



THE

arranvoice

VOCEM POPULARIS AUDIRE / ÉISD RI GUTH NA MUINNIR

23rd December 2008 — 090 65p

ARRAN VOICE IN CRISIS

The Arran Voice faces a survive-or-die crisis. On one hand, our circulation is constantly rising and people increasingly regard the paper as part of Arran life and use it to express their views and publicise their events. On the other, largely because of the financial difficulties affecting all small businesses, we are threatened with closure. Our future is in the hands of our readers.

Arrangements for the re-launch of *The Arran Voice* as a community enterprise are in hand but have been interrupted by Christmas before they are quite complete. The well-earned break at the New Year for our staff will stand as previously announced, but resuming publication in the second week of January is now an open question. It depends on sufficient subscriptions or financial contributions from readers, advertisers and well-wishers to provide working capital until external funding can be obtained, targeted for February/March. Such contributions can be regarded as pre-payment for advertisements, either in the printed paper or on our website with its rapidly increasing hits, now up to 110,000 a month, or could pay for postal subscriptions for the paper to be sent to friends.

The amount needed is around £25K. If this money can be raised within the next two weeks, Issue 91 will be published on 8 January by the new community company, *Voice of Arran*. If the total received is insufficient all donations will be returned and sadly publication will cease.

If you value *The Arran Voice* please help if you possibly can. You will have saved not only what we believe is an important part of Arran's social fabric but an island business that employs four young people.

Barack Obama won the recent American presidential election by appealing for the first time to individual supporters rather than big business to provide the funds

needed for his campaign. Like him we believe it is possible for communities to take responsibility for their own futures, provided they think, as the new American president in waiting put it, 'Yes, we can.'

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

1. REGISTER YOUR SUPPORT by doing one of the following things:

- Cut out the form on the back page and send to the *Arran Voice* office
- Go to www.arranvoice.com and state your support for the newspaper by commenting on the front page article. It only takes a minute.
- Call the office 01770 303 636 and leave a message with your name and address and statement of support
- Text 07814920886 with the words 'I support *Arran Voice*' with your name and address

2. SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY MAKING A DONATION — the amount is entirely up to you

- Cash and cheques payable to 'Voice for Arran' can be received at our Brodick Office
- Card payments will be received over the phone or in person when our offices are manned
- Make a payment using Paypal. Go to www.arranvoice.com and click the MAKE A DONATION button. You can pay via most major credit and debit cards.

The Arran Voice website will be updated regularly. Updated information will also be available on our office's recorded answer machine message. Call 01770 303 636.

By showing your support for *The Arran Voice* you will underline the need for independent community newspapers.

SANTA COMES TO TOWN

See centre pages

Picture by Arran Photography



Santa Claus paid several visits to villages across the island last weekend delivering gifts to children in Whiting Bay, Lamlash and Shiskine for the SWRI Christmas parties.

Whiting Bay lady dies in tragic crash

BETTY McARTHUR from Whiting Bay died in a tragic car crash last Friday after her car collided with another vehicle on the road between Lamlash and Brodick. The 82-year-old lady from Whiting Bay was a much-loved person in the Arran community and a long-standing member of the island's SWRI. The crash occurred late on Friday afternoon in wet road driving

conditions. Her passenger, also an 82-year-old lady, was badly injured and was transferred to Crosshouse Hospital by helicopter. The 42-year-old driver of the other car involved was shocked, but uninjured. The road was closed by the police until Saturday afternoon, forcing sombre drivers to drive the long way round, over the String Road and through Shiskine and Kilmory.

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FREE
QUOTES

Flood shuts primary school

COUNCIL FINALLY RESPONDS TO COMPLAINTS OF FAULTY DRAINAGE

WHITING BAY PRIMARY school was closed on three separate days last week after longstanding problems with site drainage caused flooding of the school. On the morning of Friday 19th of December, over seventy school children had to share access to just one toilet and were given instructions not to flush it after use. Water in the school's toilet drainage was backing up and the school was closed later that day at 11.30am.

The grim conditions followed two consecutive days of school closure on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday. After being sent home early on Wednesday afternoon, children turned up to school as normal on Thursday morning. However, heavy rain was once again causing large amounts of surface water to spill across the playground area, so pupils and parents were informed of the re-closure at the school gate. The Christmas party planned for Thursday was delayed until the following day.

LONG-STANDING PROBLEM

There had already been two floods earlier

in the year. The first prompted the Parents Council to send a letter to North Ayrshire Council's Head of Service Jim Leckie back in June 2008. Only when the school flooded for the second time in late August did the Council respond to the letter.

'Here we are again,' said Gordon Proven, chair of Whiting Bay primary's Parent Council. 'This time the school was closed for three days.' The Council now admits that inadequate drainage in the fields adjacent to the primary has caused water to flow straight into the school grounds. The primary school's own drainage is also inadequate and this has led to flooding in the building. 'We are tackling both urgently,' said a Council spokesperson.

Gordon Proven remarked, 'At least we now appear to be making progress. Obviously it has taken three consecutive days of school closure for the Council to take notice. It's disruptive to children, staff and parents.' He added, 'I have a lot of sympathy with the staff trying to keep the school open. At what point it is

contrary to guidelines of hygiene I don't know.'

APPALLING

For parents who work during school hours or who live outside Whiting Bay village, the closure has been particularly disruptive. 'People have to take time off work to suddenly look after their kids,' said Gordon. One parent said, 'It's getting beyond a joke. I don't really understand why a head teacher needs confirmation with the mainland Council before a decision is taken to close the school.' Another said, 'The health and safety implications are appalling.'

The Council is investigating how the inadequate drainage on the surrounding land can be sorted by deepening and/or clearing ditches. It has also asked specialist drainage companies to locate the problem within the school.

'It is just a question of how quickly NAC are going to act on this,' said Gordon Proven. 'It doesn't seem that it has been taken too seriously until last week.'

Arran Aromatics resolves financial issue

CONCERN HAS QUICKLY receded following notice of a request to Kilmarnock Sheriff Court on 8th December to appoint a liquidator for Arran Aromatics. The advertisement was placed last Friday 20th December in the Herald newspaper. The island's largest employer was glad to be able to report that the issue of a delayed payment to the Inland Revenue had been swiftly resolved. Managing Director of the successful luxury cosmetics company Alastair Rennick told *The Arran Voice* that within ten minutes of finding out about the court petition, the company had addressed the situation and averted any need for the appointment of a liquidator. 'Obviously the advert isn't helpful,' Alastair said, 'and it was briefly unsettling for our staff, but it has been dealt with. There is no story,' he added firmly. 'People know our brand and it will settle down very quickly.'



NO IT'S NOT a baby kangaroo. Iona Augier from High Kildonan enjoyed the festivities at Lamdash's tree light ceremony last weekend and her friend's dog was sporting a special canine Santa outfit for the occasion. If you have any festive photos you'd like to see in the next issue of the Arran Voice or on the Arran Voice website send them to info@arranvoice.com or drop copies round at the Pier Building office in Brodick.

Photo by Arran Photography.

Rescue team refreshes 'local knowledge'

BEFORE ENJOYING A well-earned Christmas party, 17 team members of the Arran Mountain Rescue team took part in a familiarisation exercise in the island's western hills. In snow and icy conditions the team made its way to Coire Fhionn Lochan, Beinn Bhreac, Mullach Buidhe and Beinn Bharrain, returning to Pirnmill in the afternoon. The MRT's team spokesman said: 'Most of our callouts occur in the Goatfell area, but it is important that we are all familiar with all areas of Arran, as local knowledge can be very important during a callout.'

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. 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.



The Rowan Singers have been keeping their vocal chords in beautiful working order this Christmas and sang to a thrilled audience last weekend in Brodick Village Hall. Photo by Arran Photography.

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Local food prize!

JOHN BARACLOUGH poses with his hard-won hamper of locally-gifted food produce. The hamper includes smoked salmon from Creelers, herbs from Drimlabarra farm, Arran Creamery cheese, Wooley's Oatcakes, a Southend Ceramics egg cup, local free-range eggs, Island Cheese Shop cheese and Machrie Preserves.

John successfully answered seven out of ten questions in our 'Food for Thought Quiz' to win the tasty prize, which reflects calls by producers on the island to shop locally wherever possible (see *Arran Food for Arran Folk*, 16th October 2008).

'I've tasted quite a few of the things already so it looks like a great hamper,' said John. 'I've never tasted Machrie Preserves before so I'm looking forward to that. Wooleys oatcakes are our favourites and Janis's free range eggs look great.'



John Baraclough from Strathwhillan takes home the food hamper from the Arran Voice office!

Goatfell charity climb thanks

By Sam Thornley



A BIG THANK you to everyone who sponsored me last week on the fundraising climb for ROKPA. We have raised about £500 for projects in Zimbabwe, Nepal and Tibetan areas of China. Seasons greetings to you all.

Bikers' funding kick-started by island generosity



John McAllister

LAST SATURDAY MEMBERS of the Arran Motocross Club received festive donations from Brodick shoppers at the Co-op and spread the word about their plans to set up an island bike track.

The newly-formed club is hoping to raise at least £3,000 to help create a track for scramble bikers on the island, who currently have very few places where they can ride without disturbing landowners. Since the club started, the local police say there has been more than a 50% drop in complaints and call-outs regarding the use of motorcycles. Meanwhile members of the club are in the process of fundraising to build a dedicated track that will one day provide a recreational venue for scramble bikers from Arran and possibly much further afield. The bike track in Balbackie attracts quad and scramble bikers from all over Scotland.

Arran's club has already secured outline planning permission to build and design a new track on a patch of forestry land near Lamlash hill, but needs to gather some funding before other agencies will support them. Last Saturday, members of the club (Marc Campbell, Sam Raynor, John McAllister and Scott Rankin) helped

pack customer's grocery bags at the Co-op (and also did a bit of street collecting) to raise a brilliant £278.88.

The Club expressed a warm thanks to the Co-op and all the shoppers who kindly contributed to the cause. For more information about the club see www.arranmotocross.co.uk.



Sam Raynor and Marc Campbell help raise the profile of the club

Editorial

THE WAY AHEAD

The Arran Voice was started in order to serve an active, busy island community that has a constant need to keep everyone in touch, not only about the major events but to convey news about small meetings and charitable concerns. The economic life-blood of the island is undoubtedly tourism and the skilled merchandising of its many excellent products, and we are anxious to promote these. However, Arran's communal life and its many small businesses depend heavily on a means to let both individuals and groups publicise activities. To facilitate this, we have never charged for announcements on our Message Board. We provide open space on our letters page for all opinions, and have a policy of publishing every signed letter that comes in. We publish the Arran Community Council minutes in full and devote space for a column written by and for Arran's young adults, and have always encouraged children of school age to have their say in their own dedicated slot. Nan McMurdo, a wheelchair user, speaks for many disabled people in her entertaining regular columns. This open-handed policy has from the beginning put us at a financial disadvantage compared with an exclusively commercial approach that would routinely charge for all entries.

