



THE

Arranvoice

VOCEM POPULARIS AUDIRE / ÉISD RI GUTH NA MUINNIR

4th December 2008 — 087

65p

RAVEN LIVESTOCK ATTACKS FEARED

MULTIPLYING RAVENS HAVE OUTSTRIPPED THEIR NORMAL FOOD SUPPLY, SAY FARMERS

FARMERS ARE CALLING for a cull of young ravens to protect next year's new lambs from the changing appetite of these birds. Normally carrion-eaters, feeding only on dead meat, anecdotal evidence suggests that ravens are increasingly opting to attack live animals — particularly young lambs, and on occasion even calves. It is felt that this is due to an increase in raven numbers, causing tighter competition for food amongst the flocks.

Earlier this year, a survey of 125 farms in the Argyll and Islands region conducted by National Farmers Union of Scotland (NFUS) recorded 1,203 'deaths or mutilations' of lambs said to be caused by ravens. 60% of respondents to the survey said their livestock had been subjected to attacks, with the average cost borne by individual businesses amounting to £461.88. The survey estimated that 1,534 ravens were affecting the 125 farms.

Roaming flocks

There is wide agreement that the numbers of ravens on Arran has risen markedly over the past twenty years. Local estimates now put the population of these birds at 'several hundred.' With only around two dozen breeding pairs on Arran occupying a nesting territory, the remainder of young ravens roam around the island in large flocks. The island's large raven population may be the unprecedented result of the conservation policies introduced in the 1980s.

'They have changed their habits because they have outstripped their food supply,' says Machrie farmer Liz Robertson. 'There is less carrion. There are far too many of them and they are out of control.'

15 years ago, Liz lost 29 sheep out of a flock of 200 to louping ill in a single month on the Dougarie fields. But she says, 'At that time the ravens were there, but they would leave the sick lambs alone until they were dead.' Now, however, Liz claims that ravens will attack vulnerable lambs and even try and separate them from their mothers.

Cull called for

Between 31st July to end of December farmers could get a licence to kill ravens, but the licence permits the killing of only three birds. 'That's not enough,' says Liz. 'What difference will that make? We need a cull of the immature ravens.'

Southend farmer Jim Climie at Clachaig Farm agrees and has petitioned the Scottish Government to relax legislation on the use of decoy bird traps. Due to their intelligence ravens are difficult birds to shoot and traps are a more effective way of killing them.

'Killers' are learning to attack calves

'These birds are killers. They are highly intelligent,' Jim told *The Arran Voice*. 'The more leeway they get, the worse it gets ... I've had newly born lambs with their guts hanging out, living and still bleating.' Jim observed the horrific consequences of an attack on one of his calves

last year. Unable to suckle its mother for milk, he found the calf had had its tongue pecked out and had to be later put down. He said farmers now often find themselves having to put animals out of their suffering before the vet arrives. 'The bird folk don't accept that this happens,' Jim added. 'Folks get sentimental about birds and badgers. But have a thought for what they leave behind for farmers to deal with.'

Currently, legislation provides for a 'shoot-to-scare' policy. Farmers can apply for a licence permitting them to shoot at the ravens to scare them off and prevent them from learning bad behaviour. Graeme Walker, Arran's local officer for Scottish Natural Heritage (an organisation viewed with notorious scepticism by those farmers

Continued on page 2



Last summer, Southend farmer Jim Climie found this calf failing to suckle its mother and on closer inspection discovered its tongue had been seemingly pecked out. The calf was later put down on the vet's advice

SNOW WONDER



Meet the heroes and the funsters on page 12

'REEL' DANCERS



Primary Schools, 10th Annual Scottish Dance — page 15

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RAVEN LIVESTOCK ATTACKS FEARED

MULTIPLYING RAVENS HAVE OUTSTRIPPED THEIR NORMAL FOOD SUPPLY, SAY FARMERS

Continued from front page

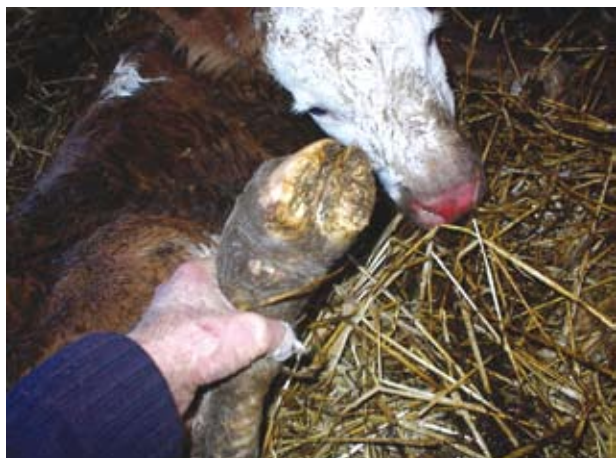
calling for the cull) believes that if operated properly, 'shoot-to-scare' can deal with the problem.

'Nobody will deny that there are incidents,' Graeme said, but took the view that ravens are capable of learning to leave living animals alone. 'The worry is that if they become aggressive, then it is learned behaviour and that then it is copied by other ravens. The ideal situation is that the ravens learn that it is not wise to go anywhere near the livestock,' he added.

He says that there are about half a dozen licences for killing ravens on Arran, and only one has ever reached its 'bag limit' (the number of ravens that can be legally killed.) Farmers can apply to extend the licence if there are particular problems.

Despite the growing number of ravens on Arran, they are still very rare on a country-wide basis and SNH maintains that a 'universal' cull policy would undermine the national raven population.

At the end of the summer Lisa Webb, NFUS regional manager for Argyll and the Islands, submitted the findings of the survey to Environment and Agricultural ministers Mike Russell and Richard Lochhead. A meeting was promised, but it has yet to take place. On Friday this week, NFUS will meet with SNH to discuss farming issues and ravens will be on the agenda.



This calf — one of a twin born last year on Clachaig farm — had been found surrounded by ravens pecking at its feet

The rise of Arran's ravens

Ex-gamekeeper Howard Walker was responsible for about 44,000 acres when he worked for Arran Estates between the 1960s and 1980s. During this period, ravens were a rare bird, with only five or six pairs noted on the island. Howard says there were pairs at Drumadoon Point, Dippen/Bennan Head, two at Dougarie, Meall Don, Fallen Rocks and Holy Isle. 'That was the sum total of ravens in those days. I would say they have increased well over tenfold. I would say there are maybe even several hundred. They used to be a very shy bird, but they are now common and not so shy.' Howard explains that in the past it was usual to put out cages to catch hoodie crows, but increasingly cages would be kicked in and wrecked by birdwatchers.

Ex-gamekeeper Henry Murdo is more sceptical about the raven problem. He points to studies that have videoed large flocks of ravens in lambing parks. They show the birds 'cleaning' young lambs of their afterbirth rather than actually attacking them. 'No-one's ever filmed a raven actually attacking a healthy lamb. It's amazing,' he said. 'It's like a witch-hunt for ravens.' However, Henry recently witnessed a cross-breed carrion and hoodie crow swoop over the road and throw a large living rat into a field with its beak, and added, 'I could be made to eat my words.'

Winter health provision

IF YOU FALL ill this winter, have no fears — NHS Ayrshire and Arran has robust plans in place to cope with extra demand.

Chief Executive Kevin Woods has announced plans for additional staff and 12 extra beds for acute medical assessment at Ayr Hospital for an 8-10 week period over the winter months. An investment of £300,000 pounds will be made available to support

initiatives to address winter pressures.

Dr Woods said: 'Winter always brings an increase in illnesses like colds and flu and the NHS makes careful plans to make sure it has the necessary resources in place to deal with the likely extra demand.' He added, 'We would also remind people that they have a huge range of quality self care advice at their fingertips at www.nhs24.com or by calling the NHS Helpline on 0800 22 44 88.'



Social Enterprise Forum

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

THE CURRENT ECONOMIC meltdown is painful for many people who have fallen victim to others' greed — but there is also an incredible shift amongst the business community. New questions are being asked. Is it possible to run a successful company but do it in an ethical way? Can you have a good career but also help the community you live in? The answer is, yes — through becoming a Social Enterprise Company.

Social enterprises are businesses set up to provide a social or environmental need. They combine market efficiency with social and environmental justice, and their profits are reinvested to sustain and further their mission for positive change. The pioneers of social enterprise can be traced back at least as far as the 1840s in Rochdale, where a workers' co-operative was set up to provide high quality affordable food in response to exploitative factory conditions. A resurgence of social enterprise started in the late 1990s and has developed fast since then, encompassing organisations such as development trusts, co-operatives, housing associations, 'social firms' and village associations. These businesses are operating across an incredibly wide range of industries and sectors from health and social care to renewable energy, recycling and fair trade. A social enterprise company needs to be a strong, profit making business model in order for it to achieve its social aims.

Why social enterprise?

You're not just in it for the money. Owners and employees of social enterprises can earn a decent living, but the business isn't used as a vehicle for building personal wealth, because most of the profits are reinvested into furthering social aims. Social enterprises often break with conventional business models to find new and more sustainable ways of improving the world around them. Wherever there's a social or environmental need, social enterprises are working on solutions.

What are some examples of social enterprises?

They can be local and quite small, but there are well-known names there, too. The Big Issue is a social enterprise. So is the Eden Project in Cornwall. Jamie Oliver's restaurant Fifteen, award-winning Divine Chocolate, Cafedirect — all of these work within the social enterprise model, as do countless smaller organisations and voluntary bodies.

Can social enterprise work on Arran?

Undoubtedly. Social enterprise companies are starting to make quite an impact throughout the Highlands and Islands area. Hand in hand with the Social Enterprise Network (SEN) many social enterprise companies are thriving, as they have not spent all their profits on inflated salaries and expenses. SEN is an affiliation of a wide variety of social enterprises. Its membership comes from all over the country, meeting every few months to share good practice, develop trading links and explore new ways of strengthening the social economy in the region.

Argyll and Bute SEN (ABSEN) is one of the strongest in our region, and its representatives will be coming to Arran on Wednesday 17th December to hold an open forum. Mike Geharty of ABSEN and Nicola Walsh of the Social Enterprise Academy, the Social Enterprise training body, will be happy to answer any questions you have and provide you with as much information as possible. We hope to have members from North Ayrshire SEN in attendance also. Details of time and place will be provided next week. Meanwhile, anyone interested should contact Claire Berrie. Tel 01770 810295 or e-mail cmberrie@aol.com for further details.

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Celebrity 'Homecoming' ad directed from High Corrie

THE HIGH-PROFILE *Homecoming Scotland* advert which is now gracing the nation's television screens was directed by David Boni, Arran's own photographer from High Corrie, *The Voice* can reveal. Ever modest, David is reticent about his involvement, but everyone knows that the advert features ten Scottish star personalities singing snippets of Dougie MacLean's homesick ballad 'Caledonia' in a bid to promote next year's series of Homecoming Events and celebrate the 250th anniversary of Rabbin Burns.

It includes a rare return to the screen from Sir Sean Connery, who shteadfashtly shpeaks hish lines, instead of singing them. Amy MacDonald, Eddi Reader, Sam Torrance and Lulu also make appearances, and all of them gave their time for free to encourage Scots overseas to come home.

The video was filmed in a variety of 'iconic' Scottish locations from Speyside to Glencoe, but some of the post-shoot editing was actually undertaken in High Corrie, where the director and his family live. It demonstrates that broadband — for some rural areas at least — has facilitated quite literally a 'cottage industry' in media. David Boni refused to divulge too many details about the production of the advert, but said: 'I was delighted to be approached regarding directing this one. It's been particularly challenging production and over

four months in the making. Tying in all the relevant people when they've been available has been tricky, but in some cases, a real pleasure... Working with Dougie MacLean was great fun!'

First Minister Alex Salmond believes the video is 'the perfect anthem for our Year of Homecoming', and is now extending an invitation to people from all over the world to join Scotland's celebrations next year. Lulu is equally rapturous. 'Scotland lives in my heart no matter where I am,' said the Lennoxton-born chart-topping singer. 'No matter where I travel, I always feel at home when I bump into a Scot or meet a lover of Scotland. I hope the *Homecoming Scotland* ad will encourage them all to join me in returning for one of the many great events that are part of the Homecoming Scotland 2009 programme.'



David Boni directed the film for The Union advertising agency

Scotland's homes need repair

NEARLY HALF OF all homes in Scotland are in need of urgent repairs, a survey has found. The Scottish House Condition Survey 2007 reveals that four out of five (79%) homes should have some work done. Graeme Brown, director of housing charity Shelter

Scotland, said the report 'shows that for many of our citizens Victorian levels of housing hardship persist.'

The report found that 74% of homes failed on central heating, 11% had condensation in at least one room and 5% of homes had rising or penetrating damp. The Craigforth report, published earlier this year, does not provide detail about the structural conditions of the island's housing stock, but according to 2006 figures 26% of Arran's housing stock is second homes or holiday accommodation, with a further 2% being long-term vacant properties. There are also quite a few houses which have fallen into recent ruination, like the one pictured to the left.



