



THE

arranvoice

WIN  
£100  
CASH

VOCEM POPULARIS AUDIRE / ÉISD RI GUTH NA MUINNIR

11th December 2008 — 088 65p

# ACCESS FOR ALL ON ARRAN'S NEW TRAIL

AT A RECENT village meeting, some Whiting Bay residents expressed unease about the mixing of mountain bikers with walkers on the excellent new path leading up to the Giants' Graves. In place of the daunting number of timber-edged steps that had to be negotiated previously, there is now a well-constructed path, wide enough to allow access for a child's buggy or even a wheelchair, and this is a great improvement. However, some residents reported that they felt alarmed when cyclists passed them at what they felt was excessive speed, and were concerned that tyre-tracks might spoil the new-laid surface.

Gerard Tattersfield of the Arran Bike Club points out that the path was specifically designed with as many users as possible in mind, including cyclists and walkers, and draws attention to the long sight-lines that enable riders to see walkers from some distance. The very tight hair-pin bends were specifically introduced to cause cyclists to reduce speed. Gerard said the construction had been undertaken with tough use in mind, and anticipated that the path would 'bed down' during this first year of use into a hard robust surface. He assured *The Arran Voice* that cycle tyres do no more structural damage to a path than boots on feet, and pointed to the fact that the Bike Club is a very responsible



body, anxious to ensure the safety of all those who enjoy Arran's trails, some of which Bike Club members continually maintain with the Forestry Commission (FC).

The new path has been carefully planned over a considerable time by the FC, wanting it to fit comfortably within the new NAC Core Path Network and, as the Scottish Outdoor Access code states, 'be accessible to all' — except motorised vehicles. The FC consulted with the Bike Club about its construction in order to help achieve this, and has now opened up access to some of the most beautiful parts of Arran, aiming to be of benefit to all those who use it. The code stresses

'responsible access and tolerance to other users' in any part of Scotland's countryside, and clearly, all those using the new path need to be careful and considerate to each other. However, the improvement to the Glen Ashdale area is enormous, providing access for people who would previously have found the steep climb to the Giant's Graves impossible. A wonderful new circular walk has now been created, climbing the new path to the Giants' Graves, offering stunning views now that the forest has been cleared, then taking the new forest road from the Graves to Glenashdale Falls and descending back down the riverside path to Whiting Bay.

## First fine for dog foul



Earlier this year, local nursery children joined the campaign to stop dog poo in Brodick

A BRODICK HOUSEHOLD has the unenviable distinction of being Arran's first dog foul offender. Last Wednesday 3rd of December, the police spotted an unsupervised dog which had been allowed to foul in a public place. With no-one present to clear up the mess, the police located the owner, who was then issued with a fine.

'It was the first in North Ayrshire issued by police,' confirmed Sgt Bob MacKay, and added, 'We've had a lot of complaints.' The dog-owner was presented with an on-the-spot fine of £40 on the main road in Brodick. Sgt MacKay explained that a young lad from Brodick has suffered the partial loss of sight in one eye after contracting the infection Toxicariasis last year. This is a parasitic infection carried in dog poo which affects young people most severely if contracted.

Dog-fouling can have real impacts for tourism, and local authorities in other areas have resorted to more drastic measures to prevent the problem. Cornwall County Council has banned dogs from designated beaches between Easter Day and 1st October each year since 1984. 'We are not at that stage yet, but if it increases then who knows,' said Sgt MacKay.

**MURCHIE**  
MURCHIE SAND  
AND GRAVEL

#### CONCRETE WORKS

All forms including foundations, floor-slabs, driveways etc

#### DECORATIVE

All types of decorative stone chips

#### DRAINAGE & LANDSCAPING

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

#### BUILDING MATERIALS

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

#### PLANT HIRE

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

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



FREE  
QUOTES



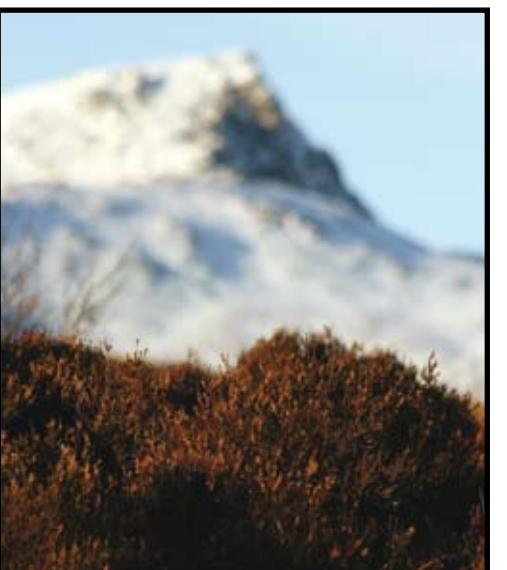
# Plant disease threat to Arran's moorland

**Brodict garden proves disease-free**

FEARS THAT THE plant disease Phytophthora kernoviae (Phyto-K) had spread to a local garden on Arran have been investigated over the past fortnight. Two weeks ago, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), which is monitoring the situation locally, investigated a suspected case of Phyto-K in a Brodict garden. Plants in the garden had shown cankers, including some on a rhododendron, a key host for the disease. 'We conducted the tests as a precaution,' said FCS's Andy Walker. 'But thankfully they proved negative.' No other residential gardens are currently being tested for the disease currently affecting the grounds of Brodict Castle — but it could devastate the island's heather moorland if it were to spread beyond the present containment zone.

Phyto-K could have catastrophic consequences for the economy if left unchecked, say environmental and landowner groups — but research by *The Arran Voice* shows that there is almost no concrete understanding by government agencies of the economic loss that could be caused. The plant disease hit the national headlines earlier this week, on the back of National Trust for Scotland concerns about the knock-on damage to Scotland's ecology and tourism. A wide consensus emerged among respondents to a recent consultation that more intensive control powers are necessary. Scottish Natural Heritage, the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh and Forestry Commission Scotland all agree that containment and eradication is the preferred policy.

One of the major fears is that the plant disease will spread to heather habitats. Incredibly, the UK has over 75% of the world's upland heathland. The majority of this heather resource is in Scotland and a fair proportion of it is scattered around Arran. The Scottish Government's Environment Directorate is working hard to gather data in this area, but there is no existing agreed figure for the economic value of Scottish heathland, and many fear that the current danger is being underestimated.



*The UK has 75% of the world's upland heathland. Arran's heather (pictured here at the top of the String road) is an important part of that.*

The Scottish Government consultation calculates that with minimum intervention, the loss of 'ecosystems services of heathland' would be just £20,000 over 20 years on the basis of it infecting 169 hectares. But this figure is not based on a systematic appraisal of heathland value. Instead it extrapolates from a forestry study and a general 'ecosystem value assessment' guide produced by DEFRA.

Scotland is losing 0.5% of its heather moorland every year, but Arran could lose its heather at a much higher rate if the disease is not contained. The Heather Trust said in its response to the Phytophthora consultation, 'There is too much at stake for us to sit back and do nothing.'

There are many different types of phytophthora, which is similar to, but distinct from fungi species. Phytophthora infestans caused the potato famine in Ireland in the 1840s and phytophthora ramorum (or Sudden Oak Death) has decimated oak trees in some U.S. states. But the Phyto-K disease has only been found in New Zealand and the British Isles — it is named after the old name for Cornwall (Kernow), where it has already devastated entire areas.

# Arran Malt is First Minister's Homecoming Tipple of Choice



KENNETH GIBSON MSP visited the Lochranza distillery last Tuesday, where he had 'very positive discussions' with Visitor Centre Manager Robin Bell on how, 'even in these unstable times', both the visitor experience at Lochranza and the profile of Arran's award-winning whiskies could be enhanced.

Following the visit, Mr Gibson presented First Minister Rt. Hon Alex Salmond with a bottle of limited edition 10 year old Robert Burns Single Malt Whisky — with great results.

The First Minister was delighted with the gift, and said the bottle would be given pride of place in his official Bute House residence. He added, 'It will be my tipple of choice for 2009 and distinguished visitors will be offered a dram.' What's more, the Members' Restaurant has,

subject to approval from the Parliament's Corporate Body this week, agreed to stock both Arran whisky and Arran Gold Cream Liqueur, winner of the World's Best Whisky Liqueur Award in 2007. Visitors from all over the world come to the Members' Restaurant, so it is a great way for the Arran whiskies to become even better known internationally.

The Robert Burns Single Malt will have a strong symbolic significance, too. As the First Minister pointed out, Rabbie's 250th birthday is the inspiration for the Year of Homecoming, which is 'very important to the Scottish Government and Scotland.' What better than to toast the great Ayrshire bard and our returning Scots with this specially produced Homecoming whisky from Arran?

## ARRAN HAULAGE SERVICES Ltd.

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



**Home Farm, Brodict, Isle of Arran KA27 8DD**  
 Tel: 01770 302 777 Fax: 01770 302 500  
 E-mail: [info@arranhaulage.co.uk](mailto:info@arranhaulage.co.uk) [www.arranhaulage.co.uk](http://www.arranhaulage.co.uk)  
**Mainland Depot:**  
 4 Queen Elizabeth Ave, Hillington Industrial Estate, Glasgow G52 4NQ  
 Telephone: 0141 882 6608





# PPP beset by school defects

## Multinational building contractor cannot switch off school lights

A SHADOW HAS been cast over the much-touted green credentials of the new PPP-built Arran High School. Since May, members of school staff have been unable to switch off the lights in the upstairs classrooms and corridor, due to a major electrical engineering problem. The lights can only be switched off as a total unit and the lights are frequently left on overnight, glowing in the Lamplash gloaming. The issue has caused teaching difficulties because in bright weather the whiteboards are difficult for pupils to see. Both North Ayrshire Council and Hochtief deny any delay to the repairs and state that the building is still within the 'defect liability period' due to expire on 8th January 2009.

### LONG LIST OF DEFECTS

However, the faulty lighting is just one of a long list of problems being experienced by staff and pupils at the school. *The Arran Voice* has been made aware of a whole range of unresolved issues with the High School building. Issues include unfixed damage to half a dozen computer monitors, continued leaks (some of which have now been fixed), defective machinery in the Craft Design and Technology classrooms and unsatisfactory external doors.

*The Arran Voice* contacted each contractor (Hochtief, Mitie PFI, North Ayrshire Council, Barr Construction and Keppie Design) to confirm the problems, and at the time of going to press had received responses from Hochtief PPP and NAC. Many of the issues are the inevitable teething problems associated with any new build of such a scale. But some problems require a significant amount of further work, prompting manoeuvring within the PPP as contracting parties try to agree who is responsible for which repair.

The doors in particular have never been satisfactory. Despite attempts at repair, they still give rise to concern, but both Hochtief and NAC declined to comment directly on any liability issues. Robin Know, PPP Compliance officer for NAC, said he could not comment on 'individual problems which may involve

suppliers or sub-contractors with whom we have no direct contract.' He added that 'communications between builder and the facilities team are working satisfactorily. The Council expects everything to be resolved, at the contractor's expense, by the end of the agreed liability period.'

### REASSURANCE

Michael McBrearty, Executive director of operations at Hochtief PPP Solutions (UK), confirmed this arrangement, adding that most of the items will be addressed by Barr Construction Ltd. 'Upon expiry of the DLP there is a contractual obligation for the building contractor to complete these works to the satisfaction of an independent 3rd party consultant,' he said. 'Please be assured there is no delay to the resolution of these issues since they are actively being addressed as soon as they become known.' He claimed that many of the issues are 'latent defects' which only become known once the contract starts, and said, 'There is an agreed protocol for dealing with these items to ensure resolution. These defects are the responsibility of the building contractor and the Council will not be liable for any associated costs.'

Both NAC and Hochtief were keen to point out the excellent facilities afforded by the new school. NAC expressed confidence that 'Hochtief and MITIE, the facility managers, will continue to manage Arran High School effectively to ensure that this excellent educational and community facility is maintained to the required standard for the next 30 years.'

### STANDARD SNAG-LIST OR THE CONTRACTUAL INERTIA OF A PPP FUNDING ARRANGEMENT?

Over the past few months, *The Arran Voice* has learnt of a wide range of issues with the school building that have yet to be resolved. These include the following:

- Lighting problem in upstairs classrooms
- Exit and entrance doors unsatisfactory

# Arran's 'food for thought' quiz

Amazingly, we haven't received a single complete set of correct answers to the Food For Thought Quiz, so we're going to publish the ten questions here again. The first correct entry to be received at the office (by hand, mail or e-mail) will win the hamper of local food goodies. It's yours for the taking!

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

- Damage to six computer monitors
- Water fountains required
- Staining to external walls of school
- Badminton court lining is smaller than standard size of badminton court
- Problems with temperature in music practice rooms
- Slippery floors in some classrooms
- Recurring leaks in the community theatre, office, main games hall and business education classroom
- Broken window at front entrance
- Inadequate machinery for Craft, Design and Technology classrooms
- Sound control room above community theatre provides inadequate view of the stage
- Problem with temperature in fitness suite
- Discolouration and dechroming of taps
- Sinks too close to electrical sockets in some classrooms
- Playing field has yet to be opened for use by the school

## Arranvoice.com Online Poll

This week's question is:

Do you support an extension of Marine Reserves network? (see page 10)

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

Last week's question was: Would you support a cull of young ravens on Arran?

Yes: 33.3%  
No: 55.6%  
Not Sure: 11.1%

Poll expresses views of those who've voted online.



# Editorial

## PPP AND HIGH SCHOOL REPAIRS

No building job is ever quite perfect. There can be few householders who have not muttered imprecations as the last small things that will complete the house or the improvements are left undone while the contractors drift away to begin work on something else. It is as if though those last, tiresome days of finalising and adjusting lie beyond the remit of the main contract, and are not taken quite seriously. On a domestic scale, this is merely irritating, but in the case of Arran High School, a large public building that has cost a staggering amount of money, the lapses are proportionately larger and have a more serious impact. Unlike the domestic householder, members of the cleaning and care-taking staff have no freedom to improvise small repairs and improvements, and while the reasons for this are fully understandable, it results in frustration if the official supervision is not effective either.

As the first year of the new building's use draws to a close, it becomes essential to express concern over the defects that have for so long been a cause of complaint from those working and learning in the school. Over many months, a whole string of problems has repeatedly been brought to the attention of *The Arran Voice* by teachers, pupils and other users of the school facilities. During this time we have refrained from publishing these concerns, out of respect for the inevitable teething problems faced when constructing a major facility,

but there comes a point when the well documented slowness or non-existence of repair work needs to be addressed.

Our highlighting of the shortcomings is by no means a blanket condemnation. The new building has much to commend it. The sense of airy space is a pleasure, the rooms are pleasant and the opening up of the surrounding ground has provided an exhilarating sense of new potential. The PE facilities are magnificent. However, the range of ongoing defects demonstrates a fundamental question about the efficacy of the PPP scheme in its ability to cope with normal running repairs. Its reluctance to admit to design faults that should be rectified point to a distant, uninvolved management style that is very unsuited to any school's needs as a living, constantly developing entity. An isolated mistake such as the design inadequacy of the community theatre's sound control room could be regarded as an exception, but the list of ongoing defects has been established for nearly a year, and the dilatory response to them is becoming a matter for serious concern.

