



THE

Arranvoice

VOCEM AUDIRE POPULAREM / ÉISD RI GUTH NA MUINNIR

8th January 2009 — 091

65p

THANK YOU, ARRAN!

THE RESPONSE FROM our readers to our pre-Christmas plea has been magnificent. Messages of support for *The Arran Voice* have poured in, along with contributions to our survival fund. The fact that we are in publication this week is entirely due to the heart-warming response of the Arran community, and we are touched and humbled.

One modest individual who insists on anonymity was particularly convinced of the island's need for the Voice, and contributed a generous short-term loan that brought us to our target sum. This gives us headroom while we complete the change to our new status as a

Community Enterprise, and we cannot thank the benefactor enough. However, in the relief of being able to think ahead, we must remain aware that money lent is money that must be paid back. For this reason, continued support from the Arran community will remain vital during this critical transition period. Together, we can ensure the long-term future of *The Arran Voice* as a paper that listens to Arran concerns and gives free expression to Arran opinions.

At the beginning of a New Year that has brought us the opening up of every new chance, we thank every one of our readers and supporters.

AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY at Auchenhew farm has led to the birth of the island's first lamb of the season. Farmer John McDonald found the wee newcomer near the Kildonan shore on Christmas Eve. 'The lamb was already a few days old,' said John, 'so we don't know the exact date of birth.'

A pair of fine chocolate-coloured twins were born a few days later around New Year time and meanwhile the first lamb, pictured with John and his nine-year-old son Murdo, is growing into a tough young ram. Inspired by the early arrival, Murdo said, 'I am hoping to help with some of the lambing this year.'

Usually, John's lambs arrive in the spring time, and because this one arrived so early, the family thought they might call him 'Potato,' as though he were a first early spud. But it hasn't been decided on yet, and while Murdo is racking his brains for a name that will suit the Christmas lamb, the family are open to suggestions from the community.

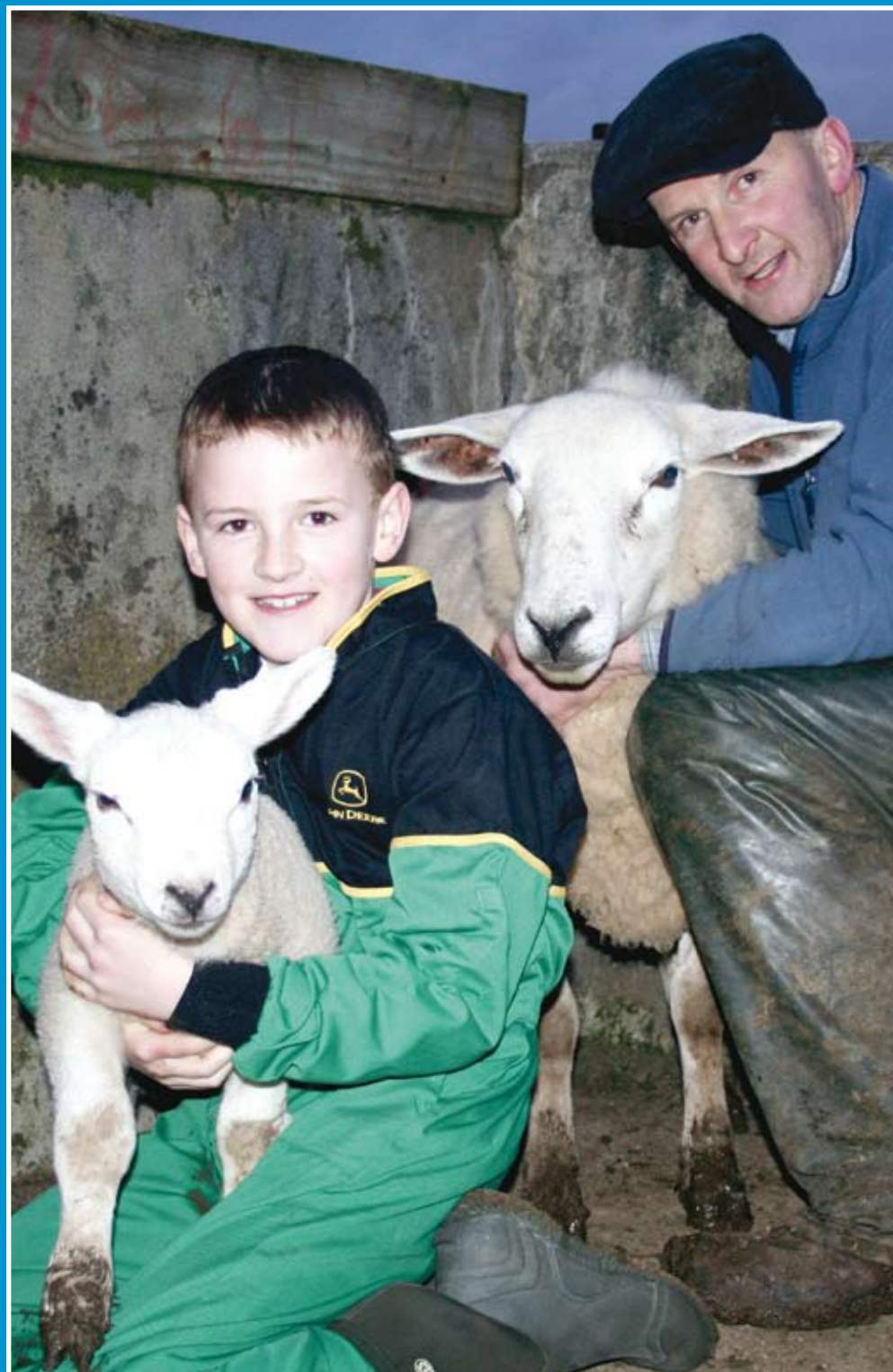
'BAAA BAAA, THANK YOU MAAA'

John isn't quite sure exactly when the lambs were conceived, but he has his suspicions. 'My only theory is that when I was dipping the sheep in July, the tups were in the fank too and the ewes were probably nipped.' John has 320 sheep at the farm and because there were several different breeds in the sheepfold, the explanation would seem to stack up. The lambs pictured above is a Texel cross, but the others are Suffolks. 'While I was dipping it must have been baaa baaa, thank you maaa,' said John. It is the earliest Arran lamb that John has ever raised at Auchenhew, where he has been farming for 24 years.

RAM'S PROGRESS

Over the next few months, *The Arran Voice* hopes to pay a few visits to Auchenhew and chart the young ram's development as he negotiates bluetongue vaccinations, tagging and livestock transport regulations from the sloping pastures of the Southend. But first he needs a name. And no, Mint Sauce will not be considered!

Happy Ewe Year



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Firefighters praised for tackling remote shed fire



Jessica Gillson caught some footage of the fire on camera. It shows the extent of the blaze just a few minutes after it was first seen by her brother Peter.

THE GILLSONS EXPERIENCED a family nightmare and a sad start to 2009 when a fire destroyed three outbuildings at their home in the Craw on New Year's Day. At about 6.45pm last Thursday, 11 year old Peter Gillson spotted a 'huge orange glow' from the window of the family house. His father Chris went out to investigate and found one of two large sheds ablaze. 'I could see straight away that it was way beyond my ability to firefight,' said Chris. His wife Naomi called the fire service while Chris salvaged what he could from the garage before it too caught fire.

The blaze — the cause of which has yet to be determined — tore through two large timber-frame sheds and the garage behind their house in a matter of minutes. Perched 100m high on the steep hillside between Catacol and Mid Thunderguy, the fire could be seen from miles away. Dave Jeffries, a volunteer fireman with the Lochranza unit, recalls seeing large flakes of ash falling like snow on the road 100m below the fire as he arrived at the scene.

Fire service crews from Lochranza, Lamlash and Brodick were soon in attendance and carried out quite a tricky operation which involved pumping water direct from the sea, as a nearby water store was inaccessible due to the ferocity of the fire. Under the command of officer in charge Paul Jamieson and Lochranza's volunteer leader Norman Bond, the crews set up a water relay using portable pumps situated at different points up the hill. Almost 20 firefighters were involved in the incident and the fire was eventually extinguished. Initially the crews had set up an exclusion zone to handle the potentially explosive canister of oxy-acetylene contained in one of the sheds. As a procedural precaution the fire crews worked in rotation to apply water to the canister for a further 12 hours to make certain it was safe.

'We are just so lucky there was an easterly wind, or else the fire could have spread to the house,' said Chris. Despite the shock and sadness at losing some treasured possessions, both Naomi and Chris said they are just thankful that no-one in the family was injured in the fire.

The Gillsons moved to the Craw seven years ago and have renovated parts of the site which had fallen into ruin. The Craw was formerly a popular pottery workshop in the 1970s and was originally a croft built back in the 1800s. As well as fittings for their new family home currently being rebuilt on-site, Chris also lost 20 years worth of accumulated tools which he uses for his work as a self-builder. There is almost no trace of the three outbuildings apart from some charred rubble — now a painful reminder of the events of New Year's day.

'We've still got a roof over our heads,' said Naomi, who is enormously grateful for the brave work of the fire service and the support the family has received from neighbours (see letter on page 5) 'It's just brought it home to me how vulnerable people are who live in rural locations,' said Chris.

Group commander of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service Paul McLintock expressed both his sympathy to the family and admiration: 'Obviously it was quite traumatic for the family involved. They are in a remote area. The crew did extremely well on New Year's day. They turned up and did their job in difficult circumstances.'



There is almost no remaining trace of the timber-frame sheds and garage that burnt down. Inset, Naomi, Peter and Chris Gillson take stock a few days after the fire

Cut Power Bills Now!

LOCAL MSP Kenneth Gibson has submitted a motion to Parliament calling for the immediate reduction of power bills, remarking that 'Power companies are quick off the mark to raise prices when wholesale costs increase. They should be just as quick to cut those prices when wholesale costs fall.' He adds, 'Despite wholesale electricity costs having fallen by over 40% recently, the people of Arran are still expected to pay the inflated costs of last summer. It is totally unacceptable. Prices need to be cut in these difficult times to reflect the costs power companies are now paying. At a time of economic downturn when islanders are feeling the pinch, they should not have to pay over the odds to boost the profits of the power companies.'

THE FULL TEXT OF HIS PARLIAMENTARY MOTION IS AS FOLLOWS:

That the Parliament notes that the forward price of gas for delivery in winter 2009 has plummeted from 109p per therm in July to 63.6p per therm in the last days of 2008, a decline of almost 42%; further notes that the forward price of electricity fell from £94.50 per MWhour to £56.65 over the same period, a decrease of over 40%; is concerned that power companies that were so keen to raise prices rapidly

and in full during 2008 are much more reluctant to pass on full price cuts quickly, with consumers expected to wait until February or March for probable price cuts of only 5% or 10%, with 20% cuts at best; acknowledges that the wholesale cost of gas and electricity represents about two-thirds of the total cost of supply borne by energy providers, and believes therefore that hard-pressed energy consumers, both domestic and business, should receive full price cuts and swiftly, or that energy providers should be compelled by the UK Government to make the cuts.

Latest on Whiting Bay school drains

KENNETH GIBSON MSP sends us an update on the flooding at Whiting Bay school. He reports that a defective trap in the playground was replaced on 23 December and left in full operation, though the tarmac round it could not be replaced as island agents had no materials. It was fenced off and the Head Teacher advised. Tarmac will be laid soon.

Scottish Water investigated the school and the wider area on 23 December. They found no specific defects, but suggested that there would be times when 'the sewer may not cope due to combined circumstantial factors'. Mr Gibson has already written to SEPA about this.

The Council's Island Officer, Mr Gus Macleod, met with one of the adjacent farmers. A breached manhole and broken pipe outside the school perimeter were found, and these may have

contributed to the problems.

POSSIBLE SOLUTION

A CCTV survey of all accessible drain lines in and outside the school is now planned, together with an investigation of other factors that may be adding to the trouble. The survey will be carried out this week, and further flood-prevention measures such as new field drainage above the school car-park will be implemented.

Kenneth Gibson noted that 'urgent attention is now being paid to the issues at the school' and commented that flooding incidents are not all down to problems within the school grounds. He said, 'I intend to liaise closely with North Ayrshire Council until such time as this matter has been resolved once and for all to the satisfaction of parents, pupils and the staff of Whiting Bay Primary School.'

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CALOR Gas

Junior sailors make Clyde crossing in new boats

AJSC members sail new fleet of dinghies from Cumbrae to Lamlash

The calm sea in the Largs Channel soon turned a bit choppy during the crossing



Neil and Rory Hunter send in this report about their journey.

ARRAN JUNIOR SAILING Club (AJSC) has just bought six new Laser Pico sailing dinghies to replace the twenty-year-old Toppers that they had before. The club bought the new dinghies from Cumbrae water sports centre, and nine brave sailors from Arran Yacht Club decided to sail them back from Cumbrae. They started early in the morning on Sunday 28th December with a rough RIB trip to the Scottish National Watersport centre at Cumbrae. Then after rigging their boats they set off on the big journey back to Lamlash. They set off from Cumbrae at 10 o'clock, heading out into the Largs Channel where the sea was quite calm, but as the boats travelled further into



Laser Pico sailing dinghy

the Clyde the waves got bigger and the wind got stronger.

They had a very good start to their trip, though by halfway the boats were planing and surfing down the waves, which caused several of the boats to nosedive — but the only capsized of the day was by Timmy Crockett, and he claims the water wasn't that cold. The group stopped every so often to let everyone catch up and have a rest as it was hard work. Leading the group into the bay was Rory "Corgi" Hunter, as he was the smallest and fastest sailor. The sailors made it back to Lamlash pier by 1.30pm which was impressive for the 17 mile trip. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the trip and was very satisfied with the new boats. The sailors of the six boats were; Rory Hunter, Neil Hunter, Timmy Crockett, Andrew Earle, Iain Hunter, Charlotte MacBeath and Colin Campbell. RIB helms Angus Campbell and Bill Barr did a brilliant job and nothing could have been achieved without them.