Arran's latent housing stock. Is this home in need of repair?

Arran's 'food for thought' quiz

Last week, we published five questions for a special two-part quiz for a chance to win a special Scottish food hamper, which is jam-packed with local produce. How hard were last week's questions? A bit tricky? If you want a chance to win the special hamper, featuring a growing list of local food goodies (Wooley's oatcakes, Co-op haggis, Laura Currie's eggs and turnip, Torrylenn Creamery cheese, potatoes from John Picken, a bag of St John's Wort from Drimlabarra Farm, a preserve from Machrie Preserves) and many more, then see if you can answer these.

6. What mineral was mined from Sannox in the 19th century?
7. In what year did Billy Connolly last perform on Arran?
8. Where is the first noted example of 'Hutton's Unconformity'?
9. Who was the longest standing secretary of the Arran Farmers Society?
10. Before their trophy match against Southend United earlier this year, how long was Northend Thistle Football Club's losing streak?

Send in your answers to all ten questions to *The Arran Voice*, Pier Buildings Brodick, or e-mail info@arranvoice.com. Entries must be submitted by 5pm on Monday 8th of December.

See next week's *Arran Voice* for answers and winner.

Two Youth Centres

TWO MODULAR CABINS in two separate villages are set to become flourishing Youth Centres. The Lamdash one was in use for this function, together with another one deemed too frail to be shifted, until the new school was built. After vigorous protests that a continuing Youth Centre was badly needed, the better of the two cabins was moved last week from the front of the school building to its new site at the rear. This, as before, will be run by North Ayrshire Council, but the one in Brodick is going to be managed by the Arran Youth Foundations group, chaired by David Christison, as a charity-run centre. It used to belong to Jimmy the Barber, and is currently sitting behind Alldays. When the preliminary work is finished, it will be moved into place behind the bowling green adjacent to Brodick Library. David Christison anticipates that it will probably be outgrown when the volume of use increases, but already there are plans to start fund-raising for a larger building.

Arranvoice.com Online Poll

This week's question is:

Would you support a cull of young ravens on Arran?

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

Last week's question was: Will you be doing your Christmas shopping on Arran?

Yes: 50%

No: 50%

Not sure: 0%

Editorial

THE BIG SCREEN

'Going to the pictures' has long been a traditional delight. TV is more widespread, admittedly, but cinema has something of the theatre about it, the same slight prickle of expectation as the house lights dim. Afterwards, going out into the dark, people glance at each other in amusement at what they have seen or grave-faced at the impact of images that are impossible to ignore. Viewing a film as a DVD in one's own home is not the same thing. The small screen can never quite convey the sweep of huge landscape. Think, for instance, of the marvellous sequence in *The Kite Runner* that takes in the roofs of Kabul and the whole surrounding vastness of sky and snow-capped hills, or *Brokeback Mountain* with its immensity of land threaded with necklaces of grazing sheep. The sheer size is vitally important.

The Screen Machine is a welcome feature of Arran life, lumbering in like a parcel of wrapped-up magic to unfold itself into a comfortable, almost luxurious cinema. It has brought us many enjoyable films, and its visits are always to be eagerly anticipated. It does not, of course, seek to be 'art house' in its programming, since it needs to show the most profitable films it can in order to justify its commercial existence to its sponsors. There are those who would like to see more response to reviews and feel the selection of films is over-heavily dominated by the London

distributors, but it has to be borne in mind that the Screen Machine does not simply slip a DVD into a computer. It has full projection facilities, and the picture quality is superb. Its expenses are therefore high.

A reader asks this week whether Arran needs a second cinema, and the question is an interesting one. Certainly, it is unfortunate that Filmobile Scotland chose to show the same film, on the same night, as the one being shown by the Screen Machine. Since the website of the latter displays its programmes many weeks in advance, there is really no good reason why this should have happened — but it does not invalidate the viability of a second cinema for the island. It does suggest, perhaps, that rather than concentrating on a limited range of new releases, Filmobile Scotland might consider very good films that came out a year or two ago, or even earlier. As Arran people have to spend a night on the mainland if they want to catch a particular film, many simply shrug and admit that one of the things they miss is access to a cinema. For all these reasons, the Filmobile is a most welcome addition to the island facilities, particularly in the long gap between Screen Machine visits. Countless good films wait to be shown, and the Community Theatre at the High School, with its raked, comfortable seating, is an ideal place to see them. But an overlap of programmes between our two cinemas is certainly to be avoided.

Quote

'Operationally, God is beginning to resemble not a ruler but the last fading smile of a cosmic Cheshire cat.'

Sir Julian Huxley (1887-1975) biologist.

He used to be on the Brains Trust, back in the radio days. He was president of the London Zoological Society, too, so knew about cats. Probably about God, too. Ed.

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Printed by: *Caledonian Offset Ltd, Edinburgh*

The Arran Voice is registered as a newspaper

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Voice mail

Readers' News and Views...

ARTS FESTIVAL THANKS

On behalf of the committee of the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust, may I take this opportunity to thank all those who were involved with, or who supported in any way, the recent production of *Balloons* as well as the poetry, music and the McLellan Award events associated with the Arran Arts Festival.

It is always a risk committing to an absolutely new project and I am extremely grateful to all those who were willing to take that risk and give so generously of their time, talents and support. In particular, I would extend warm gratitude to all the hard working and talented cast and band of *Balloons*, Diana Hamilton and Jonathan Hollingworth for musical direction, David Aitcheson and team for stage design, John Baraclough and team for lighting, Andy Surridge for sound, Ann Hollingworth and team for costumes, Richard Barr, Dougie Bruce and Tom McNeish for stage building, Christine McKerrill, Anne McNeish and team for front of house, for so ably crewing and standing in at the last minute, Robert Crawford, Graeme Davidson, Robert Simpson and Jim Young and to Alan Little and Mite staff alongside Maureen Smith and KA Leisure staff for tolerance, help and flexibility during the production.

That warm gratitude also extends to those who gave support: North Ayrshire Council; Awards for All; the Co-op for generous sponsorship; that stalwart supporter of all local productions, the Book and Card shop in Brodick for selling tickets — an irksome and thankless task but so appreciated; Bar Eden and The Ormidale for welcoming venues, The Burnside Gallery for support of the Poetry Workshops; Corrie and Sannox Village Hall Committee for hosting McLellan Award events, Marvin Elliott for beautifully-produced McLellan Awards for both Poetry and Play Competitions; all those who entered the competitions or gave of their time to take part in *Made on Arran* and *Arran and Beyond*, especially Amy Hume, Robyn Keen and Sheila Middleton.

Finally, to all those who took adverts and gave donations, took photographs, videos and gave newspaper copy or came as audiences to the events — thank you so much. Coming out on a cold, sometimes wet and miserable November evening to support other local people's activities and endeavours is always so humbling and rewarding for all those involved.

*Heather Gough
 Carlo
 Sannox*

CINEMA-SCOPE FOR TWO?

It was reported in our other local newspaper (22nd November) that Arran had not had a cinema for more than 50 years.

This is patently false as we have had a mobile cinema, the Screen Machine, visiting us for the past 8 years. It comes to Arran every 6 weeks and shows several films over a 4 day period. The films shown are the latest that can be obtained outside the major cinemas — if you want to see them earlier you have to travel to the big cinemas on the mainland. The Screen Machine is a sophisticated piece of machinery with the latest digital equipment and cinema surroundings providing a complete cinema experience for those attending.

This weekend, competition appeared in the form of a company known as Filmobile. On Friday night Filmobile showed the same film, in the High School hall, that Screen Machine was showing that same night in Brodick. Filmobile promises to show films on Arran every fortnight. Are there are enough good films to fill that schedule?

My worry is that the Screen Machine may decide to leave Arran for good and I ask myself how long Filmobile will stay on the island. It has costs in hiring the hall and in travelling to and from the island via CalMac. If the takings are insufficient to cover costs then Filmobile may also leave and we will once more be without a cinema.

I feel we should perhaps keep the Screen Machine we know rather than take a chance on something we know very little about and which is not up to the same standard as a modern cinema.

*J Y Gourlay
 Buchanan Bank Cottage
 Brodick*

DON'T SHEAR YOUR COLLIES — JUST COMB THEM!

Before Arran farmers rush out to shear their Border Collies, I should point out that the dog hair waistcoat admired by Assja at Kilmory Farmers' Market is from Bearded Collies, which only require regular combing to produce fuzz for spinning — and no, it doesn't smell.

*Roslyn Gibson
 Glenside
 Kilmory*

News in Brief...

ACTION TO PROTECT ALL UK SEAS

UK administrations in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland have agreed on a UK-wide approach to marine planning and management.

Calum Duncan of the Scottish Marine Conservation Society, said: 'If we are to properly protect our sea life, halt the loss of marine biodiversity, promote the recovery of our seas and ensure a sustainable future for coastal communities ... forthcoming legislation must fit neatly together and have the environment at heart.' He went on, 'It is essential our seas are managed according

to ecological, rather than political boundaries.'

£53 MILLION INVESTMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES IN AYRSHIRE

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson is delighted by the Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board's decision to approve the investment of £53 million in a newly built adult inpatient mental health services facility at the Ayrshire Central Hospital in Irvine. It is expected that the state-of-the-art 220 bed mental health facility will be developed over the next four to five years.

Voice mail extra

LOST CAT FOUND

With reference to our 'missing cat' notice in last week's edition, I am glad to be able to report that our pet is now back home with us, safe and well.

I would like to thank all the good neighbours who gave us information leading to his recovery, particularly Sara, who found him and took him to Ina Craig at APAWS, who cared for him until she saw my notice, then phoned me to say she had a cat answering to his description.

To the boy who was seen lifting him and taking him away from his familiar surroundings (I am naming no names) I would say please don't do this sort of thing. It causes a lot of distress to both owners and pets, and most friendly, healthy looking cats come from a good home and deserve to stay there.

*Sheila Selkirk
Alma Road
Brodict*

ROWAN SINGER'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Come and soak up the spirit of Christmas and, in doing so, help us support two deserving charities.

Every Christmas the Rowan Singers perform for charity. This year all proceeds from our Christmas Concert will be given to two charities: Arran Youth Foundation and Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill.

Arran Youth Foundation needs funds to help establish and run a permanent dedicated recreational base where our young people from Arran High School can spend time together in a safe environment outwith school hours and at weekends.

The important work of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children is already well known. But one of our founder members, the late and much loved Margaret Marriott, actively supported them for many years. The choir's decision to donate to Yorkhill this year is in the memory of Margaret.

*Tom Tracey
Brodict*

FESTIVE EVENTS IN LAMLASH



Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Welcome Santa and the Heather Queen, arriving in Lamlash village by horse and carriage. Sunday 14th December from 3pm on the Green, food, drink, and music in the marquee.

New Year Family Ceilidh

Saturday 27th December in the High School Theatre, BYOB. Contact Janice 600095 for ticket info and to reserve a table.

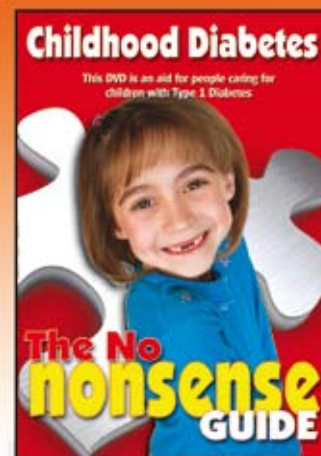
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Tickets £6 Children £2
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Profits to Arran Youth Foundation
and Yorkhill Childrens Hospital
Scottish Charity No SCO 33994



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 — Brodict Hall



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Scotland

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Choir warms icy Lochranza

THE LOCHRANZA CHOIR performed a full programme of heart-warming classical pieces in Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall last Sunday afternoon, their choice of music ranging from Maunder's Border Ballad to a chorus from Handel's Messiah.

Conducted by Diana Hamilton, the choir sang magnificently, and the programme was augmented by guest contributions from the talented youngsters of Pirnmill Primary School and young musicians Eilidh Kerr, Catherine McEachern, Donald McEachern, Thomas McMaster and Scott McMurray. The afternoon of music raised funds for the Beatson Cancer Research Institute and

village hall funds.

The concert was well attended, and the audience listened with rapt attention to the strong singing community that is the Lochranza Choir. Its members are Ile Morrison, Laura Selkirk, Joan McKenzie, Rachel Phillips, Pamela Wood, Alison Richards, Betty Buchanan, Hilary McMaster, Eileen McMaster, Fiona Crawford, Ruth Yates, Aileen Wright, Ian Buchanan, Douglas Coulter, John Wilson, Julian Davidson, Laurie Campbell, Archie Cumming, Wren Gentleman, Sandy Sloss and Brian Wood.



