



THE

arranvoice

VOCEM AUDIRE POPULAREM / ÉISD RI GUTH NA MUINN TIR

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65p

Polluting coal plant in Hunterston?

BEFORE CHRISTMAS, Dong Energy, based in Copenhagen, proposed a plan for a 1,600 megawatt, £2bn coal-fired power station at Hunterston. The proposal was included in the Scottish government's national planning framework, published in December. However, Denmark will not permit any such plant to be built on its own soil, and neither will any other nation in the European Union.

Just at the time of the Hunterston proposal, Denmark accepted a European carbon emission limit of 500 grams per kilowatt hour for new power stations. This effectively rules out any plant that relies on burning coal for 70% or more of its operation. Dong admits that the Hunterston plant will rely on coal for at least 86% of its operation. The rest will come from burning biomass such as wood and plants alongside coal.

Dong, Denmark's largest energy company, with annual revenue of 5.6 billion, claims that the Hunterston plant will be 'carbon capture ready', meaning that its pollutants can be trapped and stored. However, environmentalists point out that carbon capture technology is still in its infancy. Without such technology, the plant would hugely increase Scotland's carbon dioxide emissions, jeopardising the government's targets to cut air pollution.

Dr Richard Dixon, director of WWF

Scotland, said, 'It is hypocritical and unacceptable for Dong to propose a plant in Scotland that would not win approval in their home country.' He pointed out that the Danish government strongly backs European parliament standards for power stations, and that these rule out the building of the plant proposed by Dong anywhere in the 27 member countries.

Dong say the refusal of the Danish government to permit such a plant in Denmark is simply due to having enough power production already in place, but a leading Danish MP disputes this. Mette Gjerskov, the climate and energy spokeswoman for the opposition Social Democrats, says, 'Coal is an energy source of the past, not the future. New power plants will be in use for 50-70 years, and for that time coal should not be used at all.'

Our own government appears to disagree. A spokesman said, 'As part of a balanced energy mix, new coal-fired power stations have a long-term future in Scotland.' He stressed that any such station must be 'ready to incorporate' carbon capture technology, but made no comment on the question of whether such technology is in fact available, and whether it will protect the Clyde coast from a level of extra pollution that would not be allowed in any other European country.

NORD STAR MAROONED

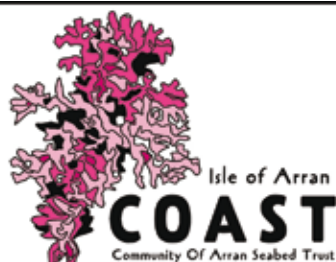


The crew of the Nord Star found themselves stranded in the shallow waters at Cladach on Tuesday morning. The coaster spent a few hours using its own digger to try and scrape its hull from Brodick's sandy shore and eventually freed itself with the rising tide by about 1pm. The ship was built in 1978 by Cubow at Woolwich and was given the original name Ordinance. It is now owned by Hebridean Coastal Services Ltd of Stornoway and is one of only a few coasters owned and operated almost exclusively in Scottish waters. 49.3 metres in length, her deadweight of 727 tonnes makes her handy for carrying small quantities of cargo around the islands and lochs of the western seaboard. But she is clearly not designed for fishing trips up the Rosa Burn! (boat information courtesy of: <http://clydesights.com>)



STRUAN AND ADAM TOAST THE BARD

Struan Robertson and Adam Brown toasted the haggis with Irn Bru last Friday at a very well-attended Shiskine Burns Supper. The 'great chieftain o' the pudding-race' was marched around the packed village hall with striking gravitas by Adam Brown, accompanied by the skirl of Ewan Bulger's piping. Presented with the haggis at the head of the table Struan gave a lively and masterful performance of Burns' famous poem To a Haggis, which will likely put the young man high on the invitation list of many Burns Suppers in future years. Sheila Gilmore described the recital as 'absolutely magnificent, and told an appreciative crowd she thought Adam was 'just about weighed down under the weight of the haggis.' Behind the scenes the Shiskine Valley Trust committee were hard at work dishing out the grub for a fitting tribute to the 250th anniversary of the Bard's birth. Later in the evening, a group recital of Burns' legendary Tam O'Shanter was performed.



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MSPs on Hunterston

COMMENTING ON NEWS that Danish Oil and Natural Gas (DONG) plan to invest up to £2 billion in a 1600 MW carbon capture plant at Hunterston, to open between 2014 and 2018, local MSP Kenneth Gibson said:

'I welcome this proposal and actually raised the possibility of a carbon-capture coal plant at Hunterston last year in meetings with both Energy Minister Jim Mather and Clydeport as a possible alternative to a new Hunterston C.

'Such a plant, if able to reduce carbon emissions by 90%, will be a vital component in securing a clean, non-nuclear future for Scotland and long-term sustainable employment in the area. There is expected to be up to 1,500 jobs in construction and 150 once the plant is operational.

'As the proposed plant will be capable of generating power from biomass, including forestry and farming, there is a tremendous opportunity for Arran to benefit from this development.

'However, there are significant local concerns that the existing infrastructure, particularly the road network, may be unable to cope and a full environmental impact assessment carried out. A power plant of the scale suggested must be combined with a bypass to reduce the impact of traffic on Fairlie and West Kilbride.'

Added Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change:

'Any application to build at Hunterston will

be treated on its merits and we will take into account the views of local people. Should any upgrade of the local infrastructure, including the road and rail network be required, the cost of this will be met by the developer. Grants to encourage seaborne transport may be made available, which could assist the transport of forestry products from Arran.'

Energy Minister Jim Mather MSP commented:

'As part of a balanced energy mix, in tandem with the continued development of carbon capture technology, new coal fired power stations could extend the life of the Scottish coal field and protect Scottish jobs in energy production and technology.

'Scotland's current energy usage accounts for over a third of our greenhouse gases and we are determined to be at the forefront of clean energy development. Recognising the need for an energy mix that benefits from clean fossil technologies, we have issued guidance for consultation that will require new power stations to incorporate carbon capture technology. The consultation also seeks views on whether other approaches to reduce carbon emissions should be considered. Any investment designed to last decades must be compatible with our ambitious climate change targets.

'Alongside the huge recent investment and growth in renewables and action to develop carbon capture technology, we will make Scotland the green energy capital of Europe.'

Clansman fills in for Super-Caley

THE CLANSMAN FERRY had a choppy start to its relief services last weekend. Sailing on the Brodick-Ardrossan route for the first time at 4.40pm on Saturday, it was immediately forced to go to Gourock due to high seas. The Clansman usually runs from Oban to Castlebay on Barra so is used to some pretty lumpy crossings. M.V. Caledonian Isles had made it across to Ardrossan in the morning, but a delayed arrival at 8.30am meant passengers missed the Glasgow train connection and some people decided to head straight back to the island due to the worsening weather.

The Clansman offers the annual respite to MV Caledonian Isles which went into dock on Monday (12th January) for repairs. In November last year the Super-Caley was memorably stranded in Ardrossan for over a day due to a faulty clutch. Engineers will now be carrying out a full overhaul on the port gearbox at cost of around £100k. If all goes to plan, the vessel should be back in service on the 24th of January.



On Tuesday this swan is enjoyed a calmer paddle than the Clansman's first weekend crossing

Key meter users feel the pinch

PREPAYMENT CUSTOMERS MAY BE SUBJECT OF 'PRICE DISCRIMINATION'

Local customers of Scottish Hydro-Electric have experienced a big rise in their weekly fuel bills, after a new key meter payment system has been implemented on the island. Coupled with rising costs of energy nationally, the replacement of the old token system in recent months has led to a tough transition to new tariffs for many electricity users.

'It seems that everybody who uses the new keys has been complaining,' said Gary Scott, a store assistant at main Co-op in Brodick. Gary explained that dozens of people have expressed shock in recent weeks at the cost of their home electric bill. 'Folks are using about £5 to £10 per day. That's how bad it is.'

BILLS HAVE DOUBLED

Local resident Dawn Burke uses the key payment system and estimates she is spending about £45 per week on her home electric bill. 'My bill has more than doubled in recent months,' Dawn said.

The Arran Voice contacted Scottish Hydro Electric's headquarters in Perth for an explanation. 'We have got a payment throughout the whole of the North of Scotland to replace token meters with key meters,' said Sharon Miller McKenzie, a spokeswoman for Scottish Hydro Electric. 'It's not that there has been a big rise. It's just that some customers have only recently been switched to the new tariff since their transition to the new key meter payment system. And they will be noticing a difference.'

Scottish Hydro Electric said that it does not backdate payments for customers who have been buying electricity on the old tariff. 'If we find that they have been paying less under the old payment system, we do not backdate,' said the company spokeswoman.

PRICE CHANGES PASSED ON

Scottish Hydro Electric insists that the new key meters bring a range of benefits for their customers, explaining that the key offers protection from theft and from running out of electricity during the night, and provides access for payment at a wider range of retail outlets. The company also says that the key system means price changes can be more easily implemented. The old token system required a physical visit from a Scottish Hydro Electric engineer to adjust the tariff, whereas now the unit price is determined at the point of sale.

'In the future when prices do come down, and we all hope that will be the case, we will be able to pass on that price drop,' added the company spokeswoman. Scottish Hydro



Linda Smith from Pirnmill says that her electric bill has doubled since October

Electric claims to be the first company to commit to lowering electric tariffs in the event of a 'sustained drop' in wholesale energy prices.

But by the same logic, it also means that energy price rises will be more quickly passed on to customers, and some industry analysts predict tough year ahead for many energy consumers despite government targets to eradicate 'fuel poverty' by 2016. It is believed that 700,000 households in Scotland spend 10% of their weekly income on all domestic fuel use (the working definition of 'fuel poverty').

DISCRIMINATION?

Energy companies have been criticised by market regulator Ofgem in recent months for failing their more vulnerable customers. In a Westminster debate on 16th December 2008, MPs argued that those consumers least likely or able to switch were most likely to be the victims of price-discriminatory practices by the energy companies, for example by charging higher per unit rates to 'legacy customers' or those using pre-payment systems. As a result of the ticking-off by Ofgem, the big six energy suppliers have committed to increase their spending on social tariffs by a total of £225 million from 2008-2011.

For customers of Scottish Hydro Electric on Arran there is a difference in the unit cost of electricity depending on how customers pay.

- The cost per Kilowatt hour unit if you pay by pre-payment meter: 15.3p
 - The cost per Kilowatt hour unit if you pay by quarterly bills: 14.975p
 - The cost per Kilowatt hour unit if you pay by quarterly direct debit: 10.8p
- (Information retrieved from www.energyhelpline.com on the basis of a yearly energy consumption of 4000KWh)*

If this issue affects you, please get in touch by calling 303 636 or e-mailing: info@arranvoice.com.

Marine study shows devastation of Clyde

A RECENT STUDY has revealed the drastic overfishing and devastation of fish stocks in the Firth of Clyde. Ruth Thurstan, a PhD student at the University of York, has researched the decline of the once abundant herring fisheries and documented the rise of trawling for prawns and scallops, enabled by changing fishing fleet technology.

She argues that fisheries must be managed in a more sophisticated way to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks and the marine environment. 'The Firth of Clyde needs to stop being managed for a few species, and start being managed as the complex ecosystem that it is, where it is recognised that people's actions have ramifications that extend further than just the target animals,' reads the study. 'Marine species need to be protected before our baselines shift again, to an empty desert that people once claimed

was able to produce 5-pound cod and the occasional herring.'

TRAWLING DAMAGE

Nephrops (prawns) became the most valuable species landed in Scotland by the 1970s, with the 1972 total Scottish catch valued at £3,854,754. Previously seine nets were used in the Clyde until a local byelaw in 1962 allowed trawling for Nephrops. This opened up 600 square miles of sea which had been closed to trawlers since 1889. The report warns that the Nephrops fishery potentially has a 'far more damaging effect' on habitats and the capture of non-target species.

Catches of other fish have declined markedly since the 1970s and the 'species that were once assumed to be widespread, abundant and inexhaustible are in danger of extinction.' The author of the study hopes that 'it will help you appreciate the scale of transformation



A fishing boat reaps the diminishing rewards of a choppy day on the Clyde (picture taken in November 2007)

that has already occurred and encourage you to question why Holyrood is not doing more to protect and regenerate the marine environment.'

FEEDBACK

The study has been published on the website of the Scottish Sea Angling

Conservation Network. To view the study, go to *The Arran Voice* website, (www.arranvoice.com) find this story and click on the link. Any feedback is welcomed and should be directed to contact@ssacn.org. For more information about the Scotland's first No Take Zone in Lamlash Bay see www.arrancoast.co.uk.