After an early flurry of interest from advertisers in our first weeks, the novelty value wore off and it took time for Arran readers to accept that *The Voice* had arrived to stay. Having

started on a shoe-string budget, we have never had resources to fall back on, and so have been vulnerable to the effects of staff changes and to the ups and downs of advertising revenue.

Early last summer, we told readers of our intention to shift to becoming a Community Enterprise, changing our structure to a Company Limited by Guarantee. We explained that this would open *The Arran Voice* to membership by all Arran people and ensure that profits were distributed to the community, thus securing it for the future. This remains true, but because *The Voice* already existed in a different structural form, the change was not straightforward and ran into several dead ends until the advisory service, Opp2mise, renewed its contract with NAC in November of this year and became available for consultation by Arran people. Since then, things have moved quickly — but not quite quickly enough.

Considering our constantly rising sales and the big surge of interest in our redesigned website — now available as an excellent medium for the international publicising of Arran businesses and products — it seemed a thousand pities to cease publication without consulting the island community about the situation. We have a future that is full of positive plans to help Arran as well as ourselves, and by early March at the latest, we will be on course under the new structure. But unless we bridge the present gap, the new future is not going to happen.

We are in your hands.

Quote

'Never ask yourself what you have learned ... only ask yourself what are the circumstances which are different from last year. In that way, you can apply last year's lessons. ... As in Hamlet's last lines, "The readiness is all. ..."

Peter Brook (83), theatre director, in a Guardian interview as he prepares to hand over the running of his theatre to the next generation.

Can't add much to that, really. Ed.

THE ARRAN VOICE PRODUCTION TEAM

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

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

The Arran Voice is registered as a newspaper

PRESS POLICY

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

Voice mail

Readers' News and Views...

EASING THE FERRY TRAFFIC AT ARDROSSAN

Further to your article on page 7 of Issue 89 (18th December 2008), I write to question the mind-boggling stupidity of North Ayrshire Council who appear to believe that road widening, remarking and extra parking will cure the traffic flow problem from the ferry in Ardrossan. Anyone who has spent just a few minutes watching the traffic flow at the Princes Street junction traffic lights can instantly see that the solution to the problem is simple.

Most of the drivers leaving the ferry terminal are attempting to reach areas outside Ardrossan and do not wish to park or wait in the town, so widening roads and changing parking arrangements are unnecessary. A simple adjustment to the traffic light phasing to give priority to the traffic leaving the ferry would alleviate the problem immediately. This could easily be done by increasing the priority for the ferry traffic for half an hour after the ferry arrives. Of course this would fail when the ferry is running to its 'alternative timetable' in bad weather or at busy times. A better option, at slightly more expense, is sensors buried in the roadway between the level crossing, the new Asda roundabout and the Princes Street junction. These would detect when a tailback is forming and could adjust the traffic light priority accordingly.

Either way, it should take no more than a few days work by a competent software engineer to fix the problem. There is absolutely no need for any road works at all.

John Baraclough, Brodick

LATIN MOTTO

Please would you give consideration to the following comments about the three Latin words that make up the first of *The Arran Voice's* two mottoes? The comments are those of a person who has been learning Latin, on and off, for 67 years, during 35 of which he was allowed to teach it.

My comments are of two kinds, one concerning the use of the word POPULARIS and the other a matter of word-order and rhythm.

1. The motto as it stands is VOCEM POPULARIS AUDIRE, and the second word seems to mean 'of the people' or perhaps 'of the man/woman of the people.' If so, then it is an example of that commonplace of Latin (and of many other languages, including English), an adjective used as a noun. But there is a difficulty about this use.
2. POPULARES (the plural) is of course extremely common, as meaning the democrats as opposed to the aristocracy; but in that sense at least, it is not found in the singular. There is indeed a singular, common-gender use of POPULARIS as a noun, as its meaning is 'fellow-countrymen' and sometimes 'accomplice' (and the word needs a dependent word to define it.) Arran would have to be a politically independent place if this particular singular use of POPULARIS were to stand. As for any alternative, such as POPULI, which I feel sure your motto-makers will have considered, that would give it yet another sense.
3. May I therefore propose that recourse be had to POPULAREM, the straight adjective? This use, too, of course has

slight overtones of class distinction, but is natural in a way that the noun-use is not. Also, it happens to help in the matter of rhythm, about which Roman speakers cared a great deal.

4. The existing word-order makes for less easy utterance than would VOCEM AUDIRE POPULARIS. And if the final syllable of the re-ordered version were changed as suggested above, the accident of an intrusive rhyme would be less noticeable to the ear. Further, as good luck would have it, the finished revised product would end with the most admired of the several rhythmic patterns cultivated, at the ends of his clauses and sentences, by Marcus Tullius Cicero. In a word, VOCEM AUDIRE POPULAREM both means well and sounds good.

If any of the above remarks of a Latin-lover should cause even one of your readers to reach for that old school-edition of Cicero's speeches against Cataline, then my pen-pushing would have reward enough. Anyhow, I shall not be pushing my pen any further on this matter, especially since your second motto, for all I know, may be a supplement to the Latin one: I do not have the Gaelic.

Michael Richardson, Portobello

Unless any Latin scholar can produce a crushing rebuttal, we propose to implement this change from the New Year. Ed.

PERI'S WEBSITE PLEA

Following Peri Aston's 'Plea for Website Simplicity' in last week's Voice Mail, I would like to point out, as *The Arran Voice* webmaster, why some of the features of the website work the way they do.

All articles printed in the paper also appear on the website, in full. However, to read the full article, we ask that you register and log-in. This only involves putting in your name and e-mail address. It does not cost you any money or commit you to anything, but this small 'gate' has the great advantage of keeping the website from being swamped with possibly unpleasant rubbish from spammers. They won't enter a name or e-mail address because they hide behind their anonymity, so this simple measure keeps the site clean for genuine users. Logging in also allows you to comment on any article.

The search engine is much improved over the last incarnation, and now highlights the keywords you've searched for within search results and on the article pages themselves, so you should find it easy once you have logged in.

While the website is free to use, it does cost a significant amount of money to run and develop. Because we want to keep the website free of charge for our visitors, we need to offset our running costs (and help to keep *The Arran Voice* alive) by offering online advertising. For this reason, both still and animated adverts will appear on the site.

I hope this clarifies the situation and answers the query. Very few websites are 100% perfect, but we are constantly making improvements, and welcome enquiries from readers. It's good to hear of things you don't like or find hard to understand, as we can then either explain them or make them easier to use.

Graeme Atkins

News in Brief...

COLLECTION FOR HOSPICE ON FERRY

Eight members of Arran Brass entertained travellers with a selection of carols on the 8.20am and 9.40am sailings between Brodick and Ardrossan on Saturday morning. A charity collection was taken up at the same time and £207.61 was raised for the Arran Hospice Appeal.

THEFT AT FISH RESTAURANT

Over £500 worth of restaurant goods were stolen from Creeler's Seafood Restaurant and Smokehouse earlier this month. Between Friday 4th at 6pm and Monday morning, a door was broken down and a quantity of high-value alcohol — including champagne and whisky — was stolen from the premises. Toni Gunn, who co-manages the Arran restaurant and shop, said an employee arrived at 8.30am on the Monday morning, 'to find the door on the floor in pieces.'

Toni was particularly upset by the incident, as a bag of Christmas presents that she had bought for her family was also stolen. The items taken included cosmetics and music equipment. 'I am pretty skint,' said Toni, 'but I manage to juggle it. You work towards providing for your family. If anyone is really that skint that they need to do this, then I would prefer they came to see me and asked for help.' (Anyone who knows Toni will appreciate that a large number of other words had to be removed from those quoted here.) The raid seems to have been a deliberately targeted affair, as a number of other high value items were not taken from the shop.

MP WARNS AGAINST 'PART-PRIVATISATION' OF ROYAL MAIL

Local Labour MP Katy Clark has spoken out against proposals for a private sector partner such as TNT being brought in to help run the post office.

The local MP was part of a delegation which met with the Business Secretary Peter Mandelson this week to express the scale of opposition to the proposal which formed part of the conclusions of the Hooper Review, published earlier this week.

Katy Clark said: 'I cannot support a policy which is likely to end in a foreign company owned

by a foreign government buying a large part of Royal Mail. These proposals will need legislation.' She added, 'If such an Act is coming I believe it paves the way for full privatisation. The Royal Mail needs investment but this is not the way to do it. We have a loyal, hard working workforce in Royal Mail and over the next few weeks I will be doing what I can to make sure this proposal does not proceed, as I do not think it is in the public interest.'

SWIMMERS PREPARE FOR BOXING DAY DOOK

Hardy swimmers are invited to take part in the Boxing Day Dook on Friday 26th December. 'It's chance to cure the hangover and use up a few calories,' said organiser Sally Hunter. Fancy dress for the event is optional, but prizes for both juniors and seniors will be on offer, so Lamplash is expected to be host to a few creatures from the deep. After the event, there will be soup to warm the cockles in the Lifeboat Station and folks are encouraged to give a £5 donation to RNLI. It's the perfect antidote to Christmas Day excess, so put the swimming madcaps on and join in. For further information contact Sally Hunter on 600952.



SEARCH DOGS' ARRAN MISSION CUT SHORT

15 members of the Search And Rescue Dog Association (Southern Scotland) made their annual trip to Arran last weekend (13th-14th December), with their dogs. On Saturday they held an exercise in Glen Sannox, but due to a major callout in Loch Lomond on Saturday night, the dogs and their handlers returned to the mainland early on Sunday.

REFUSE COLLECTION & TRANSFER STATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Domestic Refuse Collections

22nd, 23rd and 24th December – service as normal
Christmas Day and Boxing Day – no service
29th, 30th and 31st December – service as normal
New Years Day and 2nd January – no service

Transfer Station Opening Hours

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.

Ian Snodgrass
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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Did you know that you can recycle your old unwanted items free of charge on ArranOnline.com?

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WHAT ARRAN DOES BEST — THE UNUSUAL AND QUIRKY!