A steady hand was needed to bring the new boats back safely

Siblings rescued from Goatfell in dark



The hills can look enticing during the day, but without a torch after nightfall navigation becomes a wee bit tricky

A BROTHER AND sister had a darker-than-planned descent from Arran's highest peak after they became benighted on the hills during a walk up Goatfell.

In the early evening of December 29th, local police called on the services of the mountain rescue team. The alarm had been raised when the two walkers were late returning after their walk and had called family members to say they were lost.

HELICOPTER HAMPERED

A spokesman for the team said, '17 team members attended the callout, but the location of the walkers was slightly hazy ... From information received it was believed to be the Brodick side of the hill. We were supported by the police helicopter, which was hampered by low cloud,

and the Sea King helicopter from HMS Gannet was on standby.'

Mountain Rescue Team members were then tasked with searching the tourist path and the paths leading to it. 'The walkers had been caught off-guard and had no means of lighting their way,' one of them said afterwards. Once located, the stranded pair used the light of their mobile phone to guide members of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team to their position on the Cladach path. Once they'd been carefully brought down from the hill, the brother and sister were handed over to Paramedics and taken to hospital, where they spent the night for observation. Both were discharged the next morning.

PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE

'The walkers were very lucky,' said a Mountain Rescue spokesman. 'It was a cold night, they followed advice and stopped making their own way off the hill and waited to be found.' He added that people can become disorientated in the darkness and follow a 'path of least resistance' — meaning they just keep heading down hill, which can sometimes lead to disaster.

The Arran MRT worked rapidly and efficiently, proving that nothing should be taken for granted and that the team can adapt quickly leading to a good outcome.

Apology

We offer most sincere apologies for our mistake in the pre-Christmas issue of *The Voice*, when we stated that Elizabeth McArthur, who was tragically killed in a car crash, came from Whiting Bay. She was of course a much-loved Lamlash resident. We apologise to all her relatives and friends, and are deeply sorry for any offence or hurt that our error may have caused.

Editorial

KINDNESS

This week, a Guardian feature writer mused on what appears to be a current truth — namely, that kindness is now regarded as a weak, contemptible quality. The assumption underpinning our society contradicts John Donne's assertion that no man is an island. In the pressure of commercial cut-and-thrust, every man is an island, and every other is a potential rival.

There is an easy appeal about such a self-indulgent philosophy. It makes a virtue of selfishness, thus removing at a stroke most of the causes for censure that children used to go through in earlier times, and were berated for. Once unkindness is accepted as the norm, a huge area of potential guilt is swept away, replaced by an assurance that soft tendencies in the mental make-up must be banished, lest they mark their owner as feeble and sentimental. And yet, there is a fallacy at the heart of this reasoning. It ignores the fact that kindness between people is a strong bond, even though it may appear as insubstantial as candy floss. People who care for each other have a stability that a random group of unconnected individuals does not. A major reason for the current economic collapse is that the speculative sellers of enticing, baseless deals for huge profit had not an ounce of kindness. It is doubtful whether any one of them woke in the wee small hours, troubled by the harsh fate waiting for the gullible people conned into taking out a

mortgage they could not possibly afford — but if they did, they would be easily comforted. Why be kind to the foolish? Success is not built on tolerating weakness and stupidity. Turn over and go to sleep.

Quietly, the opposite view is starting to grow and prosper. The banks untouched by the crisis were the ethical ones — Triodos, the credit unions, the Co-op. 'Your caring, sharing Co-op' became a laughed-at slogan in the cut-and-thrust 'eighties, but now, as people start to reach out to each other for mutual help against the hurricane of ruthless finance, the idea has a new power. Care for each other means that everyone is cared for. Generosity, both in terms of material goods, energy and work, means everyone is a little better off, since what is given tends to be from abundance or at least adequacy, and what is received comes as an assuaging of need.

2009 threatens to be a hard year. We are urged to spend, so as to crank up the getting-and-spending mechanism, but, impossibilities apart, the idea is slightly repugnant, parroting the distasteful idea of buying superiority. Instead, we are seeing the growth of an infinitely more stable model in which people come together for their mutual benefit. On Arran, the sense of being together has long made us value each other. In this new and daunting year, we have a strength that countless people elsewhere have lost. We are kind. Long may we value it, and long may it last.

Quote

'When luck is on our side we must make the most of it and do all we can to help it just as it is helping us.'

Paul Coelho in his book, 'The Alchemist.'

We're sure he is right, and will do our best. Ed.

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PRESS POLICY

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Voice mail

Readers' News and Views...

WHITING BAY SCHOOL DRAINS

Kenneth Gibson MSP sends us a copy of his letter to a Whiting Bay parent on the flooding and blocking of drains that caused children to be sent home from school on several days at the end of last term.

As you are aware, the events of last week make clear that there is an ongoing difficulty at the school with water and drainage problems which North Ayrshire Council is now striving to resolve.

The main cause of the problem is the amount of water getting into the school grounds from the private properties further up the hill. The drains serving the fields do not seem to take the rain water away effectively and as a result it is finding its way into the school grounds.

The water comes into the school via the car park, through the upper playground then down onto the entrance level playground where it floods. The water brings a lot of silt and mud with it which results in the drains blocking.

However, the issue may be more complicated in that there may be a difficulty with the school drains themselves. The rain water appears to cause a backup to the toilets and I saw some of the damage when I was there a fortnight ago. It is this which is causing the problems for the school. The school could avoid the flooding outside but obviously cannot operate when the toilets are not in use.

Two senior officials from Infrastructure and Design visited the school at the start of last week. Efforts have been made in the past to clear the drains within the school and this has continued. Both contractors from the mainland, drainage specialists, and a local contractor have been to the school.

Infrastructure and Design Services are now looking at how the private drains can be cleared and what needs to be done to both enable the school to keep operating during heavy rain and find a permanent solution to drainage issue in the school itself.

At present, Education Services cannot provide any indication of timescales but I have made it clear (and they agree) that steps must be taken urgently to enable the school to operate from the start of the New Year without the risk of further disruption.

I will keep pressing this matter and provide the Parents Council with regular updates until this matter has been fully

resolved once and for all.

I will be in touch again soon. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me again should you require further information or assistance on this or any other matter.

Kenneth J Gibson MSP

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WRITE

The Arran Voice provides much needed comment on local issues which has not previously been provided by our other 'local' paper.

It is certainly true that the appearance of *The Voice* caused a spurt of activity in the *Banner* at that time, but what would it become if its competition ceased?

I have donated from my own limited funds and I hope to see *The Voice* continue far into the future.

Jim Gourlay

CONSULTATION ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

To all users of services for Older People on the Isle of Arran, their carers and other interested parties:

North Ayrshire Council and the North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership are presently engaged in reviewing services for older people on Arran. The review's purpose is to look at present services and consider how these might be shaped to meet the needs of the island's over 65s over the next ten years or so. It will therefore consider such services as home care services, hospital services, community nursing services, residential care, the community alarm service, meals on wheels, and other services provided to support older people.

We would like to hear your views and for that purpose are holding a Consultation event from 10.30am to 3.30pm in Arran High School on Saturday 31st January. A light buffet lunch will be provided so we need to know how many people intend coming: please book your place by telephoning Ian Wallace on 01294 461056. If you need help with transport in order to attend, please contact Ian Wallace on the same number.

We have drawn together a consultation document that gives detailed information on the island, its older people, and the services provided at the present time. This will be available

continued on page 5

News in Brief...

NOT LOST IN TRANSLATION

We are delighted to announce that *The Arran Voice's* own Samantha Payn has won an international translation competition.

The competition, organised by an internet-based translators' community at www.proz.com, offered source texts in a variety of languages for translation into the competitors' native tongue. The anonymously submitted entries were judged by members of the community, each awarding points for accuracy of translation and for quality of writing.

Samantha's entry came top of the nine entrants in the Russian-to-English language pairing, gaining more than twice as many points as the next best entry.

STILL TIME TO GET FLU JAB

Doctors are urging elderly people on Arran to get their flu vaccination, as the number of flu cases is expected to continue to increase this month. Chief Medical officer Dr Harry Burns from Ayrshire & Arran NHS Trust says elderly people — as well as those 'at risk' who suffer from various medical conditions such as chronic breathing problems like COPD or asthma — should still get the

jab. Vaccination rates among over 65s are now at over 70%, but among the under 65 'at risk' group, rates are currently just 46.6%. Dr Burns said, 'For most people, flu is simply a nasty illness, but for some people — including the elderly and those at risk of complications — it can be fatal.' He added, 'If you're eligible, then the best way to protect yourself is to get the vaccination. That's particularly true this year as the vaccination is effective against the predominant strain of flu which is circulating.'

DRAMA UNFOLDS AT AUCHRANNIE'S MURDER MYSTERY

A role-playing murder mystery night became the scene of a real life drama on Boxing Day. Police were called to the Auchrannie to calm down the tempers of two guests who were joining in the hotel's annual murder mystery evening. According to one local witness, the two men started arguing over a piece of evidence in the murder mystery plot. When one of the men started making threatening comments the drama turned real and the other man insisted that the police were called. On arrival tempers and nerves were calmed. The real murder mystery was solved later that evening by amateur sleuths.

Elizabeth McArthur

By The family of Elizabeth McArthur

HAMISH, HELEN and the family wish to thank sergeant MacKay and all the Emergency Services — Police, Ambulance, Coastguard and Fire Brigade — who attended in dreadful weather the tragic car crash in which Betty died. Many of the officers were on duty for 21 hours.

The letters and cards from Betty's friends on and off the Island and from

abroad were very much appreciated by the family.

The Minister Gillean MacLean was an enormous help, as were Betty's fellow Elders in the church. At the funeral Gillean led a beautiful service celebrating Betty's long life. She will be greatly missed.

The amazing sum of £480.00 was raised for ArCaS. Thank you to all.

Burnside hosts stunning Polish exhibition



Polish connection: Katy Clark MP, Natalia Krsznanowska and Mhairi Smeir at the Burnside Gallery

UNTIL THE NEXT census, it won't be known exactly how many Polish people live on Arran, but a recent exhibition hosted by the Burnside is one measure of just what a vital part of Scotland's culture Poles have become and the cultural connection that has developed over the years.

The exhibition by the Polish artist Natalia Krsznanowska explores the many regional varieties of traditional Polish culture. The artist's visit to Scotland took in not just Arran's eclectic Burnside Gallery, but also the included a presentation at the National Gallery in Edinburgh.

During Natalia's visit to Arran she delivered interesting and informative presentations to local school children, an elderly retreat and adult groups specifically interested in international costume.

The exhibition even attracted local Labour MP Katy Clark, who saw first-hand the perhaps little-known wonders of traditional Polish culture. Katy was most impressed with Natalia's

exhibition, which included traditional customs, music, craft and folklore stories from different regions of Poland.

'I greatly enjoyed meeting Natalia and learning about Polish traditions from her,' said Katy. 'She has put much time and effort into her exhibit, and has been a superb ambassador for her country. It is fantastic that Burnside Gallery can host such worthwhile visitors and exhibits, and events such as this are a huge asset to the Arran community ... I wish to thank both Natalia and Burnside Gallery for inviting me to this exhibit. It has been wonderful to see the unique aspects of Polish culture.'

Gallery Director Mhairi-Aileen Smeir said, 'Natalia spent five days presenting members from all parts of our community with a wonderful, exciting and educational presentation of Poland and Poland's districts, culture, art and folklore. I am delighted with the outcome of her visit and look forward to further visits from Natalia and others like her in the future.'

Voice mail extra

continued from page 4
after January 12th from:

- the Council Offices, Lamlash
- Brodick Library
- Arran Council of Voluntary Services, Park Terrace, Lamlash

If you would like a copy posted to you, please contact me on 600742. Alternatively you can e-mail if you want an electronic copy sent to you by e-mail: cturbett@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

If you have views on services but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Colin Turbett on 600742 and we will arrange a means for your views to be considered.

Colin Turbett
Operational Manager
Arran Social Services

Alan Stout
Arran Manager
North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership

AFTER THE FIRE, OUR HEARTFELT THANKS

On New Year's Day evening we found

ourselves in the unfortunate position of discovering one of our outbuildings on fire. Immediately obvious that it was beyond our control, the 999 call went in.

Lochranza crew were on the scene in minutes but not before the fire had spread with shocking speed through another outbuilding and garage. Joined by Brodick and Lamlash crews, they worked tirelessly to get water from sea level to one of the highest and inaccessible properties on the island.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the crews who attended the fire and worked with dedication and commitment in challenging circumstances. Our sincere thanks to those who were disturbed in the wee small hours with requests for petrol for the fire at The Craw — to clarify, it was to keep the water pumps going. Our grateful thanks to Dave at Catacol Hotel who generously kept the crews fed and watered throughout the night.

Finally, our warmest thanks to family, friends and neighbours for their offers of help and support, your kindness and concern got us through the last week more than you know.

Chris and Naomi Gillson and Family
The Craw
Catacol



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Screen Machine

THE SPLENDID SCREEN Machine will be in the Auchrannie car park from Wednesday to Saturday 14–17th January, with a mixed bag of delights. *Madagascar, the Return* follows on from the original film in which a dancing lion, a jiving zebra, a neurotic giraffe and Gloria, the big-booted hippopotamus escape from the Central Park Zoo and head back to Africa. They only get as far as Madagascar, where they encounter a tribe of disco-dancing lemurs. *The Return* has the intrepid four catapulted into the air from a plane piloted by the criminal penguins who engineered their escape from the zoo in the first place. They crash-land in Africa and Alex the lion reunites with the family pride from which he was abducted as a cub. They are very nice lions who never kill anything, but the penguins are a tough lot, and throw a safari tourist though the windscreen of their truck then run her over extremely thoroughly. Apart from this unnerving moment, it's all jolly stuff, with great animation and stunning backgrounds, funky dancing and a lot of jokes about the size of the hippo's bum.