No criticism whatever is made of any member of the school community. We have every respect and admiration for the High School staff and students, and for those responsible for the school's cleanliness and technical running. We do however feel that it is time to break silence about the shortcomings that waste resources and make life for users of the building unnecessarily difficult. It is time they were put right.

Quote

'A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.'

*George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950)*

*Or so he thought. Wrong, wasn't he. Ed.*

## THE ARRAN VOICE PRODUCTION TEAM

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

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

*The Arran Voice is registered as a newspaper*

## PRESS POLICY

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

# Voice mail

## Readers' News and Views...

### RECYCLE USED STAMPS FOR OXFAM

The season of Christmas post has come round again, bearing a harvest of used postage stamps. Please don't throw them away!

OXFAM can sell all our used stamps to raise funds for their charity work, and for some years past I have been their authorised local collection point on Arran. An ever widening group of islanders save stamps for OXFAM all year round. Businesses and schools would be especially welcome to join in! Any and all stamps are accepted from anywhere in the world, including the most plain and ordinary British sort. Please tear or cut them off leaving a 1cm border of envelope and bring your hoard to my address below, or telephone me to arrange collection. I forward them to OXFAM's stamp specialist in Troon for sorting and sale to worldwide stamp collectors.

I would just like to add a big thank-you to everyone who dropped off bags and envelopes of stamps at my house during the year.

*Happy Christmas*

*Janet Baraclough*

*Crimond, Strathwhillan, Brodick 303912*

### VALDETE BACK HOME FOR NOW

To our friends and supporters

I thought I should give you all an update on what is happening with Valdete. She is now back in Albania and will return to Arran early next year, we hope in February. She is very positive and is determined to walk even if it is with a walking frame. Our physiotherapist here gave us an exercise programme for her to follow and will make enquiries about sending Valdete to a specialist physiotherapy department on her return to the UK. It may be possible to fit her with special shoes to help give her support.

We had a busy couple of days in Albania. First, we went to see Doctor Qemali who did the initial scan and X-rays for us in Tirana. He translated Mr. Mackay's letter for Valdete's parents and told us about places to try and find a good physiotherapist. There is so little information in Albania, and most people don't have a GP as it costs money to see a doctor, so that is a last resort.

I couldn't begin to describe the two hospitals we visited, but I think our prisons are probably more comfortable and inviting than these two places. The third place was much better, a private hospital financed partly with government aid and through the Catholic Church. Here, we met an Albanian physiotherapist who had spent seventeen years in Italy gaining experience to bring back to help his own country. This is the only centre like this in Albania and it just opened that day. The minister of Health and the Vice President were there for the opening ceremony and asked Valdete to have her photograph taken with them because they thought she had a lovely smile! They now have their first properly trained staff from Tirana University and they have all been to Italy for clinical experience.

Valdete was assessed and began her rehabilitation programme the very next day. They will see her three times a week at a cost of ten euros per hourly session. I'm sure it is less than we would pay here but for Albanians it is a lot of money.

The next day we spent looking at what is needed in her home to help her become more independent and make life easier for her parents. Thanks to the people of Arran, we will be able to provide her with everything she needs.

I was shocked when the head of this department told me he could give me the names of a thousand young people like Valdete all needing help. This made us even more determined to go back to Albania to help set up help for these youngsters, as soon as we can.

Valdete and the whole Gjonpalaj family would like to thank you all for caring and being so generous.

*Sue Davidson*

*Sue and her husband, Julian, collected over £6,000 earlier this year to provide help for Valdete, crippled as a result of an illness in early childhood.*

### SHISKINE HALL IS FIFTY!

Shiskine Hall will be 50yrs on its present site in 2009. To this end, I wondered if any of your readers might have some memories of the move to the current premises. If anyone has any ideas on how to mark the occasion, the committee would be delighted to hear from you. I would also like to take this opportunity to note the recent improvements to our facility, none of which would be possible without support from island businesses.

Firstly, John Thomson Construction kindly lifted and donated the old gym floor from the High School, and Arran Haulage donated use of a lorry to transport said flooring over to Shiskine. Colin Currie of Bridge Farm assisted the committee with a trailer to move the wood up to the hall, before the floor itself was laid and sanded by John Robertson & Sons. Anyone who has been in the hall since will agree that the final outcome was worth every second of everyone's time!

Secondly, readers may have noticed the car park improvements, which have been ongoing for the last year. Whilst initial drainage and groundwork was carried out by Murchie Sand & Gravel, and NAC did the surfacing, the committee are especially grateful to Broombrae Grounds and Gardens for finishing the job off so beautifully and for donating the works that BGG carried out. Many thanks.

When you are part of a voluntary committee, you can feel isolated and frustrated at times, but gestures such as those outlined above let us know that community spirit on Arran is alive and well — our appreciation to all those businesses involved.

*Sheila Gilmore, Chair  
Shiskine Hall Committee*



# News in Brief...

## SEE THE BALLOONS EXPERIENCE!

For anyone unfortunate enough to have missed the run of 'Balloons', Arran's satirical musical, all is not lost. An excellent DVD of the show has been made by Chris Attkins, and is available from Ian Watt, Treasurer of the Theatre and Arts Trust, at £10.

Cheques should be made out to the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust and sent to Ian Watt at Rozelle, Blairbeg, Lamlash, Isle of Arran.

## HITTING THE HEADLINES

Our headline two weeks ago about the ferry failure — 'Super Caley fragile, is it? Hebri can't approach us' so tickled the Herald diarist Ken Smith last Wednesday that he quoted it, with a chuckle of approval. Fame at last!

## MORE LIGHT ON THE LAMP

Reporting Aidan Smith's find of a beautiful old oil lamp at ArCaS last week, *The Voice* offered to help him set up an Antiques Enthusiast service to identify any potentially valuable article brought in. But we have since learned that ArCaS itself already has such a service. Dorothy Harris, with her matchless experience in the antiques field, is the latest of a distinguished list of experts who oversee all articles brought in to the charity shop and suggest a fair price for them. However, ArCaS is blessed with great numbers of generous volunteers, and newcomers among them are not always aware of the details about the way incoming donations are handled. The lamp in question was in through the door, spotted by Aidan, paid for and whisked out again with the speed of a puff of magic smoke. No problem — Aidan got a splendid bargain, and as a result we now know that ArCaS offers an excellent advice service. The genie of the lamp brought good news for everyone!

## OBAN AIRPORT EMERGENCY EXERCISE

Anybody travelling via Oban airport on Saturday 13th December should take note that there will be an Emergency Planning Exercise at the airport, which may give the impression of unnervingly increased security. The exercise will take place between 10am and 12pm and will involve representative teams from the emergency services.

Argyll & Bute Council warns members of the public not to be

alarmed by the increased activity in and around the airport and says the operation is designed to protect the public in the event of a real emergency situation.

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MEETING

If you want to form your village into a community business or run your club or society as a social enterprise, this meeting is for you! Representatives of the Argyll and Bute Social Economic Network (ABSEN) will be on Arran next Wednesday 17th Dec, for an Open Forum at 7.30pm in Brodick Hall.

Anyone wishing to know more about Social Enterprise and about what opportunities there are for training and funding should come along to this event.

All companies, organisations and individuals who want to set up as a recognised community business are very welcome.

For further information call Claire Berrie on 01770 810 295 or e-mail: cumberrie@aol.com

## GOLD STAR FOR KILMICHAEL

Kilmichael Country House is among the first of Scotland's hotels to win the new Gold Star award from VisitScotland. These awards are discretionary, and as Tony Mercer, Head of Quality & Standards at VisitScotland, wrote in his letter to the hotel, they 'reflect an exceptional standard of hospitality, service and cuisine well above expectations for the grading of your establishment.' He added that the stars 'will naturally be limited to a select few establishments each year.'

Owners Geoffrey Botterill and Antony Butterworth were delighted to hear of this further accolade on top of their previous successes, and said that as former teachers it was very pleasing to be told, 'You've got 4 gold stars. Go to the top of the class!'

## LOCAL COMMUNITY TO BUY RUM

The island community of Rum is poised to take ownership of around £250,000 of land and assets, currently owned by Scottish Natural Heritage. The islanders will vote on the land-ownership change in the New Year, but it could see the transfer of a community hall, village shop, tea-room, campsite and surrounding land to the community. Rum has been owned by the Government agencies since 1957 and by SNH since 1992.



**THE JAZZ CAFE BAND**  
Traditional Jazz Band  
will be playing at  
**WHITING BAY HALL**  
on Friday 19th December  
8.00pm to 11-ish  
Admission a mere £3  
B.Y.O.B.  
**CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!**

**Exhibition and Sale of Works by Corrie Artists**

**Avril Paton, Jack Knox, Bob Lees, Bill Lees, John Inglis, David Boni, Gordon Davidson, Marvin Elliott, and Jake Irvine**

**All works can be taken immediately**

**Corrie Arts**  
12noon to 5pm  
Sunday 14th December to 17th January  
Closed 25th, 26th December and 1st & 2nd January



**Christmas Concert**  
at **Arran High School Theatre**  
**Thursday, 18th December**  
7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)  
**ALL WELCOME Tickets £3**  
Tickets are available from Arran High School

**ARRAN BRASS**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Monday 15th December**  
**Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm**  
**£4 Adults, £1 Children**  
Mulled Wine and Mince Pies afterwards



**Christmas at Brodick Castle**  
0844 4932152

**A Victorian Christmas**  
14th December  
12.00 - 4.00pm  
Family : £12  
Adult : £5  
NTS & Concession : £3  
A great family day out ~ see the Castle in all its Christmas glory ~ Brass Band, Childrens' Choir, Crafts & Santa too.  
**Christmas at the Castle**  
18th & 19th December  
7.30pm Adult : £5 Booking Essential  
An evening of Traditional Carols & Readings

**the National Trust for Scotland**  
a place for Christmas

The National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty is a charity registered in Scotland. Charity Number SC 007410



**GIFTS FOR HIM...**

Whether your man is the outdoor type or a stay-at-home, there are plenty of gifts to choose from in Arran's shops.

If he loves to be out and about, wrap him up warm in a Barbour jacket from the Old Byre Showroom, or get him boots from Arran Active or a ski-jacket from Bilslands. If his wardrobe's overflowing, then get him the great outdoors itself from Arran Adventure. All these outlets can offer gift vouchers if you can't decide what would suit him best. For the indoor guy there's a great selection of snug sweaters to be had, or why not get him some cosy slippers? Or you could buy your special man a unique item at the Arran Art Gallery — something you'll both enjoy for years to come.

But what about the other men in your life? Dad, a brother, uncles or just pals? Small gifts can be found at the Post Office with a selection of leather goods and stationery items, or you can pick up a book at Blackwaterfoot's Harbour Shop.

Don't leave it until the last minute! Enjoy having a browse and — why not treat yourself to a little gift while your at it?



**Winter Range of ANIMAL, HENLEYS & BEN SHERMAN  
plus PRINGLE.**

**TRESPASS SKI JACKETS just £29.99**

**25% off ASICS TRAIL RUNNING SHOES**

**Winter Offer: Receive a £5.00 voucher for every £50 spent**

**Café Specials: Soup & Toastie for only £4.99**

## THE HARBOUR SHOP

*Blackwaterfoot*

### WINTER OPENING HOURS

**Monday – Saturday**  
9am–1pm and 2pm – 5pm

**Sunday**  
12.30pm–4.30pm

### CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE HARBOUR SHOP

#### Mens Toiletry Gift Sets

Socks

Sweets

Watches

Books

and many more gift ideas  
for the festive season

**Xmas Cards, Gift Wrap,  
Tree Lights, Tinsel and  
Gift Vouchers also in stock**

**Telephone: (01770) 860 215**



### Practical Gifts for Him

**Gerber Multi-Tools — £10 off**

**Headtorches — from £9.99**

**Waterproof Gloves, Hat & Socks**

**Softshell Jackets from £39.99**

**Winter 3-in-1 Jackets — Half Price**

**Winter-lined Trousers — £10 off**

**Waterproof Jackets — SALE**

**Fleeces from £9.99**

**Failing that, there's always socks!**

**Opening Times:**

**Monday – Saturday, 10am–4pm**

**Sunday, 11am–4pm**

**Arran Active Outdoor Shop**  
Cladach Visitor Centre, Brodick  
01770 302 416

**Our Adventure Vouchers make excellent surprises for Christmas.**

**We look forward to making their Christmas Gift an Adventure to remember!**

Arran Adventure Company,  
Auchrannie Road, Brodick  
Isle of Arran  
[www.arranadventure.com](http://www.arranadventure.com)  
**01770 302244**



## Brodick Post Office Gifts for Him...

**Board Games**

**Jigsaw Puzzles**

**Candle Holders  
& Candles**

**Picture Frames**

**China Mugs**

**New range of leather  
wallets and coin purses**

**Radio-controlled Cars**

**Guitar Strings  
& Plectrums**

**Specialist Guitar  
& Mandolin Picks**

**Brodick Post Office**  
Mayish Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AA



## Arran Art Gallery

**Feast your eyes, and solve your gift problems at our newly refurbished gallery!**

Quality Original Paintings by local and mainland artists. Wide selection of mounted/framed or postable tubed limited edition prints from £40. Unique ceramics, sculptures, glass pieces. Local photographs. Gift tokens @ any value

Open daily, except Tues, Wed,  
9th, 10th, 16th, 17th Dec.

Visit us in Whiting Bay next to County Carpets  
or on [www.arranartgallery.com](http://www.arranartgallery.com)

**Tel. 01770 700250**



## Old Byre Showroom

Open 7 days a week



**Our suggestions for him include our large selection of...**

**Sweaters**

**Barbour Jackets**

**Sherpa Lined Zip-ups**

**Slippers**

**Leather Wallets**

**Scarves**

**Sgian Dubhs**

**and so much more...**

**Old Byre Coffee Shop also open 7 days, serving tea, coffee, lunches and home baking**

**Sheepskin Shop, Brodick open 6 days**

**We will post presents direct worldwide**

**Old Byre Showroom, Auchencar, Macchie**  
Isle of Arran, KA27 8EB Tel: 01770 840 227  
[www.oldbyre.co.uk](http://www.oldbyre.co.uk)



# Voice *extra* mail

## RAVEN ATTACKS

May I add some comments on your reporting of raven attacks on livestock last week? While I agree with Liz Robertson saying the raven population is outstripping its natural food supply and that these vicious birds are attacking living animals through hunger, that is not the case at Clachaig. At the time when most attacks took place calf creep feeders were in use. The ravens had free access to these and did feed freely from them. These birds here were not starving; they attack livestock because they want to. They are killers. We did on one occasion put sheep netting across the front of a feeder, so stopping the calves from getting into it but still allowing access to the ravens. A bag of feed (about 48lbs) was put in the feeder, it was gone the next day. This demonstrated the number of these birds and the amount they can consume.

Today, Sunday, we had a calf born overnight that had all four feet pecked through to the quick and bleeding. While two may have been done during calving the other two must have been done after birth. The calf will survive with treatment.

