



THE

arranvoice

VOCEM POPULARIS AUDIRE / ÉISD RI GUTH NA MUINNIR

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# GOLFERS BUGGED BY PETROL PINCH

IN WHAT IS surely a sign of our economic times, over 20 litres of fuel were discovered missing from golf buggies at Corrie Golf Club last week. Petrol was removed from the engines of three different motorised golf buggies during the ten days before Tuesday 9th December. 'I hadn't been up for a while because of the bad weather,' explained Stevie Stevenson from Sannox. 'But when I went for a round on Tuesday morning, the tank was empty.' Around ten litres had been taken from the 'Club Car' vehicle. Quantities of petrol were also missing from the tanks of two other golf carts parked alongside in the wooden shelter, owned by Corrie's Alan Parken and a golfer from Lochranza. Owners of the three buggies believe the petrol had been siphoned off.

## PETROL TAKEN TWICE

Stevie put another five litres in the tank on the same day, but when he returned on Wednesday morning, the tank was empty again. 'I could understand someone being stuck without enough fuel for a journey. But to do it a second time is a cheek ... It is a bit disappointing, but there we are.'

The police have been informed of the petrol pinching by Corrie Golf Club and enquiries are ongoing. In the meantime, local golfers are working out ways to stop it happening again. 'What I'm doing now is filling it with



*Stevie Stevenson discovered his buggy's fuel was missing early on Tuesday morning.*

just enough to get me round the course and no more, so it won't be worth anyone's while to pinch,' said Stevie, who is also devising a more long-term solution. 'I'm trying to think of some way to secure my tank and I've got some friends working on ideas.'

## UNSETTLING

The petrol theft has unsettled the

village community. Both a trailer and an anchor have gone missing in Sannox in recent weeks. 'We felt quite secure here, but people are now locking their doors. It's not neighbourly,' said Elma Stevenson. 'The people with golf buggies are using them because they have a physical need. It helps them maintain a healthy lifestyle.'

# Arran's fuel on the brink

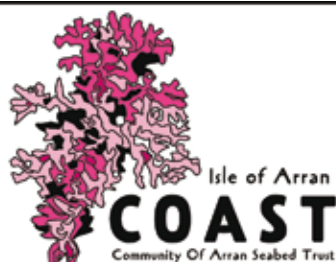
## REPORT KICKSTARTS DEBATE TO SAVE 'FRAGILE' FUEL SUPPLY

A LONG-AWAITED Government-funded report has identified the urgent need to tackle the rising trend of forecourt closures in rural Scotland. Over the past six years, over 60 petrol stations in the Highlands and Islands have closed down due to the specific pressures of rural fuel supply.

Commissioned by Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the report shows that retailers in remote locations are struggling to survive due to the low volumes of petrol sold and a general market squeeze. The average volume of the 62 sites that closed down was just 0.5 million litres per year — a fraction of the throughput enjoyed by forecourts in major supermarkets.

*Continued on page 2*

**IN THIS ISSUE: Snow Queen Play / Victorian Magic at Castle / Fish Farm Company in Trouble / Massive NAC By-Election Swing**



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# Arran's fuel on the brink

*Continued from front page*

## 20P PRICE DIFFERENCE

'It is very likely that as margins continue to be squeezed for small forecourt retailers an increasing number will go out of business and subsequently the current level of access to road fuel forecourts may not be maintained,' reads the report compiled by Experian Ltd. It points out that fuel prices in the Highlands and Islands 'have for years been at a premium to elsewhere in Scotland & the UK and despite 3 OFT/MMC enquiries since the mid 1990's the competitive nature of the market has been given a clean bill of health.' Meanwhile Arran motorists still suffer fuel prices almost 20p higher than those on mainland Ayrshire.

The Petrol Retailers Association (PRA) has pressed the need for a formal, government-led strategy since 1998, two years before the main oil companies (BP, Shell, and Esso) started to pull out of supplying retail sites in the Highlands and Islands area. BP used to own, distribute and sell the petrol from Grangemouth in a fully integrated operation and even used to own the phonelines which serviced the petrol stations because the communications infrastructure facilitated the flow of money.

## IRRESPONSIBLE

All that changed when the major oil brands pulled out, leaving the sustainability of transport fuel supply infrastructure in the lurch. Now petrol retailers can theoretically buy from four local distributors with access to branded fuels: Scottish Fuels, Highland Fuels, Gleaner Oil and Gas and Regency Fuels (for more info see box on the right).

Other major suppliers will refuse to deliver to places like Arran. 'A Strategic Plan must be prepared for the preservation of fuel supplies and other essential services whilst options are still available,' said PRA Director Ray Holloway. He told *The Arran Voice* that ignoring the need for a plan or delaying the acknowledgement of the contents of one that has been produced is 'an irresponsible action.'

Katy Clark MP recently recorded the concerns of local petrol retailer Bob Haddow, director of Arran Transport. For years Bob has pressed representatives of the Scottish Parliament to address the market history and dynamics which have led to the major price difference between Arran's fuel and the cost at mainland forecourts. Katy Clark said she would lodge a Parliamentary Motion in Westminster to raise the profile of concern about the issue. 'It may be something that the Scottish Affairs select committee could look at,' she said.

## CALLS FOR OFT INVESTIGATION

Other Scottish MPs have already investigated the issue further. Earlier this week, Orkney and Shetland MP Alistair Carmichael was due to meet with officials from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to discuss the possible grounds for an OFT investigation into the Northern Isles fuel market. Mr Carmichael has been calling on the OFT for a number of months to look into the 15-20 pence premium that Orkney and Shetland residents pay for petrol at the pumps.

Murray Tosh MSP raised the issue of high rural fuel costs with the Scottish Executive in 2006. He was told by the then Enterprise Minister Nicol Steven that the Rural Transport Fund was in place to support rural petrol retailers and that variations to fuel duty remains a reserved issue. Mr Steven said the UK Government's position explained away the fuel price difference suffered by the islands by simply citing 'lack of competition between suppliers,' 'high distribution costs' and 'low throughput.'

## CORE NETWORK NEEDED

After years of governmental inertia, the PRA still believes there have to be a core network of strategically located forecourt outlets. This new report is a vital step towards such a plan. 'Once that provokes the inevitable Edinburgh Vs Westminster funding debate we should be en route to a fundamental, realistic and planned solution,' said the PRA Director.

## SCOTLAND'S RURAL FUEL DISTRIBUTORS (ADAPTED FROM ROAD FUEL SUPPLY IN THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS — CURRENT SITUATION, NOVEMBER 2008, EXPERIAN LTD)

### SCOTTISH FUELS (EX-BP/NATIONAL SITES)

Scottish Fuels is a subsidiary of GB Oils, part of DCC Energy plc. In 2006, GB Oils also took on the home heating business of Shell Direct across the UK (and including Scotland). Scottish Fuels have a number of own-branded sites. Their supply to the majority of the former BP and National sites in the Highlands and Islands started in 2001, although the re-branding of those sites did not start until 2006. Based in Larbert, it is the largest independent fuel distributor in Scotland with 22 depots throughout Scotland and Northern England.

### HIGHLAND FUELS (EX-ESSO SITES)

Highland Fuels is arguably Scotland's largest independently-owned fuel distributor. It has 10 depots in Scotland and supplies Esso branded fuels to 17 retail sites. It also has depots on the Shetland Islands and Orkney Islands.

### GLEANER OIL & GAS (EX-SHELL SITES)

Gleaner is a Highland company based in Elgin and supplies Shell-branded fuels to around 80 retail sites most of which are Gleaner branded. It has 10 depots and uses small road tankers to supply retail sites across the Highlands and the Western Isles.

### REGENCY OILS (TEXACO SITES & OTHERS)

Regency Oils is a small distributor based in Buckie and supplies Texaco branded fuels to a small number of retail sites in the eastern part of the Highlands and north of Aberdeen.

## Karaoke Competition

Boxing Day, Friday 26th December at 9pm

### MAC'S BAR

£100 Cash Prize for the best singer

### ALL WELCOME

Tel: **01770 302 226**

Mac's Bar are also looking for a Karaoke compere for a regular Friday Night Karaoke Spot — anyone interested in this position should contact Mac's Bar on 01770 302 226.



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# Fish farm company in trouble

LIGHTHOUSE CALEDONIA, owners of the St Molio's fish farm in Lamlash Bay among many other salmon-farming enterprises, have suffered a severe drop in the company's share value. Odd Geir Oddsen, the company CEO, was reticent about the situation, remarking, 'We've said all we're going to say about this in connection with the quarterly presentations. We have a dialogue with the bank and the organisers in this process, but obviously the drop in the share price isn't making it any easier to get money in.'

## 'GAME OVER,' SAYS ANALYST

By Tuesday of this week, the situation had clearly deteriorated further. **Intrafish.com**, an international news website, reported, 'Lighthouse Caledonia has put a freeze on payments to suppliers because of cash flow problems following a reduction in credit terms from feed company Skretting.' A market analyst commented that it is 'game over' for Lighthouse Caledonia's current equity holders.

There has been an unusual amount of trading in the company, with shares changing hands at a very low price. On December 9th, a holding of 203,000 shares was sold for one krone (about 10p) per share. Another 156,000 shares were brokered at a similar level by HQ Direct the next day. The biggest lender, DnB Nor, has demanded the company acquire between NOK 120 (€13.00/\$17.50) and

NOK 150 million (€16.3 million/\$21.9 million).

Lighthouse Caledonia needs to generate five times its value in the first quarter, diluting shareholders' investment considerably. Dnb Nor Market's analyst Klaus Hatlebrekke said the company needs an industrial partner to buy into the company to offer assistance, with Norskott Havbruk (Leroy and SalMar) or Lakeland (Marine Farms) the most suitable candidates. He said, 'They can go in and cut costs, and run the operation properly. The last few years has not seen any improvement in the underlying operation of Lighthouse.'

Arran people will not have forgotten that last autumn, 300,000 fish died of disease in the St Molio pens, followed by findings that there had been persistent, long-term over-stocking at the site. They will remember, too, that the company, which began as Marine Harvest, still has an appeal in for a second, much larger fish farm near the new Clauchlands Outdoor Centre, despite an overwhelming island vote against the original application. Its green credentials can hardly be called high. Trading under its interim name of Pan Fish, it was fined £10,000 back in 2005 for a diesel spillage in Loch Torridon, and at the end of November 08 Lighthouse Caledonia was fined £12,000 for a diesel spill described as indicating 'wilful or negligent actions' and having a 'serious impact on the water environment.'

*Information by courtesy of Intrafish.com*

# New Year break

TO GIVE OUR small but incredibly hard-working staff a well-earned breather during the holiday period, we will not be publishing the New Year issue of *The Arran Voice*. After a week off, we will be back as usual, considerably refreshed, on Thursday January 8th.

Our Christmas edition will be out two days early, on Tuesday December 23rd. All deadlines for this number will also be earlier. Advertisements should be with us by tomorrow as you read this, Friday

19th December, or Saturday 20th at the absolute latest. Contributions, letters, photos and copy of all kinds should reach us as early as you can make it, but by Sunday morning, 21st December, as your last chance.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and the best of good fortune in the year to come. Thanks to all our readers, advertisers and contributors. We appreciate every one of you, and look forward to lots more contact with you after our wee break.

# Dumped rubble eyesore on String Road

A QUANTITY OF rubble has been dumped at a layby on the String near to where the picturesque burn Allt nan Calaman crosses beneath the road. The pile of bricks and broken tarmac also includes a large rectangular metal frame used as siding for access points to cables laid beneath the roads. Despite being dumped around three months ago, no vegetation hides the unsightly fly-tipping from any tourist who might enjoy stopping at the layby.



*The rubble spoils the views from what is otherwise one of Arran's top laybys*

# Festive good news on the phone



By **Sheridan Waldon**

ARRAN CITIZENS ADVICE has learned that BT is providing a new service for residents on low income. The new package is called BT Basic and reduces the line rental to £4.50 a month. It is available to people receiving certain benefits as well as those on Pension Credit.

For more information contact:

**BT Basic on 0800 7831675 or Arran Citizens Advice Bureau on 600210**

Our opening hours are 10am to 2pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Please note that we close for the Christmas holiday at 12.30pm on Tuesday 23rd December until 10am on Monday 5th January.

# Arran's 'food for thought' quiz

## BARACLOUGH IS QUIZ WINNER BY DEFAULT

In our extremely successful 'Food for Thought' quiz no-one managed to submit a complete set of correct answers. But the indefatigable, crossword-munching John Baraclough was closest to the mark. By default, he wins the amazing hamper of local food and we will hopefully have a picture of John with the spoils of quizzdom next week.

But for anyone still bugged by those annoying questions we put together, here are the answers.