Quantum of Solace, the latest James Bond film, follows on from *Casino Royale* and finds Daniel Craig heading for Siena with Mr White stuffed into the boot of his car. Craig threw himself so literally into the action of his last film that he lost a finger tip and had to have minor plastic surgery to a gash in his face, and he is just as much of a tough guy in this one. The body-building is of course legendary, but the sight of him emerging from the sea in *Casino Royale* was worth every dumb-bell minute. The plot of *Quantum* is complex. Somebody gets dumped in a desert with nothing to drink but a can of oil. Someone else gets drowned in petrol. (Anyone who has siphoned a tank by tube and suck will know how revolting that must be.) Judi Dench does her enigmatic bit as M and there are some hectic goings-on at a performance of *Tosca*, that most bosom-heaving of operas. (After all, this is Italy.) Oh, and there's lots of seduction. Enjoy.

Changeling is a thriller directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Angelina Jolie, who looks fabulous in a cloche hat. This is useful, as the film is set in 1928. It is based on the true story of a single mother called Christine Collins, who comes home one day to find that her 9-year-old son has disappeared. Months later, she is told that he has been found alive — but the boy presented to her is not her son, though there's a close resemblance. The woman's continued struggle to find out what happened leads to a terrifying tangle of kidnap and multiple murder, against a background of mounting public protest as crowds of people demand a response from the shilly-shallying city council. The story is intercut with the trial of the suspect, leading to his execution, but for the mother, nothing remains but the most slender thread of hope, tossed out almost casually seven years after the loss of her son. It's impossible to shrug this story off, since it was Christine Collins herself who battled through the increasing horror of what she was discovering, and endured the distortion of her evidence in court as defence lawyers tried to dismiss her evidence as delusional. Visually stunning, with 150 vintage cars adding authenticity to the period setting, this film raises deeply uneasy questions.

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RBS SCREEN MACHINE
The Royal Bank of Scotland

14-15-16-17 January

Auchrannie Hotel, Brodick

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa

(PG) 89mins

5.30pm....Wed 14, Thu 14, Fri 15 Jan 2pm....Sat 17 Jan

Quantum of Solace

(12A) 107mins

8.30pm....Thu 15, Fri 16 Jan 5.30pm....Sat 17 Jan

Changeling

(15) 142mins

8.30pm....Wed 14, Sat 17 Jan

Ticket Prices: Adults £5.50, U16s £4, Concessions £4.

Online tickets available (+ booking fee) until 3 hours before each screening. Telephone sales (+ booking fee) 9.30am to 4pm - Monday to Friday. Cash only tickets on sale 30mins before each show at the Screen Machine.

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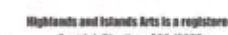
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New year begins with hopes to ease housing problem

At last! Study will consider woodland crofts on Arran's Forestry land

LOCAL PLANS TO increase the supply of housing on Arran have taken a step forward. North Ayrshire Council (NAC) cautiously confirmed to *The Arran Voice* this week that the viability of developing 'woodland crofts' on Forestry Commission land is being explored. 'We can confirm that we are commissioning a feasibility study to look at the options for increasing the supply of housing on Arran,' a spokesman said.

The progressive step was decided at a meeting held in mid-December between NAC, the Scottish Government, the Housing Initiative for Arran Residents (HIFAR) and the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS). It forms part of the work being carried out by the Rural (LHS) Sub Group tasked to push forward the recommendations of the Craigforth housing study (published in June 2007 — see pull-out box right).

A forestry spokesman described the meeting as 'useful', and remarked, 'It is still early days and it may be a few weeks until the research is put out to tender. However we hope it will look into a range of areas including access, public roads, power issues and of course suitability of land available for any building and surface work.'

CONSENSUS

HIFAR's Andrew Grazier explained



The feasibility study may drag the island into the 21st century and open up Arran's land to more community ownership

that a consensus is beginning to emerge amongst the main groups about the urgent need to revise housing development strategy. 'It had become clear to all involved that there was more than one way to skin a cat,' said Andrew. 'And there was widespread acceptance that small-scale, locally managed development had a part to play in alleviating the affordable housing problem.'

The Forestry Commission is currently working on a similar project in Embo on

the East coast, where a local community trust is in the process of buying forestry land to build a dozen forestry crofts. The plans are hoped to reverse the sad decline in young local people residing in the area as house prices have rocketed. A Forestry spokesman said experiences at the Embo project would help guide research for the Arran feasibility study.

HOUSING OWNED BY THE COMMUNITY

HIFAR hope that the study will lead to

the creation and management of Forest Crofts on Arran, where a body (such as HIFAR, NAC or a community trust) would purchase the land and become the landowner in perpetuity — thus ensuring community ownership of the land. 'The community trust would then lease the land to prospective crofters giving them the right to build a dwelling on that land,' explained Andrew. Forestry land found by the feasibility study to be best suited for affordable development will be passed to IOAH, as the island's Registered Social Landlord.

- The Craigforth Report found that holiday homes form 26% of Arran's housing stock.
- Less than half of the likely demand for housing in the next five years will be met through new-build completions.
- The average Arran house price in 2005 was over £199,000 (35% over the national average.)
- The average household income on Arran was an estimated £27,650 in 2005, 8% less than the national average.
- To see the full report go to *The Arran Voice* website and click the link on this article.

Arranvoice.com Online Poll

This week's question is:

Is kindness an outdated concept?

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

Last week's question was:
Was Scrooge right? Is Christmas a humbug?

Yes: 43.4%

No: 53.3%

Not sure: 3.3%

Poll expresses views of those who've voted online.

PAT PENDLEBURY from Corriegills was the lucky winner of the Co-op luxury hamper after she rightly pointed out the Gaelic phrase for 'sauces and pickles' is 'sabhsan agus picil.' Due to the delayed publication of *The Arran Voice* over New Year, some of the perishables in the hamper had to be consumed beforehand, so Liz McLean, store manager at the Brodick Co-op gifted a £50 voucher for Pat to fill a shopping trolley. 'I've had plenty of festive food already,' said Pat, 'so I think I'll make a different luxury hamper of my own.' Readers can keep their eyes peeled for more competitions in forthcoming issues of *The Arran Voice*.



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

Alternatively, send details of your event to:

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

EVERY DAY (OR MOST DAYS)

Arran Craft Gallery, beside Bilslands, Brodick — open Monday–Saturday
Arran Art Gallery, Shore Road, Whiting Bay — open daily
The Burnside Gallery & Exhibition Space, Sculpture Garden, Auchrannie Road — open daily (except Thursdays) all year round 10.30am–5.30pm (current exhibitions: Winter Show of paintings & Crafts)
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 (restaurant closed until 16th March, coffee and tea available)
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 — closed for holidays until 28th January, after that Mondays and Tuesdays closed
Arran Adventure, beside Auchrannie Spa, Brodick — open daily for outdoor activities
Brodick Castle, castle closed for the winter, park open all days 11am–4pm
KA Campus, Arran High School, Lamlash — regular fitness classes, gym inductions

THURSDAY 8TH

Senior Aerobics, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.30–10.30am
Church Coffee Morning, Lamlash Church, 10.30am–2pm
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 10.45–11.45am
Cardiac Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30–2pm
Lochranza Craft Club, Lochranza Hall, 2pm
Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, 3–5pm
Athletics Club, Training, KA Campus, Arran High School, Games Hall, 4.45pm
KA Jog, all levels, KA Campus, Lamlash, 5.30–6.30pm
Shiskine Cubs, Shiskine Hall, 6.30–8pm
Scouts, Shiskine Hall, 8–pm
Pilates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–6.45pm
Corrie & Sannox WRI, *Auld Year's Nicht, The Three Amigos*, Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 6pm for 6.30pm
Beavers & Cubs, Theatre & Dance Studio Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.15–8pm
Junior Scottish Country Dancing, Lamlash Church Hall, 6–7pm
Legs, Bums & Tums, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–7.15pm
Outdoor Boot Camp, Ormidale Park, Brodick, 7–8pm
Brodick Bridge Club, Ormidale Pavillion, 7.15pm
Restart rehearsals *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Brodick Hall, Brodick, 7.30pm
Middle Eastern Dancers' Practice & Lessons, Lamlash, Church Hall, Beginners 7.30–8.30pm,

Intermediates 8.30–9.30pm, suspended until 15th January
Arran Natural History Society, *Tales from the Red Kite Trail*, Ranger Centre, Brodick, 8pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

FRIDAY 9TH

Yoga, Lamlash Churchhall, 10.30am, suspended until 23rd January
AquaFizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am
Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 2pm
Kid's Club, Games Night, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–8pm
Restart rehearsals *Wyrd Sisters*, Masonic Hall, Lamlash, 7.30pm
Arran Pipe Band Practice Session, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Over 21's Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

SATURDAY 10TH

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All day
Blackwaterfoot Junior Football, Training, 10.30am–12noon
Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 11.30am–12.30pm
Margie Currie's Surgery, Public Library, Brodick, 1–2pm
Family Games, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 3–4pm
Fun in the Pool, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 4–5pm
Youth Café, Church Hall, Brodick, table top gaming (last Sat. of month), pool, PS3, ball sports, dart, arts & crafts (1st Sat. of month + 10th January), table tennis, board games etc., 7–10pm
Fires of Love, Music of 16th century France, Arran Music Society, Brodick Village Hall, 7.30pm
Disco, Ormidale Hotel Brodick, 10pm

SUNDAY 11TH

Boys' Football, KA Campus, Lamlash (Astroturf or Games Hall), 10–11am
Arran Wargames Club, Arran High School, Lamlash, 1–4pm
Kids' Club Sunday Matinée, 1.30–3pm
AA Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Margaret's Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm
Fiddle Class, Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 5.30–6.30pm
Corrie Film Club, *Draughtman's Contract* (UK 1982, Peter Greenaway), Corrie Village Hall, 8pm

MONDAY 12TH

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

Lamlash Bridge Club, Golf Club House, Lamlash, 7.15pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Cameronia, Whiting Bay, 9.30pm

TUESDAY 13TH

Whiting Bay WRI & Kildonan WRI, Fun Night at Kildonan Hall, Tuesday, 13th January, 7.30pm
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.45–10.30am
Pulmonary Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30pm
AA Alcoholics Anonymous, Brodickd Church Hall, 2pm
Indoor Bowling, Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 2–4pm
Legs, Bums & Tums, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 6–6.45pm
Shapers, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 7–8pm
Arran Rotary Meeting, Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, Brodick 7pm
Scottish Country Dance Class, Brodick, Church Hall, 7.30pm
Open Music Session, Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Pop Music Quiz, Ormidale, Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

WEDNESDAY 14TH

Corrie & Sannox Wednesday Club, Chris Trail on First Responders, Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, Wednesday, 14th January, 2–4pm
AquaFizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am
Yogalates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 10–11am
Core Strength, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 5.30–6pm
Screen Machine, *Madagascar 2*, Auchrannie, Brodick, 5.30pm
Kick Boxing, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6–7pm
Circuit Training, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–7.15pm
Arran Rugby Club S1–U18 from 6.30pm, Seniors from 7.30pm
Hockey, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 7–8pm
Arran Brass Band Rehearsal, Lesser Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.15–9.15pm

THURSDAY 15TH

Senior Aerobics, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.30–10.30am
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 10.45–11.45am
Cardiac Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30am–2pm
Lochranza Craft Club, Lochranza Hall, 2pm
Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, 3–5pm
KA Jog, all levels, KA Campus, Lamlash, 5.30–6.30pm
Screen Machine, *Madagascar 2*, Auchrannie, Brodick, 5.30pm
Pilates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–6.45pm
Junior Scottish Country Dancing, Lamlash, Church Hall, 6–7pm
Outdoor Boot Camp, Ormidale Park, Brodick 7–8pm
Brodick Bridge Clug, Ormidale Pavillion, 7.15pm
Brodick Embroidery Group, Library, Brodick, 7.30pm
Middle Eastern Dancers' Practice & Lessons, Lamlash Church Hall, Beginners 7.30–8.30pm, Intermediate 8.30–9.30pm
Screen Machine, *Quantum of Solace*, Auchrannie, Brodick, 8.30pm
General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick 10pm

Out & About

UP & COMING

WEEKEND-EVENTS, AS FAR AS KNOWN

Screen Machine, *Madagascar 2*, Auchrannie, Brodick, Friday 15th, 5.30pm & Saturday, 17th, 2pm
Screen Machine, *Quantum of Solace*, Auchrannie, Brodick, Friday, 16th & Saturday 17th, 5.30pm
Screen Machine, *Changeling*, Auchrannie, Brodick, Saturday 17th, 8.30pm

PLAN AHEAD

AHS Parents' evenings S4 — Monday, 26th January, 7pm
AHS Parents' evenings S1 — Thursday, 5th February, 4.15pm
Arran Fairtrade AGM, Monday 16th February, Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 7.30pm
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 2009 — Wednesday 1st July–Sunday 16th August
Teachers' Return — Friday 14th August
Pupils' Return—Monday 17th August
Schools' In-Service Day—Monday 21 September
Arran Schools' Autumn Holidays 2009—Monday 12th October–Friday 16th October
Pupils'/Teachers' Return—Monday 19th October
Schools' In-Service Day—Friday 13th November
Christmas/New Year Holidays 2009/10—Wednesday 23rd December–Tuesday 5th January 2010
Pupils'/Teachers' return—6th January 2010
Midterm Holiday 2010—Monday/Tuesday 15th/16th February
Easter Holidays 2010—Friday 2nd April–Friday 16th April
Summer Holidays 2010—Tuesday 29th June–Monday 16th August

On the Green

By Alison Prince

Buzzard

LAST AUTUMN, I'd often see a buzzard circling the hill above the Giant's Graves. Nothing odd about that — it's standard buzzard territory, perhaps more attractive since the new path has been built and the view is more open. But as the weeks went by, the buzzard came closer, and zoomed around in the trees along the Glen Ashdale burn. Then one day it was sitting on Julie's roof. The crows circled round it and complained, and the collared doves held anxious parliaments in the sycamore tree. A tribe of gulls swooped in and made a fuss, then lost interest and shoved off across the sea towards Ayr. (Gulls are excitable, but they don't seem to have much of an attention span. If they were human, the whole lot of them would be on Ritalin.) I thought the small birds would be terrified, but they were surprisingly unconcerned. When a kestrel landed on my balcony a year or two back and turned its fierce little head speculatively from side to side, there was panic among the siskins and finches, but they didn't seem worried by this much larger, heavy-shouldered hawk.

