



THE

Arranvoice

VOCEM POPULARIS AUDIRE / ÉISD RI GUTH NA MUINNIR

27th November 2008 — 086 65p

Super-Caley-fragile-is-it? Hebri-can't-approach-us!

A tale of mechanical (and humour) failure, pier pressure, light relief, a small storm, many teacups and nights at Sea(Mill Hydro)...

MIDDLING WEATHER AND a mechanical fault on the Arran ferry stranded passengers on both sides of the Firth of Clyde last weekend. Over a 36 hour period, a string of sailings were cancelled, transforming ferry terminals in Brodick and Ardrossan into holding bays for distraught weekend travellers.

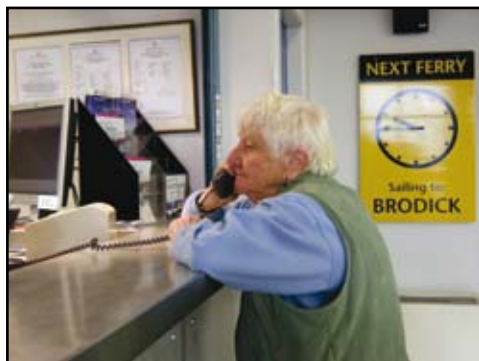
CalMac has promised to recompense people who had to seek overnight accommodation as a result of the no-sail. The ferry operator says the faulty clutch — which caused the initial problems — will require further work when the MV Caledonian goes in for its overhaul in January. 'We are confident that the steps we have taken will be sufficient to ensure the vessel can operate until then,' a spokesman added.



Saturday's 12.30pm crossing was cancelled. Immediately the first ripple effects were felt — the Mull rugby team missed their 2.15pm kick-off at Ormidale park.



A mechanical fault was reported. Ardrossan port manager Sandra Sturgeon, who had planned to spend her weekend off on Arran, soldiered back to work to deal with passenger concerns.



Rumours abounded and cabin fever set in. Would the ferry sail? Were other replacement Calmac boats in Gourock? It appeared that patience was the name of the game.



Rebekah Jackson turned eighteen on Saturday. To celebrate she went shopping with friends Emma Willard (left) and Nicola Currie (right) in Glasgow and ended up missing her own party.



Thomas McMasters spent 36 hours in Ardrossan for an hour's driving lesson. Meanwhile Hannah Hamilton wondered if shopping in Glasgow had been worth the wait.



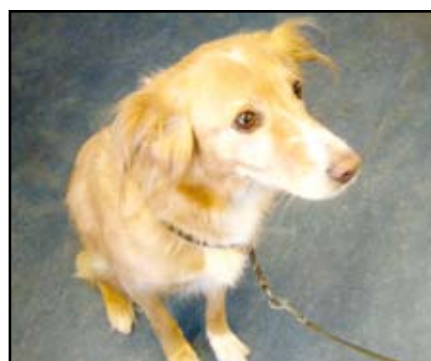
Laura and Jackie Burke glowed like kitchen heroines from behind the counter at Copperwheats Café in Ardrossan.



Some turkeys in transit also needed an extra feed and Laura and Jackie supplied some crusts. These birds stayed overnight in the van, but others without a place to stay were put up in the Seamill Hydro or the Auchrannie.



Roman Panowek had arrived from Manchester to move to Arran with his journey was delayed, CalMac staff, clutch manufacturers Rolls Royce, and engineers from Garvel Dry Dock worked late into Saturday night to make replacement parts for the faulty clutch.



No St Bernards. Whilst the repaired Caley Isles was undergoing sea trials, an heroic MV Hebridean Isles was diverted from Islay to provide cover. Unfortunately the weather took a turn for the worse and the relief ferry was unable to berth in Brodick.



CalMac operated three special Lochranza - Claonaig sailings for those with an urgent need to leave the island such as hospital appointments. Eventually the Caledonian Isles made a late night sailing to Brodick on Sunday at 9pm, transporting vital members of Arran's workforce back to the island.

MURCHIE
MURCHIE SAND
AND GRAVEL

CONCRETE WORKS

All forms including foundations, floor-slabs, driveways etc

DECORATIVE

All types of decorative stone chips

DRAINAGE & LANDSCAPING

Land drains, house drains, septic tanks, and all landscaping for gardens and driveways

BUILDING MATERIALS

Ready mix concrete, blocks bricks, paving slabs, cement sand etc — prompt delivery and competitive prices

PLANT HIRE

Excavators mini-21 Tonne, Tipper lorries, Tipper Grab, Telehandler & Lowloader

Ivy Cottage Quarry, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DD Tel/Fax: 01770 303606, Web: www.msgltd.com, E-mail: msgltd@tiscali.co.uk



FREE
QUOTES

Delayed reactions

PASSENGERS STRANDED IN ARDROSSAN SEND US THE FOLLOWING EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS ON LAST WEEKEND'S DISRUPTED FERRY SERVICE

LOUISE HAGGARTY

'Staff at the terminal kept the pet lamb I had in their freezer for 22 hours, otherwise it was going to thaw. It was a Christmas present from my daughter. I want to thank CalMac and the staff at Copperwheats, Jackie and Laura Burke. We had to wait a long time in the terminal and folk were really going beserk, but I enjoyed it. You know me. CalMac in the office were fantastic. The crew were working until 2am.'



**GILLEAN LANGLEY
FERRY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE
FOR ARRAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



'I think it was handled very well. It was not their fault. It was both bad weather and a technical fault and the two combined, sadly, just flunked everything. The relief ship Hebridean Isles couldn't dock in Brodick, but it isn't her pier. Health and safety rules have changed so much over the years in this nanny state. In the past passengers would have been allowed to wait aboard the ferry. Sandra [Sturgeon, Ardrossan Port Manager] organised accommodation and taxis for people. She was off-duty at the time. There were one or two belligerent passengers, but most people accepted the situation. CalMac staff

were putting in the extra nautical mile ... and Copperwheats Café provided tea and coffee courtesy of CalMac.'

SALLY CAMPBELL (WHO TOOK THE PICTURES)

'36 Hours in Ardrossan — a fascinating experience and one made for rumour and humour!

'Those waiting in Brodick were put up at the Auchrannie with breakfast — lucky! One person slept at the ferry terminal as she had her dog and couldn't find anywhere that would take it.

'Sandra Sturgeon the Port Manager at Ardrossan gave bulletins but everyone wanted more. An engineering mechanical problem — was this a nut loose or a broken shaft? Can't say — it's the engineers. Jackie and her daughter Laura deserve medals for their good humour, kindness and real customer service throughout both long days. They were to and fro from ASDA getting extra stock and remained so cheerful, even finding crusts for the turkeys! (Yes, there were turkeys, too...)

'A great Dunkirk spirit developed, lots of humour and story telling. Mobile phones came into their own, though there were then appeals for chargers There were all sorts of difficulties for people — frozen and chilled food, people with livestock, a father left with a young baby at home on Arran, medication back on Arran, missing concerts, a poor lassie missing her own 18th birthday party, most of Brodick Primary School staff on the boat.

'One grumble — why did CalMac lay on coaches to meet the ferry at Ardrossan at 9.30pm but announced once on the boat and underway that there would be no buses at Brodick? Those who knew this from the past would have stayed another night on the mainland rather than be stranded in Brodick when they wanted to get to, say, Lochranza. But in the end we all survived, tired, but mostly good humoured.'



Marine police meeting

SERGEANT BOB MACKAY met with marine law-enforcers last Wednesday afternoon to discuss issues rising from the newly-established No Take Zone in Lamlash Bay.

Crew from the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA) vessel and officers from Strathclyde Police Marine Unit came ashore at Lamlash pier, and officers said the protection of the NTZ is being taken 'very seriously at all levels'. The alleged infringement of the Marine Protected Area by a fishing boat three weeks ago prompted a speedy revision to the law, which now insists that all fishing vessels must have their trawling gear 'lashed and stowed' on board when entering the NTZ.

The SFPA is responsible for monitoring the fishing industry's compliance with national, EU and

international fisheries laws and their spokesman urged anyone with information on any breaches of fisheries regulations to contact them at www.sfpa.gov.uk or by phoning 0845 270 399.

'Where possible formal enforcement action will be taken and reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for possible prosecution,' said the spokesman, adding that 'the chances of successful enforcement action are greatly improved if there are two or more witnesses, or other independent sources of evidence relating to an alleged infringement.'

It has been suggested that the community is a key player in protecting Lamlash Bay by operating an informal 'marine neighbourhood watch' scheme.



Sgt MacKay (left) pictured here with Stevie Brown, Howard Fisher, James Rushton, Derek Young and Colin Evans

ARRAN HAULAGE SERVICES Ltd.

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

Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DD
Tel: 01770 302 777 Fax: 01770 302 500
E-mail: info@arranhaulage.co.uk www.arranhaulage.co.uk

Mainland Depot:
4 Queen Elizabeth Ave, Hillington Industrial Estate, Glasgow G52 4NQ
Telephone: 0141 882 6608

A photograph of a white truck with 'ARRAN HAULAGE SERVICES LTD.' and contact details on its side, parked in a field.

The logo for CALOR Gas, featuring the word 'CALOR' in red and 'Gas' in blue.

'Carbon-capture' coal plant for Hunterston?

NEW POWER PLANT COULD BENEFIT ARRAN'S FORESTRY



It remains open to question whether it would be viable to transport forestry biomass from Arran to the proposed power station

PROPOSALS FOR SCOTLAND'S first 'carbon-capture' power station were aired last week amidst a mixed reception from environmental lobbyists. Two 800MW coal-fired power stations, using predominantly imported coal, are being backed by Denmark's state-owned energy company Danish Oil and Natural Gas (DONG).

Carbon-capture technology would reduce the carbon emissions of the plant by piping them to deep storage locations in previously-exploited oil fields. MSP Kenneth Gibson said, 'Such a plant, if able to reduce carbon emissions by 90%, will be a vital component in securing a clean, non-nuclear future for Scotland. As the proposed plant will be capable of generating power from biomass, including forestry and farming, there is a tremendous opportunity for Arran to benefit from this development.' He raised the possibility of a carbon-capture coal plant at Hunterston last year in meetings with both Energy Minister Jim Mather and Clydeport as a possible alternative to a new Hunterston 'C' nuclear station.

The plans may also offer new opportunities for Arran's forestry. In an interview with *The Arran Voice*, ex-energy minister Brian Wilson, now policy advisor on the project, said that there was no reason why forestry products from Arran could not be used at the plant. Some 15% of the power could come from these biomass sources, the remainder coming from the imported coal, which produces fewer emissions than that mined from Scotland's own coalfields.

The plan is still very much at the drawing board stage and is not expected to be submitted to planners until later in 2009. DONG is still in the process of developing carbon-capture technology, but is prepared to invest up to £2billion in the Hunterston

project to generate the much-touted 1,600MW. Hunterston 'B' nuclear power station is currently generating around 70% of its 1,215MW potential electrical output and is scheduled for shutdown in 2016. The new plant would be situated right beside the old nuclear plant and would take advantage of the deep water port facilities, ideal for receiving shipments of coal.

JOBS?

The SNP have been criticised for their explicit policy intentions to block planning applications for new nuclear power stations throughout Scotland, but Kenneth Gibson has argued that the decommissioning process will generate as many jobs as the operation of nuclear facilities. The planned coal plant is expected to create up to 1,500 jobs in construction, with a further 150 jobs once the plant is operational. It may also lead to peripheral industry. Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, said, 'Any application to build at Hunterston will be treated on its merits and we will take into account the views of local people. Should any upgrade of the local infrastructure, including the road and rail network be required, the cost of this will be met by the developer. Grants to encourage seaborne transport may be made available, which could assist the transport of forestry products from Arran.'

Jim Mather MSP said the development of carbon-capture technology should be considered as part of the energy mix. 'Scotland's current energy usage accounts for over a third of our greenhouse gases and we are determined to be at the forefront of clean energy development,' he said, and added, 'Any investment designed to last decades must be compatible with our ambitious climate change targets.'

Arran's 'food for thought' quiz

This week *The Arran Voice* has devised a 'who is the Scottishest person on Arran?' quiz to mark St Andrew's Day and celebrate local produce. There will be five questions this week and five in next week's issue. Entries with correct answers to all ten questions will be drawn from a hat and the lucky winner will be presented with a hamper full of local produce, including local cheeses, eggs, vegetables and herbs! The hamper is still growing in size and its full contents will be detailed in next week's paper. But for now, see if you can answer the following (one is a trick question — ask anyone who enjoys 'a good walk spoiled').

1. In what year did Robert Bruce lead a fleet of galleys to Arran's shores?
2. What is the name of the summit on Holy Isle?
3. How many golf clubs are there on Arran?
4. In what year was the Arran Distillery in Lochranza founded?
5. In what village does the current chair of Arran's Community Council live?

See next week's Arran Voice for questions 6-10.

Parents welcomed to police road safety talk

ON MONDAY 1st December, Strathclyde Police's driver safety unit will be holding a series of seminars at Arran High School to raise awareness about the importance of driver and road safety. The police will be meeting with S5 and S6 pupils during the afternoon, but there will be an open seminar for parents and other drivers in the evening. 'Anything that results in the heightened awareness amongst drivers about road safety is to be encouraged,' said Sgt Bob MacKay. 'And support from the school and other partners is gladly received.'

Chair of the school's Parent Council Jimmy McMaster is also keen to welcome parents and young drivers to the evening seminar at 7.30pm at Arran High School. 'When you drive round the island and you see the number of ditches and walls that have been caved in, you realise it's important that we do something about it,' he said.

Arranvoice.com Online Poll

This week's question is:

Will you be doing your Christmas shopping on Arran?

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

Last week's question was: Would you like to see the Post Office expand its range of services?

Yes: 66.7% (4 votes)

No: 33.3% (2 votes)

Not sure: 0% (0 votes)

Editorial

LOOKING AHEAD TO ENERGY

News of a proposed cleaner-burning coal-fired power station at Hunterston evokes mixed reactions. Many will shrug and think that any proposition is better than the simmering, eternal problem of radioactive waste that results from nuclear power, but others will envisage a return to the smoke-belching days of the old coal-fired generators, and shudder. The new proposal is in fact probably a much less frightening proposition than the continued juggling with unknown dangers in the nuclear industry, but all the same, the disadvantages are obvious. Shipping in coal from Denmark involves a high use of fuel oil, which must mark up a heavy cost both in ecological and economic terms. A potential use of 30% wood fuel does not go far towards wiping off such a massive, and in this case almost literal, 'carbon footprint'.

Strangely, there is a tacit but overwhelming official reluctance to embrace a different way of thinking about energy production. The mind-set is still fixed on the notion of huge, central power stations that generate electricity to be circulated, through a notoriously leaky and uneconomic wire and cable system, to thousands of houses and industrial premises. Why has no thought been given to the concept of making all new houses and commercial premises self-sufficient in energy? The technologies of wind turbines, photovoltaic panels and ground-source heating are well known now. They have been exhaustively tested and proved to work.