First Milk imposes price drop on farmers

DAIRY FARMERS ACROSS the UK are feeling the pinch after First Milk reduced their farmgate price for milk. First Milk owns the Torrylinn Creamery in Kilmory that produces the island's popular Isle of Arran cheese range and is supplied by the island's few remaining dairy farms. The farming co-operative in turn supplies Arran Dairies with liquid milk for its range of food products. But as of 6th January First Milk 'reluctantly' cut payments to its members by 1.25p per litre due to major changes in the dairy market.

DETERIORATING CONDITIONS

Peter Humphreys, chief executive of First Milk, said: 'The economic environment has changed significantly over the past few months. Likewise conditions in the global dairy markets, which drove UK milk prices upwards in 2007 and 2008, have now deteriorated markedly.' Milk prices on mainland Europe have declined over the past few months and this is now impacting on the UK, despite a 30 year low in UK milk production.

But NFU Scotland's Milk Committee chairman, Willie Lamont sent out a bleak message to policy-makers. 'With the milk price now falling, for many the costs associated with producing milk will significantly outweigh the price that some dairy farmers receive for their efforts, forcing them to once again consider their future in milk production.' He added that 'some Scottish dairy farmers will be in a position to sit tight and ride out this difficult period and some will feel that enough is enough.'



First Milk supplies Arran Dairies with milk for local distribution

Should mobile phones be permitted in hospital wards?

A year ago, Scottish Health Boards were given new guidelines to relax the prohibition of mobile phone use in hospital wards, but NHS Ayrshire and Arran is still to complete its review of its rules. Lib Dem MSP Ross Finnie thinks hospital patients in Scotland should be allowed to use their mobile phones in the ward, provided there is no interference caused to hospital equipment.

MR FINNIE SAID: 'The use of mobile phones in Scottish hospitals would make it easier for patients to communicate with their families. In NHS Ayrshire and Arran patients are currently charged 10p per minute to call friends and relatives from sick beds. This can prove very expensive for long term patients and makes it difficult for some to keep in touch with family. If it is now proved that phones can be used safely in most areas of hospitals then the Health Secretary should follow suit in Scotland.'

Kenneth Gibson takes the opposite view

'Peace and quiet is hard enough to come by in hospital, as many patients know to their cost, but it seems that silence is never valued any more. Restful sleep is vital to recovery, but how can that be achieved with mobiles going off?

'Certainly, hospital pay phones should be less expensive, an issue the Scottish Government has already addressed, but in my view, mobiles are a step too far.

'Mobiles may make communication easier. However, most people in hospital look forward to visits from friends and loved ones. Visiting, no matter how inconvenient it might be to the visitor on occasion, is important to patient morale and visits would surely decline if mobiles were introduced.'

What do readers think? Should mobiles be allowed in hospital wards or not?

Air your view on our website poll this week.

Editorial



HUNTERSTON

Ever since power stations first started to make their mark, both on the landscape and on the way we live, the public has regarded them with conflicting emotional reactions. On one hand, they are inspirational, bringing light and power and warmth where there was grime and endless manual work, but on the other, the image of belching chimneys and the march of pylons across the landscape has been much hated. During recent decades, the truths urged by the green movement are starting to gain real acceptance, and governments are looking with more care at the way in which power needs and human beings relate.

The Danish proposal at Hunterston is, on the face of it, an enlightened combination of coal and biomass, made acceptable by the 'carbon capture' technology that will remove pollutants and CO2. The snag, however, is that the technology is still very new, and far from ready to be put into operation. The expense of it will obviously not be popular with state enterprises or private investors, for which reason there must always be an temptation to lessen the extent of its financial impact. The new European legislation that came into force last month has prevented any such watering down. The Danish government admits that the Hunterston plans drawn up by Danish Oil and Natural Gas (DONG) could not be permitted in any EU country without effective carbon capture built in. The UK has for far too long felt itself to be not quite a signed-up part of Europe, but it is

reassuring to know that any willingness here to accept lower standards cannot be accepted. The project is not planned to begin until 2014, by which time the carbon capture technology should be effective and well-proven.

In retrospect, it seems Dickensian that nuclear power was embraced with such reckless eagerness despite the lack of any technology that could de-fuse its dangerous waste products. Progress is always a love-affair with the future, but love is notoriously irrational. We can forgive mistakes in personal life, but mistakes on a colossal scale, deliberately walked into by men with specialised knowledge and a claim to be clear-thinking, are harder to understand. At the moment, Arran looks across the water at Hunterston with double caution, aware of the power station's patchy nuclear past and its questionable future.

The campaign against Border Biofuels left battle scars, and readiness to defend Arran against any future threat of exploitative and polluting development is understandable. At the moment, it seems that the European standards offer a trustworthy safeguard, but there is no harm in continuing to keep a watchful eye on all proposals. Looking far enough ahead, we should hope that all new buildings will have self-generation power capacity through simple renewable technology such as ground-source heat pumps and small turbines and solar panels. No matter how new the Dong technology may be, central power generation is already starting to seem just slightly old-fashioned.

Quote

'A city used to its own freedom can be more easily ruled through its own citizens, provided you do not wish to destroy it, than in any other way.'

Niccolò Machiavelli, (1469–1527) in 'The Prince', written as a word in the ear to Lorenzo de' Medici.

Come back, Niccolò, we need you. Ed.

THE ARRAN VOICE PRODUCTION TEAM

Editorial Director: *Alison Prince*
Chief Reporter: *Nick Underdown*
Trainee Journalist: *Kelly Donnelly*
Advertising Manager: *Janis Murchie*
Business & Admin Manager: *Samantha Payn*
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PRESS POLICY

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

Voice mail

Readers' News and Views...

SUPPORT FOR THE ARRAN VOICE

I fully support the application for *The Arran Voice* to become a social enterprise as it is an excellent publication and of great value to the island.

James Stewart
by e-mail

We receive no government funding and rely on donations and support from the general public.

Linda Hartley
Co-ordinator,
Cats Protection, Isle of Arran Branch

SHISKINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

To celebrate Homecoming Scotland 2009 the pupils at Shiskine Primary School would like to invite any former pupils and staff to join us for the celebrations.

We would appreciate a loan of any photographs etc., and to learn of any anecdotes about the school. Please contact us by e-mail with any questions or information as this is the easiest way for pupils to play a full part in our endeavours.

Our first public event will be a charity coffee afternoon held in the School on Friday 30th January 2009. The money raised will be set to the RNLI. As well as an opportunity to meet other, community members will be invited to view the work on a whole school project on Scotland covering times past and present with music, art, dance and science.

The school e-mail address is **contactus@shiskine.n-ayrshire.sch.uk**.

Elias Smeir

Mrs Irene Markham
Head Teacher

MIKE AND STEF RIDE AGAIN

Those of you with good memories may recall a pair of old folkies who rejoiced under the name of 'Mike and Stef'. We caroused in many a hostelry around the Island, having, and giving, much fun. We have recently dusted down our wide repertoire of songs, including those penned by the Bard whose 250th anniversary is soon to be celebrated.

It occurred to us that if anyone is planning a Burns Supper, however small or large, we could participate with a few Burns songs to add to the proceedings. We sing and play purely for fun and mutual enjoyment. If interested you can contact us at 600549 (Mike) or 700340 (Stef).

Stef Holmer,
Shore Cottage,
Whiting Bay

CATMAS GIFT!

On behalf of the cats being cared for by Cats Protection, I would like to thank the person who left the anonymous gift for them on Tuesday, 23rd December.

It was heart warming to find that someone cares about the cats in our care.

I thought you might like to know that they enjoyed a real meat dinner on Christmas Day and spent the rest of it sleeping it off!

Thank you for caring and for making the extra effort to bring the gift. I only wish I knew who it was to thank you personally.

Paul Russell
Kilmarnock

UNSUNG AMBASSADORS

On Saturday the 10th of January I was visiting North Sannox in the hope of photographing a few red deer. As the weather turned a bit nasty I decided to walk back into Sannox and, as I had a bit of time before my bus I thought about getting a pint, warm fireside and a bite to eat.

Unfortunately being off-season I was a few hour early for the bar. As I shivered and huddled in the bus shelter contemplating my next move a kindly stranger noticed me and invited me to join her and her husband for a cup of tea.

I gladly accepted and enjoyed a slice of homemade Christmas cake as well.

On a previous visit I had been at Machrie Moor, when unknown to me the road north of Brodick had closed due to a road accident. This would have meant a walk back to Blackwaterfoot, but for another local chap who, unprompted, stopped and offered me a lift back to where I was staying.

On both occasions I never got the chance to properly thank these acts of kindness, so would like to do so now.

I come to the Island often, for the walks, scenery, for the change of pace, but none of this would be worth very much without the unsung ambassadors for the island, the hospitable folks who call it home.

News in Brief...

Dry clothes in rain to save energy bills

The energy cost-cutting potential of a special clothes-drying tent will be demonstrated today at Belvedere Guest House. The tent is designed for use in a garden and protects wet clothes from the rain, allowing laundry to dry naturally. Chris Attkins, a member of the increasingly active Transition Arran group, has invited the inventor David Gracie to erect a prototype for any folks on Arran who would like to cut down on their electricity bills by natural drying. The demonstration will be at 2.30pm–3pm today, Thursday 15th January. More information about the 'Sheiling Drier' in next week's *Arran Voice*.

Council office closed for long weekend

The local Council offices in Lamlash will close early next Friday lunchtime at 12.30pm as contractors undertake some minor refurbishment in the building. 'We need to clear the whole area for what the contractor does,' explained Island Officer Gus MacLeod. The installation of new floor coverings means that everything, including the IT systems, needs to be moved to allow access for the work. The office will reopen on Monday 26th January at lunchtime for business as usual.

Corrie And Sannox SWRI

On 8th January members celebrated 'Auld Year's Night,' an annual event looked forward to by the members, and no one would have been disappointed.

There was a hot and cold buffet and what a wonderful variety of dishes there was! We enjoyed the return of *The Three Amigos*, now known as *The Cat Stone Collective*, a group of Island musicians formed as part of a successful pressure group to keep Corrie Primary School

open. The original three musicians, Ian McLaren, Mike Bailey and James Shankie were ably assisted by young Jamie McLaren, obviously enjoying his role on stage.

A vote of thanks to the musicians for the lively music was proposed by Stevie, who also thanked the men who came along as guests and the rural ladies for the delicious buffet. The next meeting is in the afternoon at 2pm, on Thursday 12th Feb when Elma Stevenson & Vicky will demonstrate crafts.

Public meeting to save rural communities in crisis

A meeting about the future of Scotland's most fragile rural communities will be held in Oban next Monday. The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) and Argyll and Bute Council want to meet with residents to discuss the findings of the RSE's recent Inquiry into Scotland's Hills and Islands, which found that there was a critical need to integrate social, economic and environmental measures for rural areas and empower communities to act within an overall national strategy.

The Inquiry's secretary Professor Roger Crofts said the purpose of the visit is to address a wide range of issues such as the future of the land, the economy and the role of government. Councillor Robert Macintyre, Depute Leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said the meeting will take place at a time when Hill and Island agriculture in the west and north of the country is in a 'state of crisis.' As he put it, 'Lack of profit combined with our geographical disadvantage means that factors like isolation, a hundred inches of rainfall in some areas, very high input and output costs plus political decisions have all contributed to our demise.' The meeting will take place at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban on Monday 19th January at 12.30pm. Attendance is free and open to all.

FILMOBILE SCOTLAND

Bringing the magic of the movies to you

Arran High School Theatre

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd January, 6.30pm

Australia Cert 12A, 2hrs 55m

Starring Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman. An epic story set in Australia before the start of World War 2. One for the big screen!

Saturday 24th January, 1.30pm

The Tale of Despereaux

Cert U, 1hr 25m

A tale of a little mouse and his friends. Join in the adventure with the little animals. A great family film — don't miss it!

Adults £5

Children (12 and under) £4

Payment at the door

Doors open 30 mins before screening



Arranvoice.com Online Poll

This week's question is:

Should mobiles be allowed in hospital wards or not?

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

Last week's question was: Is kindness an outdated concept?

Yes: 0%

No: 100%

Not sure: 0%

Poll expresses views of those who've voted online.

Recycling...
are
you
still getting it
sorted?