While I doubt if the bird lobby will ever accept the damage these birds can do, it has been well established with Seerad the danger they pose. Licences to take ravens are granted under the '81 Act 'for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or fisheries'. The trouble is that when a licence is issued it contains clauses that make it very difficult to use. The use of even an artificial decoy is banned. Indeed last winter when a consultation on the review of licences was taking place a clause banning the use of any sighting device on a gun was put forward. The L & T committee of NFUS assumed that this was referring to a telescopic sight but we realised that even a bead on a shotgun was a sighting device. Had this clause been approved it would have barred any shooting as a control method. Since the review in April, clause 8, which allowed the use of any corvid as a decoy in a cage trap (not a Larsen trap), has mysteriously had another sentence added banning the use of ravens as decoys. When and where this has come from is now being actively pursued.

I am somewhat surprised by

Graham Walker's comment that only one licence issued on Arran fulfilled its quota. The issue and use of such licences are strictly controlled, with the user required to within 30 days of the end of the licence period put in a return to Seerad of the number of ravens taken. I can assure readers that within two days of that return being overdue a letter will arrive demanding it. I have had four licences since January 2007, and in each case the quota was fulfilled. Is there little wonder that farmers will not accept bird counts supplied by SNH?

Finally I ask the Editor to publish all the other pictures in her possession (the gory bloody ones) so that readers may see fully the damage caused by these birds.

*Jim Climie, Clachaig, Kilmory*



*Nick Underdown was the author of last week's 'Raven livestock attacks feared' article. The reporter was sufficiently confident of sources to rely upon some anecdotal evidence for the story. Moreover, all organisations quoted were on record as accepting there is an issue with raven attacks on livestock. Although the debate centres more around what the solution to the problem should be, further research would obviously be valuable.*

*Nick asks, If ravens can be trapped (not killed) with decoy traps, would it be possible to trap a proportion of Arran's raven population and re-distribute the fine birds to areas of Scotland where they are known to be scarce? Or would this spread a threat to livestock elsewhere?*

## Marine News

By **John Kinsman**  
**Fishing Correspondent.**

### LONG DISTANCE CLIFF RESCUE FROM PRESTWICK

A Royal Navy Rescue Helicopter from HMS Gannet, Prestwick flew across Scotland to the East Neuk of Fife on Saturday afternoon December 6 to rescue a man who had fallen on cliffs between Earlsferry and St Monans (home of our Fishing Correspondent.)

The man had slipped and fallen, injuring his back. Local coastguards were in attendance, but when the helicopter arrived on the scene it airlifted the injured man to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for treatment.

### WEST COAST FISHING HOPES

John Hermse and John McAllister of the Mallaig and North-West Fishermen's Association (MNWFA) say they 'had a good hearing' from UK Fisheries Minister Huw Irranca-Davies in Glasgow last week.

Mr Irranca-Davies said he fully understood the frustrations on the West Coast of Scotland and would do all he can to persuade the European Commission to agree to alterations to a shutdown, such as voluntary closures and new net sizes.

The Fisheries Council meet in Brussels later this month to decide on fish quotas for 2009.

## Isle of Arran SWRI Federation

AT THE MEETING held on 4/12/08 in the Auchrannie Spa, President Mrs Williamson welcomed all the delegates.

The main business of the meeting was the 2009 show to be held on August 5th in Arran High School, when the Convener will be Mrs Gill Butcher of Lamlash Institute.

The following show schedule items were agreed: The theme for the Community Tray & Handcraft competitions is 'Wedding'.

The items for the tray are: a six inch cake, the decoration only to be judged. Four different canapes, a drink (specify if alcoholic), four different sweets; and two items of own choice.

The handcraft competition is one knitted or crocheted article, one sewn article, and two items of own choice, but of different crafts. The magazine competition is a rich Jamaican loaf, the recipe for which is in the October 2008 magazine. Show raffle tickets will be sent to institutes for their February meetings.

The Jamaican loaf recipe is the same for the Anne Wallace sugar sifter competition. Members wishing to enter this should bring their loaf to the June 2009 federation meeting, where the winner will be chosen to go forward to the National Conference in September.

After coffee and hot mince pies the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Eunice.

## Arran High School Brass Band

By **Jim Arnold**



THE ARRAN HIGH School Brass Band gave a splendid concert in Whiting Bay Hall on Sunday 7th December. It was very pleasing to hear all these young people playing so well and seeing them make such good representation of themselves, their school and their families. There was also excellent support from the parents in the way of tasty soups, generous sandwiches, excellent homebaking and very professional, home-made sweets.

## Top 10 Books

### WHAT'S HOT IN THE BOOK WORLD?

1. Guinness World Records
2. Dear Fatty, by Dawn French
3. At My Mother's Knee, by Paul O'Grady
4. Jamie's Ministry of Food, by Jamie Oliver
5. Parky: The Autobiography, by Michael Parkinson
6. The Appeal, by John Grisham
7. High School Musical: The Annual
8. That's Another Story, by Julie Walters
9. For Crying Out Loud! by Jeremy Clarkson
10. You've Been Warned. Patterson/Roughan



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

Alternatively, send details of your event to:

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

#### EVERY DAY (OR MOST DAYS)

Arran Craft Gallery, beside Bilslands, Brodick—open Monday–Saturday  
Arran Art Gallery, Shore Road, Whiting Bay—closed for holidays  
The Burnside Gallery & Exhibition Space, Sculpture Garden, Auchrannie Road—open daily (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, 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 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  
Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, 3–5pm  
KA Jog, all levels, KA Campus, Lamlash, 5.30–6.30pm  
Pilates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–6.45pm  
Beavers & Cubs, Theatre & Dance Studio Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.15–8pm  
Junior Scottish Country Dancing, Lamlash Church Hall, 6–7pm  
Legs, Bums & Tums, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–7.15pm  
Outdoor Boot Camp, Ormidale Park, Brodick 7–8pm  
Brodick Bridge Club, Ormidale Pavillion, 7.15pm  
Brodick Embroidery Group, Library, Brodick, 7.30pm  
Middle Eastern Dancers' Practice & Lessons, Lamlash, Church Hall, Beginners 7.30–8.30pm, Intermediates 8.30–9.30pm  
General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

#### FRIDAY 12TH

Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am  
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am  
Coffee Morning, Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 10.30am  
Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, restart on 9th January 2009  
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 13TH

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All day  
RNLI Shop Lamlash open 10.30am–12.30pm  
Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 11.30–12.30am  
Brodick Children's Party (up to P4), Brodick Village Hall, 2–4pm  
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 14TH

Boys' Football, KA Campus, Lamlash (Astroturf or Games Hall), 10–11am  
Arran Wargames Club, Arran High School, Lamlash, 1–4pm  
Kids' Club Sunday Matinée, 1.30–3pm  
AA Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Margaret's Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm  
Fiddle Class, Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 5.30–6.30pm  
Corrie Filmclub's X-mas Double Bill & Supper, *The Weeping Camel* (Mongolia, Davaa/Falorni) & *Some Like it Hot* (USA, 1959, Billy Wilder), Corrie Village Hall, 6.30pm

#### MONDAY 15TH

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.30–10.30am & 10.45–11.45am  
Ways 2 Walk Group, Ormidale Pavillion Car Park, Brodick, 11am  
*The Snow Queen*, Brodick Primary School Play, Brodick Primary, 1.30pm  
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  
Arran High School, Juniors' Christmas Party, 4.30–7pm  
Sannox Cricket Club, Indoor Practice, Auchrannie Gym, Brodick, 7–9pm  
Lamlash Bridge Club, Golf Club House, Lamlash, 7.15pm  
*The Snow Queen*, Christmas Play, Brodick Primary School, 7.30pm  
General Knowledge Quiz, Cameronia, Whiting Bay, 9.30pm

#### TUESDAY 16TH

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.45–10.30am  
Pulmonary Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30pm  
Pirnmill Primary School, Christmas Show, Primary School, 1.30pm  
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  
Lamlash Primary School Christmas Performance, Arran High School Theatre, Lamlash, 7pm  
Shiskine Primary School Christmas School Concert, Village Hall, Shiskine, 7pm  
Shapers, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 7–8pm  
Scottish Country Dancing, Christmas Party, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Arran Rotary Meeting, Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, Brodick, 7pm  
Scottish Country Dance Class, Brodick, Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Rowan Singers' Christmas Concert, tickets at Book & Card or from members, Village Hall, Brodick, 7.30pm for 8pm  
Pop Music Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

#### WEDNESDAY 17TH

Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am  
Yogalates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 10–11am  
AIMS Advocacy and CAB Outreach Service, Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 11am–2pm  
Core Strength, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 5.30–6pm  
Kick Boxing, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6–7pm  
Kilmory Primary Christmas School Concert, Kilmory Church, 7pm  
Circuit Training, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–7.15pm  
Arran Rugby Club S1–U18 from 6.30pm, Seniors from 7.30pm  
Arran High School Seniors' Christmas Party, 7.30–10.30pm  
Hockey, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 7–8pm  
Arran Brass Band Rehearsal, Lesser Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.15–9.15

#### THURSDAY 18TH

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 Primary School Christmas Concert, Primary School, 2–4pm  
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  
Arran High School Christmas Concert, Theatre, AHS, Lamlash 7pm for 7.30pm, tickets at the school office  
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

### REMAINING VILLAGE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTIES/SCHOOL EVENTS

Chocolate Morning, Lamlash Primary School, sale of recipe books and chocolates, 9.30am

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

### PLAN AHEAD

Schools off for X-mas/New Year, Monday, 22nd December 2008–Sunday 4th January 2009

AHS Parents' evenings S4—Monday, 26th January, 7pm

AHS Parents' evenings S1—Thursday, 5th February, 4.15pm

AHS Parents' evenings S2—Tuesday, 28th April, 7pm

Half Term School Holidays—Monday, 9th–Thursday 12th February

Schools' In-Service Day—Friday 13th February

Arran Drama Festival 2009—25th–28th February

Arran Music Festival 2009—25th, 26th & 27th March

Schools' Easter Holidays 2009, Monday 6th April–Sunday 19th April

Schools' In-Service Day—1st May

Wyrd Sisters, Play by Terry 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



# On the Green

By **Alison Prince**

## It was Yesterday

IN WHITING BAY Post Office on Saturday afternoon I asked, 'When's the last date for Christmas post to Australia?' I felt quite pleased with this enquiry. It showed I was well organised, I thought. Ahead of the game, all that stuff. But Larry, who minds the shop for John on Saturdays, looked faintly pitying. 'It was yesterday,' he said.

*Yesterday?* But we were only just into December, weren't we? Well, not really. The first week had just about gone. The days, as it says in the song, 'dwindle down to a precious few.' Days are at it the whole time, running around in some sneaky way of their own, never there when they are wanted. Look back, and you can see how many there were. You wonder why they didn't give you a nudge and point out that they weren't staying long. Look forward — well, no, better not. Days are rapidly turning into a scarce commodity, so their value is rocketing up. Why, in that case, can't they slow down a bit, so they can be properly noticed and enjoyed?

Reproachful silence greets that question. It slumps to the floor like a tired Labrador while the days stand around with their arms folded,

whistling through their teeth and glancing at the ceiling while their unspoken response makes itself felt. *And whose fault is that?* they enquire.

Oh, all right. Honestly, there's always someone nagging, isn't there. First it's the parents, shouting you out of your bed on dark mornings to leave your warmth and dreams and go to a large school smelling of other people where you shuttle around all day like a ball in a pin-ball machine. Then there are sundry jobs, all of which require you to treat the strange stupidity of your employer with a gravity that he plainly does not deserve. The parents, tutting from a not quite great enough distance, are somehow added to by a husband who seems like the love of your life until he turns into a pixillated ego-maniac. Meanwhile the house, flat or hovel whinges about its missing slates and the untidiness of its various objects (newspapers, cat-dishes, the avocado tree dominating the bathroom) and threatens to explode its immersion heater. And then, of course, there is the ongoing tsunami of a family. When you attain dry land after that lot there's a re-start moment that seems to last for about five minutes, while you stare at a dandelion as



if you had never seen such a lovely thing before. Then this lunatic speed-up begins.

### TAKE-OFF

At first, it's rather exhilarating, like the first few times of take-off in some thundering plane. (Actually, in real terms I still love the way the wings quiver under the strain and the sense of the engines giving it full blast, with pilot and co-pilot ramming the throttle forward. It's the hideous lounges and artificial light and smell of tired, expensive food that make flying so horrible.) But doing things too fast soon palls, as does an overdose of Ryanair. One is separated from the minutes. They have taken off on their own like some new generation that returns with studs in its navels and strange gizmos in its ears, supercharged with confidence and recklessly mixed drinks. Only very occasionally do the minutes stand and face you. And when they do, it's Christmas. That is the only time when the engine of work and spending, powered by galloping time, splutters to a halt.

In a couple of weeks from now, everything is going to stop. A few dutiful souls in the Caring Professions

will still be manning ambulances and watching dials in power stations, but the rest of the Christian(ish) world is going to do nothing but wrap some things up and unwrap others, watch a lot of rather unimaginative telly and grapple with Brussels sprouts. Because this total cop-out is coming terribly soon, the mechanics of its observance must be put in place, right now. Not later — the onwards roll has stopped. This is Now. The cards still in their packets must be written, addressed and sent, or people will be hurt and/or worried. Presents must be selected or a substitute kindness agreed with the recipient. Charities will benefit, a notional goat waits to be contributed to an unknown village in Africa. Children are still in a position of power, though. A grandson waits to receive the Great No-practice Magic Tricks Book, and will drive his parents mad with one metal ring and a lot of yellow string.

Christmas is like a half-brick in the path that you stub your toe on. Limping a bit from the shock, you face the flying minutes, then do what has to be done. The Australian parcel went this morning. John thought it would probably be OK.

## Warm and Green? Get a grant!

HOLYROOD IS encouraging energy schemes that contribute towards our emission targets, and is offering financial help through four separate government schemes that can provide grant aid to Arran residents and small businesses. These are as follows:

- For private householders, the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (SCHRI) offers 30% of costs up to a maximum of £4,000.
- For small businesses, such as hotels & guest houses, the Scottish Biomass Heat Scheme (SBHS).
- For land-based businesses, such as farms & forestry concerns, the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRD).
- For community run projects, the Community Energy Scotland (CES) scheme.

Full details can be obtained through the sites of any of these agencies, or by visiting the "Use Woodfuel" or HIE websites. Arran Woodfuels can answer any questions and provide advice and assistance on all schemes:

- [http://www.arranwoodfuels.co.uk/grants\\_and\\_schemes.html](http://www.arranwoodfuels.co.uk/grants_and_schemes.html)
- <http://www.usewoodfuel.co.uk/ScottishBiomassHeatScheme.stm>
- <http://www.hie.co.uk/community-energy.html>

## AGM, mince pies and sculpture

AT THE AGM of Arran Visual Arts last Friday, business was concluded briskly, then Tim Pomeroy gave a talk about his work that was both impressive and entertaining. At Hamilton Academy he was not allowed to take art, and started a university course in Latin, English and History. It didn't last long. He worked on the Arran ferry and 'became a folk singer for a while', but eventually applied for Art school 'having never touched a brush in anger.' It was, he said, 'a transformation'. The countless slides of his work and the pile of 40 intensely worked sketchbooks heaped on the table bore witness to the truth of that. From his decision in 1983 to stop lecturing and 'do actual art', he went through incredibly hard times, but he is now becoming one of the rising stars of British sculpture, with pieces selling to a wide public, including the Duke of Devonshire and the Beatson Clinic. Next year sees his one-man show at Agnew's in London.