BLESSING

The *Birds of Britain* site says that

buzzards live mostly on rabbits and small rodents and will tidy up any carrion they come across. They present no threat to the interests of gamekeepers, who should leave them in peace because they are a great benefit to the countryside. I feel strangely warmed by the presence of 'our' buzzard. I love its lazy, unhurried flight and the broad, ragged-fingered wings that take it gliding along some avenue of the air with no sign of effort. I like the lighter barring of its under-parts that make it look like a huge moth. It's not sharp in silhouette like most of the raptors, but it has an indolent majesty of presence that comes as the thrill of an unmerited blessing.

Fingal, my sleekit black hunting cat, brought in a young rat last night (dead), which I kept until this morning then threw out onto the grass near the river as an offering to the buzzard, which at that point was watching from the chimney. The rat had vanished later, but could have been picked up by one of the dogs that paddles across the burn to see if there is anything edible lying about. And for the umpteenth time, I ponder about the effect of the relentless human drive towards keeping things clean and tidy. Anything that

blows around in the wind and rots and smells is the enemy now, I suppose in the interests of public health and the general look of the place, but there's a part of me that dissents.

SAPIENS?

It's by sheer cosmic accident that I happen to have been born as one of the tribe of homo sapiens (which in my view is getting less sapient by the minute.) I might just as well have existed as a buzzard or a rat. It's very easy to see things from the rat's point of view, perhaps because I had a close and sometimes murderous relationship with them during my farming years. How shocked the rat world must have been when all the tasty and interesting rubbish got locked away in sealed containers! No more nightly forays among the bin bags, no Bingo findings of bacon rinds and mouldy cheese, no taking home of titbits to ratlets in some hidden nest. An instant and crushing credit crunch.

The foraging birds have taken a hit, too. No wonder sparrow numbers are at an all-time low in our tarred and concreted cities. The big raptors also suffer, with never a carcass left for

them to pick and the time long gone when there was a mouse-busy midden behind every cottage. We move inexorably towards a controlled world of thief-proof, scribble-proof surfaces that can be mechanically cleaned, with all the generous untidiness of nature sealed away. Will this really be healthier and more beautiful? We seem to develop an ever-more creative range of diseases, and I utterly fail to find the wheelie bin pleasant to look at. There are reasons for the constant exodus of holiday-makers to squalid parts of the world, from which they return with pictures of magnificently insanitary street markets and vultures perching on the banyan trees.

Personally, I'm rather taken with the idea of air burial, which means you get chopped up on a large slab with plenty of sky round it, and left for all the birds of heaven to devour. Don't worry — I've no plans to put this into imminent operation. Things been a bit tough lately, but I had a lovely Christmas and the buzzard is a great bonus. And in any case, can you imagine what the NAC Cleansing Department would have to say? Answers are best thrown to the wind.



Bella's Diary

By Margaret Kay

SO MUCH HAS happened since we wrote last. Malkie has travelled to Brodick in the car and visited the vet (Big Malkie). He had his first vaccination and a thorough check just to make sure everything is in working order. He took the whole event in his stride, except he was a bit off colour for a few hours after his jag. His neck was a bit sore where the needle went in and he just curled up in bed. Tiny Yorkie pups get the same dose of vaccination as a huge puppy like a Great Dane, so it's no wonder he felt a bit out of sorts. However, within a few hours he had returned to his cheeky self and was making mischief again.

Then we had Christmas. Wee Malkie had a tiny stocking hung up and got a wee elephant and a ball from Santa. These will go with him to his new home in a few days. Typical though, despite having new toys, he was playing with the box that his medicine comes in when I was trying to administer his regular dose of Drontal Puppy Wormer. He takes his dose very well.

Christmas was busy at home but I think

some of the visitors came to see Malkie just as much as me! He was a wee star and took all the adoration in his stride. He just loved all the Christmas Day and Boxing Day cuddles he got. I think he knows he is a celebrity, much to Ruby's chagrin — she reckons that she is the superstar in this house!!!

Wee Malkie is now eating like a mini horse. In the main he has puppy biscuits, but he has had a little turkey with his these and some soup, and he just loves Cheerios for breakfast with a little warm milk. Without a doubt, his absolute favourite is mince. The biscuits are a complete meal on their own but I like to supplement this by adding a few wee tasty things. Yorkies are notoriously picky eaters so I think by extending their menus at this stage, they are less likely to be fussy later on — it seems to have worked with all of mine. I will give his new owners a full list of everything he eats so as they can continue with the same things. That way he is less likely to get tummy upsets as he settles into his new home.

We are on countdown now until the 9th when he goes to Mr and Mrs Richardson in Darvel. His box is getting made up with all his feeding things and his puppy pack containing his bed, toys, grooming kit, bowls and harness. I have lots of paperwork to get ready — the information pack, Puppy Contract, training and socialisation details, his vaccination certificate and all his Kennel Club Pedigree paperwork (that is if it arrives back from KC in time). As an Accredited Breeder, I have to ask Mr and Mrs Richardson to complete a form for the Kennel Club telling them whether I've given them all the information they need about the pup and how to settle him into their home. He will go away with a huge bag of stuff, much bigger than he is.

House training is brill! Wee Malkie now runs to get to the peepee mat — such a clever boy. We have the odd mistake, particularly if



he is off on an adventure along the hall or in the kitchen, but in the main, he remembers.

At the moment, he is curled up on a cushion on the floor. He loves his comfort, and is snoozing away. All it will take, though, is his Mum to walk past and he will be like the Bisto kid, nose in the air and off after her to try and get a wee feed. Fortunately for Malkie, Bella is very patient with him — but unfortunately for Bella, her wee boy has very sharp baby teeth now and she usually makes a quick exit. Despite a very slow start she has been a great Mum and has looked after Malkie really well.

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.

Seniors' Badminton
New Session
Friday 9th Jan 2009
Auchrannie Spa Sports Hall
2pm - All Welcome

Arran Natural History Society
Tails from the Red Kite trail
Thursday 8th Jan
8pm Ranger Centre

SFA football — Pre-schools
 "Mini-kickers" 3 and 4 year olds

SFA football 5-7 year olds
 — call 01294 317460 for
 information on block dates and
 times

Athletics Coaching Class —
 P1-P4 Thursdays-

P5-P7 Arran High School —
 Thursdays

Call 01294 317457
 for information on
 block dates and times

AGM

ARRAN BRASS
 WEDNESDAY 21ST JAN
 WHITING BAY HALL
 7.15PM
 ALL WELCOME

LOST

1 FUZZY FAKE FUR HAT
CARAMEL COLOUR

LOST BETWEEN
 KINGSCROSS &
 SANDBRAES ON TUESDAY
 6TH OF JANUARY ABOUT
 10AM.

IF FOUND PLEASE
 CONTACT BIFF ON 700 633.

French TV-viewers get a glimpse of Arran

ARRAN'S WINTER landscape graced prime-time French television on New Year's Day after a film crew from French broadcaster TF1 paid a visit to the island. On the 5th of December, Nicolas Bellet collected some footage as part of the news channel's world tour of winter landscapes. Lucy Wallace who runs Arran's annual Wildlife Festival, said the crew managed to film red deer, buzzards, and even an otter fishing in Brodick Bay at dawn. As she remarked, 'The scenic quality of the footage was helped by the fact that the mountains were covered in snow and the sun shone.'

As they toured the island, the French media crew filmed Brodick Castle and local seafood restaurant Creelers, and got some excellent footage with local spinner Roslyn Gibson from Kilmory. They also enjoyed an impromptu folk evening at the Catacol Bay hotel put on by the Millcats. TF1 is one of the major French TV channels and the film was aired during the equivalent of the UK's one o'clock news. So if there is a marked rise in the number of visitors from France during the coming year, you'll know why.

You can check out the film by going to *The Arran Voice* website and clicking on the link.





Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**

Amateur Meteorologist

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Weatherwise, we are off to a good start — and *The Voice* is still with us.

What a great spell of weather for us over the festivities... perhaps not so good for brass monkeys. Mostly calm and sunny at times but absolutely freezin'. They say that kind of weather is healthy, but I'm told that half the Island is suffering from some viral bug. Maybe we are just a bit run down following that dreadful spell of weather on the run up to Christmas.

General Summary for 8th January to 12th January:

That big anticyclone which gave us our lovely weather continues to dominate until the end of the week. However, it is edging eastwards but still bringing in cold north east winds for a while. By Friday I'm afraid that a very large area of low pressure just south of Greenland will start to influence our weather in the north of Scotland and by Saturday the strengthening winds will shift back to that old familiar south and south west.

The changes will be slow in coming and the weather fronts which bring the rain may hold off. However, we will experience some pretty strong winds from Saturday through to Monday.



Thursday

Still dry and cloudy with some nice periods of sunshine. Not quite so cold as of late, around 6°C with less frost in the morning, and fairly light winds from the south. It should be a clear night which may lead to frosty conditions.



Friday

Starting cloudy and dry in the morning with some very nice sunshine in the afternoon. Staying cold at 5°C and the winds will start picking up later to force 3 (that's about 15mph). It will be a mostly clear night and early frost seems likely.



Saturday

More cloud around, and still cold at 5°C, feeling colder in the increasing winds. We will see some sunshine occasionally, but the southerly wind will continue to increase throughout the day, reaching 20mph and more. However I expect it to stay quite dry. Good to get out and about and blow those cobwebs away. Overnight the southerly winds could reach gale force.



Sunday

There will be much more cloud around, staying dry, but the wind will be the main feature of the day. It will be from the south and bordering on gale force. We will notice a slight increase in temperature, edging up to 8°C. Another good day for the outdoors, but hang onto your hat!



Monday

The strong winds, still gusting at 25-30mph from the south in the morning, will ease as the day goes on and we may see some watery sun from time to time. However we can expect some showers later in the morning. They will start light but become heavier later in the afternoon and evening. It will be fairly mild at 9°C.

Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

There may be some lingering showers on Tuesday morning, but the rest of the week looks to be a bit mixed, with temperatures falling back a bit. Wednesday is looking not so good. Towards the end of the week we may return to some rainy weather accompanied by some strong winds.

Ferry Notes

No problems really until late on Saturday, during Sunday and on Monday morning. However if the wind stays from the south the ferry should manage in and out of Ardrossan on these days. Sunday looks to be the most vulnerable. I'll certainly be keeping a close eye on the situation.

Fires of Love at the Music Society

DON'T GET US wrong — nothing unseemly is planned for the coming Saturday evening, Jan 10th, at 7.30pm in Brodick Hall. *Fires of Love* is a Scottish quartet specialising in early chamber music, and though the programme they have in store is filled with passion and lament, it is exquisitely seemly. The four performers between them play lutes, guitars, woodwind and percussion, and field both soprano and baritone singers, which is no mean achievement. They have played all over Scotland, including the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh, the Tall Ship in Glasgow Harbour, and, somewhat strangely, the inside of a brick kiln. Their latest CD has won 4-star ratings reviews from such august publications as the *Scotsman* and the *Financial Times*, and the Brodick audience is assured of a tuneful and delectable treat. Although the Music Society does the organising, all its concerts are open to the public, with tickets at the door and no pre-booking needed.

Fires of Love base their programme on the historic music of Paris, that most passionate and nostalgia-filled city, and the titles of the songs speak of all the joys, disappointments and frustrated yearnings of love. 'Leave your green shade and come,' one song entreats, while another promises, 'I shall give you delight, and lead you to the place of joy.' Some of the pieces will be familiar to choral members, who will recognise *Il bianco e dolce cigno* as that old favourite, The Silver Swan.

As the programme notes supplied by *Fires of Love* disarmingly remark, their music 'ranges from the sublime to the frankly ridiculous.' Frances Cooper, their soprano singer, is described by *Early Music News* as having 'the easy, relaxed delivery of a folk singer', and the evening promises to be marvellously entertaining. The four members of the group will introduce each piece and explain what it is about, so even if your medieval French is a wee bit rusty, all will be clear.

The Rowan Singers Christmas Concert

By **John Cruickshank**

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL Christmas concert was given on Tuesday 16th December at Brodick Hall by the Rowan Singers under the capable direction of Maureen Oakes in front of a large and appreciative audience.

They were ably assisted by Arran Brass, who seem to get better every time I hear them. In particular their playing of Schneewaltzer was excellent and reminded us of New Year in Vienna. We all wanted to dance.

The Choir produced a varied and interesting programme of songs and carols and although short of at least 10 members produced a pleasing balance of sound. I particularly liked the John Rutter numbers and beautifully harmonised carol in the baroque style, "Jesu Swete Son Dere," by choir member Julian Davidson. (More please!)

This year, apart from the band, the concert depended entirely on the choir and its members who showed their considerable talents in solos, duets, trios, group singing

and well chosen readings. Among many good performances, a favourite of mine, "The little road to Bethlehem" by Michael Head was sung beautifully by Isobel, The three Kings, John, Laurie and Richard, performed nobly and the trio of Lillian, Margaret and Kath gave a lovely performance of "The Infant King".

To send us away in good spirits, members of the choir performed a comic version of the nativity arranged from a poem by Nicholas Allan and ably narrated and directed by grumpy landlord John Potter.

A happy evening was concluded with the singing of Hark the Herald Angels and thanks from Maureen to all her helpers including Ian Watt for his excellent work with lighting.