Alison Richards, Joan McKenzie and Rachel Phillips sing to the conducting of Diana Hamilton

Biomass boost

ARRAN WOODFUELS CALLS FOR MORE INCENTIVES TO CONVERT

JOHN FARRELL HAS been appointed as the new 'Biomass Development Officer' for the Central Belt region of Scotland, which includes Arran. Forestry Commission Scotland has assigned him the task of working with current and potential users of woodfuel and creating stronger links in the supply chain. He will also encourage local authorities and public sector organisations to use more woodfuel.

Duncan Mulholland, co-director of Arran Woodfuels, said he was encouraged by the appointment, but felt there were still important steps needed to make the switch to woodfuels. At the recent 'Arran Question Time' event hosted by Transition Arran, he said, 'We are trying to encourage the use of biomass in heating for establishments throughout the island.' He noted the £2m support funding through the Scottish Biomass Support Scheme, but commented, 'Unfortunately I

don't think £2m is going to go very far throughout Scotland.'

Katy Clark MP said that the UK parliament is currently discussing the Energy Bill, which may make provisions for enhanced Renewable Obligation Certificates, currently used by those running wind turbines. She said that other forms of renewable energy will also receive ROCs 'but actually at a higher rate' and felt that this would be a considerable help when the Bill becomes law, hopefully by the end of the year.

Meanwhile John Farrell, the new Biofuels officer, says, 'Now is an ideal time for businesses, public bodies and other organisations to start thinking about switching to woodfuel. With the current economic climate and expensive oil and gas prices, woodfuel is starting to really find its way into many more projects and I hope to act as a catalyst in making this happen.'



the
wee
voice

Buy the Balloons Experience!

By John Tilbury

PINK. A COLOUR universally recognised as a girl's colour. The colour that most young boys will retch at. Of course, a girl with a pink bow in her hair may attract a flock of blushing boys asking for her hand, but by the time they grow up to their mid-teens, it would seem that dark colours win out. I am one who sports a nearly all black wardrobe, because 'it just ends up that way'. I don't own any pink clothing.

So, for anyone who personally knows me, going to see the recent production of *Balloons*, must have been quite strange, as I was wearing not a trace of black. Instead, the colour of choice (well, the choice of the *Balloons* team) was...pink! Pink from head to foot. The only non-pink thing was my dark hair. I was considering going the whole hog by dying my personal mop pink as well, but I ran out of time to find the right dye.

For someone who plays in a Heavy Metal band, I did feel rather silly in my pink sweatband, with three mini-parasols attached. I also had an elasticised pink top and pink wellies, but what really perfected my 'camp-ification' was the inclusion of pink tights and bright satin-pink boxer shorts, giving me enough confidence to attempt to floor Mohammed Ali with a single slap. Or smother him with my pink pom-poms.



The story behind the decision to make me the least masculine male in the play (second possibly to Stuart Gough's excellent part of Donald Persiflage) goes back to the Drama Festival in February this year. In a play called *Under Jekyll's Hyde*, I was 'Little Oliver', a character who had to jump about like a small child, dressed in a funny outfit, including tights. *Pink* tights. My parents think I may be getting typecast as the 'play idiot'.

But while I'll probably never be as worthy of the phrase "I — AM — MAN", as my friend and fellow actor Gavin Davidson is, I have been told, 'it takes a man to go in front of an audience and act like that.' So I wonder: perhaps there is something quite manly about not being manly at all. Paradox, anyone?

But enough rambling about my questionable masculinity. *Balloons* was a resounding success. With global warming stirring fear in many of losing their houses and 4x4s to the sea, ideas to keep us away from 'sleeping with the fishes' should be gladly considered. And I think 'light-weight plastic, tethered by cables' is a darn good idea. Buy the Balloons Experience!

This comes from John Tilbury who has realised that his small desk has got even smaller.

Driver cleared of dangerous driving

IN DECEMBER 2007, there was an accident on the road opposite the Ormidale pavilion in Brodick in which Nancy Cooper tragically died. Last week, almost a year later, the driver, who had been on his way to the local medical centre, was cleared of careless driving in Kilmarnock Sheriff Court.

The Sheriff, Colin MacKay, said the Crown prosecution team had failed to prove their case of careless driving.

Aidan sheds light on lamp

1920S-ERA PARAFFIN LAMP FOUND AMONGST ARCAS SHOP TREASURE

A LAMP PURCHASED in ArCaS has turned out to be a relic of the war era. Dippen's Aidan Smith spotted the brass lamp as it was being dropped off at Brodick's second-hand charity store and once it went on display he returned to buy it for £15.' I initially bought it because I thought it was aesthetically pleasing, practical for the Arran powercuts and had a touch of nostalgia,' said Aidan, 'but I must admit when I looked at it I immediately thought of the war years. I took it home and gave it a good polish.'

Noticing that the lamp had a prominent 'V' symbol on its base, he discovered that it was one of two popular brands of oil-burning lamp – Nova and Veritas — produced by Falk Stadelmann, a business originally set up in Germany by two people (Johann Gottlieb Stadelmann and Salomon Falk). The company set up in London in 1887 and started producing wick-burning lamps in the 1920s, establishing eight factories throughout the UK. 'It was in the inter-war years that the Veritas lamps became popular, which is politically quite interesting,' said Aidan. 'It's a little piece of history.' During World War II the trading relations between the UK and Germany ceased to exist and after competition with the Tilley Lamp Co. Ltd and Willis and Bates, the company eventually went



Aidan Smith with his paraffin lamp

bust in the late 1960s.

Aidan reckons the lamp may be most accurately valued at £60 or more, but he uses it as a 'comfort lamp' in his own home. 'It throws out heat and, if you use it correctly, very little smoke,' Aidan told the *The Arran Voice* in a special lamplit interview at Copperwheat's Café.

Antique enthusiast service

If you think you might have found something of interest, from ArCaS or anywhere else, then bring your potential antique or curiosity into *The Arran Voice* office (right behind the ArCaS shop) and our guest Antiques Enthusiast Aidan will research the item further so it can be featured in the newspaper.

Members of the Arran Childminders' Group Debbie Jackson and Lorraine Hewie hand over two DVD players to staff at the Arran War Memorial hospital to be used by patients in the wards. The money was raised at a bingo night held a couple of weeks ago. The Arran Childminders' Group would like to thank all those who supported a good night.



All-island carol service begins festive season

By Samantha Payn

LAMLASH CHURCH WAS packed on Monday night for the traditional all-island carol service that for many marks the start of Christmas festivities on Arran.

The severe weather conditions were not enough to keep most people away, although there were reports of one or two would be attendees unable to get their cars out, and Ian Auld unfortunately slipped on the ice on his way in to the church and suffered a suspected broken ankle.

The service was conducted by Arran's newest minister, Gillean Mclean, who declared that she had been looking forward to it since arriving on Arran.

The Christmas story was retold in readings from the Bible by Tony and Gill Butcher, Maureen Oakes, John Potter and Jean Hunter. Musical interludes from Brodick Primary School Choir, Arran High School Choir, the Rowan Singers, Arran Brass and the Lochranza Choir (making their appearance at this event for the first, and hopefully not the last time) provided beautiful moments of illustration and reflection on the age-old tale throughout the evening. David Oakes gave the vote of thanks to all involved in this very special event — musicians, readers and those who provided front of house support and decorated the church.

Arran has a new hill

SAIL CHALMADALE, the hill north of Glen Iorsa, has been promoted to a list of 'Marilyns' following a recent survey. Alan Dawson, John Barnard and Graham Jackson took their GPS equipment up the 480m (1,575ft) peak and declared the shapely hill to be an official Marilyn — the technical category of mountains or hills which have peaks with a 150m or more drop.

The classification means that some quite small hills are included whilst also excluding some of Scotland's bigger mountains — a few of the Munros (Scottish hills over 3,000ft) do not qualify as Marilyn's as their proximity to other peaks with adjoining ridges means there is no 150m drop on all sides.

There are now 1,555 Marilyn's in Great Britain, and the majority (1,215) are in Scotland. But no-one has ever climbed them all, as five of them are located in the remote St Kilda isles, 81 miles from the Scottish coast.

The trio of Marilyn-baggers also surveyed Beinn Tarsuinn during their trip to Arran, but the west coast peak failed the test with a drop of only 148.5m. In the same way that Munros are sometimes reclassified, the list of Marilyn's is likely to change again as surveyors take to the hills armed with GPS technology.



Alan's Book Review

Book review Sponsored by Book and Card Centre

THE RECKONING

Reviewed by Alison Prince

THIS GRIPPING THRILLER centres round 18-year-old Fin, an islander who, at first, has no reason to question the activities of the Research Institute that has been built near the wind turbines. But, on a day of thick, chilling sea mist, he is walking near the piers of the high bridge that now connects his island to the mainland when he hears a car stop, up there on the bridge. A door opens and then, quite close to him, there is 'a dull, wet thud.' The shocked young man wades out to where he can see something caught across a rock, and finds himself kneeling in the water, cradling a girl not much older than himself as her life ebbs away.

Piece by telling piece, the author blocks in the pattern of Fin's life. We come to know like real people his father, Danny, crippled and angry as a result of a sea-faring accident, his much-loved sister, vanished from the family after a blistering row with her dad, and his friends, with their odd nicknames and their skills in cooking and kayaking. And, like an all-embracing stage set in which the terrifying events are played out, there is the island community with its gossip and its kindness, its unpredictability and its dependable support when the chips are down. There is a lot

here to remind the reader of Arran, though the fast, alarming action is played out against an enterprise brought in by strangers that might have been stopped by vocal Arran protesters before it attained its full, ominous power.

No criticism is intended. The logical basis of *The Reckoning* has been carefully worked out, and probing its dreadful activities involves Fin, along with his family and friends, in highly risky activity within a place that is gradually revealed as not merely mysterious but downright dangerous. Nothing would induce me to breathe a word about the plot, except that it had me turning pages at three in the morning, quite unable to turn out the light and settle down until I knew what would happen next. And next, and next...

James Jauncey has written a solidly satisfying book for readers of any age, but its particular skill is to focus on a typically uncertain school-leaver as the horrified hero of the tale. Any parent who has despaired of finding a book that enters easily into the world of young adults and yet invites thought and outrage about serious issues should wrap this one up for Christmas at once.

The Reckoning by James Jauncey
Published by Picador, Paperback RRP £10.99
ISBN 978-0-45401-8

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 Spa,
— open daily (except Thursdays)
all year round 10.30am–5.30pm
(current exhibitions: Christmas Show
of paintings, crafts and exclusive
presents for Christmas)
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 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
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
Arran Natural History Society, Liz Parsons
on *Glasgow's Farmland Bird Project*,
Ranger Centre, Brodick, 8pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel,
Brodick, 10pm

FRIDAY 5TH

Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick,
9.45am
Arran Riding Club for the Disabled AGM,
Church Hall, Brodick, 11am
Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Spa,
Brodick, 2pm
Lamlash Friday Club, Lamlash Church Hall,
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 6TH

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All
day
RNLI Shop Lamlash open 10.30am–
12.30pm
Coffee Morning, Whiting Bay and Kildonan
Church, Church Hall, Whiting Bay,
10.30am–12noon
Christmas Fayre, Shiskine Primary School,
10.30am, raffle at 11.30am
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
Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SUNDAY 7TH

Boys' Football, KA Campus, Lamlash
(Astroturf or Games Hall), 10–11am
Christmas Fayre, Shiskine Primary School,
10.30am, raffle at 11.30am
Arran Wargames Club, Arran High School,
Lamlash, 1–4pm
Hospital Supporters League Christmas
Fayre, Arran High School, Lamlash,
2–4pm
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 8TH

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

TUESDAY 9TH

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,
5–7yrs 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
Whiting Bay Primary School Concert,
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Scottish Country Dance Class, Brodick,
Church Hall, 7.30pm
Pop Music Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick,
10pm

WEDNESDAY 10TH

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
Corrie Wednesday Club, X-mas
preparations +entertainment, Corrie
and Sannox Village Hall, Corrie, 2–4am
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

THURSDAY 11TH

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
Corrie + Sannox WRI, Christmas
Decorations with Assja Baumgärtner,
Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 2pm
Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, 3–5pm
KA Jog, all levels, KA Campus, Lamlash,
5.30–6.30pm
Pilates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick,
6–6.45pm
Junior Scottish Country Dancing, Lamlash
Church Hall, 6–7pm
Outdoor Boot Camp, Ormidale Park,
Brodick, 7–8pm
Brodick Bridge Club, Ormidale Pavillion,
7.15pm
Brodick Embroidery Group, Library,
Brodick, 7.30pm
Middle Eastern Dancers' Practice &
Lessons, Lamlash Church Hall, Beginners
7.30–8.30pm, Intermediate 8.30–9.30pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel,
Brodick, 10pm

Out & About

UP & COMING

WEEKEND PREVIEW

Corrie Filmclub's X-mas Double Bill & Supper,
The Weeping Camel (Mongolia, Davaa/
Falorni) & [I]Some Like it Hot [I](USA
1959, Billy Wilder), Corrie Village Hall,
Sunday 14th, 8pm