1. Robert the Bruce lead a fleet of galleys to Arran in the Spring of 1307
2. The summit on Holy Isle is called Mullach Mor
3. There are seven golf clubs on Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lamlash, Lochranza Castle, Machrie, Shiskine and Whiting Bay
4. Arran Distillery was founded in 1995
5. The current chairperson of Arran Community Council lives in Pirnmill
6. Barytes was the mineral mined in Sannox
7. Billy Connolly last performed on Arran in 1994
8. Hutton's Unconformity is on the north Shore near Lochranza
9. Howard Driver is the longest serving secretary of the Arran Farmers' Society
10. Northend Thistle's losing streak was 16 years

# Arranvoice.com Online Poll

**This week's question is:**

**Was Scrooge right?**

**Is Christmas a humbug?**

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

**Last week's question was: Do you support an extension of Marine Reserves network?**

**Yes: 100%**

**No: 0%**

**Not Sure: 0%**

Poll expresses views of those who've voted online.



# Editorial

## PETTY THEFTS

When we first heard of the spiriting away, as one might put it, of petrol from golf buggies, the story sounded almost funny. The mind leapt to frivolous explanations involving malevolent Christmas gnomes on a spree. Very quickly though, the sadness of such underhand meanness made itself felt. Our golf courses on Arran are far from the over-manicured trans-Atlantic equivalents where corpulent golfers routinely transport themselves along the fairways in the buggies provided. For island golfers, those who are fit and strong enjoy the game as much for its walking as for the skill of the approach shot and the tense challenge of the putting green. Some, though, suffering from incipient arthritis or the aches and pains of getting older, need a little help. For them, a wee vehicle that enables them to go on enjoying their exercise and their game is a great blessing, and is probably more valuable than any medicine.

Turning up in all innocence for a breath of fresh air and a round of gently-assisted golf is a treat to be much looked forward to. All the worse, then, to find on arrival that some other person has put greedy fingers on the petrol cap and siphoned off the contents of the tank. It's not so much the loss of the petrol's value as the knowledge that some member of Arran's community is not to be trusted. We have for many years felt comforted

by the sense of reliability that has been such a strong feature of the island. There is no anxiety about undertaking a solitary drive in an oldish car. If it breaks down, the next person along will stop and offer help. Such mutual care and kindness is worth more than any insurance policy. It gives everyone a sense of safety. It is a generosity that makes life secure and enjoyable.

One of the most damaging possibilities that may result from the current hard-pressed times is that people will shrug off any sense of concern for others. It's an insidious rotting of the soul that starts with a lack of care and progresses to a conviction that no quarter can be given to anyone else in a life that has become a battlefield. That, perhaps, has been the underlying assumption that has allowed gross profiteering and greed to rampage on without public protest. Once the purloining of what others have worked for becomes legitimised in the name of smartness or the grabbing of a quick opportunity, the warmth and trust that makes life a pleasure is fatally damaged.

It is embarrassing to think that this grubby little story will reach all over the world via our website. It is not what Arran is about. This petty theft is a matter of shame. We can only hope that those who went home with a few pounds' worth of an elderly person's petrol will think about what it means, and understand again how valuable it is to trust and be trustworthy.

Quote

'Young farmer with 100 acres would be pleased to hear from young lady with tractor. View to friendship, possibly matrimony. Please send photograph of tractor.'

*Origin unknown, but most recently quoted by Bibliophile, the wonderful source of cheap books and general merriment.*

*Good try. We hear he got a cowpat in the post the next day. Ed.*

## THE ARRAN VOICE PRODUCTION TEAM

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*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...

### BETE NOIR

Did you know that 100 black bears are killed each year to provide those hats worn by sentries at Buckingham Palace? People in the public eye such as Ricky Gervais and Janet Street-Porter have recently taken up the cause to have an alternative found. Ricky Gervais has written to Gordon Brown on the subject and has been advised that no alternative can be found. Perhaps one might be found if others also wrote to the Prime Minister or MPs on this subject. It seems an unacceptable situation in a country which is known for its love of animals.

*Lorna Sherry, Brodick*

### PLEA FOR WEBSITE SIMPLICITY

I enjoy reading *The Voice*, and sometimes I want to re-read an article and find it has been used as fire lighting paper, or there is something I want to look up that I missed because I was away, so I go to the website to access it. And then I am completely frustrated. If I can find the article at all I can only access half of it. There are tantalizing instructions that tell me I can read the rest, (usually the interesting bit), if I do this, that and the other, but when I make the attempt everything goes silent. The search instructions don't seem to allow you to put the title of the article and its author, and invariably I get a result that says there is no match, when I have actually read the first bit of the existing thing. I am not always sure what category the article is and if you search Alison Prince local news, the findings all seem to be 2007. Also, the animated bits are like gadflies, very distracting as I try to wrestle with what feels like a three headed monster.

Please could we have a less complicated system so that the very good value of this excellent newspaper can be enjoyed by all? At the moment the website is very deterring.

*Peri Aston*

### PPP FUNDING. WHO BEARS THE COST?

In last week's *Arran Voice*, page 3, an article was headed "PPP beset by school defects".

The content of that article is not really a surprise to anyone who is acquainted with PPP projects over the years. The shortcomings have been well documented and seem to be part and parcel of the government's method of distributing large amounts of cash to their favourite companies and keeping money out of the books.

This school project was rushed through without proper consultation with the people who would be affected most — taxpayers and, especially, the parents of children attending the school. There was some protest but it fell on deaf ears.

The following phrases in the article would seem to need some explanation:

#### 1. "defect liability period"

Why were the contractors given a year from the time the school was built to rectify any problems?

If the school had been properly built in the first place — and on time — the problems should have been small and not major defects. The school was overdue by several months because a lot of the work was botched and had to be redone (walls, painting etc).

A lot of the defects remain yet and look as if they might be here a long time.

So many of the companies sub-contracted

by Barr Construction were obviously not competent to do the jobs they were paid to do. What does this say about Barr Construction?

#### 2. "inevitable teething problems"

Teething problems are usually thought of as minor adjustments to an already working project. The problems mentioned last week are in fact major and are causing upheavals in the running of the school to the detriment of the pupils.

#### 3. "latent defects"

Where did this one come from? Does it mean anything? It makes it sound as though there are defects built into the project but they are hiding until a later date.

Last week's article in *The Voice* lists sixteen issues that have not been resolved.

Of these, slippery floors and sinks too close to electrical sockets surely must count as an immediate health and safety issue!

Have these been investigated by the Department of Health and Safety?

Who do you sue if any of these defects is responsible for an accident?

How can Hochtief and MITIE continue to manage Arran High School effectively if the haven't managed it properly so far?

Lots of previous PPP projects have the following in common:

- Large payback over many years, plus high cost of repairs — say over 25–30 years.
- Poor standard of workmanship in the building.
- Unaccountability or liability for the various stages of the building.

The costs of this exercise will ultimately be borne by the taxpayers — ourselves.

*J Y Gourlay, Brodick*

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL PILOT SCHEME

*An open letter from Campbell Laing, Chair of Arran Community Council*

Dear members of the Community,

First of all may I thank everyone who took the time to write to, or phone me with suggestions.

The Community Council has not reached a final decision on how the money should be used. We know that our final decision will not satisfy everyone but we are determined that any scheme that we select will benefit, if not all the community, then a large part of it.

There are certain criteria that must be followed and points have had to be clarified with the Government as to the use of the money, and whether there would be any continued funding for any particular project. We have been informed that this is a one-off payment, so naturally we have to adjust any thoughts to take this into account. We will therefore be making further deliberations early in the New Year.

I can assure you that the Community Council will do its utmost to ensure that the £10,000 is used wisely for the benefit of the island. We therefore wish to take our time over the matter and not rush into anything.

Once again thank you to all who have made suggestions or given advice to the Community Council. Thank you all for your support.

Finally, may I on behalf of the Community Council wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Campbell Laing, Chairman*



# News in Brief...

## CHILDREN BOOGIE AT SCHOOL DISCO

Last Friday night the children of Lamash primary partied the night away at a special school disco in aid of school funds. 'It was a fab night with lots of cool dancing going on,' said Ninna Crisp, who helped to organise the event. About £90 was raised and all involved give huge thanks to the helpers on the night and all who came.



Great dancing by Ryan from P2



Above: Anna, Lauren (P4) and Joley (P3) dance together. Below: Leon and Craig hang out



## MSP CALLS FOR DALRY BY-PASS

Irene Oldfather MSP is urging the Scottish Parliament to announce the upgrade of the A737 Kilwinning-Glasgow road by creating a bypass at Dalry. The Cunninghame South MSP received a letter from North Ayrshire Council and the local business community describing the upgrading of the road as the single most important investment to improve the economy of North Ayrshire. It is thought that a bypass would attract businesses looking for easy access to Glasgow whilst also assisting commuters who live in the area but work in the city.

At General Question Time in the Scottish Parliament last week Stewart Stevenson, transport, infrastructure and climate minister, said it would not be appropriate to anticipate the details of the Strategic Transport Projects Review.

## HARBOUR DARKNESS SENDS FERRY TO GOUROCK

Last Friday's 4.40pm ferry from Brodick to Ardrossan was redirected to Gourock when half-way across the Clyde as the skipper realised the navigation lights at Ardrossan were not working. The AIS Liverpool website which plots a map tracking commercial and most military vessels showed Caledonian Isles taking a sharp turn as the hazard was spotted. Clydeport said that due to a power failure and absence of a back-up generator, the navigational lights at Ardrossan were down and the boat could not berth. The ferry eventually docked at Gourock in the early evening.

## AYR TAX OFFICE CLOSURE

The Inland Revenue's Russell House tax office in Ayr is due to close by Spring 2010 as part of a nationwide rationalisation of tax offices. The closure of Russell House will force 68 staff to travel to work in Irvine, Glasgow or East Kilbride. Local politicians suggest that relative unemployment levels in North Ayrshire have been taken into account when making the decision. 20 offices at locations across Scotland will be closed and the PCS union said the closures could mean 400 job losses in Scotland.

## 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.



## PARAGLIDING

**GIFT VOUCHERS £95**

**01770303899**

**www.flyingfever.net**



## Arran Transport Ltd

### OPENING TIMES FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

**Christmas Day CLOSED**

Friday, 26th December: 10am – 5pm

**New Years Day CLOSED**

All other days at normal time:  
8.00am – 5.30pm

Fridays: 8.00am – 7.30pm

**Arran Transport Ltd**

wishes all their customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## LOVE LIFE

with a little help from

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

Tel 302 397

for a confidential appointment



## 2009 Courses at Arran Learning Centre

Start date/time	Title	Venue
Mon 5 Jan - 2.00-4.00	Yoga	Brodick Hall
Wed 7 Jan - 7.00-9.00	Yoga	Whiting Bay School
- 6.00-8.00	Beg. T'ai Chi	Arran High
- 8.00-10.00	Adv. T'ai Chi	Arran High
Thurs 8 Jan - 7.30-9.30	Line Dancing	Brodick Primary
- 7.00-9.00	*Digital Photography	Arran High
Mon 12 Jan - 7.00-9.00	Cookery is Fun!	Arran High
- 7.00-9.00	*Beginners' Computing	College
Tues 13 Jan - 10.00-12.00	*Beyond Basics Computing	College
- 7.30-9.30	Art	Arran High
- 7.00-9.00	Fun with Drama	College
Wed 14 Jan - 10.00-12.00	*Beginners' Computing	College
Thurs 15 Jan - 7.00-9.00	Rag Rug Making	College
Fri 16 Jan - 2.00-4.00	Art	Rangers' Centre
Tues 20 Jan - 4.00-6.00	Creative Writing	College
Wed 21 Jan - 4.00-6.00	*Beginners' German	College
Tues 27 Jan - 4.00-6.00	*French Conversation	College

\*These courses can be part-paid for with your ILA.

You must present your ILA card at enrolment!

If you have already completed a course this academic year, you will receive a £15 reduction on the cost of your next one.

Courses cost £45 or £33.75 for the over 60s.

All classes will run subject to minimum numbers.

Argyll College also offers a range of open learning courses from introductory to degree level.

For more information and to book a place on any of these courses, please contact Jenny on 01770 600152.

**YOUR LOCAL COLLEGE**



## GIFTS FOR KIDS...

**Santa could do worse than do his Christmas shopping here on Arran!**

Top of his list might be remote control cars and electronic kits from the Harbour Shop, or remote control helicopters and planes from Red Door. While scouting around for other boys' toys he'd pick up a head-torch or a Spiderman buff from Arran Active, a sackful of board games from Bilslands, colouring books and pens or pencils from Brodick Post Office and sweatshirts and fleeces from the Old Byre Showroom.

