail remains a wholly publicly-owned, integrated company and that any moves towards privatisation, share flotation or joint venture with private capital or any

Continued on page 5

News in Brief...

WEATHER WEBSITE WILL RESUME SOON

Last week, Bill Paul from Lamash contacted *The Arran Voice* to point out that a popular weather forecast site, www.xcweather.com, no longer mentions the island. It used to be useful for anyone trying to work out what the ferry would do, but Bill said, 'Arran disappeared two weeks ago.'

The Arran Voice contacted David Billington who maintains the XCWeather website, who said, 'I'm sorry that Arran hasn't been plotted for the past few weeks but as you suspect the station isn't reporting at the moment.'

However, our own matchless Stef, whose forecasts are based on a wide range of the best sites, is still beaver away on your behalf.

ART SHOW UNDERWAY AT BRODICK

Artwork by local artists will go on display at the National Trust for Scotland's Brodick Castle today (Thursday 13th November) until Sunday 16th November. The work includes pieces from professional

artists including Tim Pomeroy and Marvin Elliot alongside amateurs, including the Trust's very own Chris Mills. The gallery is open from noon until 4.30pm on all four days and a review of the Winter Exhibition will appear in next week's *Arran Voice*.

FERRY AMUSING

A drive-in cinema screening with a difference will take place on 18 November. The Cromarty Rose, the smallest car ferry in Great Britain carrying just two cars and 50 passengers, will take part in the Cromarty Film Festival with a showing of *The Maggie*, a film about the Scottish owner of a puffer boat. Don Coutts, one of the organisers of the festival, said, 'We wanted a sea-themed film, but decided against *Titanic* or *The Poseidon Adventure*. No need to frighten the audience.'

The Cromarty Rose was built by McCrindle Shipbuilders in Ardrossan in 1986 and at just 43ft long is equal in length to our very own Screen Machine in its unfolded state. The unfurled Screen Machine, however, is almost twice as wide as the wee ferry!

Island's centenary graduates

ARRAN'S JAMES MacNeil and Phyllis Picken both attended the graduation ceremony of James Watt College at Abbey Church in Kilwinning on Saturday 1st November. James completed his HND in Computer Support Administration and Phyllis attained her HNC in Social Care. Because it was the 100th year of the College's history, all graduates were presented with a commemorative centenary quach by comedian Fred MacAulay.



Marine News

By John Kinsman Fishing Correspondent.

FISHERMEN'S FURY

Fishing leaders have hit out at 'draconian' threats to shut down waters off the West Coast of Scotland.

European Commission proposals to close white fisheries in the West of Scotland would effectively ban trawling, leading to fears for the west coast's prawn industry. The Scottish Fishermen's Federation and Scottish Fisheries minister Richard Lochhead SNP MSP attacked the proposals for next year's quotas under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

Mr Lochhead said, 'I recognise that this is one of the most ludicrous dimensions of CFP negotiations. I do hope it's the worst-case scenario.'

Crucial talks at the Fisheries Council in Brussels next month will determine how many fish can be caught in Scottish waters in 2009. Mr Lochhead added, 'I have to say the proposal from the commission is draconian. It will wreak economic devastation to communities on the West Coast of Scotland and has to be resisted as much as possible by the Scotland and UK government and other like-minded people.'

The committee also heard concerns over the future of North Sea fishing particularly over the number of healthy fish thrown away because of

EU limits. Bertie Armstrong, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, called for an increase in allowance for cod in the North Sea. 'If the total allowable catch properly matched abundance, then we won't have anything like the level of "discard"' he said. 'What we are trying to do is make sure the eco-system is not in any way damaged by harvesting of fish.' He pointed out that Norway allows 430,000 tonnes of cod to be landed, while the EU allows only 22,000 tonnes, and contended that this means vast numbers of fish are thrown away by Scottish fishermen.

BAD NEWS

Just as *The Voice* went to press on Tuesday November 11, the European Commission delivered more bad news for Scottish fishermen, making it clear that belt-tightening will be needed next year to let stocks recover.

Fisheries Commissioner Joe Borg said there was no choice even though it would be hard on the beleaguered fishing fleets. He is proposing 25% cuts on permitted cod, haddock, herring and whiting catches off the West Coast of Scotland in 2009 as well as further reductions in how many days fishermen can spend at sea.

Voice mail extra

separation of Post Office Limited from the Royal Mail Group by the UK Government must be resisted. Postcomm and its remit needs to be fundamentally reformed to refocus on defending the UK's postal services for the public, supporting USO and extending it to cover small to medium-sized businesses, allowing Royal Mail to be able to exercise more freedom over pricing and new products and services in order to operate successfully and, in particular, to take advantage of the expanding parcels and packages market. Modernisation must not become a code word for cuts and terminal decline.

Kenneth Gibson MSP

SUPPORT 'A FARE DEAL?' CAMPAIGN

We are asking your readers to support our 'A Fare Deal?' campaign to help the thousands of older and disabled people across Scotland unable to benefit from the Scottish Government's free bus travel scheme.

'A Fare Deal?' highlights this discrimination against people who are excluded from a lifeline service, either because they cannot access conventional buses, live too far from a bus stop, have no bus service at all or the timetable does not suit their needs. People in this situation often have to use other forms of transport, such as those provided by a voluntary organisation, like Dial-a-Bus or Ring'n'Ride. This type of transport is known as Demand Responsive Community Transport (DRCT), and is not

included in the concessionary scheme.

Twelve major organisations representing Scotland's older and disabled people, led by Help the Aged in Scotland, Capability Scotland and the Community Transport Association Scotland, have joined forces to ask the Scottish Government to include demand-responsive community transport in the scheme as a matter of urgency.

We are asking people to sign up to the campaign, and will be presenting these signatures to the Scottish Government next month to demonstrate public backing for extending the free bus scheme to include demand-responsive community transport. We want to show the Parliament how important this issue is to people, so please also contact your local MSP and ask them to support the campaign.

You can support the campaign by signing a postcard — available throughout Scotland, including in Capability and Help the Aged shops or by contacting Gail Brown, Campaigns Officer, on 0131 551 6331 or infoscot@helptheaged.org.uk.

To encourage your local MSPs to support the campaign, please click onto the Help the Aged in Scotland website at <http://campaigns.helptheaged.org.uk/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=31&ea.campaign.id=1443>

Alan Dickson, Chief Executive, Capability Scotland

Co-op undergoes £300,000 revamp



Sweeties. Gladys Hamilton and Sheena Bradford model the Co-op's new fleecy uniforms in front of the Christmas confectionery. The two employees have worked at the store for a total of 28 years between them.

THE BRODICK CO-OP completes its store revamp today, Thursday 13th November. Pupils from Brodick Primary School will cut the ribbon and will be presented with a donation of £200 to mark the occasion. It is part of the national launch of the Co-op's 'new identity' being created in its 4,500 outlets in the UK, and store manager Liz McLean says she is 'confident our shoppers will be delighted with our improved store and wider selection of goods.'

The new layout has caused a bit of delay to shoppers while they hunt around for newly-located food products, but Liz said, 'I've been really grateful to how patient shoppers have been. I'd like to thank everyone for bearing with us while we've made the changes.' She added that

customers' suggestions have been taken on board, and these included requests for more fresh fruit and vegetables, and a reduction in the amount of space given to alcoholic drinks.

The store has been decked out with modern décor, new easy-access automatic doors, shelving, energy-efficient lighting and eco-refrigeration units. There is an increased range of chilled and fresh foods with a wider variety of in-store bakery foods. The shop will continue to promote its Fairtrade goods and is keen to encourage Arran shoppers to use the 'greener alternative' shopping bags such as The Co-operative Fairtrade cotton Bag for Life or the plastic Bag for Life which the store will replace for free and then recycle.

Gavin's Great Gizmo

WHEN GAVIN DAVIDSON applied to work with Help Yourself Software, run by Chris Attkins, little did he or his temporary employer imagine he would achieve so much during five very busy days. Not only did Gavin play a key role in debugging one of the company's major software programs, with a little help he designed and developed a complete software application with huge market potential.

Gavin's invention is called MyLife, a self-contained program that stores text, pictures, music — even video — on a USB flash memory drive. Users can carry this with them and access their data quickly and easily. What's more, unlike government and MOD data it seems, MyLife is encrypted, so it can only be accessed by its originator. It's a really useful little device, predicted to become the 'must have' stocking filler for every computer user this Christmas.

Gavin, so far best known for his performances on stage in drama projects including *Oliver*, says, 'It was fun to tackle this project. I had not worked with the programming tools before, so it was a steep learning curve!' But he is thrilled with the result. 'Imagine being able to keep an audio diary, where you can also add photographs. It's so quick and easy — and we added a facility to share selected experiences with your friends by e-mail.'

Chris Attkins of Help Yourself

Software sees multiple uses for Gavin's invention. As he says, 'These days we have to remember so many PIN numbers, passwords and account numbers and MyLife is a safe place to keep them handy. But this is only the start; we see real potential for this device as a learning aid because it can integrate text, illustrations and sound files so easily. A user can build up a valuable collection of material covering any subject that interests them and refer to it instantly.'

MyLife is now on sale at the Book & Card Centre in Brodick.

For further information please contact Chris Attkins, Help Yourself Software, telephone: 01770 302 397.

Spectres on A'Chir

SPECTACULAR 'BROCKEN Spectres' were witnessed on the A'Chir ridge two weekends ago, during a Mountain Rescue training exercise. 18 members of the Arran team had approached the notoriously tricky stacks between Cir Mhor and Beinn Tarsuinn on a stunning clear-skied autumnal day on Sunday 2nd November. But as they stopped to carry out mock casualty exercises at 2pm a patch of low mist drifted into the corrie below and the cliff faces around the A'Chir ridge. It created what seemed to be perfect conditions for the appearance of Brocken Spectres, as the sun behind the climbers' backs cast their shadows onto the mist cloud opposite.

The effect was so clear that when three members of the team stood side by side they were able to behold three dark

figures (their own shadows) crowned by a rainbow in the silvery mist. Even amongst the experienced group of climbers, it was the first time that some had witnessed the Brocken Spectre phenomenon — named after a peak in Germany. The Brocken Spectre to the right of the photo shows the shadow of the outstretched arms of photographer Jamie McKinnon. Climbers cannot see the Brocken Spectres of others, as the shadow projects onto a deep field of water particles extending perhaps many metres into the mist, and this is very different from the behaviour of a flat surface. Viewed directly from the source of the 'anti-solar' point, the shadow is firm, but from a different angle, that same faint shadow then stretches so far across the mist that it cannot be seen.



Aly Hume, Martin Ross and Neil McArthur behold their own Brocken Spectres (Photo by Jamie McKinnon)

Garden Gossip

By Claire Reaney

Clare Reaney, whom many know from her time here as the Castle gardener, will be writing garden notes for us, occasionally during this sleepy period of the garden year, but more frequently when the growing season starts.

NOW THE RECENT frosts have finished off any last autumn flowers it's a good time for a tidy up. If you have a compost heap you can just pile everything up and let nature take its course. In a few months the compost you have made can go back on the garden as a mulch or be dug into the veggie patch, where all the plant nutrients will be recycled.

You may not have room for a big compost heap — which is why the Council issued folk with those green plastic Daleks. There are two drawbacks to these, however. When they are full they can be a struggle to empty, and when they're empty the wind can catch them and roll them all over the place. A stout post solves the wind problem, and the emptying issue depends on whether you use the little door at the bottom or find a tall friend to help you remove the whole structure in one fell swoop, freeing up the bin to be started again. The advantage of the green Daleks is they allow more flexibility for a site. A bigger heap is a better heap, so you might consider sharing with a neighbour. Three old pallets tied together with a post at each corner works well, with a chickenwire mesh front which is easily removable for emptying. This might not be tidy enough for everyone's taste and there are some smarter, purpose-built, wooden boxes you can buy.