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHOWS & CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Whiting Bay Primary School Christmas
Performance, Tuesday 9th, Whiting Bay
Village Hall, 7pm
Brodick Primary School, *The Snow Queen*,
Monday 15th, Brodick Primary School,
13.30pm & 7.30pm
Pirmill Primary School Show, Tuesday 16th,
Prinmill Primary School, 1.30pm
Lamlash Primary School Performance, Tuesday
16th, Arran High School Theatre, 7pm
Shiskine Primary School Concert, Tuesday 16th,
Village Hall, 7pm
Kilmory Primary School Concert, Wednesday
17th, Kilmory Church, 7pm
Corrie Primary School Concert, Thursday 18th,
Primary School, 2–4pm
Arran High School Concert, Thursday 18th,
AHS Theatre, 7pm for 7.30pm, tickets from
school office
Brodick Village Children's Party (up to P4),
Saturday 13th, Brodick Hall, 2–4pm
Arran High School X-mas Parties: Juniors —
Monday 15th, 7pm, Seniors — Wednesday
17th, 7.30pm
WRI Village Children's Party, Saturday 20th,
Shiskine Hall, 2–4pm
WRI Village Children's Party, Saturday 20th, AHS
Theatre, Lamlash, 2.30pm (Santa at 4pm)
WRI Village Children's Party, Saturday 20th,
Whiting Bay Hall, 4–7pm
WRI Village Children's Party, Wednesday 24th,
Kildonan Hall, 6pm
WRI Village Children's Party, Wednesday 24th,
Kilmory Hall, 5.30–8pm

SUNDAY 7TH (PREVIEW)

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 Prattchet
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

Getting to know Avril Paton

By Alison Prince

AVRIL, WHOSE PAINTING of a Glasgow tenement, *Windows in the West*, has sold countless prints worldwide, has Arran connections that go back three generations and forward for at least two. 'If we're talking about my antecedents, we might be here all day,' she says in her Corrie cottage perched on the hill above the harbour. Avril has grand-children who grew up on Arran, and her father and grandfather were from Corrie, both of them artists while still being practical men who could turn a hand to anything. Her father interrupted his studies at Glasgow Art School in order to come back and help complete the building of Black Rock House. It was when he returned to the Art School to pick up his interrupted studies that he met the girl who was to become Avril's mother.



Mardi Gillies was beautiful, stylish and privileged, having attended St Leonard's school in St Andrews and fresh from spending a year in Paris. She was nine years younger than the handsome islander, and fell in love with him at the first dazzled glance. 'It was a great romance,' Avril says. 'Their passion for each other never faded, right to the end.' And yet, the marriage was a secret one. The young society girl knew how angry her family would be that she had 'thrown herself away' on a humble artisan from Arran, no matter how great his talent and charm. For a whole year their respective families were ignorant of the fact that they were living together in legal but secret bliss. But when Mardi's husband, Hugh, went to see his parents in Corrie, she came after him. Her arrival on Corrie quay from the paddle steamer, complete with parasol and a roped cabin trunk, started a babble of excitement that reached her unsuspecting in-laws at top Arran speed. A grim announcement was called up the stairs. 'Hugh, *your wife* has come off the ferry.'

BLITZ

Despite the shock, Arran became the couple's home, though Mardi continued her studies and was in Glasgow when she gave birth to Avril in 1941 — in the Redlands Hospital on the night when it

was bombed. All the babies were whisked away to safety, and the newly-delivered mothers waited outside the blitzed hospital for transport, to a men's hospital on Glasgow's outskirts that had no female facilities. There were tales of mix-ups about who got which infant, but Avril had no doubts. 'I was a very ugly baby,' she says. 'There was no mistaking me.' She knows, too, where she was conceived — 'just the other side of Corrie port', no more from a stone's throw from the cottage she has known all her life but only bought in the spring of this year. 'There's a wonderful circularity about that,' she muses.

Avril grew up on Arran, but her father was away during the war years. Her mother delighted in escape from the 'Victorian rules' of Glasgow, and they lived in what Avril describes as an early form of Hippiedom, in great happiness. 'The village was my mother,' she says. 'Every corner was my magic place.' She went to Rothesay Academy at 15, and encouraged by the art teacher there, began a course at Glasgow Art School. And, like her mother before her, she met an enchanting man and married him. Abandoning further studies, they set off for London. Two daughters were born to them, but the marriage was not an easy one, and after the birth of her son in 1975, Avril came back once more to Arran.



It was only then that her career as a painter began to prosper. Lesley Main, who has a gallery in the Douglas Centre in Brodick, mounted her first solo show in Glasgow in 1986, and two years later, her painting of *The Barras* was bought by Glasgow Art Galleries and Museums. In 1992 they bought the now famous study of a tenement on a snowy morning. *Windows in the West* evokes fascination in the viewer who looks from room to room, seeing tantalising glimpses of the life privately lived in each. Well over 30,000 reproductions of the painting have been sold, plus at least 100,000 cards. In 2005 she showed 70 works in the Mitchell Library's *New Looks* exhibition. 'They didn't know,' she says, 'that their basement was an air raid shelter during the war years.' Her mother, who had digs near by while she was still at the Art School, used to run in for safety during the blitz — at which time she must have been pregnant with Avril. Truly, this ever-creative artist's life is full of circularity.

Bella's Diary

By Margaret Kay

WELL, WHAT A trip last weekend — I wasn't wrong when I said we were going off on an adventure. Our first stop, after setting off on the 11.05am on Thursday, was to visit the family who were desperate to meet Wee Malkie. Having recently lost Dougie, their 15 year old Yorkie, they were missing him desperately and needed to fill the huge hole had left in their lives. We had spoken a fair bit on the phone but I am never prepared to book a puppy without meeting the family concerned — so their name had been pencilled in against Wee Malkie, subject to us all being satisfied. Our meeting was so successful that Wee Malkie will be going to live in Darvel on 9th January 2009.

Sometimes I think there are some things in life that are just meant to be, and Wee Malkie going to Darvel is one of them. It was just by chance that Peter and Elizabeth came across a family from Glasgow who had one of CoCo's pups born in April, and seeing the opportunity for a much needed "Yorkie Fix" they got

chatting. They said how desperate they were to get another wee pup, but wanted to deal only with a reputable breeder. Having been given my number and details they phoned me on Sunday night to see if they could go on my list. I told them all about Malkie and gave them my website address, where they could see photos of the gang. They phoned back the following day for a blether and to see if they could book him. The rest, as they say, is history — or outlined above at least.

The rest of the weekend went smoothly. at least, that is, until we arrived in Ardrossan at 11.50am for our return trip on Sunday, just in time to see the Caledonian Isles head out on sea trials, which she subsequently failed. There we were, stuck in Ardrossan, four dogs and Wee Malkie. We had anticipated problems, so as well as filling Malkie's hot water bottle, we had filled flasks with boiling water, so were able to keep him topped up and warm. After speaking to CalMac staff, and to my friends of course,

we decided to head back to Methven — a round trip of 190-ish miles!!!

An early night and a very early start saw us back at Ardrossan in time for the 9.45am on Monday. That journey went smoothly and we were all home by lunchtime, with Wee Malkie safely back in his box for a snooze. I can easily tell when he is awake now as his eyes opened on Sunday, so he can see what's going on around him. Malkie took all this disruption in his stride — I think he is going to be an intrepid traveller.

When he is awake now he makes his presence felt. He squeaks if his Mum is not around. He is also starting to play a little, gnawing at fingers if they go near his mouth. This is where the fun part begins — he will get livelier and more interested in things on a daily basis and we have already started on the house training. I was so proud of him when we went to Darvel. I lifted him out onto the pee-pee mat and he performed to order — only two weeks old and doing as he was told!!! Hope that keeps up.



PUT YOUR SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON OUR MESSAGE BOARD, FREE!

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

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

ARRAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Thurs 4th Dec, 8pm, Ranger Centre

Liz Parsons on
Glasgow's Farmland Bird Project



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Annual General Meeting Arran Riding for the Disabled

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

Philomena

Would like to say a big Thank you to all her family, friends and colleagues for their cards, gifts and good wishes for her retirement, and for making the ceilidh such a special occasion.

NOTICE BOARD

Put your voice in the Voice, free!

We make no charge for sticking any non-commercial bit of communication on this Notice Board section of the paper. Birthdays, family celebrations, special wishes to your gran, a big thank-you for the useful socks, a mild complaint that you haven't heard from a particular relative or mate for ages — all count as free notes to be pinned on the board.

You can drop in to the office with a message and a photo, or send them through the post or by email.

The Arran Voice is here for your use!

Arran Rotary Club is holding a Fund-raising event for the Glasgow Maggie Centre, at the home of the President, 40 Murray Crescent Lamlash on Friday 5th December from 10.30 — 12, 3 — 4pm and from 7pm (bring your own bottle in the evening for a drink with friends.)

There will be a sale of Avon Products, and a chance to guess polar bear Maggie's birthday and a raffle to help the Cancer drop-in centre carry on its invaluable work.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THEM

Celebrated Nonagenarian

By Chris Atkins



ARRAN'S ONLY STREET hawker, Mary Davies, celebrated her 90th birthday last Wednesday by inviting her friends to a slap-up lunch at the Auchrannie.

Mary is frequently found selling her popular trilogy of Arran-inspired novels from a tiny table on Brodick's pavement. Her writing career is only one of many; during her long life she has been a building inspector, artist's model, hypnotherapist and hotelier. She is fluent in Esperanto and makes daily use of the internet.

Whatever next, Mary?

Ready, Freddy, Go!

BRODICK YOUNGSTER Freddie Bunyan won the honour of the big switch on at Brodick last weekend. The Brodick Illuminations — which include new Christmas tree pattern designs decorating the lamp-posts along Brodick's shorefront — were put up by Brodick's Ian Small earlier in the week. On Sunday morning, Ian was testing the lights and said he was keeping his fingers crossed for a crisp, snowy evening for the event. Mother nature did not disappoint and after a rousing performance of Christmas Carols by Arran Brass in Brodick Hall, folks wrapped up warm to witness the switching on of the island's most impressive street decorations.



Freddie Bunyan lights up Brodick and fellow spirits (picture by Nicol Hume)



Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**

Amateur Meteorologist

SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S FORECAST

Absolutely bizarre! Yes, I got it totally wrong on Saturday. But then so did all other forecasters. Even Sean Blatt who left the Met Office last year to take up a position with STV and achieved recognition as the country's most accurate forecaster predicted much the same as I did. And we were both correct for certain bits of this peculiar Island of ours. Thick snow in the north of Holy Island and clear in the south. Roads closed between Whiting Bay and Brodick and completely dry in Lochranza. Ah, the joys of weather forecasting!

General Summary for 3rd December to 8th December:

A deep low south off Iceland on Wednesday will be with us by Thursday, centred over the Western Isles by the looks of things. This means fairly strong winds and rain over much of the country. By Friday the low will continue to move eastwards, hopefully allowing a big Atlantic anticyclone to influence our weather over the weekend. However, another deep low looks like moving down towards us by Monday, ushering in another wet and windy day.



Thursday

Temperatures rising a wee bit to about 8°C, but a horrible wet (sleet and snow) and windy day. Very strong winds from the west in the morning, probably in excess of 25mph, but falling back to about 18mph by the afternoon. We may see some glimpses of sun in the afternoon and the rain will ease a bit by evening.



Friday

A better day today with fairly light winds coming in from the north. Some showers in the morning but clearing to give us some nice sunny spells in the afternoon. Still pretty cold at 4°C, but not the big freeze of last week. Looks like the start of a reasonable weekend.



Saturday

Quite a nice day. That high pressure is giving us a respite. Still cold but dry and some good sunny spells, especially in the afternoon. Looks like a great day for any outdoor activities as long as you are well clad. Could become very frosty at night.



Sunday

Not so much sun around, and becoming cloudier as the day goes on. Still quite chilly at 8°C. The wind will probably increase from the south west in the afternoon as that big low to the north moves down towards us. It could be 25mph or more. I'm afraid the rain will not be far away by late afternoon and evening.



Monday

Wet and windy again, but with the temperature keeping up at 8°C, snow seems unlikely. The west wind will probably increase to more than 25mph in the morning, with gale force gusts, then ease back a wee bit in the evening.

Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

Things are looking no' bad for the rest of the week. Mostly cloudy but dry until Thursday and temperatures staying around 7°C. Winds will be variable in direction and fairly light but getting a bit blowy by Friday. A good week for Christmas shopping. *(Unless you more sensibly do it on the island! Ed.)*

Ferry Notes

Watch out on Thursday, but the strongest winds will be very early in the morning. Monday is also looking dodgy in the middle of the day.

Blooming good move

ELEANOR OPENS NEW SHOP, DESPITE ANOTHER BT DELAY

ELEANOR MCCUE'S flower shop has recently moved to premises at the end of Brodick's Auchrannie road and is now in full re-located bloom for Christmas. However, the enterprising Eleanor has had to deal with another delay by British Telecom, who have yet to install a new line at the shop.