Reduce Reuse Recycle



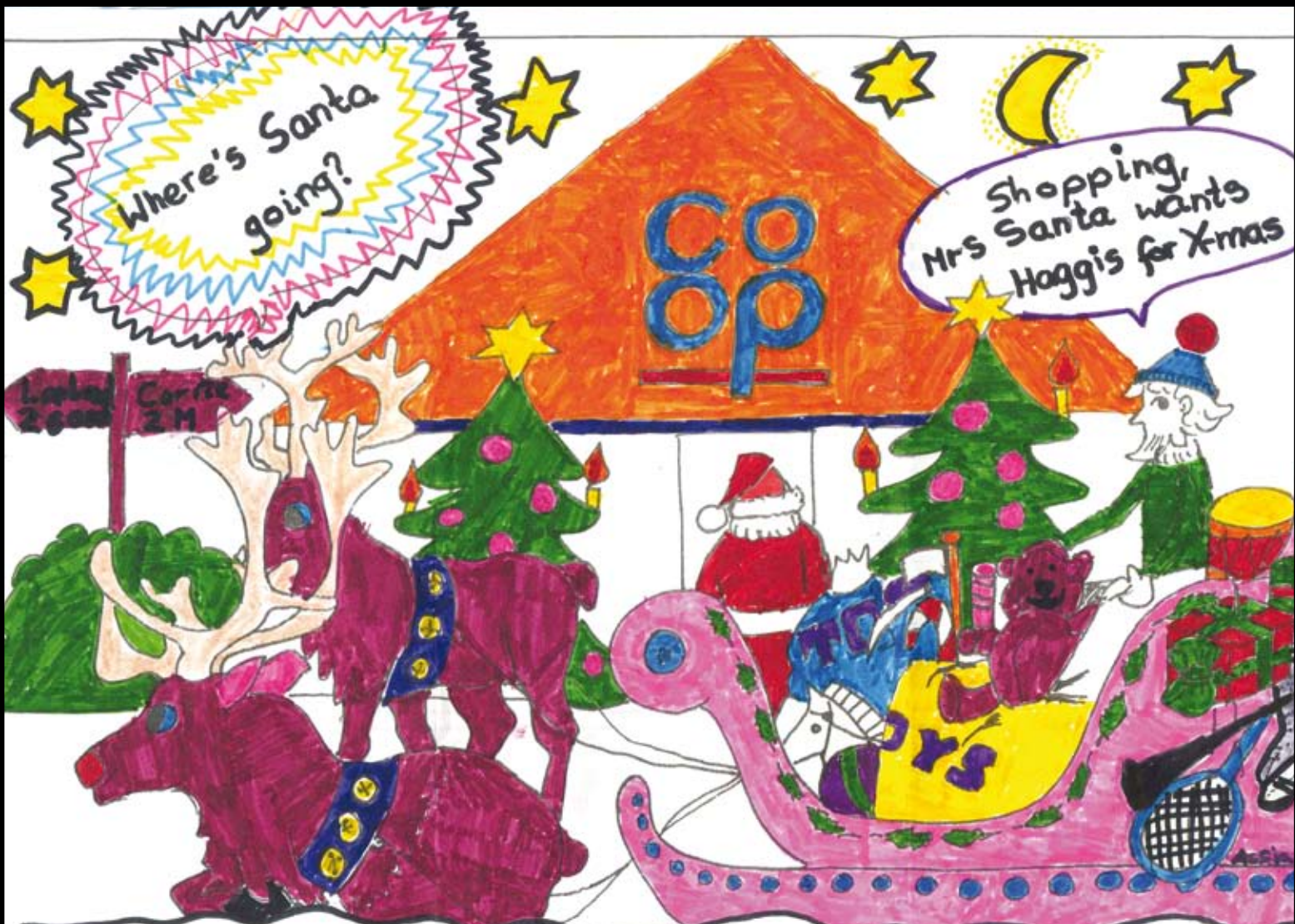
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We would appreciate a loan of any photographs etc., and to learn of any anecdotes about the school. Please contact us by email with any questions or information as this is the easiest way for pupils to play a full part in our endeavours.

The school email address is contactus@shiskine.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

Christmas Colouring Competition

Our winning entry by Cami Corbett from Busby, Glasgow.



Shiskine Primary's Homecoming

TO CELEBRATE Homecoming Scotland 2009 the pupils at Shiskine Primary School would appreciate a loan of any photographs etc. and to learn of any anecdotes about the school. Please e-mail us with any questions or information on contactus@shiskine.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

Our first public event will be a charity coffee afternoon held in the School on Friday 30th January 2009 when visitors can view a whole school project on Scotland, covering times past and present through music, art, dance and science. The money raised will be set to the RNLI.



How to spend £10,000 and unite an island

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SEEKS A PROJECT THAT 'SERVES THE WHOLE COMMUNITY'

It's not quite fiscal independence, but Arran is currently the first community in the country to take part in perhaps Scotland's first step towards decentralisation. In a pilot project designed to showcase the SNP Government's agenda for devolved decision-making, Arran's Community Council (ACC) is deciding how to spend £10,000 gifted by the Scottish Government for the community benefit. Earlier this week, Arran's Community Councillors met to discuss a range of options.

Since the ACC asked for ideas through the local press in October last year, over 20 suggestions have been submitted. The ideas range from a community allotment to the development of youth facilities to

kitting out a mobile first-aid van that would attend village events.

LITMUS TEST FOR LOCAL DEMOCRACY

'The main thing is to settle on a project that would serve the whole community,' explained ACC chairman Campbell Laing before the meeting. 'It's difficult to find something that could benefit everyone.' Arran — along with one of the urban Glasgow districts also involved in the pilot — is tackling the thorny issues that will inevitably surround changes to the existing structures of local democracy. It may be argued that some proposed uses of the £10,000 should already be delivered by the local authority or the National Health Service. It also tests the very feasibility of choosing a project that benefits all.

'The Scottish Government picked



Representatives of Arran's Community Council discuss the pilot project fund on Tuesday night.

Arran because we are unique in that we have a single community council that serves the whole island,' Campbell told *The Arran Voice*. 'Some of the difficulties we are finding here might not be encountered by other community councils that represent a single town. We represent a large island with many different villages. But we'll do our very

best as village representatives to use the money in everyone's interest.'

Late news — It was agreed at the meeting that a good solution would be to set up an Arran Community Council website, fully interactive so that it would be a useful means of communication for the whole island.

Great gift to Riding for the Disabled

Photos by **Arran Photography**

WHAT STARTED OUT as an idea from the church parishioners of Whiting Bay and Kildonan to raise money for charity culminated today in the presentation of a cheque for £855 to Barbara Tinto on behalf of Riding for the Disabled. The innovative plan was that the children of the Parish would designed a Christmas card that all the parishioners would sign and then make a donation in lieu of sending cards themselves. This raised £240, and along with a generous donation of £240 from a parishioner and the collection of £375 from the Christmas Church services

totalled an amazing £855.

Riding for the Disabled on Arran provides a valuable resource for adults, who ride once a week and children, who ride once a fortnight. Prior to each lesson the riders have to 'groom and tack up' their steeds. Barbara has a devoted team of volunteers to help with all aspects of running and maintaining this valuable Island asset but says she is desperate for more help. If you feel you would like to enrich the lives of others and get some enjoyment from helping out please contact Barbara Tinto on 600 517.



Left: Tom Beaton prepares 'Tabatha'. Middle: Ailsa Cowan enjoys a moment with 'Dan'. Right: Barbara Tinto receives a cheque for £850 from Enid Haliwell, from left to right: Tom Beaton, Ailsa Cowan, 'Dan', Enid Haliwell, Reverend Elizabeth Watson, Barbara Tinto, 'Tabatha', David Stefanuti and Rona Fulton.



'Dan' tries to snatch the cheque from Enid Haliwell and Barbara Tinto as Reverend Elizabeth Watson looks on.

Venison on show at Scottish Parliament

MSP KENNETH GIBSON sponsored a venison promotion event at the Scottish Parliament last week. The very popular reception aimed to tell the venison story 'from hill to plate', covering both wild and farmed venison, and provided an opportunity for MSPs to meet those who work in the industry — stalkers, deer farmers, processors, and land managers. More than 40 MSPs and their staff attended the reception, and acclaimed venison chef Nichola Fletcher gave cookery demonstrations in the Holyrood Garden Lobby, while a display of butchery and jointing was given by Bruce Brymer. Venison was also available in the Parliament Restaurant all week.

Introducing the event, Mr Gibson said: 'Venison contributed more than £70.4 million last year to the Scottish economy, and supports 966 full-time jobs directly and 1,544 indirectly through stalking, venison sales, tourism, hotels etc.' He emphasised the health value of this natural meat, and pointed out that 'With exports increasing year on year, venison is of significant and growing value to the Scottish economy and rural and island Scotland, including Arran.'

Stephen Gibbs of Dougarie Estates is Chairman of the Scottish Venison Working Group, the organisers of the event, and his enthusiasm for its potential was very evident. As he remarked, 'There is so much to say about venison — not least about where it comes from and how. It is so much a part of Scottish tradition and culture and its availability is steadily increasing. This initiative sees our industry joining together to promote venison's benefits to a far wider audience — and that has to be good for rural and island Scotland.'

Professor John Milne, Chairman, Deer Commission for Scotland, commented: 'Wild deer are a significant natural resource for Scotland. The health benefits and sheer tastiness of the venison produced in our hills, woodlands and fields from management of our wild deer resource should be more widely shared. The inclusion of venison on school and hospital menus throughout Scotland should be our next step.'

The red deer was voted by the public recently as Scotland's most iconic species.



Stephen Gibbs, Douglasie Estates, MSP Kenneth Gibson, venison chef Nichola Fletcher and Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Scottish venison is the main product from four deer species — red, roe, sika, and fallow, and from farmed red deer
- The red deer is the largest land mammal in the UK
- The annual cull is around 107,000 deer. This produces around 3,500 tonnes of venison for human consumption
- Arran has around 2,000 deer

The health benefits of venison are greater than almost any other meat:

- Lower in fat than skinned chicken breast
- Higher in iron than any other red meat
- Rich in omega 3
- Low in cholesterol
- Free of antibiotics and growth promoter

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 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, 2'm

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, 6–6.454pm

Junior Scottish Country Dancing, Lamlash, Church Hall, 6–7pm

Outdoor Boot Camp, Ormidale Park, Brodick 7–8pm

Brodick Bridge Club, Ormidale Pavillion, 7.15pm

Brodick Embroidery Group, Library, Brodick, 7.30pm

Rehearsal *Little Whorehouse*, Brodick Hall, 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

FRIDAY 16TH

Yoga, Lamlash Churchhall, 10.30am, suspended until 23rd January

Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am
Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning, 10am–12noon

Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 2pm

Screen Machine, *Madagascar 2*, 5.30pm, Auchrannie, Brodick

Kid's Club, Games Night, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–8pm

Rehearsal *Wyrd Sisters*, Church Hall, Shiskine, 7.30pm

Arran Pipe Band Practice Session, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm

Screen Machine, *Quantum of Solace*, Auchrannie, 8.30pm

Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm

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

SATURDAY 17TH

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All day

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football, Training, 10.30am–12noon

Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 11.30am–12.30pm

Screen Machine, *Madagascar 2*, Auchrannie, Brodick, 2pm

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

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

Screen Machine, *Quantum of Solace*, Auchrannie, Brodick, 5.30pm

Youth Café, Church Hall, Brodick, table top gaming (last Sat. of month), pool, PS3, ball sports, dart, arts & crafts (1st Sat. of month), table tennis, board games etc., 7–10pm

Screen Machine, *Changeling*, Auchrannie, Brodick, 8.30pm

Quiz Night, Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm

Disco, Ormidale Hotel Brodick, 10pm

SUNDAY 18TH

Boys' Football, KA Campus, Lamlash (Astroturf or Games Hall), 10–11am
Govan Salvation Army Band, Lamlash Church, 12noon

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

MONDAY 19TH

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

Arran Brass Monkeys playing (weather permitting) with Govan Salvation Army Band to raise funds for Arran Hospice, Bilslands, Brodick, 2.45pm

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 20TH

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

Pulmonary Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30pm

AA Alcoholics Anonymous, Brodick Church Hall, 2pm

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

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 21ST

Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am

Yogalates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 10–11am

Friends of Brodick Castle, Gillean Bussel on *Islands at the Edge of the World*, Brodick Castle Tearoom, 2.30pm

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

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

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

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

Hockey, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 7–8pm

Arran Brass Band AGM, Village Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.15pm

THURSDAY 22ND

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, 2'm

Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, 3–5pm

KA Jog, all levels, KA Campus, Lamlash, 5.30–6.30pm

Pilates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–6.454pm

Junior Scottish Country Dancing, Lamlash, Church Hall, 6–7pm

Filmobile, *Australia*, Arran High School Theatre, 6.30pm

Outdoor Boot Camp, Ormidale Park, Brodick 7–8pm

Brodick Bridge Clug, Ormidale Pavillion, 7.15pm

Brodick Embroidery Group, Library, Brodick, 7.30pm

Rehearsal *Little Whorehouse*, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm

Middle Eastern Dancers' Practice & Lessons, Lamlash Church Hall, Beginners 7.30–8.30pm, Intermediate 8.30–9.30pm

General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick 10pm

Out & About

UP & COMING

WEEKEND-EVENTS, AS FAR AS KNOWN

Filmobile, *Australia*, Arran High School Theatre, Lamlash, Friday 23rd, 6.30pm

Filmobile, *The Tale of Desperaux*, Arran High School Theatre, Lamlash, 1.30pm

UPCOMING RUGBY MATCHES

Under 16's

Sunday, 18th—Home to Cumnock

Sunday, 1st February—Away to Clydebank

Sunday, 22nd February—Home to Ardrossan

Sunday, 1st March—Moffat, either at home or at Ardrossan

Sunday, 8th March—Away to Paisley

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

'Outrageous' interest proposed on emergency loans

THE UK GOVERNMENT is proposing to charge up to 28% interest on emergency loans from its Social Fund.