What does not work, however, is a

connective network that can monitor all this potential energy output and add it to the total energy available. The National Grid is in no way national, except as a means of ensuring that paying customers have something to pay for. It is a vital feature of our lives, but its limitations as a carrier of power input exercise a stranglehold on would-be small producers. It would be interesting to hear what success is being achieved by those investing recently in small wind turbines, but in past years it has proved extremely difficult to set up a proper account for payments made by the grid to domestic producers. Even on Gigha, where their 'dancing ladies' generate enough wind power to give the island a substantial annual income, getting paid by the National Grid is indirect. It involves vouchers to a larger producer who gets paid by the grid for the input of the smaller enterprise as well as its own then reimburses its smaller neighbour. Accountancy based on such a concept of legitimised 'backhanders' is hardly the way to a national overview of energy production.

Could we but facilitate multiple domestic-scale input from any house, school, village hall and new building of every kind, the country could be rich in small producers. The need for power stations on the Hunterston scale would be much reduced, and the dependence on a single centre to supply every user for countless miles around would suddenly seem archaic. In a forward-looking age, it is bizarre that we look back to coal-fired power stations, and regard them as a new solution. The grid problem is old, and pressing.

Quote

'I was like a balloon — the bigger my ambition, the less there was inside.'

Anne Enright, author, in Guardian Review Saturday 22.11.08.

A refreshing observation. Achievement-seekers, beware of hot air! Ed.

THE ARRAN VOICE PRODUCTION TEAM

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

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

The Arran Voice is registered as a newspaper

PRESS POLICY

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

Voice mail

Readers' News and Views...

WEB LOW-DOWN ON THE FERRY

Disruption of the ferry service, especially during the winter, causes considerable anxiety to intending ferry passengers, particularly those, like me, who have a plane to catch. In recent years there have been significant improvements in the information available, through online weather forecasts and CalMac's Red, Amber, Green disruption service, but information is often unreliable or out-of-date.

Some intending passengers may not be aware of the service available at the following address:

<http://www.shipais.com/currentmap.php?map=IsleofArran>

This service provides an up-to-the-minute update on the position of shipping in the UK (and the world) by plotting the information provided by a ship's onboard AIS transponder, as monitored automatically by a network of amateur 'ship watchers' up and down the coast.

This Sunday, I was able to monitor, with anguish, the various Cale Isles sea trials following successive attempts to fix the mechanical problems, until she finally turned and headed back to Ardrossan, confirming my fears that I would not be catching my Sunday evening flight. At least I didn't have the misery of setting out for Brodick, only to learn the bad news once I got there.

On other occasions, when bad weather has storm bound the Caledonian Isles, I have been able to watch as she set out from Ardrossan and then have time to catch the bus to Brodick, comforted by the knowledge that she was likely to be there on my arrival.

This service is not always available, as it depends on someone with an AIS receiver having their PC turned on and being connected to the internet. Perhaps someone on the East coast will volunteer to ensure this will always happen. Equipment required: PC, Shipplotter software (£25), Broadband, AIS receiver (a scanner costing £50 can be easily converted) and a VHF Antenna.

Chris Mowatt, Kildonan House

DISAPPOINTMENT FOR VALDETE

We would like to thank all friends and well-wishers for their help and support while Valdete has been staying with us.

She went to see the Orthopaedic consultant as arranged, last Tuesday. He was a lovely man who really wanted to help Valdete. After a very thorough

examination and looking at the medical evidence we had, he regrettably came to the conclusion that surgery was not in Valdete's best interest. He said that any surgery would be very invasive and then she would have to return to a country where regular medical checks could not be carried out and if she had any problems there would be no help available to her in Albania. He discussed her case with other colleagues and they all agreed with him on this matter.

Before she returns to Albania next week, we will seek advice and help from other healthcare professionals so that we are able to help her parents in caring for her and make their lives a little easier.

Valdete's immediate reaction was disappointment, but she has a very strong faith and believes that God wants to heal her and she hopes that this will have a good effect on many people who know about her, and especially her family. She has received prayer already and will continue to do so throughout this week.

Her visa is valid until the end of April so she can come for another holiday when she will be ministered to by Christians here and it will also give her parents some respite.

She is amazed at the love shown to her by people here and Arran is now her second home.

Julian and Sue Davidson

BIRD TALK AT CORRIE AND SANNOX WEDNESDAY CLUB

Yet another great afternoon! Our speaker, Jim Cassells, aided by "PowerPoint" showed us pictures of birds to be spotted in different habitats on Arran.

Many were new to us but garden visitors were recognised immediately and Jim was pleased to learn that all those present feed the garden birds on a regular basis. He encouraged us to continue supporting our residents and visitors and keep contacting him about local numbers as well as new arrivals. As ever, there was a super afternoon tea, thanks to Audrey and Betty.

Members please note change of speaker on 10th December when we look forward to hearing about "Tradecraft" from Dr Graham Tinto.

Christmas lunch is planned for Wednesday 17th December. Senior residents of Corrie and Sannox are invited to contact Stevie at 810268 by 10th December if they wish to attend.

*Elma Stevenson
Redford, Sannox*

News in Brief...

SCOTS CHARITIES LOSE OUT TO OLYMPICS

Charities are set to suffer a major cut in funding support as lottery cash is redirected to the London Olympics project, says the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO). For the past three years, charities have received on average £85m per year from the Big Lottery Fund. This will be slashed to around £23m next year and is unlikely to return to current levels until 2015.

Scottish charities are key beneficiaries of this funding. In the year up to January 2007 alone, more than £14m Big Lottery money was distributed in Scotland. Lucy McTernan, acting chief executive of the SCVO, described the cuts as 'truly devastating,' adding that 'many charities, voluntary organisations and community projects in Scotland depend on such funding for their survival, especially in these difficult times.'

Supporters of the funding decision argue that the Olympics will have a range of economic benefits for Scotland, including widespread exposure for Scottish tourism and the inclusion of 29 Scottish training facilities for visiting teams.

£10,000+ OF ART SOLD AT CASTLE SHOW

Over £10,000 of artwork was sold at the NTS Brodick Castle winter art exhibition two weeks ago. More than 60 individual artworks were sold during the four day exhibition, including a number by the Trust's very own Chris Mills, the castle's administrative assistant. Chris, who helped organise the exhibition along with Sue Tozer, Brodick's administrative manager, described the event as 'a great success, attracting more than 700 visitors from near and far.' He said the sales reflected the high quality of the pieces on show and added that the castle 'benefits from the revenue generated — around £2,000 comes to us in commission — which will help us in vital conservation work as we prepare for next season.'

MP SAYS NO TO 'PRIVATE WATER'

North Ayrshire and Arran MP Katy Clark has spoken out against the idea of privatising Scottish Water. The local MP stated that she does not support privatisation or mutualisation and argued that better regulation is the way forward for the Utility Company.

As she remarked, 'Particularly in the water industry, where the health, environmental, social and economic factors of this service have to be carefully balanced, government-led regulation is the best way to maintain and improve the quality of water that is delivered to the people of Scotland.' Katy believes the Scottish people are still largely in favour of retaining the public ownership of Scottish Water and added, 'I hope that Scottish Water remains a publicly run company, which is driven by the service it provides, not the profits it makes. Indeed, in a global context, due to the water crisis, there is argument to suggest that a public Scottish Water is in fact a great asset to Scotland.'

CHILDMINDERS RAISE FOR £123 CHILDREN IN NEED

Three of the Arran Childminders' Group, with the help of Dani, raised a brilliant total of £123 for Children in Need. Thanks to all who bought a scratch circle and thanks to Dani for her piggy bank which had over £14 in it!



'WHITE RIBBON DAY'

Katy Clark MP for North Ayrshire and Arran voiced her support for White Ribbon Day on November 25th, a campaign for the elimination of violence against women. The theme of the campaign is to encourage men to discuss, reflect and make a pledge against violence against women. Recent statistics show that 88% of domestic abuse is committed by men against women, and in Scotland alone one in five women will experience some form of domestic abuse at some point in their life.

There was a significant increase in the number of officially reported cases of domestic abuse in North Ayrshire over the past year, with 1,448 cases in 2007–2008 (up from 1,106 the previous year). The local Women's Aid had 14,550 contacts in the same period.

the
Wee
voice

Magic

By **Catherine McEachern**

ABRACADABRA... the magic word. Prepare to be amazed! ★

It's fun to try and work out how a magician does his tricks. It's even more fun though, when you can get to be the magician and annoy all your friends by not telling them how you did a really good trick and saying, 'A magicians never reveals their secrets.' ★

Simple things like bringing a coin out from behind someone's ear to more complicated card tricks continue to amaze people of all ages, as long as they are done well. It takes a lot of practice to get a trick just right. Sometimes if you don't practise enough, people can see right through you and 'boo' you off the stage. If you practise enough though, then it is enjoyed by everyone, the way magic should be. ★

Magic can also be enjoyed through story books: Witches and Warlocks versus Fairies and Elves. In recent times Harry Potter is the most obvious example of magical fiction. ★

★ Magic has been around for longer than some people think, just in different forms. During the Elizabethan times there were a lot of magical things going on, some said to be witchcraft. Court jesters amused the queen and her courtiers with tricks and illusions and yet women considered to be witches were burned at the stake. There was even a law against conjuring and witchcraft. ★

Throughout history, in many cultures, Witch Doctors, or Medicine Men, who studied plants and their healing strengths, were considered to have magical powers.

Whether it's the mysterious cures of folk medicine or the spectacle of sawing a woman in half, it all just leaves us with the same question.

How did they do it? ★

★ Magic... ★

This week's Wee Voice is by Catherine McEachern and her two halves of the lady.



NEWSBAND Kilmory Hall

Saturday 29th November

9pm–1am

Licensed Bar

Photo ID required

only £5

Transport return to Brodick and Shiskine available if booked ahead
Telephone: 01770 870 345



Open Meeting in the
Conference Room

at KA Campus

Arran High School

on Wednesday 26th November
at 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME



Katy Clark MP
North Ayrshire and Arran

Katy Clark MP for North Ayrshire
and Arran will be holding a surgery
on Saturday, 6th December 2008 at:
11.00am — Brodick Hall

Lochranza Choir
and Supporting Performers



"A Medley of Music"

Lochranza Village Hall
Sunday 30th November — 3pm

Tickets £5 (child £1)
Wine & Nibbles included

Phone 830313 for advance booking
Supporting Beatson Cancer Research
and village hall funds

A-Team can handle WAGS?

THE ARRAN A-TEAM, the newly-rebranded local branch of Arran Hideaways, has recently invested in a complex 'key management system,' which is the same bit of kit deployed by property managers on behalf of WAGS (the wives and girlfriends of that super-elite breed known as Premiership footballers). 'It's quite a unique product,' said Penny Brass, manager of the A-Team. 'It's used by the Bank of England, HM Prison, police offices and the property managers for famous footballers.'

Designed to keep track of keys for people who are not always resident at their houses, the

system will enable contractors to access keys safely without having to depend on the kindnesses of neighbours. Although it might bypass a common opportunity for a blether, Penny says the key management service is ideal for a range of clients who might need to take care of their properties when they are not on the island. 'The keys have a microchip and the computer will know exactly when it has been returned. It can be operated remotely from anywhere in the world,' said Penny. The system is in fact a large grey metal cabinet and is currently journeying its way from the U.S.

Key Holding Centre Just £5 a week (incl VAT) per set of keys

- **Computer controlled secure key holding**
- **Your keys available 7 days a week**
- **One central Brodick collection and drop-off point for all contractors**
- **PIN controlled — keys only go to the person you want and are tracked back in on time**
- **Visitors accompanied (optional extra)**

Unique & exclusive service for the Isle of Arran!

Annual contracts available but
pro rata on change of ownership

**Voucher for £15 Cashback per set of
property keys — 1 set per property**

Eg 2 properties = 2 x Annual Charges = 2 Vouchers



Tel: 0845 459 9968 — ask for Marie or Kirsty
E-mail: help@thearranteam.co.uk www.thearranteam.co.uk

Forget the Malls — Shop at an Arran Market!

By Assja Baumgärtner

CLEAR BLUE SKIES and bright sunshine might have tempted people to spend their day outdoors rather than visiting the Farmers' Market in Kilmory last Saturday — but as soon as the doors opened a throng of people poured into the hall, to find a wide range of goods and crafts waiting. When so much of our food nowadays has been carted half way round the globe, it was encouraging to see a market full of local and Scottish produce, which you actually could touch, taste and try before purchasing it.



Who could resist the lovely presented focaccias and preserves from Machrie Tearoom? Or jams made by Donna Gold, or the chance to sample creamy cheddar from Island Cheese and melting Camembert from the Home Farm? Resistance to James' Chocolate is simply futile, and the thought of a nice Sunday roast made with beef from Braehead Farm is not only enticing but a relief to any ecological conscience. And Laura Currie's stall, stocked to overflowing with fresh vegetables and fruits, lovely cordials, preserves and eggs, could deliver all the ingredients for the rest of a special meal. Even herb teas and the spices and herbs for seasoning were available, many of them grown, harvested and dried on Drimlabarra Herb Farm in Kildonan. And as a special treat, a sweet loaf or a fairy cake by Isla Blair certainly ended up in many a shopping bag.

Although they are important to



many people's daily survival, tea, coffee and chocolate beans cannot be grown on Arran, but at Kilmory Market they could be purchased with good conscience at Graham Tinto's Fair Trade stall. While many a man could be observed rummaging the extensive range of Sliderry Supplies, their wives tended to linger at the craft stalls. Coral Smith's papercraft materials were certainly a help to anyone who wanted to make their own Christmas Cards. Roslyn Gibson was wearing one of her own handspun and knitted creations, a waistcoat made from border collie hair. And no, it does not smell of dog, not even when it gets wet! According to Roslyn it's warmer than sheep wool. Most of the other fine homespun, woven, knitted or crocheted articles on her stall did come from a variety of different sheep, however, and promised cosiness for cold and rainy days. With Anthony Tetlow and his beautiful nature photographs which he sells as cards and mini posters and Hazel Pennycott's lovely Jewellery, it's obvious that a young generation with new ideas will keep our village markets going.

Certainly, the last Kilmory Farmers' Market for this year was a huge success. The vegetable stalls piled several feet high at the start of the afternoon were bare by the end — apart from a few lonely potatoes and kales — and Pat Geddes and her volunteers in the tearoom confirmed that there had been a constant demand for beverages, soup and sandwiches. For anyone who missed Kilmory Market and is not yet organised for Christmas, there is no need to go off the island to get prepared. This weekend, Saturday and Sunday 29th and 30th November, there will be a Christmas Market at Whiting Bay Hall, and the Hospital Supporters' League are holding their Christmas Fayre on December 7th at the High School. Don't risk getting stranded on the mainland! Arran has everything you can want, right here on the doorstep.