The florist was quoted a staggering £4,362.50 (plus VAT) for her home connection earlier this year. After months of call-centre misery and inconvenience, the job was eventually sorted for a fraction of the price. But now Eleanor is waiting yet again for her business connection. She initially contacted BT at the beginning of September. 'I was told that it wouldn't be a problem and that it would be just 7-10 days from the time I placed the order,' said

Eleanor. However, some administrative problems with the order have delayed the job and now some extra telegraph poles need to be erected, so Eleanor is having to use her mobile. 'They office staff just don't seem to care,' she said on Tuesday, and added that not having a landline was 'bound to put some people off.'

Situated beside the Good Furniture Shop near to the Burnside Gallery, Eleanor's new shop is like a floral Aladdin's cave. After Christmas, she plans to set up a specialist wedding flowers display area (she has supplied flowers for thirty weddings already this year), but in the meantime she is crossing her fingers that she will receive a new phoneline from BT as an early Christmas present.



Having experienced lengthy delays of BT administrative bureaucracy, Eleanor is less fazed this time round

Lighthouse Caledonia fined for pollution

LIGHTHOUSE CALEDONIA, owner of the St Molios fish farm in Lamlash, is to close its Marybank fish processing plant on Lewis following a conviction for diesel contamination in March 2007. The firm pled guilty at Dingwall Sheriff Court on Thursday to spilling fuel, which leaked through a protective embankment into a burn running into Loch Kishorn in the Highlands. On the same day, it announced the closure of the plant on the outskirts of Stornoway by the end of the year, with the loss of 130 jobs.

The offence was reported by SEPA and in a BBC News article headed, 'Troubled fish farm company fined'. SEPA pointed out that a previous pollution incident had occurred when the company operating the site was

called Pan Fish Scotland, later changed to Lighthouse Caledonia. It was fined £10,000 back in 2005 for a spillage in Loch Torridon.

Colin Bayes, Director of Environmental Protection and Improvement, said in SEPA's press release, 'Where pollution is significant or persistent, or is as a result of wilful or negligent actions, SEPA will use its enforcement powers to protect the environment for the benefit of all of Scotland's citizens.'

The diesel contamination of farmed salmon by Marine Harvest Scotland earlier this year led to a food alert from the UK Food Standards Agency and a food recall from major UK retailers including Sainsbury's, who source predominantly from Marine Harvest.

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Snow wonder — or is it?

LOCALISED SNOWFALL and freezing temperatures foxed the forecasters and transformed parts of Arran into a winter wonderland last weekend. Initially perfect conditions for snowballing and sledging, the surprise snow caused a fair bit of disruption on some of the island's roads. From Sannox to Whiting Bay on the east coast and a few miles inland to the top of the String and Ross roads, several inches of snow created treacherous driving conditions. Amazingly, areas such as Kilmory and Blackwaterfoot remained unaffected by the wintry weather, receiving not a single snowflake.

Snowballs yes, crystal balls no

'We do get very accurate forecasts normally,' said NAC's island officer Gus MacLeod. 'Unfortunately it even took the forecasters by surprise. It was so localised. 95% of the time we get it right — but we don't have crystal balls,' he added.

Although the conditions were worse than expected, the Council gritters had been out on Friday night and once again early on Saturday morning at 5am. Once the snow started falling in earnest by late morning, they were deployed throughout the day, subject to driver working time regulations.

By early afternoon the snow had started to cause some chaos on the String road, as some drivers approaching from both directions decided to abandon their cars. Others braved the slippery snow-covered roads and by 1pm the String was littered with cars — many of them 4x4 vehicles — which had attempted to travel the steep hill between the pass and the bridge at the bend in the road on the lower slopes of Muillean Goaithe.

A number of commercial delivery vehicles, including Arran Deliveries and Arran Dairies, were delayed by the weather. Alastair Dobson, owner of Arran Dairies, was contemplating the loss of some perishable goods, but eventually managed to make safe passage over the String.

15 inches a minute

Meanwhile the Brodick to Lamlash route was host to a similar scene, with cars pointing in towards the verges all along the road. *The Voice* received a reliable report of one snowfast Stevie's Decor van edging very slowly forwards along the icy road as its two occupants scraped small clearings in front of its wheels with a short ruler. At their tortoise-paced progress, it was estimated by one witness that they would reach Brodick by next week.

Sections of the main coastal road were closed early in the afternoon to prevent further congestion and allow the gritters and plough clear paths between the villages. Any snow-fast vehicles strewn about on the String could take their pick from a wide range of Arran's 'snow emergency' services, seasoned breakdown recovery experts every one of them, from Angus Lambie's recovery truck to the police deployment of the Mountain Rescue landrover. A roving rescue team consisting of Niall Hume and his co-driver came to the aid of one John Connor, the driver of a silver Honda Accord whose front wheels had found the sheuch on more than one occasion. He had been heaved back onto the road by Ross Auld and Angus Lambie amongst others, but found the verge a further two times on his Brodick-bound descent of the String.

Salt coups running low?

During the afternoon drivers began to complain that there were no longer salted sand-heaps by the edge of the road to enable drivers to provide a grip under their wheels. Earlier this week Gus MacLeod assured road-users that the Council had already started to replenish the roadside sand coups. Each year the Council waits until the end of the leaf fall before topping up the piles on the verges of the roads. This work had been commenced last Friday, before the recent snowfall, but not on the String where it would have been needed most.

For anyone not on the roads, it was a weekend to savour and many folks were out enjoying the deep snow.



Niall Hume operated the island's ninth emergency service last Saturday on the String Road



Drivers and passengers lend weight to help this Landrover out from the verge on the String



Arran's sixth emergency service? Angus Lambie (right) and Ross Auld (left)



PC Frazer Mitchell deploys the Arran Mountain Rescue Team's Landrover to help clear the roads of snow-fast cars



Liam Atkinson and David Morrison build a snowman family at St Elmos House

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Christmas Concert in Corrie Parish Church

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Coffee and Mince Pies

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

Magical glass at the Burnside



WITH ICE GLISTENING on the roads and snow falling, there was a crystalline feel about Arran last Friday night, echoed inside the Burnside gallery at the preview of wonderful glass creations by Carolyn McDonald.

Carolyn grew up in the West of Scotland and fell in love with Arran as a child, when she came to stay with her grandparents at Atholl House in Lamlash and played in the burn there. She has lived for a long time in Surrey, but hopes to make her home on Arran again before too long. Meanwhile, her Burnside show features wonderful uses of coloured and iridescent glass, both as jewellery and a variety of wonderful vases and dishes, and she was happy to explain

how the flashes of colour within the glass come about.

When NASA scientists were designing the first space probe, they had to develop new materials of great strength, and started to experiment with fusing glass and metals. Among them were creative people who saw what extraordinary colours became locked into this new material, ready to gleam out as the surrounding light changed — but only a few artists have used the technique creatively.

Prime among them is Carolyn, whose delectable pendants of fused glass seem to lock up the colours of golden autumn or a hot, heather-covered hillside, releasing flashes of iridescent turquoise or emerald from the depths of the deeper colours. Her large dish with its golden centre is a present to die for, and she shows smaller ones that have been built up layer upon layer, sometimes trapping a design of silver wire within the colour or presenting a wonderful tracery of golden spider-web. She can use stained glass for all sorts of purposes, even as mundane as a glowing design to cover a toilet-roll holder, and the mind jumps to Hill



Thai Stained Glass

House, where Rennie Mackintosh provided every last detail to complete a magical interior. Not often does one meet an artist so freely inventive and yet so useful. If you are looking for a present for that tasteful person who has everything, get down to the Burnside as soon as the snow stops! There are lots of other lovely things, too, from colourful model boats to lights among red berries — not to mention some very covetable paintings. And Mhairi definitely makes the best mulled wine on Arran!



Nautical Cheer



Mandy Simsek and Heather McLeod delighted buyers at the Whiting Bay Christmas Fair with their clarsach playing

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Saturday 13th December, 11.00am

Igor Cert U, 1hr 25m

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Saturday 13th December, 2.00pm

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Cert U, 1hr 40m

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ADVERTORIAL

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR HER

Guys! With snow on the ground and carols in the air — there's no ignoring it; it's time to go Christmas shopping!

If you know your lady-love's size and favourite colour, clothes may be a good option. Arran Active, Bilslands and The Old Byre Showroom all have a good selection, and offer gift vouchers if you can't decide what would suit. While at Cladach don't forget to drop in to the Pottery and pick up some extra special decorations for the tree. A new handbag or purse is a great gift, too — Brodick Post Office now stock a new range of leather-goods, and there is a fantastic selection at Island Treasure in Balmichael. Take the time to drop into Trareoch Crafts while you're there, for a great choice of gifts for the craft-loving ladies in your life.

Carry on to Blackwaterfoot and go to the Harbour Shop for a wide range of Arran made lotions, potions, candles and porcelain.

Remember — if you shop local you'll even be home in time for the footie results on the telly and that can't be bad.



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In the final

PUPILS FROM ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL MAKE IT THROUGH TO GRAND FINAL OF THE BIG GREEN CHALLENGE

A TEAM OF students from Arran High School have made it through to the final The Big Green Challenge debating competition. The Big Green Challenge is an innovative project by Highlands and Islands Enterprise which is helping pupils across Scotland to gain a better understanding and awareness of renewable energy. Eilidh MacLeod, Sherlea MacDonald and Ealana Swinton-Boyle from Arran High School will join pupils from Gairloch High School, Gairloch, Portree High School, Portree and Sandwick Junior High School, Shetland in the grand final of the competition which will take place at the end of January 2009.

Increasing Scotland's renewable energy generation is a key Scottish Government pledge, with the aim of deriving half of Scotland's electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

Support for the pupils has come from The Big Green Challenge portal website www.thebiggreenchallenge.co.uk which also has pages in Gaelic. The Big Green Challenge participants are expected to comprehensively research motions both for and against renewable energy.

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. The four teams who have made it through to the final have done very well to get to this stage as the standard of the teams was very high.'

John McClatchey of the Environmental Research Institute, who was a judge in the semi round says, 'The passion and enthusiasm shown by the students is exceptionally encouraging and I believe we have many renewable energy industry leaders in the making! ... I wish the four finalists the very best of luck for the next round.'

The four finalists will now compete for a group trip to Iceland to visit the country's famous Blue Lagoon waterfall and the geothermal area of Geysir.



Arran High pupils Eilidh MacLeod, Sherlea MacDonald and Ealana Swinton-Boyle

Schools learn some 'reel' dancing

DANCE LEADER THANKED FOR A DECADE OF INSPIRATION



LAST WEEK, Arran's primary schools united in the tenth annual Dance Scottish Festival at Whiting Bay Hall. Young Iain Clarke performed a rousing skirl on the bagpipes to start proceedings and expert dance teacher Alastair Aitkenhead kept feet tapping as he led almost 150 school pupils through a wide repertoire of Scottish country dance tunes.

It was the last festival to be led by the sprightly 88 year old, who started the event ten years ago. He is now stepping down from the role. MC Joe Rae said there was 'some terrific dancing on display' and his introductions to the different tunes kept the afternoon flowing. Some new acquaintances were made as pupils were asked to dance with partners from different primary schools, and children were even invited to judge the dancing skills of the adults in the room.

Angie Fisher, Rachel Phillips, Rita Salmon, Marion Devine, Louise Simmons, Margaret Green, Mairi Farquhar, Mairi Duff, Liz Kennedy, Stewart Lambie and Alistair Glen have all been involved in teaching the dances before the festival and they performed a fine waltz.

Ann Hart said a 'huge thank you' to Alistair for his inspiration over the years, which has surely laid the foundations for another generation of country dancing.

'The real emphasis is on fun and flight,' said Alastair. 'At that age you've just got to be having fun. It's part of our culture.' There have been similar dance festivals across Ayrshire recently, the highlight being 1,400 children dancing in Troon Hall, taught by volunteers and run through cooperation with the schools.

The Moment

By Margaret Atwood (1939-)

The moment when, after many years
of hard work and a long voyage
you stand in the centre of your room,
house, half-acre, square mile, island, country,
knowing at last how you got there,
and say, I own this,

is the same moment the trees unloose
their soft arms from around you,
the birds take back their language,
the cliffs fissure and collapse,
the air moves back from you like a wave
and you can't breathe.

No, they whisper. You own nothing.
You were a visitor, time after time
climbing the hill, planting the flag, proclaiming.
We never belonged to you.
You never found us.
It was always the other way around.

Margaret Atwood is Canada's foremost poet and novelist.

Poem
of the week

The Burnside Mistletoe Magic



Opening Night

8.00pm - 10.00pm, Friday 28th Nov

The Burnside

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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

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THE YOUTH VOICE

INFORMATION AND NEWS FOR AND FROM YOUNG PEOPLE!