It's getting late and you just can't decide what gift to get that special someone. They deserve something really unusual, unique perhaps! Don't worry, you've plenty of choice ...

Your first stop might well be the Arran Craft Gallery with a wide variety of unique items including wooden and glasswork items, pictures, candles, jewellery and knitwear. From there you could pop into Bilslands and stock up on their amazing range of novelty and fun gifts, or choose from their selection of crystalware. Arran Asia is also a must for a rare treat — from singing bowls to colourful accessories, and dinosaurs to robots. Then dash along to Brodick Post Office where there are amazing calorie-free cakes (crafted from felt), as well as jewellery, bags and scarves. Arran Active can offer many last minute gift ideas, including beautiful framed photos of Arran's mountains as well as ski and sportswear bargains in their early New Year sale.

Pick up a characterful Dcuk (that's right) or a piece of beautiful hornware from the Old Byre Showroom, or fabulous fluffy slippers for toasty toes. For last minute shoppers in Blackwaterfoot the Harbour Shop is a one-stop haven, stocking photo frames, local art and photography, jewellery, rugs, plants and flowers.



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Lamlash lights up

Photos by
Arran
Photography.

LAMLASH VILLAGE gathered to watch the lighting ceremony of the Christmas tree on Sunday 14th. Both Santa and this year's village Princess, Cara Miller, arrived at Lamlash Green in a horse and carriage driven by Janis Murchie for the event. Folks enjoyed mulled wine, stovies, mince pies and some rousing festive music from Arran Brass on a crisp winter's afternoon before Cara switched on this year's special tree lights. The village is celebrating the festive season with a ceilidh in the high school theatre this Saturday at 8pm.



Lamlash villagers opt for an unusual and striking Christmas lights design



Santa arrives in style with carriage driver Janis Murchie, Iona Augier and Eilidh Blair. Inset: Folks soak up the festive atmosphere



Search relief in horrendous weather

FLASHING LIGHTS SEEN in Glen Sannox on Thursday night prompted a full-scale search by the Mountain Rescue and police in 'horrendous' weather conditions.

Early in the evening on the 18th of December seventeen Mountain Rescue Team members were tasked to search the area below the Devil's Punchbowl in Sannox, after the flashing lights were spotted. After completing a line search from the Sannox graveyard to the Punchbowl, a search was then conducted inside the Punchbowl. With nothing found the search was then postponed until first light.

The following morning, fifteen team members, supported by The Royal Navy Sea King helicopter, returned to continue the search. The team was split into three sections. One searched the area below Suidhe Fearghas, a second was dropped on the Saddle and then searched the head of Glen Sannox, and the third observed the ridgelines and high ground in Glen Sannox from the helicopter. On a number of occasions the helicopter was at full power and not making any headway into the wind.

With the areas searched and weather conditions closing in, the three sections returned to base and stood down pending

further police reports.

A spokesman for the Mountain Rescue team said: 'We feel certain, that having searched the area thoroughly, that the callout was a false alarm with good intention. A situation arose that there could have possibly been someone in need of help. The team is there to locate that person and bring them off the hill safely.'

'We were supported on the Friday night by the Police helicopter, but due to adverse weather conditions, they could not get close to the search area and returned to base. Weather conditions were horrendous, and although completely unpaid, every team member showed great professionalism searching these areas in such terrible conditions.'



MESSAGE FROM THE ARRAN M.R.T.

We would like to thank the crew of 'Navy 177' for their help and would like to take this opportunity to remind people to plan their outdoor pursuits with the weather in mind. Go properly prepared, and tell people where you're going and when you expect to return.

Recipe

By John and Maureen Moore

MAUREEN'S CLOOTIE DUMPLING

This recipe comes from *Recipes to Live For*, a collection of tried and tested dishes put together by John and Maureen Moore of Whiting Bay.

Ingredients

- 1 cup plain flour
- 1 cup breadcrumbs
- 1 cup Atora suet
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup sultanas
- 1 cup currants
- 1 cup Demerara sugar
- 1 level teaspoon mixed spice
- 1 egg
- 1 dessertspoon treacle
- a little milk
- a generous splash of whisky

Method

1. Place all the dry ingredients in a large bowl, mix thoroughly. Beat the egg, add to the mixture with the treacle, whisky and a little milk. Mix again, adding only sufficient milk to make a slightly soft dough.
2. Tip into a suitable cloth (cloot), such as a tea towel. Tie the loose ends together to exclude all air and place in a large pan with sufficient boiling water to well cover the cloot. Simmer gently for 3 hours.
3. Remove from the water, open the cloot and serve the dumpling immediately, with cream or custard.
4. If there should be any left over, it can be kept in the fridge overnight, wrapped in the cloot, and reheated in the microwave the next day.



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EVERY DAY (OR MOST DAYS)

Arran Craft Gallery, beside Bilslands, Brodick — open Monday–Saturday

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, daily 1–6pm

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

Isle of Arran Distillery, Lochranza — winter opening times: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 10am–4pm, Sunday
11am–4pm

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

Claddach Pottery, The Store, Claddach, Brodick — open 7 days

Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, gym inductions, fitness assessments, personal training daily

Balmichael Visitors Centre, String Road — Monday and Tuesday closed

Arran Adventure, beside Auchrannie Spa, Brodick — open daily for outdoor activities

Brodick Castle, castle closed for the winter, park open all days, shop open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10am–
3.30pm until Christmas

KA Campus, Arran High School, Lamlash — regular fitness classes, gym inductions

TUESDAY 23RD

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.45–10.30am

Pulmonary Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30pm

Pirnmill Primary School, Christmas Show, Primary School, 1.30pm

AA Alcoholics Anonymous, Brodick Church Hall, 2pm

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

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

Legs, Bums & Tums, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 6–6.45pm

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

Shapers, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 7–8pm

Arran Rotary Meeting, Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, Brodick, 7pm

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

Pop Music Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

WEDNESDAY 24TH

Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am

Yogalates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 10–11am

Core Strength, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 5.30–6pm

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

Kick Boxing, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6–7pm

WRI Children's Party, Kildonan Hall, 6pm

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

Arran Rugby Club S1–U18 from 6.30pm, Seniors from 7.30pm

Hockey, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 7–8pm

Arran Brass Band Rehearsal, Lesser Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.15–9.15

EVENTS OVER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

All clubs and classes suspended for holidays

Yogalates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 31st December, 10–11am

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

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

Lamlash Coffee Morning, Lamlash
Church Hall, Wednesday 7th
January, 10.15am–12noon

Whiting Bay WRI, Party Night by
Candlelight, Whiting Bay Village
Hall, Wednesday, 7th January,
7.30pm

Restart Rehearsals for the *Little
Whorehouse*, Thursday 8th
January, Brodick Village Hall,
7.30pm

Corrie & Sannox WRI, Auld Year's
Nicht, The Three Amigos, Corrie
Village Hall, Thursday, 8th
January, 6pm for 6.30pm

Fires of Love, Music of 16th Century
France, Arran Music Society,
Brodick Village Hall, Saturday,
10th January, 7.30pm

Corrie Filmclub, *Draughtman's
Contract* (UK 1982/Peter
Greenaway), Corrie Village Hall,
Sunday, 11th January, 8pm

Back to School, Monday, 5th
January 2009

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

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

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

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

Schools' In-Service Day — Friday
13th February

Arran Drama Festival 2009 — 25th–
28th February

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

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

Schools' In-Service Day — 1st May
Wyrd Sisters, Play by Terry

Prattchet performed by the Arran
Torch Players, 1st–3rd May (incl)

May Day — Monday, 4th May
(Schools off)

*The Best Little Whorehouse in
Texas*, musical performed by the
Arran Music and Drama Club
— Monday 25th–Saturday 30th
May (incl.)

Arran Wildlife Festival 2009 — 13–
30th May

Arran Folk Festival 2009 — 7th–
14th June

Schools' Summer Holidays —
Wednesday 1st July–Sunday
16th August

Teachers' Return — Friday 14th
August

On the Green

By Alison Prince

Ghosts

CHILDHOOD DOES NOT seem simple at the time. I don't know about anyone else, but for me it seemed a roller-coaster of perplexity, mixed with frustration, excitement and boredom. Why did adults sometimes scoop me up like an armful of blossoms to be nuzzled and enjoyed and at other times glance at the ceiling and sigh as if being asked to endure a silent torment? All very tricky stuff. But the ghosts of these adults mutter in my ear with grim amusement, 'Aye, well — you know now.' They are right, of course. Children never know what life for grown-ups is like. They have no way to understand why Mum gets ratty if you ask for the tenth time when the Christmas decorations are going to be put up, or why Dad says he's too tired to play Monopoly.

As you grow up, you start to make your own ghost as childhood turns into memory. It's a nostalgic ghost, wafting the smell of tangerines and pine needles as the dizzying thrill it was. (Satsumas don't smell at all.) It nudges you about the warmth of a tissue paper hat that kept slipping over your eyes, the exhilaration of a pink

taffeta dress made by Mum and worn for the first time when aunties in fur coats smelling of mothballs arrived for tea. It asks if you'll ever forget the pure magic of waking to find the lumpy weight of a Christmas stocking on your bed. It makes you re-live the adventure of hauling out the wee presents from a knitted golf sock in the chill of a barely-light morning. It reminds you how you got cold and cooied under the bedclothes again, fingering the curled-up paper squeaker with a cerise-coloured feather at the end of it.

Your private ghost never quite goes away — but like all ghosts, it does a certain amount of lamenting. This is time gone, it complains. Things are different now. You are grown up, you know the mechanics. You are Santa Claus, you are the gnomes and the reindeer, the wrapper of parcels, the provider of the holly and the ivy, the maker of magic. You're not an irresponsible, joyful member of the domestic audience for this annual production, you've moved into stage management. Your new ghost, the one of Christmas present (and presents) is up to the eyes in logistics. Never mind

comfort and joy, get to grips with the post-by dates and the compulsory haemorrhage of purchasing.

This ghost is in charge most of the time, but just occasionally, the childhood one comes back to life, so suddenly that you are moved almost to tears. For me, it happens through music or the old words. I was quite undone by a card that said in beautiful lettering, *Gloria in altissimus deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis*. Latin, as our correspondent points out so ably this week, has the capacity to touch a central nerve of emotion through its perfect certainty. In my view, the Church shot itself in the foot, if not in the head, when it abandoned this medium of international magic, and the loss of Latin from the school curriculum has left the current generation quite unable to understand how English, along with many other languages, actually works.

I'm writing this on December 21st, the turning point of the year, when the days stop their dwindling away and the light starts to return. This ancient fact underlies all the festivity and all the worship of whatever god you respect and continually thank.