Clothes are pretty high on most girls' Christmas lists and there's a great selection for little girls of all ages at the Old Byre together with cute Ness rabbits and duvet duck slippers, and more soft toys can be found at the Red Door, the Harbour Shop and Brodick Post Office. A wide range of ski jackets, scarves, hats and gloves for the fashion-conscious outdoor-type are on offer at Arran Active, and Bilslands.

Santa will be stocking up on stocking fillers for children of all ages from these outlets — and they offer great shopping opportunities even if you are not in a red suit and a cotton wool beard!



**25% off KIDS JOULES**

**BOYS & GIRLS TRESPASS SKI JACKETS FROM JUST £14.99**

**Plus Toys, Games and plenty of Stocking Fillers!**

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**A wonderful Christmas Present for all ages**

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Please contact Janis Murchie on  
 01770 860 200/07748 290 259

[arrancarriagedriving@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:arrancarriagedriving@hotmail.co.uk)



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*Blackwaterfoot*

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

**Sunday**  
 12.30pm–4.30pm

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE HARBOUR SHOP**

Remote Control Cars,  
 Jigsaws,  
 Board Games,  
 Soft Toys,  
 Books,  
 Thomas Tank Toys,  
 Toy Cars,  
 Hat and Scarf Sets,  
 Slipper Socks,  
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 Gift Vouchers,  
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Our suggestions for kiddies include our large selection of...

Fleeces  
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 and Duvet Duck Slippers  
*and so much more...*

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

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



**Brodick Post Office**  
**Gifts for Kids...**

**Jigsaw Puzzles**

**Toys**

**Board Games**

**Letters to Santa**

**Stickers**

**Cuddly Toys**

**Arts & Crafts**

**Handmade Christmas Earrings**

**Top Trumps**

**... and loads of stocking filler ideas!**

**Brodick Post Office**

Mayish Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AA



**BIGGEST EVER SALE!**

**Up to 60% off Waterproof Jackets, Softshell Jackets and Fleeces**

**½ Price Footwear & Trousers**

**£££s off Rucksacks, Tents, Headtorches and Camping Gear**

**NEW! Ski Tubes & Socks**

**SALE STARTS IMMEDIATELY!**

Opening Times:  
 Monday – Saturday, 10am–4pm  
 Sunday, 11am–4pm

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



# Greens warn about Hunterston 'retro-fit'

## CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY URGED



FRIENDS OF THE Earth Scotland have called on the Scottish Government to make 'carbon capture technology' a precondition of plans for a new coal power plant at Hunterston. 'There shouldn't be any new coal capacity without a fully operational carbon capture plant,' said Corinne Evans, head of Project and Campaigns at FOE Scotland. 'Our worry is that it will be a retro-fit. Retrofitting is no commitment to anything.'

FOE Scotland is calling for the Scottish Government to improve on European standards by limiting the power station's carbon emissions to 350g of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilowatt/hour, significantly less than the 500 grams per kilowatt/hour set by California and accepted by the European Parliament environment committee. However, the emissions of any new power plant will hinge on 'carbon capture and storage' technology (CCS), and this is still in its infancy. It captures carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted from power plants and stores it away from the atmosphere, thus cutting global warming — but the snag is, the process can use between 10% and 40% of the energy produced by a power station. The first integrated CCS power plant started operating in Germany in September 2008.

CCS at Hunterston will involve compressing CO<sub>2</sub> into liquid form then taking it away to be piped for storage in an empty oil well (although deep ocean dumping and 'mineral sequestration' options have been considered for other projects). No details of proposed locations for the storage of the carbon emissions have yet been made public. There are no suitable storage locations near Hunterston and the energy used in compression and costs of transporting the CO<sub>2</sub> are likely to form a major part of the operational cost.

### HUNTERSTON COAL POWER NOW A NATIONAL PRIORITY

The Hunterston coal plant plan has been placed on a special list of twelve priority projects as part of the National Planning Framework. Hunterston has a direct connection to the national grid and deep water port facilities, and these advantages make the site ideal for importing the large volumes of coal required for the power station.

The consultation process required by the National Planning Framework is intended to fast-track the Hunterston coal plant through the planning process, but public consultation expert Clare Symonds says the Planning Framework failed to consult widely enough with community groups. She claims that the Scottish planning system is 'on shaky foundations indeed', and her report concludes by saying the the fact that the Scottish Government cannot meet its own standards 'sends the wrong message to local authorities that are considering how to consult on the next generation of development plans.'

The Scottish Government has roundly dismissed the report's comments, arguing that the consultation process had involved 12 regional seminars attracting almost 1,000 people, with 120 bilateral meetings with stakeholders.

The Hunterston coal plant plan is due to be assessed by planners in 2009.

View the report at:

[www.planningdemocracy.org.uk/NPFreport.pdf](http://www.planningdemocracy.org.uk/NPFreport.pdf)

# Childminders come top!

LATEST FIGURES RELEASED by the Care Commission reveal that Scotland's childminders are top of the league, with higher inspection grades, on average, than nurseries and other daycare establishments.

The grading system has revealed that childminding is at the forefront for quality childcare. From quality of care and environment to staffing, management and leadership; childminding services swept the board with the greatest proportion of high grades. The Care Commission said, 'Childminding services show the largest proportion of any service category achieving grades 5 or 6 for EVERY theme.'

This has come as no surprise to the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA). Spokesperson Maggie Simpson, Director of Childminding Development, said: "We are delighted that the new grading system ... has revealed what we have long known; childminders offer a consistently high quality of service with an environment perfectly suited to ensure children are best cared for, stimulated and happy."

Parents should feel confident that childminders offer not only a flexible, home-from-home service, but also one that is second to none in terms of quality of care".

Originally set up in 1985, the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) is based upon a network of volunteer members from 32 local authority areas and around 60 staff who work to promote the organisation.

SCMA has a membership of almost 5,000 childminder members, each offering a family-friendly and flexible home-based childcare service. Childminders are registered and inspected by the Care Commission and have access to a wide range of training courses to ensure their service quality is maintained.

**Contact:** Leigh McEwan (SCMA, Communications Co-ordinator) on 01786 445 377

**E-mail:** [information@childminding.org](mailto:information@childminding.org)

**Website:** [www.childminding.org](http://www.childminding.org)

# Plans to ease Ardrossan ferry traffic

THIS WEEK NAC councillors will discuss plans to re-organise traffic flows to and from Ardrossan Harbour, with proposals to alter carriageway markings, lane structure and parking restrictions. If the plans are approved, Harbour Street, leading from its junction with Princes Street, will be widened to accommodate the creation of three traffic lanes which will allow drivers to turn left, go straight ahead and or turn right.

It is hoped this new layout will free-up traffic leaving the ferry terminal. At present there are often lengthy tailbacks that cause clogging of traffic as far back as the level crossing over the railway line between Ardrossan Town and the Harbour. The councillors will also discuss other recommended changes, including the introduction of parking restrictions in Princes Street, Harbour Street, Harbour



*Tailbacks from the Princes St traffic lights can extend back to the railway line*

Road, Harbour Place and Bute Place. The Council report considers it 'desirable to assist the regeneration of the area by providing a greater availability of short term parking close to the main amenities in the area. It is therefore intended to introduce limited waiting on Princes Street between the traffic signals and the railway. This will 'free up' areas of parking that are currently unavailable due to the presence of longer term parking.'



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, closed 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January

Arran Art Gallery, Shore Road, Whiting Bay — open daily, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

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 — mixed exhibition, daily 1–6pm, closed December 25th/26th and January 1st/2nd

Main Fine Art, Michael Main Gallery, Douglas Centre, Brodick — open 10am–12.30pm & 2–4.30pm

Isle of Arran Distillery, Lochranza — winter opening times until 16th March:

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 10am–4pm, Sunday 11am–4pm (restaurant closed, tee & coffee available), closed December 25th/26th and January 1st/2nd

Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodick — closed for the winter

Claddach Pottery, The Store, Claddach, Brodick — open 7 days, closed December 25th/26th and January 1st/2nd

Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, gym inductions, fitness assessments, personal training daily, all fitness classes suspended for Christmas Holidays from 21st December

Balmichael Visitors Centre, String Road — Mondays and Tuesdays closed during winter, except Mo/Tue 22nd/23rd December and Mo/Tue 29th/30th December, closed for holidays from January 4th–28th

Arran Adventure, beside Auchrannie Spa, Brodick — open December 29th/30th/31st for outdoor activities, then again from 5th January daily

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 closed December 24th/25th/26th/31st and January 1st/2nd.

#### 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

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

Arran High School Christmas Concert, Theatre AHS, Lamlash, 7pm for 7.30, tickets from Arran High School

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, classes suspended until 15th January 2009

General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

#### FRIDAY 19TH

Last day of school before holidays

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

Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am

Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am

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

Arran Torch Players, rehearsals suspended during school holidays

Jazz Café, BYOB, Whiting Bay Village Hall, Whiting Bay, 8pm

Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm

Over 21's Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

#### SATURDAY 20TH

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, all day

RNLI Shop Lamlash open 10.30am–12.30pm

Family Games, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 3–4pm

Fun in the Pool, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 4–5pm

WRI Children's Party, Shiskine Hall, 2–4pm

WRI Children's Party up to P5 (incl.), AHS Theatre, Lamlash, 2.30pm

WRI Children's Party, Whiting Bay Hall, 4–7pm

Youth Club, Church Hall, Brodick — Carol Singing in Brodick, 7–10pm

Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

#### SUNDAY 21TH

Boys' Football, KA Campus, Lamlash (Astroturf or Games Hall), 10–11am

Arran Wargames Club, Arran High School, Lamlash, suspended for school holidays

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

Christmas Carol Singing with Arran Brass Monkeys, Kilmory Hall, 6.30pm

#### MONDAY 22ND

Ways 2 Walk Group, Ormidale Pavillion Car Park, Brodick, 11am

Scottish Country Dancers, Beginners & Improvers, Corrie Hall, 2pm

Weight Wise, Hospital Bungalow, Lamlash, 5–5.30pm, suspended until 5th January

Sannox Cricket Club, Indoor Practice, Auchrannie Gym, Brodick, 7–9pm, . . . Suspended for holidays

Ab Class Beginners, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–7pm

Aerobics, KA Campus, Lamlash, 7–8pm

Lamlash Bridge Club, Golf Club House, Lamlash, 7.15pm

General Knowledge Quiz, Cameronia, Whiting Bay, 9.30pm

#### TUESDAY 23RD

AA Alcoholics Anonymous, Brodick Church Hall, 2pm

Indoor Bowling, Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 2–4pm

Body Conditioning, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6–7pm

Scottish Country Dance Class, Brodick, Church Hall, 7.30pm

Pop Music Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

#### WEDNESDAY 24TH

WRI Children's Party, Kilmory Hall, 5.30–8pm

WRI Children's Party, Kildonan Hall, 6pm

Circuit Training, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–7.15pm

#### THURSDAY 25TH

Lochranza Craft Club, Lochranza Hall, suspended for holidays

Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, suspended for holidays

Middle Eastern Dancers' Practice & Lessons, Lamlash Church Hall, suspended until 15th January

General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, suspended

#### EVENTS OVER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

Boxing Day Dook, 5 £ towards RNLI, register with Sally Hunter (600 952), Friday 26th December, Lamlash Pier, 1pm

New Year's Ceilidh, BYOB, soft drinks and snacks (strictly no glass, just plastic and cans), reservations possible under 600 095, Arran High School Theatre, Saturday 27th, 8pm

Bridge Party & Supper, all welcome, book in advance (600 900), Monday 29th December, Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm

Shiskine Hogmanay Party, tickets only (860 427), Wednesday 31st December, Shiskine Hall, 10pm–1am

# Out & About

## UP & COMING

### 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**



# Facts and thoughts about ravens

By Noel Crack

FOLLOWING THE RECENT controversy regarding attacks carried out by ravens on farm animals, I thought some independent insights might be helpful.

In his excellent monograph, *The Raven* (T and AD Poyser 1997), David Ratcliffe concludes that "At one time the raven had a reputation for killing sheep, but probably few shepherds in more recent years believed it would arrack a healthy ewe or ram ... Lamb killing is a different matter." Ratcliffe goes on, "In February/ March 1953, M.G.Ridpath investigated reports of lamb killing by ravens in Pembrokeshire for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In an observation of 100 hours in a coastal area with five breeding pairs of ravens, he found no evidence of attacks on either ewes or lambs. By contrast, in an inland and upland area (the Prescelly Mountains) during 220 hours observation, he saw two lambs actually killed by ravens and nine other attacks on lambs and eight on ewes. The success or failure of the attacks on lambs depended mainly on the vigour with which the mother defender her offspring by rushing at the attackers. Another lamb was seen by the shepherd to be killed during delivery, when the ewe was at its most vulnerable. Attacks on adult ewes were not really pressed home in earnest, but nevertheless appeared to be made initially with serious intent. Some sallies which appeared to be attacks on

lambs were made to obtain the placenta, but Ridpath pointed out that this could be damaging if the placenta was still attached to the lamb. This upland area had three breeding pairs of ravens, but the attacks appeared to come entirely from birds in a flock of non-breeders, varying between 9 and 19 in number, which were living on the sheepwalks in question".