Arran pupils debate the 'Big Green' questions

A TEAM OF students from Arran High School will travel to the Eden Court Theatre in Inverness on Friday 28th November to take part in the semi-final of The Big Green Challenge debating competition. The Big Green Challenge is an innovative project by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) which is helping pupils across Scotland to gain a better understanding and awareness of renewable energy.

More than 120 S1-S3 students from 25 schools across the Highlands and Islands took part in the first round of the competition, which was held in October, with the eight winning teams going through to the semi-final. Pupils from schools in Arran, Alness, Speyside, Keith, Portree, Shetland, Gairloch and Orkney will compete in the semi final round. The four winning teams will go through to the grand final at the end of January 2009 when they will compete for a group trip to Iceland to visit the country's famous Blue Lagoon waterfall and the geothermal area of Geysir.

As part of the competition, pupils are expected to propose comprehensively researched motions both for and against renewable energy. Janet Logan, principal teacher of science at Arran High School, said Arran's pupils have risen to the Big Green Challenge. 'They have thoroughly enjoyed pushing their debating skills beyond what they thought they were capable of,' she said. 'In school, the

competition has helped to raise the awareness of the issues behind renewable energy and what they could mean for the local environment. The focus that the competition has brought has been a great success in terms of building up cross-curricular co-operation and developing links with the wider community.'

Anna Allan, senior development manager in HIE's Energy team, says, 'We have had an exceptional response to this year's competition with more than 120 students getting involved and putting their debating skills to the test.' She went on, 'The Big Green Challenge aims to help young people understand both sides of the renewable energy debate and we have been really impressed with the level of research and effort that the teams have put into their debates. We have had very positive feedback from schools to the competition. Teachers have said that it has helped to raise awareness of the issues behind renewable energy, highlighting its impact on local communities.'

HIE is supportive of the initiative and believes that renewable energy is a sector with high growth potential that will benefit the local economy and communities across the region. Increasing Scotland's renewable energy generation is also a key Scottish Government pledge, with the aim of deriving half of Scotland's electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

For more information check out www.thebiggreenchallenge.co.uk.

Taste of Arran hits the big Times

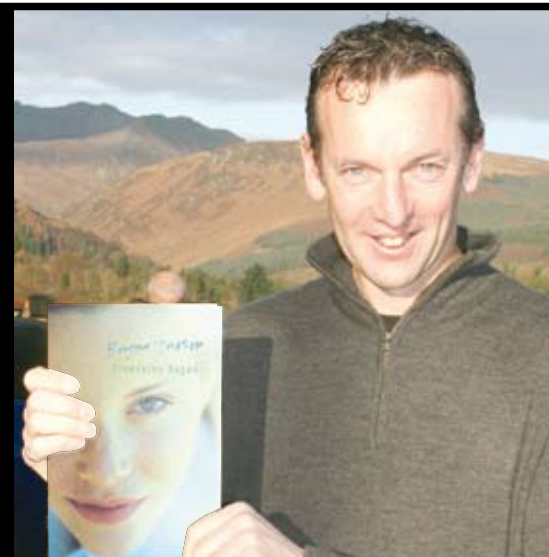
Times Online devoted a full two pages this week to a rave review of Arran's food producers, particularly Robin Gray and his organic market garden at the foot of the cliffs of Kings Cross. The piece pointed out with mounting appetite Robin's sweetcorn, spinach and curly red kale, not to mention the tonne of pumpkins he has just harvested, and the broad beans, leeks and elephant garlic. It's all fertilised by the seaweed from the beach, which is why it tastes so phenomenally good.

Taste of Arran, of which Robin is a member, came in for lots of praise, too. Organised by Alastair Dobson of the prize-winning Arran Dairies, it is an umbrella



organisation for 11 specialist food producers. Paul McLaughlin, chief executive of Scotland Food and Drink, is quoted as saying, 'This is a fantastic example of how collaboration and a common purpose can help drive economic growth with the benefits being shared by everyone involved.'

Alan's Book Review



Book review Sponsored by Book and Card Centre

BONJOUR TRISTESSE

Reviewed by Lorna Sherry

Like *Frankenstein* this novel was, remarkably, written by an eighteen year old girl, and also like *Frankenstein* it caused public outrage.

Françoise Sagan, having failed her college exams, decided to write a book instead, and it became an immediate bestseller. The story concerns a rather spoilt seventeen year old, Cecile, who finds herself spending a lazy summer in the south of France with her father and his mistress. With surprising insight and cynicism Cecile outlines her life with her hedonistic father, and casually begins an affair with a boy who is also on holiday.

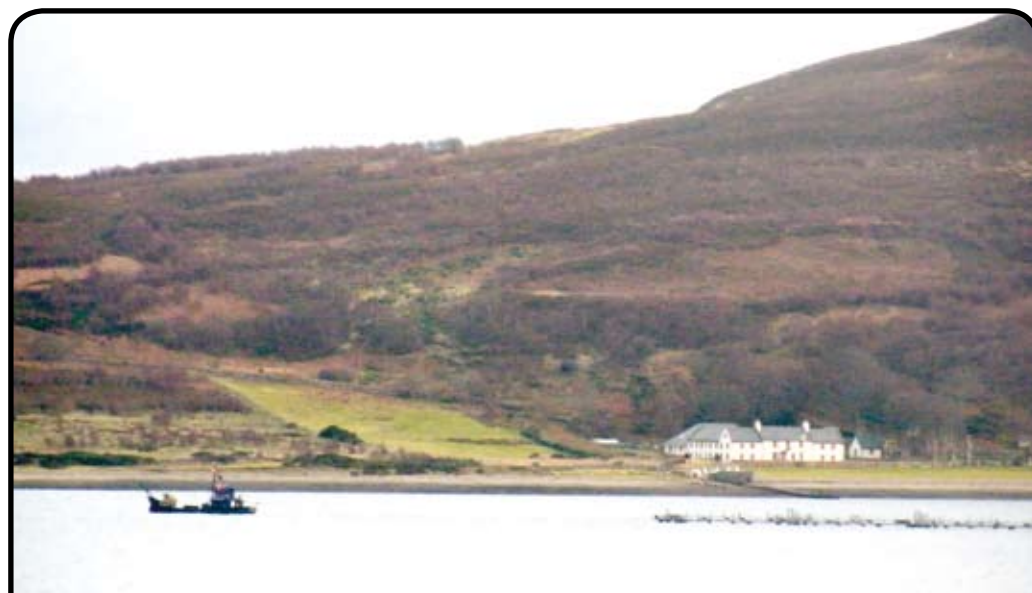
This is no sentimental romance, — it is merely the result of boredom and the convenient proximity of a young male. The sun and sea permeate the atmosphere and the hedonistic summer continues until Cecile's father announces that he intends to marry his mistress. Only then do we discover how much of an enfant terrible Cecile actually is. She enlists the

help of her own lover, Cyril, to destroy her father's plans, and the reader is caught up, fascinated and aghast, wondering how far this deliberate, self-seeking girl will go in order to preserve the indulged and luxurious life-style she so much enjoys.

The cold, dispassionate way in which Cecile selects her lover and then uses him to further her own purposes caused outrage in 1954 when the novel first appeared.

There is nothing childlike in Sagan's creation. Like Mary Shelley, she created a monster, and that monster, Cecile, is the reason why the book remains in print. The story is grippingly credible, and the youth of its author doubles the horrified attraction. In our own time, with widespread public revulsion at the greed and selfishness that have affected countless people, there is a new fascination in this book, written half a century ago but suddenly freshly and chillingly relevant.

Bonjour Tristesse
By Françoise Sagan
Published by Penguin,
RRP £4.99
ISBN 0-140-7878-8



Fishfarm equipment being towed across the No Take Zone today

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.

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

Alternatively, send details of your event to:

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

EVERY DAY (OR MOST DAYS)

Arran Craft Gallery, beside Bilslands, Brodick—open Monday–Saturday
Arran Art Gallery, Shore Road, Whiting Bay—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)
Corrie Art (former Corrie Village Shop), Corrie—current exhibition: Avril Paton *What's on Your Plate?* Decorative hand-painted platters by the artist, daily 1–6pm
Main Fine Art, Michael Main Gallery, Douglas Centre, Brodick—open 10am–12.30pm & 2–4.30pm
Isle of Arran Distillery, Lochranza—winter opening times: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 10am–4pm, Sunday 11am–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—Monday and Tuesday closed
Arran Adventure, beside Auchrannie Spa, Brodick—open daily for outdoor activities
Brodick Castle, castle closed for the winter, park open all days, shop open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10am–3.30pm until Christmas
KA Campus, Arran High School, Lamlash—regular fitness classes, gym inductions

THURSDAY 27TH

Screen Machine, *High School Musical 3, The Duchess, Stone of Destiny*—exact times see ads & posters
Senior Aerobics, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.30–10.30am
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 10.45–11.45am
Cardiac Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30–2pm
Lochranza Craft Club, Lochranza Hall, 2pm
Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, 3–5pm
KA Jog, all levels, KA Campus, Lamlash, 5.30–6.30pm
Pilates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–6.45pm
Beavers & Cubs, Theatre & Dance Studio Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.15–8pm
Junior Scottish Country Dancing, Lamlash Church Hall, 6–7pm
Legs, Bums & Tums, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–7.15pm
Outdoor Boot Camp, Ormidale Park, Brodick 7–8pm
Brodick Bridge Club, Ormidale Pavillion, 7.15pm
Brodick Embroidery Group, Library, Brodick, 7.30pm
Middle Eastern Dancers' Practice & Lessons, Lamlash, Church Hall, Beginners 7.30–8.30pm, Intermediates 8.30–9.30pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

FRIDAY 28TH

Screen Machine, *High School Musical 3, The Duchess, Stone of Destiny*—exact times see ads & posters
Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am
Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,

2pm
Kids' Club, Games Night, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–8pm
Arran Pipe Band Practice Session, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Over 21's Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SATURDAY 29TH

Screen Machine, *High School Musical 3, The Duchess, Stone of Destiny*—exact times see ads & posters
Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All day
Island Treasure, Bubbly + Chocolates, Balmichael Visitors' Centre, 10am–5pm
RNLI Shop Lamlash open 10.30am–12.30pm
Christmas Market, Whiting Bay Village Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm
Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 11.30–12.30am
Family Games, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 3–4pm
Fun in the Pool, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 4–5pm
Youth Club, Church Hall, Brodick—tabletop gaming (last Sat. of month), pool, PS3, dart, arts and crafts (1st sat of the month), table tennis, board games etc., 7–10pm
Roots of Arran AGM, followed by music, food & drink, Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick 7.30pm
Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SUNDAY 30TH

Screen Machine, *High School Musical 3, The Duchess, Stone of Destiny*—exact times see ads & posters
Boys' Football, KA Campus, Lamlash (Astroturf or Games Hall), 10–11am
Island Treasure, Bubbly and Chocolates, Balmichael Visitors' Centre, 10am–5pm
Christmas Market, Whiting Bay Village Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm
Switch on of the Christmas Illumination and Fun Activities in the Hall, Arran Brass plays Carols, Village Hall, Brodick, 3.30–4.30pm
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, Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 5.30–6.30pm

MONDAY 1ST

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
Carol Concert with AHS Choir, Lochranza Choir, Rowan Singers, Arran Brass Band,

Lamlash Church, 7.30pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Cameronia, Whiting Bay, 9.30pm

TUESDAY 2ND

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
Mini Kickers Training, KA Campus, Arran High School, 3–4 yrs old 5–5.45pm, 5–7 yrs old 5.45–6.45pm
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 3RD

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
Whiting Bay WRI–Yorkhill Children's Foundation open meeting, Lesser Village Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.30pm
Coffee Morning, Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am–12noon

THURSDAY 4TH

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

Out & About

UP & COMING

FRIDAY 5TH (PREVIEW)

Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am
Arran Riding Club for the Disabled AGM, Church Hall, Brodick, 11 am
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
Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Over 21's Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SATURDAY 6TH (PREVIEW)

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All day
Coffee Morning, Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church, Church Hall, Whiting Bay, 10.30–12am
RNLI Shop Lamlash open 10.30am–12.30pm
Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 11.30am–12.30pm
Family Games, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 3–4pm
Fun in the Pool, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 4–5pm
Youth Club, Brodick Church, tabletop gaming, crafts, PS3, table tennis, sports etc., 7–10pm
Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SUNDAY 7TH (PREVIEW)

Boys' Football, KA Campus, Lamlash, 10am–11am
Christmas Fayre, Shiskine Primary School, 10.30 am, raffle at 11.30am
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
Switch-on of the Christmas lights in Brodick and party later on in Brodick Hall, Brodick, Bilslands, 5pm
Fiddle Class, Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 5.30–6.30pm

PLAN AHEAD

Schools off for X-mas/New Year, Monday, 22nd December 2008–Sunday 4th January 2009
AHS Parents' evenings S4–Monday, 26th January, 7pm
AHS Parents' evenings S1–Thursday, 5th February, 4.15pm
AHS Parents' evenings S2–Tuesday, 28th April, 7pm
Half Term School Holidays–Monday, 9th–Thursday 12th February
Schools' In-Service Day–Friday 13th February
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
Schools' In-Service Day–1st May
Wyrd Sisters, Play by Terry Prattchett performed by the Arran Torch Players, 1st–3rd May (incl)
May Day–Monday, 4th May (Schools off)
The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, musical performed by the Arran Music and Drama Club–Monday 25th–Saturday 30th May (incl.)
Arran Wildlife Festival 2009–13–30th May
Arran Folk Festival 2009–7th–14th June
Schools' Summer Holidays–Wednesday 1st July–Sunday 16th August
Teachers' Return–Friday 14th August

On the Green

By **Alison Prince**

Pirates

AGAINST ALL REASON, I have a sneaking sympathy for the Somali pirates. It's not just that I think of all pirates as a cross between Captain Hook and Johnny Depp, with a red bandana tied round the head and a cutlass between the teeth. It must be truly terrifying for crew members of freighters and tankers in the Horn of Africa, knowing that at any moment there may be grappling irons and scaling ladders thrown up against the side, and a bursting-in of armed men. Enough to put any midshipman off his cocoa, and any shipping magnate off the idea of going through the Suez Canal at all. Somalia is the eastern seaboard strip on the top right-hand corner of Africa, between Ethiopia and the Indian Ocean, near the entry to the Suez Canal, where ships prepare to go through that short-cut to Europe and places west. Maersk, the world's biggest shipping company, said last week that it would be diverting a number of its ships round Cape Horn. Back to the old days of the tea clippers, one thinks. Six weeks of hard sailing from Southampton to Hong Kong. Isn't that going to be wildly expensive?

Well, yes. But so is the handing out

of ransoms to the marauders. But I can't help wondering why men would pick such a dangerous occupation. Surely not as a form of sport? The British upper classes, traditionally rather lacking in risky occupations other than sex and a predilection for other people's wars, naturally chase animals across country and shoot things on moors. Whatever turns you on, I suppose — but hunting isn't like setting off across the ocean in a small boat to climb aboard a super-tanker and make its purser hand you all the dosh in the safe. Nobody, in my view, would do that purely for fun, or even for greed. There has to be a more desperate reason. And, of course, there is.