Fascinated members of the audience went on talking to Tim over mince pies and mulled wine dispensed by Nikki Surridge (pictured).





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

### COME ALONG AND SING

Christmas Carols at  
Kilmory hall with the  
Arran Brass Monkeys

6.30pm, Sun 21st December

Tea, Coffee, mince pies, mulled  
wine & Ronnie's Nuts!

*Jewellery and painting in  
artist's home*

Gordon Davidson is holding a  
Christmas sale of jewellery and  
paintings in his Corrie house,  
up the steep slope from the old  
harbour. Proceeds to support a  
young lad in Peru.

### Lamlash Primary Christmas Concert

to be held  
in Arran High School Theatre,  
Tues 16th Dec at 7.00pm.



### HOMES WANTED

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

### Community Business

An open forum on Social  
Enterprise Networking, Training  
and Funding will be held on  
Wednesday 17th Dec at 7.30pm  
in Brodick Hall. Anyone interested  
in setting up a Community  
Business will find this very  
interesting.

### Lamlash SWRI

The Children's Christmas party  
will be held in the High School on  
Saturday 20th December,  
2.30-4.30pm. We look forward  
to seeing all children up to, and  
including, primary five.

Santa has promised to be  
there at 4 o'clock — Please  
come along.

### Chocolate Morning Lamlash Primary School,

Friday 19th Dec 9.30am.  
Recipe books  
and chocolate goodies  
for sale.

Seniors Badminton will  
restart on  
Friday 9th January.

## Co-op launches 'Marine Reserves Now' campaign

THE CO-OPERATIVE this week launched a 'Marine Reserves Now' campaign in conjunction with the Marine Conservation Society (MCS). It argues that by 2002, nearly 30% of the UK's seas must be designated as highly protected No Take Zones like the one in Lamlash Bay, to enable marine wildlife to recover from decades of over-fishing and habitat destruction.

Paul Monaghan, head of social goals and sustainability at the Co-operative, noted that many of the fish species that used to be common are now facing extinction. The Atlantic halibut and the ironically named 'common' skate are among those critically endangered, and only eight out of Britain's 47 once plentiful fish species are still in a healthy state.

Dr Jean-luc Solandt, biodiversity policy officer of the MCS, agrees completely, and said, 'We have dithered while Rome burns.' He went on to describe how marine reserves are 'a cost-effective way to achieve benefits for wildlife' and added that they make 'social, economic and ecological sense.' He criticised the Marine Bill currently being debated in Parliament, saying it is 'just window-dressing in terms of recovery and sustainability'. Although it advocates the creation of marine conservation zones, it lacks specific proposals on their extent or what level of protection they would receive. A DEFRA spokesman tacitly agreed, commenting that the Bill should facilitate better protection for marine life 'for example through Marine Conservation Zones.'

Talking to *The Arran Voice* on Tuesday of this week, Dr Solandt said MCS was delighted to have been part of the development of Lamlash Bay as the UK's second No Take Zone. But he was concerned that the process had taken so long and was so difficult, and felt that it will 'take a much larger push' to create more protected zones like Lamlash Bay. Summing up, he said, 'Only if industry and society shout loud enough can we convince sceptical politicians to sit up and take notice. We hope you can inspire the trend to spread!'

## Artist's open house

CORRIE ARTIST GORDON Davidson has opened up his house this week for an end-of-the-year exhibition of his 2008 work. Usually held in Glasgow, Gordon decided to remain in Corrie and has already received a wee stream of visitors at Prospect, where a diverse range of landscapes are hung on the cosy walls. Gordon is pictured above with his acrylic painting of a 'spring meadow at Imachar,' a striking evocation of the seasonal flowers above the purplish clifftops north of Dougarie. The painter explained that he was out for a walk and stumbled on the scene. 'I don't usually like painting flowers, but the colours were incredible.' Racing back to fetch a canvas from his home in Corrie, he returned paints in hand within a couple of hours. Gordon says he plans to paint a series of the area in 2009 as a treatment of the changing

light and seasons.

Some of the proceeds from the art sale will be donated to Gordon's long-lasting support of a child in Peru. 'He's almost at the upper age limit now,' he says with some regret, 'but I'll take on another one.'

The exhibition also features the jewellery of Rona Davidson and runs until Sunday at Prospect in Corrie.



## Pirnmill rings new church bell

PIRNMILL'S CHURCH of Scotland congregation inaugurated its newly-stationed church bell last weekend. The bell, made in 1859, was previously hung in a church in Dalmellington, but in 1999 it found its way to the shores of Arran. On Saturday morning, the senior elder of the church rang the bell eight times before saying 'And all's well.' Two hymns were sung during the special service on a clear blue sky day overlooking a tranquil Kilbrannan Sound.

The bell situated just outside the small church in Pirnmill would have been too heavy to fix to the roof. Instead, metalworker Simon Horne from the village was commissioned to make a small free-standing bell-tower to house it.

A drum with two hoops forms a St Andrew's cross and a crucifix with four cardinal points. 'It was a simple, but



purposeful design,' said Simon.

The beautiful peal of a deep church bell will now be a familiar sound on the west coast of Arran every Sunday.





## Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**

*Amateur Meteorologist*

### SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S FORECAST

Things went more or less as I expected. The nasty blizzards forecast in the other media came to nothing. It just goes to show that weather forecasting is far from an exact science. It's experience and judgments based on information available at the time. The blizzards didn't arrive due to a rise of only one or two degrees in the temperature.

### General Summary for 10th December to 15th December:

There're some pretty complicated things happening up there. Wednesday's charts show a ridge of high pressure spreading towards us almost like a spur from a huge anticyclone in the middle of the Atlantic. There is also an active depression in the North Sea which is moving down through England on Thursday.

To further complicate matters there is a huge deep depression south of Greenland spreading its influence towards us by Friday, and bringing some very strong winds. By Saturday it will have its centre fixed just north Scotland and these winds may move south towards England. However these strong winds look like staying with us throughout the weekend.



### Thursday

That spur of high pressure should give us a nice start to the day with some good sunny weather. It will be cold and frosty, though. Only around 5°C, but the winds will stay light, mainly from the south. Cloud will start to move in by the afternoon, but it should stay dry for the rest of the day.



### Friday

Things are starting to go downhill, I'm afraid. It will become a bit milder at 8°C, but with clouds beginning to thicken we shall see some light rain in the morning, and by the afternoon there will be some very heavy showers and a strengthening wind from the south west. These could get up to 25mph or more by afternoon and get close to gale force in the evening.



### Saturday

Looks like heavy showers all day with strong winds up to 25mph again in the morning but decreasing a little in the evening. Still mild at 10°C to start but temperatures dropping rapidly and sleet and snow are likely later. A thoroughly horrible day in prospect.



### Sunday

Wind and rain easing up a bit, but still lots of showers. It will also become much colder again at around 4°C (and feeling much colder in the strong winds), so showers will be very wintry and we could find ourselves with sleet and snow.



### Monday

Very wet and cold, with the winds increasing again from the south west, approaching gale force for part of the day. Heavy and prolonged showers in the morning, then easing off just a little.

### Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

I'm afraid the outlook is nasty. Cold, wet and windy for the rest of the week.

### Ferry Notes

Friday evening will be very windy, and the ferry could be disrupted, although at present the wind should be from the south which is more favourable than the west. As things look just now I wouldn't expect a trouble free morning on Saturday. Things will improve a bit later in the day, though. Monday is also looking dodgy so keep a weather eye open on shorter term forecasts.



## Time is Gone

By **John Tilbury**

*'Time is gone, the song is over, thought I'd  
something more to say'*  
Roger Waters

TO MANY A Pink Floyd fan, myself included, Roger Waters is partially known as a 'jerk'. Well, yes, he did become power-crazy in the band during the late 70s, and he fired the late Rick Wright for being on holiday. But despite being rather irritating, he did write some really good lyrics. Here's an example from the song called 'Time':

'You are young and life is long, and there is time to kill/ And then one day you find, ten years have got behind you/ No one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun.' It shows how time can be so quickly and easily spent — or wasted.

So why am I droning on about an old rock band and a lyric about how 'Every year is getting shorter, never seem to find the time'? Simple — I turned sixteen in October. It is quite a milestone, the big One-Six. Just knowing I could leave home, school, get married, have children, and various other human rights. But I'm not planning on any of that yet — I am in fifth year at High School, and that can be summed up by one word that could be thought of as a knell: *Highers*. Yes, I'm undertaking the masses of papers and notes and folders of the Higher Grade Course, and I have noticed that my free time has diminished greatly.

So, with this new pressure on my shoulders, as it is on everyone else in fifth year, I have decided that I have grown old and busy. And on that note, I declare that this is my last *Wee Voice*.

It's been an interesting journey. The

*Wee Voice* column has changed much since Zoë Tomalin and others started it up last year. It's already covered a wide range of topics seen through the eyes of the young 'uns, from Hairstyles to Holidays, from Solitude and Sadness to the Edinburgh Fringe. If you've missed any, be sure to register on the website, and you'll be able to read every *Wee Voice* in existence. Hurrah for the internet!

I was fourteen when the *Wee Voice* started. These have been two of the most changing years in being a teenager, and a part of them has been taking my turn at writing for this small space. By consciously ending my time as a *Wee Voice* columnist, it feels like turning a page in my life. I've had lots of fun thinking up ideas to write about, and I've had some praise for them. I'm surely going to miss being a '*Wee Voice-ee*'.

But not to worry. This column has found a new troupe of young writers, sending in their pieces. With writers such as Katharine O'Donnelly, Christian Pomeroy, Catherine McEachern and Christopher Jenks, the torch has already been passed, and is in very capable hands.

And for that minority who might have liked my articles (yeah, wishful thinking...), I'll still write in *The Voice* for other happenings, so I'm not gone for good. But it's now one in the morning and bed calls. Goodnight!

*This is the last Wee Voice by John Tilbury,  
whose desk groans under its load of Pink  
Floyd nostalgia. Thanks from all of us, and  
best of luck with the big H.*

## Corrie kicks off Christmas spirit

THE NOW ANNUAL Stanza's Christmas Extravaganza will take place this Saturday, 13th December, at Corrie church at 7.00pm and will raise much-valued funds for the Arran Youth Foundations group and Corrie Church.

The festive concert, which attracts folks from around the island, will feature the usual A-class list of musicians and performers, led by the fantastic voices of Crawford Logan and Peter Alexander Wilson (tenor) and Peter Thomson (baritone), accompanied by Michelle Thomson on piano. Together they will perform popular Christmas music as well as readings, excerpts of Dickens

and more modern poetry and verse.

'There will be something for everyone,' said co-organiser Peter Wilson. 'There should be plenty of interest for the children too.' A donation by Corrie Church to Arran Youth Foundations forms part of a community-wide effort to raise funds for new, improved youth facilities in Brodick. The cabin, now in place behind Brodick Hall is a welcome, but temporary building until a purpose-built youth centre is funded.

Tickets for this enjoyable and worthwhile concert are available on the door, or call 01770 810210 for more information.



arranbusinesssolutions.com

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

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

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

email: craig@arranbusinesssolutions.com  
web: www.arranbusinesssolutions.com  
phone: 01770 300203  
mobile: 07876 500262





£5 Voucher

Bring this voucher and get £5 off your next treatment with Jan Attkins MCThA

Offer limited to one voucher per person  
Appointment necessary

At Inspirations of Arran  
Telephone: 01770 302 990



Forestry Commission  
Scotland

Christmas Trees for Sale

Every weekday,  
8th – 24th December

Also Saturday, 13th December  
Open Midday – 4.30pm

Forest Office, Auchrannie Road, Brodick

Opening Soon!

The Arran Cattery at Woodside Farm

For cat holidays contact us now



Tel: 01770 820 361  
Mob: 07707 270 468  
E-mail: [karenjaugier@hotmail.com](mailto:karenjaugier@hotmail.com)

# Football's the winner at primary tournament

ARRAN'S PRIMARY PUPILS demonstrated some impressive match skills and enthusiasm for the beautiful game last Sunday during a special football festival at Ormidale Park.

Some of the smaller teams showed real improvement from the previous festival held during the spring and all primary squads played sportingly throughout the action-packed line-up of twenty-one matches, refereed by Brian Smith and Ian McLaren.

The Pirmill squad showed real spirit to beat both Brodick B and Corrie and pull off a nail-biting draw against last year's winners Shiskine. Pirmill primary's Ben Innes scored a fantastic solo run during the team's 2-1 defeat against Lamlash.

Corrie also earned a shock victory against Lamlash with a good early goal from Jamie McLaren. Lamlash's Marcel Gren scored a last minute screamer before the match finished up 2-1. Marcel's teammate Michael MacFarlane also scored a great top corner strike in a later game against Pirmill.

For spectators, it was a Baltic winter's afternoon, but some parents decided to fend off the chill by getting animated on the touchline, with some effective primary team managers emerging, such as Janet Logan and Dan Goronwy.

By the end of the afternoon Brodick A team had pipped Shiskine at the post to claim the tournament trophies, by winning four of their six games. Co-organiser Ann Hart awarded some advent calendars to Shiskine whose ace strikers won the penalty shoot-out competition by slotting four goals by goalkeeper Rachel Mulholland. Rachel's penalty-save ratio was higher than 50%. Collecting most 'player of the match' nominations throughout the afternoon, Corrie's Jamie McLaren won player of the tournament.

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brodick A	6	4	1	1	11	3	13
Brodick B	6	0	1	5	2	12	1
Corrie	6	1	1	4	2	10	4
Lamlash	6	3	2	1	4	3	11
Pirmill	6	2	1	3	6	3	7
Shiskine	6	3	3		6	2	12
Whiting Bay	6	3	1	2	6	5	10



Shiskine win the penalty competition



Fiona Bulger lines up to tackle Lamlash's mazy dribbler Michael MacFarlane



Good ball control, Jamie McLaren wins player of the tournament



Coach Dan Goronwy organizes the squad



No disguising. Festival organiser Ian McLaren is a dedicated Buddie



Janet Logan watches on as Pirmill impress



Kerr Rankin tussles for possession



Goalkeeper Rachel Mulholland saves a penalty



A timely slide tackle

## Arran Artists Calendar

TWELVE OF THE island's most distinguished artists have contributed to the Arran Artists calendar. It's a great collection of paintings and sculptures reproduced in high-quality photographs, and each month features a work that is worth pinning on your wall to cheer you up in these short winter days. John Connelly's *Seaside Joy*, with its happy kid bouncing in the waves (see advertisement), is an obvious choice for June, but January is just as enticing, with a sunlit and colourful picture called *The Road to Peggy's*, by Bob Lees. Ronnie McNeice's *Cow Paddling* is enough to make anyone want to go wading in the calm sea on a summer afternoon, and Marjorie McDougall's *Another Windy Day* takes an amused look at colourful beach huts leaning askew between the sea and the tree-lined hill.