By **Scott McMurray, Eilidh Kerr, Megan McEachern and Thomas McMaster**

Hello and welcome to December's 'Youth Voice'! Here you will find everything you need to know about the youth of Arran. If there is anything you want to see on this page or if you want to add an item or write something for it, please contact the Voice or Scott McMurray at school. Oh, and hope everyone has a great Christmas when it comes and we will be back again in the New Year!

place on the 15th of November, hosted by Aberdeen City Council in their council buildings in the city centre. Highlights of the day included debates on knife crime, holocaust education and the launch of the SYP's national campaign 'Being Young Is Not A Crime', which looks at promoting young people in a positive light. To find out more about the SYP's campaign go to www.scottishyouthparliament.org.uk.

opened the proceedings, and all in all it was a very successful and enjoyable day.

Lamlash Youth Centre

The Lamlash Youth Centre aka The Portakabin has finally been moved to its new site behind the High School. All being well it will re-open with a bang just after the New Year!

Useful Websites...

www.youngscot.org
general info site for young people.

www.talktofrank.com
confidential service for information about drugs.

www.drugscope.org.uk
as above

www.youngminds.org.uk
mental health info suited to young people

www.thinkuknow.co.uk
drugs/drink addiction information

www.childrenslegalcentre.com
providing legal advice, information and representation for children and young people.

www.bullying.co.uk
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www.workwithus.org
actively help, advise and support over 700 charities and a range of public sector bodies, providing an invaluable range of specialist fundraising and marketing services.

www.womensaid.org
Women's Aid is the key national charity working to end domestic violence against women and children. They support a network of over 500 domestic and sexual violence support services across the UK.

Events

School Concert, Thurs 18th of December

Numerous A-list celebrity artistes are rumoured to be attending, including the infamous wind band, the jazz, string and percussion groups, and both the junior and senior choirs as well as several soloists. The night will be rounded off with a couple of carols (which will include the tuneful audience) and some delicious refreshments — DEFINITELY the best part! A big hand must go to Mrs Diana Hamilton, the ever-enthusiastic music teacher, without whom this night could not go on.

Youth Forum Party

On the 7th of November, Arran Youth Forum held one of their famous non-alcohol gigs in Brodick Hall. Despite the torrential rain and blowing gales the turnout was a record breaking 213 young people! Entertainment was provided by Generic Rude Word and Drop Function, both of which were debuting at this gig. After the bands, Holly Weir and Vicky Wetton took to the decks and blasted out some old and new favourites. A fantastic night was had by all and we look forward to the next one in January!

Youth Conference

The 5th Annual North Ayrshire Youth Conference took place on Wednesday 5th of November at the Gailes Hotel in Irvine. Around 60 young people were in attendance and Thomas McMaster, Holly Weir, Abi Gillingham and Claire Taylor were all present. Scott McMurray MSYP

Merry Christmas?

'Tis the season to be jolly. But is there something about winter that actually brings people down? For instance the cold, wet weather, the gale force winds, the darkness. Not to mention the ferry disruptions. I've begun to notice that, when the weather is miserable, it tends to make me miserable too. It certainly is the "bleak mid winter". However, the Christmas period itself is a lovely time of year. It's the period before and after which I don't like. There are no twinkly little lights, no Christmas trees sparkling in the windows. It's before the excitement of opening the doors on your advent calendars (a Barbie one this year for me) and going Christmas shopping; when it's cold and dark but it's not quite the festive period. And then when Christmas is well and truly over, it's still not getting any lighter or sunnier. Prolong the Christmas festivities, I say. Make them last from October to March perhaps, to stop the winter blues.

News

Scottish Youth Parliament General Meeting

The 37th SYP General Meeting took

Classic Collection

By **Douglas Hamilton**

Douglas Hamilton offers some advice on how to choose a good opera recording.

Puccini *La Bohème*

**Freni, Pavarotti, Ghiaurov, Harwood, Panerai, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra,
Herbert von Karajan
Decca 421 049-2**

Which opera would be the best introduction to opera in general? Tragic or comic? Classical or Romantic? In English or in the original language? A Mozart comedy perhaps, or a Verdi melodrama — but I think as a starting point you won't go far wrong with something by Puccini. My own choice would be either *Tosca* or *La Bohème*. Both are packed full of good tunes and the music is very colourful; a lot happens, in a variety of moods, and neither is too long! For this week, let's look at *La Bohème*.

Decca issued a fine recording starring the operatic 'couple' of the moment — Gheorghui and Alagna — conducted by Chailly. EMI also featured Gheorghiu under Pappano in a highly rated version a few years ago, while quite recently the current 'dream team' of Netrebko and Villazon appeared on a DG set. This was very well received by some critics, less enthusiastically by others, some of whom criticise Netrebko's performance as Mimi, comparing it unfavourably with earlier interpretations. An early Beecham 'classic' (EMI) with de los Angeles and Bjorling still takes some beating, or there's Tebaldi and Bergonzi under Serafin (Decca). Both of these are budget priced and highly rated.

Many critics rate the young Pavarotti's Rudolfo as one of his finest recordings. Here is one of the world's greatest tenors at his peak, with the other parts equally strongly cast. Freni is one of the best Mimis on record. Karajan's conducting is described as 'spacious' — rather slower than many other versions, and the reading of Act 3 is probably unsurpassed. The recording was made over a very short period, and this is reflected in a great sense of teamwork. At mid-price, with superb sound, a great team of soloists, a great conductor, and a great orchestra, this too is a 'classic recording'. It has recently been reissued, and was given a 5-star review in the BBC Music Magazine.

Arran Artists Calendar 2009 On Sale Now!



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Bay Stores
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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



Driver reported for ignoring 'Road Closed' sign

At 2.30pm on Saturday 29th of November a 40 year old Lamlash male was reported for dangerous driving, failing to stop, and failing to comply with a mandatory road traffic sign. The driver had attempted to drive south along the Brodick to Lamlash road which had been closed by the police due to the poor driving conditions.

Mobile phone

At 3pm on Saturday 29th November a 18 year old Kilmory male was reported for driving whilst using a mobile phone. The incident occurred on the main road opposite the Tourist Information centre at the foot of Brodick hill.

Missing person found

At 2pm on Wednesday 26th November a family from Whiting Bay reported their son as a missing person and stated that they had concerns for his well-being. An initial ground search was undertaken of the area surrounding the missing person's house. At that time the search proved negative, said police sources.

A 15-strong team from the Coastguards were soon called and by 3pm a search of the lower shore in Whiting Bay was carried out, responding to information that the individual might be in that area. The police said that they were acutely aware of the difficulties in continuing a search in fading light and so called the called for the assistance of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team, who were on the scene by 4.30pm.

The Arran MRT then conducted a line-search from Sandbraes playpark to the garden centre all the way to Point house. The Boys Brigade and the RNLI were also engaged in the search. Strathclyde police 'air support' was called out, but due to the inclement weather had to abort its involvement.

At approximately 7.30pm the various members of the search party regrouped at the Scripture Union site beyond Point House. A new search was undertaken and by 8.35pm the Arran Mountain Rescue team had located the missing person in a caravan. The man was transferred by ambulance to the Arran War Memorial Hospital.

'Shocking' road safety talk

S5 and S6 Arran High School pupils watched a road safety presentation earlier this week, as police officers from Strathclyde's Road Safety Unit visited the island. PC Scott Marshall and PC Graham Rutherford work full-time in the role of giving road-safety presentations to school and company audiences. The presentation involved touch-pad questionnaires to assess attitudes amongst the groups and also graphically shocking videos which demonstrated some of the consequences of unsafe driving. 'Our main target is young drivers, to keep them safe on the road,' said PC Marshall.

The two officers were keen to point out the many risks which are not always fully understood by inexperienced drivers, from the failure to wear seatbelts to the use of prescription drugs that can impair driving. PC Marshall stated that the average cost of passing a driving test is £1,500. Drivers receiving six points or more during the two-year probationary period are forced to re-sit the test.



All Welcome

Scottish Episcopal Church

(in full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 7th December: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Revd Dr Hector Soga, Dollar. Coffee after service.
Wednesday, 10th December: Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
All Welcome.

Church of Scotland

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
'A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share'
Sunday 7th December
Rev. Gillean Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
All welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland

7th December 2008
Shiskine, 11am (Church is on the road between Machrie and Blackwaterfoot)
Sunday School meets in the Church Hall Brodick, 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)
Mr William Meney
All Welcome, Tel:860426

Arran Baptist Church

Sunday 6th December in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.
10.55 Worship Service, Tea and coffee afterwards. Everyone welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland

(continuing) Sunday 7th December
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick, 11am
Evening Service, 5 Glen Road, 7pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday 10th, 7pm
Rev.D.Macleod. All Welcome

Church of Scotland,

Parishes of North Arran; Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine
Independent but working together.
Minister Rev. Angus Adamson, Parish Assistant, Mrs Jean Hunter
Worship will be conducted at the following times:
Sunday 7th December:
Brodick Church, 10.30am
Corrie Church, 12noon
Pirnmill, 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
Mass in Polish 4.30pm

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 7th December
Worship for Advent will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service.
All most welcome. There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm and in Craigielea at 3.15pm to which all are welcome.

The Religious Society of Friends will meet next week, December 14th.

Weekly Prize Crossword

Compiled by The Wee Scunner

One Crossword —
two sets of answers!



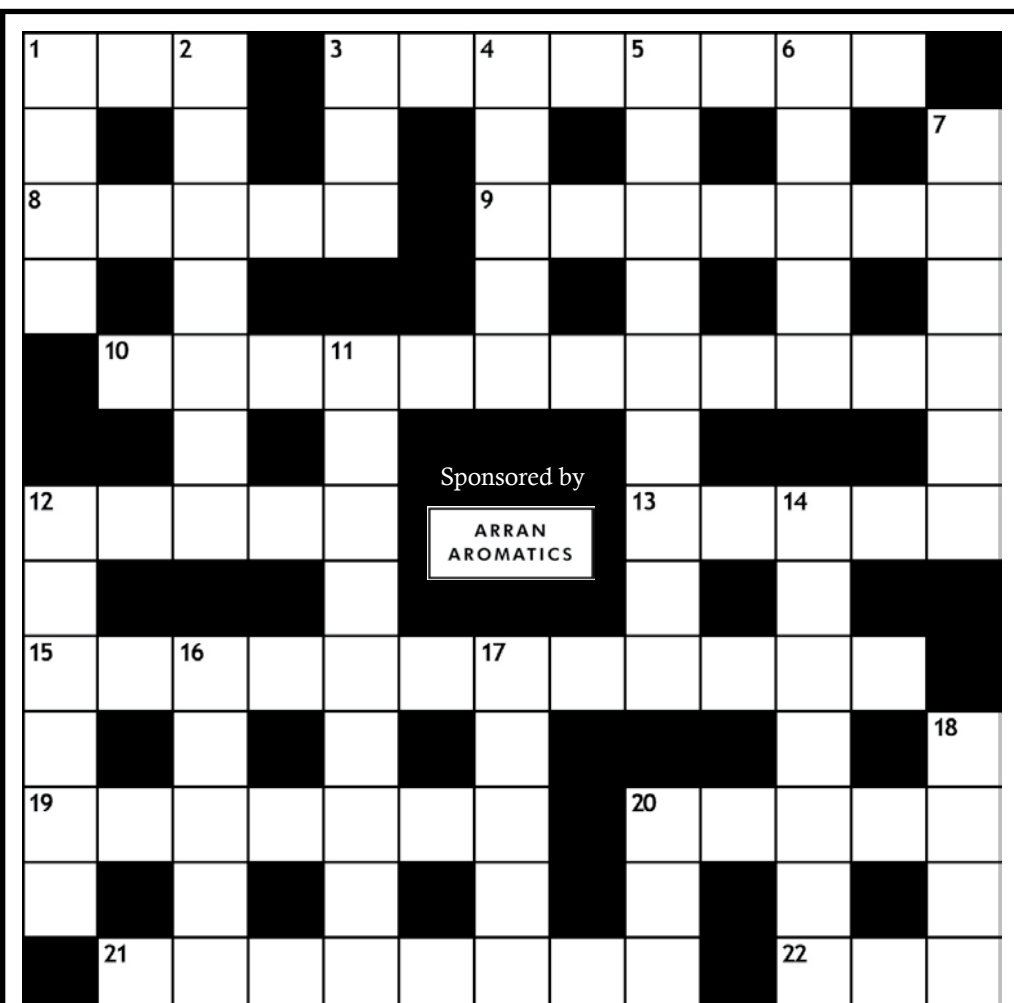
ARRAN AROMATICS

Win an Arran Aromatics gift box worth £30 this week

You have until Tuesday, 16 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 85'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 87" in the subject line.