These currently interest-free Social Fund loans are made available through Credit Unions to help less well off households with the costs of such crises as funeral payments, maternity grants and cold weather payments. The Department for Work and Pensions now proposes to charge maximum interest rates on such payments.

Kenneth Gibson MSP said: 'The social fund is a vital service for people on low incomes and benefits — including many of my Arran constituents. With rates at this level the UK Government is behaving as badly as some of the financial institutions that have contributed to the Credit Crunch.' Mr Gibson finds it ironic that the UK Government acknowledges the importance of the Social Fund in protecting people from loan sharks and yet proposes to become one itself, charging 26.8% APR. He points out that bank interest rates are

down to 1.5% and calls the move 'an outrageous proposal.' He said this week, 'The UK Labour Government should be ashamed of itself.'

1. **James Purnell MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, states in the Impact Assessment that the interest rate proposed would be 'at the maximum charged by Credit Unions of 2% per month (26.8% APR).'**
2. **The average Store Card interest rate is between 25 and 30%**
3. **Credit Card rates are at an average of 17.5%**
4. **The UK is the only EU country without an interest rate cap on loans. Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland all have caps at 22% or less.**



The week in numbers

Each week The Arran Voice will bring you some varied and hopefully interesting numerical information. If you have any statistics you think might be worthy for inclusion please get in touch.

39

The number of times Scotland has won the Calcutta Cup. The famous trophy will be on the island this Saturday (see page 23)

85

The percentage value of Nephrops (prawns) catches to the total Clyde fisheries. In 1913, herring catches formed 81% of the total value of Clyde fisheries.

92

The number of Burns Suppers cooked in Shiskine Village hall last Friday.

66

The number of recommendations made by the Royal Society of Edinburgh's recent Inquiry into Scotland's Highlands and Islands. Among the suggested policies is a stated need for 'substantial shifts in decision-making and delivery of public resources from centrally-based agencies to regionally-based structures'

25

The percentage of Scotland which the Scottish Government's Forestry Strategy hopes to see covered by woodland by the second half of this century. Currently woodland coverage is 17% by area.

3

The number of jobs lost at the Arran Brewery due to the company's recent transfer of its bulk bottling operations from Cladach to a mainland plant. The Brewery hopes that its expansion plans will re-create more jobs in the future

1.8

The maximum permissible number of grams of fat per 100g of milk drinks provided by schools in North Ayrshire according to new Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2008

2,506

The number of respondents to the readership survey for North Ayrshire Council's publication *North Ayrshire Now*. 85% of respondents either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that the publications reported on Council issues and performance in a 'fair and balanced manner.'

Musical hearts warmed by Fires of Love

By Alison Prince

SIXTY PEOPLE IN Brodick Hall last Saturday were enchanted by the playing and singing of a group called *Fires of Love*. The four performers were Frances Cooper, soprano, whom we last heard on Arran with the delectable *Dunedin Consort*, Marcus Claridge, percussion, Gordon Ferries on lute and 4-course guitar, and Jonathan Hugh-Jones, who played lute and recorders and contributed a fine baritone voice.

Fires of Love specialise in the songs and dances of the 16th century, and Saturday's programme centred round the French music that brought people some joy and relief in Paris during that terrible time of religious conflict. The Massacre of St Bartholomew occurred in 1572, when an unbelievable number of Huguenot Protestants were butchered. By the end of the century almost a quarter of the French population had died in the persecution that followed — and yet, despite the turbulence of the time when it was written, today's listeners commented on the peace and simplicity of the music. At the far extreme from today's often over-amplified volume, the instruments were quiet, with the beat of a hand-drum carefully scaled down to stay

within the level and keep the balance right.

There was much street-theatre at the time, and one piece brought to life a narration interspersed with song that featured a sob-like little catch of the voice that was deeply affecting. Others had people tapping their feet to dancing rhythms. Intricate solos by Gordon Ferries on the small, multi-stringed guitar shaped like a ukulele featured impossibly high harmonics like the ringing of tiny bells and in one piece included a finger tap on the wood of the instrument, a little reminiscent of Spanish flamenco. The combination of soprano voice with bass recorder (which looks like the smaller grandfather of the bassoon but has none of its double-reed astringency) was particularly beautiful. Frances Cooper sings with angelic freedom, and Jonathan Hugh-Jones is a true, multi-talented troubadour, turning with ease from song to playing and from one instrument to another. All the performers took a turn at introducing the next piece and filling in the historic background, and at the end, the audience applauded with an enthusiasm that could not have been bettered five centuries ago.

Green Pigs and no GM

Kenneth Gibson e-mails us this parliamentary motion, proposed by his colleague Rob Gibson (Highlands and Islands) in support of natural plant research to improve food production rather than Genetic Modification. Farmers and small-scale growers may find this interesting. The full text is as follows:

THAT THE PARLIAMENT welcomes a growing body of evidence that Scottish farmers, crofters and growers can benefit from the results of successful experiments to produce home-grown food for both animals and humans that does not rely on transgenic modification of plant material; also welcomes the recent work of the Scottish Crop Research Institute in producing highly nutritious purple-pigmented potatoes; applauds the Sárvári Research Trust based at Bangor University that confirms that blight-resistant Sárpo potatoes, which were successfully trialed

in the Black Isle, are suitable for Scottish conditions; recalls that the Scottish Agricultural College has backed an international research collaboration on the Green Pig project, which plans to use home grown legume varieties to reduce reliance on imported and expensive soya bean meal and so reduce costs for Scottish livestock producers; notes the scientific analysis of Dr John Fagan of Global ID Group, which shows that although non-GM pig feed costs a bit more than GM feed because of feed-to-meat conversion efficiency, when using non-GM feed the actual cost per animal is lower, and therefore believes that a conventional plant breeding policy is an essential basis for the Scottish national food and drink policy, which itself dovetails with the conclusions of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development that small-scale farming and ecological methods provide the way forward to avert the current world food crisis.

PUT YOUR SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON OUR MESSAGE BOARD, FREE!

Arran Natural History Society

Tails from the Red Kite trail

Thursday 8th Jan

8pm Ranger Centre

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

LOST

1 FUZZY FAKE FUR HAT
CAMEL COLOUR

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

IF FOUND PLEASE
CONTACT BIFF ON 700 633.

Friends of Brodick Castle and County Park

The next meeting of The Friends
of Brodick Castle will be held on
Wednesday 21st January at 2.30pm in
the Castle Tearoom. The Speaker will
be Gilleen Bussell on "Islands at the
Edge of the world".

Brass Monkeys

Playing at Bilslands
on Sunday from
2.45pm with the Govan
Salvation Army band
(weather permitting)
to raise funds for the
Arran Hospice.

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



**Happy
Birthday
Nick
from all the
team!**



MISSING

Our much-loved cat, Scamp, was last seen around 11am in the
Colston area of Bishopbriggs, Glasgow on Tuesday 2nd
December 2008.

He is a neutered, adult black & white (tuxedo) short hair cat —
looks like the cat in the Felix adverts with white stomach, 4
white paws and a white tip to his tail. He has two black
nostrils. He is micro-chipped and insured.

Reward available for his safe return

Thank you

TEL: 0141 762 0664

Marine News

By John Kinsman,
Fishing Correspondent

GANNET RESCUE CHOPPER RESCUES GANNET

LAST WEDNESDAY, HMS Gannet gave a helping hand (or rotor) to a baby gannet that needed to fly south for the winter. The wee gannet, named Maximus by his rescuers, was abandoned by his parents on the Bass Rock, about 12 miles off shore from St Monans in the Firth of Forth just before Christmas. He was just eight weeks old, too small to tackle the long migration flight on his own.

Staff at the Scottish Seabird Centre at North Berwick looked after him before deciding he was ready to take to the skies, but rather than release him on the North sea, where he would probably have died, the centre arranged for him to hitch a ride to warmer climes with the Royal Navy.

The crew of the suitably named HMS Gannet, a Sea King Rescue Helicopter from Prestwick, were called on to carry out this unusual airlift, and Maximus left on board a Sea King Rescue Helicopter (Rescue 177) destined for Cornwall at midday 7 January. Pilot Lt Commander Martin Lannie said: 'We had an aircraft going down to Cornwall, so we were happy to help out. This has to rate as one of the more unusual cargoes. We'd like to have offered him a VIP trip but he had to enjoy a cardboard box in the back of the helicopter.' Maggie Sneddan (pictured), a volunteer worker at the Seabird Centre, took Maximus to the base. She said: 'He had a much more chance of survival if we took him south. If we took him out over the North sea it is so turbulent that he would have struggled.' In Cornwall Maximus spent 24 hours in a bird centre and then he was ferried out to sea by a local fisherman, to be released off the Cornish coast.

The Bass Rock colony is home to about 150,000 nesting gannets at the height of the season, but all this year's chicks departed in October on their journey down to the Bay of Biscay or the west coast of Africa. Gannets can live for about 40 years and return to the same net site each year. Maximus must have been hatched too late to go with the others. Let's hope he manages to meet up with the rest of the gannet colony, and perhaps returns to the Bass Rock next summer to raise his own family.



Maggie Sneddan a volunteer at the Scottish Seabird Centre seen here with Maximus the baby Gannet at HMS Gannet Prestwick before he boards the Royal Navy Rescue Helicopter (Background) for his VIP flight South.



Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**

Amateur Meteorologist

Summary of last week's forecast:

What a horrible weekend we had. Unfortunately the rain very obviously arrived, but it was very patchy. We played golf in a howling gale at Whiting Bay and although it did rain for a wee while it was fairly light, albeit horizontal! Then we spoke to someone just back from Lamlash, who was drenched in a very heavy downpour. Ah, the vagaries of our beloved weather. And it looks like we are entering an extremely unsettled period, so watch out. Stay put and batten down the hatches.

General Summary for 15th January to 19th January:

A very deep low pressure area developed just west of Ireland on Wednesday, tracking northwest towards the Western Isles on Thursday, and then up towards the Arctic on Friday. The tightly packed isobars and a cold front moving across from the west will bring some very strong winds and rain on Thursday. Things will settle down a bit on Friday and Saturday morning, but another intensive low is sweeping across the Atlantic. This will bring some really nasty weather again through Saturday and into Sunday.



Thursday

Looks like strong to gale force winds, mainly from the south or south east, on Thursday morning and it will be bucketing throughout the day. The winds should ease as the day goes on, down to 20mph by the afternoon. It will feel very cold at 8°C, but no frost.



Friday

The winds will continue to ease in the morning before picking up again to around 25mph or more in the afternoon, again from the south, then easing a bit again by evening. It will feel cold at 7°C and colder in that wind.



Saturday

Another rather cold day of wind and rain. It will be fairly light in the morning, but watch out in the afternoon and evening. I am looking at a forecast of 40 and 50mph southerly winds along with torrential rain. I would not consider a day trip to the mainland today.



Sunday

It will get much colder at 5°C and the winds still very strong (25mph or more), swinging round to the west with gale force gusts. We may see more glimpses of the sun but it will be mainly cloudy with the chance of some heavy sleet and snow falls which, in the strong winds, could cause drifting in some places.



Monday

Still becoming colder and no let up in the sleet and snow. In fact we will probably get more of the stuff. The winds from the west stay very strong. Oh, to be in Tenerife where the sun will be shining in temperatures of 20°C!

Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

Remaining quite windy for the rest of the week, but rainfall diminishing after Tuesday... still with us though. It will stay cold.