Composting is very wildlife friendly, as all those creepy crawlies and worms encourage the birds. Toads and frogs, slowworms and hedgehogs

all use the heap as a winter lodging. Toads are very well camouflaged and often in a dormant state, so do check carefully when emptying your heap — putting a fork through a toad can ruin your day (and his!). What about rats? Avoid putting anything food-like in your heap, especially in winter when the rodents are scavenging widely.

A good compost heap is like a good cake, a balance of ingredients that cook together to make a wholesome feast for your garden. If you have ever watched Monty Don sniffing and fingering his compost you know what I mean. A balance of carbon-rich versus nitrogen-rich is what to aim for. Carbon-rich is the dryer stuff, leaves or straw. This takes longer to break down, but it is helped along by the N-rich squishy green stuff such as grass clippings.



Man convicted after police monitor Bebo

A 19-YEAR-OLD Ayrshire man who was seen posing with a sword on social networking site BEBO pled guilty last week at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court to possession of a sword in a public place. The man was convicted and fined £200 after he was spotted by police investigators posing on BEBO with the weapon.

The case was reported to the Procurator Fiscal in Kilmarnock as part of Operation Access, a campaign against violence launched in July 2008. Strathclyde Police are currently trawling the internet to uncover criminal activity. Intelligence gathered in this way is then passed to the Violence Reduction Taskforce who work closely with local community police officers to identify those pictured online.

Commenting on the benefits of Operation Access, the Kilmarnock District Procurator Fiscal, Les Brown, said: 'This case demonstrates the benefits of using creative investigative techniques to gather evidence of crimes of violence and anti-social behaviour. It sends a clear message that those responsible for such crimes cannot escape justice.' Chief Superintendent Bill Fitzpatrick, the Divisional Commander for Ayrshire, added: 'Youngsters who use social networking sites irresponsibly should be warned that their activities are being monitored and they may get a visit from the police.'

Book review Sponsored by Book and Card Centre

Book Review

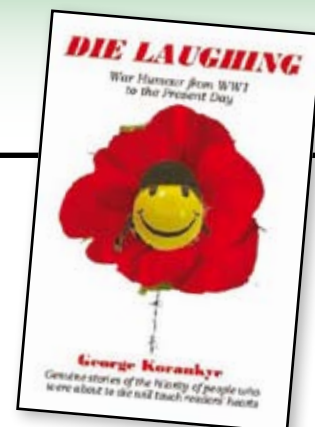
By Alison Prince

DIE LAUGHING: WAR HUMOUR FROM WW1 TO THE PRESENT DAY

When George Korankye was working as a radiographer in Scotland, he was deeply touched by people's ability to show compassion and endurance through a wry humour. Early in the book, he cites the case of a Canadian fighter pilot, on the radio to a mate at the base as his plane was spiralling to the ground in flames. 'Order me a late tea,' he said. The reader is not sure whether to laugh or cry.

Korankye collects his anecdotes from far and wide. A Scottish reminiscence of a squaddie's experience of France is purely linguistic. 'When ye ask them fir twa rolls they gie ye three.' (Think about it!) Enjoyable, too, is a radio exchange between the commander of an aircraft carrier and someone called Paddy. The commander orders Paddy to change course, but Paddy simply says again, 'You should steer her over a bit.' The commander screams, 'I am the Captain of Britain's biggest aircraft carrier with enough firepower to blast you out of the water. Who on earth are you?' 'Paddy the lighthouse keeper,' comes the answer. 'Please alter your course.'

Such laconic humour is a joy — but the book is far more than a mere collection of anecdotes. The author takes a careful look at how humans behave when faced with appalling circumstances, and his horror at the nightmares that men and women have lived through in the various conflicts is balanced by a humanitarian



understanding that sometimes 'you just have to laugh.' Humour is very much a thing of its time, though, and some of the jokes that cracked people up in 1915 may leave us a peg or two short of total hysteria. Others ring on down the ages. I chuckled over a shaggy dog story from the Iraqi affair that ended, 'Stay well away from Auntie Sharon when she's been drinking' and very much enjoyed an irreverent poem about Blair, Bush and Hussanga. And what, you may ask? Hussanga. Best not to tread in it. But, as the Koran wisely says, 'He deserves paradise who makes his companions laugh.'

In between the laughs, though, is a well-researched account of war and the way people cope when involved in it. George Korankye has written a brave, honest book, funny and yet taking a compassionate look at human tragedy. He is much to be congratulated.

Die Laughing: War Humour from WW1 to the Present Day

By George Korankye
Mirage paperback RRP £9.99
ISBN 1902578449

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.

Family Ceilidh

Whiting Bay Village Hall

Saturday 22nd November
6.30pm – 9.00pm
Adults £3, Children £2,
Family Ticket £8

In aid of Whiting Bay Primary School

Isle of Arran Drama Association

Open Meeting in the Conference Room at KA Campus Arran High School on Wednesday 26th November at 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME

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

Out & About

EVERY DAY (OR MOST DAYS)

Arran Craft Gallery, beside Bilslands,
Brodick—open Monday–Saturday
Arran Art Gallery, Shore Road, Whiting
Bay—closed for holidays
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 paintings by
Roberta McRae)
Main Fine Art, Michael Main Gallery,
Douglas Centre, Brodick—open 10am–
12.30pm & 2–4.30pm
Isle of Arran Distillery, Lochranza — Open
Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and
Sunday 10am to 4pm
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, Exhibition of Contemporary
Art, 13th–16th November, 12–4.30pm
KA Campus, Arran High School, Lamlash—
regular fitness classes, gym inductions

THURSDAY 13TH

Senior Aerobics, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
9.30–10.30am
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
10.45–11.45am
Brodick Castle Winter Exhibition of
Contemporary Art, Brodick Castle,
12–4.30pm
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
Corrie WRI, Elenor McCue, Floral X-mas,
Corrie Village Hall, 7.30pm
Middle Eastern Dancers' Practice & Lessons,
Lamlash, Church Hall, Beginners 7.30–
8.30pm, Intermediates 8.30–9.30pm
Balloons, Lamlash Community Theatre,
Arran High School, Lamlash, 8pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel,
Brodick, 10pm

FRIDAY 14TH

Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am
Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Brodick
Castle, 12–4.30pm

Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
2pm
Lamlash Friday Club, Church Hall Lamlash,
2pm
Kids' Club, Games Night, KA Campus,
Lamlash, 6.30–8pm
Arran Pipe Band Practice Session, Brodick
Hall, 7.30pm
ACVS AGM, Speaker Alec Anderson,
Economic Development Manager, NAC,
Ormidale Pavillion, 7.30pm
Balloons, Lamlash Community Theatre,
Arran High School, 8pm
Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Over 21's Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick,
10pm

SATURDAY 15TH

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All
day
RNLI Shop Lamlash open 10.30am–
12.30pm
Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Brodick
Castle 12–4.30pm
Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 11.30–
12.30am
Christmas Sale, Charity Sales, Home baking,
tombola, bric-à-brac etc. Brodick Hall,
12noon–3pm
Family Games, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
3–4pm
Fun in the Pool, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
4–5pm
Youth Club, Church Hall, Brodick—tabletop
gaming (last Sat. of month), pool, PS3,
dart, arts(next: 22 Nov) and crafts, table
tennis, board games etc., 7–10pm
Casino Night, Kilmory Village Hall, 8pm
Balloons, Lamlash Community Theatre,
Arran High School, 8pm
Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SUNDAY 16TH

Boys' Football, KA Campus, Lamlash
(Astroturf or Games Hall), 10–11am
Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Brodick
Castle, 12–4.30pm
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
Fiddle Class, 5.30–6.30pm, Ormidale

MONDAY 17TH

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
9.30–10.30am & 10.45–11.45am
Ways 2 Walk Group, Ormidale Pavillion Car
Park, Brodick, 11am
Scottish Country Dancers, Beginners &
Improvers, Corrie Hall, 2pm
Weight Wise, Hospital Bungalow, Lamlash,
5–5.30pm
Core Strength, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
5.30–6pm
Circuit Training, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
6–7.15pm
Ab Class Beginners, KA Campus, Lamlash
6.30–7pm
Aerobics, KA Campus, Lamlash, 7–8pm
Sannox Cricket Club, Indoor Practice,
Auchrannie Gym, Brodick, 7–9pm
Lamlash Bridge Club, Golf Club House,
Lamlash, 7.15pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Cameronia,
Whiting Bay, 9.30pm

TUESDAY 18TH

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
Poetry Workshop with Jason Watts, Burnside
Gallery, Brodick, 2–4pm (free)
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 19TH

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
Core Strength, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
5.30–6pm
Kick Boxing, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6–7pm
Circuit Training, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
6–7.15pm
Arran Rugby Club S1–U18 from 6.30pm,
Seniors from 7.30pm
Hockey, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 7–8pm
Arran Brass Band Rehearsal, Lesser Hall,
Whiting Bay, 7.15–9.15
Friends of Brodick Castle AGM, Speaker:
Mike Ainsley on “The Lancastria” &
Report by Ken Thorburn, Brodick Castle
Tearoom, 7.30pm
Short Story Workshop with Alison Prince,
Corrie Hall, 8pm (free)

THURSDAY 20TH

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
Poetry Workshop with Jason Watts, Burnside
Gallery, Brodick, 2–4pm (free)
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
Arran Music and Drama Club, Start
Rehearsals, Brodick Hall, 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

FRIDAY 21ST (PREVIEW)

Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am
Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
2pm
Lamlash Friday Club, Church Hall, Lamlash,
2pm
Kids' Club, Games Night, KA Campus, AHS
Lamlash, 6.30–8pm
Arran Pipe Band Practice Session, Brodick
Hall, 7.30pm
Arran Arts Festival, Play Performance
Reading by Nutshell Theatre Company,
of the winner of the McLellan Play
Award 2008, “Wasteland” by Fiona
Connor, Corrie Hall, 8pm (free)
Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Over 21's Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick,
10pm

SATURDAY 22TH (PREVIEW)

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All
day
RNLI Shop Lamlash open 10.30am–
12.30pm
Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 11.30am–
12.30pm
Farmers Market, Kilmory Village Hall,
11.30am–3.30pm
Whiting Bay Primary School Christmas Fete,
Whiting Bay Village Hall, 2–4.30pm
Family Games, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
3–4pm
Fun in the Pool, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
4–5pm
Family Ceilidh, Whiting Bay Hall, 6.30–9pm
Youth Club, Brodick Church, Crafts
(Scrapbooking, bring pictures), PS3, table
tennis, sports etc., 7–10pm
Bingo Night, Arran Childminders Group,
Whiting Bay Golf Club,
Arran Arts Festival, Poetry and Play Award
Presentation with poet W.N. Herbert,
Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 8pm (free)
Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SUNDAY 23TH (PREVIEW)

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

PLAN AHEAD

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**

What Were You Doing...

PEOPLE USED TO ask, 'What were you doing when you heard that Kennedy had been shot?' Quite probably, that question is fading from its prime position as a central moment. Instead, within a year or two, people may be reminiscing about what they were doing when Barack Obama was elected. Nobody knows, of course, what is to come. We all hope and pray that no deluded maniac will prevent this calm, resolute man from bringing sense to a nation that has racketed itself into global disfavour, and with any luck, we may be standing at the beginning of something better.