My personal opinion is that in order to understand the cause of the apparent increase in the number of attacks on livestock on Arran, we need to understand the reasons for the obvious rise in the population of the birds on the island. As recently as 1994, in their book, *Birds of Arran*, John Rhead and Philip Snow could classify the raven as uncommon. Why the change? One reason must be more successful breeding, with the survival of more young birds. The raven is celebrated for being one of our earliest birds to breed, often laying eggs in February. In recent years our winters have generally been much milder, with fewer of the hardships endured by wildlife in icy weather. In some environments hard winters can work in favour of the raven, there being more carrion available. For some reason this seems not to apply on Arran, with many more young birds surviving in the changed conditions. It could be that the close proximity of the sea, with its food potential to all breeding territories, may play a part.



One thing that has declined is the so called 'sport' of egg collecting. Being particularly beautiful and multi-coloured, Raven eggs were greatly prized by collectors, one reddish or "erythristic" variety being regarded as almost their Holy Grail. It is surprising how common this egg collecting was before the introduction of the Wild Bird Protection Act in 1954. Persecution by the old style game-keeper rigidly protecting his livelihood has also diminished. The sight of gibbets hung with pathetic rows of crows, jays, magpies, and hawks etc, are thankfully a thing of the past, although poisons are still sometimes used in some quarters. A pair of ravens nested successfully in the copse of mature Scots Pines alongside our house in Corriegills. There are

three new properties here, built on the foundations of the old farmstead and buildings. I wonder if the birds would have been tolerated so close at hand when it was a working farm?

Ravens do not usually breed until they are three years old, and then they require a substantial area for their breeding territory. Derek Radcliffe's book suggests that the maximum number of breeding pairs that Arran could support would be about forty. These breeding territories would be strongly defended by their occupants, and from studies carried out elsewhere it would appear that any surplus non-breeding population is only able to survive by banding together in flocks. Could this be what is happening on Arran now?

## Stanza wow Corrie

AN AUDIENCE AT Corrie Church was entertained by 'Stanza' last Saturday evening. The popular annual performance was boosted by some new material including a topical boardroom skit about the streamlining of Santa's 'North Pole Incorporated' due to competition from online retail distributors. At the interval folks tucked into locally-baked mince pies in the festive atmosphere. The highlight was a mock-debauched performance of an alternative version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, during which Peter Alexander Wilson, Crawford Logan and Peter Thomson enjoyed some of the spiritual ingredients of a Christmas pudding. With over 80 people attending,



Actor and radio voice Crawford Logan tells a good story

it raised some much needed funds for both the upkeep of the church and the Arran Youth Foundations.

## Whiting Bay Thursday Club Ain't Misbehavin' ...

By WB Thursday Club

LAST THURSDAY, Dec 11th, the club was fortunate to have a return visit to Whiting Bay Hall of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, the talented vocal group. It was with us that the group first performed in public. Moira Starks, their founder, was unfortunately not with them as she was convalescing at home on her return from Crosshouse Hospital. (Rest assured, Moira, your group did not let anyone down!) Douglas Hamilton very capably stood in as Moira's replacement accompanist, for which many thanks.

The very varied 14 item programme was of a highly entertaining nature, with no weak link anywhere in the chain. The harmonies were even better than last year,

the new members blending in beautifully.

Two solo items, a politically-correct *Christmas Ode* and a sweet rendering of *Little Donkey*, added to the afternoon's enjoyment. Our compliments of the season to *Ain't Misbehavin'* — please carry on as you started!

### PANTOMIME

The club sincerely thanks the staff and children of Whiting Bay Primary School for the superb performance of the Christmas pantomime last Wednesday. The warmth of your welcome and the excellence of everyone's manners added much to our enjoyment of the afternoon.



## 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!

### Chocolate Morning Lamlash Primary School,

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

A 'naked' fairy silver  
ear-ring was lost boarding  
or disembarking the  
Brodick-Ardrossan  
ferry last Friday 12th  
December. Anyone who  
might have found it, please  
call 700708

### 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.

### Bridge Party

Open to all- visitors or locals  
beginners or experienced  
players

**Where?** Lamlash Golf Club

**When?** Monday 29 December  
7pm

Enjoy a pleasant evening's  
bridge and a nice supper.

Phone 600 900 in advance to  
book in.

Kildonan & Kilmory Senior Citizens Committee  
would like to thank everyone for donations  
and raffles for their annual Christmas Party.  
Special Thanks to Rod, Anne and Staff at  
the Kildonan Hotel for a lovely meal and  
comfortable surroundings, not forgetting our  
entertainers. Also Santa for his annual visit  
with presents for everyone. The Christmas  
Hamper was won by Isabelle Adamson.

## MISSING CAT

6 month old female brown and grey  
tabby with ginger flecks

### Answers to "TALI"

Last seen in Hamilton Terrace,  
Lamlash, probably on Friday 12th  
Dec, wearing silver flea collar and  
bell. Cropped patch of fur on left  
flank



**PLEASE, PLEASE CHECK YOUR SHEDS, OUTBUILDINGS AND  
VEHICLES...**

**Please call 601339/078256 44161**

# Marine News

By **John Kinsman**,  
Fishing Correspondent.

## UNEXPLODED BOMB FOUND IN LARGS

On Monday 8th December, divers  
working underwater found an  
unexploded torpedo buried beneath the  
pier. A security cordon was immediately  
thrown around the scene and Army  
Bomb Disposal Experts carried out a  
controlled explosion. Ferry services  
to Millport were disrupted during the  
operation.

## DARING HANDOVER

HMS Daring, the world's most advanced  
destroyer, was officially handed over to  
the Royal Navy on Wednesday December  
10. At a ceremony in Scotstoun on the  
Clyde, the shipyard staff left the vessel in  
a formal march-off, and were replaced  
by the ship's Royal Navy crew, led by  
her captain, Paul Bennett. The ship will  
be ready to leave the Clyde under Royal  
Navy Command in January 2009.

## 'CATCH LESS, LAND MORE' APPROVED

Fishermen have won a 30% increase  
in the amount of cod they are allowed  
to catch in 2009, it was confirmed on  
Wednesday December 10. Negotiations  
between the EU and Norway also led to  
a ban on dumping marketable fish back  
into the sea. The amount of North Sea  
haddock legally allowed to be caught  
is reduced by 11%, while whiting and  
herring quotas are each down by 15%.

Scottish Fisheries Minister Richard  
Lochhead commented that the deal  
presented a 'golden opportunity' to  
reduce the amount of fish dumped  
overboard. He said, 'The 30% increase  
in cod quota is a fair reward for our  
fishermen, who have already adopted  
trailblazing conservation measures and  
have now signed up to do more. Our  
'catch less, land more' policy has been  
vindicated.' He hoped to see the level of  
cod discards 'slashed dramatically this  
coming year.'

Liberal Democrat fisheries  
spokesman Liam McArthur said, 'This  
increase will, I hope, go some way  
to tracking fish discards, which are  
incredibly frustrating for fishermen and  
damaging to the environment.'





## Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**

*Amateur Meteorologist*

### SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S FORECAST

Generally accurate apart from Saturday. It turned out to be a rather nice day. Saturday seems to be my bogey day for forecasts. Must try harder.

### General Summary for 3rd December to 8th December:

That horrible deep low pressure area in the North Atlantic seems still to be in charge, giving us wet and windy weather right through the weekend.

However we may see some changes for the better on Monday when a large anticyclone, which has been sitting down around Spain, moves north. This looks like staying with us through until Christmas. It will be quite settled, but it won't necessarily bring us a lot of sun. After all it is the middle of winter, and on a happy note the days will start getting longer (only gradually)



### Thursday

Wind and rain for most of the day, I'm afraid. Lighter in the morning but becoming much heavier in the afternoon. It will stay fairly mild at 9°C, but the wind will feature strongly throughout. Mainly from the west at force 5, that is about 25mph.



### Friday

More rain today. Staring fairly light then increasing in the afternoon with some really heavy stuff too. Looks like it might ease a little again in the evening. Temperatures could take a dip in the morning, giving us some sleety showers, but they will pick up again in the afternoon. Again it will be very windy from the south west. It will start quite light at about 18mph, but increase rapidly with the chance of gales in the afternoon, then easing back to 25mph later. Not a good day for travelling.



### Saturday

Well, here we go. My bogey day. It will stay very windy but not quite so wet. The winds from the south and west will be lighter in the morning, but very strong in the afternoon and evening, probably around 25mph or more. There could well be some gale force gusts. Some heavy showers early on, then becoming lighter and more localised in the afternoon, and evening. It will feel milder at 11°C. Could be OK to get out and about in suitable waterproofs.



### Sunday

Still mild at 12°C. It will be cloudy all day, but the recent heavy rain and showers will peter out and there could even be some bright spells. It will stay very blustery, however, with some showers and strong south westerly winds of 25mph or more at times. A better day than yesterday for getting out, but still very wet underfoot.



### Monday

Starting to see the effects of that big anticyclone now. Not much sunshine and generally cloudy, but dry at last. Temperatures around 9°C and light winds from the southwest.

### Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

Looks like it will continue to be dry and cool for the rest of the week with no serious winds to contend with. White Christmas? The bookies aren't going to get my money!

### Ferry Notes

Thursday will be a bit bouncy, but it should make it OK. Friday morning looks OK, but it could be close to gale force in the afternoon when I think "adverse weather" may cause disruption. Saturday afternoon and evening could also be a bit worrying, but if I had to go to the mainland, I think I'd get back home.

# Corrie and Sannox SWRI

THE MONTHLY MEETING on the afternoon of 11th December was well attended. The President, Elma Stevenson, welcomed the members, with a very special welcome for our 3 honorary members, Betty Kerr, Ruth Russell and Bessie Sillars.

After the business, Elma introduced our demonstrator, Assya Baumgärtner, who showed us how to make Christmas

Decorations which were traditional and eco-friendly. Afterwards members were given the opportunity to make one themselves.

Anne Pringle proposed a vote of thanks for an enjoyable evening.

The next meeting, "Auld Year's Night", is on Thursday, 8th January, 6pm for 6.30pm when there will be a buffet followed by the return of "the three amigos".



# Massive NAC by-election swing

ANTHEA DICKSON WON the Kilbirnie & Beith by-election for the SNP this week. She achieved a 15% swing in a traditionally Labour seat that hosts two offices of MP Katy Clark, two Labour clubs and two Labour branches, including the biggest in Scotland. Last year, although the SNP won Cunninghame North, it was 831 votes behind Labour in Kilbirnie and Beith, Labour's strongest area in the constituency, but in this election the SNP vote more than doubled, from 23.4% to 48.9%.

SNP MSP Kenneth Gibson, who lives in Kilbirnie, said: 'Anthea Dickson will make an excellent councillor for Kilbirnie & Beith, and her well-deserved victory reflects on how the SNP is addressing the issues that matter to people locally.' He added, 'This is also a great tribute to the late Cllr Craig Taylor whose untimely death led to this by-election. As sole SNP councillor for the multi-member ward of Kilbirnie & Beith, his hard work left a strong legacy for the SNP.'

Commenting on her victory Cllr Anthea Dickson said: 'It is an honour to have been elected to represent Kilbirnie & Beith. I look forward to working with my SNP colleagues on the council, in Parliament and in the SNP Government, and will work hard for my constituents and North Ayrshire.'



The results of the first preference votes were:

<b>SNP</b>	1363	(48.92%)
<b>Labour</b>	939	(33.70%)
<b>Tory</b>	322	(11.56%)
<b>LibDem</b>	94	(3.37%)
<b>Soc Lab</b>	68	(2.44%)

Cllr Anthea Dickson was elected at the third stage of counting, which gave the following result:

<b>SNP</b>	1415	(51.90%)
<b>Labour</b>	972	(35.60%)
<b>Tory</b>	342	(12.50%)



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# SNOW QUEEN PLAY SPREADS FESTIVE CHEER

BRODICK PRIMARY SCHOOL pupils performed an impressive Christmas play entitled the 'Snow Queen' on Monday this week. It was a festive spectacle featuring the many talents of all ages at the primary, from the beautiful singing of Ailsa McMillan to some inspired acting by those performing as trees and flowers. Shannon Galbraith played a feisty, no-nonsense Snow Queen who captured the mind of Oisean Swinton-Boyle's character with an icy spell. It was up to Ailsa's character Gerda to rescue him with the loving power of a rose. Her journey was full of adventures as she met a family of crows, snowball-throwing children, a kind king and queen, a group of flowers and a marauding gang of thieves. But eventually the Snow Queen and her icicle-wielding side-kicks were banished by Gerda and the friends she made.