These four are picked at random, but a further eight contributions are equally rewarding, each one expressing a totally individual view. The whole collection is a feast of delights, perfect for those of us who live here but even more valuable to the unfortunate souls marooned elsewhere who remember their last blissful holiday and long to come back to Arran.

### Arran Artists Calendar 2009 On Sale Now!



Price Slashed!  
Now £9.99

Arran Art Gallery  
Arran Craft Gallery  
Arran Brewery  
Arran Transport

Arran Voice  
Bay News  
Bay Stores  
Bilslands

Book and Card  
Brodick Post Office  
Catacol Hotel  
Cladach Pottery

Harbour Shop  
Jimmie Gordons  
Kildonan Stores

Kilmory Village Hall  
Old Byre Showroom  
Pirmill Shop

Shiskine Golf Course  
The Burnside  
The Lemon Tree  
The Village Shop  
Whiting Bay Post Office

## FREE PERSONAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Christmas Message: \_\_\_\_\_



The Rowan Singers'

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Brodict Hall  
Tuesday 16th December 2008  
at 8.00pm  
with  
Arran Brass

Tickets £6 Children £2  
(includes Tea/Coffee/Juice and Mince Pie)  
available from member and  
Book and Card Shop, Brodict

Profits to Arran Youth Foundation  
and Yorkhill Childrens Hospital  
Scottish Charity No SCO 33994

Positive Pictures

PROFESSIONAL VIDEO PRODUCTION  
for Business Promotion & Live Events  
Tel: 01770 302 397  
[www.PositivePictures.co.uk](http://www.PositivePictures.co.uk)

ARRAN  
YESTERPRINTS

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

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

Christmas Concert  
in Corrie Parish Church

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

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

Arran Domestic Service Centre  
for on island supply, delivery and service

Bosch appliances on show in store at  
Unit 4, The Douglas Centre, Brodict,  
Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ

Your local Euronics Centre  
Tel: 01770 302 909

BOSCH  
Invented for life

Copperwheats  
Winter Opening  
Hours



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

Eleanor's Flowers  
For Every Occasion

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

The Burnside

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

Easy access, Parking, Sculpture Garden  
[info@theburnside.com](mailto:info@theburnside.com) [www.theburnside.com](http://www.theburnside.com)

CLADACH SAWMILL

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

BRODICK 01770 302471



# Your drama club wants you!

THE ARRAN MUSIC and Drama Club has called upon the island's sporting physiques to help out with the production of their 2009 musical 'The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.' The Club has a large number of people already preparing the next production, but one of the musical's scenes — featuring a visit by an American football team to a brothel — presents a problem for the directors. There is a shortage of athletic-looking men amongst the existing cast, explains Maureen Smith, so the club is on a recruitment drive.

Maureen hopes that some of the Arran rugby team or any other of the island's sporting gents will want to get involved and guarantees that it will be good fun. The scene will involve some energetic dancing and the Club promises to coax out the very best in everyone's singing voice.

'Preferably they would be under 40,' said Maureen Smith. 'But then again if they've got the physique, then we'll take anyone. They don't actually have to be a rugby player. They just have to look as if they could play. The minimum requirements are to be breathing and upright, and without a zimmer,' added Maureen. For anyone interested, give club chairman Bob McLaren a call on 302008 or secretary Lynda Davidson on 601225.



*Maureen Smith launches a mini-recruitment drive*

# War Veterans celebrate with Arran cheese

VETERANS AT THE Royal Hospital in Chelsea were honoured at The Dairy Council's annual Ceremony of Christmas Cheeses last Wednesday, 3rd December. The tradition began in 1692 when the hospital asked a local cheesemonger to provide the pensioners with cheese as a Christmas treat. This year, the Isle of Arran was represented by the Bellevue Cheese Company from Blackwaterfoot who kindly donated some of their Arran Blue, Arran Mist Brie and Arran Camembert.

Barry Nicholls, Chairman of The Dairy Council, said: 'The Cheese Ceremony is a fantastic opportunity for the dairy industry to pay tribute to the bravery and heroism of our war veterans. It is a wonderful and festive event, heaped in tradition and pageantry, which the Dairy Council has been organising for nearly fifty years now.'

Bob Costley, 95, who served in the Royal Artillery, was watched by his fellow veterans



*Royal Chelsea Hospital in-pensioner Bob Costley who is 95 and served in the Royal Artillery.*

as he cut the ceremonial cheese with a sword. Mr Costley said: 'This is a very special Cheese Ceremony, as this year marks 90 years since the end of the First World War. I am thankful that the Dairy Council recognises our efforts with this annual ceremony, and am honoured to cut the ceremonial cheese on behalf of my fellow veterans.'

# Brodick snowmen massacred

**DISTRESS CAUSED BY CELEBRITY SNOWMEN BEHEADINGS**



*On Monday 1st December David and Liam returned to grieve at the scene of devastation*

A GROUP OF much-admired and well-carved snowmen were decapitated in Brodick two weeks ago, causing grief and anguish for the two snow-sculptors. David Morrison and Liam Atkinson, employees of Auchrannie's Spa and 1869 restaurant, took advantage of the recent heavy snow by crafting a whole snow-scene in the gardens of St Elmo's House on the golf course road. One snowman was modelled in a canoe and another was sculpted with a guitar in its arms. Crowds of passersby gathered around the amazing scene, with children and families queuing up to have photos taken beside the celebrity snowmen.

## ABSOLUTELY GUTTED

But within 12 hours, the site of family fun had turned into a waterbath massacre, as the heads of the snowmen were knocked off by an unknown number of snowmen-vandals. 'By the time I had come back from work, they had been decapitated. I was absolutely gutted,' said David Morrison, who was the key inspiration for the snowmen-building.

David's snow-building instincts kicked in with the falling of the first snowflake. 'I woke up on Saturday and looked out at the snow and thought immediately, 'I want to build a snowman', said David. The chef had difficulty persuading other residents of St Elmo's House to join him, but he was eventually assisted by Liam Atkinson. Within a couple of hours the industrious pair had built the magnificent exhibit.

'The snowmen were the talk of the town' lamented David. 'We were delighted with it.'

## MAKING AMENDS

As night began to fall, both David and Liam had to leave their creation unattended and start their evening shift at work. They returned later that night to find the snow-carnage. 'We are not losing our heads over it,' said David, 'but it would be good if there was more respect for such quality snowmen.' Both David and Liam hope that one day the culprit or culprits might make amends by building more snowmen at the St Elmo's site in honour of their beheaded snow-brothers. Local enquiries by *The Arran Voice* to locate those responsible for the massacre have so far proved fruitless.



*Liam Atkinson and David Morrison hold their snowmen's heads with injured pride*



# Rut a job!

## Castle staff clean stag head collection



There are 90 stag heads in the Castle's collection.

THE MIND BOGGLES at the staggering, painstaking care and attention that must go into maintaining the splendour of Brodick Castle. And perhaps one of the most unwieldy tasks must be the periodic cleaning of the 90 stag heads which adorn the stairway leading from the castle entrance.

It took Bill and Jane Cowell the best part of a week with the help of three conservators and castle housekeeping staff to spruce up the dusty stags and hinds. Last cleaned six years ago, their hair was brushed and dust was collected by the museum vacuum. Their antlers were then buffed with a cotton duster and their eyes were cleaned with glass cleaning cloth before the heads were returned to their respective perches on the wall. The oldest trophy in the collection is from around 1847.



Hind-sight required. Conservators concentrate on the intricate work of antler-buffing

# Bella's Diary

By Margaret Kay

ANOTHER WEEK UNDER our belts and Wee Malkie is doing fine — he now weighs in at around 700 grammes and is a wee puddin'.

He is taking an interest in things now. He has discovered his front paws and when awake and amusing himself he often has a little chew at them. He is making his presence felt much more, and it's easy to tell what his wee squeaks and noises mean. He has a 'disgruntled puppy' yip when no one is paying him attention and a wee howl when he needs his Mum.

As with all my pups, he is getting handled often to make sure he is well socialised and happy to be touched. This makes life much easier for his new owners and for any vet who may come into contact with him in the future. While having my usual nightly check of him — ears, eyes etc. I make this a bit of a playtime, rubbing a finger all around

his head and neck and into his mouth and am now getting wee puppy growls from him — it is so funny, this wee mite being courageous and telling me just how plucky he is.

He is up on his feet now, a bit unsteadily, like an inebriate on a Saturday night. He weaves about, focuses on where he wants to go, wobbles a wee bit more and then heads off — but if he gets tired before he gets there, he just flops down and has a snooze. By the time he wakes up he has forgotten where he was going and it starts all over again.

He is coming through into the living room for a while every night and is being given lots of cuddles by the rest of the gang. Ruby often cooies into his bed beside him for a sleep, but if he wakes up and takes an interest in her as a playmate then she is off pretty quickly. Spangles always makes sure his face is nice and clean, sometimes much

## MONEY ADVICE

By Rory Cowan

### WRAPPING THE TAX

So you're telling me you don't think a pension is worth having? What exactly are we thinking of when we say that? First of all we need to clarify just what is a pension and what it is supposed to do. A pension is a tax 'wrapper'. You arrange your pension fund and put your savings into it for your retirement and in return for that the government will give you quite a significant tax break. This means they will defer payment of income tax from the time you make your pension contributions until the time you start to take benefits. So if you are a basic rate taxpayer or even a non taxpayer, then you only pay 80p in the £1 for your pension. Higher rate taxpayers pay 60p in the £1. Not a bad deal really, but a deal we tend to forget about all too easily.

So what comes out? When you decide to take your pension (now called 'Crystallising') you can have 25% of the fund as pension commencement lump sum — and the rest is delivered as a taxable income stream. Traditionally you would buy an annuity, but there are other options you may see as better if you have a larger pension pot.

In the real world, many people take out pension plans too late and then don't put very much in the 'box'. That means when we look in the box at retirement, we are disappointed and blame the pension label for the lack of funds. We don't actually want to blame ourselves for not putting enough into the box in the first place. It is a problem that tends to creep up on us, and the gap gets wider and wider as we approach retirement age. Then we reach retirement, open the box and — Pandora's skint! Nothing to retire on. So we think, *It just has to be the fault of the pension system. That's why they aren't worth having.* But those

who see pensions for what they are do put enough in. They invest the funds in the box wisely and so they find that there is enough in the box — but such people are few and far between. Call them boring or lucky if you like.

If you're not planning to die before you reach retirement age then you may need a pension — so there are very few people who won't need one. It makes sense therefore that if you need income in retirement over and above what the government will give you, then you need to save more money. Tax breaks offered by pensions are too good to ignore, but make sure that you really do put enough into that box. Once you have the cash flowing into the box, make sure you invest it sensibly and don't expect the investments to perform unrealistically. Make sure that the growth is protected as you reach that retirement date. Choosing to work in retirement is so much more agreeable than being forced to.



to his annoyance — he wriggles and yips as she holds him down while she washes him.

I am giving Bella some support by starting to wean Wee Malkie. He gets a very little breakfast, only about quarter of a teaspoonful, but this will gradually increase, and will ensure that he is fully weaned and eating well by the time he is six or seven weeks old. By that stage he will maybe only get a wee feed from his Mum at bedtime. Having just one pup is easier to deal with than a whole litter — even a

small teaspoonful of custard or porridge can get everywhere! I just touch the side of his mouth and he opens it wide, like a huge yawn. I then shovel in a tiny amount and wait to catch the bits he spits out. I often end up with baby rice or Farley's rusks all over the place. Fortunately, the rest of the girls hover, hoping to catch any fallout.

Wee Malkie seems to be quite famous (or is that infamous?) in Arran. I can't go out for a walk without being stopped to ask how he is doing. I am basking in his reflected glory!



# Green Christmas

Photos © by Arran Marketing, Bruno Baumgärtner

*Assja Baumgärtner casts her mind back to simpler, more enjoyable Christmases.*

I REMEMBER A childhood Christmas spent with my mother high up in the snowy mountains in a tiny wooden chalet. We had no car, and taking bulky decorations on the bus was out of the question. But we had a tree and a week's time until Christmas. It turned out to be a most beautiful tree with lovely decorations, and the whole family was involved in getting it dressed. And I see now that it was 98% biodegradable!

We had hours of fun in the forest, hunting for pine cones and red berries. In the evening, we would sit around the kitchen table, dipping the cones into glue and sprinkling them with glitter (although I preferred them just as they were). Next were the apples and oranges. The apples had cinnamon sticks tied to them and were hung up on the tree with red ribbons. Together with the oranges, which were spiked with cloves, they served to weigh the branches of the tree down. Soon, soft fragrances wafted through the living room.

The next evening we spent preparing ornaments. We baked ginger bread biscuits, which were later decorated with coloured icing sugar and hung up with red and white ribbons — but my mother knew all too well that they would be eaten before Boxing Day, so we made lots of salt dough biscuits — not for eating! As soon as they were cool enough, they were painted in white and red with simple patterns on top. Stars, hearts, trees and reindeers soon decorated the trees. Having been brought up in a Baltic country with old traditions, Mum taught us the art of weaving red and white hearts. They are actually quite simple to make once you've managed your first one. Forming a little basket, they are filled with chocolates. We made paper baubles, too, and we used last year's cards to make paper chains for our tree. Then my mother put white candles on the tree, being careful to leave enough space between them and any paper decoration. On Christmas Eve, when the lights were lit, we thought it was the most beautiful tree on earth (but remember, this was Switzerland in the '70s and you'd better not try this now). We inhaled the smell of orange, cloves, cinnamon, wax and of roasting goose from the kitchen, and eyed impatiently the pile of presents under the tree...

On the 6th of January, just before we had to catch the train back to the city, the whole tree (minus candle holders) was 'planted' into a heap of snow with the addition of grease balls made of left-over bread and goose fat. There it would stand and feed the birds until the snow was melted and the farmer would chop it up.



## MAKE YOUR OWN ORNAMENTS

Do you love beachcombing? Shells and smooth glass shards can be wrapped in fine wire, and if you have some broken jewellery, add some beads and hang them on your tree with a wire loop. The beaches of Arran offer lots of shells with holes. Paint or glitter them and add them to your tree. Old aluminium beer cans can be cut open. Get Daddy to help you. (Sorry, Dad!) Cut shapes of stars or butterflies out of the shiny material, punch a hole and hang them into your tree. If you have an odd earring or two because you have lost the other one of the pair, that can go on the tree — it has its own hanger! And if you like sewing, what about hearts and stars made of felt?



## SALT DOUGH

Lure the kids away from the TV with your own decoration factory, using hard-baked, brightly painted shapes of salt dough. It's the simplest mix in the world:

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup of salt
- ¾ cup of water

### Method:

1. Make a well pliable dough, adding water if too dry, or flour if too wet.
2. Roll out fairly thin and cut into shapes, each with a hole in the middle, made with the blunt end of a pen.
3. Bake at 150°C for about 35–45 minutes. They have to be hard but not brown.
4. Paint them in bright colours, thread ribbon through the hole and hang them on the tree.