The *Guardian* somehow managed to contact a pirate boss called Asad 'Booyah' Abdulahi, who gave them his point of view last Saturday. As a Somalian fisherman who had dreamed of a university education but without hope of affording it, his world fell apart in 1991, when the left-wing Somali government was blown apart by the outbreak of civil war. The north-western part of the country declared its independence and after a year or so UN 'peace-keeping' forces

moved in, led by the United States, to the great disgruntlement of many Somalis. Sounds familiar? Well, yes. After gun battles in Mogadishu in which a lot of Americans were killed, the UN withdrew. Since then, various Somali militias have morphed into 'security agencies' for hire. Mob rule, in other words. Then the country was devastated by the tsunami of 2004. Five years on, there is still no stable government. Islamic militarists have complicated things, and Somalis are fighting them, together with Ethiopian forces, previously hostile. A street battle last week left 16 young men dead and many more wounded.

Sorry — got a bit carried away there. But with such a mess going on, how can you expect piracy to be regarded with much outrage in Somalia? And there's something else. As a Glasgow reader wrote to the *Herald* this week, 'Could it be that with the removal of their historic fish stocks by modern trawlers, these communities are forced into offensive action to feed themselves?' On the Atlantic side of Africa, I've seen how people become a prehistoric remnant when the German factory ships started trawling up every fish in the sea, and

it probably isn't much different in the east. But through these waters sail the super-tankers filled with millions of dollars' worth of oil and freighters laden with every modern gismo made in the booming manufacturing industries of Asia. Such lumbering store-houses of wealth, low in the water with the weight of their richness, are the equivalent of the Robin Hood story, and are open to the same tut-tutting from the Sheriff of Nottingham and the financial press.

Though the heart goes out to the crew members who wait in terror for the dark figures that may appear over the side, there has to be a thread of understanding for the pirates who risk their lives in a bid to be part of the wealthy world. It's wrong and it's deeply sad, but if there has to be anger, we need to be a bit careful about who we are angry with. As our shops crank their battered image into some semblance of Christmas cheer and our banks apply poultices of public money to their self-inflicted wounds, there's a question to be asked. Are these pirates doing a fraction of the damage that was done by the sellers of sub-prime mortgages and the lenders of other people's money? I don't think so.



Bella's Diary

By **Margaret Kay**

THURSDAY AGAIN — and the time is just whizzing by. Wee Malkie is almost two weeks old and is growing like a mushroom. He already weighs in at 425 grammes and he is getting to look like a baby Rhino — wrinkles all up and down his legs and at his neck where his coat is a bit too big for him. My Mum made me feel like that when, together with all my contemporaries, I started out the new school year. We all had blazers and coats and shirts that were too big, on the basis that we'd all grow into them. Wee Malkie is a bit like that just now — he will grow into his coat as the weeks go by.

Great celebrations in the household at 3.35am last Saturday morning! Bella finally got totally into Motherhood and washed Wee Malkie's face, and since then we have not looked back. I've been able to get a decent night's sleep, uninterrupted by the needs of a puppy, as his Mum has been attending to him.

He has been 'abroad' since the last diary notes — he went as far as Glasgow

and Johnstone and he behaved perfectly. He slept through most of it, comfy in his wee carry bag with his 'hottie' to keep him warm and cosy. Mum kept an eye on him and popped in to feed him when necessary.

Monday saw a trip for Bella to Big Malkie (Vet) to have her stitches removed. Despite a fairly traumatic previous visit she conducted herself impeccably and was in and out in jig time and home to the pup, who was oblivious to his Mum's absence. Not entirely sure, however, just how thrilled Malcolm is to have such a wee smidgen named after him!

This week sees a much bigger adventure — we are off to friends in Methven, Perthshire, for the weekend. Wee Malkie's eyes should be open sometime in the next couple of days so he should start to register what is going on around him. This can be quite comical, as sometimes one eye will open first and you have a very 'Cap'n Jack', piratical stare winking at you

until the other one opens too. We are off tomorrow and going via Darvel, where Bella and Wee Malkie and I will interview a family who are interested in having him. They have recently lost an elderly Yorkie dog, so are au fait with the breed and are looking for a pup to fill the huge hole the demise of their previous wee dog left in their lives. I hope they appreciate they are in for a grilling!

It's nice for me when my pups are booked this early on, as new owners can come back and forward to get to know their new puppy, and the wee dog can become familiar with them and their smells. This makes the transition from this house to theirs much easier when the time comes for him to go to his new family.

I have done my bit to promote tourism in this way and have created a few converts to Arran for short visits and holidays. The added bonus, as far as I am concerned, is that my pups get to come back and see me too.



PUT YOUR SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON OUR MESSAGE BOARD, FREE!

Northend Thistle Footy Fundraiser Bingo Night

Whiting Bay Golf Club
Saturday 29th November, 7.30pm

All welcome!

SHISKINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas Fayre

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER

@ 10.30am in the School

Grand Raffle drawn at 11.30 am

Home Baking, Tombola, Children's
Craft, Tea and Coffee
Proceeds in aid of School Funds

Hospital Supporters League Christmas Fayre Sun
7th Dec 2-4pm in the High School.

All the usual stalls. Come and have a cup of tea and
a mince pie while you solve Dr.Tinto's Quiz.

For table tops please phone Judy on 700 245.

Any donations for home baking or bric-a-brac will
be very welcome and may be left at the school
from 11am on the morning of the fayre — come
along and support your hospital.

ARRAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Thurs 4th Dec, 8pm, Ranger Centre

Liz Parsons on
Glasgows Farmland Bird Project

Bubbly & Chocolates

This weekend 29th/30th
November Island Treasure
The Balmichael Centre
Shiskine Tel: 860 556
10-5pm Sat
12-5pm Sun

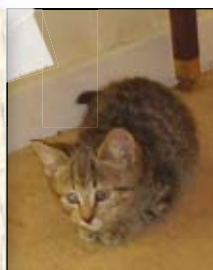
Many thanks to the Co-op for
their support

Coffee Morning

Lamlash Church Hall

10.30 - 12

Wednesday 3rd Dec



HOMES WANTED

For two,
8 week old tabby kittens
both boys, lively with
loving natures.
Tel: 302 150

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

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH

A coffee morning and book stall is being held in
the church hall on Saturday 6th December from
10.30am to 12 noon

All proceeds for church funds

Annual General Meeting Arran Riding for the Disabled

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

Whiting Bay Primary
School Parent Council
would like to thank
everyone involved
for making the
Christmas Fete and
Family Ceilidh on
22nd November so
successful. Nearly
£1,000 was taken on
the day — fantastic.

MISSING

Slim tabby male cat with
very marked stripes.
Missing from
Alma Road area Brodict
302 433

Isle Of Arran Annual Carol Concert Lamlash Church 7.30pm Monday December 1st 2008

Come and join us for this concert of readings, carols and
songs. Leading, into the festive season of Christmas.

Those taking part include:
Brodict Primary School Choir
Arran High School Choir
The Rowan Singers
Lochranza Choir
The Arran Brass Band
And yourselves

Proceeds in aid of The Sir Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund For
Children

Scottish Charity No SC015072

Soup and Sandwich
Lunch + Slide
Show in Aid of Dr.
Graham's Homes.
Tickets £5 from
the Book and Card
Shop, Committee
members or at the
door.
Sat. 29th November,
Brodict Church Hall,
12.30pm.

Brodict Christmas Illuminations Switch On

Sunday 30th Nov
Brodict Hall 3.30-4.30pm
Fun for all the family, carols by Arran Brass.
Write a letter to Santa, cookie decorating, face
painting
Mulled wine, mince pies and raffle
'Win the chance to switch on the lights'



St Andrew's Day

Facts About Saint Andrew and The St Andrew's Cross

1. St Andrew's day is celebrated internationally on the 30th of November.
2. St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland.
3. St Andrew's Day is a day to celebrate Scottish culture, food and dance.
4. The St Andrew flag is the flag of Scotland, with a white cross on a blue background, commonly known as The Saltire.
5. St Andrew's Societies celebrate Scottish culture around the world.
6. St Andrew's Day is a bank holiday in Scotland but entitlement to leave depends on the employer.
7. St Andrew is also the patron saint of Romania, Greece and Russia.
8. St Andrew was one of the Twelve Apostles and brother of St Peter. Scotland is one of the few countries to have one of Christ's disciples as their patron saint.
9. St Andrew is believed to have died on a diagonally transversed cross which the Romans sometimes used for executions and which, therefore, came to be called St Andrew's Cross.
10. St Andrew's Day is connected with Advent, which begins on the first Sunday after November 26.
11. St Andrew's Day marks the beginning of Scotland's winter festivals.



Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**

Amateur Meteorologist

SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S FORECAST

A bit better than last week. However, I had no powers of predicting the absolutely awful ferry situation on Saturday and Sunday.

General Summary for 27th November to 1st December:

The big high pressure area which gave us some pleasant weather mid-week drifted off into Europe. This left us at the mercy of a deep low centred just north of Shetland by midday on Thursday bringing a long cold front down across the country accompanied by strong westerly winds.

By Friday this low will become less intense, sitting over Ireland and the winds will drop dramatically and we will enter a rather slack period of weather. By Saturday it will drift slowly south over England, then across the Channel on Sunday. As its centre drifts south we will be exposed to a very cold air flow coming down from the Arctic again. This means another freezin' weekend, I'm afraid.



Thursday

A wet and windy day today with strong westerlies up to gale force earlier in the morning, but easing off as the day progresses. It will be fairly mild at 10°C, but there will be heavy and prolonged showers through till evening. There could be just the occasional sunny break to get the dog out for a walk, but be prepared for a downpour at any time. Getting much colder later and the rain could turn to sleet or snow tonight.



Friday

A much more pleasant day with long spells of sunshine and just a breeze from the south, but (and there is always a but) temperatures will drop to around 3 or 4°C. Time for the long johns again, or maybe a swim in the sea. It could well be warmer there (only joking). Definitely a good day to get out, though, with several layers. I'm not expecting rain, but there's always the chance of a little moisture in the air. An overnight frost is a definite possibility.



Saturday

Not much sun today, mostly cloudy and colder than Friday at 2°C. It should stay dry throughout the day with a chance of wintry showers (perhaps some sleet or snow) overnight. There will be a light north-east wind in the morning, increasing to around 15mph after dusk, making it feel even colder. This wind could become quite strong overnight (more than 25mph).



Sunday

As I wrote above, this is a rather slack period of weather, and there is not much difference from Saturday except that the wind will stay constant at around 15mph from the north east. It will stay cloudy and cold with a greater chance of moisture around and the possibility of sleet and snow showers. You'll be lucky to see the sun today. A day for the fireside I think.



Monday

Still cold at 3°C with maybe just a wee bit more sunshine, but dry cloudy conditions will be the main feature again. There may be some residual showers early in the morning and again late at night.

Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

Cloudy, mainly dry and cold is the pattern for the earlier part of the week ahead. The wind may shift from the north to the south midweek making it a wee bit milder and windier with more showers.

Ferry Notes

I cannot predict technical difficulties, but apart from Thursday there will be no 'adverse weather conditions'.

Free School Meals to Benefit an extra 2,940 children in North Ayrshire

LEGISLATION TO EXTEND free school meals to all P1 to P3 children was passed last Wednesday, November 19th, after weeks of evidence-taking showed compelling reasons to support it. Kenneth Gibson MSP, Vice Convenor of the Scottish Parliament's Education and Life-Long Learning Committee, moved the vote, which among widespread Scottish benefit will allow free school meals to be extended to 2,940 children in North Ayrshire from 2010, and said he was delighted with the result. However, all opposition parties refused to back the proposals.

Mr Gibson said: 'At present 94,000 children in poverty are currently excluded from free school meals. This policy will reach 40,000 of them across Scotland and ensure all other P1-P3 children obtain at least one

healthy, nutritious meal a day. As the five pilot schemes showed, free school meals are popular and successful with children, parents and teachers. This decision is an important step forward for Scotland's youngest school pupils and I'm sure will be welcomed by the children, parents and staff on Arran.'

He went on to castigate the opposition parties for their failure to vote for 'this enabling legislation, rejection of which would have prevented councils from extending the entitlement' and observed that 'wherever their priorities lie, it does not include reducing child poverty. Both the Lib Dems and Tories voted to take the food from the mouths of Scotland's children.'

The legislation was passed by 3 for (SNP), 2 against (Con & LD) and 3 abstentions (Lab).

Red Cross transport service is FREE

THERE HAS BEEN concern that people who could use the Red Cross transport and escort service to medical appointments on the mainland have been avoiding it because they fear it costs too much. In fact, the service is now completely FREE, and has been so for some while. If people wish to make a contribution, they may do so, but there is no longer any question of a donation being requested.

Peter McCarthy, Red Cross operations director, said: 'Thanks to welcome changes in funding and with the valuable support of Red Cross volunteers, no charge is now made for the use of this vital service. We want to make sure that everyone on Arran who needs our support gets it, so I'd urge people not to struggle on in silence and get in touch and see if the Red Cross can help.'

The British Red Cross transport is a vital lifeline to people on Arran who cannot get about easily or would have difficulty using public transport by providing a free door-to-door service for people requiring assistance. Set up as a pilot in 2003, the Red Cross provides suitable vehicles with properly trained



drivers — and where necessary an escort — to collect people from their homes and take them to medical appointments at hospitals in Ayrshire or to Glasgow.

Since the start of the transport service in 2003, volunteers have helped people make over 10,000 journeys, the majority starting and finishing on the Isle of Arran. For many users, this has provided the most practical and easiest means of getting to hospital appointments on the mainland.

For more information about the service, please contact the Red Cross Ayrshire office on 01292 263 946.

arranbusinesssolutions.com

"I have a computer..."
"It should help my business..."
"What do I do now?"

arranbusinesssolutions.com supports small and medium sized businesses through the efficient and effective use of information systems and computer technology:

- database design and development
- spreadsheets
- web pages
- e-mail
- training 1-1 workshop or tutorial
- end user support
- project life cycle support

email: craig@arranbusinesssolutions.com
web: www.arranbusinesssolutions.com
phone: 01770 300203
mobile: 07876 5002652

CIW ASSOCIATE

tlc therapies

Enjoy a relaxing treatment from
Jan Atkins MChA
at Inspirations of Arran
Tel: **01770 302 990**

Hot Stone Massage & Hopi Ear Candling now available

Free Personal Christmas Messages



Send us your name and short Christmas message for publication free of charge. Please include your phone number so that we can contact you if we have to. Space will be limited so send your messages in early to save disappointment.

Name:.....

Telephone Number:.....

Personal Christmas Message:

Opening Soon!

The Arran Cattery
at Woodside Farm

For cat holidays
contact us now



Tel: 01770 820 361
Mob: 07707 270 468
E-mail: karenjaugier@hotmail.com

Brilliant Paton show at new Corrie gallery

By Alison Prince



Marvin Elliott and Avril Paton. Painted plates below: Jolly Dancer (top), Watercourse (bottom).