Ferry Notes

What can I say? Even this old sea dog finds it difficult to predict. On Thursday morning, the strong to gale force winds will be coming from a south easterly direction, and this would probably not affect the Caley Isles. However we now have the Clansman, and in my experience, she finds the entrance to Ardrossan more difficult. It is a similar picture in the afternoon, although the winds may drop a little.

Friday is looking OK, but on Saturday, while the morning sailings may be without too many problems, late afternoon and evening look horrendous! The wind (gale) will be more from the south, then swinging west on Sunday albeit dropping very slightly. Aaaaaargh!

Arran Pipe Band calls for new recruits

WITH THE LOSS of two drummers in recent months, the Arran Pipe Band is on the look-out for new players to join its ranks. And, as people think about New Year resolutions, Pipe Band Major Malcolm Wheeler believes it is a good time for people to join the band.

'We are always recruiting and it doesn't matter what level you are at,' says Malcolm. The band currently has twelve pipers and four drummers, but both Alan Stout and Drum Sergeant Grant Irving have recently retired from the band.

'It's a long, but rewarding process learning to play the pipes,' says Malcolm. The band has some experienced teachers in the shape of Angus Adamson and Lindsay Proudfoot who teach the pipes and Ian Grant who teaches the drums. Players of all ages and ability are welcome.



Malcolm Wheeler has been Pipe Band Major for four years

INSPIRATION

For anyone wanting a bit of inspiration, all you have to do is walk by Brodick village hall on a Friday evening and listen to the stirring skirl of pipes that fills the air. Last Friday was no exception as the Arran Pipe Band gathered for their first practice night of 2009. Malcolm said he looked forward to seeing the drummers on board next week after their 'extended' New Year absence from band practice!

Arran's pipers are in hot demand at this time of the year to play at the Burns Suppers taking place around the island. The band performs at many of the island's major events and is probably best known for its feisty performance at the Brodick Highland Games in August. For many, their rousing send-off to visitors leaving on the 7.20pm ferry is the highlight of the Games. The march along Brodick's main street is led by Rosie Cook who adds a special touch

of glamour to the occasion. 'Rosie is our official mascot,' explains Malcolm.



Glamour girl Rosie Cook is the band's 'official mascot'

ISLAND AMBASSADORS

Last year the band explored the possibility of playing at the Heineken Cup rugby match between the Glasgow Warriors and Toulouse (the match will be played this Saturday.) Unfortunately, funds did not permit this, but Malcolm and the band still harbour 'aspirations to have a wee trip abroad' at some point. In the meantime, we can expect to see the Arran Pipe Band appearing at the island's busy calendar of events throughout 2009.



Grant Irving has left the band after many years of drumming

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Campbell Seaton and Janie McIntyre star with simmering attitude in the Arran Music and Drama Club's production of 'Annie Get Your Gun' at the end of May. This club is now in the throes of rehearsals for this year's musical 'The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.'



Ewan McKinnon and Dougie MacFarlane meet in the final of the Champion of Champions golf competition for the third year running on Friday 22nd August. Ewan pipped Dougie to the pin on the 19th hole. There is another action-packed schedule of Association golf lined up for 2009.



Talented young musician Ian Clarke takes part in Feis Arainn, a festival celebration of Gaelic music and culture. Over 50 children joined in a variety of workshops over four days at the start of August. This year will be the tenth anniversary of the Feis and hopefully an extra special one!



Marion and Marvin were forced to close the Corrie shop at the end of September due to lack of demand. They have now established a new gallery in the village called Corrie Arts.



The newly-opened Ardrossan Asda attracted shoppers to the mainland. But meanwhile, many islanders have been vocal about the need to support local business.



Arran's girls rugby is put firmly on the map. Lamlash's Shauna Jameson started training with a the national youth rugby squad, while Corrie's Lindsay Wheeler who plays for the Scottish senior national team was selected for the Nomads, the women's rugby equivalent of the Barbarians. She played a curtain-raising match against the Springboks to a crowd including Nelson Mandela.

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2008

A year in pictures



Heavy rain in July meant Arran rescue services were involved in a dramatic airlift when campers in Glen Rosa were engulfed in a flash flood. Around two dozen campers were caught napping when a section of the Rosa Burn burst its banks turned camping mats into waterbeds. As the river levels rose one camper David McAllister was bitten by a water vole when he tried to rescue the rodent from the rising waters. Another camper Peter Stark was also caught in the flood: 'The water was that bad that it was up to my neck, and I'm the biggest out of the lot. My missus cannae swim and I had to cokie-back my lassie all the way across.'



The Isle of Arran Horticultural Society celebrated its Centenary Show in August at the new High School in Lamlash. Despite some poor growing conditions for flowers, Arran's growers produced some exceptional vegetable entries. An onion grown in Lamlash by John O'Sullivan won the best exhibit in the vegetable section and Sally Brookes produced a fine crop of celery. President Neil MacLean said: 'Our island's flowers have taken a hammering from the weather. I'm afraid there's not much we can really do about that...But best of all, we have a good turn-out.'



After two years in operation Dave Furze from Kilmory reports on the cost-efficiency of his 5KW wind-turbine. Since installation in November 2006 it has generated on average over 19 kilowatt hours per day.



Duncan Mulholland demonstrated Arran Woodfuel's new woodchipping machine to Energy Minister Jim Mather in July. The MSP came to see first-hand plans for new developments in the island economy including plans by the Taste of Arran for a food production facility at Cladach. 'It is beginning to happen. Necessity is the healthier driver. People do what's in their own best interest,' said the Minister.



Wullie Stevenson shows his sheep at the 172nd Arran Farmers' Show which took £6,000 at the gate in a brilliant comeback event after the previous year had been hampered by foot-and-mouth in 2007. Peter MacDonald's Texel sheep won the Overall Show Champion. It was the first time the Show had been held in Sandy's Field near Cladach.



A motley crew of Tom 'Indeady' McConnachie, Commodore Dan Goronwy and Captain Ian MacLean steered 'Nellie' to first place in the 13th annual Tom Sorbie boat race. Captain MacLean recalled that one member of his crew had been drinking Guinness in the Lochranza Hotel the night before: 'The Cummings who were in a boat over a mile away were complaining about the smell.' Simon Horne and Ryoko Ikeda steered a 108 year old druid — and the shortest boat ever entered into the competition — to second place.



Up-and-coming striker Archie McNicol won a golden boot for scoring the most goals for his mainland club Shawventus. In September he organised a raffle and donated £475 to the Arran Junior Football Club.



It was a year of comings and goings. Distillery worker, and occasional hitman striker for Northend Thistle, Pedro left the island to return to study in Poland. His friend Bob (right) now works in Creelers Seafood Restaurant.

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Getting to know Ninna Crisp

By Alison Prince

NINNA CRISP AND her husband Maurice live in Murray Place, Lamlash. You can easily see which house is theirs — it has a wooden Wendy house in the front garden, and a wee red-and-white Danish flag can be seen inside the front room window. No prizes, then, for guessing that Ninna comes from Denmark, though you might need to explore further to discover that she is a highly qualified and experienced child minder. Framed certificates hang inside the front door, but much more important is the feeling of quiet, busy happiness in the front room, where there is nothing that could be broken or spoiled. Instead, a pleasantly open floor space and a capacious, comfy sofa provide an ideal place for young children to play and talk and explore.

Shortly before Christmas, an in-depth study of pre-school child-care was published — and it concluded that child minding was the best way for under-fives to be looked after if their parents had to be out at work. Child-minding at its best provides a warm, home-like atmosphere and has none of the stress that a young child may feel in the much bigger numbers attending a nursery. At present, Ninna looks after just three children, from 7.30am to 5.00pm, and provides them with their mid-day dinner. Three-year-old Jake McAllister was the only child present on the morning when I arrived, and he seemed wonderfully contented and happy. He came to greet the unexpected visitor, but after some conversation he went back to his careful building of a skyscraper from interlocking plastic blocks.

BEING ALLOWED

'They learn so much from being allowed to play,' Ninna remarks. 'They need time to find out what they can do.' She feels there is great value in allowing children uninterrupted activity, without stopping them or trying to direct them. 'As long as they are safe and happy,' she says, 'you can let them play for as long as they want.' She has great sympathy for parents, who are often under a lot of pressure to hold down a job and at the same time ensure that their children keep up with increasingly demanding standards of achievement and conformity. The current obsession with testing and results make parents anxious — but Ninna feels that adult worries should not impinge on children. As she says, 'If there is pressure at three years old, what will they be like at fifteen?'

GOING OUT

Ninna's own two children are at Primary school now, and she takes a very creative approach to the hours spent with the wee group she looks after. She takes them outside as often as possible, because there's a 'different kind of imagination' in the world of plants and earth and trees. 'They need to find out what the world is like. They have to touch and feel and explore.' Her own son, Jack, became fascinated by earth worms. He loved the look and feel of them and established a 'wormery' for them to live in — but the outdoor world often takes Ninna and her charges further afield. They go to the adventure playground at the Castle, or for walks into the Forestry at the Dyemill,

and when the weather keeps them indoors, there are biscuits to bake and songs to sing, music to dance to and rhymes to join in with. 'Kids need to use their brains,' Ninna says firmly.

As we talk, silent pictures of landscapes and trees are appearing on a computer screen, and sometimes wee Jake pauses to stare at them with interest — but Ninna only uses television as an occasional event. 'Sometimes we have a 'movie day' she explains. 'We draw the curtains and sell tickets, and watch a video, like going to the cinema.' She feels that a constant TV background loses any comforting effect and becomes a half-ignored source of noise and distraction. 'It's important to talk to children,' she says. 'They need to build a vocabulary before they start school.'

Ninna was 18 years old when she came to Scotland to be a nanny. After working with a family in Newton Mearns, she was in central Glasgow for a while, with children whose parents brought them (and Ninna) to the Youth Hostel on Arran for holidays. She abandoned a plan to go to the Highlands and work in the ski-ing industry. Instead, she found a job at the Corrie Hotel, which she loved, and it was there that she met Maurice, who became her husband. Five years of working at the Co-op followed, which she enjoyed very much, and appreciated their generous allowance of a whole year of maternity leave when first Anna then Jack were born. As her children



Ninna Crisp and wee Jake

grew a little older, Ninna started looking for an occupation that would let her be at home with them. Child minding was the natural answer, and as a first step in her long series of qualifications, she did the North Ayrshire Council pre-registration training course, which she describes as 'fantastic'. She also praises the Ayrshire Baby Book for its wealth of songs and poems and things to do.

For Ninna, life itself remains fantastic. Having visited countries where families live in terrible conditions of hardship and persecution, she is constantly aware of how lucky we are. 'It's so easy here,' she says. 'We have everything we really need, and we are free to go to what church we choose, all faiths are OK.' Though a committed Christian, she is happy to celebrate the festivals of other faiths. 'Soon it will be Chinese New Year,' she says, 'it's early this year.' Time for wee red envelopes with a coin and a good wish inside.

Jake cuddles on her lap for a photo and laughs at the flash, then goes back to his playing. Ninna's gift to the future, in the form of happy, secure children who will with any luck become balanced and likeable adults, is incalculable.

the
Wee
voice

By Christian Pomeroy

Bangs, Snowboards and Sushi

YOU ARE PROBABLY all too completely bored with hearing about my holidays (eg London) to read this article, but if you read on, BE WARNED; these articles contain much ranting at lack of hills, and the surfeit of water. They also contain handheld fireworks, thick and thin ice, mobile reception and a small see-through fish. OK, first the journey there (obviously). We left two days after school broke up, packed our stuff, drove on the boat, drove off the boat, drove to my grandma's house, and drove me completely mad.

We left the next day, picked up my sister (Saskia) and arrived at Newcastle, where, after much customs inspection to check we weren't smuggling tired teenagers out of the country, we drove onto the boat and settled into our cabin. Soon, we settled out of our cabin, and up to the casino/bar, where we watched the Entertainment. This consisted of people singing Christmas songs and dancing. The next day we got off the boat and drove through Ijmuiden and down to the south of Holland to stay with my Dutch uncle.

The day after that just happened to be Christmas, so we opened our presents (mine was an iPod Docking Station) and then me, my sister, my cousin, my other cousin, and my other cousin's girlfriend went snowboarding. It was an artificial slope, with proper artificial snow, and was so big there was an indoor ski-lift! I took some time, and the skin off my knees, (they said the snow was soft, but it wasn't) to be able to stand up on the board, so after crashing into one of my cousins (or was it my cousin's girlfriend?) at near-terminal

velocity, we went off the practice slope, up the ski-lift and onto the large slope. I managed to stay on for about 4 minutes! Unfortunately, I also managed to stay off (or at least not standing up) for about 10. Sadly, and for some thankfully, that is all I can fit in the *Wee Voice* column this week, but for anyone who wants to read the rest, I will send the other half in next week.