If you want to see how to make the decorations, the easiest way is to visit these websites:

For the paper basket hearts go to:

<http://permo.homepage.dk/xmsheart.htm>

For the paper baubles:

[http://www.aboutchristmascrafts.com/christmas\\_crafts\\_for\\_kids\\_easy\\_baubles.html](http://www.aboutchristmascrafts.com/christmas_crafts_for_kids_easy_baubles.html)



## Snap a red squirrel and win £100

The Arran Voice has teamed up with the Arran Brewery in a special photography competition to help conserve the island's red squirrels. The Brewery is planning the production of a new Arran Red Squirrel Ale for early next year, and is looking for the perfect image of a red squirrel to be used on the new beer bottle labels. 'It's going to be on the beer label and it's got to scream out at you and say, "This is something different!"' said Gerald Michaluk, director of the Brewery.

The photographer who supplies the winning image will receive a cash prize of £100 and anyone can enter. The photo must be of a bona fide Arran red squirrel — not one from the mainland — and should be submitted either by disc to The Arran Voice office or by e-mail to [info@arranvoice.com](mailto:info@arranvoice.com). It should be in as high a resolution as possible, for reproduction purposes.

The suitably reddish-coloured ale will be the first brew produced by Kevin Dewar, assistant brewer at the Cladach site. 10p from the sale of every bottle will be donated to the Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group. Two months ago, Conservative Party candidate for Westminster Philip Lardner visited the Brewery and suggested the red squirrel ale idea, which is now being put into action.

## Music Society Concert

THIS SATURDAY, 13th December, in Brodick Hall at 7.30pm, Claire Haslin and Harriet Davidson play a delectable programme of music for cello and piano. Harriet is from Edinburgh and began her cello studies at the RSAMD before moving to Oxford University, followed by the Guildhall College of Music and Drama. She has recorded for TV and radio — and performed at Glastonbury, which may impress younger concert goers! Claire was born in Glasgow and studied piano at the RSAMD, later representing the college in recital tours in Iceland and Russia. Both she and Harriet are in great demand as chamber and recital players.

On Saturday their programme begins with Bloch's evocative and tuneful pieces, *From Jewish Life*, with three movements titled *Prayer*, *Supplication* and *Jewish Song*. They then turn to Beethoven's (a theme from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*), which again is notable for its tunefulness. To complete the first half, they play the lovely *Sonata, Op 6* by Barber, with its three contrasting movements.

After the interval, they will play one of the major works in the chamber music repertoire, the *Brahms Sonata in F major, Op 99* with its four movements, *Allegro vivace*, *Adagio affettuoso*, *Allegro passionato* and *Allegro molto*.

As always, people of school age are admitted free and will be very welcome. Don't forget the earlier time of 7.30pm, and for those reluctant to drive at night, bear in mind that the evening bus is nicely timed to run from Whiting Bay to Brodick and back, fitting exactly with the concert.

Advertise your island business — FREE!

Interact with the island community

Comment on member posts

Recycle unwanted items

Join today — it's FREE — at [www.arranonline.com](http://www.arranonline.com)

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





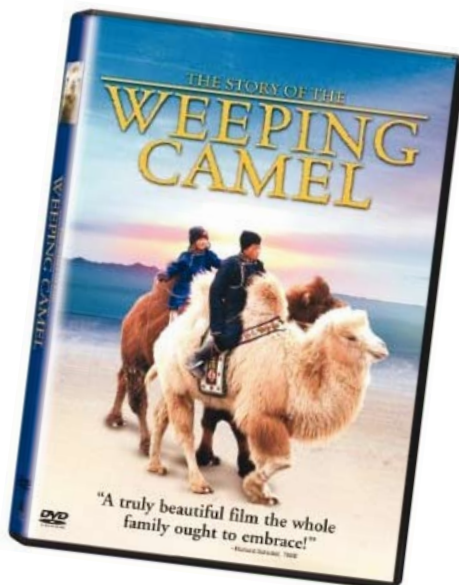


## CORRIE FILM CLUB FESTIVE DOUBLE BILL

Forget snowflakes, this Christmas meeting of the Corrie Film Club on Sunday December 14th at Corrie Hall is anything but wintry. One of the two great films being shown is a story about a baby camel in the Gobi Desert and the other is the all-time favourite, *Some Like it Hot*. Nobody will need much reminding about Billy Wilder's classic, starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon as members of an all-girls touring band. The sight of Monroe wiggling her way down a railway carriage to *Running Wild* sticks in every memory, as does Lemmon's muttered reminder to himself as he copes gamely with wig and high heels, 'I'm a girl, I'm a girl.' No matter how many times it is seen, the film remains irresistibly funny, and students of cinema can wonder all over again at the snappy crispness of its editing, the catchy music and the gloriously assured performances.

*The Story of the Weeping Camel* was shot about as far from Wilder's Chicago as can be imagined, in the Mongolian desert. It's a documentary (slightly rearranged in the interests of the story) about nomadic shepherds who are helping their camels give birth to their young. Mostly, this is a routine annual event, but they run into a spot of bother with one of them. Her calf is a great rarity as it is pure white, but after a long and traumatic delivery, she will have nothing to do with it. Nobody wants this precious baby to die, so two young lads are sent to find help — not from a vet (don't

## Some Like it Hot (1959) The Story of the Weeping Camel (2004)



be silly, this is the Gobi desert) but from a musician. This magical person is found and brought to the camp, and a ritual of folk music and chanting is performed that moves the camel mother so much that she experiences a rush of mother-love for her rejected calf. Altogether now — 'Awwwwwww.' No, seriously, this is a beautiful, funny film. It takes a wry, half-envious look at the Western world with its TV and its consumer goodies, but comes home to an older wisdom of faith and love — the perfect fable for the turn of the year.

Both films are suitable for children, with the Mongolian one being shown first. The programme begins at the earlier time of 6.30pm, and there will be supper during the interval between the two films. Non-members are welcome. There is no charge, but a food contribution and a bottle or carton of something to drink would be much appreciated.

## News from the Blues

### DRIVER CAUGHT WITHOUT MOT

On Monday at 3.10pm on the Boguillie road, a 64 year old Lochranza man was found by police to be driving without a valid MOT certificate or tax disc for his vehicle.



### CAUGHT IN THE HEADLIGHTS

Police put the spotlight on vehicle defects last week as six Arran drivers received warnings about defects in their motor vehicles. A string of Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme (VDRS) notices were issued between Wednesday and Friday, all for driving with faulty headlights. At 6.10pm on Wednesday 3rd of December on Shore Road Lamlash, a 40 year old Lamlash female was found to be driving a car with faulty lights. A 30 year old Brodick female was issued with a VDRS notice for the same reason the following day at 6.05pm on the main road in Brodick. Police had already issued a VDRS notice to a 27 year old Lamlash male in the same area for having a car with faulty lights. And the following day at 6.45pm a 40 year old Brodick was also issued with a VDRS notice for faulty lights on his vehicle.

### CO-OP THEFT

On Thursday 4th December at 1.30pm a 62 year old Brodick woman was arrested and reported for theft from the main Brodick Co-op store. The value of the goods stolen was approximately £50.

### MAN REPORTED FOR DRINK DRIVING

At 11.20pm on Friday 5th December a 20 year old Lamlash man was found to be drink driving on Shore Road in Lamlash. He has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

### ROSS ROAD BLOCKAGE

On Saturday 6th December, police were called to respond to reports of a van blocking the Ross Road. On attendance at the scene, it was decided due to the conditions and position of the van that the road should be closed until the van was moved safely the following morning. The Ross Road was re-opened after its temporary closure on Sunday 7th December.

### DRINK-RELATED DAMAGE?

At 9pm on Saturday 6th December, police received reports from a local resident that a group of youths were drinking behind next to the Douglas Hotel and behind Jimmy the Barber's. On arrival, the police found damage to a coping stone that appeared to have been caused by the group. Police are appealing for any help in identifying those responsible.

### BRODICK ASSAULT

On Sunday at 7.25pm near to the Ormidale pavilion in Brodick, a 26 year old Glasgow male was arrested under the Misuse of Drugs Act for possession of a class C drug and also for assault. A 16 year old Whiting Bay male was arrested at the same time and locus for a breach of the peace and obstructing the police in the course of their duties.



## All Welcome

### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (in full communion with the Church of England)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
Sunday, 14th December: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mr John Roberts. Coffee after service.  
Wednesday, 17th December: Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.  
All Welcome.

### Church of Scotland

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
'A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share' Sunday 14th December  
Rev. Gilleen Maclean Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30am All welcome  
Scottish Charity SCO 15072

### Arran Free Church of Scotland

14th 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 14th December in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.  
10.55 Worship Service, Tea and coffee afterwards. Everyone welcome

### Arran Free Church of Scotland (continuing)

Sunday 14th December, 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate,  
Brodick Evening Service, 7pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
Prayer Meeting  
Wednesday 17th, 7pm Rev.D.Macleod  
All Welcome

### Church of Scotland,

Parishes of North Arran; Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirrmill and Shiskine  
Independent but working together.  
Minister Rev. Angus Adamson, Parish Assistant, Mrs Jean Hunter  
Worship will be conducted at the following times:  
Sunday 14th December:  
Brodick Church, 10.30am  
Corrie Church, 12noon  
Lochranza, 10.15am,  
Shiskine, 12noon,  
A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

### Holy Cross Catholic Church Sunday Morning Mass 11am

### Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 14th December 2008  
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. The Christmas Tree and Church will be decorated at 10am on Saturday 13th December. All welcome to help.  
Sunday 14th December: the Religious Society of Friends will meet at Bridge Cottage, Shiskine at 11.15 am. All enquiries to Jeni on 302779.

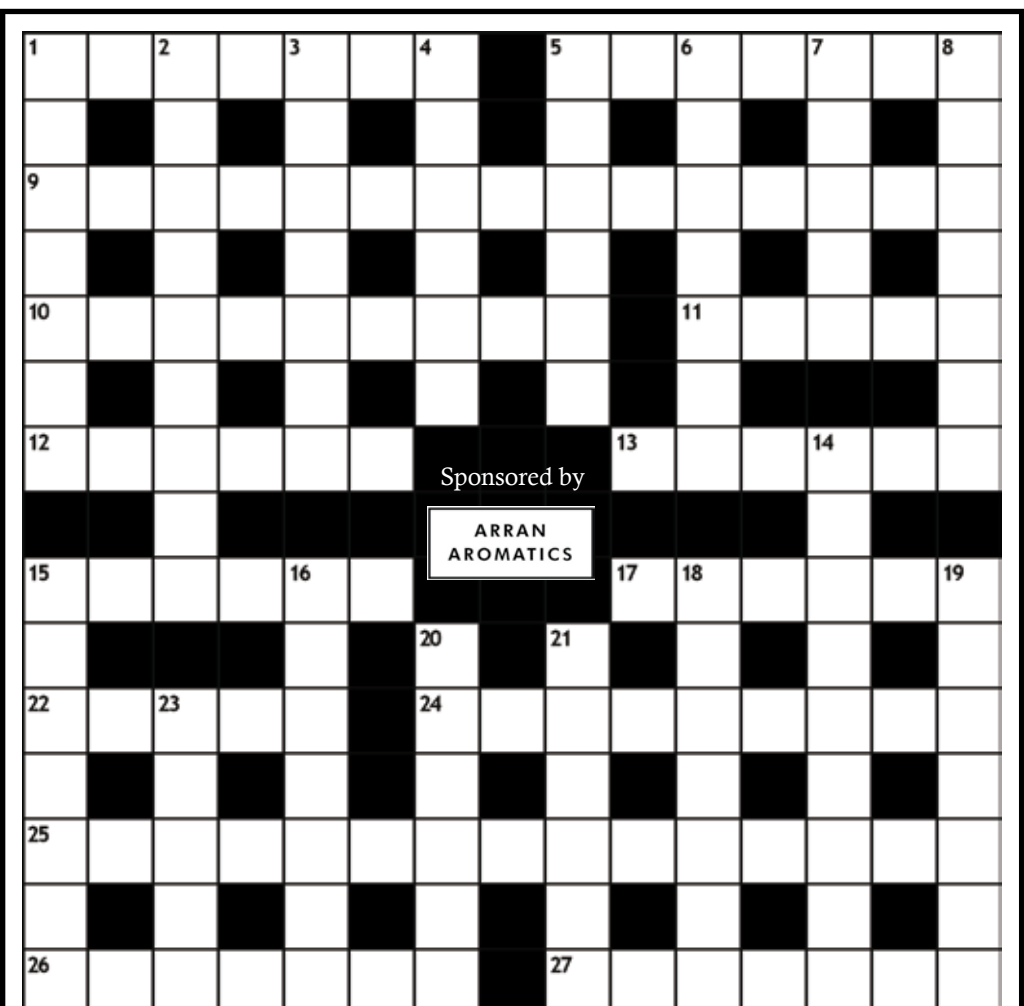


The Arran Branch of the Royal British Legion rounded off their Social year, and gathered together at the Pier Head Tavern, Lamlash on Thursday 4th December for their annual Christmas lunch. The Chairman thanked all the Members for their support during 2008. Our picture shows some of the members enjoying their lunch.



# 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, 23 December 2008 to send in your completed cryptic crossword.**
**This week's crossword sponsored by Arran Aromatics, Tel: 01770 302595, Website: [www.arranaromatics.com](http://www.arranaromatics.com). Winners are asked to contact the shop before collecting their prize.**
**Answers to Issue 86'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](mailto:info@arranvoice.com), with the word "Crossword - Issue 88" in the subject line.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone/E-mail: .....

## Cryptic Clues

### Across

- 1 Uplifters that is right burner (7)
- 5 Match the devil (7)
- 9 Let-down princess's phantom males temperature (15)
- 10 Phoney dissembling (9)
- 11 Degenerates' combs (5)
- 12 Dazed like a tumbler? (6)
- 13 Dollies identical copies (6)
- 15 Breathing difficulties like the archaic mum (6)
- 17 Curls (6)
- 22 Shakes boulders (5)
- 24 Fenced spade laid (9)
- 25 Right cars star options they put off till tomorrow (15)
- 26 Extra glut (7)
- 27 Maltreats — sounds like girl takes drugs (7)

### Down

- 1 Inviting auction (7)
- 2 Deputy aide (9)
- 3 Wee Isaiah alights on the Canaries (7)
- 4 Hammered — what Tomtom did? (6)
- 5 Dilly-dally (6)
- 6,7 Check oddity. He (or she) won't share power (7,5)
- 8 Examines again muddled extraterrestrial rests (6)
- 14 Tries to impress title traces (9)
- 15 Re fitting (7)
- 16 Fog sun god left wind (7)
- 18 Scamps upset lascars (7)
- 19 Vicious brutes start low (7)
- 20 Fits baths manuscript (6)
- 21 Onion family is everything with one hesitation (6)
- 23 Organised group like Orpheus or Phoenix (5)

## Quick Clues — just for fun!

### Across

- 1 Forky tails (7)
- 5 Canadian province (7)
- 9 Do well (3,2,2,3,5)
- 10 Favourable opinions (9)
- 11 Heron (5)
- 12 A bit parched (6)
- 13 Go up (6)
- 15 Scottish breakfast (6)
- 17 Men's hair cutter (6)
- 22 Right hand page (5)
- 24 Unfaithful husband or wife (9)
- 25 Uncomplicated (15)
- 26 Clothes washing (7)
- 27 They discriminate (7)

### Down

- 1 Scotland's neighbour (7)
- 2 Ordinary person to whom government is accountable (9)
- 3 Like fire (7)
- 4 Summer footwear (6)
- 5 Horrified (6)
- 6 Halfpennies (7)
- 7 Less common (5)
- 8 Examined accounts (7)
- 14 Show up (9)
- 15 Sun protection (7)
- 16 Exulted (7)
- 18 Cattle or sheep disease (7)
- 19 Screen (7)
- 20 Recklessly (6)
- 21 Locks (6)
- 23 Greek island (5)

**THE SANDWICH STATION**  
 LOCHRAENZA (opposite the ferry terminal)

**Will be closed from Thursday 11th  
December until Thursday 18th  
December inclusive.**

Telephone: 07917 671913

**SMILE MORE**

with a little help from

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

Tel 302 397

for a confidential appointment

 Best Western  
**Kinloch  
Hotel**

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

*Spectacular scenery, excellent  
food & outstanding service.*

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

## The Burnside

### Mistletoe Magic


**The Burnside**

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

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

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

**20% OFF**

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



## Issue 86 Crossword Answers

### Cryptic Answers

Across: 1 Trigger Off; 6 Skim; 10 Crewman; 11 Redcaps; 12 In The First Place; 13 Sachet; 15 Ivory; 17 Celeb; 18 Engine; 21 Over And Done With; 25 Bugbear; 26 Archaic; 27 Reek; 28 School Bell.