THE CORRIE SHOP has changed amazingly fast into a bright, airy art gallery, and for its first exhibition, it features the work of Avril Paton, who painted the iconic *Glasgow Tenement* that hangs in reproduction on so many walls. For this show, she has returned to a family tradition handed down by her father, who saw himself through art school by painting plates. Avril jumped at the suggestion by Marvin Elliott that she should do likewise, and the result is quite astonishing. These circular designs are full of life and vibrancy, and cover a spectacularly wide range of styles.

People will already be familiar with the sharply drawn blackbird that appears on cards and publicity for the exhibition, but there is far more. *Watercourse* has a fish in a bright-lit green centre, while the depths of darker water surround it, and *Willow Blue* transcends the traditional Willow Pattern, though it has all its blueness. This is a joyously free cloudscape, full of lovely

patterning. The same delight in free pattern is expressed in *Doodle Dream*, a delicate pencil design, spare and wiry and full of quirky wit. *Heilan Hame* is as grey and white as granite and a winter sky, but at the other extreme is *Gypsy*, all rosy reds and flamboyant blues and greens like the painting on a traditional caravan. *A Wee Boat in a Stormy Sea* is a wonderful evocation of the way the waves threaten to engulf a small craft while the ocean spreads its vastness to the encircling horizon. *Jolly Dancer* is derived from a blot that extends its arms and legs to become a dancing figure, full of joy and movement. Is it a cat, a bull, a dragon? Its feet with their long red toes are flung out to the edges and join a border that jumps in time to its own silent music. These plates are as collectable as early Picasso ceramics, and at under a hundred pounds apiece, any collector who does not leap in there with cheque-book at the ready will be missing the chance of a lifetime.



‘Arran and Beyond’

LAST WEDNESDAY, in the continuing Arran Arts Festival, an enthusiastic audience heard Sheila Templeton, last year's winner of the poetry competition, reading her poems in Scots and English. A great entertainer, she brought a fresh, direct view of how a poem can arise from real life, and revealed some of its difficulties, too. She said of her mother, who died two years ago, 'I've tried writing about her so often, but it never quite seemed to work. But this one seems to be all right.' The poem began, 'You sent me eggs — through the post.' The eggs had arrived miraculously intact, brown and beautiful, with a fluffy feather on one of them. Poetry has this way of making the small things count for a lot.

Amy Hume and Robyn Keen played and sang their own songs as a musical counterpart, and everyone was struck by the gorgeous quality of their voices and by the power of the lyrics. At only 20, these talented Arran girls are confident and relaxed performers, and clearly have a great future ahead of them.

The event was introduced by Jason Watts. He, like the witty and excellent Eric Dunn, who so ably compered the Tuesday night event, 'Made on Arran', added much to the audience's enjoyment of the evening.



Above: Sheila Templeton. Below: Robyn Keen



Above: Amy Hume

Winning Play in a Nutshell



Winner: Fiona Connor

AT CORRIE HALL on Friday, four talented actors from the professional theatre company, Nutshell, gave a rehearsed reading of this year's winning play in the Arran Arts Festival, *Wasteland*, by Fiona Connor.

Directed by Kate Nelson, this was 'theatre in the round', taking place on the floor of the hall. The actors, using nothing but a black sofa and a circle of littered paper as their stage, put on an astonishingly well thought out performance. They had worked closely with Fiona, converting what began as a mere eleven pages of script into double the length, circling round the reasons why a

girl, first found curled up on the sofa, feels her life is worthless. Gradually, as the actors induce a fresh look at her past, life returns and the mood changes to optimism and a degree of sheer fun. The language of the play is rich in sound, evoking something of Dylan Thomas in its decorative use of words although it is sheer Glasgow Scots. A woman is described as looking like 'road-kill wi' a perm' and the drugs the girl has been using bring her, more poetically, 'palm to palm in a chemist's kiss.' It is heady, evocative stuff, and Mary Crupinski in the demanding part of the girl sustained an extraordinary level of vital, sensitive response while Harry Ward, Richard Addison and David Rennie Fitzgerald cajoled, soothed and reminisced round her. How many actors could fold, smooth and actually fly a paper aeroplane while also effortlessly managing an A4 script? This was a splendid performance, and equally enjoyable was the affable discussion with the actors, author and director that followed.



ISLE OF ARRAN BREWERY

Charity Mini Beer Festival or... Novemberfest!

Raising money for local charities...
For every beer purchased at £1.50 (per 500ml Bottle), 50p will be donated to Local Charities

Saturday 29th November 2008
7.00pm – 10.30pm, Brodick Hall
Stagecoach bus will leave to both North & South, from outside the hall at 11.00pm

Beer, food and live sessions from local musicians:
The String Road Pot Holes & The Millicats

Tickets on sale at the door

Entry is only £5.00 per person — Over 21's ONLY
Ticket includes: Food, 1 x 500ml Bottle Beer, Entertainment AND return fare on the Bus

Charities to benefit from the event:
Royal British Legion Scotland, Mountain Rescue and Hospital Supporters League

FRECOSSE online solutions

Take control of your website with a Content Managed solution from Frecosse Online Solutions from just £350

OUR PRICE INCLUDES:
DOMAIN NAME REGISTRATION • WEB HOSTING SPACE
WEBSITE LAYOUT DESIGN • INITIAL CONTENT ENTRY
SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMISATION • VISITOR STATISTICS

AND OUR CUSTOM-BUILT CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO EDIT, ADD OR REMOVE WEB PAGE CONTENT AT ANY TIME

Find out more at: www.frecosse.com
Telephone: 0141 666 1369 or E-mail g.attkins@frecosse.com

ADVERTISING
in The Arran Voice

1/32nd Advertisement
£25 (Mono)/£32 (colour)
in Classifieds — £16 (mono)
in Personals — £11 (mono)

1/16th Advertisement
£46 (Mono)/£60 (colour)
in Classifieds — £30 (mono)
in Personals — £20 (mono)

Line Ads from only £3.50

Discounts available for block bookings
All above prices plus VAT
We will be happy to visit you at your premises to discuss any advertising.

Our full ratecard is online at: www.arranvoice.com



Positive Pictures

PROFESSIONAL VIDEO PRODUCTION
for Business Promotion & Live Events

Tel: 01770 302 397
www.PositivePictures.co.uk

CLADACH SAWMILL

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

BRODICK 01770 302471

ARRAN YESTERPRINTS

GIVE SOMEONE A PRESENT OF THEIR HOUSE AS IT WAS 100 YEARS AGO — FROM AS LITTLE AS £15

www.arranyesterprints.co.uk

ASSYA B. DESIGN

Jewellery • Textile Art • Home Style Objects
Made on Arran

Looking for Xmas gifts?

Whiting Bay Xmas Market, Sat 29 & Sun 30 Nov
Hospital Supporters League Xmas Fayre, Sun 7 Dec
or call the Argentine: 700 662

Christmas Concert
in Corrie Parish Hall

Peter Alexander, Wilson, Peter, Michelle, Lizzie, and Max Thomson with Crawford Logan on Saturday 13th December at 7pm
Coffee and Mince Pies

Tickets available from Book and Card Shop, Brodick and by telephone: 810 210 — £7.00

Copperwheats
Winter Opening Hours

Monday	10.00am – 5.30pm
Tuesday	10.00am – 5.30pm
Wednesday	10.00am – 5.30pm
Friday	10.00am – 7.30pm
Saturday	9.30am – 7.30pm
Sunday	10.00am – 7.30pm



Eleanor's Flowers
For Every Occasion

NEW SHOP NOW OPEN
At Auchrannie Road
Open Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–5pm
Telephone: 07748 671 052

The Burnside

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

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

Winning poems in the Arts Festival competition

ON THE CLOSING Saturday night of the festival, the non-sailing of the ferry prevented any of the invited guests from coming over, so the planned events of the evening could not happen. However, a gathering of the many people involved in the festival had a thoroughly good time, and Jason Watts read out the winning poems, which we publish below.

Elvers

They are not strands of horse hair
washed into streams, flowing into life,
taking on the movement of the water.

They are not filaments of skin,
stripped
from a female eel as she rubs against
a rock;
nor do they emerge from the gills of
other fish.

They are not monks transformed
as punishment for lust,
nor their monstrous offspring.

By Vicky Paine
Won first prize

Starling

The ruined boathouse crumbles on the loch,
a dry-stone cold sore. The Victorian
launching rail survives the jealous wrack
of springtide salt and socialist taxation,
but fifty winters' slippage in the slates
has made a wet rot lacework of the roof,
the stage on which our starling struts his stuff —
talented dynast of a showbiz line —
mimicking the ghillie's whiskied groan,
the wicker-muffled chink of picnic plates,
the midgied shrieking of the old laird's daughter,
and — his bravura catchphrase, learned in egg —
the shhhhp whirr whirr whirr chugga chugga chugg
of an expertly started outboard motor.

By Nick McKinnon
Won 2nd prize

Learning Cloud

I'm losing birdsong. Something has built its nest
in the branches of my inner ear and flown.
Now every crevice in the foam ... What's that?
I said, every grey voice on the phone
mutters at me through whiskers.

I'm losing birdsong, my delight in it,
each morning's quirky wakeup call, the spark
and crackle heard through blazing noon
or when the gloaming's almost black.
One ear is stuffed with ash.

These days instead I'm learning Cloud.
It started years ago. At four I turned their pages
like a picture book, tracing blue margins
with one finger. Dazzled I worked out
hundreds of words for weather.

Later scribbling nimbus was an antidote
to algebra and solid geometry (not angles
but angels, as Pope Gregory said, calling for
an ancient Waterman's flexible nib).
Often the whole sky blotted black and blue.

Listening to stratus came next: it's a complex
of minus-whispers and nearly silent whoops,
an almost all intensely labial language.
Softly softly is the sound of the sky's plate
being licked with quiet gusto.

Seasons passed and their leaves too — none
listening to the rush of rack more carefully than I.

Now that I'm losing birdsong, what fills most days
is learning to speak Cloud. The lessons take as long
as Latin, but sometimes cirrus streams
straight off my tongue to heaven like a prayer.
Other times I'm staggered by the depth

of silence cumulating, a whiteness into which
all the dear flocks of birds have gone.

By Jim McGonigal
Won 3rd prize

Islanders can learn benefits of infant massage



Vicki Yuill and Nina Hamilton were taught by the Swedish infant massage teacher Mia Elmsater

ARRAN IS NOW home to two certified infant massage instructors. Nina Hamilton and Vicki Yuill received the qualifications with the help of funding from Surestart and are now welcoming parents to come along to learn about its benefits.

The two have been running classes in Shiskine surgery over recent weeks and parents with babies ranging from six weeks to six months have been attending.

Infant massage is proven to be good for the stimulation and relaxation of babies. It can also help to alleviate their pain and treat post-natal depression. 'It's not a cure, but it can help to relieve the symptoms of colic,' explained Vicki. 'Colic can be distressing for both the baby and the parents,' added Nina. 'I think we are only just realising the true benefits of [infant massage] now.'

Both Nina and Vicki say that the classes are a good chance for parents to meet and share experiences with other parents. Surestart will pay for the care of a sibling when a parent comes to the class and also for transport.

For more information call Nina on 600247.

SureStart

Reader survey results

MANY THANKS TO all those who responded to our request for information by entering the Christmas Turkey Prize Draw. 28 respondents let us know how they felt about the design and content of *The Voice*. We analysed the results giving the votes a numerical weighting ("like" = +2, "so-so" = +1, "never read" = -1 and "don't like" = -2) and have divided the comments into those on design (including paper thickness, photo quality and price) and those on content (everything else excluding the website).

The table opposite gives a snapshot of our readers' responses.

It's good to see that we're most highly valued for our news reporting, and we're delighted that the free notice board gets second billing; it is, after all, at the heart of *The Voice's* philosophy to give space to community and social announcements. The top six items, in terms of popularity, are all locally focussed, with the top non-local item being the recipe. The comments we received are being studied by the team, and will be taken into account when introducing changes to the layout/content of the paper. Our ears are always open, however, so please feel free to write in, or email, with your views.

Perhaps the surprise result is that the Golf Results seem, in our respondents' view, to be least popular, although we are often told what a boost our coverage has given to the game locally. Maybe the golfers were too busy out there improving their game to fill in the form to help us to improve ours?

Aucheleffan

Orders being taken for Christmas

Free Range Bronze Turkeys

Telephone Rosemary on: 01770 870 307

The lucky winner of the magnificent, free-range Christmas turkey is George Lammie of Hawthorn, West Bannan. Congratulations!				
	Like	So-so	Don't like	Never read
Design and layout	22	6		
Paper thickness	20	1	4	
Photo quality	20	9	1	
Price of the paper	14	11	3	
Our website	12	2	3	10
News reporting	24	3		
Sport reports	16	5		7
Editorial	19	8	1	
Quote of the Week	13	7	3	5
Voicemail	15	6		4
Out and About	18	8		1
Book reviews	10	11	1	6
On the Green	14	7	3	3
The Wee Voice	19	3	1	5
Message Board	23	3	1	
Stef's Weather	15	5	2	6
Getting to Know	19	9		
Poem of the Week	13	8	4	3
Community Council minutes	14	12		2
Financial Advice	9	5	3	3
Recipe	21	4		3
News from the Blues	21	6		1
Church News	8	8	1	11
Nan's Views	14	4	2	7
It's a Car's Lot	12	8	1	6
Golf Results	5	5	2	17
The Inquisition	9	12	3	4
Kelly's Music	5	8	2	13
Puzzles	11	4	1	12
Cartoon	15	8	3	2
And Finally	14	6	1	4

Less gloom, please!

By Alasdair Smith

Our Francophile correspondent, Alasdair Smith, tries to cheer himself up.

It is that time of year, with nights stretching out, days receding fast and the mercury falling, when my thoughts turn more and more to what it must be like to live somewhere else. I confess I've not checked on the lighting-up times in the South of France, but with a ready supply of olives, wine and pastis I think I could get by a bit better than I do here in Scotland.

The winter brings not just a chill that freezes the marrow in my bones and makes my joints crack, but a certain gloom in my normally cheerful disposition. It is around this time of year that I look out of the window in the late afternoon and say to myself, 'Oh God, another month before the days start drawing out again.'

But it's January that brings my deepest depression each year. Despite knowing that the days are slowly, surely drawing out by a full two minutes each day, January appears to me to be the darkest month of the year. It might be due to having had an extended break over the festive period, or it may be down to the fact

that the return to work in January leaves me with the gaping chasm of a whole year stretching out in front, stuck in the same job and, worse, with no summer holiday booked.

Or — most likely — it might just be a pathetic, over-indulgent, self-pitying state of mind that I should shake off — for what can be more optimistic than a New Year? All the stresses and strains of the old year are behind me now. That gaping chasm of the New Year ahead is a blank canvas of opportunity. It is a foundation for personal and professional growth and maybe I should begin to recognise it for its potential, instead of complaining about just how dark it seems and wishing my life away for longer days and a milder climate.