Anyway, at this pivotal time I was in Edinburgh, emerging from a slightly strange B&B. I crossed the road to the paper shop opposite with a lurch of dread that the Americans might have succumbed to the lure of McCain and the lunatic woman from Alaska. A lot of them actually had — but thank Heaven, far more had come down on the side of reason and decency. Relief beamed like private sunshine in the rainy street and kept me in a state of euphoria all day — which took some doing. A cold and cough the like of which I haven't had for at least thirty years

was filling my world with Strepsils and wet tissues, and the Prussian officer who ran my B&B had been seriously huffy the previous night when I turned up at 8.45pm, having got the 4.40pm boat from Arran. 'I vass expecting you at six-turty,' he snapped as I stood on his doorstep in the rain. I thought for a minute he was going to slam the door, but he let me in with some reluctance, handed me a room key and a list of instructions and vanished. 'What time is breakfast?' I called after him, and his voice came irritably back, 'It sess in ze instructions.'

Oh. OK, then. I let myself into a strangely purple room with a notional four-poster bed whose posts were thin black girders, dumped the wet bag and found the kettle. But everything worked fine, and at breakfast the Prussian officer was charm itself, angling his ramrod back deferentially over every guest and offering hot milk with the coffee. Warmed by this and the news about Obama, I floated through a blissful day of school visits for the launch of an anthology called *Our City*, contributed to by ten children's authors for a charity devoted to reducing social exclusion in Edinburgh.

LUNACY

My story in this book was a futuristic affair about a boy who had been implanted with a brain chip at birth so that he could be continually monitored and advised by 'Buddy', his computer-generated mentor. Nasty idea? Yes, indeed, but I'd been reading some perfectly straight-faced stuff in the technology supplements that forecast this as a desirable move for the future — and it didn't seem at all impossible, given the current state of our education system. Once you start assuming that statistical results justify fitting kids into their requirements, you're perilously close to accepting the mantra of fanaticism, that 'the end justifies the means.' In other words, get the results right, even if you teach nothing except that which will be tested. Prove that the system works, and everything works. Right? Wrong. Lunacy rules.

Perhaps the *One City* project had appealed mostly to those wise head teachers who stuck out for the nurturing of their children's individual needs rather than kow-towing to the league tables, but both the schools I went to on that blissful, Obama-filled day were a delight. Though from areas of severe

deprivation, the children were relaxed and friendly, all of them ready with intelligent questions but well able to listen and respond. We had a great time, specially at the school where I was joined by Cathy Cassidy of the younger generation of children's writers. 'Every school should have a day-dream room,' she said firmly, 'with soft pillows and nice music, where you can really explore your imagination.'

The Lord and Lady Provost were present by then, having snuck in with their mace bearer to sit at the side of the room, hardly noticed by the kids. The grand ones joined in the general chat afterwards and were marvellously enthusiastic and friendly. Even the mace-bearer, whose deportment was professionally grave and unbending, unbent quite considerably. 'I've learned a lot this morning,' he confided, as the children were marvelling at the Lord Provost's 100-year-old chain of office. Told that it was worth a million pounds, one of them indicated the mace-bearer and said, 'So you need that man to look after you, don't you. In case anyone tries to steal it.' 'That's right,' said the Lord Provost. A great day, all round.



the Wee voice Nepal

By **Christopher Jenks**

OVER THE OCTOBER break I went with my family to Nepal and Kalimpong, in West Bengal, and it was really exotic.

We like going on holiday to sunny beaches but this time we went to have an experience in the mountains and to find out about the Nepali lifestyle.

It was really sad seeing all the poor people in the slums of Pokhara. We went out on the lake there and it cost 100 rupees to hire a boat for an hour — that's about 75 pence.

We went on a four-day trek and we bought an orange from a mountain villager, but it turned out to have

maggots in it! Later in the holiday we helped to wash elephants! Their skin is really thick and leathery and the elephant drivers used big, long metal poles to train the young elephants but it was sad to see them being hit.

We had a great time in Nepal because of all the strange birds and animals.

The only bad thing about the whole holiday thing was the travelling bit, which I don't like — on the way there you just ride the wave and say it's all part of the experience but on the way home you just want to snap your fingers and be done with the holiday. We also had an overnight train ride, which took

10 hours, but I slept for most of that so it was ok. Two 10-hour flights, with delays of about 2 hours at each end, didn't help either. Finally at the end of our holiday we arrived where it all started — in a bus shelter at Paisley Gilmour Street station, with rain trickling down our backs and off our noses. Our trip across half the globe and back has taught me one thing. Elephants are the most beautiful animals in the world.

This week's Wee Voice is by Christopher Jenks, who is good at sleeping on aeroplanes.



PUT YOUR SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON OUR MESSAGE BOARD, FREE!

Family Ceilidh Whiting Bay Village Hall

Sat 22 November 6.30 – 9.00

Adults £3, Children £2,
Family Ticket £8

In aid of Whiting Bay Primary
School.

*Quiet Boddies
— Guess who's
13! With all
our love you
know who xx*



Friends of Brodick Castle and Country Park

The A.G.M of the friends of Brodick Castle and Country Park will be held on Wednesday 19th Nov at 7.30pm in the Castle tearoom. The speakers will be Mike Ainsley on "The Lancastria" and a report by Ken Thorburn NTS Property Manager. There will be wine and cheese to follow.

ROOTS OF ARRAN AGM Community Woodland Group

Fri 28 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



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)

Christmas Sale — Brodick Hall

Sat 15th November

Start 12 noon
to 3 o'clock

APAWS, SSPCA and C.P. Sale tombola,
home baking, bric-a-brac
Charity goods and table tops

To book a table phone 302150

INDOOR CRICKET PRACTICE

Auchrannie Gym 7-9pm

From Monday 17th November
Indoor Cricket Practice

Auchrannie Gym 7-9pm

From Monday 17th November

Annual General Meeting Arran Riding for the Disabled

The Annual General
Meeting will take place
on Friday 5th December
in Brodick Church Hall
at 11am.
All Welcome

Christmas Fete

Whiting Bay Primary School is holding a Christmas Fete in Whiting Bay village hall on Saturday 22nd November from 2.00–4.30, featuring craft stalls, home baking, a tombola, sale of Christmas crafts (come and make your own!), a CD/DVD "Swap Shop" and face-painting. Also an exhibition to celebrate 40 years of the school in its current building. All are welcome.

Winter Road Safety

By **Janis Murchie**

WINTER ROAD SAFETY

- The legal minimum tyre tread depth is 1.6mm. Check yours are legal.
- Ensure wiper blades are in good condition.
- Ensure the windscreen washer bottle is kept topped up.
- Are your lights and indicators in good working order and are clean?

Whenever you head out on the road, you should take time to observe the surroundings. Whether the winter weather brings snow, ice, fog or rain, there are steps you can take to reduce the chances of a road accident.

IN SNOW AND ICE

- Allow extra journey time to slow down and stop on difficult patches on the road.
- Use a high gear to avoid wheel spin and remember to manoeuvre gently.
- Don't lock your wheels while braking — select a low gear, allow your speed to drop, then use the brake pedal gently.
- If you do start to skid, ease off the accelerator gently. Don't brake suddenly.

IN FOG

- Use dipped headlights, only use fog lights when visibility is very poor or you will dazzle oncoming drivers.
- Don't fix on the tail lights on the vehicle in front — as you may end up driving too close to them.

IN RAIN

- Remember stopping distance dramatically increases on wet road surfaces.
- To improve visibility, keep well back from the vehicle in front.
- Unresponsive steering means your tyres are struggling to grip the road. This is a clear sign to ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually.



Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**

Amateur Meteorologist

SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S FORECAST

I suppose the best I can say is that last week's effort was a rough approximation, with Thursday and Friday no' bad. Saturday's strong winds and rain arrived a few hours late and Sunday was a wee bit better than predicted ... I don't mind that. My concern about the ferry was justified and my hope was in vain.

General Summary for 13th to 17th November:

A ridge of high pressure looked like it might give us some respite on Wednesday but then it slipped south, pushed out the way by a large low sneaking in from Greenland. A range of complex weather fronts crossing the country on Thursday, followed by more tightly packed isobars on Friday means ... guess what? Yep. Wind and rain.

However, the low is drifting off to the north west on Saturday and a wee ridge of high pressure tries again to reach us from the south, only for another low to centre itself over the Western Isles on Sunday. By Monday that looks like being replaced by a big anticyclone which has drifted across from the USA. This is going to be a bit of a weather forecaster's roller coaster.



Thursday

Lots of rain all day with no sign of the sun. Yeuch! Fairly mild though at 12°C. Winds will start brisk in the morning, but increasing in the afternoon and evening to more than 20mph from the west.



Friday

Still no sign of the sun. Just cloudy and mild (13°C) in the morning, but heavy rain moving in during the afternoon and evening. Winds will also increase to 25mph or more from the south west. If you need to be out, go in the morning.



Saturday

That wee ridge I mentioned earlier comes out to play today ... and so should you. There will be quite a few sunny periods and no rain till the evening. A bit colder, though, at 10°C. Winds will be quite strong in the morning (18-20mph) but will decrease as the day goes on.



Sunday

Still a few sunny spells, but a few showers here and there. Staying quite cold, but OK to be out and about with waterproofs. The wind will increase later in the day to 20mph from the west.



Monday

Becoming colder. That anticyclone will be pulling cold air down from the north. It will be dry and cloudy for most of the day, with a few spell of sunshine, but the wind continues strong and increasing later in the evening.

Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

I'm afraid that Tuesday and Wednesday look bad. Generally showery and blustery with winds perhaps getting close to gale force. It's looking more settled later in the week.

Ferry Notes

It's going to stay very windy, especially on Friday afternoon. Watch out for next Tuesday also.

Aldersyde closes

Island loses music venue

THE ALDERSYDE HOTEL closed for business last Sunday morning (9th November). 'We're leaving the island,' said owner Tam Skinner. 'We've had a lot of people who have said they are sorry to see it go, but we've been planning to move on.' It is not known yet whether the prospective buyers of the hotel property — a couple from England — will retain the licensed public bar and Indian restaurant on the premises.

'We've enjoyed putting the music on,' said Tam. 'We've had some really top class nights and a few that we'd rather forget.' The Aldersyde Hotel lost its late licence last year for allegedly selling drink after hours and undesirable 'social circumstances.' But the charges were dropped in advance of the Licensing Board extension review and Tam reckons that the episode cost him between £17,000 and £20,000. 'It absolutely crippled us,' he said.

The Aldersyde has been host to some of the best bands visiting Arran in recent years, as well as laying on regular and popular nights featuring local bands. Tam also staged a whole string of special one-off gigs such as an intimate 60 seat Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham gig and a few legendary performances by Dublin folk-blues geniuses The Sick and Indigent Song Club.

Tam says he has had difficulty attracting crowds when putting on gigs at other venues around the island, recalling a few Brodick-based gigs that were poorly attended. 'You can take a horse to water, but you can't make it drink,' Tam told *The Arran Voice* ruefully. Nevertheless, the Lamlash ex-landlord remains upbeat. He hopes to put on gigs as part of a Tam Skinner roadshow in coming months, and says he will continue to bring top bands and some local favourites to venues on Arran.

Potshot at the pier?

BRODICK IS MOURNING the loss of one of its finest natural assets this week, as Caledonian MacBrayne started work on removing the remarkable potholes opposite the pier that have been shaped over many years of island motoring.

Arran's cars regularly converge at the pier carpark, to fill up on fuel and pick up passengers travelling from the ferry. As cars pass through the area, the tarmac has become dislodged and degraded, each pothole becoming a unique and lasting symbol of Arran's rich motoring history. Scottish Natural Motoring Heritage (SNMH) has lodged no objection to the smoothing of the potholes, but in response to an informal consultation has requested that the white lines be re-painted in exactly the same places as before to preserve the character of the area. A spokesman for SNMH said: 'The phenomenal tarmac erosion became a much-loved island landmark representing the many important cultural exchanges

that have taken place at this spot.' Tourism organisation Visit 'Extreme' Arran has also expressed regret at the repair works, explaining that many tourist cars come to Arran 'looking for an adventure' and were always guaranteed an amazing initiation to the island's 'world-class, rugged, motoring terrain.' The VEA spokesman added: 'The loss of the potholes will be felt in both Arran and in the hearts of visitors from all over the world. But I suppose this is the fickle world of progress.'