The stage set was amazingly well-designed, with great costumes, and John Pennycott's audio work never missed a beat or a wintry sound-effect. After the play, headteacher Mrs Fisher thanked all her staff and the many parents who helped with the production.



Alistair McMillan plays a snowball-throwing street urchin



Young trees Johnny Soutter and Luke Nelson are very convincing



Snow Queen Shannon Galbraith and sprite Ailsa McMillan



Lauren Lundie is a snowflake



Megan McNicol is the Flower Witch



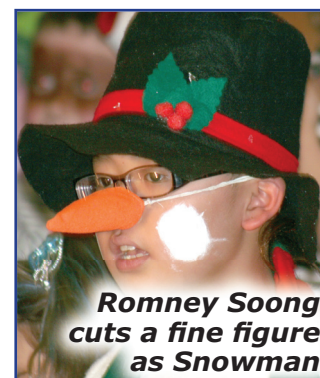
Ailsa McMillan playing Gerda who fights off the sprites with her rose



Flower Mia Walker delivers her lines with aplomb



Prince and Princess: Kirstie Kerr and Ross Kerr



Romney Soong cuts a fine figure as Snowman



Snowflake Ineker Aitchison-Hogge

## Victorian magic at Castle

CHILDREN ENJOYED a magical afternoon at Brodick Castle last Sunday as staff donned Victorian dress to re-enact some festive rituals and celebrations of the 19th century. Here are some pictures from the event.



Colin Totty and his daughter roast some tasty chestnuts in the garden for visitors



Pupils from Brodick primary school sing Christmas carols in the cafe



Victorian cooks were on hand in the kitchen to teach visiting children some ye olde Christmas recipes (Picture by Arran Photography — photos can be ordered direct on 601 372.)



The Rowan Singers also entertained (Picture by Arran Photography)



Head guide Eileen McAlister looks stunning in a beautiful black dress. The dress with fragile sequins and stitching used to be worn by the grandmother of Marjorie Bannatyne



Maureen and John Moore add a touch of Victorian glamour to the event

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Christmas Concert**  
 at Arran High School Theatre

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# Arran Wedding then Indonesia...

CARLY MCGOVERN, eldest daughter of Nikki Surridge, was married to her fiancé, Rizqy Renan from Surabaya, Indonesia, on Saturday December 13th. The service was conducted at the Kildonan Hotel by Susan Barr.

Carly works as an English Teacher in Surabaya, Java, and Rizqy is a tattoo artist. Andy Surridge told *The Voice*, 'They're off on their honeymoon to Edinburgh and beyond (they don't know yet, haven't decided, probably up North somewhere), and will go back to Indonesia in the New Year, when they'll celebrate again with Rizqy's family — and,' Andy added, 'a fraction of the alcohol consumed on Saturday!'



# Bella's Diary

By Margaret Kay

I CANNOT BELIEVE just how quickly the time is going — Wee Malkie is five weeks old tomorrow and my sleepless nights in the first ten days of his life seem a like a distant memory.

He is growing fast and doing really well — a real little dog now instead of the wee blob he was for the first few weeks, albeit a gorgeous wee blob. If he keeps on as he is I think I may have to rename him Middle-sized Malkie!

He is getting more alert every day and becoming more and more aware of his surroundings. As I am writing this, he is wandering round the living room, usually following hot on the heels of one of the other dogs. Earlier on he spotted the television and focussed on that for a while, then he moved on to gazing up at the coffee table, as though figuring out how to get up on to it — it must seem huge to him.

At this age, pups just seem to learn so much, even on a daily basis. This week he has discovered he can bark — although when he works himself up to making this triumphant sound he usually falls over, so it is woof-bump! Hopefully, he will get better at it as he grows a bit bigger.

His tail has also discovered it can wag, and it just never stops. If you speak to him at all, his tail wags. If any of the other dogs interact with him, his tail wags. He is such a happy wee puppy.

If I clap my hands and call to him, he comes waddling, rather than running, and again his tail is doing overtime.

He gets quite excited now when he is picked up and is desperate to give loads of puppy kisses to anyone who is happy to receive them — and most people who have met him are! I guess because he is a single puppy, he does not have littermates to play with so he is maybe more focussed on me and other humans than he would otherwise be. My first Yorkie, Oose, was a single pup and she had the most wonderful nature — so if Wee Malkie follows in her footsteps, then he will not go wrong.

He loves his grub! He is getting wee meals now, only about half a teaspoonful at a time, three times a day. This will help his Mum out and get him ready for going to his new family in January. He has porridge or scrambled egg in the mornings and a tiny amount of meat or fish or chicken during the day. His favourite is mince — he just loves that and sticks his nose right into it. At bedtime he gets rusks or weetabix — something warm and milky to settle him down for the night.

House training is going OK. As he gets more adventurous, it is more difficult to keep tabs on him, but in the main, he is picked up, put onto the pee-pee mat and does his stuff. A puppy pen is going up tomorrow to contain him.



He will have his bed and his toys and the all important pee-pee mat. The idea is that if he gets out of his bed by himself and the first thing he gets to is the mat, then he will very quickly get the message that it's the right place to go. Then, even when the puppy pen is removed, he will always look for the mat to pee on. That's the idea, anyway!

Malkie's fame is still following me

around. This week it was the Co-op, the Medical Centre and on the beach. "How is that wee pup doing?", "How is Wee Malkie getting on?" I think I may not be the only one who will miss him when he goes to his new home.



# Getting to know Alistair Aitkenhead

By Nick Underdown

ALASTAIR AITKENHEAD might well define the phrase 'spritely presence.' Well-kent by many on the island for his unstinting support of traditional dance, like many folks, Alastair needed a bit of pre-interview persuading. 'It would be a pity if it read like an obituary,' Alastair joked. But at the age of 87, he is definitely not of the old school. His vision of physical education as a way to break down barriers is as socially progressive now as when he was Sports Education Adviser for the whole of Ayrshire. After retiring he became chair of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (1989-91) and has always promoted the idea: 'It has to be fun to dance.'

## CORRIE BOCHAN

Alastair first came to Arran in the 1950s with his wife May on their holidays 'like everyone else on the West Coast of Scotland'. They stayed in a bochan in Corrie that used to be an old joiner's shop behind the village hall. 'Four walls and a fire. That's all you needed,' Alastair recalls the asbestos sheet walls and tin roof with a seeming sense of satisfaction with life's threadbare necessities. He tried to buy the bochan in the 1960s, but his offer was outbid by a holiday-maker from down south. He now stays near the Corrie port in a house built by a fisherman 210 years ago.

In the 40 years before he moved permanently to the island in 1981, Port-na-Sithe had no less than fourteen different owners. Alastair has witnessed first-hand the changing demographics on Arran, as second homes became popular and threatened to hollow out communities. 'Unfortunately for the young people in the village there aren't many of them and they can't afford to buy a

house,' he says sympathetically.

## DEPRESSION

Alastair himself is no stranger to economic twists of fate. In the year of his birth, his parents moved to the bustling town of Ardrossan in 1921 to live in the Ardrossan Dry Dock Shipbuilding Company's employee tenement quarters (where the Asda supermarket is now). It was just weeks before the great Depression set in. 'That was a real depression, not like now,' said Alastair. Instead of the promised shipbuilding job, his father journeyed to America and worked in New York State for five years as a carpenter. 'They went without a clue of work, very like the Poles came to Scotland recently.'

One of six children, Alastair remained in Ardrossan and worked as a farmhand at the nearby Glenhead, Commonsides and Montfode farms. He was educated in the local Eglinton-Winton Public School before going to Ardrossan Academy. Despite his modesty ('I was a very mediocre athlete'), he was a natural cross country runner, training with the Beith Harriers. He went on to study at the Scottish School of Physical Education in Jordanhill in 1940 alongside national-level athletes.

## 'AN INNOCENT ABROAD'

'Then the army got hold of me,' said Alastair with accepting humour. 'I was an innocent abroad.' Posted at the Indian Military Academy in Deharudun in the foothills of the Himalayas, he was launched into a world of British army majors establishing control of the biggest non-conscripted army in the world. 'Most of the time was

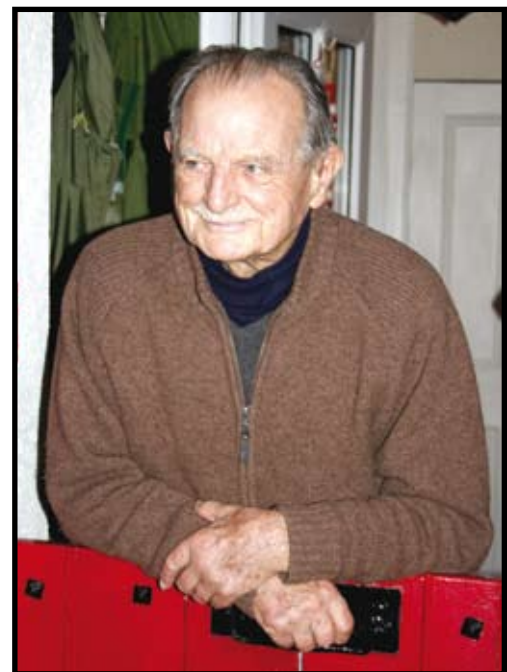
spent footering about with the fighting a thousand miles away,' he recalls. A year before the end of the war, Alastair became Company Commander in Peshawar near the Afghanistan border to protect supply routes. 'No-one has ever won against the Afghans,' he remarks — for he believes that Britain is still fighting an unwinnable war.

Tramping up and down the high altitude foothills under threat of sniper fire, Alastair says he was never as fit as in those days. But 'I came back to re-educate myself how to teach weans, instead of train soldiers,' he says. After finishing his studies at Jordanhill, his first PE job was at Stevenston. 'My command of people in the army was a big help in teaching. More than anything it gave me a social awareness.'

## SPORT EXPLOSION

After twenty years, Alastair became Educational Adviser for the whole of Ayrshire, working at a time when new sports were emerging. His own physical education had focused on Swedish gymnastics, but suddenly sports such as basketball and swimming were becoming part of the syllabus. 'There was a big explosion of sports.'

'Sport is not just rugby and football,' says Alastair. He is passionate about the importance of physical exercise and believes it essential for all children to have fun at their own level of ability. It is this vision which underpins his abiding passion for dance. Back in 1953 he had met his wife on a dance certificate course in Glasgow and after many happy years together raising two daughters, they brought their infectious spirit and enthusiasm for dance



to the island. Alastair's wife passed away just three years after they moved to Corrie, but Alastair's passion remains. For a decade now, he has been leader of the annual traditional dance festival which involves all the island's primary schools. 'It's important that children get involved at an early age,' explains Alastair. 'Especially for boys who think it is too soft. Before too long, dancing is seen by some as not brave enough, not strong enough.'

## DANCING AND LIVING

There is an understated strength in his observation, which exceeds the 'bravery' of competition. 'Dance is important because it gives every kid a chance to do something physically, socially, emotionally and culturally. It breaks down barriers.' Underlying Alastair's gentle wit is a root seriousness about the freedom of dance. 'Any dance that is not fun is too competitive.' He is concerned about the overly staid Highland dancing competitions, which emphasise form more than fun. But stronger is his faith that dancing — be it at weddings, ceilidhs or social clubs — will always be a part of living. He is surely right when he says, 'I think it's the best thing to keep our culture alive on Arran.'

## To the Insects

By W.S. Merwin (1927-)

### Elders

we have been here so short a time  
and we pretend that we have invented memory

we have forgotten what it is like to be you  
who do not remember us

we remember imagining that what survived us  
would be like us

and would remember the world as it appears to us  
but it will be your eyes that fill with light

we kill you again and again  
and we turn into you

eating the forests  
eating the earth and the water

and dying of them  
departing from ourselves

leaving you the morning  
in its antiquity

W.S. Merwin has said of the human race, 'Our real importance is our capacity for responsibility for every form of life, the recognition that we are a part of the entire universe.' His poetry was unavailable in the UK for over 35 years until the publication of his Selected Poems in 2007.