Down: 1 Tactics; 2 Identical; 3 Gimme; 4 Runrig; 5 Fires; 7 Koala; 8 Mystery; 9 Adoption; 14 Embraced; 16 Originate; 17 Clobber; 19 Ethical; 20 Tomato; 22 Eagle; 23 Doric; 24 Excel.

### Quick Answers

Across: 1 Discipline; 6 Lass; 10 Florist; 11 Culprit; 12 Antidepressants; 13 Diesel; 15 Array; 17 Testy; 18 Penpal; 21 Unintentionally; 25 Abstain; 26 Elitist; 27 Ibex; 28 Jardinere.

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 86 Crossword:

Congratulations to *David Cumming of Edinburgh* who wins the gift voucher this week.

## Issue 87 Sudoku & Kakuro Solutions

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

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

13	15			6	7	26	
16	9	7	10	7	4	1	9
29	4	8	3	1	2	6	5
		22	3	1	2		8
	19	9	6	4		10	3
6				8	15		3
9	5	4		9	3	5	1
3	1	2	10	16	4	7	16
	39	6	8	9	1	3	7
10	1	2	7		10	9	1

# Sudoku

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

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

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

## On this day...

- 1872 P.B.S. Pinchback becomes the first black member of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 1946 The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is established.
- 1964 Che Guevara speaks at the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. An unknown terrorist fires a mortar shell at the building during the speech.
- 2001 The People's Republic of China joins the World Trade Organization.

## Star Birthdays

- 1781 Sir David Brewster, Scottish physicist
- 1964 Justin Currie, Scottish singer and songwriter (Del Amitri)
- 1973 Mos Def, American rapper and actor
- 1974 Ben Shephard, English TV presenter

# 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.

	9	8	20					
23						17	4	25
9				6	11			
			23					
5		23						5
20						6	26	9
5				9	7	16		
		33						16
		6					23	
							19	



### Subscribe to The Arran Voice

Annual UK Postal Subscription – £50

Annual European Postal Subscription – £80

Annual World Postal Subscription – £160

Annual PDF Subscription – £25

Annual Website Subscription – £15

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

To order any subscription, please send a cheque for the total (to our office below), made out to "Arran Voice Ltd" Prices include postage and VAT where applicable.

You can also order online at [www.arranvoice.com](http://www.arranvoice.com) "Subscriptions", The Arran Voice Ltd, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX

... And so I said its up to me if I spend my heating allowance on a wee carry-oot





# Recipe

By Janis Murchie

## FILLET STEAK WITH MUSHROOM SAUCE AND ROSTI

*Serves 4*

*Preparation time 1 hour, 5 minutes*

*Cooking time 20 minutes*

### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil — available from Bridge Farm
- 2 baking potatoes, peeled — available from John Picken
- 2 small organic red onions, finely chopped — available from Bridge Farm
- 40g organic butter
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped — available from Bridge Farm
- 200g organic mushrooms, finely sliced — available from Bridge Farm
- 150ml white wine
- 150ml vegetable stock
- 150g crème fraîche
- 4 organic fillet steaks — available from Braehead Beef

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C/gas mark 6.
2. Grease a 12-bun tray with a little of the oil.
3. Boil the potatoes whole for 10 minutes, cool a little, then grate them.
4. Fry half the onion in the oil until soft. Add the potatoes, season and divide between the bun tins. Dot with half the butter and bake for 20 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, cook the rest of the onion in the remaining butter until soft. Add the garlic and mushrooms and cook until most of the liquid has evaporated. Pour in the wine and simmer until reduced by half, then add the stock and crème fraîche, season and simmer for 5 minutes.
6. Griddle the steaks or dry-fry in a nonstick pan until to your liking. Spoon over the sauce and serve with rösti potatoes and boiled organic vegetables.

Find this and many other great recipes on our website at [www.arranvoice.com](http://www.arranvoice.com)

Recipes can be sent to us at [info@arranvoice.com](mailto:info@arranvoice.com) or added directly through our website.



## PUSHING MY LUCK

By Nan McMurdo

My apologies for the enforced sabbatical, but that's The Beach House's first summer well and truly behind us. Quite sad in a way for me really, but not in the slightest little bit for Ian, who is mightily relieved to see the back of the letting season and regain possession of his precious keys. He really has been a complete pain in the backside for the last few months, having been 'banished to the bloody mainland' as he puts it.

One day in August we took the dogs to Maidens, a delightful little spot on the Ayrshire coast, and Ian spent the whole afternoon staring wistfully across the Firth of Clyde towards Pladda, mumping and moaning about how many more weeks it would be till we could return 'tourist-free' to Kildonan. Quite honestly, I've spent more pleasurable days in a dentist's chair. Anyway, the main thing is that we're back again and looking forward to another winter on Arran.

We've noticed quite a few changes since the spring. For example, the beach is a bit less seaweed-strewn, the roses are dead and the midges have gone into blessed hibernation. The spring lambs are now lumbering big sheep, the lawn has ceased its relentless growth and the stars are back out twinkling at night. However, we've also noticed something a bit more sinister. Bits of the road appear to be missing. Quite simply, the state of some of the island's roads is an absolute disgrace.

I won't bore you with my medical details, but as an indirect result of my disability, compounded by my rapidly advancing years, I have developed a little 'calcium problem' which presents itself in two principal ways. Firstly, I suffer from a fairly severe form of osteoporosis, and secondly the old gnashers just ain't what they used to be. Therefore, on a purely selfish level, I am concerned that some day soon, one of my journeys from outback Kildonan to downtown Brodick will result in either my porotic right femur being hopelessly fractured, or my multitudinous fillings crashing to the floor of the car. Orthopaedic consultants, dental surgeons and roads maintenance engineers, you have been warned! The good people of Arran deserve better. Much better.

But Arran is still a joy. The day after we returned to the island, Ian decided that he was going to take the dogs for a hike up to The Saddle and, as usual, I provided the transport. Willingly, of course, since it is one of my favourite spots on the whole island and a former student haunt of mine, as many a riotous 1970s tent party could testify. So we checked into Wooley's as usual and the delightful Aileen furnished us with her customary selection of home-made lentil soup, chicken 'n' sweetcorn rolls and a couple of their superb toffee cup-cakes. I parked the car just inside the big metal gate and the intrepid travellers set off up the path with their supplies, leaving me in blessed isolation to enjoy the tranquillity of the glen. I have been confined to my wheelchair for thirty-odd years now, but it's at times like these that I would give anything to walk hand-in-hand with my husband along the banks of the Rosa Burn and watch my big daft-but-lovable dogs swimming in the crystal-clear waters. Anything at all.

Anyway, I digress. Imagine my surprise when a couple of hours later Ian returned with three dogs (as opposed to the original two) and a pair of exhausted hikers from the Yorkshire Dales, and proceeded to bundle the lot of them into my car, rucksacks and all. 'What's your dog called?' I asked the Yorkshiremen. 'Oh, that's not our dog,' one of them replied. And Ian explained, 'I found him up the glen. He looked a bit lost.' I rolled my eyes. Here we go again, I thought. (We seem a bit prone to lost dog stories.)

We dropped the hikers off at the pier and the dog at Lamlash police station where, I understand, he was reunited with his fretting but relieved owners later that evening — but only after Ian had made at least thirty phone calls to ameliorate his anxiety about the poor thing. My husband has a heart of gold. Except, of course, when he is separated from his beloved Arran by an inconvenient stretch of water.

# It's a Car's Lot

## ELECTRIFYING

When anyone says 'Electric vehicle', the mind jumps instantly to the city milk-float that used to wobble and whine its way from door to door, getting even slower towards the end of the day as it started to yearn for its comforting power plug. Time to forget all that. BMW has launched the Mini E, an electric version of the classic Mini Cooper that will make your hair stand on end. It does 95mph, accelerates from zero to 60mph in 8.5 seconds, and uses no petrol at all. It's powered by a lithium-iron battery pack that delivers around 200 horsepower, and does 150 miles on a single charge.

Don't hold your breath. It's being built in Britain, at a special plant in Oxford, but it will be road-trialled in New York, New Jersey and California first, then leased to interested Americans for about \$850 a month. 50 of the new cars are to be released in Germany next summer, and only after that are they likely to hit the UK market. Meanwhile, testers are enthusiastic. Clutchless, the car comes silently to life when you press the starter button and is a nippy mover, handy in traffic although the battery weight makes it 20% heavier than the petrol equivalent. Its retro-active braking system cuts in the minute you take your foot off the accelerator, recycling energy to the battery rather than dispersing it through the friction of brake discs. The battery can be fully recharged in two hours from a high-power socket, though you'll have to plug it in overnight to charge it up from domestic electricity. Ideal for Arran? Um, yes — but the disadvantage is, the massive battery pack lives where the back seat should be, which makes it less than ideal for the school run.

The other problem is the noise. There isn't any. Once you get the Mini E moving fast, it may emit a slight, happy whine, but otherwise it's silent. The manufacturers recognise that this could be a big problem for visually impaired people or even the mildly absent-minded, who might step into the road in front of a brisk but noiseless car. Suggestions that it could be equipped with an engine-substitute noise of the owner's choice — Abba's Greatest Hits, for instance, or a tape of the Flying Scot or galloping horses — have been turned down on the grounds that pedestrians expect a car to sound like a car. Pity, really. Could have been fun, but 'Silently lethal' isn't much of a selling point.





### CARS FOR SALE

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

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

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

**53 Ford Galaxy Zetec**  
7-seater, Diesel, Silver  
66,300 Miles

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

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

**'02 Toyota Avensis Saloon**  
Silver, 73,000 Miles

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

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

**T-Reg Vauxhall Corsa Breeze 1.0**  
3 Door, Silver, 32,000 miles

### VANS/COMMERCIALS

**04 Citroën Berlingo**  
2.00 HDI, White

**04 Ford Transit SWB**  
Medium Roof, White

**53 Reg Citroën Berlingo**  
1.9 Diesel, White

**51 Reg Ford Transit 280**  
SWB, Light Blue

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

## SERVICES

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

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

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

### James McDowall & Sons

#### Specialist Butcher

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

Telephone: 0141 889 2606  
181 George Street, Paisley

## FIREWOOD LOGS FOR SALE

**Hard or Soft Wood**  
**Bags or Bulk**  
**Ring Ernest on 07920 281215**



### Arran Woodfuels

modern biomass woodfuels & equipment



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

Tel: 01770 870 207

Mob: 07943 256 248

www.arranwoodfuels.co.uk

post@arranwoodfuels.co.uk

### FULTON

decorators

MIRAMAR, LAMLASH  
TEL/FAX 01770 600705  
Est. 1985

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

DECORATORS

### ARRAN CANDLEMAKERS

& SPION KOP WOODWORK

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

## FOR SALE

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

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

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

### North Ayrshire Council Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme

**Are you homeless or threatened with homelessness and finding it hard to rent a property within the Private Rented Sector?**

Is the reason for this because you:

- are in receipt of benefits
- have a low wage or income
- cannot raise a deposit to secure a tenancy in the Private Rented Sector?

**Are you a Landlord who has empty property and are you interested in working with the Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme?**

We can help you by:

- finding you a suitable tenant
- preparing the necessary documentation for a tenancy in the Private Rented Sector
- providing a written guarantee in lieu of a cash deposit
- offering advice and support on relevant housing legislation

If you would like further information on the Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme, please phone **01294 314700** and ask to speak to someone in the team.



## RECYCLING

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

**Bagged Manure for uplift** — Tel 600 517.

**Small neat piano** in good condition free to uplift 600 552

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

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

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

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



## TAXI SERVICE & PRIVATE HIRE MINI-BUS

for weddings, funerals & all other occasions

**Day: (01770) 700 345**

**Night: (01770) 820 286**

**Mobile: 07967 587 481**

**THE BAY GARAGE**

## OFFICE HOURS

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

### ADVERTISING TERMS

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



## Recycling

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Classical Record Collection

By Douglas Hamilton

**Puccini *Tosca***  
**Price, Di Stefano, Taddei,**  
**Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra,**  
**Herbert von Karajan**  
**Decca Legends 466-384 – 2**  
**Callas, Di Stefano, Gobbi,**  
**La Scala Milan Orchestra,**  
**Victor De Sabata**  
**EMI 5 67756-2**

We looked at *La Bohème* last week, and *Tosca* is the other great Puccini favourite. George Bernard Shaw sniffily called it 'a shabby little shocker', but in fact this is a tale of lust, jealousy, murder and betrayal. Like *La Bohème*, it is full of great tunes, with fabulous musical scene-setting.

The Gramophone Good CD Guide lists four great recordings of *Tosca*, and the Penguin Guide gives a 3-star rating to six or seven. My choice of the best-ever performances feature in both these guides, and both are hailed by the BBC Music Magazine as benchmark recordings. One might also mention the recent EMI recording with Gheorghiu, Alagna and Raimondi under Pappano as more modern alternative.

In my view, the Callas, Di Stefano, Gobbi recording, with Sabata conducting, is the finest

ever recorded performance of *Tosca*, with all three principals at their peaks. They all made a later recording, but by then, Callas's voice was starting to deteriorate, so you're best to stick with the De Sabata version. Callas and Gobbi were, of course, consummate singing actors, and Gobbi is probably without equal in the role of Scarpia, the evil police chief. Di Stefano too is at his peak. The only possible drawback is the dated sound in mono, but this version remains a 'classic' and worth hearing for the three giants of the 1950s Italian Opera scene.

Di Stefano is also in fine form in the slightly later Karajan set, which boasts Leontyne Price at her formidable best in the title role of *Tosca*, and Giuseppe Taddei almost as great as Gobbi. Karajan was a master Puccini conductor, and with the Vienna Philharmonic, the orchestral contribution is superb. The Penguin Guide raved about the 'enthraling sound' and the BBC Music Magazine said, 'from the very first chords which lift you out of our seat... every detail of Puccini's technicolour orchestration is there to marvel at.' Both Price and Karajan re-recorded *Tosca* later, but though well received, neither was quite as great. At mid-price, this legendary recording is a bargain.