Maybe I'll take on the New Year with a new attitude this time round and see if it makes any difference. Maybe I'll spend the holidays thinking long and hard about where I want to be and what I want to do during 2009, and perhaps when I sit down at my desk in early January it will be with a smile on my face because I will know that something great, and in my control, is just around the corner.

Maybe I'll get to France — even if it's just for a fortnight in July.

Forgetfulness
By Hart Crane (1899-1932)

Poem of the week

Forgetfulness is like a song
That, freed from beat and measure, wanders.
Forgetfulness is like a bird whose wings are reconciled,
Outspread and motionless, —
A bird that coasts the wind unerringly.

Forgetfulness is wind at night,
Or an old house in a forest, — or a child.
Forgetfulness is white, — white as a blasted tree,
And it may stun the sybil into prophecy,
Or bury the Gods.

I can remember much forgetfulness.

Crane, despite his short life, was a central influence on 20th century American poetry, and remains influential today.

The Burnside
Mistletoe Magic

As we will not be re ordering art and craft materials until the new store within the ART CENTRE is up and running, we have a special offer of 20% off all materials in the ART SHOP

Artists this is a great time to 'stock up' and for all those potential artists and crafters, materials make the perfect Christmas present!

20% OFF

Art materials,
Art Kits,
Brushes and brush kits,
Bears and baskets,
Craft supplies,
Children's Kits,
Cards and card making supplies,
Decorative papers, Graphite pencils etc,
Hand made papers, (with pressed flowers etc),
Paint your own pots,
Paint your personal Gnome!!
Pastels and pencils,
Prints,
Specialist papers,
Videos,
Arran wrap

Opening Night
8.00pm – 10.00pm, Friday 28th Nov

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

Isle of Arran Community Council Minutes



MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 23RD OCTOBER 08

Those present were:

Campbell Laing (CL) Chair, Alison Prince (AP) Secretary, Harry Davidson (HDn) Treasurer, Cllr Margie Currie (MC), Scott McMurray (SMc), Gillean Langley (GL), Neil Arthur (NA), John Inglis (JI), Ian Small (IS), Howard Driver (HD), Brenda Stewart (BS), Jenny Meade (JM), Willie Kelso (WK), Richard McMaster (RMc), Alec Ulivi (AU) of Strathclyde Police also attended.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved, with one amendment from MC, who said the sum offered by NAC for improvements to the Brodick-Corrie road also included roadwork on the rest of the island.

Officers of ACC remain in place, with CL as Chair, AP Secretary, HD Treasurer. CL also is the ACC representative for Health, HD for Planning, JI for Housing and GL for the Ferry Committee. A vacancy on the local transport group will be filled by IS.

MATTERS ARISING

- MC reported the String road to be 'structurally sound'. Its resurfacing had been interrupted by heavy rain that clogged the machine and finished by hand. HDn asked MC to 'keep the pressure up', and this was assured. NA asked when white lining would be replaced, and MC said this was in hand. There is to be a meeting in November to discuss structural road improvements.
- BS asked about the biomass plant proposal on the Heights, and was assured that the project is still ongoing.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Airtricity had given notice of a plan for wind turbines on Carradale, which would be visible from the west coast of Arran. MC said the Ardrossan wind farm produced £25,000pa for the community, with first call to Ardrossan itself. Should there be surplus funds, these would

be made available to North Ayrshire and Arran.

- JI had received a letter about the inadequacy of the cable connecting potential power producers on Arran to the national grid. This meant that the big producers had priority, with a 'queue' of others blocked behind them for access. JI had written to Katy Clark about this. MC said the main cable inadequacy was on Kintyre.
- Up to 3 delegates are invited to attend the Planning Aid seminar in Ardrossan on the Local Development Plan. GL volunteered to attend.
- HD had an e-mail from Kenneth Gibson MSP saying that money was going to become available for the purchase of land for affordable homes. MC said the Second Homes Fund would also make money available.

POLICE

- AP raised a concern about children riding unlit bikes in the road in Whiting Bay.
- JM pointed out the difficulty of turning right onto the hill from Lamlash towards Brodick because of fast traffic coming up. AU said both these matters would be looked at. AU left the meeting after this discussion.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

- Following the proposal to appoint a non-member of ACC to take the minutes, CL had clarified with NAC that a change of constitution to allow this would be acceptable. CL's proposed changes to the existing wording were read and agreed. IS said an EGM would be necessary to ratify the changes, as the AGM September date had passed. It was agreed that the coming November meeting would be an EGM. MC pointed out that ACVS can supply a minute-taker as part of their remit. CL will follow this up.

PLANNING

- HD reported that he and CL had met with MC on planning issues, and on 10th October had met at the Distillery with

Katy Clark, Kenneth Gibson and Margaret Ferrier of NAC (MF) to discuss the new local plan. MF was looking for public engagement in the consultation process, and said NAC sought 'land release' without specific allocation. On industrial premises provision, she said residential areas must be protected, while still serving business development. CL agreed with HD that it had been a very worthwhile meeting.

- It was felt that ACC should put in a document listing its own proposals for consideration in the local plan. NA said this should be done by the end of January, to give time for the planners to consider it. This was agreed.
- CL said a public meeting should be called when the ACC proposals had been drawn up, so as to allow for wide consultation. This was also agreed.
- Approval had been granted for the housing applications in the Corrie quarry and Bungalow Road in Lamlash, also for a portable building for use as a Youth Centre behind Brodick library.
- Detailed plans were approved for a Shiskine development, where the HI addition of new houses had been amended to place them facing the track rather than being set in a linear arrangement along the road. NA reported local concern that the HI provision might lead to endless expansion, on the basis that an established nucleus might have further houses added to it.
- Revised Breadalbane plans were scrutinised. It was agreed that the reduction in house numbers and a lower profile of roof heights had improved the plan. Subject to acceptable sewage provision, the proposal was agreed.
- Tom Tracey, whose plans for Shore House in Brodick were refused by NAC in August, had written to ask for support from ACC, on the broad question of being in favour of tourist

provision. The rejected plans were looked at again, but it was agreed that the rejection was on the grounds of over-development and incongruous style, and had nothing to do with support for tourism.

- Bob Haddow had written about his proposed filling station and housing development at Glen Cloy. It was agreed that the new filling station is needed, to relieve the congested situation at the Pier, but Margaret Ferrier had made it clear at her meeting with CL and HD that it was unacceptable to combine residential accommodation and a filling station in the same block. She had pointed out that the shops shown on the plan would need front servicing, and there would be poor circumstances for residents, with noise and over-development, and held that in general, the plans did not at present provide acceptable standards. JI stressed that the filling station application should be supported, together with a re-drawn plan that met the NAC requirements, and this was agreed.

AOCB

- JM said residents in Hillside, Lamlash wanted more street lights, as the centre stretch of the road was very dark. CL said 8 unwanted street lights from Pirnmill were available.
- AP said Whiting Bay residents were concerned about damage being done to the new path to the Giants Graves by mountain bikes. She will pursue this with the Forestry and the Bike Club.
- HDn said neighbour notification had been inadequate in the case of a reconstructed house in Brodick, the new form of which was causing grave concern to nearby residents. NA advised HD to write to James Miller, head of planning.

The next meeting, which will be an EGM to ratify the constitution change, will be on Tuesday November 25th 08, at 7.30pm in the NAC offices, Lamlash.

Recipe

By Janis Murchie

ST ANDREW'S DAY STEAK

Ingredients

- Four 8oz fillets of Aberdeen Angus steak
- 4 tablespoons Scotch whisky
- 13 fluid ozs double cream
- 4 oz grated smoked cheese
- 1 oz butter
- Salt and pepper to taste

Method

- Pan fry the steaks according to preference (rare, medium, well done, cremated etc) and keep warm.
- Pour whisky into a pan and flambé (take care when setting light to the whisky!) Add cream and grated cheese and bring slowly to a simmering point.
- Continue to gently simmer, stirring from time to time, until the sauce has been reduced by half.
- Season with salt and pepper and mix in the butter for extra flavour.
- Pour sauce over the steaks and serve with a selection of fresh vegetables.



Advertise your island business — FREE!

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

Interact with the island community

Comment on member posts

Recycle unwanted items

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

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

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

Classic Collection

By Douglas Hamilton

Haydn — *The Creation* (German title *Die Schöpfung*)

Janowitz, Ludwig, Wunderlich, Krenn, Fischer-Dieskau, Berry; Wiener Singverein, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Herbert von Karajan
DG 455 077-2/449 761-2

For those of you who love Handel's *Messiah* but are less familiar with other great choral works, Haydn's *Creation* would be as good a starting place to explore the wider choral repertoire as any. From the amazingly forward-looking 'Chaos' into the choral sunburst of 'And there was Light' there follows a succession of wonderful choruses, of which 'The Heavens are telling' is perhaps the most popular. These are interspersed with beautiful bel canto arias and the occasional duet and trio, and *Creation* is widely regarded as Haydn's finest work.

There are a number of very good recordings from John Eliot Gardiner, Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Andreas Spering (highly commended on the budget price Naxos label). Simon Rattle, too, is excellent, though possibly let down by his bass soloist, or Antal Dorati, among many others. Your choice may be affected by whether you prefer the performance to be in English or German, and whether you like period instruments or a modern symphony orchestra.

In the latter group, my choice is with Herbert von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic, a version that is universally praised, not just for that great conductor's vision, but also for the big team of soloists, double the number deployed in some of the recordings. This was not entirely 'luxury casting.' It happened partly of necessity, since the wonderful tenor, Fritz Wunderlich, died in an accident before completing the recording. There is also a live recording from Karajan, with both Janowitz and Wunderlich as soloists, but it is rather let down by Kim Borg's bass soloist, and the studio recording listed above is better, with its distinguished bass contribution from Walter Berry.

If you wish to hear some of the most angelic singing from any humans, one might argue that Gundula Janowitz and Fritz Wunderlich are virtually unbeatable in this *Creation*, Janowitz being described variously as 'ethereal', 'lovely' and 'truly other-worldly', while Wunderlich has 'unique sensitivity' and 'endlessly lyrical vocal line'. The great German baritone, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, is at his peak in Part 3.

So, with a legendary conductor on inspired form, several of the greatest singers of their generation at the peak of their powers and a marvellous orchestra, as well as the reminder of a great tenor sadly lost to us far too soon, this is an eminently commendable recording — and at mid-price, a bargain too!

Arran Artists Calendar 2009

On Sale Now!



Price Slashed!

Now £9.99

Arran Art Gallery
Arran Craft Gallery
Arran Brewery
Arran Transport
Arran Voice
Bay News
Bay Stores
Bilslands
Book and Card
Brodict Post Office
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

News from the Blues



ARRAN POLICE TOOK part in the Ayrshire rural road safety campaign last weekend to target dangerous driving. A number of warnings were issued to drivers related to speeding and driver behaviour, but due to the ferry disruptions there were fewer than usual cars on the island roads. Tongue in cheek, Sgt Bob MacKay said: 'I'd like to thank CalMac for their assistance in making the roads safe last weekend.'

There were two other reported incidents.

At 1.30am on Friday 21st November a 41 year old Kilmarnock male was arrested near the McLaren Hotel on the Brodict main road for drink driving and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

At 9pm on Sunday 23rd of November a 42 year old Kilmory man was reported for driving without a driving licence.



All Welcome

Scottish Episcopal Church
(in full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 30th November: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mrs Janis Gallagher. Coffee after service.
Wednesday, 3rd December: Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
All Welcome.

Church of Scotland
Kilmory linked with Lamash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share" Sunday 30th November
Rev. Gillean Maclean Kilmory 10am
Lamash 11.30am.
All welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland
30th November 2008
Shiskine, 11am (Church is on the road between Machrie and Blackwaterfoot)
Sunday School meets in the Church Hall Brodict, 7pm
(Church is behind Post Office)
Rev David Karoon
All Welcome, Tel:860426

Arran Baptist Church
Sunday 30th November in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict.
10.55 Worship Service, Tea and coffee afterwards. Everyone welcome

Arran Churches Together
Taizé: there will be Taizé worship on Thursday, 6th November, at 8.00 pm in St Margaret's Episcopal Church, Whiting Bay. ALL WELCOME.

Arran Free Church of Scotland
(continuing) Sunday 30th November
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodict, 11am Evening Service
5 Glen Road, 7pm Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 3rd December, 7pm
Rev D Macleod. All Welcome

Church of Scotland,
Parishes of North Arran; Brodict, 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 30th November:
Brodict Church, 10.30am, Service for Health and Healing at 7.00pm,
Corrie Church, 12noon,
Lochranza, 10.15am,
Shiskine, 12noon,
A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

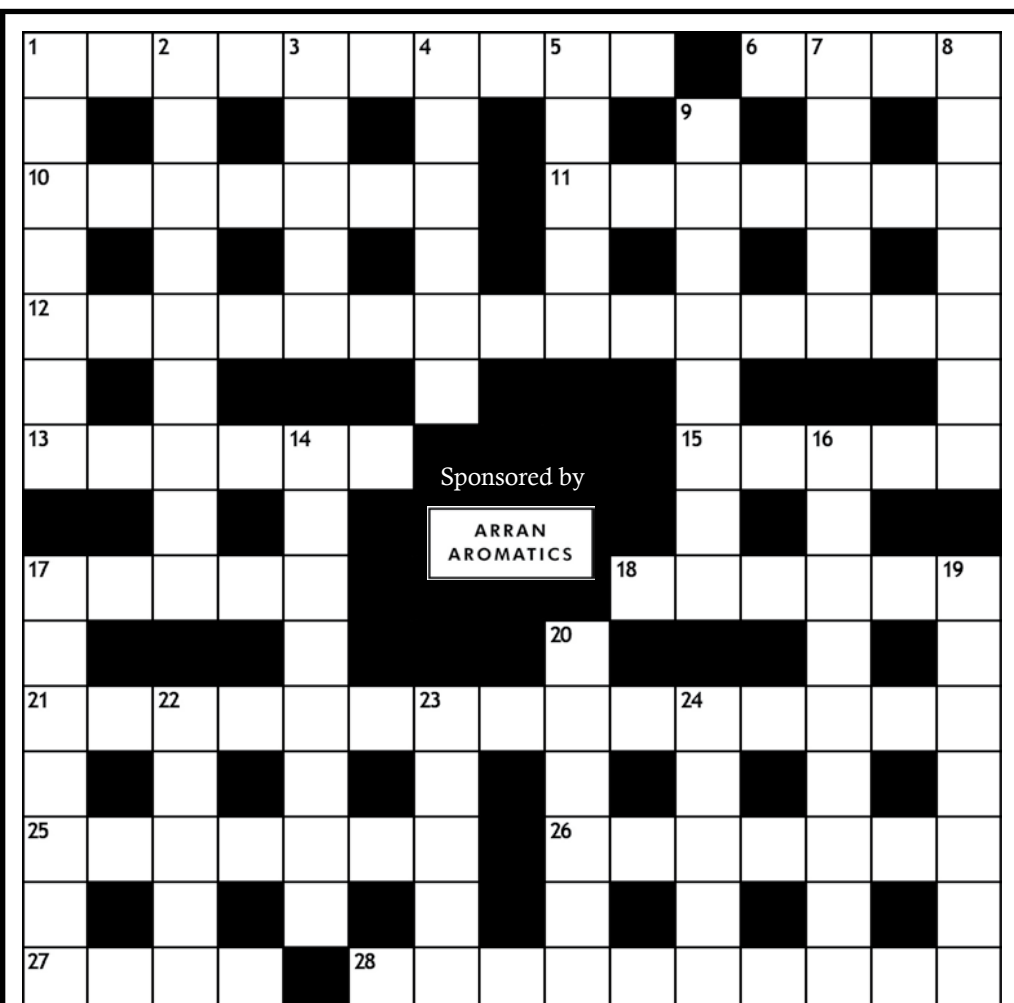
Holy Cross Catholic Church
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 30th November 2008
Worship for the first Sunday in Advent will be conducted by the Rev Alan Thompson at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All most welcome.