Watch Arran's own Question Time



David O'Neill, Katy Clark MSP, chair Keith Robertson and Kenneth Gibson MSP

Arran hosted its very own 'Question Time' last Friday as three politicians (NAC's elected leader David O'Neill, Katy Clark MP and Kenneth Gibson MSP) were invited by Transition Arran to answer a number of questions posed by locals from Arran. The questions ranged from the

future of Arran's farming industry to a demand to find out what representatives are doing to deal with the island's housing crisis. The whole event was recorded on video and individual Q&As can be viewed at http://web.me.com/janattkins/Question_Time. It makes interesting viewing.

Casino Night

Get glammed up for a fun night at
KILMORY HALL
Saturday 15th November
8pm till 1am, Licensed Bar

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Sunday, 9th November	10.00am-7.30pm
Monday, 10th November	9.30am-5.00pm
Tuesday, 11th November	9.30am-5.00pm
Wednesday, 12th November	9.30am-7.30pm
Thursday, 13th November	9.30am-7.30pm
Friday, 14th November	9.30am-7.30pm

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New Sculpture for the Beatson

LAST WEEK ARRAN artist Tim Pomeroy installed a public sculpture at the new Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre within the grounds of Gartnavel Hospital near Anniesland Cross.

The medical director of the Centre, Professor Alan Rodger, said he has 'admired Tim's work for over thirty years and is delighted to have a Pomeroy in the Beatson Collection of commissioned and donated Scottish art.' He is delighted with the piece and says it 'complements the patients' courtyard near the main entrance superbly.' The work was funded by Beatson sponsor Varian.

Tim completed the sculpture in August but it is only now that there has been time to install it. It is one of a series of works based on the spiral motif the artist has been deeply interested in for some time. The regular pattern of forms incised across the stone relate directly to an area of fossil-rich beach that Tim found on Kildonan shore some years ago. This, together with his natural love of stone and a current interest in Neolithic and Bronze-Age art, formed a powerful combination that has inspired the current theme in his work. As he puts it, 'While the Kildonan fossil might be the mother or father of the theme, it's

a whole cocktail of influences that have come together to produce a coherent (I hope) whole.' He adds, 'I am really pleased with the response to the work so far, even in the short space of time since its installation'.

The Beatson Spiral, as the sculpture is called, is made from Portland stone and is dowelled into the wall to become an integral part of it. It sits directly outside the coffee shop area and can be clearly seen through the double glass doors which in summer will be open to allow access to the walled garden area. During the installation Tim was ably assisted by friend and fellow-poet Jason Watts (pictured left). 'This is the third public art work Jason has helped me to install,' Tim says, adding, 'I hope it's the third of many!' He also acknowledges the help of Richard King, a porter at the centre



and Una Boag for the final lift into position.

Tim's main objective at the moment is to prepare for a solo London exhibition next year at the famous gallery, Agnews. They showed three of his pieces in *Art London* last month and continue to represent him in the capital. To see more of his work go to www.timpomeroy.com.

And of course, visit the Brodick Castle exhibition this week or the Whiting Bay gallery when it reopens near the end of this month.

MONEY ADVICE

Rory Cowan writes a notional letter to a pensioner that might be noted by those still working.

Dear Noel,

I am so very relieved that you found the time in your busy working life to put a pension in place. You had always disdained the thought of pensions and appeared to have been actively against the very idea.

We all thought you were in the old school of 'my business is my pension', but when the recession hit and you were looking to sell the business, we were concerned. Yours was a particularly well run business and we all admired the fact that you had never approached the bank for anything more serious than a current account so it was alarming to hear that you were laying people off, as you said, because there was no work for them. There is little point in

employing people whose skills you cannot use if the products you are making will not sell.

We did discuss your exit plan from the business some time ago and you will recall how I explained that the best time to sell your business is when it is on the up, when the order books are full and when you are fresh and keen to move things forward. Trouble is, the last thing you would consider just then is to pass on the reins. So the business moved to the next phase. You expanded painfully and eased yourself through the glass ceiling to reach that next level. The process clearly took its toll and it was apparent to us that you were not really enjoying business life quite so much after the expansion as before. This is because the aims and strategies change a little at such times. Not only are you trying to build the business even further but you have the added pressure not to make a mistake and lose it all again.

In addition this is the time when you have to take time out to manage your staff and you begin to lose touch with the business you started. You are not 'hands on' any more —

you have to use different and alien tools in order to move on. It is an exciting time and also a dangerous one because mistakes can be very costly. You can find yourself with too narrow a product base, too few customers though some may be large buyers, an ageing workforce — all these things have their advantages and disadvantages and the reality is that some of them you have no control over.

Now the recession is here, your large customers have dropped away one by one to buy inferior but cheaper products from abroad. Your business is showing signs of struggling and the books look rather strained. You've had to downsize and the redundancies have taken a toll on the balance sheet. Your business which showed so much promise can't be sold and you have just closed it down. No debts fortunately but no nest egg either.

Thank goodness you took out that pension.

Yours,
Rory

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Back row (left to right): R Black, K Bone, D Murchie, K Bayne
Middle row (left to right): A Corbett, D McKenzie, C Murchie, C Currie, A Millar, G Thomson, A McChlery
Front row (left to right): I McKinnie, M McKinnie, L-J Menzies, I Watson, J Reid, K Bannatyne, M Livingstone, K Shaw, M Bannatyne

OLD ARRAN HIGH schoolmates were reminiscing at a reunion held at Lamlash golf club last weekend. It was the first time that some of the ex-pupils had seen each other in over 30 years, but many of the faces hadn't changed much, according to Catherine (Currie) Hanslip, who had dug out the old class photos for display at the clubhouse!

19 of the 38 pupils who started Arran High School in 1970 met up for the dinner and shared memories of their schooldays. David Oakes was the school geography teacher at the time and Jimmy Stewart, Heather Gough, Liz Sinclair and Margaret Wright were just embarking on their teaching careers. 'There was a great buzz as everybody caught up on the last 30 plus years and danced the night away,' said Catherine, who now lives on the East coast, but regularly returns to Arran. Copies of the two original class photos are to the left. See if you can recognise any of the faces without looking at the captions beneath...



Back row (left to right): D Hendry, J Kelso, R McKenzie, J McKenzie, D Miller, S Donaldson, D Pirie
Front row (left to right): M Campbell, J McGowan, C Neary, S Irving, M Reid, E Sillars, J McKinlay, H Dickie,
Cross-legged on the floor: D Kelso

John Duncan and Margaret Faulkner were absent on the day the photos were taken.



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

12th–15th November — "Balloons"
Community Theatre, Lamlash, 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 Sheila Templeton (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)

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Clark speaks out against 'shameful' treatment of veterans

LOCAL MP Katy Clark has called for more recognition and support for war survivors in the UK, saying, 'I believe we need to be doing a great deal more, particularly for those returning injured from conflicts who have to cope with the disability inflicted by their war time experiences for the rest of their lives.' Katy was speaking after attending the local Remembrance Day Parade in Kilwinning and said that while she welcomed measures taken by the Government to assist veterans, such as increased funding to charities like *Combat Stress*, there was still more to do. 'Too often such veterans have to

struggle to get adequate housing and adaptations such as rails or suitable showers so that they are able to cope with their disability. It is shameful that we feel able to send the services off to war but not look after the wounded to the best of our ability on their return.'

Katy also made a call to add the names of all those who have died in conflicts since World War II to local war memorials, and said, 'We must recognise the sacrifice that our countrymen and women have made in serving their country, not only in the First and Second World Wars, but in all subsequent conflicts.'

Puppy diary

By Margaret Kay

BELLA SEEMED TO decide last weekend that she had better slow down — and slow down she did. Absolutely everything was ready for Bella to have her babies so we then settled down to wait ... and wait, and wait. Bella just appeared to be a bit uncomfortable, no more than that, and rested most of the day, determinedly refusing to go anywhere near her whelping box.

By 11.30pm on Tuesday night she was showing no sign of meeting her due date, despite her tummy looking like a bag with several wee monkeys trapped in it. We waited all through Wednesday, but despite the local bonfire and fireworks, nothing was shifting her bundle.

To cut a long story short, Bella had a C-section on Friday morning and safely delivered one wee boy. He must have been having a party prior to being born because the size of her certainly looked like more than one pup. Because he was overdue, the pup struggled a bit at first — and this is where the Rescue Remedy comes in. A little RR mixed in a wee dropper with some of his mum's milk got him going.

Because Bella did not deliver the pup naturally and the experience is new to her, she is a bit perplexed by the whole thing. It's like "What are you and where did you come from?" She is happy to let him feed and certainly snuggled in to him last night, but as for cleaning him, she's left that to me for the moment. So last night, the alarm clock was set for 2.00am to check he was feeding and then to clean him. Then it was then set for 4.00am to repeat and finally it was set for 6.00am again to make sure he was feeding ok and was clean and that his "hotties" were filled up and nice and warm. This will go on all day, doing a two hourly feeding and cleaning cycle with

him. Bang goes the ironing! Hopefully as Bella starts to feel better she will get more interested in the pup's hygiene and I will be able to get a good night's sleep.

Because Bella couldn't have done this all without Malcolm, the vet, the pup is going to be called Malcolm. However, because of his size (he weighs only 150 grammes), he will be called Wee Malkie until he goes to his new home. To avoid any confusion in this column, vet-Malcolm will be referred to as Big Malkie.

I will be in for a busy and probably sleepless few days until Wee Malkie settles down and his mum realises what her role is in all of this. Then, perhaps I'll get on with the ironing.



Getting to know Liz Robertson

By Nick Underdown



LIZ ROBERTSON (née Frew) always wanted to be a farmer. 'When I was wee I wanted to be a farmer. I had a toy farm that I played with every day, but back in 1962 girls couldn't be farmers,' explains Liz with a reminder of just one of the many ways Arran has changed over the years. Now 53, she lives with her husband Duncan at Cosyden Farm in Machrie running a stock of 1,100 North Country Cheviot Sheep. She and her family moved to Arran from Ayrshire in 1955 when Liz was just five months old. Her father, an electrician for some years after being de-mobbed also had the agricultural instinct and when a farming lease came up on the west coast of Arran, the family moved to start a new life on the island.

Liz developed a fascinated love of nature, inspired in part by the early wildlife footage of Armand and Michaela Denis (precursors to David Attenborough). And growing up on Arran meant she could explore the natural world from the doorstep. Her first pet was a sheep called Eve. 'It was a perfect torment. It used to come into the house and follow people about,' said Liz.

Liz is now a strong woman, with more than just a touch of the Viking about her. 'I think somewhere there might be Viking in my blood,' she laughs, with a smile of strong teeth behind a sweep of fine, golden hair. One of her happiest memories is picking strawberries in a remote farm west of Trondheim in Norway, a country she loves. It was just one of a number of jobs she picked up on her way to farming on Arran.

She attended Shiskine primary and Lamash secondary school and was part of the generation shipped off to Rothesay Academy for schooling at the age of 16 where she 'learnt how to be a good pillion on the back

of a motorbike driven at great speed.' Having been inspired by David Oakes, who was the geography teacher on Arran at the time, she went on to teach geography in the east end of Glasgow at Smithycroft Secondary School (since demolished) and recalls teaching the 'unsafe witness' in the Ice-Cream Wars trial. 'I liked the kids there. They were good and tough.'