So we thank Maureen and her Choir for producing another excellent concert from which, I understand, a net £600 was raised. This will be divided between The Arran Youth Foundation and Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

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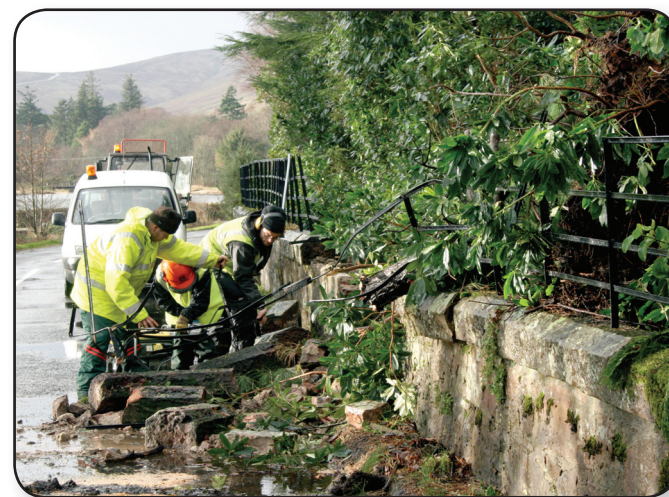
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Jack McConnell opened the new Arran High School in June. He stressed the importance of good schools, and said 'If I've got a message for these youngsters here it is: you can go to a small rural school in Scotland, you can go to a school with no debating society, with no traditions of politicians or political families, you can come from a background that's not got any privileges, and you can become First Minister of Scotland.'



Brodick Castle experienced terrible damage to its shelter belt of trees during the big storm in January. More than 30 trees in the Castle grounds were felled by the high winds, and many of them were around 200 years old. They were planted in the Castle grounds between the 1790s and the 1830s and their large size and weight have caused some damage in the gardens. Since then the castle has also suffered from the plant disease phytophthora kermoviae which has required the burning of infected shrubs on the Castle property.



Claire Odum and Dave Redearn (who form acoustic folk-rock band ODi) gave a heartrendingly emotional performance at a fundraising night in aid of the Arran Hospice appeal in early April. Claire's singing captured the optimistic mood of the evening and a crowd lent their support to the late Judy McFaul's vision for a dedicated palliative care room at Arran's Lamash War Memorial Hospital. Janet Redearn, a friend of Judy's, said in her closing speech, 'We step forward in faith that one day we may see Judy's dream realised here on Arran.'



In May 2008 Cooriedoon nursing home celebrated its 20th birthday and held a small afternoon party for staff and friends of the care home. It was an emotional event as Celia and her daughter Sandra have worked hard over many years to establish one of the most respected residential and nursing homes in Ayrshire. Later in the year Cooriedoon was a finalist in the prestigious Scottish Care national awards held in Glasgow. After the ceremony Sandra said: 'If we work towards it now we can develop Arran's future care'.

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In February it was revealed that Arran's new PPP-built community high school was not fully water-tight. Rain-water entering through the building's roof had forced the relocation of a number of computers from the Business Studies department, plus there were leaks in the gym hall. By the end of the school term in December, some leaks had still not been resolved.



Drs Greg and Faye Hammill moved into the new purpose-built Shiskine surgery in June after working in the house practice of Drs Alastair and Libby Grassie up the road. 'What we really hope is that the community feels it's theirs,' said Greg. Since then flowers have been planted outside the surgery by members of the island's Horticultural Club and hopefully a few bulbs will pop their heads up soon.

2008 — A Year in Pictures

As the door of 2009 opens ajar, it's time to have a wee peek back at 2008 and remember just what changed during those 365 days. In no chronological order here are some of the pictures and events from the first part of last year...



Arran Rugby Club celebrated promotion to Division 2 of the Hydro Electric Regional West League in mid-May. A heroic Kal Masia scored the only try in a match which finished up 10-9 and had supporters' nerves jangling up until the final minute. An Arran carnival ensued as the squad cracked open the bubbly and dressed up as pirates to tour the island's bars and beaches. Captain of the victorious team Murray Picken said: 'It was a genuine team effort. The backs weren't flowing quite as well as usual, so we had to defend well.'



Back in February police were on the look-out for a large quantity of rock worth several thousand pounds that had gone missing from Hawthorn Quarry near Whiting Bay. 'It is not just a bag or two. We're talking tonnes and tonnes,' said covering Sgt Leary. A Forestry Commission spokeswoman admitted: 'We have been aware for some time that stone has been going missing from the quarry,' but said the issue had gone beyond a pocketful of pebbles.

Mediterranean Cooking is now followed up by

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Back in June, Henry Murdo, chair of HIFAR, was refused planning permission for the design of a locally-sourced timber house on his own land. He was told that the eco-friendly design would be 'detrimental to the appearance of the countryside.'



Brodick Bowling Green celebrated its centenary on the 14th June on a sunny and memorably happy day. Lady Jean Fjorde made a heartwarming speech which recalled her own grandmother's opening of the clubhouse in 1972. Each of the four Arran clubs then played a round robin tournament in a fine spirit of the island's bowling traditions.



In late April the pupils of Corrie Primary celebrated as the school was saved from closure following a lengthy and often-criticised consultation by North Ayrshire Council. After a few months of feeling in horrible limbo, the Council decided against the closure and amalgamation proposal and ward councillors and members of the Executive congratulated parents of the pupils on a well-fought campaign. The sending of huge numbers of letters, over 4000 in total, to all council members concerned was particularly effective in expressing the depth of feeling about the loss of a good rural school.



The new Arran Outdoor Education Centre opened its doors to its first school visit in early February. Children from Coreshill Primary in Kilwinning arrived in the morning and within a couple of hours were out on a short walking expedition to Kings Cross in some windy, but sunny Arran weather. Acting head teacher Jim Hughes from Coreshill said, 'The site is amazing. And the kids love it.' The £5 million facility at Claulands has now been open for 10 months and has established Arran as a leading outdoor education centre in Scotland. It receives outdoor education visits from 60 schools throughout North Ayrshire. Have a look if you've not seen it yet!

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Chilly dippers raise funds for Lifeboats

OVER 40 PEOPLE took the icy plunge after Christmas and participated in Lamlash's annual Boxing Day fancy dress dook. Organiser Sally Hunter said, 'The water was much colder than last year, but nevertheless most people swam to the steps then jumped off the pier.' Some atmospheric piping by Stuart Gillies gave swimmers that extra bit of courage to take to the chilly waters and they were then cheered on by about 200 spectators.

Prizes for the best fancy dress went to Yvonne Currie and Heather Black, although there was a wide range of brilliant costumes, including some notable appearances from Captain Jack Sparrow and Laurel and Hardy.

Few folks were keen to hang around long in the water, so warming soups and sandwiches were dispensed at the Lifeboat station. Sally Hunter wishes everyone a big thank you on behalf of all involved for making such a success of the event. A total of £395.00 was raised for the RNLI.



Lucy Cartledge and Anna Gibson jump from the pier.
Picture credits to Sue Archer.

Fairtrade campaign kickstarted for 2009

All island businesses encouraged to come on board

A YEAR AGO a campaign started which established the Arran's status as a Fairtrade Island, and now Fairtrade advocates are keen to reach out to all island businesses for their support. Graham Tinto, a founder member of the local Fairtrade group, is keen to encourage businesses to use Fairtrade in their workplaces, whether it is buying Fairtrade tea for the office premises or using Fairtrade sugar in guesthouses and so on.

The group is convinced that a wider awareness of the issue will be a positive move for Arran, as it will boost the island's reputation as a green and responsible economy. The Fairtrade stall has been well received at events like the Kilmory Farmers Market, and many hotel-owners and shops

are already involved in a Fairtrade directory leaflet which lists all businesses that source Fairtrade products. This is available to visitors as a guide to island outlets, and an updated version of it is planned to be printed later this year.

Graham recognises that many Arran residents are keen to buy 'local,' but he hopes that this same ethical shopping impulse can extend to goods from further afield. 'There some things that you are never going to source locally, so let's at least make sure that it is fairly sourced,' he said.

The group will be holding its AGM next month and intends to circulate a questionnaire form inviting businesses to get involved. Details of this will be published in future issues of *The Arran Voice*.

Salmon infection threatens industry

Deadly salmon infection detected

INFECTIOUS SALMON Anaemia (ISA) has been discovered at a salmon farm site in the Burra area of Shetland, and the disease is suspected at a further two sites. The Scottish Government has immediately set up a National Disease Control Centre, and statutory movement restrictions have been imposed, as ISA is regarded as the marine equivalent of foot and mouth disease in animals. The Fisheries Research Service is sending a team of fish health inspectors to Shetland to investigate the affected sites. ISA does not affect humans, but can seriously damage farmed salmon

stocks. Outbreaks of ISA on Shetland, the Western Isles and Orkney in 1998 and 1999 were estimated to have cost the industry £100m and led to the loss of 200 jobs.

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Tavish Scott, who is the local MSP, said he was 'dismayed' by the outbreak, but added that the industry in Shetland today is very different from what it was ten years ago. He said, 'I hope that quick and decisive action by the farms concerned working with the regulatory authorities can deal with this incident effectively.'

the Wee voice

By Katharine O'Donnelly

Happy New Year?

NOOO!!! Why?! Why are we back at school *again*? How can two weeks of freedom appear to have been whittled down into two days? And yet Christmas and New Year seems so long ago... Also, now we're back at school (groan!) it seems like we were never away!

The holidays definitely existed though, for, thinking back, I can remember some fun experiences. For instance; seeing lots of my cousins, aunts, uncles and gran, having my first proper shots on a Wii (my arm hurt for *ages!*), seeing Russian hamsters for the first time (they are so small and cute!), having a look round the oldest garden in Scotland, making new friends, enjoying New Year... and all important, CHRISTMAS! Waking up at three in the morning is not fun, but that's not the point. The point is... *prezzies!* And friends and family, of course.

But, I suppose, sometimes, I do... *miss* school. Only when I'm really bored, of

course, do I think about the good things in school... Friends, fun break times and the few favourite lessons. Everything else; early mornings, extremely dull classes, grumpy teacher etc — bleh!

Now though, New Year resolutions. Or like my old teacher said, turning over a new leaf in life. My goal is, of course:

TO GET A POT-BELLIED PIG!

That wouldn't exactly help in life though, would it? (It might stop me pestering my parents about it, though). Maybe I should just return to the aim I've attempted, slightly, before:

Keep my room tidy.

But, as if that'll ever happen... No. Keep with the piggy one for now!

The week's Wee Voice was by Katharine O'Donnelly, who has decided to stop gibbering gibberish.



Record Collection

By Douglas Hamilton

This is the last in Douglas Hamilton's series about the best recordings to form the basis of a good collection of classical music, but we hope he will be back with more.

The 'New World' Symphony by the Czech composer Antonin Dvorak is one of the best-loved and most tuneful of all the late romantic symphonies.

It was written during Dvorak's time in USA, where he was inspired by many of the folk melodies he encountered there. One of the first movement themes has a marked resemblance to *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, though Dvorak claimed to have written 'in the spirit of the melodies' and not merely arranged them. Whatever the truth, the symphony is full of memorable tunes, and conveys a great sense of the open spaces of North America.

There are a number of commendable versions featuring the symphony in a variety of combinations with Dvorak's other symphonies. Kubelik and the Berlin Philharmonic on DG, and Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra on Sony are excellent, pairing the 'New World' with the Symphonies 8 and 9 respectively. It appears with Symphonies 7-9 on mid-price or even bargain-priced double CDs by Dohnanyi and the Cleveland Orchestra on Decca, Colin Davis with the Concertgebouw on Philips, and MacKerras and the LPO on EMI.

The 8th Symphony is full of beautiful melodies and is well worth exploring. If you want a single disc of Symphonies 8 and 9, the recent recording by Fischer and the Budapest Festival Orchestra is a top recommendation, variously described as 'imaginative... fresh... refined and thoughtful, but with passion' (Penguin) and 'a consistent joy' (Gramophone). It is superbly recorded.

Harnoncourt's version of the 'New World', coupled with an atmospheric performance of the *Symphonic Poem, 'The Water Goblin'* is also superbly played and recorded, with plenty of rhythmic bite and excitement in the faster movements, but also exquisite tenderness in the great *Largo*. His performance is a beautifully structured one, and is 'always close to nature ... Touched by verdure or sunshine' (Gramophone). Again it is beautifully recorded. This may be found on a more recent CD in combination with other symphonies at mid price. However, whichever version of the above you choose, you will not be disappointed.

Dvorak Symphony no.9 in E min 'From the New World' / Symphony no.8 in G*

Symphony no.9 in E min 'From the New World' / The Water Goblin #

Budapest Festival Orch, Ivan Fischer* Philips SACD 460617-2/ 464 640-2*

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Daybreak

By Galway Kinnell (1927-)

Poem of the week

On the tidal mud, just before sunset,
dozens of starfishes
were creeping. It was
as though the mud were a sky
and enormous, imperfect stars
moved across it as slowly
as the actual stars cross heaven.
All at once they stopped,
and, as if they had simply
increased their receptivity
to gravity, they sank down
into the mud, faded down
into it and lay still, and by the time
pink of sunset broke across them
they were as invisible
as the true stars at daybreak.

Galway Kinnell is an American poet. His work has a huge range, as demonstrated in his *Selected Poems* (Bloodaxe, 2001).

The Burnside Happy New Year

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Kailyaird Blether

Clare Reaney, well known to those who remember her at Brodick Castle gardens, sends Arran gardeners some timely advice at the beginning of the growing year.

MULCHING OR DIGGING?

The lovely, dry spell over the Christmas holidays has enabled a few keen gardeners to get outside. If you have already tidied up (gold star!) your garden will have some bare patches of earth, so now is a good time to think about feeding the soil. Rainfall on Arran is almost the highest in Britain so plant nutrients are quickly leached out, calling for an intensive approach to soil improvement. Cover your bare patches now with a fertile mulch and you can leave the regular rainfall and the earthworms to do the rest. Mulching is also very wild life friendly; by providing

a habitat for bugs and beasts you can improve the quality of your soil and feed the birds at the same time. Happy is the blackbird that can throw piles of leaf mould all over your lawn in search of insects.

This mulch could be your own compost or any of the free materials you can find. Be generous and throw down a good layer of 4 or 5 inches, it will all have disappeared by spring.

The traditional method of spreading seaweed around works well enough if you can get access to a pile of fresh stuff. Seaweed is high in potassium and has been used for centuries by crofters. Some folk prefer to leave it in a pile for the rain to wash the salt out, but often by the time you collect and spread it most of the salt content has already gone.