The pre-Christmas darkness is, even today, an ominous time, and this year, as never before, we know how frail our existence on this beautiful planet really is, but the need to celebrate is all the greater for that. I have long thought that our only real justification for being here is as witnesses. Alone among the animals, we can write and sing and play and depict the continuing excitement of being here, living in this ongoing miracle. If that is a continuation of the simple thrill of childhood, I'm all for it.

I intend to spend the coming week comfortably holed up with my cats, who are absolute masters of enjoying each moment as it comes. I want to sort and shelve the piles of ever-arriving books and dig over the vegetable patch, tie in this year's shoots of the cultivated blackberry and stick a bit of ticky-tacky on the hole in the car's silencer that's making it sound like a Sherman tank.

To all the people who have said they enjoyed this daft column over the months, my thanks. I hope there will be many more. A very merry Christmas to you, and may the coming year be a good one for us all.



Bella's Diary

By Margaret Kay

FOR THE FIRST time in six weeks I am 'pupless' as I am on the ferry heading for a day in Glasgow. This is partly to buy tiles so John Corbett can finish the work in my house (the pup is well used to noise as he has endured all sorts of building sounds in the background while he's been growing) and partly for a bit of retail therapy at M & S — all the nice wee foodie things for Christmas. Hopefully, I will get home tonight as I am already suffering a few island withdrawal symptoms.

Bella and Wee Malkie, together with Ruby, who doesn't do kennels, were deposited in Cordon this morning with Diane Wright, puppy-sitter extraordinaire. The rest of the gang were taken up to Kelvinhaugh Kennels. It is like a flitting, getting them all organised and delivered to where they are staying for the day — and all in good time for me to be on the 08.20.

Wee Malkie has sharp little teeth now, and I have the perforated fingers to show for it! He just loves to gnaw on any proffered

hands. I am getting quite adept at imitating a puppy yelp. If he was romping with littermates and puppy play fighting was going on, then the puppy on the receiving end of the bite would give an almighty yip. This is how puppies learn just how far they can go and know when enough is enough. As Wee Malkie does not have the benefit of littermates, I have to play the role of the biggest puppy in the land and let him know when he hurts me.

All excitement tomorrow as he's off to get his first vaccination. This will be the first time Malcolm the vet has seen Wee Malkie the pup since Malcolm handed me the struggling scrap on the night of his birth.

Pups are vaccinated at six weeks old and again at ten weeks old to protect them from lots of doggy diseases that they come into contact with when out sniffing around in the grass and the ground. After his second injection, Malkie will need to be kept indoors for one more week, to let the vaccine get fully integrated in his system,

and then he can go out for his first walk. That is usually a bit of fun as everything is strange for the pup and by that stage he will not have his mum to look to for guidance. Up until around twelve weeks of age pups usually retain antibodies which they get from their mother's milk. These protect them from a lot of nasty diseases, but as the pup gets older and is weaned then the protection diminishes, so it is paramount that dogs are vaccinated and wormed regularly.

We are all on the home straight for Christmas now and I am certain the dogs know something is going on. Short of me finding a letter from one of them to 'Santa Paws', or traces of them searching the house for presents, I guess I can never be absolutely sure, but many dog owners out there will be able to identify with getting the cases down for the holidays and the dog suddenly becoming 'glued' to your leg. They certainly do pick up on the excitement in the house. After Santa has been, my dogs end up with a bag of treats that see them into March or

April.

As an extra this year, I have got a teeny, tiny Christmas stocking to hang up for Wee Malkie, just so that Santa won't miss him!



PUT YOUR SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON OUR MESSAGE BOARD, FREE!

Arran Music and Drama Club
'Best Little Whorehouse in Texas'
 Rehearsals start Thursday 8th January
 Brodick Hall. 7.30pm
 Everyone welcome please come along
 and join us in this fun production.

BOXING DAY DOOK. A chance to cure the hangover and use up a few calories. A brief sea swim at Lamlash Pier at 1pm on Boxing Day. Fancy Dress optional, prizes for best junior and senior fancy dress. Soup in the Lifeboat station afterwards. £5 donation to RNLI.

To register, please contact Sally Hunter on 600952

ArCaS Thanks

The ArCaS committee would like to thank the mainland drivers, Arran Haulage and all our shop staff for their hard work and commitment over the past year. Also, we would like to thank all our customers for their generous donations and support.

Our thanks to you all and wishes for a Happy New Year.

Coffee Morning
Lamlash Church Hall
Wednesday 7th January
10.15am-12 noon

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.

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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



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 VEHICLES...**

Please call 601339/078256 44161

Whiting Bay wildlife captured on camera

*Mo Khan from Whiting Bay sends in
 photos and nature notes from some
 exciting sightings over the past few
 weeks.*



Waxwing

A Winter migrant
 from Scandinavia,
 one of a flock of
 about thirty pointed
 out to me by a man
 waiting for a bus
 in Whiting Bay.
 Distinctive in looks,
 with black mask,
 mohican crest and
 'sealing wax' red
 spot on its wing.
 Sighted 16/11/08.

Buzzard

If you are
 a rabbit, be
 frightened, very
 frightened.



Otter

This not so timorous beastie appeared
 while I was sat near Whiting Bay jetty
 having lunch behind the Village Shop. It
 was totally engrossed in foraging for crabs
 among rocks and seaweed, allowing me to
 approach quite close. To my amazement
 it actually swam right up to me. I was so
 excited and petrified about making a sudden
 move that I almost forgot to breathe, let
 alone take pictures.





Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**

Amateur Meteorologist

SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S FORECAST

Forecasts at this time of year are even trickier than usual. The sun is at its lowest point in the sky. This delivers minimum heating to our northern hemisphere and maximum heating in the south. The variation in temperature leads to some of the more extreme weather conditions around the planet.

Current indications are that the unsettled weather we have had recently is on the wane at present. In the run up to Christmas, high pressure is starting to nudge a ridge through the country. This will become a dominant feature, turning the winds to the north and bringing cooler weather through the UK.

Into the New Year conditions look settled and we will have dry frosty weather for a time before the winter gales and winds set in for January.

See more details:

For Christmas week that high pressure will be to the west of the country and will build through all areas during the early part of the week, bringing plenty of dry weather to much of the country. It will be mild for a time, although frost and fog are likely overnight.

As the high builds up, a northerly flow of air will bring cooler weather and by Christmas Day a north east wind will develop, bringing cold weather everywhere.

I think that the high pressure will hang around right through New Year with light winds from the east and south.



Wednesday (Christmas Eve)

Still mild at 8°C with a light southerly breeze. There may be a wee bit of sunshine in the morning but today's theme is grey and overcast. At least the Christmas lights will cheer us up — and remember that this is your last chance to send Santa's note up the lum!



Thursday — Christmas Day at last!

Temperatures starting to fall down to 6 or 7°C. Dry again, with a cloudier start and hardly any wind to speak of. Everyone's Christmas morning is different. Ours usually involves the dog sniffing around the presents under the tree, searching for some thing that smells nice. Not perfume, but doggy-type treats. Unfortunately she can't read. She then starts tearing off the paper covering to claim her prize. Back to the weather? A wee bit of sun to end the daylight hours.



Friday

Temperatures still falling, but a few more sunny spells. Time to get out and walk off the excesses of yesterday. Wind still very light and it will stay dry.



Saturday

Getting pretty cold at 4°C, and with a strengthening wind from the east it will feel even colder. Some sun, some cloud and then a very sharp frost at night.



Sunday

Much the same as yesterday, but the east wind may get up to more than 20mph and it will feel bitterly cold outside.

Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

Over the rest of the week, we can expect lighter winds and dry conditions with sunny spells. It will stay very cold with Hogmanay particularly chilly for first-footers, but I'm sure that the intake of refreshing hospitality will compensate. In the longer term at the teuchter New Year around the 12th January we are expecting a return to our normal Scottish weather ... wind and rain.

Ferry Notes

No weather related problems are anticipated. Remember that there is only one return ferry (1230) on Boxing Day, and after a blank timetable on Ne'rday, normal service resumes on 2nd January.

Not a happy Christmas in Stornoway

THE ISLE OF Lewis suffered a massive economic blow yesterday with confirmation that Lighthouse Caledonia will shut its fish processing base in Stornoway by December 31 with the loss of 130 jobs. The news was relayed to workers after a meeting held in Stornoway, arranged by local MP Angus MacNeil, who said, 'This is a huge setback for the economy of the islands ... my heart goes out to all these people who will be losing their jobs.'

Willie Nicolson, one of the employees, said later: 'This is a total, total shock. It is a huge blow and will have a knock-on effect on Polybox [packaging supplier] and hauliers. The closure of the factory is a disaster. Now 2009 is written off.'

Odd Geir Oddsen, the firm's managing director, said: 'We deeply regret the job losses at our plant in Stornoway. Throughout our first year of operation, we have had to make some

very tough strategic decisions to ensure the long-term sustainability of the business in Scotland.' He added: 'We are committed to maintain production volumes of high quality salmon, 25,000 tonnes will be farmed on the West Coast of Scotland and the Western Isles in 2009.'

Lighthouse Caledonia was created in late 2007 following the merger of the Scottish operations of Panfish, Fjord Seafood and selected Marine Harvest assets. After the closure of the processing plant at Stornoway it will remain one of Scotland's largest fish-farming businesses, and owns the St Molio's fish farm in Lamlash Bay. The company presently employs 346 people in Scotland, including 35 in fish farming in the Western Isles.

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Marine News

By **John Kinsman, Fishing Correspondent**

MIXED BAG FOR FISHERMEN

A deal on 2009 fish quotas has been agreed in Brussels, averting the worst fears of the Scottish fishing fleet. However, the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) said some of the proposed conservation measures would represent a massive challenge for fishermen to implement. Fishermen can continue fishing for prawns, provided they use more selective nets to reduce the capture of white fish, though the deal included an anticipated 30% rise in the quota of North Sea cod and a similar increase in mackerel.

Speaking shortly after the agreement was reached following lengthy talks in Brussels, Scottish Fisheries Minister Richard Lochhead said: 'The future of the West Coast fishing communities dominated the negotiations and there

will be huge relief that proposals to close the West Coast grounds have been successfully resisted.' He went on: 'We refused to accept the original deal on the table and, following a Herculean effort and very tough negotiations, we overturned the commission's original plans. As always the final deal represents a mixed bag and there are still some tough times ahead as the fleet adapts to these new measures, but overall we have stood up for Scotland and our fishing communities. In the current economic climate, a secure future for this vital industry has never been more important.'