## The Last Harvest

By Cicely Gill

One moment my life is green  
 shoots in spring and the bright  
 promise of crop following crop.

I discover a horse's head in the clay.  
 I am a farmer. I know the earth is treasure-full.  
 Oh the centuries we have farmed,  
 my ancestors and I over these pits  
 full of warriors, as they stood  
 'guarding the east' for an emperor long dead!

I remember the American president  
 Clin-Ton. He dwarfed my little house  
 shaking my hand and entering.  
 I was pleased to sign his guide-book.

Today our farmland lies buried  
 where the warriors were,  
 but under concrete now.

Inside, through hours unlit by sun  
 I sit signing books.

I sign books, I sign books  
 for the people of Clin-Ton's land,  
 no blue roof above me.

The pleasure of tourists is a mystery to me.  
 My bones long for the red earth green with leaves.

Cicely Gill lives in Whiting Bay and has been writing for many years.

Poem  
of the week

# Golf Results

## Arran Golfers Association

### Winter League 2008/2009

(Rescheduled date)

Winter League at Whiting Bay which should have been played on Sunday was, as predicted, cancelled due to frozen greens. It will now be played this Sunday 14th December. Draw and tee times are: 10am, 10:50am and 11:40am.

Whiting Bay v Machrie bay  
 Brodick v Corrie  
 Lamblash v Shiskine.

3rd Brian Sherwood 69

Scratch, Marc Blair & David Price 74

Two's: Mark MacDonald

### Saturday 6th December, Lochranza Hotel Cup & Freebie Final

1st David Wilkinson 36pts

2nd David Price 35pts

3rd Marc Blair 34pts

Scratch, David Price & Brian Sherwood 79

Two's: Drew Crawford

Fixtures:

Tuesday 16th December, Lochranza Hotel Cup, 12.00pm tee-off

Tuesday 23rd December, Winter Cup, 12.00pm tee-off

Tuesday 30th December, Two-club Competition, 1.00pm tee-off [PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE]

## Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club

### Thursday 4th December, Ladies 12 hole Medal

1st Elizabeth Kelso 56-11 45

2nd Jenni Turnbull 59-12 47

3rd Elizabeth Ross 58-10 48

Best scratch, Elizabeth Kelso 56

### Saturday 6th December, 12 hole Medal and Winter Cup

1st Class

1st S. Black 45-4 41

2nd W. Kelso 51-4 47(bih)

3rd B. Sherwood 52-5 47

2nd Class

1st J. Dale 59-16 43

2nd G. Martlew 58-8 50

3rd D. Urquart Dixon 63-9 54

Best Scratch, S. Black 45

2008 winner of Kilbrannan Cup — Fiona Crawford  
 2008 winner of Corriecravie Shield — Viv Parks

Fixtures:

Thursday 11th December, Ladies 18 hole Medal

Saturday 13th December, 18 hole Medal

Friday 26th December, Boxing Day Texas Scramble

Wednesday 31st December, Mahogany Trophy

## Whiting Bay Golf Club

Snow and ice on the greens caused the cancellation of last Sunday's Winter League competition. This has meant a change to the fixtures for the rest of December.

Fixtures (hopefully!):

Sunday 14th December, Winter League at Whiting Bay. First match tees off at 10.00am

Sunday 21st, Friendly with Lamblash at Whiting Bay.

Tee-offs from 10.30am — 11.00am

## Brodick Golf Club

**Sunday 7th December, Sweep.** No play possible in the morning due to frost, but 13 enjoyed fine winter playing conditions in the afternoon. (There were three winter greens, so it's a non-counter).

1st T. Raeside 74 (8) 66

2nd J. Armit 73 (5) 68 bih

3rd T. Cotton 85 (17) 68

Scratch: J. Armit 73

There was only one two, Sam McCalla being the ? lucky one.

Fixtures:

Sunday 14th December, Brandon and Winter Cup, open draws at 9am and 12 noon.

## Machrie Bay Golf Club

**Tuesday 2nd December, Winter Cup played from the yellow tees**

1st Marc Blair 64

2nd David Price 66



## BRIDGE CLUB



### Lamblash Bridge Club 8th December 2008

N/S

1st I. McArthur & E. McKellar +5300

2nd. J. Barclay & J. McArthur +4150

3rd. M. Jones & R. Livingstone +3800

E/W

1st. J. Maclure & A. McKelvie -1850

2nd. H. Boyd & J. Murchie -2090

3rd. J. & J. Beattie -2300

### Brodick Bridge Results 4th December 2008

N/S

1st M. McGill & E. McConnell +1160

2nd H. Boyd & L. Paul -180

3rd D. Scobie & J. Murchie -270

E/W

1st T. Martin & D. Hamilton +1990

2nd E. Duncan & A. Bilsland +1680

3rd A. McKelvie & J. Maclure +1040





# Arran pool league — week 6

## P.T. 1934 THUMPED BY FIVE-MAN CORRIE

ARRAN'S POOL TEAMS are beginning to conspire against top squad Bar Eden, as the south-Whiting Bay team maintain their all-too-shiny perfect record. Last week Bar Eden notched up another victory away to Catacol and with the PHT making mincemeat of the Drift last Thursday, the league-leaders are now five points clear. There have been rumours of a grand prize being offered for the first team to take points from Nicol Auld's talented gang, but at the moment they are just that — rumours.

Corrie resurrected their vague title hopes on Thursday, travelling five-in-a-car over the icy roads to Lagg. One man down, they had forfeited two games before any cues had been chalked. It didn't look good from the start. The Corrie team struggled to gain entrance to Kilmory hall as a tractor had blockaded the doorway. But once inside, the depleted squad knuckled down to win the first six games on the trot, Steve 'Sannox the ball around the table' Wood eventually beating Max-a-million shots-Worthington in perhaps the most entertainingly extended match of the season so far. Clawing their way back into the doubles, the P.T. 1934 gents almost snuck a draw, but Corrie pulled through on the black to win 7-5, despite Southend accusations of McKinnon-Jedi mind-tricks.

Kildonan's sixth man ringer couldn't stop the Cameronia winning on home felt, trailing an early 4-0 in the singles



Stuart Kilpatrick (aka Dumpy) was grannied by Ewan McKinnon, putting the Corrie captain in the frame for the Copperwheat Cue Challenge. The seventy yellow ball is just out of view — promise!

and losing the gallon, before succumbing 8-4. It is widely thought that Kildonan are conserving their energies to beat Bar Eden in their next encounter.

A couple of results have come in from the singles:

- Pete Holmes (PHT) bt Craig Black (Drift)
- Danny Head (Bar Eden) bt Dave Hackett (Bar Eden)

	Pld	W	L	D	F	A	GOB	Pts
Bar Eden	6	6	0	0	46	26	4	18
Drift	6	4	1	1	43	29	5	13
Corrie	6	3	2	1	36	36	3	10
P.T. 1934	6	2	2	2	39	33	2	8
Cameronia	6	2	2	2	35	37	4	8
PHT	6	2	3	1	36	36	3	7
Catacol	6	1	4	1	29	43	3	4
Kildonan	6	0	6	0	24	48	0	0

# U-16s take pride from Ardrossan match

By Arran Junior Rugby Club

THE ARRAN UNDER-16s team travelled away last Sunday for their league match against Ardrossan. Feeling fairly confident after their last victory against Clydebank, they soon realised that this could be a much harder match simply by the size of the opposition.

This proved to be the case as the first half got under way. The Ardrossan boys quickly ran in four tries, using strong fast players to punch holes in Arran's defence, though all the conversions were missed on what was becoming a very blustery afternoon. Arran heads never dropped though and after a concerted effort in the opposition's half, they were awarded a penalty.

Cries of 'Kick the points!' could be heard from the touchline but the lads had a plan and took a tap penalty, releasing Andrew Earle at the Ardrossan defensive line like a bull at a gate. Another penalty nearer the touch line and the same attack was launched, resulting in yet another penalty only five yards out. Third time lucky and Andrew crashed his way over the line for Arran's first and only try of the first half, which ended 30 points to 5.

The half time talk resulted in Arran returning to the pitch with a different game plan, using brains as well as brawn! Sam Tattersfield took charge of kicking, using the wind to his advantage, time and time again keeping the Ardrossan lads pinned down in their own half and then using the now familiar tactic of releasing Andrew at speed through their last line of defence. This worked a total



Top row (left-right): Kieran McMaster, Andrew Earle, Ryan Boal, Sam Tattersfield, Matt Evans, Jack Barbour, Stuart McMaster, Ewan Bulger, Iain Bayne Bottom row (left-right): Donald McEachern, Babbies McNeill, Liam Boal, Charlie Boal, Robbie Bayne

of four times during the match, much to the frustration of the opposition.

Arran's fifth try came from a speedy back's move, with Jack Barbour cutting back inside for a well deserved score. Sam kicked two of his three conversion attempts but Ardrossan still kept pace with their own scoring and when the final whistle blew the score finished Ardrossan 56 points to Arran 29 points.

Although this had been a hard fought match the Arran lads came away feeling proud and knowing they had learnt a few new tricks to take into future games. It was a three way split in the voting for the Arran man of the match, between Andrew Earl, Liam Boal for his formidable tackling throughout and Chris (Babbies) McNeil for his cheeky scrum half play. Well done to Babbies who just sneaked it on the recount and thanks go to Arran Dairies Limited for their generous sponsorship of the match ball.

Arran U16's next match and last until the new year is this Sunday at the Ormidale Park, kick off at 2.15pm against Cartha Queens. All supporters are welcome.

# Arran ends Paisley's winning pattern

Continued from back page

But Arran dug in for the final 15 minutes, showing more depth of reserve than a Saudi oilfield. When an unsighted referee yellow carded Kal Masia for an innocuous late tackle that saw the Paisley stand-off doubled up in mortal agony, it was like a slug of petrol on Arran's flames. The home side resisted Paisley's attacks and opened up a stunning break from deep in the own half. Murray Picken led the counter before a perfect offload to Sam Casey who steamed alongside the spectators lining the touchline to crash over for the score. 13-8 and Arran were back in the lead.

## SKIRMISH

In a nervy final few minutes, tempers frayed

and a widespread skirmish erupted which saw players from both teams lose their discipline. Addy Adamson seemed largely unfazed after being headbutted by Steve Jermy, who was shown the red card. Paisley had a chance to draw level after Arran gave away a very kickable penalty, but it was dragged wide and Arran took four points and a bagload of pride.

Arran face Carrick away this weekend.

## OTHER RESULTS FROM WEST LEAGUE DIVISION 2

- Cowal 29 – 29 Millbrae





# ARRAN ENDS PAISLEY'S WINNING PATTERN



©JinglyJangly Images/Lenny Hartley 2009



## ARRAN END LEAGUE HEAVYWEIGHTS' UNBEATEN RUN

AFTER THE FULL-TIME whistle last Saturday, team captain Murray Picken commented in a moment of extreme understatement, 'I'll settle for that.' The Arran Rugby Club had just pulled off perhaps their current squad's best victory to date by beating league big guns Paisley in an aggressive and sometimes dirty encounter at Ormidale Park. A last gasp try by Sam Casey saw Arran edge back into the lead after gradually losing their initially firm grip on the game. The high-octane match had the touchline crowd of about 60 spectators often screaming their support.

Paisley were unbeaten in their first eight matches, but Arran had lost their first match away against Paisley by just one point (14-13) and this was a chance for revenge on home soil. From the kick-off, the Arran team showed a disciplined rabidness, like sporting versions of the zombies in 'I Am Legend.' The backs pressured the Paisley backline well, forcing an occasionally wayward clearance kick to earn the home side good territory. When Paisley did execute a probing kick in the first few minutes, Steven Gill caught well and returned the favour with a good chip and run to relieve the pressure.

### DOUBLE TROUBLE

Ian Keen's Paisley doppelganger was playing in the opposite number and both scrum halves looked determined to disrupt each other's game with terrier-style tactics and usually with grins on their faces. When Keeno dummied from the scrum wide on Paisley's 22, he managed to offload to the raging run of Mark Wetton who held on well to the ball before being snagged in a tackle. Paisley were penalised in the ruck and Frazer Barr converted after 10 minutes. 3-0 to Arran.

Paisley responded with force and might well rue their decision to run a penalty they were awarded within kickable distance. Instead they led an onslaught of good forward support play, Frazer Barr, Kal Masia and Jamie Picken all putting in crucial tackles. The ball was eventually cleared and Arran were soon charging

down the left wing, Niall McMaster breaking off the ruck almost to the line.

### HEAVY SCORE

Arran kept Paisley hemmed in and won two dangerous line-out balls yards from the Paisley line, but could not convert. When Paisley were penalised for a bizarre obstruction, Frazer Barr's kick sailed just short, but Arran soon grabbed the game's important first try. Arran's forwards once again hit the pavilion corner and Niall McMaster hammered through a violent ruck for a brilliant score. Paisley were rattled, and as they waited beneath the posts their stand-off Paul Reid said, 'They are more aggressive than us and they are getting into better body positions for the tackle, that's why they are beating us.'

Arran missed the conversion, but almost extended their lead with another try, Kyle Barbour's great Inspector Gadget handling setting up a break on the left wing, which was eventually cleared. (Kyle later broke his collar bone during the match).

### ALL OVER?

Arran had the lion's share of the territory in the first half with possession more evenly split, but Paisley started the second half with renewed aggression. After ten minutes of hard play, Stevie Jermy earned himself a yellow card and seat in the sinbin for backchat to the referee, but it signalled if nothing else Paisley's passion. When Paisley charged down an Arran clearance kick, the home side was penalised for holding on and Paisley got their first points on the board. 8-3. Arran replied with some good open rugby. Creating space, Ugg opted for a clever kick to the corner, anticipated well by Ben, but it bounced wide for the line-out. The match got uglier as both sides sensed the next score could be crucial and Paisley unleashed a surging drive towards the pavilion corner. It was unstoppable and Arran looked crestfallen as the previously sinbinned Stevie Jermy bagged a try. Converted brilliantly by Paul Reid, it looked to be all over for Arran at 10-8.

*Continued on page 23*

## And Finally ...

### WINDS OF CHANGE...

A 13 year old boy attending a Florida school was arrested recently after complaints about his habit of farting in the classroom and turning off his fellow pupils' computers.

Whether the noxious power of the gas produced by the lad was enough on its own to shut a computer down is not yet certain, though it points to an interesting line of research. The report released by the Martin County Sheriff's office asserts only that the boy was continuously disrupting the classroom environment by 'intentionally breaking

wind,' so it seemed that he first drove the spluttering students away from their desktops then proceeded to shut off their computers, presumably using a finger rather than fart-force.

A school resource officer placed the boy under arrest (after all, this is the US) after he confessed to his behaviour. He was charged with 'disruption of the school function', then released to his mother's care, where he is presumably busy perfecting his technique. Social workers will have no trouble in identifying the house — the woman who comes to the door will be wearing a gas mask.