Name:

Address:

Telephone/E-mail:

Cryptic Clues

Across

- 1 Still unknown extra terrestrial (3)
- 3 Proportionate kin (8)
- 8 Behold with Latin substitute (5)
- 9 Can — must — change Holy of Holies (7)
- 10 Thriller not imperial measuring mental attributes (12)
- 12 Those with high IQs rearranged names (5)
- 13 Presses clubs (5)
- 15 Down tops totally ineligible for 12 (12)
- 19 I am pinkish charge (7)
- 20 Tricked failure about gym (5)
- 21 Books should be study expert (8)
- 22 Timid throw (3)

Down

- 1 You will sound Christmas (4)
- 2 Has a good feed and performs bedtime ritual (5,2)
- 3 Odd drink (3)
- 4 Catch girl with nothing on (5)
- 5 Rage in spike fruit (9)
- 6 Mixed trove constituent (5)
- 7 Hits belts (6)
- 11 Ruin country as emergency measure (9)
- 12 Fifties mule cake (6)
- 14 Complex father (7)
- 16 Specimen loses former husband but is still enough (5)
- 17 Addiction help about — about contemptuous expression (5)
- 18 Little Edward maelstrom (4)
- 20 Owed 20 without data processing (3)

Quick Clues — just for fun!

Across

- 1 Waterproof (3)
- 3 Cake decoration (8)
- 8 Spanish goodbye (5)
- 9 Reproach (7)
- 10 Loyalty (12)
- 12 Colonic irrigation (5)
- 13 Greek last letter (5)
- 15 Going to the very edge of danger (12)
- 19 Scots weasel (7)
- 20 Bird of the duck family (5)
- 21 Neck cords (8)
- 22 Sheep

Down

- 1 Honey drink (4)
- 2 Bends on a motor track (7)
- 3 Fool (3)
- 4 Curt (5)
- 5 Defamatory (9)
- 6 Hoist (5)
- 7 Seaport on Black Sea (6)
- 11 Creator of Becky Sharp (9)
- 12 Joints (6)
- 14 Part of a serial (7)
- 16 Holiday destination (5)
- 17 Flower (5)
- 18 Lake (4)
- 20 American petrol (3)

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Issue 85 Crossword Answers

Cryptic Answers

Across: 1 Wilt; 3 Lofty; 6 Asps; 11 Idolize; 12 Noxious; 13 Twine; 14 Eke; 15 Lied; 17 Apiary; 19 Bistro; 21 Degree; 22 Osprey; 25 Zero; 27 Boo; 28 Psalm; 30 Puffins; 31 Bustard; 32 Code; 33 Frank; 34 Utes.

Down: 1 Waistbands; 2 Lionizing; 4 Omelet; 5 Tandem; 7 Swore; 8 Sash; 9 Vile; 10 Exclaims; 16 Polyamides; 18 Rhetoric; 20 Termagant; 23 Abuser; 24 Bobbin; 26 Effed; 28 Posh; 29 Epic.

Quick Answers

Across: 1 Dice; 3 Bully; 6 Form; 11 Guarded; 12 Rotates; 13 Ethos; 14 RAC; 15 Cyst; 17 Noodle; 19 Zapped; 21 Sudden; 22 Consul; 25 Avid; 27 Rat; 28 Overt; 30 Alloway; 31 Babygro; 32 Ajar; 33 Flier; 34 Pros.

Down: 1 Doggedness; 2 Coach Load; 4 Udders; 5 Lyrics; 7 Oaths; 8 Mist; 9 Adds; 10 Staccato; 16 Idolatrous; 18 Lies Down; 20 Passenger; 23 Argyll; 24 Stable; 26 Villa; 28 Orbs; 29 Gala.

Winner of Issue 85 Crossword:

Congratulations to **Y Weir from Lamlash** who wins the gift box this week.

Issue 86 Sudoku & Kakuro Solutions

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

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

8	40			9	8	44	
12	3	9	4	3	1	2	8
39	5	7	3	1	8	6	9
	11	8	1	2		4	3
14	8	6				6	2
3	1	2		8	16	8	6
6	2	4	14	13	7	9	5
	34	3	8	9	1	7	4
	11	1	6	4		8	7

Sudoku

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

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

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

On this day...

- 1791 The first issue of The Observer, the world's first Sunday newspaper, is published.
- 1954 The first Burger King is opened in Miami, Florida, United States.
- 1969 Black Panther Party members Fred Hampton and Mark Clark are shot and killed in their sleep during a raid by Chicago police officers.
- 1998 The Unity Module, the second module of the International Space Station, is launched.

Star Birthdays

- 1795 Thomas Carlyle, Scottish writer and historian
- 1930 Ronnie Corbett, Scottish comedian
- 1949 Jeff Bridges, American actor
- 1949 Pamela Stephenson, New Zealand-born actress
- 1973 Kate Rusby, English folk singer

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.

	13	15			6	7	26	
16				14				
		10	7					
29								16
			3			17		
		22						
	19				8	15	10	
6								
9				9				
3			10	16			16	6
	39							
	10					10		



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I'm nae being silly — there is a blizzard on the String

M.N.

Marine News

By John Kinsman

NEW MARINA FOR GREENOCK

Greenock's James Watt Dock — the historic site of the Tate & Lyle sugar refinery — is set to be redeveloped into a business and leisure marina facility in a £180m regeneration plan. The iconic and A-listed 'sugar sheds' — Scotland's largest cast iron and brick structure — will be a focal point of the new plans. The 50 acre waterside site will receive funding from the Scottish Government, Inverclyde Council and Scottish Enterprise. Riverside Inverclyde and Peel, the public-private partnership behind the plan, says 1,700 jobs will be created in building and construction over the next 10 years. The masterplan comprises more than 750 private and socially rented homes and almost 200,000sq ft of retail and commercial space, as well as a 400-berth marina, beside a hotel and yacht club. It is anticipated that the first new houses will be ready in 2011, with the others to be launched in phases.

LAST CHANCE FOR WEST COAST PRAWN INDUSTRY

F i s h i n g leaders will have one last chance to persuade the European Fisheries Commissioner Joe Borg not to implement proposals to shut down whitefish and prawn fisheries on the West Coast of Scotland. The proposals threaten to close fishing grounds on the west coast to all but mackerel and herring trawlers, and protesters point to a loss of trade which is worth over £30 million a year to the local economy.

Scottish Fisheries Minister, Richard Lochhead MSP SNP, who will also be in Brussels this month, said: 'Tough talks also lie ahead of us ... We are working closely with the industry and scientists to develop counter-proposals.' He hoped to apply 'the same the trailblazing and responsible approach we have adopted on the Cod Recovery Plan.'



Thinking of getting your child a laptop?

By Graeme Attkins

If you're thinking about buying your child a laptop (but not for this Christmas), why not check out the XO laptop from the One Laptop per Child (OLPC) organisation? (Full details can be found at: <http://laptop.org>)

While the XO computer itself won't run common applications such as Word or Photoshop, it is designed with children in mind, and the website detailed above will provide much more information about how the computer can be used by your children.

Rest assured, though, the packages that do come with the computer, including an internet browser, have been designed with children in



mind, and provide a great stepping stone for them to familiarise themselves with current computer technology.

The computer itself can be used as a standard laptop, or rotated to function as a tablet PC, and the rather cute wi-fi antennae are known as rabbit ears. The computer is very robust, designed with small hands in mind, with a waterproof screen and keyboard, and it only weighs about as much as a child's packed lunch box (with the food in it!).

Better yet, by purchasing an XO computer through the Give One, Get One scheme, you are basically donating an XO laptop to a child in a developing nation, whilst purchasing an XO laptop for yourself. This allows OLPC to give away thousands of laptops to places like Ethiopia, Mongolia and Rwanda.

This must be expensive, right? Actually, no. When it goes on sale in Europe the XO laptop is expected to cost around £268 (313 Euros) and should be available in 27 EU nations as well as Switzerland, Russia and Turkey.

Visiting riding club enjoys snow-bound stay

Riders from the Glasgow University Riding Club (GURC) paid a visit to Arran last weekend to try out carriage driving. Although an experienced group of riders, it was their first encounter with driving a carriage and for many their first trip to the island. Before they arrived they were told it never snows on Arran, but when the ferry berthed in Brodick, they soon saw things differently.

After spending a morning and afternoon at the Greannan in Shiskine, under the expert tutelage of Janis Murchie from

Arran Carriage Driving, they were unable to return home due to the closure of the String Road. Organised as a recreational event for the club by Jane Faulkner from Torbeg, the trip soon extended its tour of the island to the Kinloch Hotel and a dance at Kilmory Hall. Last year the GURC was voted the best Glasgow University club of the year and competes successfully in the Scottish BUSA leagues and Scottish University Championships. But the club vows to return to the island in Easter-time 2009 for more carriage driving.



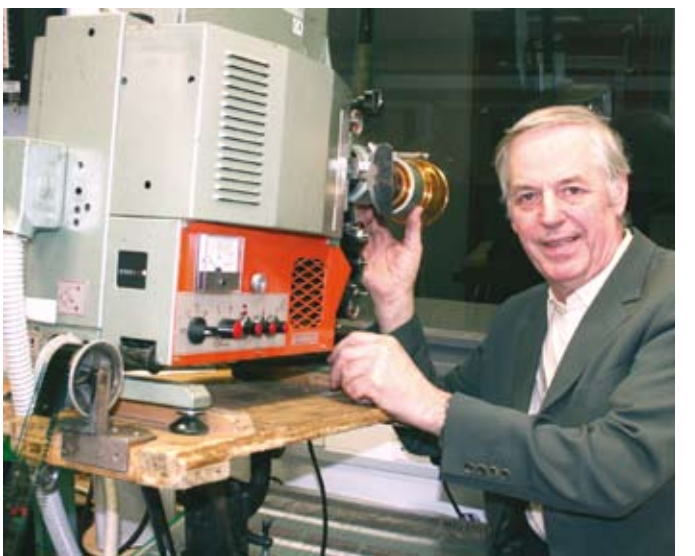
Mark Johnson, Katie Colford, Elly MacDonald, Fiona Webber, Suzie MacBain, Laura Shishodia, Josie Fullarton and Jayne Faulkner from Glasgow University meet at the Greannan on Saturday morning

Filmobile launches in Lamlash

Andrew Goodwin from Filmobile Scotland launched a new programme of cinema screenings at Lamlash High School last Thursday. Andrew reckons he has travelled over 500,000 miles and shown 8,000 films during the 14 years he has operated the cinema company, which travels to locations stretching from Stranraer to Peterhead.

'I get a lot of satisfaction from taking films to the rural areas,' said Andrew, whose love of the cinema started at the age of 11, when he was a very young assistant to the projectionist at a cinema in Coatbridge. After working as an engineer then returning to his first enthusiasm as a projectionist at a multiplex in East Kilbride, he started Filmobile at the age of 50. He says he hopes that there is a wide island demand to support both Filmobile and the Screen

Machine. His company plans to screen films every fortnight at the community theatre venue in Lamlash. Last week he screened *Mamma Mia* and *The Duchess* on a 16ft x 8ft screen, but he hopes to bring a larger 24ft x 12ft screen over next weekend for the Bond movie *Quantum of Solace*.



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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.

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It's a Car's Lot

Snow good braking...

The weekend snow that saw cars sliding untidily back down Lamlash hill raises some thoughts about winter driving — like, keep a torch and a spade in the back of the car, with wellies and something to shove under the front wheels if you get stuck. Old sacks are great, or failing that, cardboard or even newspapers. And carry your phone.

Not getting stuck is better. Four-wheel-drives come into their own here, but even if your car is the bog standard kind, there are useful things to bear in mind. The same techniques as the fuel-saving ones come in handy — be as light as you can on accelerator and brakes. Keep the engine slightly flogging in a rather higher gear than you'd pick in normal conditions, and the car will remain more stable. If it does start to slide, do not brake — it will only increase the drift you are already in. Turn the wheel in the direction you find yourself travelling and gently bring the car's wheels back into a grip on the road surface. It's very much like ski-ing, which is essentially a long skid down a mountain, the same principle of taking the weight off then re-establishing it in the new direction. A skier who tries to brake on a bend will land in the nearest snowdrift, probably head down and skis up, and motoring is similar. In Switzerland, it used to be a fact that no driver could be fully qualified without passing a winter test as well as a summer one, though the advent of good snow tyres may have made this less essential. If in doubt, stay at home with your feet up and a glass of mulled wine, and make the most of the excuse not to drive.

Fastest car on ice

Those who can afford outrageous luxury will be drooling over the Bentley Continental GT Speed, the fastest car ever driven on ice (by rally champion Juha Kankkunen in Finland last year.) At 600 bhp and 17mph, it's difficult to see why it was ever built, but hey, the smart boys have to have something to play with. Its top speed is 202 mph, its pollution rating is off the scale and it costs from £137,000, according to how many extra gizmos you fancy. Nothing is known about its pot-hole tolerance, alas, so if your rich daddy offers you one, say no.



Recipe

By Janis Murchie

VEGGIE PASTA BAKE

This week, Janis provides a quick and easy to make recipe that is sure to warm you up as the weather takes a turn for the colder.