If you are collecting straight from the beach watch out for the sandhoppers in your wellies! And mind your back when lifting heavy bags out from the

boot of your car.

Mulching is a good alternative to digging. Some organised folk might have sown a green manure crop in the veg patch — another great way to improve the soil. If you are rotating your vegetable crops on a 3 or 4 year cycle you will find you only need to dig a small area each time.

Stable manure is great value if it has been composted for 1 year or so. As well as being rich in nutrients the rotted straw provides valuable humus (organic matter, which can act as a sponge to hold nutrients.) Quality manure must not be too old — if the heap has been there forever it will be full of farmyard weeds — but it shouldn't be very fresh, as this too concentrated.

In the next column we'll look at how to choose fruit trees for a limited space. Colin Totty, Head Gardener at Brodick Castle, will be giving seasonal suggestions.

Bikers travel to Southend for New Year event

THE MOTOCROSS club held a 'fun day' in the Southend of the island last weekend. Over 40 bikers and supporters made the trip to a field in Levenorrach for the recreational event and had a good tear around on a stunning blue-sky Saturday afternoon.

Use of the field was kindly given to the club by Jeff Brooks, who himself has reportedly quite an illustrious past in Scrambling/Motocross racing at an international level.

The big turnout has reinforced the club's resolve to establish a permanent track on Forestry Commission land on the hill between Brodick and Lamlash. Last month members of the club undertook a bag pack to raise funds and explain to the community their plans for the dedicated bike track.

Although the event was one-off, organisers say that a repeat fun day would be advertised more widely so any other bikers on the island could get involved. Meanwhile the club is still in the process of applying for grants and funding to help establish the track. Anyone wishing to give and hand or join in can check out the club website at www.arranmotocross.co.uk.



Picture credit to Chris Hogge

Top picture: The club is hoping to raise funds in 2009

Right: Marc Campbell makes a trip to the Southend for a good scramble.



Recipe

By Maureen Moore

MAUREEN'S GLORIOUS GOULASH

Here is another mouth-watering recipe from *Recipes to Live For*, compiled by John and Maureen Moore.

Ingredients

- 1 large onion
- 1lb or more (1/2 kilo) lean pork or beef
- 3 rounded teaspoonfuls plain flour
- 1 level teaspoonful salt
- 1/4 teaspoonful black pepper
- 1 oz (25gr) cooking fat or oil
- 1 teaspoonful paprika
- 2 rounded teaspoonfuls tomato purée
- 1 — 14 can of peeled tomatoes
- 1/2 pint stock
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 rounded teaspoonful sugar
- 1 bay leaf
- a little grated nutmeg
- 1 carton soured cream or crème fraîche

Method

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C. Peel and slice onion. Cube the meat and coat in a mixture of flour, salt and pepper. Heat the fat or oil in a cast-iron casserole or large pan, fry the onion for 3 or 4 minutes. Add meat and paprika and fry lightly. Stir in tomato purée, tomatoes, stock, sugar, bay leaf and nutmeg. Bring to the boil, stirring continuously. If using a pan, transfer into a 3-pint casserole and cook in the oven for 1 hour. Before serving, remove bay leaf, add dumplings if liked (recipe below), replace lid and cook for a further 20 minutes. Serve with sour cream or crème fraîche, to taste.

Dumplings

Mix together 6oz self-raising flour, 3oz suet, 1/4 teaspoonful salt, and pepper as liked. Add a little water to make a stiff dough. Form this into dumplings and cook in hot goulash as above.

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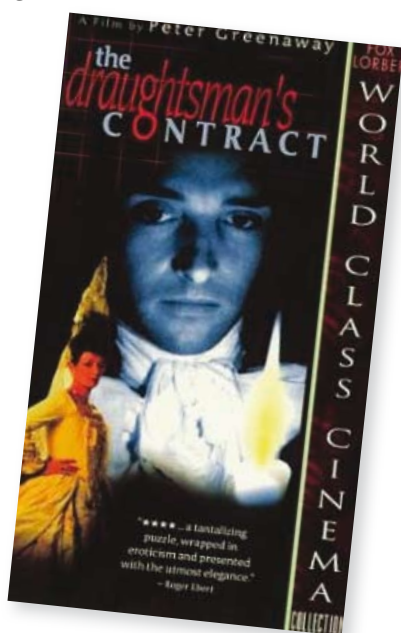
The Draughtsman's Contract (1982)

ON SUNDAY JANUARY 11th, Corrie Film Club shows *The Draughtsman's Contract*, written and directed by Peter Greenaway in 1982 on a remarkably low budget, considering how elaborate and beautiful it still appears. It was shot in the formal gardens and maze of Groombridge Place, the perfect setting for a period mystery that takes place in 1694. It's a strange, intriguing film, with an increasingly surreal plot involving Mr Neville, a young draughtsman played by Anthony Higgins, who has been commissioned by Mrs Virginia Herbert (the wickedly glorious Janet Suzman) to make twelve drawings of the estate. These, she tells him, are for her absent and estranged husband — but the terms of the contract include an understanding that Mrs Herbert will allow the draughtsman to meet her in private, where, as she primly puts it, she will 'comply with his requests concerning his pleasure with me.' A kind of wanton 17th century game of Cluedo ensues, in which Mr Neville's drawings are a double-edged weapon, for they hint strongly that the lady's absent husband has been murdered.

All this is conducted with great beauty and formality and is given sharply elegant point by Michael Nyman's Purcell-influenced score. The memorable tune that salutes each horrifying twist of the plot had viewers of the time rushing to buy recordings of it. The setting, the actors

and the artful, always unexpected photography combine as a visual joy, even though deceit, arrogance and a ruthless lust for power dominate the plot. Every viewer at the time wanted to know the whereabouts of the historic house where it was shot, but the woman who owned it valued her privacy and insisted on a false trail being laid, with dialogue references to the Southampton district, whereas it was actually in Kent. Just one more bluff in a deeply deceptive and enigmatic film.

The first cut of *The Draughtsman's Contract* was three hours long, and reducing it to 103 minutes did wonders for its concentrated yet mysterious speed. The showing on Sunday is at 8.00pm at Corrie Hall, and is free of charge.



HAVE YOUR SAY...

Did you know that you can comment, via our website, on any article that appears in *The Arran Voice*?

Simply visit www.arranvoice.com, register free, then add your comments about any article that has inspired, annoyed, pleased or frustrated you.

Every time you add a comment, the author of the article gets an e-mail alert sent directly to him or her, so you can be sure your view has been noted!



News from the Blues



SGT LEARY IS currently the covering Sergeant on Arran, standing in for Sgt MacKay who is on annual leave.

CHINESE LANTERNS SIGNAL FALSE ALARM

The police at Lamlash have asked islanders to be sparing in their use of Chinese lanterns. Over the past week, there have been two call-outs responding to concerns that a distress flare had been lit, but on both occasions there turned out to be no emergency and just some Chinese lanterns floating harmlessly in the sky. The lanterns are made of paper and by lighting a small candle, the heat makes them rise into the air.

VEHICLE DEFECT CAMPAIGN

In the past week the police have pursued an ongoing Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme campaign to improve vehicle and traffic safety. Between Monday 30th December 2008 and Monday 5th January 2009, over 20 VDRS notices were served on motor vehicle owners for having defective lights and tyres and so on. The campaign will be continuing for the foreseeable future.

£1,000 WORTH OF CHAIRS AND TABLES BURNT

During the night between the 2nd and 3rd of January, £1,000 worth of tables and chairs from Arran High School were burnt. The community school furniture had been lent to the Drift Inn for a private function and had then been left inside the school playground on the evening of Friday 2nd January for storage the following day. But the next morning, police were called when the charred remains of the chairs and tables were found in the Whitehouse woods adjacent to the school. Enquiries are still ongoing.

DRINK DRIVING CHARGE

At 1am on 3rd of January a 22 year old Cheshire man was arrested for drink driving, dangerous driving and failing to stop when flagged down by the police. The incident occurred near to the Auchrannie. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

OFFENSIVE

At 7pm on the 3rd of January a 26 year old Glasgow man was arrested for drinking in public, urinating in a public place, possession of Class C drugs and possession of an offensive weapon. Some of the incidents occurred at various times and areas of Brodick during the evening.



All Welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday, 11th January: Holy Communion, 11.00am. Mrs Janis Gallagher. Coffee after service, followed by Vestry Meeting.

Wednesday, 14th January: Holy Communion, 12.15pm. All Welcome.

Church of Scotland

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share" Sunday 11th January
Rev. Gillelan Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
All welcome
Scottish Charity SCO 15072

Arran Free Church of Scotland

11th 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 11th January in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.
10.55 Worship Service, Tea and coffee afterwards. Everyone welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland

(continuing)
Sunday 11th January, 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick Evening Service, 7pm
5 Glen Road.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 14th, 7pm
Rev. D. Macleod All welcome

Church of Scotland,

Parishes of North Arran; Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine
Independent but working together.
Minister Rev. Angus Adamson, Parish Assistant, Mrs Jean Hunter
Worship will be conducted at the following times:
Sunday 11th January:
Brodick Church, 10.30am,
Corrie Church, 12noon
Lochranza, 10.15am,
Shiskine, 12 noon.

A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Sunday Morning Mass 11am

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

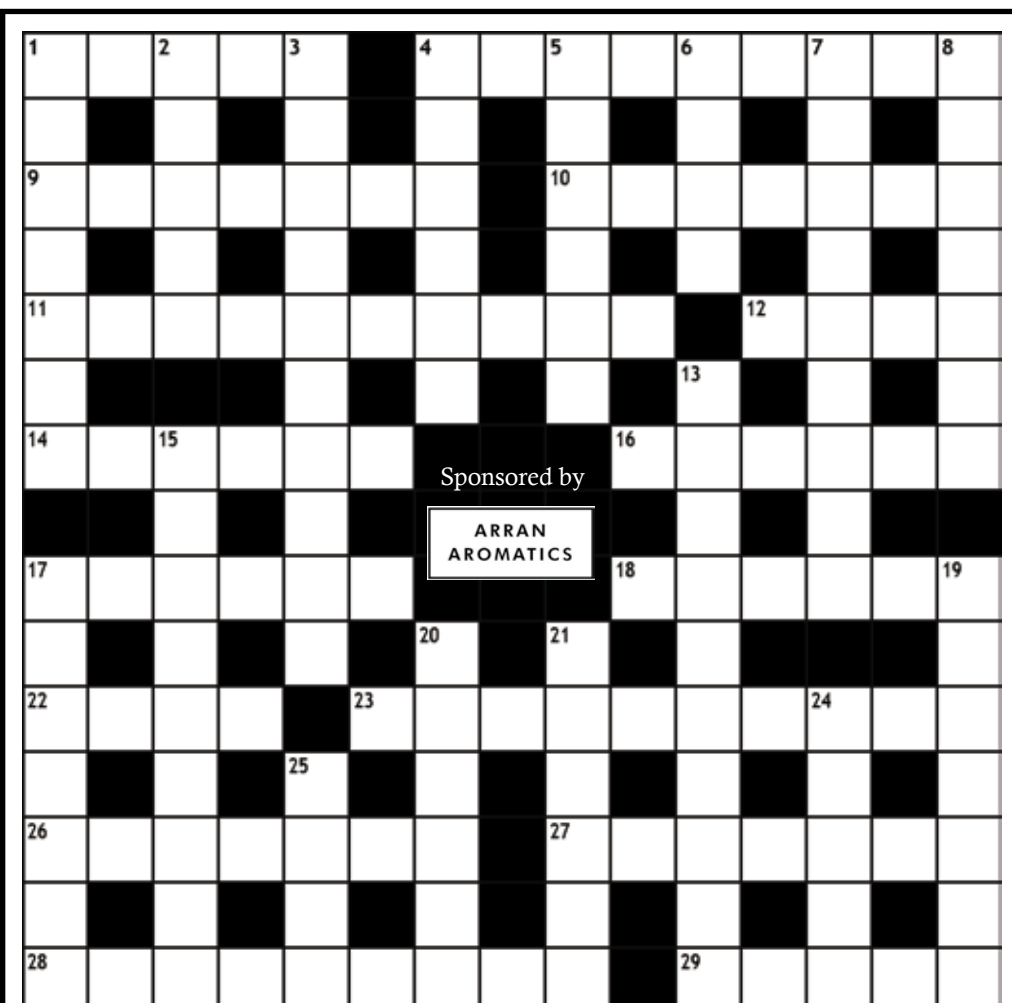
Sunday 11th January 2009
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service and there will be the sale of Traidcraft goods. All welcome.

The Religious Society of Friends

(Quakers) will hold a meeting for worship on Sunday 11th January at 11am, at 11 Glen Estate, Glen Road, Brodick.

Weekly Prize Crossword

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

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Win an Arran Aromatics gift box worth £30 this week
You have until Tuesday, 20 January 2009 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 90's crossword can be found on page 19.


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**ARRAN
AROMATICS**

Please send your completed crosswords to **The Arran Voice, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX**. Alternatively, e-mail your answers to info@arranvoice.com, with the word "Crossword - Issue 91" in the subject line.

Name:

Address:

Telephone/E-mail:

Cryptic Clues

Across

- 1 Rotter reverses for example to sponge (5)
- 4 Support chute lapse (9)
- 9 Bland one I'd spin (7)
- 10 Earth divider (7)
- 11 Itchy feet want includes confused 500 rules (10)
- 12 Move slowly a very short distance (4)
- 14 Advice to a young man. Don't head for the Orient (2,4)
- 16 Total one carat junkie (6)
- 17 Mourn King George and first woman (6)
- 18 French or colouring pencil (6)
- 22 Pain in cardiac hepatitis (4)
- 23 Set name in, in deed (10)
- 26 Possess scarlet talked nonsense. (7)
- 27 Run dial (7)
- 28 Beetle phone camper (9)
- 29 Box around English weapon (5)

Down

- 1 Lower face rock chat (7)
- 2 Confused synod sweeper (5)
- 3 Significant train I have abbreviated (10)
- 4 Corporeal boy embraces princess. Love? (6)
- 5 Tacky like Camembert (6)
- 6 Riff raff dross (4)
- 7 Fervour ninety sit around (9)
- 8 Organ is spicy distance within which a sound can be heard (7)
- 13 Fripperies and mentors mixed up (10)
- 15 Any one (9)
- 17 Upset Ed hangs ground (7)
- 19 Ran loud, having little knots (7)
- 20 Indian henna designs hid men (6)
- 21 Redeem free (6)
- 24 Mettle bottle (5)
- 25 For this reason then (4)

Quick Clues — just for fun!