STILETTOS ON THE STRING

Despite the city work, Liz remained anchored in Arran. During the summers of the 70s she would return to the island to work for Helen McAllister at Cairnhouse (one of Scotland's first pony-trekking centres). It wasn't all work. Liz remembers the heydays of the Shisky Disky and can recall walking back from a party in Brodick to Machrie over the String in a pair of stilettos in 1972. But every weekend she continued to graft and found jobs as a barmaid at the Barn in Shiskine (then run by Margie and Donald Currie) and helped her mother run the boarding house at Cosyden. Her father died when she was 19, and Liz's determination to practise that family farming instinct eventually led her to Auchencar, where she started working for John and Iris Mansfield in 1979.

During the same year she met Duncan Robertson at May Bannatyne's 21st party. They got together at New Year and were married the following year. The couple moved to Shanghai Cottage (now Achnacarrie Cottage) on the Kilpatrick road, but moved back beside Cosyden a few years later to farm. By choice, the couple have never had children (although Liz has nieces and nephews that she dotes on). Instead they have raised a farm. Having started off with a small flock of just 15 sheep they now have over one thousand North Country

Cheviots. Once raised, the store lambs are sold via United Auctions in Stirling where they are held on a bigger East coast farm before slaughter in April.

Liz's fondness for the breed seems to stem from an admiration of their amazing resilience. Up and down the west coast the Cheviots graze tough, permanent grassland. 'Most of the land in Machrie is not very good,' explains Liz. 'It's basically farming on the beach, as the late Gordon MacKenzie used to say.' Liz has become an amateur expert on stock breeding selection and over the years she has also learned the skills of dog handling under the tutelage of the late Jimmy McNeill, perhaps the island's finest dog-handling shepherd.

Liz and Duncan have made a living as farmers during one of the toughest times in recent Scottish agricultural history. International competition has driven down prices for lamb and wool prices are 'diabolical' (down to 10p a kilo last year). The two outbreaks of foot and mouth (FMD) since 2000 have had devastating effects throughout the industry. 'The hills are emptying,' says Liz. 'Some farming areas have lost up to 60% of their stock.' Between 2006 and 2007 there was a fall of £7 per lamb and Liz has also witnessed the disappearance of the once regular livestock market in Brodick.

And yet the Machrie farmers remains defiantly upbeat. 'Quite a lot of the Southend farms are relatively young. Arran has the potential to be different,' she says, with a hope that the island has retained farming knowledge within the community where other areas of Scotland have been forced to diversify beyond recognition.

NOT SHY

She is also not shy to tackle some of the

troubles affecting the farming world. She takes issue with many of the priorities of Scottish Natural Heritage, arguing that grazing pastures are conducive to many of the flowers that the quango seeks to protect. She is also an ardent supporter of the National Farmers Union of Scotland (NFUS). After the recent outbreak of FMD at Pirbright, the Scottish Government paid farmers £6 per breeding ewe. 'That made the difference between survival or not,' said Liz. 'The NFU in England are toothless. They were given no such support. The NFUS is listened to by the Scottish Government.'

Liz is convinced that the future is local. She will only buy British dairy products and refuses to shop on the mainland for goods that she can buy on the island. 'I've never been in Asda and I never will do ... The Co-op has sucked the lifeblood out of the small shops on the island.' She fears that Asda will do the same to the Co-op. 'If we lose the Co-op, then we've got no back-up. We've got to get local again. Why should I buy Danish bacon while the pig industry in Ayrshire collapses? But we can't make people just do it. We need to provide them with what they want.'

ENDURANCE

In a way it is no surprise that Liz's favourite book is Joe Simpon's *Touching the Void*. 'I've read it sixteen times. I've been up every mountain and around every cape in the world from my armchair,' explains Liz. It is the account of one man's incredible will to survive after falling down a deep crevasse when descending the Siula Grande mountain in the Peruvian Andes. It would seem the shores of Machrie have imbued Liz with a similar spirit to endure the hard times of farming.

From March 1979

By Tomas Tranströmer (1931-)

Poem
of the week

Weary of all who come with words, words but no language
I make my way to the snow-covered island.
The untamed has no words.
The unwritten pages spread out on every side!
I come upon the tracks of a deer's hooves in the snow.
Language but no words.

Translated from the Swedish by Robin Fulton

Tomas Tranströmer is one of Sweden's foremost poets. His collected poems were published in English in 2006 under the title *The Great Enigma*.



Recycling

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If there is space, we'll also add a note of items available for recycling in our Classifieds section of the paper.

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Kildonan Hotel

MANY HERE ON the Island will remember just how run down and sub-standard the Kildonan had become.

Many will also fondly remember the glory days when this was "The Hotel" in the area.

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Now a stylish blend of old and new has produced 17 ensuite rooms and suites, most with panoramic ocean views or garden patios. Open year round, the Hotel is ideally situated to cater to those seeking a luxurious haven from the pressures of daily life.

Meals are served in the Pub and dining room, both with equally high quality menus and an extensive choice of Wine, Beers and Malt Whiskeys to suit every taste. Rod has developed some unique dishes using seasonal and local produce as they come available. Combined with his natural flair for seasonings and flavours he never fails to please.

We cater to functions big and small always with the added touch to complement the occasion. Our weddings are well known for the beauty of the gardens and scenery plus the individual planning accorded each couple for their special Day.

At this time of soaring costs we have endeavoured to keep our prices fair and reasonable with something to suit every budget. Most beverages and meals are still at 2007 prices. We greatly appreciate the support we have from our local communities and in that small way will continue to give back to them a token of that appreciation.

As we rush once more into the festive season we will make staff parties, Christmas and New Year dinners as affordable as possible while maintaining our high standards.

For all who have become regular customers of the Hotel, we thank you, and for all who have yet to venture to the South End we invite you to come check us out.

Kildonan Hotel

Open Year Round

Bar meals daily

1pm–3pm and 6pm–9pm

Restaurant Open

Friday–Tuesday, evenings 6pm–9pm

Christmas Day

2 dinner sittings at 1pm and 3pm

New Year

4 course Dinner Dance, champagne, fireworks etc

£60.00 per person

(limited seating still available)

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Room rates slashed for November!

2 nights B&B for one night price of £90.00 per room



Book now for your special occasions and leave the rest to our experienced team for a stress-free festive season.

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Arran's Save the Children fundraising success

A CHRISTMAS FAYRE run by the Arran Branch of Save the Children was the culmination of a fantastic fundraising effort for the charity last weekend. 'There was a great buzz about the place,' said regional coordinator Elsie Paton, who had made the journey from the mainland for the event. 'They are so well-supported on the island.' Sales of home-baking were the usual success and an impressive range of tasty soups was probably the best selection laid on by any 'eatery' on the island. The money raised is donated to the work carried out by Save the Children UK, which runs a huge programme of projects around the world focussing on the improvement of child welfare and alleviation of poverty.

The Arran branch of the charity holds events throughout the year, and last weekend the winner of the 2008 puzzle was announced, as the name of Liz Clarke from Shiskine was drawn from a hat out of the hundreds who had taken part. The puzzle, which has been running since February, raised a whopping £1,234. For those who have been itching to know the answers to the quite tricky puzzle, here they are:

1. Blood is Thicker Than Water
2. Arctic Circle
3. Down in the Dumps
4. Hot Under the Collar
5. Add Insult to Injury
6. Free for All
7. Person to Persons
8. Running Distance
9. An Inside Job
10. Higher IQ
11. Mixed Doubles
12. T-Total
13. Head and Shoulders Above the Rest
14. 3 Degrees Below Zero
15. Just Between You and Me
16. Neon Light

Recipe

By Janis Murchie

BUTTERNUT AND APPLE HARVEST SOUP

Ingredients

- 30g butter
- 2 large leeks (white and pale green parts only), chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 large potato, peeled and cubed
- 280g cubed butternut squash
- 135g diced carrots
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored, and sliced ¼ inch thick
- 945ml chicken stock
- 60ml dry white wine (optional)
- 65g light cream
- 0.8g ground nutmeg
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 6g chopped chives

Method

1. Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Stir in leeks and onions, and cook until the onion softens and turns translucent, about five minutes. Add potato, squash, carrots, apple, and chicken stock. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer until the vegetables are soft, about 20 minutes.
2. Carefully puree the soup in batches in a blender, or use a stick blender to puree the soup in the pot. Once the soup is smooth and lump-free, return it to the pot and stir in wine and cream. Season with nutmeg, salt, and pepper; simmer gently for five minutes. Ladle into bowls and garnish with chopped chives.



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Come and Ceilidh!

THE ARRAN ARTS Festival (formerly known as 'McLellan') is once again this year holding two evenings of poetry and song: the first, *Made on Arran*, takes place on Tuesday 18th November at 8pm in The Eden Lodge Hotel, Whiting Bay, and the second, *Arran and Beyond*, on Thursday 20th November at the Ormidale Hotel, Brodick.

Made on Arran is an Open Mic event — which means anyone is welcome, not just to enjoy the music and poetry, but also to perform. Local singer/songwriters, poets and musicians are invited to come along, give their names to inimitable MC, the witty and talented Eric Dunn (aka Professor Polinka), who will invite them to step up to the microphone and perform. However, this is not a night for cover versions or classic poems. No, this is a night for raw local talent to show itself. The emphasis at *Made On Arran* is specifically poems, tunes and songs composed by the people of Arran (and you won't be turned away for telling a story with local provenance!)

At last year's event more than a dozen poets and musicians performed their work, with each one offering two or three pieces. The night was a notable success that drew a very favourable response from a crowd of around 40 people. Some unsuspecting diners at the Eden Lodge were swept up in the whole thing and stayed long after their plates were cleared.

What happened that night was a ceilidh in the original sense of the word. In its earliest form a ceilidh was a 'gathering,' not necessarily including dance; a literary entertainment where stories, tales, poems and ballads were recited, songs sung, proverbs quoted, and conundrums put. The first *Made On Arran* was in this tradition, and it was perhaps the slightly ad hoc nature and

sense of people making their own entertainment that made it so appealing.

Arran and Beyond at the Ormidale on Thursday 20th also showcases poetry and song. As the name suggests, the evening draws together local and mainland artists. In this instance Brodick-based singer/songwriters Robyn Keen and Amie Hume will appear with Troon-based poet Sheila Templeton. Amie and Robyn compose all their own material and have recently had success in a national song-writing competition which saw them shortlisted from an entry of thousands of original songs.

Some readers may remember Sheila Templeton as last year's winner of the McLellan Poetry award. Her poem, *Ripenings*, was judged by Janet Paisley to be the best of 650 entries and received the £1,000 prize. Sheila is originally from Aberdeen, and her work still draws on the rich Buchan landscape despite leaving it 40 years ago. She is a fine reader of her work, having honed her skills with The Makar Poets who perform regularly at venues throughout Scotland. In print her work has appeared in many magazines, and since 2000 she has garnered top prizes in five poetry competitions.

If all this talk of poetry is making your neglected writing hand fidget, there are also two Poetry Workshops during the Festival. They will be held in The Burnside Gallery, Brodick between 2 and 4pm on Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th November, and will be led by local poet Jason Watts. They are free and open to all — just bring a pen and your imagination.

So why not bring a dreich November night alive with a dose of the ceilidh spirit? Come and add your voice or simply your presence to *Made On Arran* and *Arran and Beyond*.

News from the Blues



On 4 November between 8.45 and 9.45pm a wall-mounted camera sited near Miller's Estate Agents in Brodick was damaged. Police are appealing for any information from members of the public.

On 6 November at 9.30am a 19-year-old Corriecravie male was apprehended on the C147 road at Sliderry and reported for driving a motorcycle without a licence, insurance, a valid MOT certificate, road tax, or a helmet.

On 7 November at 10pm a 15-year-old Whiting Bay male was reported for drinking in public.

On 9 November a 42-year-old Whiting Bay male was stopped for alleged drink driving. The police are awaiting the results of tests.