Ingredients

- 350g pasta shapes, such as penne
- 300g fresh or frozen peas
- 300g cheese sauce
- A small handful of chopped fresh mint
- 6tbsp freshly grated Parmesan
- Mixed salad and crusty bread, to serve

Method

1. Cook the pasta according to packet instructions until just tender. If using fresh peas, add to the water for the last 3 minutes.
2. Drain the peas and pasta and place in a bowl (add frozen peas, if using, to the pasta). Preheat a grill to medium-hot.
3. Heat the cheese sauce and mix with the peas, pasta and chopped mint.
4. Season and spoon into an ovenproof dish. Scatter over the Parmesan and cook under the grill until the cheese is bubbling.
5. Serve straight away with salad and crusty bread.



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.

Arran Pool League

REF-BARRACKING SEALS POINT FOR 5-PLAYER CAMMY

BAR EDEN'S EMPHATIC start to the season continues, but the Drift are hanging on by the coat tails and P.T. 1934 are slowly climbing the table with three wins on the trot. '10-2 just doesn't tell the story,' said Eddie Picken after the deep south sealed a strong home victory in the Southend showdown against Kildonan. Eddie explained how five black ball games and two black ball foul games saw the P.T. 1934 go 7-1 up after the singles and claim the 'derby bragging rights' for the first half of the season.

Kildonan look to be taking over the mantle from Catacol as the league's whipping boys, with speculations that it is some sort of consequence of the dramatic kidnapping of the two teams' 'winning gnome trophy' last season. Catacol's point-winning streak, did however, hit a blip last Thursday as they were felled by the Drift. The visitors were up 5-3 by the end of the singles, but were clearly impressed by the opposition. 'That's probably the best Catacol team I've seen,' said John Copperwheat. 'I think they will definitely take more points off teams this year.'

Elsewhere, the Corrie played host to a 5-player Cameronia, which gifted the home team an instant two-game lead. With impressive Cammy spirit, the Whiting Bay ex-champs pulled it back for a draw, John Ferguson deploying some clearly well-practised and strategic barracking of the referee which surely rules him out for the Copperwheat Cue Challenge. Excellent snooker-style contributions from Glen Willis helped claim a valiant point for the understaffed squad.

Last week's results:
Kildonan 2 – 10 P.T. 1934
PHT 4 — 8 Bar Eden
Catacol 4 – 8 Drift
Corrie 6 – 6 Cameronia

Below is the fixture list for the doubles and singles competitions (venues in bold). Winners should phone in the results to the Cameronia on 700 254. Best of luck to all entrants. Pundits at *The Arran Voice* are tipping Ian Murchie/Steve Heaney for the doubles and Jamie McPherson for the singles...!

Pool League Fixtures

1st Round Arran Doubles (to be played by January 11th)	Preliminary Arran Singles Round (to be played by 21st December)
1. D. Cudrie/Richard (PHT) v C. Blackham/M. Wetton (Catacol) – Corrie	1. L. Logan (Catacol) v T. Mulholland (P.T. 1934) – PHT
2. E. Ingram/J. McPherson (Bar Eden) v P. Rouine/A. Dillon (P.T. 1934) – Kildonan	2. A. Cook (Cameronia) v S. Patrick (P.T. 1934) – Kildonan
3. G. McLeod/D. Hackett (Bar Eden) v C. McBain/J. Ferguson (Cameronia) – PHT	3. N. Bond (Catacol) v A. Duncan (Bar Eden) – Corrie
4. D. Head/F. Barr (Bar Eden) v M. Picken/N. McMaster (P.T. 1934) – [B] Kildonan [/B]	4. E. Picken (P.T. 1934) v L. Robinson (Kildonan) – Bar Eden
5. I. Murchie/S. Heaney (Drift) v P. McKinnon/E. McKinnon (Corrie) – PHT	5. J. McPherson (Bar Eden) v E. McKinnon (Corrie) – PHT
6. L. Little/I. Roberts (PHT) – BYE	6. C. Black (Drift) v P. Holmes (PHT) – Cameronia
7. S. Weir/S. Logan (Catacol) v M. McDonald/W. McDonald (Drift) – Corrie	7. G. Willis (Cameronia) v I. Roberts (PHT) – Drift
8. B. Radtkouski/P. Holmes (PHT) v V. Dillon/Billy TF (P.T. 1934) – Cameronia	8. G. Blythe (Drift) v S. Weir (Catacol) – Corrie
9. J. Lyon/S. Lawson (Catacol) – BYE	9. M. Worthington (P.T. 1934) v N. Underdown (Corrie) – Drift
10. H. Driver/C. Wannop (Kildonan) v D. Smith/E. Picken (P.T. 1934) – Bar Eden	10. L. Girbow (Drift) v S. Lawson (Catacol) – Corrie
11. G. Willis/J. Ainsworth (Cameronia) v A. Duncan/N. Auld (Bar Eden) – Drift	11. F. Barr (Bar Eden) v D. Cudrie (PHT) – Cameronia
12. A. Jeffrey/C. Traill (Catacol) v M. Worthington/C. Galloway (P.T. 1934) – Drift	12. N. Auld (Bar Eden) v D. Prescott (Cameronia) – Kildonan
13. S. McGovern/S. Pringle (Bar Eden) v T. Mulholland/S. Patrick (P.T. 1934) – Kildonan	13. S. Heaney (Drift) v J. Ferguson (Cameronia) – PHT
14. J. Welsh/M. McKee (Drift) v L. Logan/N. Bond (Catacol) – Corrie	14. H. Driver (Kildonan) v N. McMaster (P.T. 1934) – Bar Eden
15. L. Girbow/C. Black (Drift) – BYE	15. A. Jeffrey (Catacol) v I. Murchie (Drift) – Corrie
16. J. Copperwheat/S. Scott (Drift) – BYE	16. M. McKee (Drift) v J. Copperwheat (Drift) – Drift
	17. D. Hackett (Bar Eden) v D. Head (Bar Eden) – Bar Eden
	18. J. Ainsworth (Cameronia) v J. Lyon (Catacol) – Drift
	19. J. Picken (P.T. 1934) v L. Little (PHT) – Cameronia
	20. P. McKinnon (Corrie) v S. McGovern (Bar Eden) – PHT

Pool League Table

Team	Pld	W	L	D	F	A	GOB	Pts
Bar Eden	5	5	0	0	38	22	3	15
Drift	5	4	0	1	39	21	4	13
P.T. 1934	5	2	1	2	34	26	2	8
Corrie	5	2	2	1	29	31	2	7
Cameronia	5	1	2	2	27	33	3	5
PHT	5	1	3	1	28	32	3	4
Catacol	5	1	3	1	25	35	3	4
Kildonan	5	0	4	0	20	40	0	0

Golf Results

Arran Golfers Association

Winter League 2008-2009
Next up for the association is the Winter League at Whiting Bay on Sunday 7th December from 10am, 10:50am and 11:40am.

Draw:

- Whiting Bay v Machrie bay
- Brodick v Corrie
- Lamlash v Shiskine

Due to the weather affecting conditions on the course, there is a possibility of a cancellation, if this is the case all team captains will be notified in advance and the fixtures will probably be rescheduled for the following Sunday (14th December) but this will be confirmed and captains informed.

Brodick Golf Club

Brodick Ladies Golf

Results:

Tuesday 25th November, 20 Ladies turned up to play on a beautiful winter's morning. Results of the greensome were:

1st Ellie Jones & Jennifer Macarthur 42 2/3
2nd Leslie Murray & Carole Arthur 44

Please note there will be a Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 9th December at approx. 12.30pm in the Clubhouse to which all past and present members are invited. This will go ahead regardless of weather and golf.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Results:

Tuesday 25th November, Winter Cup
1st David Price 62
2nd Campbell Laing 64
3rd Denise Sherwood 68
Scratch, David Price 74
Two's: Brian Sherwood and Alan Jeffrey

Fixtures:

- Saturday 6th December, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off at 12.00pm
- Tuesday 9th December, Winter Cup, tee-off at 12.00pm

Lochranza Castle Golf Club

Results:

Sat 29th November, Lochranza V Shiskine & A C Bannatyne Trophy

The fixture was played at Shiskine in the Stableford format. The top 3 scores were Pablo Moran, Alan Napier and Graeme Andrew. These then headed to the Kinloch hotel to team up with the fourth competitor, D. S. Bannatyne to play dominoes. This year the 'Domino King' DS won the trophy.

Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club

Results:

Sunday 23rd November, 12 hole Medal & Winter Cup
1st Willie Kelso 49-4 45
2nd Duncan Markham 57-5 52
3rd Brian Sherwood 59-5 54
Best Scratch, Willie Kelso 49

Saturday 29th November, Alan C. Bannatyne Memorial Quaich
Winner D.S. Bannatyne

Sunday 30th November, 18-hole Medal
1st Alan Napier 71-5 66
2nd Duncan Markham 77-8 69 (bih)
3rd Donald Logan 78-9 69 (bih)
Best Scratch, Tom Patterson 65

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Results:

The snow caused the cancellation of last Sunday's medal.

Fixtures:

- Sunday 7th December, Winter League at Whiting Bay. First match tees off at 10.00am.
- Sunday 14th, Friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay. Tee-offs from 10.30am — 11.00am

Snow close!

Continued from back page

Arran pulled ahead in the second half via a coolly-taken penalty by Frazer Barr, but Moffat once again took the lead with another penalty. 9-8 to the visitors and with only 20 minutes of play, Arran were treading on thin ice. It took some serious graft from the forwards and after some successful No. 8 pick-ups by Sparky, and a well-taken line-out the Arran backs were gifted some good third phase ball. Flicking wide with some neat snow-defying handling, George De Mendonca eventually powered through the Moffat backline and dived for a great,

but unconverted score. Arran missed another penalty kick opportunity with ten minutes to go and the final period of play was frantic as both teams sensed the match could swing with a single score.

Clearly operating under 'the best defence is attack' philosophy, Arran held on by threatening the Moffat line in the final few phases of the game and were in healthy possession as the ref blew the final whistle. The match finished up 13-8, consolidating Arran's 6th place position in the league, two points behind Hughenden with two games in hand. Arran face Paisley at home this weekend.



Frazer Barr helps to defend a Moffat attack and Arran's slender lead with just ten minutes to go

Blackwaterfoot bowlers dine with silverware

Members for Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club held their club AGM and dinner at the Kinloch Hotel last Wednesday 26th November, where players were also awarded with silverware for the 2008 outdoor bowling season. Marian Brambles won the Ladies Singles trophy, with John Robinson scooping the Gents Singles prize. John also won the Nominated Pairs trophy with Margaret Kerr. Peter Harper won the Opening Trophy, Alex Gardiner won the Thorburn Trophy and Dave Brambles, Marian Brambles and Alex Gardiner won the Triples.



Domino King wins at Kinloch

Arran's 'Domino King' D. S. Bannatyne is presented with the dominoes trophy by Gator Kerr at the Kinloch Hotel last Saturday evening.





SNOW CLOSE! ARRAN BEAT MOFFAT

Late Mendonca try is icing on the cake



DESPITE THE SUB-BLIZZARD conditions last Saturday, Arran's scheduled rugby game against Moffat went ahead and proved to be an icy nail-biter, with Arran rebounding to victory after trailing twice during the match. Whilst injured player Big E was sporting a big, warm Ruski comrade hat on the sidelines, the team took to the park in near-freezing conditions. It was the first time the island's current team had played as a unit in snow and there were two inches covering Ormidale park as they faced opponents Moffat, who were sitting only one place below Arran in West League Division 2.

With Donny Bannatyne, Donald Murchie and Ugg MacDonald returning to the frame, it required an all-round team performance to topple Moffat. The first period of the match saw some cagey play at either end, with both teams camping out for periods in each other's 22. But when play opened up briefly after ten minutes, Arran capitalised. The ineffable Kal Masia picked up and drifted through a couple of tackles like a Tasmanian Devil before going over for the try in the Church-end corner. Frazer Barr missed a wide kick, but Arran had dealt the first icy blow.

Arran perhaps should have notched up another two tries in the first half. Stephen 'ice-fingers' Gill charged over the line, but was judged by the referee to have knocked on as he touched the ball down. 'We all thought he had grounded it, said Captain Murray Picken after the match. Kal Masia also looked to have scored his second try, but the ref's vision was obscured during the pile-up and no try was awarded.

Stitches

In fact it was Moffat that went into the second half with a slender lead. They bagged two penalties, one resulting from some over-zealous defence as the Arran forwards were picked up for diving over the ruck-line. After 40 minutes it was 6-5 Moffat and Arran were now without Glen Stewart, whose face had found a solid connection with a Moffat knee. It required a few stitches at the Arran War Memorial Hospital and No. 8 Mark Wetton was lucky not to follow suit, remaining on the pitch with a few well-placed steri-strips applied by Fiona McMaster.

Continued on page 23

Ewan Stewart (Big E) lends some comradely support from the sidelines in last weekend's snow-laden match (JinglyJangly Images/Lenny Hartley 2008)

And Finally ...

MOOSE ABOUT

Here's a photo from a reader in Canada. As a motor bike rider, he doesn't go out at night in case he collides with a big, shaggy thing with a lot of heavy equipment on its head. But we are not likely to start building bridges for our squirrels — unless, of course, they learn how to grow tyre-puncturing horns.



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