This week's Wee Voice is by Christian Pomeroy, who LOVES snowboarding!

Bella's Diary — the final entry

By Margaret Kay



THURSDAY AGAIN — and this time it's one in a long series of 'lasts', as Wee Malkie goes to his new family tomorrow. Don't know just how much Bella will miss him, if at all. She has been so patient with him and even tonight has been lying feeding him — but I guess it must be kind of sore on her now as his little teeth are like needles and he gets tore in, as he does most things in life, with gusto! Lots of the time she just plays with him and lets him wrestle her to the ground. He then has a tug of war with her whiskers or her ears or her tail. He is quite unperturbed by her rumbling growls (which don't really sound as though she means them) and just keeps going back for more rough and tumble.

He is great pals with Ruby, although I think she may get the bunting out when he goes and she becomes the centre of attention again. Her smooth silky coat bears more than a passing resemblance to Dusty Springfield's beehive after he has finished playing with her and roughing up her hair. For such a small bundle, he has a much bigger impact on the household than his size would suggest.

Spangles, the grumpy one who is his Great Gran, just dotes on him. She is always very maternal and muscles in on making sure his ears and teeth and eyes are clean. She holds him down quite forcibly to carry out her ablutions, and is often seen just lying beside his bed.

Swizzel, Malkie's gran and always a wee sweetie, just rubs along with him and in the main keeps out of the way, though she's pretty close when food is in the frame — just in case he drops anything and needs it picked up. His auntie CoCo — 'Je m'appelle CoCo, je suis une super modèle' — is much too glamorous for puppy games, and almost dares him to go anywhere near her or muss up her coat!

Malkie loves his food but, believe me, he burns it all off running around the house like a wee mad thing. He tucks his back legs right up under his tum and takes off like a miniature greyhound with the others in hot pursuit. Because he's so small, when they get too close he can duck under furniture to make an escape — but not for long usually, as he sets off again on another whacky race.

The puppy pen has been dismantled, as has the whelping box, and put away until the next time, so this week Malkie has been sleeping in a puppy crate. He'll have one at his new home and it makes sense to get him used to one before he goes to Darvel. His toys have all been attached to it so as it is still familiar to him. He doesn't like being closed in during the day as he prefers to sleep on a furry dog bed or the floor (I think all the dogs suggested to Clifford Latona that he persuade me to install underfloor heating) but he knows the routine and goes to bed quite happily at night, so he should not keep Peter and Elizabeth up overnight when he moves to Darvel.

We have a very early start in the morning, so Malkie's stuff is all out in the car, including his Kennel Club paperwork and pedigree. His registration papers arrived yesterday and his pedigree today — talk about cutting it fine! His registered name is Auchenrowan Stroke of Luck, and after tomorrow he will be 'Ben' to his new family — but to us he will always be Wee Malkie!

PS — Big Malkie can go back to being Malcolm from now on — huge thanks to him for my puppy and for accepting his nickname with such good humour and grace.

We thank Margaret for sharing her puppy's first days with us — best of luck to Wee Malkie/Ben and his new family.

Records and Rock

By Andrew Keeling

Andrew Keeling, the composer who wrote the music of 'Balloons', sends us this piece on his favourite records. His enthusiasms are different from those of Douglas Hamilton, who contributed our last series on classical recordings, but music comes in countless forms, and each one is special.

A RECORD COLLECTION is a personal thing as well being a reflection of the collector's tastes. When I arrived as a new boy at Oakham School in 1969 I found myself surrounded by the musical sounds of the period; the later Beatles releases such as *Abbey Road* and *Let It Be*, *Cream* with *Goodbye Cream*, *Led Zeppelin*, the *Moody Blues* and their memorable *On the Threshold of a Dream* and so on. But one evening in December of that same year I was introduced to *In the Court of the Crimson King* by King Crimson. It was a life changing event. From that moment onwards, becoming conscious of the counter-culture shaping the world, and realising that music was its mouthpiece, I set out to explore just about every album I could lay my hands on.

Each major label had its own subsidiary which looked after the so-called Progressive Rock bands. Periodically they released sampler albums, such as *Nice Enough to Eat* from Island Records. These normally included one song from each band. *Nice Enough to Eat* retailed at 7/6 (35p) and included songs from Nick Drake, Free, Mott the Hoople and others. The Harvest Records sampler release, *Picnic*, included tracks from Barclay James Harvest, Bakerloo, Pete Brown's

Piblokto and Pink Floyd amongst many others. Today, *Mojo* and *Uncut* magazine include similar releases. This is a good way of checking out what's new. For example, I recently discovered the band Field Music from this source. *Record Collector* magazine and Ebay are also useful ways discovering those elusive items.

Back in the '70's Radio 1 aired the *John Peel Saturday Show* and another called *Sounds of the '70's*. These, alongside the music press publications *Melody Maker*, *NME* and *Sounds* were invaluable for soaking up more of the scene. I was able to build a sort of mapping system of cross-referencing which I've found helpful for my work today. As a result, my record collection grew and grew. It must be remembered there was no internet then, and seldom any merchandising stalls at concerts. Certainly no MTV! The only way to get at what was happening was to go to concerts, listen to the radio and read the music papers. People say 'You had to be there' and that's true. I lived in London in 1973, working in the packing department at Transatlantic Records, the world's smallest independent label, responsible for releases by Ralph McTell, Bert Jansch, Pentangle, Storyteller and so on. This was crucial to my understanding of how a record company actually worked in practice.

My wife has just put her head around the door, complaining, 'It's getting too much ... all these records of yours!' This is one of the hazards of being a record collector.

(Or, of course, of being a husband! Ed.)

The Burnside Happy New Year

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Red Squirrel Ale photos shortlisted



Photo by Lenny Hartley



Photo by Howard Walker



Photo by Arthur Duncan

OVER THE PAST few weeks the Arran Brewery and *The Arran Voice* have run a competition to find the perfect picture of a red squirrel to be used on the bottle of the company's new Red Squirrel Ale. After a steady stream of very high quality entries, the Arran Brewery now has the difficult task of selecting a winning image.

News of the Brewery's latest beer has piqued the interest of ale-lovers and conservationists alike. Over the Christmas period both the Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group and the European Squirrel Initiative congratulated the Brewery for its plans to use some of the profits from the sale of the beer to support a local red squirrel conservation project. Earlier this week, brewer Kevin Dewar was in the final stages of completing the new

ale and the Brewery is now working on designing some attractive labels for Arran's latest export.

SHORTLIST

The three photos above have been shortlisted for selection. Have a look in next week's *Arran Voice* to find out which one will be used on the labelling for the Red Squirrel Ale and who won the £100 prize. A huge number of other excellent entries to the competition were submitted. Here are a few of them (see below) and thank you to all those who contributed. Arran's squirrels are surely blushing red with photographed pride.



Photo by Margaret Haddow



Photo by Sheila Bryson



Photo by Kirsty Mitchell



Photo by Mairi Christie



Photo by John Cruickshank



Photo by Veda Murphy

Recipe

By Janis Murchie

LEEK AND POTATO SOUP

A winter warmer to see you through a chilly day. Suitable for vegetarians.

Ready in 35 minutes, serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 leeks, trimmed and sliced
- 1 large potato, peeled and diced
- 1 bay leaf
- 800ml vegetable stock
- 300ml semi-skimmed milk
- 4tbsp crème fraîche

Method

1. Put the leeks, potato, bay leaf and stock in a pan. Cover, bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Add the milk and simmer for 5 minutes.
2. Discard the bay leaf. Purée the soup and pour into 4 bowls. Add a spoonful of crème fraîche to each and garnish.



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Filmobile brings Australia and a mouse with big ears

By **Alison Prince**

THE FILMOBILE, which shows recently-released films in the Community Theatre in Lamlash High School, is bringing two offerings next week. On Thursday and Friday January 22nd and 23rd, it has the epic spectacular, *Australia*, and on Saturday it has just as much fun on a smaller scale with *The Tale of Despereaux*, a cartoon film about a cheerful rat played by Dustin Hoffman.

Australia stars Nicole Kidman as Lady Sarah Ashley, who travels Ozwards from England in order to make her ne'er-do-well husband to sell his grotty cattle station called Faraway Downs and start behaving properly. Her husband doesn't turn up to meet her at Darwin, but sends a man simply known as Drover, played by Hugh Jackman, to escort her to Faraway Downs. They arrive there to find that Lady Sarah's husband has been murdered. Things get complicated after that, but Nicole Kidman looks ravishing and the cattle act their socks off. There are touching musical moments, and although the film introduces Japanese soldiers into Darwin, with no historical truth whatever, the sheer size and scope of the huge country is magnificent.

As befits a world inhabited by mice, the scope of *The Tale of Despereaux* is more intimate altogether. Roscuro (Dustin Hoffman), a ship's rat who has ventured ashore, manages to fall off a chandelier into the queen's soup in the opening minutes, causing her to have a fatal heart attack, and things go merrily on from that moment. Despereaux, a mouse born with very big ears and the voice of Matthew Broderick, is something of a maverick but, and is very nearly eaten by a tethered cat for the amusement of rats round a dining table. However, Roscuro is a sweet soul at heart, and rescues the wee mouse. Robbie Coltrane is Gregory the gaoler, and all these stars probably had a whale of a time as they acted out this gently wacky fantasy. Good fun for the kids and any adults in need of daft relaxation.

The People of the Other Village

By Thomas Lux (1946-)

Poem
of the week

The people of the other village
hate the people of this village
and would nail our hats
to our heads for refusing in their presence to remove them
or staple our hands to our foreheads
for refusing to salute them
if we did not hurt them first: mail them packages of rats,
mix their flour at night with broken glass.
We do this, they do that.
They peel the larynx from one of our brothers' throats.
We de vein one of their sisters.
The quicksand pits they built were good.
Our amputation teams were better.
We trained some birds to steal their wheat.
They sent to us exploding ambassadors of peace.
They do this, we do that.
We cancelled our sheep imports.
They no longer bought our blankets.
We mocked their greatest poet
and when that had no effect
we parodied the way they dance
which did cause pain, so they, in turn, said our God
was leprous, hairless.
We do this, they do that.
Ten thousand (10,000) years, ten thousand
(10,000) brutal, beautiful years.

Thomas Lux is a distinguished American poet and teacher. Our poetry editor heard him performing recently and described him as 'a zany and powerful presence.'

News from the Blues

THIS WEEK SGT Andrew Brown has been on the island covering for Sgt Bob MacKay. PC Danielle Hepburn has also been working with the local police team. It's been reasonably busy.



SPEED CHECKED

The police have continued their on-going road safety campaign by operating speed checks at various places around the island. No-one was charged with speeding during the week, but a number of warnings were issued.

HEDGE ROW

A group of youths were warned for causing damage to garden hedges in Montrose Terrace in Brodick after the police received complaints from homeowners. The damage was caused during two separate incidents of hedge-bashing on the 6th and 8th of January. The hedges were trashed as a result of young people running through them at speed.

GROTTY VANDALISM

On 7th January between 6pm and 7.30pm a Vauxhall Vectra owned by a 48 year old Lamlash woman was cruelly vandalised in Whiting Bay. Dog faeces had been smeared over the car and underneath the vehicle's door handles. Police are following a positive line of enquiry to find the person responsible for the upsetting act.

FIREARMS CHARGE

A 52 year old man from the Southend was charged on the 8th of January after it was discovered four days earlier that he had committed offences in relation to firearms licensing and storage regulations. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and Licensing authority.

DANGEROUS DRIVING

On the 8th of January a 73 year old Lamlash lady was charged with dangerous driving on the Brodick-Lamlash road. A police patrol vehicle present at the scene noticed the driving behaviour and stopped the driver. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.



All Welcome

Arran Churches Together

Sunday 18th January: Lamlash 12 noon: Service of Christian Unity, Govan Salvation Army Band. All welcome

Scottish Episcopal Church

(in full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay. Sunday, 18th January: Holy Communion (said), 11.00 am. Revd Paul Fletcher. This service will be short to allow attendance at the Christian Unity service at 12.00.

Wednesday, 21st January: Holy Communion, 12.15pm. All Welcome.

Church of Scotland

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share" Sunday 18th January Rev. Gillean Maclean Kilmory 10am Lamlash 12 noon Scottish Charity SCO 15072

Arran Free Church of Scotland

18th 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 18th January, 11am Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick Evening Service, 7pm 5 Glen Road Prayer Meeting Wednesday 21st, 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 18th January: Brodick Church, 10.30am, Short service. Corrie Church, 11.00am, Short service. Pirnmill 10.15am, Short service. Lochranza, 10.15am, Short service. Shiskine, 10.45am, Short service. A service of Worship will also be held by the Salvation Army in Montrose House at 2pm. The Salvation Army will also hold a Service in Bilslands at 3pm.