Across

- 1 Hand cover (5)
- 4 Gave up the throne (9)
- 9 LPs (7)
- 10 Judge (7)
- 11 Pines (5,5)
- 12 Charge (4)
- 14 Eat greedily (6)
- 16 Tooth hollow (6)
- 17 Dissimilar (6)
- 18 Chief journalist (6)
- 22 Fuel (4)
- 23 Painkillers (10)
- 26 Rather old (7)
- 27 Purple dyestuff obtained from lichen (7)
- 28 Nasal haemorrhage (9)
- 29 Cunctation (5)

Down

- 1 Confused (7)
- 2 Gold statuette award (5)
- 3 Violent tremor (10)
- 4 Soak up (6)
- 5 Overpower with noise (6)
- 6 Dice (4)
- 7 He inserts pigments under the skin (9)
- 8 Mary Queen of Scots second husband (7)
- 13 Having no hair (10)
- 15 Appraisers (9)
- 17 Many many (7)
- 19 Coat a car with paint again (7)
- 20 Complex protein (6)
- 21 Put (6)
- 24 Perfect (5)
- 25 Nosh (4)

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Issue 90 Crossword Answers

Cryptic Answers

Across: 1,74dn Peace On Earth And Goodwill To All Men; 13 Erratum; 17 Needlewoman; 18 Symptom; 19 Moped; 20 Truer; 21 Oaf; 23 Gesundheit; 25 Log; 26 Unpardonably; 30 Bells; 31 Scrims; 33 Aniseed; 34 Rally; 37 Oboe; 38 Calendar; 40 Aghast; 41 Ornamental; 45 Nativity; 46 Rollercoasters; 49 Turnout; 52 Easily; 54 Faithful; 56 Choirboys; 58 Skied; 61 Capercaillie; 63 Err On The Safe Side; 65 Discontentedness; 71 Additionally; 75 Cello; 76 Christmas; 77 Crackers; 79 Gazebo; 81 Theorem; 83 Reincarnations; 86 Cheerful; 89 Inaugurate; 92 Banana; 94 Indirect; 95 Glum; 96 Holly; 99 Related; 100 Optimum; 101 Resin; 102 Beachcombers; 105 Son; 106 Schnorkels; 109 Out; 111 Capon; 115 Boils; 116 Assents; 118 Internecine; 120 Nearest; 121,109dn Good King Wenceslas Looked Out.

Down: 1 Panto; 2 Awe; 3 Eulogist; 4 Newts; 5 Administer; 6 Tench; 7 Ass; 8 Dumb; 9 Osteopath; 10 Dame; 11 Immanuel; 12 Laplander; 13 Ended; 14 Rot; 15 Thumb; 16 Merry; 22 Fallout; 24 Immoral; 27 Nurse; 28 Espadrille; 29 Missus; 30 Brownies; 32 Redcoat; 35 Lotto; 36 Yuletide; 39 Arty; 42 Altos; 43 Evolve; 44 Searched; 47 Occur; 48 Shows; 50 Risks; 51 Magi; 53 Spaniel; 55 Freedom; 57 Omniana; 59 Indulge; 60 Scan; 62 Lets Slip; 64 Flow; 66 Choir; 67 Error; 68 Easer; 69 Sick As A Dog; 71 Tart; 72 Azalea; 73 Scottish; 76 Comer; 78 Kingdom; 80 Chic; 82 E-mail; 84 Chaste; 85 Idiotic; 87 Falls To; 88 Premarital; 90 Glyph; 91 Throbbing; 93 Ardrossan; 96 Alfresco; 97 Prospero; 102 Bacon; 103 Alpha; 104 Orbit; 107 Noise; 108 Earns; 110 Tweed; 111 Hark; 112 Snow; 114 Nee; 117 Sun; 119 Ink.

Winner of Issue 89 Crossword:

Congratulations to Lynda Heinemeier from Lamlash.

Winner of Issue 90 Crossword:

Congratulations to L.S Campbell from Lamlash.

Winner of Children's colouring competition:

Congratulations to Cami Corbett from Busby, Glasgow.

Sudoku

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

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

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

On this day...

- 1297** Monaco gains its independence.
- 1746** Bonnie Prince Charlie occupies Stirling.
- 1790** George Washington delivers the first State of the Union Address address in New York City.
- 1940** World War II: Britain introduces food rationing.
- 1973** Soviet space mission Luna 21 is launched.
- 2002** President George W. Bush signs into law the No Child Left Behind Act.

Star Birthdays

- 1937** Dame Shirley Bassey, Welsh singer
- 1941** Graham Chapman, English comedian
- 1942** Stephen Hawking, English theoretical physicist and author
- 1944** Terry Brooks, American writer
- 1947** David Bowie, English musician
- 1967** R. Kelly, American singer

Kakuro

How to do Kakuro

Fill in the blank squares in the grid with numbers from 1-9 so that each horizontal or vertical line adds up to the total given in the box either to the left or above it. Horizontal totals are given in the top right corners of the shaded boxes.

Vertical totals appear in the bottom left corners. You may not use the same number more than once in any run. The number may be used again, however, in the same row or column, but as part of another run.

		11	31		9	4	35	
	15				9			14
	34			13				
			17				9	
		35					19	
	12					9		
9								
20						11		
13			12	11				17
34				16				
	21					13		

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I know about twelfth night and a' that, but it could be a year-round fixture

M.W.

Clochendichter hots up in frosty conditions

By Lenny Hartley

*The pen is nearly as mighty as the club.
Lenny Hartley writes up the insider's
report from Brodick's highly competitive
intra-village golfing encounter played on
December 28th 2008.*

RESULTS:

- Alma 1-1/2 Knowe 2-1/2
- Village 1 Street 3

The Final Clochendichter matches of 2008 were played on a cold clear day with frost on most of the greens making putting and chipping difficult.

ALMA VS THE KNOWE

The first game was between Alma and the Knowe, with a strong Knowe team beating a patched-up Alma team 2-1/2 to 1-1/2. Alma officials are considering making a complaint to the Match Secretary over the timing of the game. The basis of their complaint is that due to the demography of the Alma catchment area, which includes socially deprived areas in the island's two main population centres, there is more chance that at this time of year some of their potential players could be taking up residence at Bob McKay's B&B establishment in Lamlash and therefore would be unavailable for selection.

VILLAGE COUP?

The Knowe's under-pressure captain Gordon Hendry emulated Gordon Strachan by taking disciplinary action on the underperforming pairing of Bobby 'Peroni' McCrae and David 'Jameson' Hendry after allegations that they had been plotting to overthrow him during 'clandestine meetings' on the night before matches.

The first match featured Alma's Brian 'Good Guy' Smith and Gus Robertson. (I have to say that after being threatened with expulsion from the club by the multi-lingual club captain Smith after making unwarranted and baseless allegations in the last couple of Clochendichter reports). I will say nothing more than note that they got beat 4/3 by I. McDonald and David Hendry.

The second match was between Alma's Team Manager Jim Nichols, making a return to competitive golf after his 6-month suspension for being useless, and pro Peter McCalla. They were playing the reigning Merchant Trophy Champions Kenny McMillan and Terry Raeside. Peter did well to win the game 3/2 although to be fair to Jim, he did win one hole!!!

MANAGERIAL DUTIES

In the third match Nog paired himself with

wayward Bobby (Peroni) McCrae and beat the Alma pairing of Mckinnie/McCalla Jr 2/1. Some underhand psychology by Mckinnie at the 15th didn't faze his intended target McCrae but affected his own playing partner wit the dreaded S word. Nog continued his Managerial duties by escorting McCrae home after the match and ensured he was tucked up asleep by 6pm.

The last game saw Lenny Hartley/Harold 'Spud' Taylor play Alistair Dobson/Dougie Robertson. It was the first time Spud had played from the Medal tees since taking a gap year or two. The Dobson/Robertson partnership quickly established a two hole advantage but the conditions were Taylor Made for Spud, and his brilliant putting soon had the game level. Dobson tried to take Spud out with a shank at the tenth but Spud nonchalantly ignored the near miss. The match seesawed towards a conclusion and two or three long range flukey putts from Hartley saw the Alma Pairing scrape a draw.

THE STREET VS THE VILLAGE

In the second game the Street soundly beat the Village 3-1. In the first match, the Ewan Mckinnon/Callum Mcfadzean pairing easily beat Matt Keir/Bruce Jenkins 4/3. Callum had some problems chipping, particularly at the 1st and the 9th but at the 4th he chipped from the tee directly into the hole, thereby not having to putt on the winter green and scoring a hole in one into the bargain. Well done Callum.

At the first hole Ewan nearly took out Peroni McCrae with his 300 yd plus drive which landed adjacent to the 2nd tee. For some reason the other participants were not so forthcoming with details on their matches so no details other than to advise the results which were:

- Russell Duncan/Gordon Sillars beat Lindsay Keir/Angus Raeburn 3/2
- John Beattie/Jimmy Armit beat Stevie Bunyan/Willie Innes 4/3
- Nicol Hume/John Hartley beat Ally Hume/Sid Sillars by one

We now move onto the Singles with the following games being played on January 18th.

- Alma vs Village
- Knowe vs Street
- Shotgun Start at 10:30am

Report to follow...

It's a Car's Lot

TAKE CARE OF YOUR OLD FRIEND

As we venture nervously into a new year that threatens an ominous combination of job losses and general impoverishment, car expenses will be the last thing we want. There's not much we can do about cutting down the fuel costs, short of getting on the bike or borrowing a horse, but it makes sense to minimise the amount of time your four-wheeled friend spends in the motoring equivalent of a private hospital.

Some things are obvious. Keep its vital fluids topped up — not just petrol, but oil and, where appropriate, water. A dried-out washer bottle is a fat lot of use when you are following a lorry and want to clear the windscreen of the muck its rear wheels are chucking up. It only takes a few seconds of driving blind to hurl you into a nasty (and expensive) situation, so make sure you can see out. A generous squirt of anti-freeze washer solution when you fill the washer bottle is a help on those icy days when the windscreen washers yield you nothing but a dry swipe across the frost patterns that sounds like a coughing donkey.

Keep an eye on your tyre pressures. Arran's roads being what they are, a wallop into a pothole can result in a momentary puff of air being lost from a tyre, and if that happens once or twice, you may find the steering feels a bit sluggish, which is a danger sign. At the very worst, you could end up with a flat that may get chewed up by your own wheel rim, again with expensive results. There's no intention to knock our heroes of the garage services, though — quite the reverse. In the long run, the cheapest way to keep your car healthy is to call in at once if it starts to make an odd noise or something isn't functioning as it should. The sooner you deal with a silencer that has turned into a loudspeaker, the less is the likelihood that it will go on shaking itself apart until a lump of it drops off on the road. Welding is the elastoplast of the sick car world, and it can work wonders.

Would that somebody could weld up the economy — but never mind. Happy motoring to all readers. Go carefully.



CARS FOR SALE

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5 Door, Silver, 21,000 Miles

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

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

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

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

'02 Toyota Avensis Saloon
Silver, 73,000 Miles

51 Rover 75 Diesel Estate
Silver, 70,000 miles

X-Reg Renault Scenic 1.4
5 Door, Green, 25,000 miles

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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White, 44,000 miles

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1.9 Diesel, White

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

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To obtain a full job description, initial enquiries and CV's to Ian Young, Financial Manager, Taste of Arran, Market Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AU. ian@taste-of-arran.co.uk



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Isle of Arran KA27 8AX**

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LAMLASH BRIDGE CLUB*Monday 5th January***N/S**

1. I. McArthur & E. McKellar +3850
2. H. Boyd & J. Murchie +2560
3. M. McGill & C. Bone +2350

E/W

1. V. & M. Iutz -70
2. J. Barclay & J. McArthur -1260
3. P. Adamson & E. McNiven -1520

*Monday 22nd December***N/S**

1. E. Paul & E. McNiven +5090
2. D. & M. Bruce +3090
3. H. Boyd & J. Murchie +2900

E/W

1. J. Barclay & E. Sillars -560
2. T. Martin & P. Thomson -690
3. P. Adamson & E. McKellar -2040

Apology

THE PLAYERS OF Isle of Arran Rugby Club who were involved in rowdy behaviour on the south bound bus after their recent win over the League leaders wish to apologise to any member of the public who was offended by their behaviour.

Get your footy boots on

ARRAN JUNIOR Football Club coaching sessions will restart in Brodick on Monday 12th January. The sessions run between 6.00pm and 7.30pm at Ormidale Astroturf.

DARTS AT KILDONAN THIS SATURDAY

If you've been inspired by the recent World Darts Championship why not join in some local darts action at Kildonan Hotel this Saturday 10th January? The darts league is putting on a mixed doubles darts tournament and all are welcome to the event, which will have some great prizes for winners and some bogey prizes for the losers! The competition starts at 8pm. Phone the Kildonan Hotel (820207) to register in advance or just turn up on the night.

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS CLUB STARTS

This year the Sportshall Athletics Club will be run in partnership with KA Leisure and starts on Thursday 8th December at 4.45pm in the High School Games Hall. All are welcome.

Golf Results

Arran Golfers Association**Fixtures:**

Winter League 2008/2009.

Sunday 11th January 2009, Third Round, Corrie Golf Club

First off are hosts Corrie v Lamlash, 8.30am, Second off are Machrie bay v Brodick, 9.20am, Last off are Whiting Bay v Shiskine, 11.50am.