All Welcome

Scottish Episcopal Church

(in full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday, 16th November (St Margaret of Scotland, our Patron): Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mr John Roberts. Coffee after service.

Wednesday, 19th November: Holy Communion, 12.15pm. All Welcome.

Church of Scotland

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 16th November
Rev. Gillelan Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
All welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland

16th November 2008
Shiskine, 11am (Church is on the road between Machrie and Blackwaterfoot)
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 16th November in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.

10.55 Worship Service, Tea and coffee afterwards
Everyone welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland

(continuing)

Sunday 16th November, 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service, 7pm
All welcome

Church of Scotland,

Parishes of North Arran; Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine

Independent but working together.
Minister Rev. Angus Adamson, Parish Assistant, Mrs Jean Hunter
Worship will be conducted at the following times:

Sunday 16th November
Brodick Church, 10.30am
Corrie Church 12 noon
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Lochranza 10.15am
Shiskine 12 noon

A service of worship will also be held at Montrose House at 1.30pm

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Sunday Morning Mass 11am

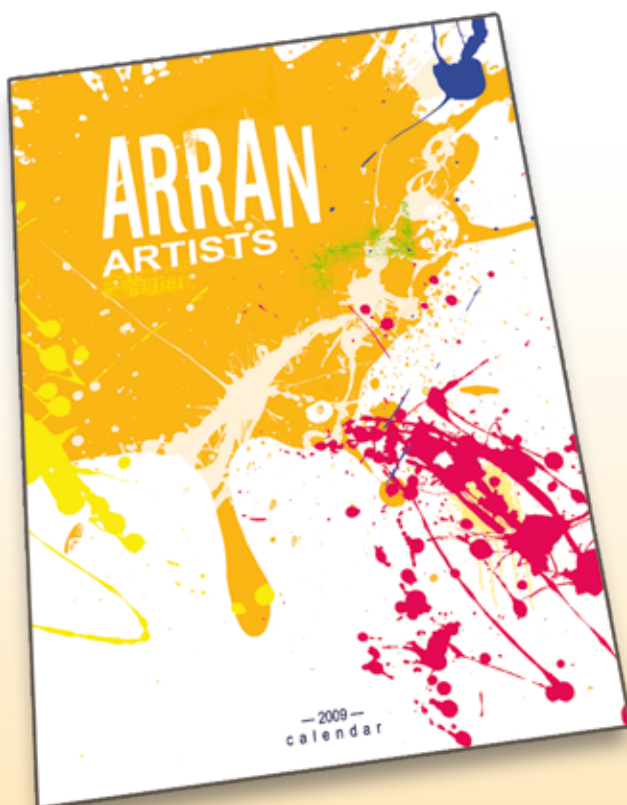
Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 16th November 2008
Worship will be conducted by Mr Ronald Lavalette, Moderator of Ardrossan Presbytery at 10.30am.
All welcome.

A soup and sandwich lunch will be served in the transept after the service and everyone most welcome.
Tea and Coffee will be served in the Hall after the service.
At 6.30pm in the transept, there will be an informal service of praise, prayer and discussion.
All most welcome.

Arran Artists Calendar 2009

On Sale Now!



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Arran Voice

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Catacol Hotel

Cladach Pottery

Harbour Shop

Jimmie Gordons

Kildonan Stores

Kilmory Village Hall

Old Byre Showroom

Pirnmill Shop

Shiskine Golf Course

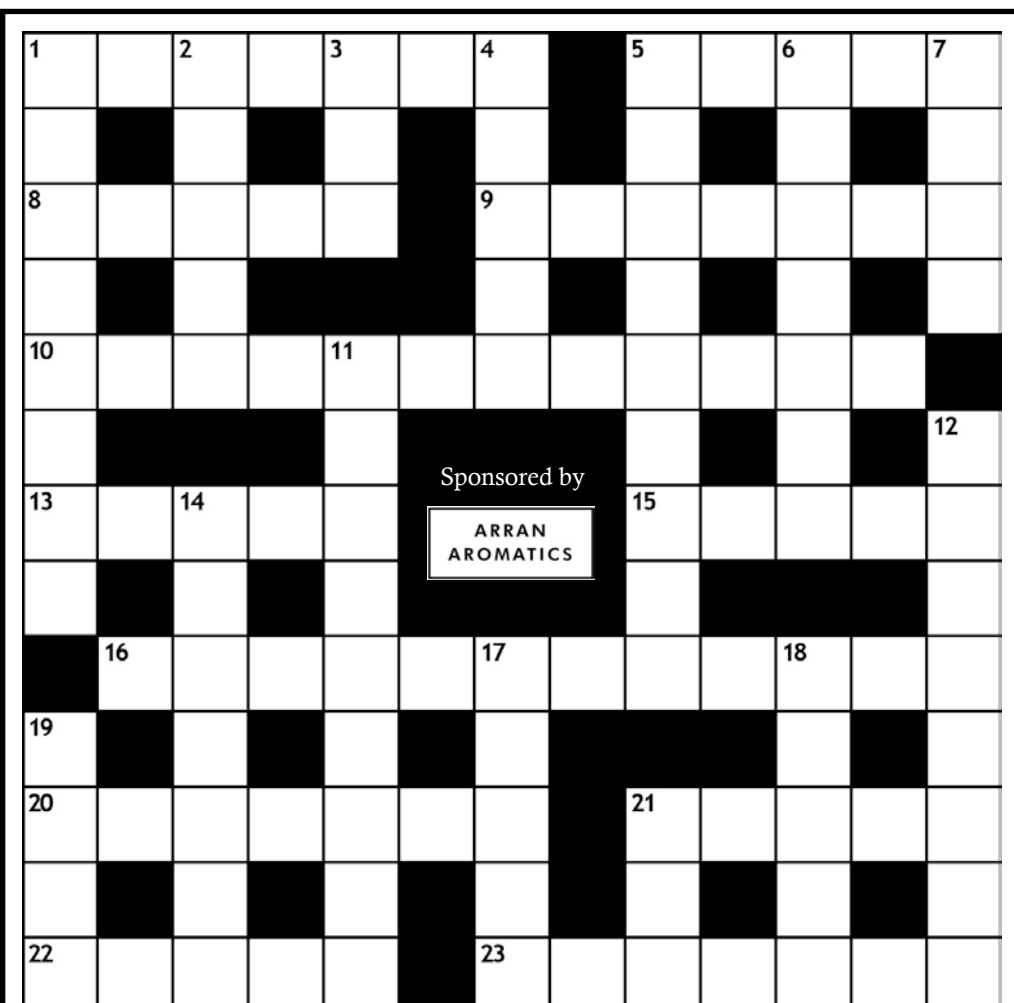
The Burnside

The Lemon Tree

The Village Shop

Whiting Bay Post Office

Weekly Prize Crossword

Compiled by **The Wee Scunner**
**One Crossword —
two sets of answers!**
ARRAN
AROMATICS
Win an Arran Aromatics gift box worth £30 this week
You have until Tuesday, 25 November 2008 to send in your completed cryptic crossword.
This week's crossword sponsored by Arran Aromatics, Tel: 01770 302595, Website: www.arranaromatics.com. Winners are asked to contact the shop before collecting their prize.
Answers to Issue 82's crossword can be found on page 19.


Sponsored by

ARRAN
AROMATICS

Please send your completed crosswords to **The Arran Voice, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX**. Alternatively, e-mail your answers to info@arranvoice.com, with the word "Crossword - Issue 84" in the subject line.

Name:

Address:

Telephone/E-mail:

Cryptic Clues

Across

- 1 Bring out hub slip (7)
- 5 Box conflict (5)
- 8 O active fruit (5)
- 9 Prolonged 5 across, secure sorcerer (7)
- 10 Bubbly — he swears very English perfume (12)
- 13 Not a crazy itinerant (5)
- 15 Beginning where film actors work (5)
- 16 One of five Hardy heroine reversed north — east church spirit (12)
- 20 Plunder tablet date (7)
- 21 Corner old invader (5)
- 22 Belief, either way (5)
- 23 Lack of activity upset one English train (7)

Down

- 1 Interactive broadcasts hospital one with pins around (8)
- 2 Short instructions (5)
- 3 Fury found unexpectedly in fair empathy! (3)
- 4 Old neck sounds like hedge fruits (5)
- 5 Wild and fierce, rewrote loud core promissory notes (9)
- 6 Reasons for lees (7)
- 7 Accept capture (4)
- 11 Laid off surplus (9)
- 12 Latin and so forth (2,6)
- 14 Sentimental girl with nothing back (7)
- 17 Mile mixed with English fragrant resin (5)
- 18 Thing upset after dark (5)
- 19 Petty argument expectorated (4)
- 21 Fire Lizzy Borden's weapon? (3)

Quick Clues — just for fun!

Across

- 1 Flaw (7)
- 5 Stall (5)
- 8 Crazy (5)
- 9 Accumulation (7)
- 10 Irregular (12)
- 13 Jumped (5)
- 15 Antechamber (5)
- 16 Eleven (8,4)
- 20 Stuck to (7)
- 21 Permitted (5)
- 22 Dog (5)
- 23 Leaves (7)

Down

- 1 Docile (8)
- 2 Void (5)
- 3 Cold (3)
- 4 Custom (5)
- 5 Dishonest (9)
- 6 Rocking song (7)
- 7 Exercises (4)
- 11 Foot bones (9)
- 12 Blackberries (8)
- 14 An additional one (7)
- 17 Helped (5)
- 18 Keen (5)
- 19 Powder (4)
- 21 Check (3)

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19th and from Monday
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Saturday 15th November, at 8.00pm**

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Issue 82 Crossword Answers

Cryptic Answers

Across: 1 Swift; 4 Sweet Talk; 9 Cyclone;
10 Airmail; 11 Amphitheatre; 14 Murmur;
15 Unisex; 17 Greedy; 19 Banana;
21 Weather Beaten; 26 Araroba; 27 Factory;
29 Boltholes; 30 Theme.

Down: 1 Sack; 2 Incomer; 3 Too; 4 Scent;
5 Erase; 6 Taratantara; 7 Awakens; 8 Kelp;
12 Houndstooth; 13 Smug; 16 X-ray;
18 Eyeball; 20 Awesome; 22 Email; 23 Buffs;
24 Lamb; 25 Byre; 28 Cat.

Quick Answers

Across: 1 Fibre; 4 Job Centre; 9 Bannock;
10 Unfrock; 11 Vulnerability; 14 Citrus;
15 Barren; 17 Boffin; 19 Willow;
21 Mother Country; 26 Battery; 27 Trapeze;
29 Throttles; 30 Loyal.

Down: 1 Puberty; 2 Elf; 3 All; 4 Indian;
5 Assume; 6 Icebreakers; 7 Novel; 8 Restyle;
12 Cooperative; 15 Lug; 17 Top; 18 Juggler;
20 Rapidly; 21 Atweel; 22 Aeneas; 24 Anton;
26 Races; 29 Fat.

Winner of Issue 82 Crossword:

Congratulations to **Lorna Craig from Brodick** who wins the gift voucher this week.

Issue 83 Sudoku & Kakuro Solutions

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

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

	17	30				10	12	16
11	9	2	3		20	1	4	7
19	8	9	2	20	1	2	8	9
	9	8	1	5	2	3		
3				24			35	10
9	2	7	29	1	8	4	9	7
			30					
29	1	4	7	8	9	5	11	8
			17	8	9	7	2	5
6		10						4
28	5	8	9	6	11	3	7	1
9	1	2	6				9	6
								3

Sudoku

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

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

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

On this day...

- 1841** James Braid first sees a demonstration of animal magnetism, which leads to his study of the subject he eventually calls hypnosis.
- 1887** Bloody Sunday clashes in central London.
- 1954** Great Britain defeats France to capture the first ever Rugby League World Cup in Paris in front of around 30,000 spectators.
- 1990** The World Wide Web was launched for public use.
- 1994** Voters in Sweden decide to join the European Union in a referendum.