Weekly Prize Crossword

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

**ARRAN
AROMATICS**
Win an Arran Aromatics gift box worth £30 this week
You have until Tuesday, 9 December 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 84'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 86" in the subject line.

Name:

Address:

Telephone/E-mail:

Cryptic Clues

Across

- 1 Initiate although the switch is not on? (7,3)
- 6 Remove fat from runner 1,000 (4)
- 10 Cram new hand (7)
- 11 Communist betters military police (7)
- 12 Primarily winning? (2,3,5,5)
- 13 Small packet confuses cheats (6)
- 15 Creamy white alternative in climber (5)
- 17 Shortened star (5)
- 18 Motor, for example nine (6)
- 21 Finished wend another void (4,3,4,4)
- 25 Insect suffer pet hate (7)
- 26 Antiquated chair account (7)
- 27 Fume hum (4)
- 28 Call to learn (6,4)

Down

- 1 Diplomacy thus confused strategies (7)
- 2 Latin dice thrown exactly the same (9)
- 3 Reversed fighter with yours truly conceded putt (5)
- 4 Manage fake old farming system (6)
- 5 Sacks or uses part of one (5)
- 7 Kind of coffee nut round a eucalyptus eater (5)
- 8 Puzzle enigma (7)
- 9 Taking in endorsement (8)
- 14 Hugged bed cream (8)
- 16 1 across (9)
- 17 Clothes hit hard (7)
- 19 Moral upset hat lice (7)
- 20 Shut mother shut salad fruit (6)
- 22 A bird better than a birdie! (5)
- 23 Greek language rearranged one cord (5)
- 24 24th and 12th letters do very well (5)

Quick Clues – just for fun!

Across

- 1 Control (10)
- 6 Scots girl (4)
- 10 Flower vendor (7)
- 11 Offender (7)
- 12 Drugs to relieve melancholy (15)
- 13 Alternative to petrol (6)
- 15 Show (5)
- 17 Irritable (5)
- 18 Correspondent (6)
- 21 Accidentally (15)
- 25 Eschew (7)
- 26 Belief in the superiority of some people (7)
- 27 Wild mountain goat (4)
- 28 Flower container (10)

Down

- 1 Cheat (7)
- 2 They keep footwear in shape (4,5)
- 3 Greek epic (5)
- 4 Reliefs (6)
- 5 Mother of pearl (5)
- 7 Moses's brother (5)
- 8 Fulfil (7)
- 9 Gliding movement (8)
- 14 North African (8)
- 16 Disgusting (9)
- 17 Huge sea wave (7)
- 19 Clothes prepared for a newborn baby (7)
- 20 Crucial part of an engine's connecting rod (3,3)
- 22 Emit (5)
- 23 Japanese trained assassin (5)
- 24 North Eastern Scottish town (5)

THE SANDWICH STATION

LOCHRANZA (opposite the ferry terminal)


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

Telephone: 07917 671913

SMILE MORE

with a little help from

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

Tel 302 397

for a confidential appointment



WHISKIPEDIA

The Whisky Encyclopedia

Visit: www.whiskipedia.org

**NOW
LIVE!**

Enjoy drink responsibly

Print Ordering Service

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

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

(exclusive of Postage & Packaging)

Discounts available for larger orders. Other print sizes are available

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

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



Best Western

Kinloch Hotel

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



Spectacular scenery, excellent
food & outstanding service.

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

Issue 84 Crossword Answers

Cryptic Answers

Across: 1 Publish; 5 Fight; 8 Olive; 9 Warlock; 10 Effervescent; 13 Nomad; 15 Onset; 16 Quintessence; 20 Pillage; 21 Angle; 22 Tenet; 23 Inertia.

Down: 1 Phone-ins; 2 Brief; 3 Ire; 4 Hawse; 5 Ferocious; 6 Grounds; 7 Take; 11 Redundant; 12 Et Cetera; 14 Maudlin; 17 Ellemi; 18 Night; 19 Spat; 21 Axe.

Quick Answers

Across: 1 Blemish; 5 Delay; 8 Dippy; 9 Backlog; 10 Asymmetrical; 13 Leapt; 15 Foyer; 16 Football Team; 20 Adhered; 21 Legal; 22 Corgi; 23 Departs.

Down: 1 Biddable; 2 Empty; 3 Icy; 4 Habit; 5 Deceitful; 6 Lullaby; 7 Yoga; 11 Metatarsi; 12 Brambles; 14 Another; 17 Aided; 18 Eager; 19 Talc; 21 Lip.

Winner of Issue 84 Crossword:

Congratulations to Lorraine Brookes from Kilmory who wins the gift voucher this week.

Issue 85 Sudoku & Kakuro Solutions

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

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

	3	36				12	41	11		
5	2	3			13	6	3	2	1	
7	1	6	4		17	19	4	9	1	5
		22	4	1	8	9		12	9	3
		20	8	3	9			8	6	2
		24				3	12			
15	8	7			18	2	9	7		
3	2	1		18	9	1	3	5		3
	11	5	2	1	3			10	8	2
21	9	5	7					4	3	1

Sudoku

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

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

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

On this day...

- 1295** The first elected representatives from Lancashire were called to Westminster by King Edward I to attend what later became known as "The Model Parliament".
- 1971** Mars 2 of the Soviet space program landed on Mars.
- 1990** The British Conservative Party chooses John Major to succeed Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- 2005** The first partial human face transplant is completed in Amiens, France.

Star Birthdays

- 1701** Anders Celsius, Swedish inventor and astronomer
- 1925** Ernie Wise, British comedian
- 1940** Bruce Lee, American actor and martial artist
- 1959** Charlie Burchill, Scottish guitarist and keyboardist (Simple Minds)
- 1962** Mike Bordin, American musician (Faith No More)

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.

	8	40			9	8	44	
12					11			
			4	3				
39								7
	11						4	
	11						6	
14							8	
	3					8	16	
	6			14	13			3
		34						
	11						8	



Subscribe to The Arran Voice

- Annual UK Postal Subscription – £50
- Annual European Postal Subscription – £80
- Annual World Postal Subscription – £160
- Annual PDF Subscription – £25
- Annual Website Subscription – £15

All subscriptions are for 52 weeks. PDF and website subscriptions are also available - for more information please visit our website. To order any subscription, please send a cheque for the total (to our office below), made out to "Arran Voice Ltd". Prices include postage and VAT where applicable. You can also order online at www.arranvoice.com. "Subscriptions", The Arran Voice Ltd, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX



28 hours — and we only went over for a loaf of bread



Marine News

By John Kinsman

FISH FARMS NET £3M PACKAGE

A £3million funding package for the Scottish fishing industry was announced on Thursday November 20th November by environment minister Mike Russell. The cash-Scotland's allocation from the European Fisheries Fund for 2008 — will be fast-tracked, with shellfish and fish farms able to bid for the money until the end of the year. The minister made the announcement during a Holyrood debate and said the aquaculture industry is worth about £400million annually in Scotland and is 'absolutely vital' to economic growth.

A Scottish Government motion supporting the continued development of a 'growing Scottish aquaculture industry' was unanimously supported. MSPs then agreed a Labour amendment that the renewed aquaculture strategy must be consistent with the forthcoming Marine Bill and the EU Water Framework Directive. A Conservative amendment calling for serious consideration of measures aimed at reducing the likelihood of the

Gyrodactylus salaris parasite entering Scotland was also agreed unanimously.

Mr Russell said a new inspection regime will be launched this month to build on existing good practice, and he praised the 'dramatic reduction' in the number of escaped fish. It has fallen from more than 210,000 last year — which he branded 'absolutely unacceptable' — to 66,471 this year. However, he said, 'That is still too much, and we will continue to drive that down, just as we will continue to make sure that problems of health and lice infestation are tackled and tackled effectively.'

Labour's Elaine Murray said aquaculture 'provides mainstay employment opportunities, in some cases as much as one-third of the workforce, employment which in turn supports a range of local services and facilities.' However, she admitted that the industry has attracted 'criticism and concern' over environmental issues. The Strategic Framework For Aquaculture was published in March 2003, and Ms Murray claimed that all 36 objectives have now been met.

Music legend will move mountains at Lochranza

THE EX-INSPIRAL Carpets frontman Tom Hingley will play at the Lochranza Hotel this weekend in a one-off must-see charity set, with donations going to Arran Mountain Rescue.

Promoter and music man Tam Balloch bills up the event.

The Inspiral Carpets are, if chart appearances are anything to go by, the most successful of the legendary 'Madchester' trio of acts who diverted the course of popular culture in the nineties. Eclipsing the achievements of *The Happy Mondays* and *The Stone Roses* with seven consecutive Top of the Pops appearances, twenty top-forty hits and a brain-and-body-draining schedule of world tours, *Inspiral Carpets* decided in 1995, that it was time to give it a rest.

Since then, Tom Hingley has continued with his solo career, rejoined *Inspiral Carpets* for the occasional tour and, along with a rhythm section from *The Fall*, has formed a working band called *The Lovers* who've just released their second album 'Highlights,' on the

New Memorabilia label.

Hingley says he is looking forward to his first visit to Arran, 'I've heard it's a beautiful place where the locals don't bite, and I love playing in places I've never been to, particularly islands, as folk generally stay quiet long enough to allow others to hear the softer parts of musical performances, unlike many of the run of the mill city gigs on the mainland. I'm also delighted to be connected with an event raising money for Mountain Rescue. It's a vital service which underpins the local community, and for many who require their assistance they make the difference between life and death.'

Playing an acoustic set allows Tom to stretch out into areas which maybe unfamiliar to some *Inspirals* fans, expect to hear material from the excellent solo albums 'Keep Britain Untidy', and 'Soulfire', plus those hits, lovers tracks and some classic covers.

Local 'Shambles Band' frontman Tom Buchan will open the show at 8.30pm.

Debate at Pirnmill



ON TUESDAY THIS week (25 November) Kenneth Gibson MSP forsook the great debating chamber of the Scottish Parliament for the wee one of Pirnmill school — but there was no drop in the fluency and passion of what was said. Nine children from P4-P7 addressed the topic, 'Should more weapons be made?' and gave their most serious attention to the subject. Head teacher Hazel Gardiner acted as Speaker of the House, addressing participants with proper formality as 'Mr' or 'Miss', with surname. The gravitas of the occasion produced some notable speeches, both for and against the motion.

Mr North (Duncan) evoked all the patriotic romance of dying for one's country in his fluent support of more weapons, but was cut down to size by a formidable opponent in Mr Gillson (Peter), who spoke with equal passion of the injuries and loss of life that resulted from war. Mr Logan (Iain) put the financial point of the sheer cost of weaponry, while Mr Stewart (Gregor), whose idea the topic had been, seconded the motion. Those present voted on ballot papers counted by two volunteer tellers, and the result was a broadside victory for those opposed to an increase in armament, with none against.

Kenneth Gibson praised the 'passion and enthusiasm' of the young debaters and gave them some

practical tips. 'Always use up the whole time allocated to you,' he advised, 'and grab any support from others with both hands.' Asked how old you have to be in order to become an MSP, he said you would need to gather some years of experience first, but reminded them that Baldwin became Prime Minister at only 24. To judge by the quality of the debate, Scotland may well acquire some new, highly-professional Pirnmill-born politicians before many years have elapsed.



Those attending the debate were:

Maili Beatan, Ben Innes, Gavin Anderson, Anna O'Donnelly, Duncan Ross, Gregor Stewart, Peter Gillson, Iain Logan, Alastair Inness, Kenneth Gibson, Hazel Gardiner and members of the press.



CARS FOR SALE

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

'05-05 VW Golf TDI
5 Door, Blue, 48,000 Miles

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

'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)

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

VANS/COMMERCIALS

04 Citroën Berlingo
2.00 HDI, White

04 Ford Transit SWB
Medium Roof, White

53 Reg Citroën Berlingo
1.9 Diesel, White

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

SERVICES

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


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

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


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

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

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



Arran Woodfuels
modern biomass woodfuels & equipment



Wood Chips & Wood Pellets
Seasoned Firewood Logs
Biomass Stoves & Boilers
Grant Aid Advice

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



FULTON
decorators

MIRAMAR, LAMLASH
TEL/FAX 01770 600705
Est. 1985

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



ARRAN CANDLEMAKERS & SPION KOP WOODWORK

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

FOR SALE

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

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

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



Recycling

Did you know that you can recycle your old unwanted items free of charge on ArranOnline.com?

If you have something that's just taking up space — why not visit ArranOnline.com, register free, and offer it to someone else?

You can also put in requests for items that you need.

There are full guidelines on the website, but the main rule is that only items that are being offered free should be added.

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

Remember — one person's rubbish can be another person's treasure!

James McDowall & Sons

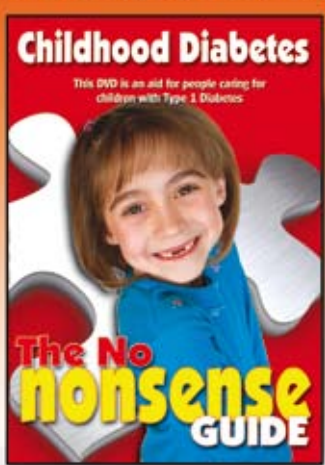
Specialist Butcher
at the keenest prices
Suppliers to Hotels, Pubs and Restaurants
also household requirements

Telephone: 0141 889 2606
191 George Street, Paisley

FOR SALE 

54 Honda Civic, 1.7 Diesel
Blue, 5-door Hatch-back, Alloy Wheels
43,000 Miles, 9 Months Tax and MOT
Excellent Condition — £5,400 ONO
Telephone: 01770 600416

Diabetes DVDs



Childhood Diabetes
This DVD is an aid for people caring for children with Type 1 Diabetes

The No nonsense GUIDE

www.diabetesdvd.co.uk

RECYCLING

Free to uplift — 1 double bed, 2 pieces of corner seating unit — off-white leather tel: 01770 700 385

Bagged Manure for uplift — Tel 600 517.