Brodick Golf Club**Fixtures:**

Brodick Ladies Golf

Tuesday 13th January, Golf and Games Day

There will be a 9-hole stableford from 10.30a.m. (depending on weather) followed by the usual lunch in the Clubhouse and indoor games. If you don't fancy the golf please just come along for the lunch and/or the indoor games. Put your name on the sheet in the Ladies Locker room or phone Fiona on 830270. All welcome.

Lamlash Golf Club

Fabulous New Year weekend and ideal conditions for golf. The weekend began with a social evening to bring in the New Year on Hogmanay Finn and her staff excelling themselves with the buffet.

2nd January, 39 gents played the course in the annual backwards competition, 39 gents competed

1st Todd Jameson 82.20.62

2nd Ian Bremner 70. 6. 64

3rd David King 76-10-66 b.i.h.

4th John O'Sullivan 80-14-66

Best scratch was D.MacFarlane with a creditable 68.

Magic 2's. There were a number of two's and Sam Handley had 2 but tough

The 2 sweep was pinched by Neil Young who aced the 7th playing from the 9th tee.

The golf was followed by a well attended disco in the evening.

Sunday 4th January, Winter Cup, 12 played

1st Lee Girbow 68.6.62

2nd Ian Murchie 70.4.66

Scratch: Lee Girbow with a 68

Magic 2's Iain Murchie with 2

Fixtures:

Saturday 10th January, Stableford 9.30am and 11am

Sunday 11th January, A.G.A. winter league at Corrie — Corrie v Lamlash from 8.30am

Machrie Bay Golf Club**Tuesday 23rd December, Winter Cup**

1st Drew Crawford 62 bih

2nd Brian Sherwood 62

3rd Mark MacDonald 64 bih

Scratch: Brian Sherwood 68

Two's Hamish Bannatyne, Alistair MacDonald, David Wilkinson

Tuesday 30th December, Two Club Competition

Ladies winner: Denise Sherwood 42

Runner-up: Jennifer Seton 44

Gents winner: Hamish Bannatyne 32.5

Runner-up: Peter Emsley 33

Saturday 3rd January, Lochranza Hotel Cup

1st Brian Sherwood 40 pts

2nd Marc Blair 39 pts

3rd David Price 36 pts

Scratch: Brian Sherwood 72

Fixtures:

Tuesday 13th January, Winter Cup, 12.00pm tee-off

Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club

Boxing Day Texas Scramble:

1st A. Jeffrey, D. Jeffrey, D. Price, A.

Patterson 35-2.4 32.6

2nd Alice Liousse, Brian Stewart 40-3.4 36.6

3rd Gator, Karen, Sandy, Liz 40-3.2 36.8

31st December, Mahogany Trophy

First Class

1st D. Hardie 48-7 41(bih)

2nd Hamish Bannatyne 44-3 41 (winner of Mahogany Trophy)

3rd A. Napier 46-3 43

Second Class

1st J. Sommerville 54-10 44

2nd D. Ure 57-12 45 (bih)

3rd B. Kelso 53-8 45

1st January 2009, Colditz Quaich

First Class

1st C. Allison 42-3 39

2nd G. Tod 47-7 40

3rd W. Kelso 46-4 42

Second Class

1st B. Kelso 49-8 41

2nd I. Rae 55-12 43

3rd D. Ritchie 53-8 45

Best Scratch, C. Allison 42

1st January 2009, Alan C. Smith Plate

Silver

1st Lynne Hogarth 53-10 43

2nd Jenni Turnbull 56-12 44 (bih)

3rd Norah Adams 56-12 44

Bronze

1st Mary Tod 68-22 46

2nd Aileen Latona 64-13 51

3rd Sally Brookes 66-14 52

Best Scratch, Lynne Hogarth 53

2nd January, D.S. Bannatyne Shield

Winners: Mary Hardie and Alan McDonald 42.5

4th January, 12 hole Medal

First Class

1st Joe Faulkner 45-3 42 (bih)

2nd Alan Napier 45-3 42

3rd Jamie Morrison 52-7 45

Second Class

1st Daryl Urquart Dixon 50-9 41

2nd David Price 50-8 42 (bih)

3rd David Johnston 53-11 42

Best Scratch, Joe Faulkner 42

Whiting Bay Golf

Friday 26th December, 14 played in the Christmas Bottle. SSS-63, CSS-64.

1st John Pennycott (12)59

2nd Sandy Kerr (20)65

3rd John Kelso (13)66 (bih)

Nicol Auld won scratch with 68 and Jamie MacPherson had the only magic 2s of the day at the 9th and 17th.

Sunday 28th, Winter Cup 3rd Round, 10 played in rather frosty conditions.

1st Wolfi Kroner (15)64

2nd Malcolm Pennycott(1)65

3rd John Taylor (20)69

Malcolm won scratch with 66 and there was only one Magic Two, scored by David Morrison at the 2nd.

Friday 2nd January, 27 golfers joined in the fun of playing the course in a 9 hole 'Cross Country' competition. The winners were

Christine McLeod, John Taylor and George McKechnie.

Sunday 4th, 14 played in the Medal. CSS-63.

1st Edward Hope (19)61 (bih)

2nd John Simmons (20)61

3rd Markus Kroner (10)65

Scratch: George McKechnie 74

Fixtures:

Sunday 11th, A.G.A. Winter League at Corrie

Sunday 18th, Winter Cup Round 4

Arran Artists Calendar 2009

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The white start

Cricket is the winner at club's New Year match



Martin McCartney, Jim Gourlay, Martin Kemp, Jason Watt, Chris Marriott, Mark Williams, Eric Dunn, Ian MacDonald and Scott Weir brave the chill.

IT ALREADY HAD the hallmarks of a long-established tradition. A drinks trolley of New Year-style refreshments was wheeled ceremoniously on to the Brodick Astroturf as members of Sannox Cricket Club donned the cricketing whites to play their second New Year's mad dog match.

The whites didn't remain Ariel for too long though, as some unadvisably athletic diving catches and the occasional spilt tomato juice soon marked a competitive, but always gentlemanly encounter.

Due to the blue sky weather, there were a few notable absentees (Jaff, Kelsos and the Levenorrach express to name but a few), but a solid core of Sannox sportsmen pitched up for the fixture. Martin Kemp's golden squad looked to have the game in the bag as they opened proceedings at a ferocious run-rate. Scott Weir nonchalantly tonked successive bowlers to the astro-boundary and he had retired within a few overs after reaching his 25-run maximum. But Chris Marriott's fielding side were not to be outdone and his decision to deploy the wily Jim Gourlay was perhaps a turning point.



The team breaks for some light refreshments

If the stakes had been higher, there might have been calls for Jim to remove

his performance-enhancing kneepads, but gentlemanly conduct prevailed and he proceeded to exploit the situation by quickly dismissing a flailing Corrie batsman. An impressive tail-end comprising of the cider-inspired Ian MacDonald, Tim Pomeroy and Jason Watts enabled Kemp's team to make a daunting 160 runs in the twenty overs, but Marriott's side dug deep.



Jim Gourlay's non-regulation knee-pads were a big swing factor in the match

After some fielding which threw into relief the dubious loyalty of some of the makeshift field, the second innings ticked over at a stunning rate and soon the competitive spirits (and a bit of Dutch gin) kicked in. After the graceful batting of Martin, Mark Williams and Chris lifted the score to 160, Dunn needed just one run from the last two remaining balls. Sadly a Sideshow bob wig seemed to hamper the batsman's vision and the game ended in a satisfactory draw.

Sannox Cricket Club will be training as usual on Mondays at the Auchrannie at 6.30pm. All newcomers welcome.

Thistle set out stall for 2009



Northend captain Matt Milne has presided over a turbulent time in the club's history and hopes to be drinking more than just commiseration bubbly this year

ARGUABLY STILL THE island's worst football team, Northend Thistle are confident that this year will be the first in almost 20 years that they win a league match in Arran's prestigious summer football league. Captain Matt Milne sends this upbeat new year message to his squad as well as to league opponents, club supporters and the loyal sheep that keep the Northend pitch in trim and well-fertilised condition:

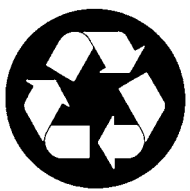
'A new year brings with it new hopes and beliefs for all of us in one way or another and that can also be said for Northend Thistle. We start 2009 with a lot to look forward to; a trip to Edinburgh in March and then The San Miguels in Spain in May. On top of this our unbeaten run goes all the way back to August. Admittedly that's only two games — however, a two game unbeaten run is something that we haven't achieved in twenty years.'

The Captain's message continues, 'The loss of two of our best players in Sparky and Scooby will hit us hard at the back but we must continue to remain positive and look to the future. The team is looking to continue its rise in 2009, and with the addition of Arran Blythe and the return of the Swampy there is no reason why we can't surprise a few teams this year, home and abroad. The untamed monster that is Northend Thistle is coming to a game near you...'

Machrie golfers go digital

IT MIGHT NOT have the best telecommunications infrastructure on the west coast, but Machrie has most definitely launched itself into the 21st century this new year. The village's golf club has recently uploaded a video of Machrie Bay Golf course to the online video site YouTube. And for anyone who says a game of golf is a good walk spoiled, you can now enjoy the scenery of the stunning golf course directly from the comfort of your armchair. It even has some atmospheric music which guides you around the different holes of the course. For golfers of the digital age, have a look at www.machriebay.com.





Yacht club blows away Hogmanay cobwebs



Ready to launch at Lamlash pier

By Arran Yacht Club

EVERY YEAR THE yacht club runs a series of races on New Year's Day for the 'Deck Light Trophy' to blow away the cobwebs of the night before and morning after. Unlike their usual summer meetings where any class can take part in a handicap race, this series features one-class dinghy races using the Junior Sailing Club Toppers. This year the 17 entrants were separated into 3 Groups and the New Picos were pressed into service, running a Topper Race and a Pico race together and each group doing a race in each class. Sounds complicated but it wasn't really, except for those suffering from New Years Day syndrome! Anyway all went off well, guided by Bill Barr and Alistair Bilsland in the Rescue/Committee Boats and Iain Hunter who had masterminded the format.

After the group stages had finished the 1st and 2nd in each group took part in two final fiercely fought races in the Picos. This was, as can be seen from the results, a battle between the Hunter family (Rory, Neil and father Iain) against the best of the rest.

Iain eventually won with Colin Campbell's friend, Chris from Manchester separating him from the two boys.

Thanks go to Yolly for the sumptuous curry meal she laid on at night. Tradition has it that the winner one year hosts the after-race party the next year. When Angus won it last year they had not planned to fly off to Africa three days after this year's race, so well done Yolly for fitting this in around the packing. Thanks also to Bill and Alistair for rescue boat and timekeeping duties.

Finally, keep an eye on our website, www.arranyachtclub.co.uk for up-to-date programme of events, weather forecasts and tides throughout the year.

Results were as follows:

1. Iain Hunter
2. Chris Colclough
3. Rory Hunter
4. Neil Hunter
5. Greg Hamill
6. Gavin Fulton

And Finally ...

NOW THAT'S A CREDIT CRUNCH

If you are feeling a bit skint after festive expenditure, spare a thought for the man from Irvine who recently logged into his online bank account and noticed a deeply troubling number of zeros at the end of his overdraft. The man was shocked to discover that he was £140 billion in the red.

Due to a 'technical glitch' two massive debits had been made from his account,

leaving him reeling. Barclays Bank identified the problem and corrected it within less than an hour, but during that nerve-wracking wait the man was feeling crushed by the blunt end of a nightmarish credit crunch — and so, apparently, were a whole lot of other customers, for a bit of mis-keying on someone's computer had set the whole system into disarray.

Fingers crossed for a more prosperous 2009 — and if you work in a bank, mind how you go with that keyboard.

BRODICK AND SHISKINE DRAW NO BLOOD



Brodick-Shiskine defector Ian Keen drives forward, but both teams settle for a draw. Inset: Sandy Kerr puts on a brave face after being nutmegged

SHISKINE DOCTOR INJURED IN CONTROVERSIAL CHALLENGE

BRODICK FOOTBALL club met with Shiskine last Saturday in an entertainingly scrappy match that promises much for the league season ahead. In an occasionally stodgy six-goal encounter, the Shiskine brigade managed to pull themselves back into the game after Brodick twice took the lead during the match.

COORDINATION IMPAIRED

Old-guard Chunky opened the scoring for Shiskine in the first half only, for his efforts to be cancelled out by a strike from Greg MacCrae. The match was being played just three days after the island's Hogmanay celebrations and it looked as if some players had yet to recover their full coordinated abilities.

Inside the first two minutes of the match, Shiskine GP Greg Hammil was carted off after a corkscrewed and arguably over-zealous two-footed challenge by Nog (Gordon Hendry). 'I had a 90 second appearance,' said Greg. He is still nursing some torn ligaments in his ankle, which he describes as 'black and blue, but not too bad.'

MIS-JUDGED MOMENTUM

Touchline pundits described the challenge as 'nasty,' but Nog defended the tackle, saying, 'It was a great challenge. He might have slipped a bit and caught my trailing leg.' Greg offered a different explanation. 'I think he misjudged how much weight he was carrying into the challenge

and the extra momentum led to the mis-timing.'

The game continued to be played in fine spirits and Brodick looked to be on course to draw first blood of the year when Craig Ingham expertly redirected the ball into his own net. A drilled cross from the right wing had found its way between the legs of Sandy Kerr in goal (perhaps too busy celebrating his 21st birthday) and took Craig by surprise. 2-1 Brodick, and a quiet cheer could be heard from the small home crowd. But in inimitable Shiskine style the Kinloch gents hit straight back with a solid strike from London Dave.

In the dying minutes of the match Babbies MacNeill looked once again to have sealed the match for Brodick when his diving header latched onto a great cross from the left wing. But celebrations were premature, as Shiskine once again bounced back, big Joe Rae stabbing in a goal at the other end to ensure the points were shared.



Controversial tackler Nog tracks back and rises to the challenge.