The new deal gives North Sea fishermen the potential to catch less and land more, but the changes will present a real challenge, as acquiring the more selective gear will be expensive.



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Lamlash primary goes global with Christmas play

LAMLASH PRIMARY school put on a moving Christmas play last weekend during which the school children acted out visits to six countries all over the world. The performance was accompanied by an ensemble of different musical instruments, including fiddles, flutes and trombones, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



Courtney, Gabrielle, the Africans, Michael and Ben during Christmas Around the World



The full ensemble singing the last song



Katelyn and Cara on violins

Santa comes to town

FAMILIES FROM SHISKINE and beyond gathered for the annual SWRI Christmas party in Shiskine Village Hall last Saturday. Children enjoyed some festive music courtesy of Fairy MC Sheila Gilmore, and help was on hand from Santa's pixies Dawn Anderson, Claire Johnston and Jerry Arthur.

There was some stand-out dancing by Beth McCarthy and after lots of fun and party games, teas, sandwiches, cakes and more cakes — all baked by a brimming team of SWRI members — Santa Claus arrived with a sleigh-load of gifts for the children. At just nine weeks of age, Olivia McNiece was the youngest of Shiskine's children to receive a gift from Father Christmas. Here are a few pictures from the event!



Claire and Dawn are the island's youngest members of the SWRI



Nice and knees! Youngsters in a balloon race



Fairy MC Sheila Gilmore



Beth McCarthy receives a prezzie almost her own size from Santa



Santa waves goodbye before continuing his long journey



The next generation. Shiskine Village Hall's Christmas party was as well-attended as ever

High School Concert

Photos by Arran Photography



Scott McMurray, playing his violin solo.

THE COMMUNITY THEATRE at Arran High School was packed with people for the Christmas concert last Thursday — and what a rewarding occasion it was! The sheer number of performers ranged on the stage was staggering, and the choice of music was as young and fresh as singers and players. The wind band launched into a medley from *Shrek* with immense vitality, coupling lively dynamics with the crisp, accurate playing that is the foundation of the Big Band style, followed by the First Year choir singing *Disco Santa*. The saxophone group, which now boasts tenor and baritone instruments as well as alto, gave a catchy rendering of *Mango Walk*, then the Second Years, singing in two parts, did well with McCartney's *Wonderful Christmas Time*.

The string group, coached by Veronica Halstead, has expanded this year and includes a cellist, and their gently swinging version of *Silent Night* included an excellent



The sax group from the High School concert.

stonking performance of *Puttin' on the Ritz*. The school is blessed in having an extraordinarily talented and energetic music teacher in Mrs Diana Hamilton, whose arrangements of the pieces and tireless coaching of players produced such astonishing results. As a percussionist herself, her version of the *Thunder and Lightning Polka* had John Tilbury darting from vibraphone to xylophone with startling accuracy and brought the house down. The 3rd year music class also used percussion to good effect in a selection from *Mamma Mia*, and the String group performed an intriguing piece that set *The First Nowell* to the repeated 'ground' of the *Pachelbel Canon*. Further performances from the sax group and the junior choir went down



Strings group, High School concert

well, then Scott McMurray earned resounding applause for his beautifully played violin solo, the John Williams music from *Schindler's List*. The senior choir sang *Bring on Tomorrow*, from the musical, *Fame*, with a fervour that must have touched many hearts with its belief that 'We can make a difference — we can't wait.' As Mrs Hamilton said before the final number, 'If you put lots into it, you get lots out of it' — a statement amply proved by the final number, a *Queen* medley begun by a stamp, stamp, clap rhythm from the audience. 'We are the champions,' they sang — and on this night, it was no idle boast.



Lisa Duncan, singing with 2 brass players.



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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.

NEED THE PARTY TO GO WITH A BANG?

THE 'X' FACTORY MOBILE DISCO

Mobile DJ for parties, weddings or band support. 10 years experience. Full sound system and lighting rig for large or small venues. Special effects including smoke, snow, foam, flame, lasers & video projections. Music for all tastes and ages — from party classics to the latest hits. We will play your chosen song list, take requests on the night or arrange a suitable set for your event — the choice is yours!

Ceilidh dances, band support or music for theme events also catered for.

For availability and a competitive quote call the 'X' Men on 01770 830 615



FESTIVE EVENTS IN LAMLASH



New Year Family Ceilidh

Saturday 27th December in the High School Theatre, BYOB.

Contact Janice 600095 for ticket info and to reserve a table.

tic therapies

Show you care with a Christmas Gift Voucher from Jan Attkins MCTHA

At Inspirations of Arran
Telephone: 01770 302 990

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

The Burnside

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

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

Arran Carriage Driving

Arran Carriage Driving would like to wish all our customers and clients a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

KILDONAN HOTEL

Seasons Greetings and thanks to all our customers.

We look forward to seeing you in 2009.

Anne & Rod — Kildonan Hotel

STRATHCLYDE POLICE

SGT MACKAY AND HIS TEAM WISH

YOU A VERY SAFE AND PEACEFUL

CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

TLC Therapies

Jan Attkins wishes all her clients a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year

Brodict Castle

To all visitors, customers and staff — Have a very Happy Christmas and all best wishes for the New Year.

A big thank you to all who helped make Victorian Christmas such a success, and a special thank you to the Co-op for donating all the chocolate money!

Brodict Castle, Gardens & Country Park

Argyll College

Argyll College wishes all our students, past and present, friends and associates, a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We are closed for enquiries from December 19th — January 4th inclusive.

New classes will be starting during January, please phone 600 152 in the New Year.

WANTED

A peaceful Christmas & prosperous New Year

to all clients present & future from
Reid Blair Solicitors, Corriecravie

Malcolm Wheeler Vets

Malcolm J Wheeler & staff wish clients and their animals a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year

No surgeries on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's day & the 2nd Jan otherwise surgeries as normal with emergency cover throughout the holidays on 01770302511

Lamlash Primary School

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from pupils and staff at Lamlash Primary School.

Arran Electrical and Refrigeration

ARRAN ELECTRICAL & REFRIGERATION LTD

WISH ALL THEIR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS

&
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Arran Brewery

The Staff at Arran Brewery would like to thank all their customers and suppliers for their continuing support throughout 2008, and take this opportunity to wish them all a Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful & Prosperous New Year.

The Harbour Shop Blackwaterfoot.

Gillian, Aileen, Gina & Jennifer would like to wish all customers and friends a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Lochranza Hotel

Seasons Greetings to all our customers and friends from all at Lochranza Hotel

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from Liz & Staff at the Co-op.

For your convenience the Brodick Co-op will be open from 10am - 4pm on New Years Day.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Wish everyone at the Voice all the best for the festive season and thank you for all your support of the school events

From all the pupils and staff at Pirmill Primary School.

Assja B. Design

A big thank you, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year all my customers.

See you at a market again, until then call me at the Argentine

Kilmory Hall would like to wish a Very Merry Christmas to all who have supported us throughout 2008 and we look forward to doing it all again next year.

Merry Christmas to all our *Burnside* friends, and a very healthy, happy 2009

**SEASONS
GREETINGS TO ALL
FROM FAIRTRADE
ARRAN.**

**WHY NOT MAKE
THAT LAST MINUTE
PRESENT A
FAIRTRADE ONE ?**

Andy and Alison at The Lighthouse would like to wish friends and customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Murchie Sand and Gravel would like to wish all their customers and clients a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

By William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

**Poem
of the week**

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest;
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

An old favourite for Christmas.

The Burnside Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas to all our Burnside friends, and a very healthy, happy 2009

The Burnside

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

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

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

20% OFF

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

Ian & Margot Saint-Yves

Wishing All our Friends a Happy and Healthy
2009 — Ian and Margot

Maureen and Alan Smith wish everyone on Arran a
Happy and Peaceful Festive Season and Good Health
and Happiness for 2009

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team wish all their supporters
and fundraisers a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2009.
Your support and generosity is very much appreciated.

Linda, Robert and Kids would like to wish all their
Family and Friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year

A Merry Humbug to One and All from **Santa Gourlay**

The Jenks Family

To all our Friends on Arran — we wish you a
joyful Christmas

I wish for Arran especially that jobs will be sustained in
2009 and that island resilience will see us through to
better economic times. Best wishes to all, **Margie**

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our
friends and family, with love from all the
Stewarts at Elderlea

Arran Hospice Appeal would like to thank all
supporters for their generosity over the past year and
wish them a peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year.



Eilidh Blair would like to wish Holly Taylor, friends and
family a Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

A Very Merry Christmas to everyone from Alistair,
Donna, Alistair, Aidan, Oisean and Iain Gold @
Hillview Place

From **Assja, Bruno and Frédéric**
We wish all our friends a Merry Christmas and New Year
full of love, happiness, health, peace and prosperity.

Dawn and Davie Murchie would like to wish all our friends
and customers, (two legged and four legged) a Merry
Christmas and a very Happy and healthy New Year.

Caitlin Smith wishes all her friends and family a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year xxx

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and all the
best in 2009 **Chris & Jan Atkins**

Sandie & Bill wish all their friends & Arran Folk a
warm and wonderful Christmas and 2009.

Happy Christmas & a brilliant 2009 to Neil and Margaret
at the Corrie, Marian & Marvin at the shop and Rab &
Pam and all our friends in Corrie, love **Joy and Pedro**. X

With love this Christmas and New Year
Fiona and John McGovern

Heather
Have a Great Christmas with love always
Mum and Dad xxxx

Samantha & Dave wish all their friends on Arran
a very Merry Christmas

Janis Murchie would like to wish all her friends
and family a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year xx

Thanks everyone on the island for their support in the
past year. Have a great Christmas and Happy New
Year, **John McFaul (Bogar Farm)**

Merry Christmas to all the boys and girls of
Arran Junior Football Club from the coaches — **Brian,
Catherine and Ian.**

Merry Christmas to the Rangers,
from the **December Moth**

We would like to wish all our friends in Arran Folk Club
and AMEDA a very happy festive season.
Mandy and Nigel Hunter.

Season's Greetings to all our friends on Arran from
Sheila & Laura Selkirk

Festive greetings to neighbours and friends in Sannox,
Corrie and beyond from **David and Claire Kelso, kids,
dogs and hens.**

The Gilmours, Shiskine would like to say Happy
New Year too all who have been there during 2008.
All the best for 2009

Merry Xmas to all the guys in 3rd year and everyone at
the stables, have a fab a new year! Love **Iona** xx

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2009 to everyone, from
Amanda, Dave and McKenzie (who is celebrating his
first Christmas) xx

Adrian, Julie, Bradley and Luke Cannon would like
to wish all their friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year.