Small neat piano in good condition free to uplift 600 552

Vanity Unit - Length 30inch Depth 25inch includes leg caps, waste pipe but pale blue wash basin slightly damaged Free to uplift - Tel: 700 453

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

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

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



TAXI SERVICE & PRIVATE HIRE MINI-BUS

for weddings, funerals & all other occasions

Day: (01770) 700 345

Night: (01770) 820 286

Mobile: 07967 587 481

THE BAY GARAGE

OFFICE HOURS

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

ADVERTISING TERMS

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

It's a Car's Lot

THAT OTHER DIAL

Most drivers keep half an eye on their speedometer, at least when they think the vehicle following them might be a police car — but how many people watch the rev counter? If you want to reduce fuel consumption, it's the most useful dial on your dashboard. It tells you how fast your engine is turning over, which is a very different thing from the speed of the car. Our current motoring guinea pig recently found itself sweaty-pawed in the passenger seat beside a lady driver (not being sexist, but this happens to be true) who kept her Vauxhall in first gear until it was screaming at well over 30mph, complaining all the while about how unreliable modern cars were. 'I've had this less than a year and the clutch burned out in June,' she said, while her ignored rev counter quivered anxiously in the no-go zone.

On Arran, there's a new tendency to drive at a funereal pace, perhaps assuming that this is economical — but there are two things to consider. One is, the slower you go, the more fuel you use, simply because you have been on the road for a longer time. The other is, once below the speed that can be comfortably maintained in top gear, you are forced to change down more often. The lower the gear, the higher the revs compared with your wheel speed, as every cyclist knows. The ideal is to keep the car 'coasting' easily in top, with your revs at around the figure 2 (thousand rpm) on the dial — though this will vary according to the size of your engine. Little ones tend to rev higher, like a mouse breathes quicker than a Labrador. Every sporty driver knows that a quick change down gives a boost of speed to overtake a slow vehicle. This is exhilarating, but the rev counter will be up to around double its relaxed norm, and your engine will be sucking in extra fuel to provide the power you demand of it.

Taxi drivers are the great masters of 'mean and lean' driving, to keep their costs down. Next time you are in one, notice how the driver potters along in top unless absolutely forced to change down. Get professional — watch the rev counter. You'll find it's not just a pretty face.

My time at Lamlash Golf Club

Last week, we published a report from the Lamlash ladies golf club award and mentioned a certain poem penned by guest of honour and long-standing member Mrs Ella Watson from Eaglesham. Ella has a caravan in Lamlash and when presenting at the awards ceremony she was moved to verse to describe her enduring relationship with the Lamlash course!

I've been a member for 35 years
In all that time there have been no tears
Scores of 2, 3 — 10, 9 and 8
Oh how I wish I could drive the ball straight

My very first medal was played right here
With knocking knees and full of fear
Barbara Millband, Babs Martin — my partners that day
With great trepidation I started to play

Miles over the burn, great shot, fine
Alas the next ball I hit — it wasn't mine
Out came the rule book, my heart it sank
The rest of the round — that's a big blank

I went on two outings to the Mull of Kintyre
The first to Southend — in funny attire
Annie, Liz and I in a force ten gale
Hid behind our golf bags from the rain and the hail

Then to Carradale we went with tails fluffy white
Going up the 1st we were a real sight
With Morag and Anne Gibson — complete with hip flask
We were so late back we were taken to task

I've played all the Open Days, rain, hail or shine
1st Silver, 1st Bronze — they've both been mine
But never the Cup — alas and alack
There's always next year — I'll surely be back

I've loved being a member, the people I've met
Too many to mention, what a great set
To join in the fun, it has felt just right
I'm HONoured indeed to be here tonight.

Ella Watson, 9th Nov 2008

Riders brave the weather at Cairnhouse

By Dawn Murchie

CAIRNHOUSE RIDING CENTRE held the second show of the season at the Stables in Blackwaterfoot last Sunday. Weather conditions were not at all favourable, however, twenty-five riders braved the elements and fought it out to score as many points as possible.

Nineteen were forward for the Wobblies, seven of whom went clear in the first round and twelve clear in round two. The following six made it a double clear for three points on the leader board; Abbie MacAlister, Sue Tozer, Sarah MacNeil, Anna Downard and Amie Latona. Emma Hill rode Dynah round beautifully to win the fastest double clear (41.31 secs.) collecting the five points on offer for her effort. The Duster badge only changed hands three times in the Wobbly Classes. A huge improvement from the first show!

Fourteen were entered in the Novice Class, eight of which made it clear in round one to go forward to a jump off against the clock over the shortened course. Kathleen Dawson was drawn in first riding Summer. She rode a nice steady round, clear in 37.13 secs. Next in was Megan MacAlister riding her own Ally. Megan rode an amazing round with some clever turns making it all look so easy, clear in 23.04 secs which was to prove unbeatable and win her the red ribbon. Amie L. was wise to go for a steady round on Merlin as she is still getting to grips with the old speed merchant, however, she wasn't too far away returning clear in 31.88secs which put her into second place. That was short lived though as Lynn Ramage had other intentions, she turned wee Katie inside out to come home clear in 27.44 secs to get the second place rosette she deserved.

1. Megan, Ally
2. Lynn, Katie
3. Amie, Merlin
4. Kathleen, Summer
5. Sherlea Lyle, Malakye
6. Isla Yuill, Louis;

The Mini Challenge was next class and the 100 fence was cleared by more than half of the contestants successfully. Lauren MacAlister and Fudge were drawn first to go and they came back

with a good score of 200. They held the lead till four riders later and it was the on form Megan who easily notched up the winning score of 370. Another MacAlister was beginning to show form! This time it was Nicola riding the brilliant little Bing, who whizzed round chasing Megan's score and wasn't too far away and good enough for second place with a score of 340. Amie L went into third place with a top score of 240 and Emma, who has a nice partnership in Dynah were close behind with a score of 230.

1. Megan, Ally
2. Nicola, Bingham's Pageboy
3. Amie L., Merlin
4. Emma, Dynah
5. (equal) Amy D., Malakye and Lauren, Fudge

Just four clear rounds in the 2'6" clear round class out of the eleven starters; Kathleen, Amy D. Nicola and Amie L. all collecting three valuable points.

The Cairnhouse Challenge had nine riders left battling it out for the points up for grabs. Amy D. rode an absolutely brilliant round on Malakye making the 100 fence look like a cavaletti. Returning with 290 it was going to be a hard act to follow. Our Nic was the only challenger to jump the 100 both ways like Amy and, riding Taylor's pony Bing, they also gave the big fence plenty clearance to finish with a good score of 260. Lynn went into third place with a score of 210. In fourth was Amie with 160. Megan was fifth and Isla picked up a point for sixth place.

Our Christmas Show is on Sunday 14th December. Jooolie Graham is holding a fund raiser and raffle in aid of medicine and equipment for Helambu region health camps, Gangkharka, Nepal. Two of Jooolie's nursing friends, Pearl Wight and Sally Bambridge generously give up their holidays to give help and support to this poor area. There will be a Fancy Dress competition prior to the jumping classes starting. Rosettes to fourth place £2 entry fee. Please come along and support this good cause and have a glass of mulled wine to get you into the festive mood.

Golf Results

Arran Golfers Association

Arran Grouse Foursomes, Shiskine Golf Club Saturday 22 November. A full turnout of 14 teams finally played in dry conditions although rather cold and windy making play slightly difficult at times. Thanks to Shiskine for the use of the course and Dougie Bell for sorting out the scores.

1st-placed trophy winners were Willie Kelso and Hamish Bannatyne (Shiskine) 70-5.5=64.5
2nd-placed runners up were Lindsey Keir and Allister Hume (Brodick) 75-10=65

There was a new runners-up trophy this year which was kindly donated by Eddie Cannon and beautifully carved by Marvin Elliot. The Association thanks them both for their efforts which are much appreciated.

Fixtures:
Next up for the Association is the Winter League at Whiting Bay on Sunday 7 December from 10am, 10:50am and 11:40am.

Draw:
• Whiting Bay v Machrie Bay
• Brodick v Corrie
• Lamlash v Shiskine

Finally there seems to be some slight confusion about the number of courtesy games during the winter months. Just to confirm the courtesy is for 4 games in total and not 4 on each course as some people were led to believe.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 20 November, 15-hole competition, 9 played
1st Neil Mitchell 68-13-55
2nd Billy O'Connor 74-17-57

Saturday 22 November, Grouse final at Shiskine

Alan Smith and Keith Wallbank were 3rd.

Sunday 23 November — weather took its toll again and only 6 competed.
1st Billy O'Connor 80-20-60
Scratch: Douglas MacFarlane with 63
Fixtures:
• Sunday 30 November, Stableford 9.30am and 12pm tee-off

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 18 November, Lochranza Hotel Cup
1st Alistair MacDonald 38 BIH
2nd Campbell Laing 38
3rd Brian Sherwood 37
Scratch, Brian Sherwood 75

Fixtures:
• Tuesday 2 December, Winter Cup, 12.00pm tee-off
• Saturday 6 December, Lochranza Hotel Cup & Final of Freebie Competition, 12.00pm tee-off

Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club

Thursday 20 November, November 18-hole Medal
1st Jenni Turnbull 95-21 74
2nd Carole Arthur 97-16 81
Best Scratch: Jenni Turnbull, 95

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 23 November, 8 played in a Stableford.
1st John Taylor 37 points
2nd Gus MacLeod 34 points (bih)
3rd Dave Hackett 34 points.
Jamie MacPherson won scratch with a score of 72.

Fixture:
• Sunday 30 November, Medal
• Sunday 7 December, Winter League at Whiting Bay from 10am

Rugby match marooned

EARLY RISE FOR MULL PLAYERS ENDS IN ARDROSSAN

A MUCH-ANTICIPATED 2nd round cup match between Arran rugby club and visitors Mull RFC was cancelled last weekend due to the disrupted Ardrossan-Brodick ferry service. Mull captain David Downham explained that a full squad had set off on the 7am ferry from Cragganure, only to find that the 12.30pm sailing to Arran was cancelled due to the clutch problems experienced by the Caledonian Isles. The team had bussed it all the way to Ardrossan harbour before they discovered their journey was at a dead end.

'It was a bit of a shame,' said the Mull captain, 'and also a bit of a strain on resources.' He added, 'our ferry is usually pretty good.' His opposite number, Arran's captain Murray Picken, was equally disappointed by the postponement of the fixture, but said the Arran squad made use of the afternoon

with a short training session instead. The cup fixture between the two teams is likely to be a quality encounter if their meetings in last year's Division 3 are anything to go by.

Mull are faring well in the 3rd Division and in September they were awarded 'Scottish Hydro club of the month.' They had beaten McLaren FP on their way to the second round cup fixture at Ormidale Park. 'We're doing okay,' said David Downham. 'We've got a few sixteen year olds playing on the team. It's a bit of a transition year for us, but the young players are getting good match experience.'

Arran play at home to Moffat this weekend.

Other results from West League Division 2:

- McLaren FP 6 – 62 Carrick RFC

Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PD	Pts
Carrick	8	7	0	1	345	65	5	0	280	33
Millbrae	8	7	0	1	345	73	5	0	272	33
Paisley	7	7	0	0	219	57	3	0	162	31
Strathaven	8	4	0	4	189	121	3	1	68	20
Hughenden	8	4	0	4	176	285	3	0	-109	16
Isle of Arran	6	2	0	4	98	83	2	1	15	11
Moffat	7	2	0	5	115	148	1	2	-33	11
Braidholm	7	0	0	7	59	421	1	1	-362	2
Cowal	5	1	0	4	30	144	0	0	-114	1
McLaren	6	1	0	5	54	233	0	0	-179	1

Arran Pool League – week 4

The Arran Voice ballsed up with the pool report this week. All that can be confidently reported is that a visiting Drift Cokie (In and Out) team absolutely creamed the Corrie with a fine display of pool that left the home side devastated. Amazingly, the Catacol also lost a match to the might of the Southenders at P.T. 1934, returning north after a clear-cut 8-4 encounter. A double report is promised for next week, plus fixtures for the singles and doubles matches.

League fixtures for Thursday 4th December 2008:

- P.T. 1934 vs Corrie
- Drift Hokie vs PHT
- Bar Eden vs Catacol
- Cameronia vs Kildonan

♠

BRIDGE CLUB

♠

Brodick Bridge Club —
27th November 2008

N/S

1. D. Henderson & F. Crawford +1070
2. E. Sillars & C. Bone +850
3. J. McBride & P. Adamson +570

E/W

1. H. Boyd & E. Paul +1400
2. D. Scobie & D. Bruce +1300
3. T. Martin & D. Hamilton +960

♥

Lamlash Bridge Club -
24th November 2008

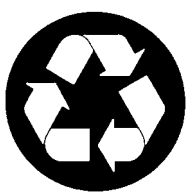
N/S

1. T. Martin and A. Bilsland +1130
2. E. Sillars and J. McBride +1080
3. M. McGill and C. Bone +470

E/W

1. P. Adamson and E. McConnell +1250
2. M. and D. Bruce +530
3. H. Boyd and J. Murchie +330

♥



KARATE KIDS

And Finally ...

BARACK OBAMA HAILS FROM ARRAN?

It's official. The next President of the USA, Barack Obama, is Scottish. Not only has our First Minister declared him the descendant of 12th century ruler King William the Lion, but the genealogists of Lewis have found him to be linked through marriage to a Hebridean family that emigrated to Canada in 1851. What a connection!

Obamamania has taken hold throughout the world. Sheikh Abdullah, the council leader of a

small Bedouin village in the Israeli region of Galile, also claims a blood link to the President-Elect. David O'Neill of NAC has made no such claims for the prestige of North Ayrshire, but surely with Arran's incredible global diaspora someone can find a similar link to the future chief-in-charge at the White House? *The Arran Voice* looks forward to hearing from any local genealogist up to the challenge.

ARRAN'S KARATEKAS (karate students) took part in a high-kicking, arm-chopping competition last weekend against a visiting club from Kilwinning. 'It was an excellent competition enjoyed by all,' said Sensei Stuart Wallace who runs the two clubs. 'There were some fantastic martial arts skills displayed by these young supreme athletes.' The students took part in mini-tournaments according to their belt colour and overall ability. It led to some competitive encounters in Auchrannie Sports Hall (transformed into a temporary dojo) with some fighters notching a win over opponents with a higher grade. Ben Leslie won

his tournament with some excellent defence work and well-timed attacks. Gabrielle Allison, Joe McHugh, Michael Smith, Fiona Bulger, and Katelyn and Laura McVicar all went home with trophies too.

The Arran Karate Club runs every Saturday at the Auchrannie Sports Hall and welcomes anyone who wants to get involved. 'A few of the young guys from Arran have been there since the start and turn up religiously,' said Stuart, ex-Internationalist and British Universities Karate Champion. 'They form a great core to the club. I'd also like to wish Ewan Bulger the best of luck at the forthcoming Scottish Karate Championships in Edinburgh.'