Star Birthdays

- 1850** Robert Louis Stevenson, Scottish writer
- 1933** Adrienne Corri, Scottish actress
- 1952** Art Malik, Pakistani-born English actor
- 1955** Whoopi Goldberg, American actress, comedian, and singer
- 1969** Gerard Butler, Scottish actor



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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.

	24	40				17	38	19
12					11	5	12	
13			28					
		12						
24						15		
	16					3		
		4			9			
12				4	13			11
16			29					
		14						
31							6	
	8						4	

Lucky it was a wet bonfire night and ye didnae burn doon yer shed this year!



Mr. McFall's Tango Treat

By Dave Payn

LAST SATURDAY SAW the welcome return to Arran of Mr. McFall's Chamber as part of the Music Society season of concerts.

Consisting of seven musicians, (two violins, viola, 'cello and bass with piano and percussion) along with sound engineer Ben Seal, they were formed in the mid 1990s from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. In Saturday's concert, the main theme of the evening was the tango and in particular, the tango nuevo of Argentine Astor Piazzolla, (1921–1992). His approach to tango writing has divided opinion for many a year, with his extended and dissonant harmonies, incorporating classical and jazz elements. Robert McFall and his colleagues were utterly at home in the genre and clearly revel in this composer's work. Nowhere was this more apparent than in their performance of Piazzolla's *Adios Nonino*, composed in memory of his recently departed father. This, the most famous of Piazzolla's themes, is the one that he himself performed most often in his concerts. It is full of anger, passion and despair, qualities sublimely brought out by the McFall musicians.

Their guest for the evening was Chilean singer Valentina Montoya Martínez, who performed a selection of her own songs as well as others written by Isobel Parra and Astor Piazzolla. Sensitively accompanied by the ensemble, one could instantly tell that this music was in her blood. Her voice, at times deliciously velvety and at other times

powerfully passionate, particularly and spectacularly came to life in her rendition of *Y somos la gente* ('We are the people'), where her variety of tone and expression came to the fore.

Other notable highlights included *The Church Closest to the Sea* by Gavin Bryars, named after the church in St. Monan's, Fife. As well as Rick Standley's vibrant pizzicato bass, there were some sumptuous 'cello solos from Su-a Lee as well as expert percussion playing by Iain Sandilands on a variety of instruments, including a curious effect of scraping a double bass bow over the ends of the metal bars of a vibraphone.

Demonstrating their versatility in other styles they also included a work by progressive rock artist Robert Fripp, *The Sheltering Sky*, which featured some high-wire electric violin playing from their leader Greg Lawson, who led the ensemble superbly throughout the evening. Their pianist Graeme McNaught demonstrated wonderful touch on the electric piano with his performance of selections from Carlos Guastavino's folk-inspired *Cantos Populares*, whilst Su-a Lee swapped her 'cello for a musical saw to play Edith Piaf's classic *La Vie en Rose* accompanied in part by whistled 'birdsong' from the other ensemble members! *Tobacco Auctioneer* by former swing band leader Raymond Scott and another Piazzolla work as an encore closed a thoroughly inspired evening of high class musical entertainment.

Hannah and Harvey

By Alison Prince

A TOURING COMPANY called Reeling and Writing sounds interesting even before it arrives, but Arran was in for a treat last Friday as this enterprising lot moved into the Community Theatre at the High School and unveiled an extraordinary play.

Based on a true story, the production centred round 12-year-old Hannah, a girl with a talent for drawing but who is afflicted with dark fears that make the outside world terrifying to her. Ingeniously, the three irregular walls of the set were so constructed as to be sometimes solid and sometimes transparent, while projected images on all three surfaces echoed the drawings in Hannah's very private book. Her only companion in strange worlds she creates is Harvey, a steal from the classic film in which the gently stammering James Stewart is befriended by a 6ft tall invisible white rabbit.

Hannah's rabbit is not as amiable as the original Harvey. To start with, she's a she. Played with insouciant malevolence by Clare Waugh, it slowly becomes apparent that this laconic, witty figure also represents

the dangerous side of Hannah's thinking. While Hannah's nice, hapless dad, (beautifully established in a selfless performance by Stewart Ennis,) struggles to understand what is happening to his beloved daughter, Hannah herself comes to understand that she has to oppose Harvey and regain her own self. A symbolic boxing match, with each round confronting her terrors, comes to a warm and deeply moving ending.

The adults in the audience understood more of what was going on than the children did, but everyone was gripped by the sheer cleverness of the production, and by the central dilemma of Hannah, played by Romana Abercrombie with immense conviction. Blessed with a Peter Pan-like slowness of build, she could perhaps have put more trust in the audience to accept that she was a child, thus relieving her of a conscious need to 'act childish', but her desperation and the genuineness of her perverse mental world were indisputable. The play, written by Tim Nunn, is thought-provoking, touching and funny, and its presentation is sheer magic.

It's a Car's Lot

WE'VE ALL HEARD the one about the guy going into a car showroom and asking 'Have you got two windscreen wipers for a Skoda?' and receiving the reply 'Yes, that sounds like a fair swap'. It's an image the manufacturer has found hard to shake off. Launching a new model named the Skoda Superb seems like a determined attempt at repositioning the brand, but in fact the name has a long heritage in Skoda's history, first appearing in 1934. As you might expect, the Superb is a large, luxury model, as were the six earlier models, produced up until 1942. Ironically they, too, were launched to a background of rocketing fuel costs and crashing economies the world over. The new version boasts an innovative tailgate, known as Twin-Door, that can double as a regular separate saloon car boot and full hatchback door — useful for the miscellaneous loads that Arran drivers have to haul about. The 2008 model can be seen in your nearest Skoda showroom just across the water but you'll have to go further to view the 1939–1942 models. They are on show at the Skoda Auto Museum at Václava Klementa 294, 293 60 Mladá Boleslav, in the Czech Republic (basic admission fee 50CZK), or you can drop in online to refresh your memory of some of those great boxy shapes (remember the Felicia, anyone?) at <http://new.skoda-auto.com/COM/about/tradition/museum/Pages/Museum.aspx>.

A European Commission (EU) supported scheme aims to encourage motorists to take their old cars off the road and replace them with new, cleaner, greener models. 36% of cars in Western Europe are more than eight years old and Christian Streiff, head of the car industry lobby group European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), has estimated that scrapping older vehicles could produce carbon savings of 20 megatonnes a year, or 4.5% of total car emissions. The cynical could be forgiven for viewing this green scheme as a ruse to push up new cars sales at a time when UK dealers have seen a 23% slump last month, but any move that cuts the cost of motoring while reducing its harmful impact on the environment is to be welcomed.

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

'02 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.6 SE
3 Door, Black/Gold, 66,000 Miles

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

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

'02 Toyota Avensis
Silver, 73,000 Miles

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Annual General Meeting
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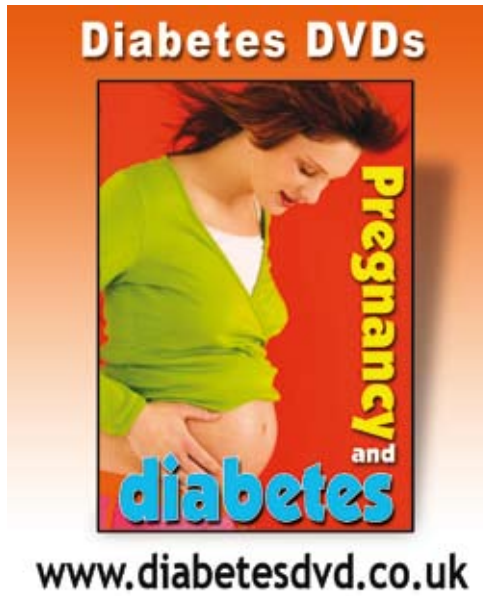
Notes of interest must be submitted by e-mail or letter by Friday 21 November and completed tenders must be received by 12 noon Friday 5 December



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Golf Results

Arran Golfers Association

Fixtures:

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

Draw for the Corrie Hotel Cup is as follows:

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.

Arran Grouse Foursomes

(REARRANGED DATE), Shiskine Golf Club, Saturday 22nd November from 11am.

The Draw for the Grouse Foursomes is as follows:

For purposes of the draw, each club winners will be A and runners up B,
Shiskine B v Machrie A @ 11am,
Whiting Bay B v Brodict A @ 11:08am,
Corrie B v Lamlash A @ 11:16am,
Lochranza A v Corrie A @ 11:24am,
Lamlash B v Lochranza B @ 11:32am,
Whiting Bay A v Machrie B @ 11:40am,
Shiskine A v Brodict B @ 11:48am.

Brodict Golf Club

Results:

Saturday 8th November, Saturday Cup, 18 played, CSS 65

1st Douglas Robertson with 81 (17) 64
Runner up: Gordon Hendry 74 (8) 66
Best scratch score, Gordon Hendry 74
There were 2 twos: Nicol Hume and Gordon Sunter

Sunday 9th November, Brandon and Winter Cup, 16 played, CSS 67

Sweep results

1st D. McKinnie (11) 66
2nd G. Hendry (8) 67
3rd B. Jenkins (9) 68
Scratch E. McKinnon 70
Unusually, there were no twos.
1st Class Brandon winner: D McKinnie.
2nd Class Brandon: no qualifiers (best score I. Sillars 84 (14) 70

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Results:

Tuesday 4th November

1st Brian Sherwood 62
2nd Drew Crawford 66 BIH

3rd Marc Blair 66 BIH

Scratch Brian Sherwood 72

Two's: Brian Sherwood and Marc Blair

Fixtures:

18th November, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off 12pm

Shiskine Golf Club

Results:

Mens Arran Challenge 2008

Congratulations to Ian Douglas from Ravens Park

1st Class

1st Ian Douglas, Ravens Park 101-22=79(bih)

2nd David Laird, Cathkin Braes 94-12=82

3rd Alan Reid, Blairgowrie 95-12=83

Best Scratch: Jamie Stewart, Shiskine 90 (bih)

2nd Class

1st William Dougherty, East Renfrewshire 105-26=79

2nd William Whyte, East Renfrewshire 116-26=90

3rd David Squirrell, Lamlash 126-32=94

Thursday 6th November, Ladies 12 hole Medal

Silver

1st Liz Kerr 54-9 45 (bih)

2nd Elizabeth Ross 55-10 45

Bronze

1st Viv Parks 60-14 46

2nd Fiona Scott 63-14 49

Best Scratch, Liz Kerr 54

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Results:

Sunday 9th November,

12 played in the 2nd round of the Winter Cup in windy and testing conditions, SSS-63, CSS-65.

1st Nicol Auld (0) 62

2nd George McKechnie (6) 67

3rd Rob Stewart (20) 68

Nicol won scratch with an impressive 62 and there were magic 2s from Nicol and Ian Burke.

Fixtures:

Sunday 16th, Friendly with Lamlash at Lamlash, tee-offs from 10.30am-11.00am

Arran cruise against Carrick

Continued from back page

THANKFULLY ARRAN had eaten their porridge/fry-ups and were able to dig in for the second half. Taking the ball deep, Ian Keen switched play to the right wing before off-loading to Ben Tattersfield who raced up field with the confidence of a two-man overlap. Instead of shifting it wide, he turned inside on the tackle to find the waiting arms of Niall McMaster. The big second row steamed on with more power than the Waverley, angling his run left of the posts for the try. Frazer Barr's conversion whistled just wide.

A few minutes later some Arran indiscipline gifted Carrick a penalty wide on their own 22, but the visitors' kick fell a couple of yards short. Sensing the need for a quick response, Carrick continued to push the Arran backline, but after a few battering ram attempts, Arran managed to rip the ball for a turnover. Murray Picken charged clear, well-supported by Big E and Sparky to set up a clean ruck ball. It tempted the Carrick lads over the game line and earned Arran the penalty to relieve the pressure.