Poem  
of the week

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### Mistletoe Magic



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# Dam good beavers

*This is a shortened version of an actual letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Quality sent to a man named Ryan DeVries regarding a pond on his property. With beavers about to be reintroduced to Scotland, we feel sure this will be useful to future dam owners.*



It has come to the attention of the Department of Environmental Quality that there has been recent unauthorized activity on the above referenced parcel of property. You have been certified as the legal landowner and/or contractor who did the following unauthorized activity: **Construction and maintenance of two wood debris dams across the outlet stream of Spring Pond.**

A permit must be issued prior to the start of this type of activity. A review of the Department's files shows that no permits have been issued. Therefore, the Department has determined that this activity is in violation of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams ...

We find that dams of this nature are inherently hazardous and cannot be permitted. The Department therefore orders you to cease and desist all activities at this location and to restore the stream to a free-flow condition by removing all wood and brush forming the dams from the stream channel ... Failure to comply with this request or any further unauthorized activity on the site may result in this case being referred for elevated enforcement action..

*Mr. DeVries wrote back as follows:*

Dear Mr. Price,

A couple of beavers are in the process of constructing and maintaining two wood 'debris' dams across the outlet stream of my Spring Pond. While I did not pay for, authorize, nor supervise their dam project, I think they would be highly offended that you call their skillful use of nature's building materials 'debris.'

I would like to challenge your department to attempt to emulate their dam project any time and/or any place you choose. I believe I can safely state there is no way you could ever match their dam skills, their dam resourcefulness, their dam ingenuity, their dam persistence, their dam determination and/or their dam work ethic. I do not think the beavers are aware that they must first fill out a dam permit prior to the start of this type of dam activity.

If you want the stream 'restored' to a dam free-flow condition please contact the beavers — but if you are going to arrest them, they obviously did not pay any attention to your dam letter, they being unable to read English.

In my humble opinion, the Spring Pond Beavers have a right to build their unauthorized dams as long as the sky is blue, the grass is green and water flows downstream.

Being unable to comply with your dam request and being unable to contact you on your dam answering machine, I am sending this response to your dam office.

Thank you,

Ryan Devries  
& The Dam Beavers



## Recipe

By Janis Murchie

### BIG MINCE PIES

Here's a simple and rather different recipe for two family-sized mince pies. It uses good quality bought mincemeat as a base, but adds a certain difference.

#### Ingredients:

- Pastry for 2 pies.
- Fruit mincemeat.
- 2 cups of chopped apples.
- ½ cup of raisins.
- 16 x chopped pecan halves.
- 3 tablespoons of rum flavouring — or the real thing!

#### Method:

1. Roll out pastry and line the bottom of two 8-inch pie dishes, making sure you have enough for the lids.
2. In a large bowl, mix the fruit mincemeat, raisins, apples, and pecans. Stir in the rum flavouring slowly until well mixed.
3. Spoon the mixture into the lined pie dish.
4. Roll out top pastry crust and place over the filling.
5. Flute the crust edge.
6. Bake 30 minutes or until golden brown at 350°F.

### TURKEY SOUP

#### Ingredients:

- Carcass of one turkey.
- 4 cups of chicken stock.
- 4 cups of water.
- 1 cup of dry white wine.
- ¼ cup of all-purpose flour.
- 6 peppercorns.
- 2 parsley sprigs.
- 1 celery stalk, chopped.
- 1 medium onion, chopped.
- 1 bay leaf.
- 1 carrot, chopped.
- 2 teaspoons of butter.
- 1 teaspoon of vegetable oil.
- ½ teaspoon of thyme.

#### Method:

1. Heat up the butter and vegetable oil over medium-high heat. Cook the celery, onion and carrot, stirring for about 10 minutes.
2. Add the flour and reduce to medium heat, cooking for 2 more minutes.
3. Stir in the chicken stock, water and dry white wine. Bring to a boil.
4. Add the turkey carcass broken in pieces, plus the peppercorns, parsley, bay leaf and thyme.
5. Simmer the soup, covered partially, skimming any froth as it comes up to the surface, for 90 minutes.
6. Once cooked, strain the soup, then either serve immediately or refrigerate if serving later.

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# Building a record collection

By Douglas Hamilton

## Rachmaninoff Piano Concertos 1-4 and Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini

Countless people will remember the gloriously nostalgic music that underpinned that classic film, *Brief Encounter*. This was Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto. His 3rd was the basis for the David Helfgott film, *Shine*, and both are pillars of the Romantic piano concerto repertoire, with plenty of pianistic fireworks, and some memorable 'big tunes'. His *Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini* is also a highly popular piece. Choosing the best recording is made more complicated by the fact that each concerto is often paired with another piece, but you can opt to buy a double CD set of all four concertos, possibly along with the *Rhapsody*. This way, you get to know the less well known 1st and 4th concertos too.

There are several highly commendable sets of the 4 concertos, of which two stand out. A superbly recorded Decca set from the 1970s features Vladimir Ashkenazy with Andre Previn and the London Symphony Orchestra, in which the distinguished soloist displays plenty of poetic imagination. Much more recently, Stephen Hough was recorded live with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Litton (with some editorial patching) in an award-winning set, which was deemed to rival though not necessarily surpass the outstanding individual recordings from the past. Earl Wild's recordings would also be worth checking out, not least for Wild's prodigious technique in recordings modelled on Rachmaninoff's own performances.

In selecting one particular recording of the 2nd Concerto, I'd suggest Sviatoslav Richter's famous account on DG. Richter was a keyboard giant, and his performance is massive. It is slower than normal in the first movement, but none the less masterful, and thrilling in the finale. It is combined with a superbly played version of the Tchaikovsky 1st Concerto

For the Rachmaninoff 3rd Concerto, Martha Argerich's famous live performance is widely commended. The Penguin called it 'the release we've been waiting for'. The BBC 'Building a Library' also chose it, enthusing over its 'old-style panache and risk-taking with modern clarity and control.' In their view, it is 'unrivalled'. It is combined with an equally commendable recording of the Tchaikovsky 1st Concerto, and must rate as one of the great concerto recordings. My recommendations are as follows:

- Rachmaninoff Piano Concertos 1-4, Paganini Rhapsody\*/Piano Concerto no.2/ Piano Concerto no.3 Ashkenazy, LSO Previn \* Double Decca 444 839-2 (Bargain Price)
- Stephen Hough, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Andrew Litton \* : Hyperion CDA 67501-02
- Sviatoslav Richter, Warsaw Philharmonic, Stanislaw Wisloki (with Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto 1) DG 447 420-2
- Martha Argerich, Berlin Radio Symphony Orch, Riccardo Chailly (with Tchaikovsky no. 1) Philips 446 673-2

## From Him to Her at Seventy-Eight

By Lector Senilis

*A reader, clearly not 'senilis' at all when it comes to creativity, sends this poem that links 78 years and the 78rpm of classic records.*

### From Him to Her at Seventy Eight Lent mmviii

The deputation on the mantel-shelf,  
Five cordial cards, affects you; and you say  
"It's not as if it were 'significant' –  
Like fifty, or one's three-score years and ten."

But do remember what affects myself  
As well. You are re-joining me: we stay  
Now on our years; months all beside the point –  
From snowdrops-out till Michaelmas comes again.

And have you noticed a coincidence?  
It struck from nowhere: wound-up revolutions,  
Seventy-eight per minute, of shellac: —

A ten-inch for Sylvester-tempo dance;  
Two twelves for Brahms's Haydn Variations.  
So: let's be groovy, and go back, go back!

## News from the Blues



### NO MOT

On Thursday 11th December at 4pm on the C147 near Sliderry, a 30 year old male driver from Sliderry was reported for not having MOT.

### DRIVING WITHOUT TAX DISC

On Thursday 11th of December at 7.30pm on the Shore Road Lamlash a 33 year old Lamlash female was reported for not having tax or insurance for her motor vehicle.

### CHARGE FOR BUYING ALCOHOL FOR UNDERAGE DRINKERS

On Friday 12th of December at 8pm in the Co-op Store in Lamlash, a 43 year old Lamlash female was reported for offences under the licensing act, mainly purchasing alcohol for minors.

## 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.



## All Welcome

### Scottish Episcopal Church

(in full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
Sunday, 21st December: Holy Communion and carols, 11.00 am. Mrs Janis Gallagher. Coffee after service.  
Wednesday, 24th December, CHRISTMAS EVE: Midnight Mass, 11.30pm.  
Rev'd Paul Fletcher. All Welcome.

### Church of Scotland

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
Sunday 21st December  
Rev. Gilean Maclean Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30am  
In Kilmory: Christmas Eve  
Family Service 9pm  
Christmas Day Family Service 11.30am  
(Please bring an unopened present to open during the service)  
In Lamlash: Christmas Eve  
Watchnight Service 11.30pm  
Christmas Day Family Service 10am  
(Please bring an unopened present to open during the service) All welcome  
Scottish Charity SCO 15072

### Arran Free Church of Scotland

21st 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)  
Rev David Karoon All Welcome, Tel:860426

### Arran Baptist Church

Sunday 21st December in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick. 10.55 Worship Service, Tea and coffee afterwards  
Everyone welcome

### Arran Free Church of Scotland

(continuing) Sunday 21st December, 11am Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 5 Glen Road, 7pm  
Rev.D. Macleod All welcome

### Church of Scotland,

Parishes of North Arran; Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together. Minister Rev. Angus Adamson, Parish Assistant, Mrs Jean Hunter  
Worship will be conducted at the following times:  
Sunday 21st December:  
Brodick Church, 10.30am,  
Sunday School Service  
Corrie Church, 12noon  
Pirmill, 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  
First Mass of Christmas 8pm Wednesday  
Christmas Morning Mass 11am

### Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 21st December 2008  
An all age service for Christmas, with a family communion will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and Coffee will be served in the transept after the service. There will be the usual monthly sale of Traidcraft goods. There will be a service in the Hospital at 1.30pm, a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm and in Craigielea at 3.15pm. At 6.30pm in the Church transept, there will be an informal evening service of praise and discussion. All most welcome.



# Weekly Prize Crossword

Compiled by **The Wee Scunner**

One Crossword —  
two sets of answers!



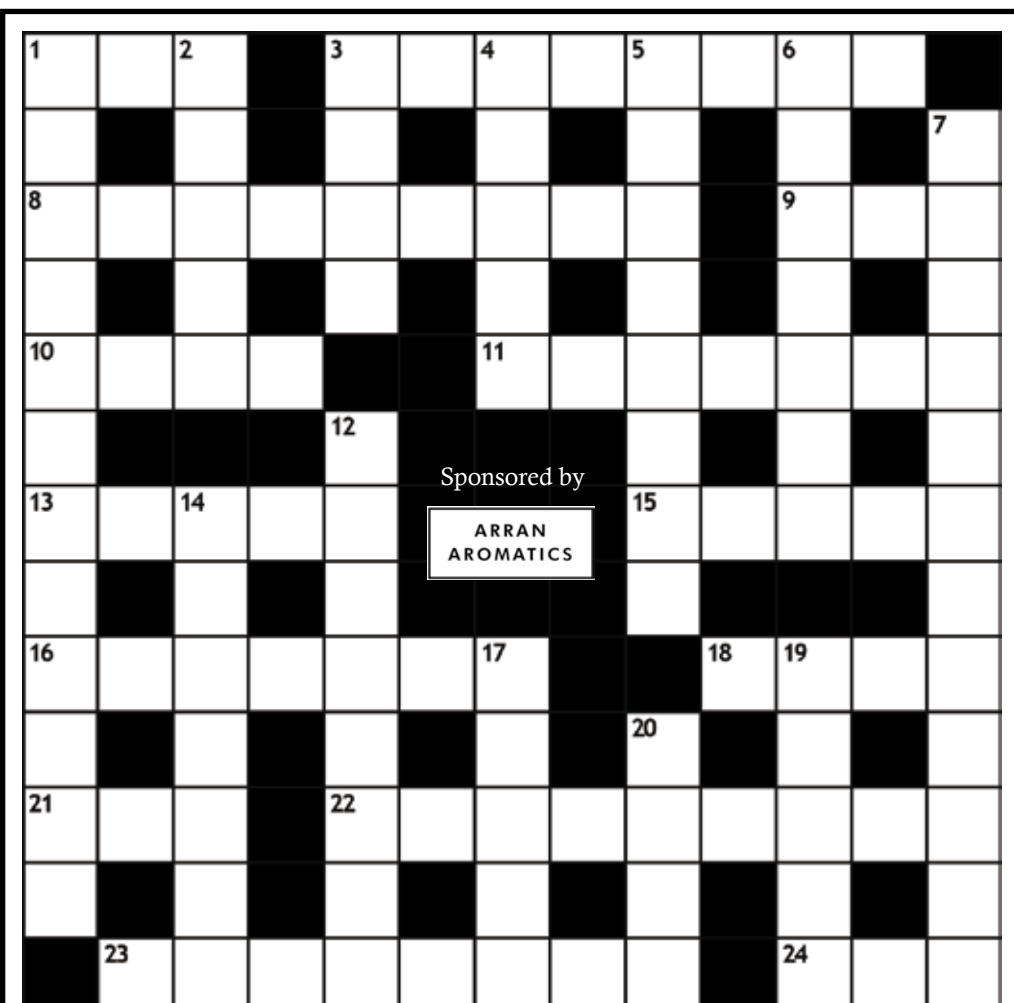
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**Win an Arran Aromatics gift box worth £30 this week**

You have until Tuesday, 30 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 87's crossword can be found on page 19.