Holy Cross Catholic Church

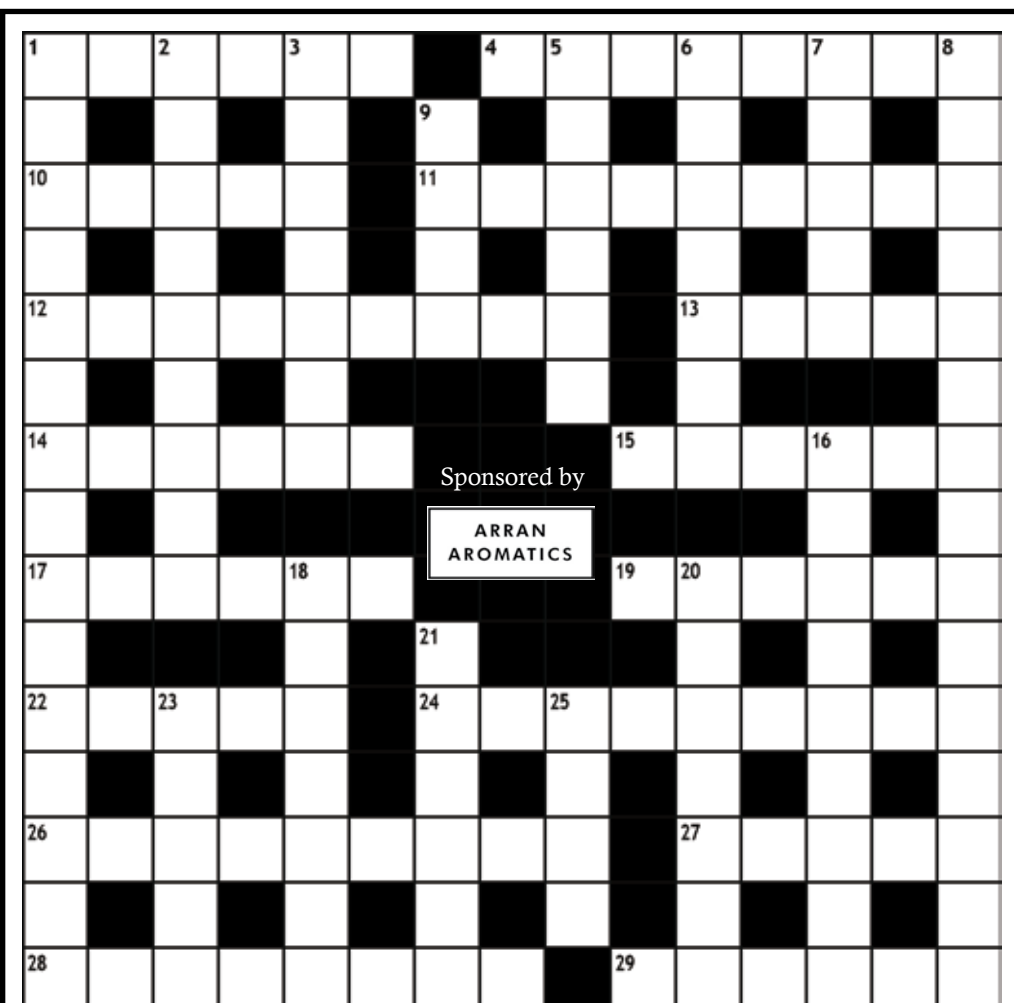
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 18th January 2009 Worship will be conducted by the Worship Group, at 10.30am. This will be a shortened service. At 6.30pm in the Church, there will be an informal evening service of praise and discussion. All welcome.

Weekly Prize Crossword

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

**ARRAN
AROMATICS**
Win an Arran Aromatics gift box worth £30 this week
You have until Tuesday, 27 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 last week's crossword will be printed next week.


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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 92" in the subject line.

Name:

Address:

Telephone/E-mail:

Cryptic Clues

Across

- 1 Tired Scots wait round Boys Brigade (6)
- 5 Crop strike animal (8)
- 10 Flicker flash (5)
- 11 Dumbfounded (9)
- 12 'e set every last night (9)
- 13 Wish granting spirits (5)
- 14 Powerless an' blue (6)
- 15 Good health, or spit (6)
- 17 Her ski rambblers (6)
- 19 Satirical press 99 (6)
- 22 Umbilicus sounds nautical (5)
- 24 Recommends lawyers (9)
- 26 Carats sic biting (9)
- 27 Small role carved stone (5)
- 28 Alarming dread a few (8)
- 29 Hand over to the enemy punt shaft (6)

Down

- 1 Disclaim responsibility for personal hygiene act (4,4,5,2)
- 2 Jack's ladder to fame and fortune pulses say (9)
- 3 Writer's reserve black liquid ok (7)
- 5 Cannabis cigarette jacket (6)
- 6 Whole number greetin' (7)
- 7 Small stream or bun (5)
- 8 Arrest east toy duck station (4,4,7)
- 9 Funeral vigil (4)
- 16 Primitive clock and mister confused (9)
- 18 Reads around behold charges again (7)
- 20 Reclaim one hundred celery (7)
- 21 Small fowl veto cloth cap (6)
- 23 See 25 down
- 25,23 Evil mixed avers the opposite (4,5)

Quick Clues — just for fun!

Across

- 1 An awkward swaying gait (6)
- 6 Hinged dining table (8)
- 10 Angry (5)
- 11 Concerning the lower body (9)
- 12 A period of testing to assess suitability (9)
- 13 Goes out (5)
- 14 Country of east central Africa (6)
- 15 Towards the back of a ship (6)
- 17 Scottish monster (6)
- 19 Edible tuber (6)
- 22 Edible nut (5)
- 24 Scottish reel (9)
- 26 Keenness (9)
- 27 Indian fritter (5)
- 28 Loud and harsh (8)
- 29 Scots grease (6)

Down

- 1 Impudent young people (15)
- 2 Lines running from corner to corner (9)
- 3 The side toward which the wind is blowing (7)
- 5 Animal such as a rat or a mouse (6)
- 6 Spoils (7)
- 7 Weariness (5)
- 8 Becomes enamoured of (5,2,4,4)
- 9 The Wise Men (4)
- 16 Complicated (9)
- 18 Blanked (7)
- 20 Tenth month (7)
- 21 Humble (6)
- 23 Tobacco roll (5)
- 25 Catch ones breath (4)

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Issue 91 Sudoku & Kakuro Solutions

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

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

		11	31		9	4	35	
	15	9	6	13	2	1	6	14
	34	2	1	4	7	3	8	9
		17	8	9		9	7	2
	35					19		
	12	5	7		9	1	5	3
20		3	8	9		11	2	9
13	4	9	12	16	2	9	17	
34	2	7	4	9	1	3	8	
	21	6	8	7	13	4	9	

Please note that the answers and winner for Issue 91's crossword will appear here in next week's issue.

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!

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

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

On this day...

- 1759 The British Museum opens.
- 1889 The Coca-Cola Company, then known as the Pemberton Medicine Company, is originally incorporated in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1892 James Naismith publishes the rules for basketball.
- 1991 The United Nations deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from occupied Kuwait expires, preparing the way for the start of Operation Desert Storm.
- 2001 Wikipedia, a free online encyclopedia, is launched.

Star Birthdays

- 1945 Princess Michael of Kent, British royal
- 1965 James Nesbitt, Northern Irish actor
- 1972 Claudia Winkleman, English television presenter
- 1975 Edith Bowman, Scottish television and radio presenter
- 1981 Sean Lamont, Scottish Rugby Union player

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.

						12	10		
				17					
	14	25		17				29	
16				16					4
			15						
21							3		
							20		
	15					13			
	12								
7						11	5		12
13				16					
		24							
			3						



Recycling

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

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

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

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

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

Remember – one person's rubbish can be another person's treasure!



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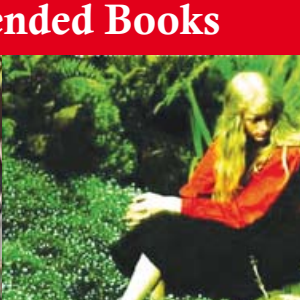
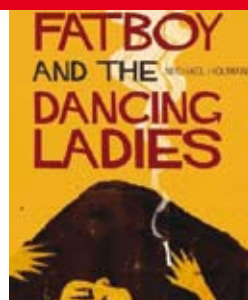
"Subscriptions", Voice for Arran,

Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX



AYE - IT'S GOOD TAE BE BACK - ISNAE THAT A PHOENIX ON YER ROOF?

Readers' Recommended Books



BIG BABIES

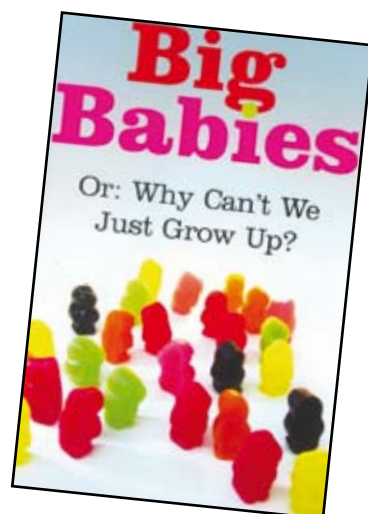
By Lorna Sherry

Have you read a book recently that you have really enjoyed? Whether fiction or non-fiction, modern or classic, other people might love to read it as well. Drop us a short review, and we'll publish it in this occasional column. Please include title, author, publisher, price and ISBN, to make it easy for other readers to locate it. Lorna Sherry kicks off with a fairly recent book that made her laugh a lot.

BIG BABIES BY MICHAEL BYWATER

A book I should like to put through every letterbox at the beginning of this year is *Big Babies: or Why can't we just grow up* by Michael Bywater. It is impossible to quote from this book as every sentence, indeed every paragraph, is quotable. *Big Babies* has a powerful undertone, but to read it is to get swept along by a hilarious rant, in which we find ourselves described all too accurately. Bywater begins by asserting that 'something has gone wrong.' He does not need to tell us this of course, specially in the light of the mess that has engulfed us in the three years since he wrote his book. It's in the papers, on TV and muttered about by 'grumpy' men and women in shops and pubs around the country. Bywater does not merely grumble. He somehow manages to present the whole ghastly mess as absurdly funny. Laughter of course is the best medicine for whatever ails us. We must laugh else we might weep, and that is not a lot of good to anyone.

Big Babies is a book for dipping into. There is an index to help you find your pet rant, so you can start where you like, but if you begin at the beginning, the whole thing gathers pace and pulls you along, laughing, nodding agreement, shouting, 'Yes!' and 'Yes!' again. You'll find yourself reading passages aloud to anyone who will listen. It is a book



to lend, to share, to give as a present, because as you read you will discover the like-mindedness that links you and your friends in your laughter.

Underlying the fun is the question of what we can do about the ludicrous situation we are in. Bywater ends his book with fifty suggestions for his readers, who are by now charged with amusement and new energy. His last paragraph is as laid-back as the whole book. 'Thank you for your attention,' he says casually. 'It has been delightful. Have a nice day.'

Big Babies Or:

Why can't we Just grow up

By Michael Bywater

Published by GRANTA in 2006

RRP £7.99 paperback

ISBN 978-1-86207-952-6

It's a Car's Lot

POLICE SPENT £50K REPAIRING FUEL MISTAKES

Facts made known through Freedom of Information have revealed that over the last 5 years, Strathclyde Police spent £54,026 repairing damage to engines after officers had filled their cars with the wrong type of fuel. 363 of the fleet's 1,148 vehicles were fuelled with petrol instead of diesel between 2003 and 2008.

Putting petrol in diesel car or vice versa can have disastrous results if the engine is then switched on. Restoring it to its normal function can cost several thousand pounds. Even if the embarrassed driver realises the mistake straight away, the car will have to be towed away to a special cleansing area, where the tankful of new fuel will be pumped out and dumped and the tank cleaned out at a cost of about £150. And of course, a new tankful of the correct fuel will add a further cost to the grand total.

Amazingly, one in four cars in the Strathclyde fleet have been filled with the wrong fuel since 2003. This is despite the fact that 'fuel tabs' were fitted five years ago. Glasgow's MSP Frank McAveety said, 'It seems a terrible waste of money. If the police are going to invest in anything it would need to be observational skills.'