Alison sends love to all friends for the festive time and
the turning of the year to longer days.

Wee Malkie wishes all his friends & fans (two and four
legged) a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Building a record collection

By **Douglas Hamilton**

Bruch Violin Concerto no.1 and Scottish Fantasy; Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E min.

**Kyung Wha Chung, RPO Kempe/ Montreal SO Dutoit
Decca 'Legends' 460-976-2**

Two of the loveliest and most popular works from the Romantic violin concerto repertoire are the Mendelssohn and Bruch concertos. Both have meltingly beautiful slow movements, while their finales are memorable in different ways — the Mendelssohn for almost fairy-like lightness of touch, and the Bruch for a degree of Gipsy-style fiddle-playing.

Mendelssohn's E minor and Bruch's 1st Violin Concertos are frequently recorded together on CD, and there are a number of eminently commendable versions of them, including Anne-Sophie Mutter on Deutsche Gramophon (DG) and Kennedy on EMI. There are a number of fine recordings of each concerto with

different couplings. Chung pairs the Bruch with the Beethoven concerto on Decca, Mintz with the Dvorak concerto on DG. The Mendelssohn is successfully paired with Sibelius by Chang on EMI, with Brahms by Perlman on Teldec, while Chio Lang Lin combines the Bruch and Mendelssohn Concertos with Vieuxtemps no.5 in a highly recommended disc.

From all these, my recommendation would be the version by Kyung Wha Chung. And why is this? The playing is superb. The Mendelssohn is taken faster than usual, giving the outer movements great sparkle, while the slow movement is fresh and songful. The Bruch is equally inspired, and there is also a bonus — on the same disc is the Bruch *Scottish Fantasy*, complete with a rousing 'Scots wha hae' finale — again winningly played by Chung. The orchestral accompaniments are fine, and the recording quality is glowing. With almost 80 minutes of fine music-making, and at mid price, this is a bargain of great quality.

News from the Blues



DUE TO OUR EARLIER festive deadline there is no News from the Blues this week. But the Strathclyde Police department have recently notified drivers of their campaign to crack down on drink and there are parliamentary proposals on the table to reduce the legal alcohol limit for drivers.

Drivers who get behind the wheel 'the morning after the night before' are to be targeted by Scotland's police forces in the latest campaign against drink and drug driving.

For the duration of the crackdown, police officers will pay particular attention to those driving in the earlier part of the day who may still have drugs or excess alcohol in their system.

Chief Constable Kevin Smith (Central Scotland Police), the new Chair of the Road Policing Business Area for the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS), said: 'We will also be keeping a close eye on the roads at all other times and every police officer will be on high alert to detect drink drivers... The evidence is overwhelming that there is a link between drink driving and serious road crashes. Drivers who flout the law are not only putting their own lives at risk but the lives of others who may be family or friends or even perfect strangers. The message is clear from the police in Scotland — you may cause a crash, you will be detected, don't risk it.'

The annual, four-week-long Festive Drink-Drug Driving Safety Campaign kicked off on Monday, December 8th. ACPOS is fully supportive of a reduction in the drink drive limit from 80mg/100ml of blood to 50mg/100ml.

Chief Constable Smith said: 'Not only is the Scottish Government supportive of this move but also the British Medical Association is backing it.' He was particularly concerned that Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom are among a small group of European nations that have still not lowered the level at which blood alcohol count becomes an offence. As he put it, 'Too many motorists are ignoring the law and continue to drive after drinking. We need to look at lowering the limit to tackle one of the major reasons for loss of life on our roads.'

Justice Minister Kenny McAskill is spearheading the legislative campaign to reduce the blood alcohol limit from 80mg to 50mg per 100ml of blood, 'to save lives on our roads.'



All Welcome

Scottish Episcopal Church

(in full communion with the Church of England)
Wednesday, 24th December, CHRISTMAS EVE:
Midnight Mass, 11.30pm.
Rev'd Paul Fletcher. All Welcome.
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 28th December: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Rev'd Paul Fletcher. Coffee after service.
Wednesday, 31st December: Holy Communion, 12.15pm. All Welcome.

Church of Scotland

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
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)
Sunday 28th December
Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Rev. Gillean Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
All welcome Scottish Charity SCO 15072

Arran Free Church of Scotland

28th 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 28th December in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick. 10.55 Worship Service. Tea and coffee afterwards. Everyone welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland (continuing)

Sunday 28th 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:
Wednesday 24th December:
Brodick Church, 11.30pm,
Watchnight Service
Corrie Church, 9pm, Watchnight Service
Shiskine Church, 11.30pm,
Watchnight Service
Thursday 25th December:
Lochranza, 11am, Christmas Day Service
Sunday 28th December:
Brodick Church, 10.30am,
Corrie Church, 12noon
Lochranza, 10.15am,
Shiskine, 12noon, Service for Health and Healing, 7pm.
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 9pm Wednesday (please note corrected time)
Christmas Morning Mass 11am

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Wednesday 24th December: There will be a service at 11.30pm to welcome Christmas Day. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served after the service. Offering will go to a Riding for the Disabled on Arran.
Thursday 25th December: There will be a short family service conducted by the minister at 10am on Christmas morning to which all children are invited to bring a gift from Santa to show. Offering will go to a Riding for the Disabled on Arran.
Sunday 28th December 2008
A service of praise and readings will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. Everyone most welcome.

CHURCH NOTICES FOR FIRST SERVICES IN JANUARY 2009

Scottish Episcopal Church

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 4th January 2009: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mr John Roberts. Coffee after service.
Wednesday, 7th January: Holy Communion, 12.15pm. All Welcome

Church of Scotland

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 4th January Rev. Gillean Maclean
Kilmory 10am Lamlash 11.30am
All welcome Scottish Charity SCO 15072

Arran Free Church of Scotland

4th January 2009 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 4th January in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick. 10.55 Worship Service, Tea and coffee afterwards Everyone welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland

(continuing)
Sunday 4th January, 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 4th January :
Brodick Church, 10.30am,
Corrie Church, 12 noon,
Pirmill, 10.15am,
Shiskine Church, 12noon,
A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Sunday 4th January 2009
Morning Mass 11am

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 4th January 2009
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All most welcome.

The Society of Friends (Quakers)

will meet on 11th January.

Mega Crossword

Compiled by **The Wee Scunner**



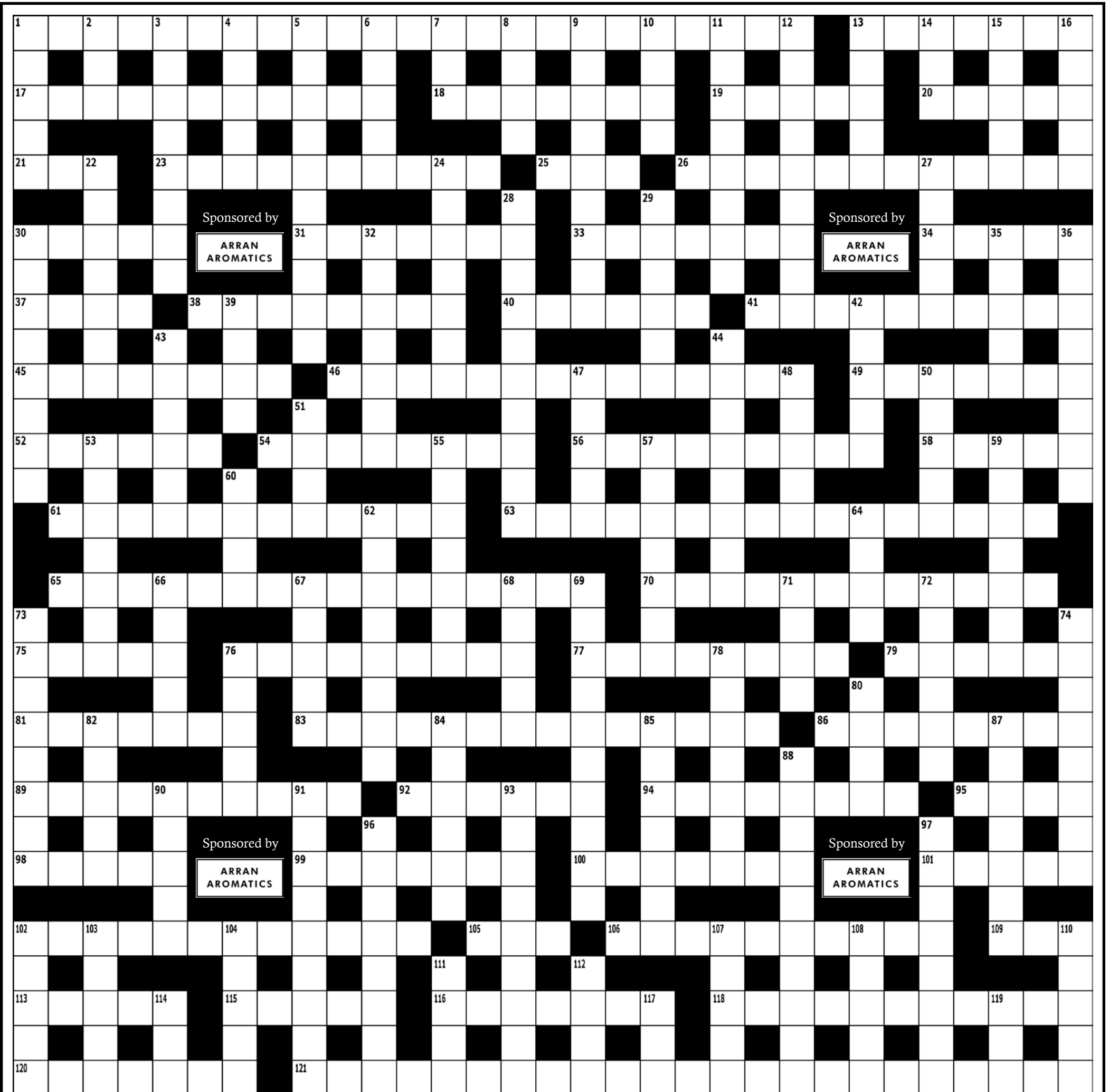
ARRAN AROMATICS

Win an Arran Aromatics gift box, worth £50, selected from their Love Christmas range.

You have until Tuesday, 6 January 2008 to send in your completed cryptic crossword.