GOOD TACKLES

Moments later another charge from the Arran forwards, led by Charles De Mendonca was taken on by Murray and then offloaded to Niall who aimed for the right corner flag. Only a good Carrick tackle prevented another Arran's third try and Carrick cleared again from the line-out. Arran, however, were learning how to pick holes in the Carrick defence. When Craig Black exploited a mistake in the Carrick handling his pick-up allowed him to slalom past two challenges before popping the ball to Ben Tattersfield who coasted 40 yards for a try between the posts. Frazer made no mistake and the score moved to an increasingly safe 19-5.



A typical Masia-style challenge

Arran were penalised minutes later when Donald Murchie took to the field unannounced, but the home side soon regained possession and when the ball was whipped wide from the forwards, Murray Picken's run and pass found George De Mendonca who skipped a challenge and daggered home for a converted try. 26-5.

Donald Murchie made an instant impact after the re-start, punching his way upfield to quell any immediate counter by the Carrick men, who were beginning to up the tempo.



Craig Black's aerodynamic headwear enables him to leap high in the line-out

WHIPLASH

Arran could have grabbed another try when a giant run from Kyle Barbour was supported by Murray, then Niall and finally Keeno, who forward passed off the field. Carrick rebounded with a period of pressure, eventually converted by another solid try from Adam 'The machine' Naylor, but it wasn't enough to drag the visitors back into contention. Arran put in 100% until the final whistle, Jamie Picken pole-axing a Carrick drive with the tackle of the match in the dying seconds. Workhorse Kal Masia also grafted until the end and picked up a neck injury in the final play of the match. He was taken to hospital for a check-up, but was discharged later that evening, suffering from a bit of whiplash.

The win sees Arran progress to the second round of the plate and Captain Murray Picken reckons Kal will be ready for this weekend's fixture against Cowal. 'We played well, but we probably should have got more tries,' said Murray. 'We just need to shift it out wide quicker.'



Frazer Barr kicked three out of five conversions during the match



Northend win (sort of) again



Northend and Real Tuesday managed to finish their game before the real weather started on Saturday night

NORTHEND ARE positioning themselves to become the most heroic giant-killers in Europe, as they secured their second trophy win of the year last Saturday and their first victory against a mainland side in well over 16 years.

Real Tuesday — a team of footy-mad bankers from Edinburgh — had made the trip to Hayes’ Ewe Camp in Lochranza where Northend triumphed in the 12-goal thriller. The fact that Real Tuesday turned up with only eight players due to a flat tyre in Kilwinning took only a wee bit of the sheen off the performance for captain Matt Milne, who said, ‘It’s definitely a step in the right direction. You can’t really class it as a victory, but we’re unbeaten in two games now. It’s not very often we let five goals in and still win the game.’

EGGS IN ONE BASKET

Real Tuesday explained that the scoreline could have been somewhat different. In a tactical blunder by the squad, their three star players had been allowed to travel in the same car that broke down on its way to Ardrossan. ‘They were probably our three best players,’ said Fergal Campbell before the match kicked off in already fading light. Bill McNie from the Real squad had warned Northend of their impressive defence, describing Al Frame and Kenny Stewart as defenders ‘in the Davie Weir mode, ie great footballing brains, but with raddled footballing bodies.’

Northend evened up the proceedings by sportingly gifting Davie Jeffrey to play in goals for the Edinburgh visitors. Paceman Jamie Duncan also played for Real Tuesday in a centre-forward position and a match was now on the cards. It looked as if the arrangements would be Northend’s downfall as Real took the lead inside ten minutes. Lamlash’s Jamie Duncan stroked in a simple strike from short range and Northend began to fear the worst.

NEW GUN ARRAN FIRES DEBUT GOAL

Northend’s Alec McMullan missed a couple of sitters at the far post, but within ten minutes the home side had levelled, courtesy of a testing ball in by new signing Arran Blythe that was redirected by Real Tuesday’s centre back Bill McNie into the goal. Scott ‘Swampy’ Murdoch then

added another, rounding the keeper before lashing in the angled strike. Arran scored his second to make it 3–1, but Real kept the scoreline close. A few minutes before half-time, their winger romped up the right wing beyond some woeful tackles before putting in a fine cross that was headed goalwards by John Lawson inside the far post.

WERE NORTHEND BACK ON THE SLIDE?

Minutes after the second-half re-start, Real Tuesday drew level. A seemingly innocuous 30 yard hoof was inexpertly controlled by Nick Underdown in central defence who then fell over and allowed Jamie Duncan to skip through and punish Stu Lawson in goals. 3-3. But Northend kept the chins high and Swampy bagged the team’s fourth when he ran on to collect a through ball from Matt. Martin Wallbank then got himself on the scoresheet, latching onto a decent assist from the skipper from wide on the left. Marty’s drilled first-time strike from the edge of the box gave the Lochranza boys a much-needed cushion.

Real Tuesday were always a threat and the cosmopolitan dimension of their team capitalised on another piece of slack defending at the back. Fergal Campbell from Enniskillen dispossessed one Northender before skirting a challenge and blasting it in the far left corner from the right-edge of the box. Toby responded for Northend with a good run from midfield before connecting with an excellent cutback which guided the ball to goal past the dive of Davie Jeffrey. But the usual Northend capitulation seemed to be on the cards when skipper Matt Milne could be heard hollering from the touchline before a corner late in the game: ‘Let’s not lose it like we always do.’ When nippy midfielder Adrian Couch fired home the partial clearance from the corner ball, Northend had only minutes to cling on.

And cling on they did. With perhaps the best move of the match, some patient passing up the right wing eventually led to a great lay-off to Arran, who slammed home a Shearer-esque finish into the top right corner. 7–5 and Northend claimed the Forth-Clyde Challenge Cup. A second leg in Edinburgh is scheduled for some time in March.

Arran Pool League — week 2

Snooker team goes top

BAR EDEN WENT top of the Arran pool league after a nip and tuck win against Corrie last week. The Whiting Bay contingent were buoyed up by the addition of Toosh to their ranks and an early 3–1 lead had the home Corrie team reeling. Some determined singles play levelled proceedings briefly before the gallon round which Bar Eden narrowly won. For spectators one of the doubles matches in particular was like watching paint dry, but Bar Eden edged ahead with some steady, cynical snooker-play from Nicol Auld who guided his team to a win. Bar Eden took no hostages and all three points.

Elsewhere, the Drift Inn were forced to share the points with P.T. 1934. The Southenders had the better of the singles, but a stand-out comeback by Gemma Blythe (ex-Catacol) kept the Drift in contention. Gemma was getting hammered by Jamie Picken, but pulled it back with a stunning three-shot finish, potting a tricky black to sporting cheers by both teams. PT 1934 were leading 5–3 by the end of the singles, but the Drift dragged it back by winning the next three games (‘old-timer’ John Copperwheat playing surprisingly well) before losing the last game to end with a draw. *The Arran Voice* received reports that

Murray Picken ruled himself out of the Copperwheat Cue challenge with some over-physical celebrations, but the 1934 posse laid on some good sausage rolls, sandwiches, soup and shortbread. (none had been laced with sleeping pills) which stands other players in good stead for the prestigious award.

Elsewhere Cat Bay proved that they might be a genuine threat this year, dispatching Kildonan in a well-fought 7–5 encounter away. And the Cameronia bounced back after their miserable scumping by Bar Eden the week before to beat the PHT 9–3. The Lamlash team held their nerve on the Gallon.

Last Sunday the Pool League Committee announced some clarifications to the league rules, agreeing that a foul shot on the break will be treated as such even if a ball is potted. The opponent will then be given a free ball and choice of colours. All players are reminded that the constitution empowers the referee to ‘stop speech-play and any other interference which is against the spirit of the game.’ In other words, check out how big the ref is before barracking.

Draws for the singles and doubles competitions will be published in next week’s paper.

	Pld	W	L	D	F	A	GOB	Pts
Bar Eden	2	2	0	0	15	9	2	6
Drift	2	1	0	1	15	9	1	4
Corrie	2	1	1	0	13	11	1	3
Catacol	2	1	1	0	11	13	1	3
PHT	2	1	1	0	11	13	1	3
Cameronia	2	1	1	0	10	14	1	3
PT 1934	2	0	0	2	12	12	1	2
Kildonan	2	0	2	0	9	15	0	0

♠

BRIDGE CLUB

♠

Brodict Bridge Club Results
6th November

N/S

1st J. & J. Beattie + 2830
2nd D. Scobie & D. Bruce + 900
3rd T. Martin & D. Hamilton + 620

E/W

1st J. McBride & P. Adamson +990
2nd H. Boyd & L. Paul -900
3rd (equal) J. McLure & A. McKelvie / E. McKellar & I. McArthur -980

♥

Lamlash Bridge Results
Monday 10th November

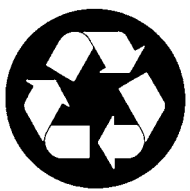
N/S

1st T. Martin & I. McArthur +1900
2nd H. Boyd & J. Murchie +1730
3rd J. McLure & A. McKelvie +1620

E/W

1st M. & D. Bruce -140
2nd L. Tricket & M. Gardner -530
3rd E. Paul & E. McNiven -650

♥



ARRAN CRUISE AGAINST CARRICK

ARRAN PROGRESS TO SECOND ROUND OF PLATE *Full story on Page 22*

ARRAN PULLED OFF a stunning victory against Carrick in last Saturday's cup match, beating the visitors by 26-10 in an all-round mighty performance of forward strength and slick handling by the backs. Although Carrick were missing a few key players who had travelled to watch Scotland's ill-fated match against

the All Blacks, the visitors had won six of their previous seven league games and it was always going to be a

tough fixture the for the Arran side at Ormidale Park.

Arran pressed right from the start, hitting the right wing with a number of probing runs inside the first five minutes. Both Ian Keen and Callum Rae came within a few yards of the tryline, but Carrick managed to

bundle the runners into touch and

held the line-out to clear their lines.

CAMPESI OPENS SCORING

Arran eventually took the lead by shifting the ball more quickly to the backs and Frazer 'Campesi' Barr picked his gap and strolled over the touchline for an easily kickable score. But just moments before half-time, Carrick pulled a try back, as big winger Adam Naylor cruised across for a weakly-defended score.



And Finally ...

SCAM, WONDERFUL SCAM ...

An outraged proprietor suffering from a strong sense of injustice sends us this Scam recipe.

Ingredients: One hotel or catering establishment and an over-nice owner, or in non-metric measurement, a mug.

Method: When asked to settle your bill, tell the mug you're temporarily out of funds. When he rises to the boil, add debit card details and stir well, promising payment as soon as your wages are paid.

Back home, check that the debit card account is empty, put the lid on and store it in a cold place. Ignore phone calls and bin letters threatening legal action through the Small Claims Court at Kilmarnock. Transfer to the deep freeze for a very

long time. If a recorded delivery letter from the Court arrives, refuse it. Refuse a second letter as well. Your scam is maturing nicely.

The Court will write to the mug after these two refusals, asking him to pay them a further unspecified fee "in the region of £60 to £130 or more" to have the Sheriff Officer attempt to serve a warrant but giving no assurance that he can do so.

The mug is unlikely to add to his existing losses, though he may go screaming to your local paper. Much good may that do him! Your scam is now complete and ready to enjoy, together with all the others you prepared earlier.

Our outraged contributor mutters that he is planning an extensive tour of the county — 'all the best places. So,' he says darkly, 'watch out!' We personally feel more inclined to call in the heavy boys.

'Anniallated'. Niall McMaster storms up the right wing, felled just a yard short of the line by a good Carrick tackle