Most drivers would probably agree that car manufacturers ought to make the filler caps on vehicles specific to either petrol or diesel, since the mistake of putting in the wrong fuel is such a time-consuming and costly one. Anyone familiar with the TV show *Dragons' Den* may have noticed that it recently featured the Fuel Angel, a Misfuelling Prevention Device that can be fitted into the wide neck of a diesel vehicle filler and prevent the narrower nozzle of an unleaded petrol pump from being inserted. At £39.95, it might be a cheaper bet for the police than the loss of time, money and fuel resulting from a day-dreaming officer's mistake. However, the force has no plans to try the device.

Jane Wisson, Head of Transport and Logistics for Strathclyde Police, seemed pleased that the incidence of mis-filling had dropped over the past five years. She said, 'In 2003 we experienced 80 mis-fuelled vehicles; in 2008 that figure was reduced to 42.' That's getting on for three a month, all the same. Forgive us for sounding less than impressed, but it sounds like a case of Could Do Better.



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5 Door, Silver, 21,000 Miles

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

'03 Jeep Cherokee Sport 2.5 CR
Diesel, Green Metallic
53,000 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

2001 X-Reg Renault Scenic 1.4
5 Door, Green, 25,000 Miles

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

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

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

R-Reg Citroën Xsara Estate
Diesel, Green Metallic

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White, 44,000 Miles

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Bagged Manure for uplift — Tel 600 517.

Large capacity Lec fridge with internal light, in full working order. Now surplus to requirements. Call Chris or Jan on 302 397. Will need to be collected from Belvedere in Brodick by the end of this week.

18 speed mountain bike, hardly used but needs new tyres and thorough overhaul. Free to uplift from Corrie Tel 810640

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AGM

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Taste of Arran
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We are looking for an Account Clerk for our busy sales and accounts department who will report directly to our Financial Manager.

The main role of the post will be to manage day to day financial information and also undertake ad hoc duties.

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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, Brodict, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AU. ian@taste-of-arran.co.uk

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- The Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

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Lamlash Bridge Results

MONDAY 12TH JANUARY

N/S

- 1. J. Barclay & E. McNiven +1170
- 2. D. & M. Bruce +1110
- 3. J. McBride & E. Sillars +970

E/W

- 1. T. Martin & D. Hamilton +3430
- 2. J. Maclure & A. McKelvie +720
- 3. P. Adamson & E. McConnell +280

Brodick Bridge Results

9TH JANUARY 2009

N/S

- 1. T. Martin & D. Hamilton -440
- 2. M. McGill & E. McConnell -550
- 3. J. & J. Beattie -600

E/W

- 1. H. Boyd & L. Paul +1700
- 2. E. McNiven & L. Tricket +1220
- 3. J. Murchie & J. McBride +1000

Double tops the lot

Continued from page 24

DUDE LOOKS LIKE A LADY

The two gents seemed to be in contravention of the ‘mixed’ requirement for the competition, but as the young Mulholland loosened up his darts arm to chants of Aerosmith’s ‘Dude looks like a lady,’ the judges appeared not to notice the gender imbalance.

A starting score of 501 was played for the final match and Paula and Eddie eventually came out on top, nailing the encounter 2-0.

‘I’m very chuffed,’ said Paula, who

is captain of the Kildonan ladies darts team. ‘I didn’t play to the best of my abilities because I couldn’t see the board very well towards the end of the night,’ she confessed.

NEXT MATCH

Very generous raffle fodder supplied by the Kildonan Ladies darts team provided some great commiseration prizes and darts players now look forward to the Donald McKenzie Memorial Darts competition on the 28th February.



Above: Tommy Mulholland shows his mixed darts credentials. Top right: Keyd partnered Niall McMaster to the semi-finals.

Golf Results

Arran Golf Results - 15th January 2009

The Arran Golfers Association winter league match due to be played last weekend has been rescheduled for this Saturday 17th January. Matches are as follows:

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

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Results:

Tuesday 6th January, Winter Cup
1st Peter Emsley 63
2nd Hamish Bannatyne 64
3rd David Wilkinson 65
Scratch, Hamish Bannatyne 69
Two's: Niel Frost, Hamish Bannatyne

2008 Two's Competition winner was Hamish Bannatyne with 30 points
2nd Drew Crawford 27 points
3rd Alistair MacDonald & David Wilkinson were equal on 20 points

This year over £300 was raised for charity and will be shared between Cancer Research UK, Marie Currie & Clic Sergent

Fixtures

Tuesday 20th January, Lochranza Hotel Cup, 12pm tee-off

Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club

Results:

Thursday 8th January, Ladies 18 hole Medal
1st Sally Brookes 91-24 67 (bih)
2nd Alice Anderson 87-20 67
3rd Liz Kerr 85-19 69

Best Scratch, Liz Kerr 85

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Fixtures:

Sunday 18th, Winter Cup Round 4
Sunday 25th, Medal



CALCUTTA CUP COMES TO ARRAN

ISLAND'S RUGBY FANS WILL HAVE CHANCE TO HOLD LEGENDARY TROPHY

This Saturday (17th January) representatives from Murrayfield are bringing the Calcutta Cup to Arran, giving islanders a rare chance see up close the much-coveted trophy, a symbol of the healthy and longstanding rivalry between Scotland and England.

Last year Scotland brought the trophy home to Murrayfield after beating England 15-9 in a memorable clash at Edinburgh. And as long as the Firth of Clyde doesn't decide to throw a tantrum, it will be sailing its way to Arran on the 9.45am ferry from Ardrossan.

GET SNAPPED

From 12pm, as Arran's senior rugby team kicks off against Cowal RFC, the prestigious bit of silverware will be available for the public to see and hold and have their pictures taken with.

For non-rugby fans, the Calcutta Cup is a rugby union trophy awarded to the winner of the annual encounter between Scotland and England during the Six Nations tournament. The match has been played 115 times as each

year the old foes compete for the cup presented to Rugby Football Union in 1879 by the Calcutta Football Club. Calcutta FC had joined the RFU after their players were inspired by the passion of a match played in their city between England and a team representing Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

MELTED SILVER

When eventually the Indian club disbanded, its funds — held in silver Rupees — were melted down to form the cup, a piece of stunning Indian workmanship. 18 inches high, the body is finely engraved and has three king cobras as its handles and on top of the domed lid

is a silver elephant.

Let's hope that Arran RFC charge like proverbial elephants against Cowal and do the spirit of amateur sporting competition proud.



The Calcutta Cup in all its silver glory. (Picture courtesy of Simon Platt)

Who will beat Bar Eden?

IN ANOTHER familiar set of pool results, Bar Eden saw off Corrie at home last Thursday to keep their perfect clean sheet of wins. The score finished up 9-3, with Corrie hardly at the races. The visitors did not win any of their doubles matches, suggesting that some players had not been practising during the New Year festivities.

Elsewhere Kildonan continued their own perfect score. They were beaten away by Catacol 8-4 and lost the Gallon round to boot. Kildonan remain resolutely at the bottom of the table with no points won yet this season.

The Cameronia beat the PHT 7-5 in a close encounter of the Whiting Bay kind and the Southend P.T. 1934 squad could not halt the advances of Drift Inn Drift Out, as their Lamdash visitors came and conquered

8-4. With their pub shut for the time being, the Drift team is homeless, but with an away match this week, and hopes that the Lamdash bar will re-open. Captain Lee Girbow has yet to ask the RNLI for help with an alternative venue.

DOUBLES

There have been some shock doubles results, with Murray Picken and Niall McMaster being well beaten by Frazer Campesi Barr and Danny Head. And the [I]Arran Voice/[I]'s hotly-tipped favourites, Steve Heaney and Iain Murchie, blasted away their first obstacle in their journey towards the silverware by seeing off the Sannox brothers partnership of Ewan and Pete McKinnon.

Doubles results as of 13th January are as follows:

- D. Head/F. Barr (Bar Eden) beat M. Picken/N. McMaster (P.T. 1934)
- I. Murchie/S. Heaney (Drift) beat P. McKinnon/E. McKinnon (Corrie)
- L. Little/I. Roberts (PHT) — BYE
- S. Weir/S. Logan (Catacol) beat M. McDonald/W. McDonald (Drift)
- J. Lyon/S. Lawson (Catacol) — BYE
- H. Driver/C. Wannop (Kildonan) beat D. Smith/E. Picken (P.T. 1934)
- M. Worthington/C. Galloway (P.T. 1934) beat A. Jeffrey/C. Traill (Catacol)
- S. McGovern/S. Pringle (Bar Eden) beat T. Mulholland/S. Patrick (P.T. 1934)
- L. Girbow/C. Black (Drift) — BYE
- J. Copperwheat/S. Scott (Drift) — BYE

Sport-at-a-glance

IS THERE A FUTURE FOR LAMLASH?

Lamdash football club is hoping to resurrect a squad this year and restore the natural balance of five teams in the island's summer football league. A meeting is being held this Friday 16th January at the Pierhead Tavern. *The Arran Voice* hopes to pen a full report detailing the outcome of discussions (including likely captaincy, new signings, club sponsor and their season's ambitions) for next week's paper.

JUNIOR RUGBY

Arran's under-16s rugby team takes on Cumnock at home this Sunday 18th January. Come along to Ormidale park and lend your support.

POKER NIGHT WIN

A good crowd turned out for a poker tournament last Friday at the Catacol Bay Hotel. Over 20 people pitched up for the competition and by the end of the evening Scott Weir had scooped the £100 pot.

Arran progress to next round

AFTER ANOTHER cancelled Cup match against Mull rugby club last weekend, Arran move to the next round of the Cup competition and will face Greenock. At the time of going to press, the date for the fixture had yet to be decided.

COWAL MATCH

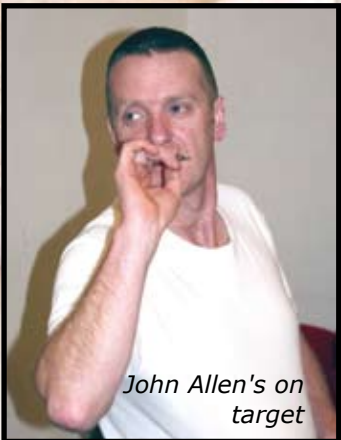
This weekend Arran RFC will play Cowal in their first competitive match of the season. Like Arran, Cowal were promoted to West League Division 2 last year and are sitting in 8th position in the league after taking only 4 points from their first six games. Come along and lend your support for a 12pm kick-off at Ormidale park.



DOUBLE TOPS THE LOT



Paula and Eddie celebrate their win at Kildonan



John Allen's on target



SOUTHEND PAIR OVERCOME CONTROVERSIAL PARTNERSHIP

DARING DARTS DUO Paula Rouine and Eddie Picken flew to victory at last weekend's Southend darts tournament. Over 20 folks had gathered at the Kildonan Hotel for an eagerly anticipated competition, which saw leading island darts-masters pitted head to head in mixed pairings.

The early rounds threatened to stretch proceedings into a two-day tournament as players found themselves taking a bit longer than expected to reach the double finish stage. Despite the reduced target of 301, and a healthy smattering of '26' scores, many of the rounds were being settled in battles to find that elusive double '1'. Players were given plenty of encouragement, with spectators and judges alike urging them to 'just hit the ****ing thing.'

FOUR HORSE RACE?

Some big names dropped out in the early rounds with Alan MacLeod and Jill MacLeod, Jamie Picken and Flora Lammie all losing their games against the odds. But as the field thinned out some quality still remained and it looked to be a four horse race between the pairing of Niall McMaster and Keyd and Eddie and Paula.

This likely showdown was upset by late entrants Tommy Mulholland and John Allen, who showed impressive fight to make the semi-finals. After Paula and Eddie cruised by Trisha and Nick in the first of the semis (2-0), Tommy and John took the scalps of Niall and Keyd in a comeback bout. John hit the winning double to make it 2-1 and seal a climactic showdown against Paula and Eddie.

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And Finally ...

MOTORCYCLE MAGIC

Motorcyclists in Nigeria have found a novel way to evade the newly introduced law forcing them to wear crash helmets. They don a calabash, or dried pumpkin, instead. Real helmets cost around £20, well beyond the reach of many of the motorbike taxi drivers plying their trade on Nigerian city streets. The taxi drivers have protested at the introduction of the law by driving in convoy waving palm fronds in the city of Kaduna, whilst complaining that often passengers

steal the helmets at their journey's end. Passengers, on the other hand, complain that being forced to wear the helmets puts them at risk of having spells cast on them by the motorcyclists. 'Some people can put juju inside the helmets and when they are worn the victim can either lose consciousness or be struck dumb,' passenger Kolawole Aremu told the *Daily Trust* newspaper.

It should be noted that on Arran reverse juju applies; you can lose consciousness, be struck dumb or even worse if you do NOT wear a helmet...