This week's crossword sponsored by Arran Aromatics, Tel: 01770 302595, Website: www.arranaromatics.com. Winners are asked to contact the shop before collecting their prize.

Answers to Issue 88's crossword can be found on page 19.



Please send your completed crosswords to **The Arran Voice, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX**. Alternatively, e-mail your answers to info@arranvoice.com, with the word "Xmas Crossword 2008" in the subject line.

Name:
 Address:
 Telephone/E-mail:

Mega Crossword Clues

For this Christmas Mega Crossword, we're only providing one set of clues for our mega prize crossword. Answers will be printed in our first issue of the New Year.

Across

- 1,74 down The message of 76 across (5,2,5,3,8,2,3,3)
- 13 It's a mistake! (7)
- 17 Bug female sewer (11)
- 18 Token sign (7)
- 19 Was sad about vehicle (5)
- 20 Comparatively 54 (5)
- 21 Old age fellow bumpkin (3)
- 23 Good health of Gerry? ((10)
- 25 Timber diary (3)
- 26 Inexcusably (12)
- 30 Ringers sound like beauties (5)
- 31 Saves pinches (7)
- 33 Flavour I see inside as well (7)
- 34 Group unite (5)
- 37 Hautboy honour includes nothing (4)
- 38 Land race time table (8)
- 40 Ah! Stag shocked (6)
- 41 Decorative antler moan (!0)
- 45 Christmas delivery (8)
- 46 Fair switchbacks (14)
- 49 Get up muster (7)
- 52 ... ie lays without difficulty (6)
- 54 O come all ye (8)
- 56 Rib choosy young singers (9)
- 58 Hit high and travelled on 112 (5)
- 61 Antic ring round one that is a bird (12)
- 63 Stray without danger and be conservative about risk (3,2,3,4,4)
- 65 Record on camp journalist loch unhappiness (16)
- 70 Plus sum friend (12)
- 75 Prison room takes no instrument (5)
- 76 Match sir's festival (9)
- 77 Mad about bangers? (8)
- 79 Stare at disagreeable smell pavilion (6)
- 81 Mathematical proposition or theme (7)
- 83 Check flowers being born again (14)
- 86 Optimistic fee lurch (8)
- 89 Start launch (10)
- 92 Veto a North American Fruit (6)
- 94 Circuitous deviant (8)
- 95 Good hat in poor spirits (4)
- 98 Sacred about fifty ilex (5)
- 99 76 dinner guests usually are told (7)
- 100 Best choose one mother (7)
- 101 Epoxy rinse (5)
- 102 Seaside hairdressers? They scavenge (12)
- 105 Offspring (3)
- 106 Breathing tubes Len R. shocks (10)
- 109 Expel unfashionable (3)
- 113 Chicken not bareheaded (5)
- 115 Heats carbuncles (5)
- 116 Agrees fools around no trump(7)
- 118 Mutually destructive (11)
- 120 Most close moved east astern (7)
- 121,109 Carol start (4,4,9,6,3)

Down

- 1 Loaf to show (5)
- 2 Dread loch (3)
- 3 Funeral orator suite log (8)
- 4 Amphibians upset nest around west (5)

- 5 Run publicity serve (10)
- 6 Smell loses south fish (5)
- 7 Burro (3)
- 8 Silent mum (4)
- 9 Manipulator hates to op (9)
- 10 I down character (4)
- 11 Symbolic name of one born at 76 (8)
- 12 Drink heavy hitter Santa ? (9)
- 13 Finished aim journalist (5)
- 14 Bunk initially really odd trash (3)
- 15 Largest finger wee Tom (5)
- 16 With 76 seasonal greeting (5)
- 22 Argument residue (7)
- 24 Wrong-I am principled (7)
- 27 Macmillan aid (5)
- 28 Leeds April shoe (10)
- 29 Her indoors (6)
- 30 Wee guides' cakes (8)
- 32 Camp entertainer (7)
- 35 Biblical character to house (5)
- 36 Sounds like you will flow 76 (8)
- 39 Talented rearranged tray (4)
- 42 Lotsa singers! (5)
- 43 Grow first woman around volume (6)
- 44 Scrutinized comb journalist (8)
- 47 Develop turn out (5)
- 48 Demonstrates Mamma Mia or West Side Story (5)
- 50 Chances dares (5)
- 51 76 Travellers of the imagination (4)
- 53 Dog bred from the Spanish Spain (7)
- 55 Liberty released order of merit (7)
- 57 Miscellaneous collectables aim anon (7)
- 59 Spoil pet (7)
- 60 Inspect hospital examination (4)
- 62 Gives away (4,4)
- 64 Current (4)
- 66 42 and others (5)
- 67 Sin or 13 (5)
- 68 A seer gives gratification (obs) (5)
- 69 Throwing up (4,2,1,3)
- 71 Sour pie (4)
- 72 Mixed enthusiasm in the motoring organisation for a plant (6)
- 73 Caledonian (8)
- 74 See 1 across
- 76 One to watch arrive, right? (5)
- 78 Reign realm (7)
- 80 Elegant cropped bird (4)
- 82 Communication from a mile (5)
- 84 Celibate but still pursued by the sound of it (6)
- 85 I do it mixed around 99, stupid (7)
- 87 Begins to eat (5,2)
- 88 Let pair mar before the wedding (10)
- 90 Ornamental fluting concealed in ugly photograph (5)
- 91 Throng around books one pulsation (9)
- 93 Reconstructed Arran doss forms port for Arran (9)
- 96 Gangster mural out of doors (8)
- 97 Miranda's dad. Succeed? No (8)
- 102 Ham essayist (5)
- 103 The brightest star! (5)
- 104 Revolution (5)
- 107 Bruit clamour (5)
- 108 Gains hearing with bridge partners (5)
- 110 Small and sweet diamond cloth (5)
- 111 Carol begins "Listen" (4)
- 112 Sounds like it's not a Scots seasonal precipitation! (4)
- 114 Born a woman (3)
- 117 Tanning star (3)
- 119 Squid fluid (3)

Issue 88 Crossword Answers

Cryptic Answers

Across: 1 Brasier; 5 Lucifer; 9 Disillusionment; 10 Insincere; 11 Rakes; 12 Glassy; 13 Clones; 15 Asthma; 17 Crimps; 22 Rocks; 24 Palisaded; 25 Procrastinators; 26 Surplus; 27 Misuses.

Down: 1 Bidding; 2 Assistant; 3 Islands; 4 Routed; 5 Loiter; 6 Control; 7 Freak; 8 Retests; 14 Namedrops; 15 Apropos; 16 Mistral; 18 Rascals; 19 Sadists; 20 Spasms; 21 Allium; 23 Choir.

Quick Answers

Across: 1 Earwigs; 5 Alberta; 9 Get On In The World; 10 Approvals; 11 Egret; 12 Dryish; 13 Ascend; 15 Porage; 17 Barber; 22 Recto; 24 Adulterer; 25 Straightforward; 26 Laundry; 27 Sexists.

Down: 1 England; 2 Ratepayer; 3 Igneous; 4 Sandal; 5 Aghast; 6 Bawbees; 7 Rarer; 8 Audited; 14 Embarrass; 15 Parasol; 16 Gloried; 18 Anthrax; 19 Reredos; 20 Rashly; 21 Quiffs; 23 Corfu.

Winner of Issue 88 Crossword:

Congratulations to Jane Maclure from Brodick who wins the gift voucher this week.

Issue 90 Sudoku & Kakuro Solutions

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

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

	11	27		6	17	25		
4	3	1	13	18	1	9	8	
35	8	2	4	5	7	9	31	
	12	3	9	15	1	6	8	12
11	3	8	12		7	2	1	4
16	1	9	6	19		5	3	8
	14	4	2	8	11	7	1	6
		24	1	2	3	4	9	5
		20	3	9	8		5	4
								1

New Year Present Game

You will need:

- 1 Pair of Gloves
- 1 Hat
- 1 Die (perhaps two dice if group is large)
- A Prize wrapped in as many layers of newspaper and boxes as you can devise

How to Play:

This is a variation on Pass the Parcel, but more frantic and a lot more untidy! The gloves, hat, and wrapped prize are placed in the centre of a circle of players, who take it in turn to roll the dice.

When someone rolls a 6, they run to the middle and put on the gloves and hat. They then start to unwrap the package. They must move fast because the next person to roll a 6 grabs the hat and gloves, replacing the person in the centre, who goes back to to the circle. The new hat-and-gloves wearer carries on unwrapping until replaced by the next person to throw a 6.

The game goes on until the final unwrapper gets down to the prize, which they keep. Beware of cheating by starting to unwrap before putting the gloves on – and it's funnier if the gloves are the unwieldy gardening kind, or motor cycle gauntlets.

WIN A LUXURY CO-OP HAMPER WITH 3 GAELIC WORDS

Arran's Co-operative store is donating a luxury food hamper this Christmas full of festive goodies for one lucky reader of *The Arran Voice* newspaper. All you have to do is call in with the answer to the following question:

What is the Gaelic for 'Sauces and Pickles'?

(Clue: next time you're in the main Brodick Co-op store have a look above the shopping aisles).

Entries can be submitted by phone (01770 303 636) and by e-mail (info@arranvoice.com). You can also drop written answers into the office. During the festive season, the office will be open on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th of December and the 2nd of January. Deadline for entries is Monday 5th of January, on which day the winning entry will be picked from *The Voice's* special competition hat at 4.30pm.

Good luck!



Colour in this party picture to win a feast of party goodies from the Co-op. Post your entries to the Arran Voice, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Arran KA27 8AX by Saturday January 3rd. Remember to include your phone number or e-mail, so we can let you know if you win. Good luck!
Entrants must be aged 12 and under. The Co-op will display a selection of entries in the Brodick shop in the New Year.

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Silver, 73,000 Miles

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Silver, 70,000 miles

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

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

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

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55 Reg 06 VW Transporter T28
White, 44,000 miles

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04 Ford Transit SWB
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51 Reg Ford Transit 280
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New 30 String Irish Harp with carry bag £250 ono phone 302150

ANNOUNCEMENT

SELKIRK



On 18th December, in HOBART, Tasmania, to Craig and Liz, a boy, Finlay John

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT VOICE OF ARRAN



Voice of Arran is a new community-owned enterprise for the people of Arran. We are currently looking for a Managing Director to guide the organisation through its formative phase. Hours and remuneration are negotiable.

If you feel that you have the experience and energy needed to fill this challenging but rewarding role please contact us at Arran Voice, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX, enclosing a full CV.