Sponsored by

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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 89" in the subject line.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone/E-mail: .....

## Cryptic Clues

### Across

- 1,3 Absent permits liquor stores (3, 8)  
8 Double up target ball cutter (9)  
9 Puree from dried almond (3)  
10 Pretty knowing (4)  
11 Shortened autumn fancy flaw (7)  
13 Aloof bath scrubber (5)  
15 Grim back (5)  
16 Laxer scrimshanker (7)  
18 Wee sweetie (4)  
21 The royal you? (3)  
22 Underground worker in calm ore (9)  
23 Like top outsize dangerous material (8)  
24 Assent in family escutcheon (3)

### Down

- 1 End instruction. It teaches you the hard way (6,6)  
2 Angle east in truth (5)  
3 Enjoy dig (4)  
4 Sheer face of Mr Richards (5)  
5 Goads Scot — uncalled for (8)  
6 Finish play final stage of chess (3,4)  
7 Some of 52 acting eccentrics (7,5)  
12 Support long lumbar pain (8)  
14 Wild asses rags one (7)  
17 Laughing aint right (5)  
19 Useful hydrogen and yttrium (5)  
20 Devils found in prim psalter (4)

## Quick Clues — just for fun!

### Across

- 1 Huff (3)  
3 Dislike (8)  
8 Involving special practical knowledge (9)  
9 Female bird (3)  
10 Abominable snowman (4)  
11 Not well at all (4,3)  
13 Pit (5)  
15 Muse (5)  
16 Unleavened bread (7)  
18 Declare (4)  
21 Sister (3)  
22 Thin pasta (9)  
23 Glandular tissue at the back of the pharynx (8)  
24 Canine (3)

### Down

- 1 Minor crime (5,7)  
2 Unspoken (5)  
3 Spots (4)  
4 Shine (5)  
5 Scottish flags (8)  
6 Shakespearian heroine (7)  
7 Winter sport (12)  
12 Hired killer (8)  
14 Longed (7)  
17 Inhabitant of Baghdad (5)  
19 Chose by election (5)  
20 Not that (4)

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## CONQUER FEAR

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

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## Issue 87 Crossword Answers

### Cryptic Answers

Across: 1 Yet; 3 Relative; 8 Locum; 9 Sanctum;  
10 Psychometric; 12 Mensa; 13 Irons;  
15 Featherheads; 19 Impeach; 20 Duped;  
21 Readable; 22 Shy.

Down: 1 Yule; 2 Tucks In; 3 Rum; 4 Lasso;  
5 Tangerine; 6 Voter; 7 Smacks; 11 Crashland;  
12 Muffin; 14 Oedipus; 16 Ample; 17 Rehab;  
18 Eddy; 20 Due.

### Quick Answers

Across: 1 Mac; 3 Angelica; 8 Adios;  
9 Upbraid; 10 Faithfulness; 12 Enema;  
13 Omega; 14 Brinkmanship; 19 Whitret;  
20 Goose; 21 Lanyards; 22 Ewe.

Down: 1 Mead; 2 Chicane; 3 Ass; 4 Gruff;  
5 Libellous; 6 Crane; 7 Odessa; 11 Thackeray;  
12 Elbows; 14 Episode; 16 Ibiza; 17 Aster;  
18 Mere; 20 Gas.

### Winner of Issue 86 Crossword:

Congratulations to *Celia Sillars from Brodick* who wins the gift voucher this week.

## Issue 88 Sudoku & Kakuro Solutions

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

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

9	8	20						
23	8	6	9		17	4	25	
9	1	2	6	11	8	1	2	
				23	2	1	9	3
5								5
20	4	8	3	5	6	26	6	3
5	1	4	9	7	16	1	4	9
33	9	8	4	5	7	16	11	
6	2	1	3	23	6	9	8	
				19	9	7	3	

# Sudoku

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

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

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

## On this day...

- 1898 Gaston de Chasseloup-Laubat sets the new land speed record going 39.245 mph, in a Jeantaud electric car. This is the first recognized land speed record.
- 1912 The Piltdown Man, later discovered to be a hoax, is supposedly found in the Piltdown Gravel Pit, by Charles Dawson.
- 1969 Capital punishment permanently abolished in Scotland, England and Wales.
- 1997 HTML 4.0 is published by the World Wide Web Consortium.

## Star Birthdays

- 1943 Keith Richards, English musician
- 1964 Steven Spielberg, American film director
- 1963 Brad Pitt, American actor
- 1968 Casper Van Dien, American actor
- 1978 Katie Holmes, American actress

# 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.

	11	27		6	17	25		
4			18					
			13					
35							31	
	12			15				12
4								
11			12		7			
16						11		
			19		5			
	14				7			6
		24						
		20					5	



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By Christopher Jenks

## Swords, skates and Euros

BONJOUR! French food, clothes and culture are all wonderfully different from the English tradition. I discovered this recently when I went with a group of friends from school on an exchange visit to find out more about the French style of living.

On the 3rd December we caught the plane from Glasgow to Amsterdam, then on to Toulouse. During our visit we experienced many history walks and a lot of French speaking. We had a basketball tournament (which, I am proud to announce, we almost won) and a Greek/Latin lesson.

We went into Toulouse to visit the Christmas market and there was a huge outdoor ice-skating rink! As it was only 5euros for 45 minutes I stepped forward nervously on to the ice and was immediately consumed in a whirlwind

of expert skaters. I only fell over ... 7 times and woke up the next day with a black bruise the length of my thigh!

On the Sunday, we drove to Carcassone castle. We saw four men sword fighting and thought they were just pretending until we saw chips flying out of one of the shields. While we were at the castle we found a haunted house. The French boys said it wasn't scary at all, but with several cloaked men appearing suddenly, it was pretty terrifying.

On the final evening there was a party, with a mix of traditional dances and songs from both countries. We sang 'On the Bonnie bonnie banks of Loch Lomond' and it was chaos when we had to teach them 'Strip the Willow'!

We arrived back on Arran shattered and were met off the boat by our parents

who were overjoyed to see us ... I think! I said goodbye to everyone still in French mode. Merci.

*This week's Wee Voice is by Christopher Jenks and his well-used passport.*



## McLarens look to the future

**Housing development shelved as couple plan to revive bar**

BILLY AND JANIE McLaren, owners of the McLaren Hotel, are halting the residential development at the Brodick shorefront property in favour of a refurbishment of the existing hotel and bar. 'We're taking it back to the very beginning,' Billy told *The Arran Voice*. 'We're going to focus on the bar and the hotel, not the property.'

The McLarens have received an offer for the hotel, but signalling their determination and purpose, they now plan to revive bar to its former glory themselves, rejoining the tourist board and boosting Brodick's amenities for visitors. 'We want to work with everybody to get it back to what it was,' Billy said. As well as a refurbishment of the hotel rooms starting in January, they will be working on revamping the

restaurant menu.

Billy also plans to put on regular evenings of music and entertainment at the weekend and is hoping to attract some of the season's festive singers with a well-rewarded karaoke competition on Boxing Day.

Over the past couple of years, the proposed McLaren Hotel development has been dogged by difficulties, from local objections to protracted negotiations with housing bodies. The built-in proposal to include an affordable housing element proved impossible to implement within the range of people on the housing list, and the details of the proposed plan became more and more complex. 'It could have been levelled and then perhaps left with a half-finished building,' said Billy. He



*Billy McLaren plans to boost Brodick's tourism appeal*

is now looking to a different future, and says, 'I'm going to put all my energies into rebuilding the business.'

## Knockenkelly housing granted

PLANNING PERMISSION for the building of two houses on a site south of Knockenkelly farm was approved by North Ayrshire Council's planning department earlier this week.

The application submitted by Mr and Mrs Hamilton of Knockenkelly Farm was granted on the basis of Policy H1 of Alteration No 1 to the Local Plan which permits small scale growth of existing rural housing groups of

four or more houses, 'provided the proposal is sympathetic to the character and form of the existing group, it does not prejudice a future development opportunity and it complies with the Council's Roads Guidelines.' The application received objections from the Arran Civic Trust and a Glasgow-based landowner who has an unresolved application for a similar development in the vicinity. The granting of permission to build the two houses prevents

further development at the Knockenkelly group as Policy H1 states that a group of four houses can only be expanded by 50% of the number of existing dwellinghouses (in this case two more units).

The Council considered that the other application by Mr Deutsch from Dowanhill in Glasgow would 'have a greater impact on the landscape in that it would require the removal of a group of trees.'

## It's a Car's Lot

### POACHED EGG AND POWER GUZZLE

Anyone with a sneaking affection for the old Morris Minor will defend it ferociously against those who deride it as puttering wee has-been. Designed by the brilliant Alec Issigonis and making its endearing appearance in 1949, it established itself in the heart of British motorists as a car of enchanting character. Lord Nuffield dissented, saying it looked like a poached egg, but nobody took any notice. He was only a car-industry tycoon, so what did he know? On TV, Barry Humphries in full drag as an Australian tourist in Stratford shrieked in excitement on seeing a Minor Traveller with its sturdy wood-reinforced back end. 'Look! A half-timbered car!' he squealed. 'Historic!' And so it was.

Martin Wainwright (not the hill-walker, just a lover of good old cars), has just published a book called *Morris Minor: The Biography*. Nicely timed for the Christmas market, it looks like a must for the nostalgic owner. It's a chunky book of 224 pages, published by Aurum, in which Wainwright potters around all over the country looking for surviving Minors. Amazingly, there is still a factory in Sri Lanka that can supply doors and spare parts. The little car is still in general use there, and aficionados are pushing for a Minor re-launch, in the same way that we have the jelly-mould-shaped new-era VW Beetle. The main players dangling their hooks in this potentially rewarding water are the Chinese. Who knows — the world may be set for a take-over bid by the Mollis Minoh. Ah, so. Very clever country, China. After all these centuries of tough times, it is set to come into its own — and probably everyone else's.

On a loftier plane, guess what is the most-wanted car in Britain? Forget your economical run-around — it's the Aston Martin DB9. On a slowish test drive to Inverness, *The Herald* motoring correspondent got around 24 mpg out of it, and admitted that the car 'didn't like rumbling along at 50mph.' However, once he was on an emptier road and put his foot down, the DB9's almost 6-litre V12 engine was gulping through twice the amount of fuel. And you can't even put a child's buggy in the back. What a weird world it is, still prey to dreams of money and the big vroom-vroom. We're a long way yet from tethering a mule outside the Co-op.





## 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

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29th, 30th and 31st December - service as normal  
New Years Day and 2nd January - no service

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22nd, 23rd and 24th December - open as normal  
Christmas Day and Boxing Day - closed  
Saturday 27th December - open as normal  
29th, 30th and 31st December - open as normal  
New Years Day and 2nd January - closed  
Saturday 3rd January - open as normal  
Please remember to book ahead for visits to transfer station on 27th or 3rd on 600338 and keep recyclable packaging separate.

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Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
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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)



# Arran three points from win

ARRAN'S RUGBY SENIORS were just three points away from an impressive away win last weekend against Carrick RFC, but the score ended up 18-16 to the home team. Arran are now sitting in fifth position in the league (see table below) and will face Mull in their next fixture.

Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PD	Pts
Millbrae	11	8	2	1	430	141	7	0	289	43
Carrick	10	8	0	2	373	108	5	0	265	37
Paisley	9	8	0	1	237	73	3	1	164	36
Strathaven	8	4	0	4	189	121	3	1	68	20
Isle of Arran	9	4	0	5	140	120	2	2	20	20
Hughenden	9	4	0	5	179	293	3	1	-114	17
Moffat	8	2	0	6	124	161	1	3	-37	12
Braidholm	7	0	0	7	59	421	1	1	-362	2
Cowal	5	1	0	4	30	144	0	0	-114	1
McLaren	6	1	0	5	54	233	0	0	-179	1

# Arran pool league – week 7

TWO LEAGUE MATCHES were shelved last week as both the Cameronia and Kildonan struggled to get the requisite numbers for their fixtures.

The Drift were comprehensively beaten despite a good start against Bar Eden and a guest appearance by Craw. The Shurig boys played some hardball tactics, placing pool maestro Ewan Ingram against one of Lamlash's big names Lee Girbow. 'It was a deliberate match up,' alleged John Copperwheat after the game. After taking a 3-1 lead in the singles, the Drift Hokie squad had slumped to 5-3 before the Gallon, JC losing his own game to Toosh in another strategic manoeuvre by the Whiting Bay gamesmen.

Rumours have it that the ex-Drift player Toosh was hoping for the draw, so as to keep the title-race alive. A few uncharacteristic missed shots may have betrayed some wavering loyalties to his home turf, but the match was never in doubt, ending up 8-4 to Bar Eden, who are now taking over the the reputation from the Drift as being the 'serious' team.

PHT met Catacol in the other fixture, but details have been delayed due to an *Arran Voice* administrative blunder. A pre-Christmas pool report special will be published next Tuesday.

## Arran Artists Calendar 2009

### On Sale Now!



Arran Art Gallery  
Arran Craft Gallery  
Arran Brewery  
Arran Transport  
Arran Voice  
Bay News  
Bay Stores  
Bilslands

Book and Card  
Brodict Post Office

Catacol Hotel  
Cladach Pottery  
Harbour Shop  
Jimmie Gordons  
Kildonan Stores  
Kilmory Village Hall  
Old Byre Showroom  
Pirnmill Shop

Shiskine Golf Course

The Burnside

The Lemon Tree

The Village Shop

Whiting Bay Post Office

**Price Slashed!**  
**Now £9.99**

# Golf Results

## Arran Golfers Association Winter League 2008/2009

Second round results, Whiting Bay Golf Club, Sunday 14th December

A cold but dry day saw the rescheduled second round get under way on a soggy Whiting Bay Golf Course. Thanks to Whiting Bay for hosting and the delicious soup and rolls, much appreciated by all players. Also the condition of the course was a credit considering the weather it's had thrown at it in recent weeks.

First up were the host club against last month's 4 – 0 victors Machrie. Unfortunately for Machrie, they ended up on the end of a 4-0 whitewash this time, with Whiting Bay getting much needed points after the opening day defeat to Lamlash. Whiting Bay were fielding a stronger team than last month with the return of Nicol and Malcolm adding to the existing power.

Last up was Lamlash against Shiskine. The strength in depth of Lamlash showed with a 3-1 victory even with a last minute call-off and a slight reshuffle of pairings. The score slightly flattered Lamlash as two of the games went to the second last and one all the way to the last, with Lee Girbow managing to hole a 4-footer for the game. Shiskine possibly will feel a point would have been a fairer result but the win puts Lamlash in an already strong position with their home tie still to come.

Brodict couldn't manage to play on the rescheduled date due to a club competition so will rearrange with Corrie and play the game at a later date suitable to both teams and with the agreement of Whiting Bay on tee times.

Next up for the Association is round 3 at Corrie in January. All the best to all Arran golfers and hope you have a great Christmas and soberish New Year from all at A.G.A.

## Brodict Golf Club

Sunday 14th December, Brandon and Winter Cup, 24 played, CSS 67

Sweep Results:

1st C. Pattenden 76 (11) 65

2nd A. Dobson 76 (10) 66

3rd G. Hendry 75 (8) 67 bih from M. Dobson

Scratch: J. Armit 73

There was only one two – I. MacDonald was the lucky one.

1st Class Brandon — Chris Pattenden

2nd Class Brandon — Matthew Dobson

Fixtures:

Sunday 21st and Sunday 28th December, Clochendichter

If there is demand, there will also be a sweep on both dates following Clochendichter games

## Lamlash Golf Club

### Lamlash Ladies

Wednesday December 10th, Traditional Christmas Competition

A good turn-out for this traditional stableford game ( 12 holes), which was enhanced at the start by sherry and sweets (courtesy of the lady captain). It was further enhanced by the superb crisp and bright weather. A very close game with only 3 points between the top 5.

1st Yvonne Brothers 21 points (wins a voucher for Galbraith's butcher)

2nd Pat McDonald 20 points (another Galbraith's voucher)

3rd Elizabeth Sinclair 19 points (acb)

4th Morag Gardner 19 points (acb)

5th Kate McAdam 19 points (acb)

Following the game the ladies all retired to the Drift Inn for lunch and the prize giving.

## Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 9th December, Winter Cup

1st David Price 62

2nd Ian Buchannan 62

3rd Brian Sherwood 67

Scratch David Price 70

Two's David Price, Alistair MacDonald

Fixtures:

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

Tuesday 30th December, Two Club Competition, 1pm shotgun start

## Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club

Thursday 11th December, Ladies 18 hole Medal

1st Elizabeth Ross 85-19 66

2nd Viv Parks 92-24 68

3rd Jenni Turnbull 91-21 70

Best Scratch, Fiona Crawford 85 (bih)

Fixtures:

Boxing Day Texas Scramble

Wednesday 31st December, Mahogany Trophy

Thursday 1st January, Colditz Quaich

Thursday 1st January, Alan Smith Plate

Friday 2nd January, D. S. Bannatyne Shield

## Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 14th December. At last the weather relented and allowed golf to be played again in the rearranged Winter League fixtures.

Whiting Bay beat Machrie Bay by a convincing 4-0 score.

Fixtures:

Sunday 21st, Friendly with Lamlash at

Whiting Bay, tee offs from 10.30am-11.00am



## BRIDGE CLUB



### Brodict Bridge Results 18th December 2008

N/S

1. T. Martin v D. Hamilton +120
2. J. McArthur v M. Cumming -130
3. D. Bruce v D. Subie -430

E/W

1. L. Trickett v E. McNiven +1780
2. J. Barclay v M. Gardener +1580
3. H. Boyd v L. Paul +1420

### Lamlash Bridge Club 15th December 2008

N/S

1. P. Adamson & E. McKellar -380
2. M. Gardner & L. Tricket -840
3. M. McGill & C. Bone -1120

E/W

1. E. Paul & E. McNiven +1870
2. A. Bilsland & T. Martin +1840
3. H. Boyd & J. Murchie +1570





# Cairnhouse reindeer riders turn out for Christmas Show

By Dawn Murchie

*Continued from back page*

SEVENTEEN RIDERS were forward for the Wobblers with thirteen going clear in the first round, ten in round two, and the following eight making it a double clear to earn themselves double points on the leader board: Lauren MacAlister, Lina Locatelli, Sarah McNeil, Abbie MacAlister, Hannah

Bone and Amie Latona. Shannon MacAlister whizzed round at top speed on Rosie to pick up ten points and the red rosette for returning with the fastest double clear in 31.35 secs. Both junior and senior Duster Badges were won during the wobbly classes. Erin Boal and Emma Hill were none the worse for their unplanned dismounts from their horses and both lived to tell the tale!

Eighteen were entered in the Novice class and eleven went through to the jump off against the clock. Nicola MacAlister was drawn in first, and riding Taylor's Bing came back with a clear round in 36.19 secs. Megan MacAlister turned her own Ally inside out and shaved ten seconds off Nicola's time, giving the following riders something to think about. Clear in 26.63 seconds, Megan stayed in poll position until tenth to go Nicola Currie came in on her bouncing Dolly and pipped her at the post in an amazing 26.22 secs to win the class.

## NOVICE

1. Nicola C., Dolly
2. Megan, Ally

3. Lynn Ramage, Katie
4. Katy Thomson, Hardie
5. Amy Downard, Malakye
6. Emma, Dynah

The Mini Challenge had a good class of sixteen entered. The 100 fence was successfully jumped by no less than eleven of the riders. Sherlea was drawn in first on Molly and returned with a good score of 220 giving the others something to chase for. Emma, who had Dynah jumping for fun, rode a lovely round scoring 310. Amy also came home with a top score of 310 as did Nicola M. Nicola C. went that extra mile faster and went into the lead jumping nine fences and scoring 380. However, Megan wasn't letting Nicola get it all her own way and she also scored 380 to share the top spot and the twelve points up for grabs.

## MINI CHALLENGE

- 1st equal Nicola C. and Megan
- 3rd equal Emma, Amy and Nicola M.
- 5th Katy

The clear round class was next and the first fence which had been changed to an upright seemed to catch out quite a few riders. Only three out of the twelve starters made it round unscathed to collect the valuable six points on offer.

The last class of the day was the Cairnhouse Challenge. The 100 fence was now standing at 3'3" and was changed to the bogie upright that caught so many out in the previous class. Quite a few attempted it and either rolled the top pole or had a glance off. The first to jump it successfully was Lynn Ramage riding Sue Tozer's Katy. They finished on a top score of 170 and went into the lead, however, it was short lived as next in Amie Latona flew round on flying machine Merlin and came back with a score of 220. Amie's lead wasn't for long either as the on form combination of Megan and Ally were the only ones to jump the 100 both ways and win the class with a brilliant top score of 330.



*Anna Downard with 'Peanuts'*

## CAIRNHOUSE CHALLENGE

- 1st Megan, Ally
- 2nd Amie L, Merlin
- 3rd Lynn, Katie
- 4th Amy D., Malakye
- 5th Lauren, Fudge
- 6th equal Nicola M., Bingham's Pageboy and Nicola C., Dolly

As we are at the halfway stage of the competition the top ten are as follows;

## JUNIORS

- Shannon 19
- Abbie and Sarah 10
- Lauren and Hannah 9

## SENIORS

- Megan 60
- Amie L. 45
- Amy D. 41
- Nicola C. 37
- Lynn 34



*Julie Graham receives some fundraising assistance*

# Brodict bowlers enjoy Christmas meal

THE BRODICK Bowling Club presented the season's trophy winners with their silverware last week at an annual Christmas dinner at the Brodict Bar. The results from the season are as follows:

## Alma Trophy for Ladies Singles

Ann Hollingworth (Lavinia Hendry, runner-up)

## Brian Wilson Cup for Gents Singles

John McConnachie (John Lauder, runner-up)

## David Auchinvole Cup for Pairs

Roger Peacock and John Kerr (Alex Gardiner and Fiona Brown)

## Bob Cameron Cup for Triples

Alex Gardiner, Ann Whattam and Rod Smith (John Lauder, Fiona Brown and Lavinia Hendry)



*Rod Smith, Ann Whattam, Charles Hendry, Ann Hollingworth, John McConnachie, Teddy Kerr and Roger Peacock*

## President's Bowl

Charles Hendry

## Stewart Cup

John Lauder

## Centenary Triples

Jackie Donaldson, Tony Wooden and Iain Hendry



*Lauren McAlister with 'Fudge'*



*Cairnhouse's Dawn Murchie gets festive*





## CAIRNHOUSE REINDEER RIDERS TURN OUT FOR CHRISTMAS SHOW

By Dawn Murchie

CAIRNHOUSE RIDING CENTRE held the Christmas Show last Sunday at the Blackwaterfoot Stables. Julie Graham had organised a fancy dress class in aid of charity prior to the jumping classes. There was a good turnout for this and judge Sally Bambridge chose Isla Yuill as her winner. There was plenty of tinsel and bobbles about and lots of little (and even not so little!) riders had really made an effort to get into the festive spirt. Julie had also run a raffle which was drawn at the end by Margie Currie and in all managed to raise over £150 in aid of medicine and equipment for Helambu region health camps, Gangkharka, Nepal.

*Continued on page 23*

### FANCY DRESS:

1. Isla Yuill
2. Anna Downard
3. Lauren MacAlister
4. Laura Tulloch



**Brodict's Isla Yuill**  
decorates horse Louis with  
some choice antlers



**Sally Bambridge** had  
the unenviable task of  
judging the fancy dress  
competition. 'I think they  
should all win,' said Sally.



**Laura Tulloch** with  
'Summer' and  
some tinsel

## And Finally ...

### INDIAN MYSTIC

*Among the variations on Mary Poppins jokes that came in after our 'Super Caley' headline a week or two back, we quite liked this one.*

There was once an Indian mystic who set out on the trail of enlightenment in the time-honoured spiritual way, through having nothing to do with money and throwing himself on the charity of the good-hearted public. His two guiding principles were stern and simple.

**Go barefoot.** Over the years, he did this, and the soles of his feet became so thickened and hard that he no longer noticed the stones

and hot dust of the roads he walked.

**Be frugal.** A strict vegetarian, he ate only those offerings put into his begging bowl by the peasants who shared their scanty provisions with him. Being in no position to pick and choose, he was grateful for whatever he was given, though it was sometimes a bit less than fresh. He washed it down with water that would have killed a foreign tourist in 12 hours flat, and said a lot of prayers.

He was wise and happy and his feet remained admirably tough and hard, but he became very thin, and his scanty diet gave him terrible bad breath. He was, in fact, a *super-calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis*.

*Don't say we didn't warn you!*

**Julie Graham** helped raise  
funds to buy medicine and  
health equipment for a  
Nepalese village