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ADVERTISING TERMS

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- All advertisements must be paid for prior to publication. Extended runs of advertising will be invoiced monthly in advance, unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Advertiser (or their Agent) agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of any liability arising from publication of their advertisement, however caused.
- The Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

Our ratecard is online at: www.arranvoice.com

Ormidale pitch given the works



Murray and Niall choose a good day

DRAINAGE WORKS WERE carried out recently on the sometimes soggy top-end of Ormidale park. Two weekends ago Murray Boal and Niall Hume were out digging some drainage channels and deepening gravel trenches and sand slits to redirect rainfall run-off around the church end of the pitch. Ever since the works undertaken earlier this year the pitch has been in a much more regularly playable state and it is hoped the additional drainage will keep the park in tip-top condition for many of the island's sporting events.

Arran Artists Calendar 2009

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

Golf Results

Brodict Golf Club

Results:

December 21st 2008, Clochendichter
Alma 1-1/2 Street 2-1/2
Village 2-1/2 Knowe 1-1/2

League Table:

Street 11 pts
Alma 8 pts
Village 8 pts
Knowe 5 pts

Fixtures:

Sunday 28th December,
Clochendichter
Alma vs. Knowe 10.00am
Street vs. Village 10:30am

Lamlash Golf Club

Lamlash Ladies

Results:

On Wednesday 17th December some nine brave ladies played their annual Stableford Christmas game at Shiskine. The weather was not festive by any means and with high winds, low temperatures and horizontal driving rain, playing golf was challenging to say the least. However, the game was completed by all. The poor conditions outside more than compensated for inside by an excellent lunch provided by the Shiskine Tea rooms and the festive company. The winners were:

1st Annie McVicar with 18 points
2nd Brenda Livingstone with 17 points
3rd Ellie Jones with 16 points
4th Jo Hastings with 13 points.

Thanks to Lady Captain Ellie Jones for the arrangements (if not the weather!!)

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Results:

Sunday 21st December, 20 brave souls turned up for the 2nd Winter Friendly with Lamlash, this time at Whiting Bay.

The stableford was won by Dave Hackett with a very impressive 41 points.

1st Dave Hackett 41 points
2nd Gus MacLeod 39 points
3rd John Taylor 39 points
Scratch: Nicol Auld, 65
Magic 2s: Blair McGunnigle, Nicol Auld and Michelle Augier.

The overall team result was four and a half points to Whiting Bay and half a point to Lamlash, edging Whiting Bay ahead overall by two points. As always the games were played in good spirit and all enjoyed the hospitality in the clubhouse afterwards.

Fixtures:

Friday 26th, Christmas Bottle
Sunday 28th, Winter Cup Round 3
Friday 2nd, 9 hole Cross Country
Sunday 4th, Medal

The Arran Voice wishes all the golf clubs a very merry Christmas and a successful 2009. We would also like to thank all the club secretaries for passing on their members' competition results over the year!



Brodict Bridge Club

BRODICK BRIDGE CLUB held their Xmas dinner at Brodict Golf Club. Grateful thanks to the Golf Club, Douglas Robertson, Trish and the girls for a lovely meal.

Winners of the President's Bottles:

- N/S 1st A. McKelvie & J. Maclure
- E/W 1st P. Adamson & J. McBride

Bridge resumes on Thursday 7th January 2009.

Street's ahead

HUME-ILIATION, NEAR-COMEBACKS AND CLUBHOUSE TRAUMA

The second installment of Brodick golf club's intra-village Clochendichter competition had it all, and put the Street three points clear. Non-partisan golfer Lenny Hartley pens the report:

THE DELAYED NOVEMBER Clochendichter matches finally got underway on a showery and blustery shortest day of the year. In the first match the reigning Champions Alma got soundly beaten by an ageing Street team.

In the first pairing, captain Brian 'baby belly' Smith and Bert McGunnigle sealed a very impressive victory by one hole over Club Champion Ewan McKinnon and former Hope Cup Player Callum McFadzean.

A BLINDER

Ewan had five 3's in a row from the 13th and was surely demoralised that such good play won only one of the holes as FatBellyGutBucket Smith was playing a 'blinder' (or was he 'blind drunk?').

In the second game Robbie Duncan and Sam McCalla started well but were soundly beaten 3 and 2 by Russell Duncan and Campbell Russell (or vice versa).

Game three — and what a match. Gus Robertson and Don Rudge were 5 down at the 8th against veterans Willie Innes and Stevie Bunyan, who were desperate not to be thrashed for a second game in a row. The Alma pairing rallied and were one up going down the 18th, but the Fairytale comeback was not to be, as Sevie parred to win the hole and halve the match.

HISTORY MADE

History was made in the final match when Gavin Dunn had the honour of being the first junior to play in a Clochendichter. Unfortunately for Gavin he was paired with Lenny Hartley, and an inspired game by Gordon Sillars and Nicol Hume resulted in the Alma

pairing being HUME-iliated by a Dogs Licence 7-6. Alma Captain Jimmy Nichols and out-of-commission vice captain Donald McKinnie made a fine pairing, looking like a couple of bookends whilst spectating from the elevated 8th green.

In the second match the Village surprisingly beat the Knowe 2-1/2 1-1/2.

It was certainly surprising to the Village Captain and vice Captain, who were showing their pedigree by calling each other Pal and Chum during a bickering session over team tactics in the Clubhouse before the results of the final games were known. In the first game the Knowe's Bobby Mcrae and Davie Hendry were beaten by Matt Keir and Bruce Jenkins, causing a traumatised Boat Macrae to turn to the Port in the Clubhouse. In the second game the Knowe's Terry Raeside and Dougie Robertson got humped 6-5 by Iain McMillan and Lindsay Keir. Bung played a stonker, taking only 34 shots to the turn and leaving Keir Snr rolling out the dough in the Clubhouse.

The third game was an intriguing fixture between Village People's Chief John Beattie/Jimmy Armit and Iain Macdonald/Gordon Robertson. It resulted in a defeat by the Village pairing by one hole after being four up after the first four holes.

NOG FEELS THE PRESSURE

The final game pitted Kenny McMillan and the Knowe Captain Gordon Hendry against Ian Sillars and Aly Hume. The game was halved and Aly said it was probably the best Clochendichter game he has ever played in. It remains to be seen whether this praise for his opponents is good enough to take the pressure off Nog, who surely must deliver a good result in the next match to secure his tenure for the remainder of the season.

Thanks to Trish and Staff for the fantastic Turkey dinner after the match.

Arran Pool League — week 8



'Did you leave your flashlight lying about?'. Catacol's Chris Traill and John Barker discuss table-side tactics during their match with Corrie

SUSPECTED GLEN SANNOX DECOY STUNT HANDS CATACOL SENSATIONAL VICTORY

CATACOL PULLED OFF an emphatic 10-2 win against visiting mid-league hopefuls Corrie last Thursday in a stunning festive encounter. Just a couple of hours before the match was due to start, two of Corrie's better players (Neil Bulger and Ewan McKinnon) were called out on a Mountain rescue team hill-search.

Barracking was of a particularly high quality as suspicions grew that the diversion of Corrie's pool talent towards the Devil's Punchbowl (see page 7) was in fact a devious ploy by the usually drubbable Catacol. The home side played some inspiring pool to seal the fixture and send the Corrie lads home without even the Gallon as consolation. It was also the last game of the 2009 season for Catacol's Mark Wetton, who will be leaving the island in the New Year for military training. He potted the crucial match-winning and gallon-clinching black balls.

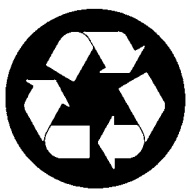
Elsewhere, the unstoppable Bar Eden extended their 'perfect' season to an unbeaten eight matches, seeing off home side Kildonan 8-4. The Drift beat the Cammy easily in a fun grudge match in Whiting Bay. And P.T 1934 hopped to 3rd

in the table after tonking Lee Little's visiting squad from the PHT. The game finished up 9-3 with Murray Picken being the only Southender to lose his singles match.

Results from the preliminary Arran Singles Round (as of 10pm Sunday night).

- J. McPherson (Bar Eden) beat E. McKinnon (Corrie)
- P. Holmes (PHT) beat C. Black (Drift)
- A. Duncan (Bar Eden) beat N. Bond (Catacol)
- G. Blythe (Drift) beat S. Weir (Catacol)
- M. Worthington (P.T. 1934) beat N. Underdown (Corrie)
- L. Girbow (Drift) beat S. Lawson (Catacol)
- N. Auld (Bar Eden) beat D. Prescott (Cameronia)
- D. Head (Bar Eden) beat D. Hackett (Bar Eden)
- J. Ainsworth (Cameronia) beat J. Lyon (Catacol)
- S. McGovern (Bar Eden) beat P. McKinnon (Corrie)
- I. Murchie (Drift) beat A. Jeffrey (Catacol)





IN THE BLEAK MIDWICKET

By **Tim Pomeroy**



Some very hardy souls turned out for the New Year's match last January

ISLAND'S CLOSET CRICKETERS INVITED TO JOIN FIRST GAME OF 2009

SANNOX CRICKET CLUB, ever on the lookout to promote cricket on the island, is hosting its second mad-dog's-an-islander New Year's cricket match on the Ormidale Astroturf on Saturday January 3rd 2009 at high noon.

The club warmly invites anyone to play or watch and shout encouragement. 'Warmly' must be read in parentheses as the January 2008 match was played in temperatures barely above zero, but a great cricketing time was had by players and spectators alike. Two full teams were picked on the day, and wives,

mothers and hardened cricket lovers shouted encouragement from the dubious shelter of the hockey nets.

2009's event will be no less ambitious. This is undoubtedly a fun event open to all genders and ages but organisers stress the need for warm clothing and waterproofs. Whites of course are de rigeur but players should sport several layers of them. Arran Property, Sannox's main supporter, will sponsor the day. Spectators should bring camping stools, blankets, waterproofs and refreshments.

More information from Eric on 303810 or 0778 690 6992. Indoor nets restart on Monday 12th January 2009 at 7.00pm. Newcomers always welcome.

SANNOX WOULD LIKE to take this opportunity to wish one of its players well as he leaves the island. Nathan Carey, who for the last three years has graced the Sannox Oval and who has been one of the most loyal and consistent players, leaves at the end of the month to join the army. Nathan has been a stalwart of the Sannox team, useful tail ender, fearless in the field, courteous and helpful at club events. He will be sorely missed for his enthusiasm and sense of humour. The club wish him every success and says haste ye back.



Nathan Carey receives his first 'cap' from Sannox Cricket Club's ex-captain Eric Dunn

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