



## Keep it social — support your local



Ross MacKay has run the Cameronia for 12 years and witnessed many changes in the bar trade.

### ISLAND BARS CRUCIAL FOR THE COMMUNITY, SAY LANDLORDS

On Tuesday, for the first time in living memory, Scottish Brewers cancelled its usual weekly delivery to Arran. 'It's never been known on the island,' said Tommy Gilmore, the long-standing publican at the Ormidale hotel who has watched the bar trade evolve for over 50 years. Bar-side research suggests that in the 1970s there were over 40 pubs on the island, not counting golf clubs. Now there are only 15. Some of

these are currently shut for winter and many are operating reduced opening hours.

The Breadalbane and the Aldersyde closed last year and with the (hopefully) temporary closure of the Drift Inn two weeks ago, the village of Lamlash now has just one bar.

As Ross MacKay considers his future at Whiting Bay's Cameronia, he sends out a message echoed by landlords across the island.

*Continued on page 2*

## Otter finds care at Montrose House

David and Gay Christie took this photo of a slightly 'uncooperative' Rosa on Monday! She is making a full recovery at the Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Centre. Inset: Rosa was found cowering outside the back entrance to Montrose House.



A YOUNG, LONE otter cub — since nicknamed Rosa — has been rescued by the caring staff of Montrose House after becoming separated from its mother. Care home resident Peggy Pierce heard a squeaking noise outside her window early last week, but when staff checked to see what it was they could see only a few birds. Two days later Laura Drain was serving some tea and toast in the morning and noticed a baby otter cowering at the back entrance leading to the patio.

'She was curled up by the front door,' said night staff Debbie Turner. 'But she came towards us. She appeared to have injured her back legs and was not walking well.' Staff and residents thought initially that the creature in distress was a mink, but it was soon agreed that it was a young otter due to its webbed feet.

Julie Murchie who also works at Montrose House wrapped the creature in a blanket and contacted the Brodick Castle rangers, who then put her in touch with Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Centre in Beith. The otter was speedily collected from the 1.50pm ferry that day.

### PLEA FOR HELP

'It's quite common,' said Andy Christie from Hessilhead. 'What happens, we think, is that the female has maybe been killed and the young ones eventually start starving. They do

seem to look for help from people.'

The Montrose House otter is probably just 10–12 weeks old and was immediately paired up with another young otter of the same age, given to the rescue centre before Christmas. 'One is an absolute horror,' said Andy, 'but the otter from Arran is an absolute honey. She just eats and growls at you. It's just what you want. It's superb.'

### EVENTUAL RELEASE

Hessilhead will keep the otters until they become strong enough to survive alone in the wild. After around a year, they will be put into an enclosure for a fortnight before they are fully released. 'They will be reintroduced as a pair to the wild, either on Arran or near Beith,' said Andy, who explains that there a number of factors that need to be considered. River-based otters are more nocturnal than those living by coastal waters, for example.

The Arran Voice will keep readers posted about the health and well-being of Rosa over the coming months. Meanwhile if you want to support Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Centre, an independent charity, you can contribute through the membership and 'sponsor-a-patient' schemes.

Contact [www.hessilheadwildlife.org.uk](http://www.hessilheadwildlife.org.uk) or tel: 01505 502415

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FREE  
QUOTES



# Cath celebrates 100th birthday with family

FRIENDS AND FAMILY travelled from as far as Canada to celebrate the 100th birthday of Catherine (Cath) Sillars on Saturday 17th January.

A Shiskine lass, Cath now lives in Montrose House, where a full house had gathered for a tea party. The building was infused with the gentle accordion playing of Robert Halliday and the walls had been beautifully decorated with bright cloth for the occasion. Nephew Ian Sillars and his wife Irene had journeyed all the way from Canada and Robert Sillars had made the long trip up from London for the event.

Due to minor ferry disruption, the Queen's telegram was delayed by a few hours, but Alastair Grassie more than compensated by toasting Cath's

anniversary, an amazing milestone for a wonderful lady. Cath thanked the many folks who had joined her before a birthday meal was served.

Cath was born in 'Daisy Bank,' the home which she shared with her sister Isobel. One of six children, her father, Duncan Sillars, was a tailor in Shiskine where her mother ran a boarding house.

In her early teens Cath worked as a housekeeper and cook in the family boarding house. In 1960 she moved to the mainland to be a housekeeper in the home of the Principal Officer at Glasgow University. When Cath retired in the 1970s, she returned to Arran to live with her brother and sister. In May 2006, she moved into Montrose House, where she enjoyed Saturday's celebration.



*Above: Cath and her sister Isobel celebrate the 100 year milestone last Saturday.*



*Left: After the presentation of a bouquet of flowers by Lesley Van Bogerijen, Alastair Grassie proposed a toast.*

# Keep it social — support your local

*Continued from front page*

## WHAT IS HURTING THE BAR TRADE?

Ross believes three things in particular have hurt the rural pub: supermarkets, the smoking ban and the failure of public transport to compensate for the more rigorous policing of drink driving. Ross worries about what will happen if Whiting Bay village should lose one of its remaining bars. For him and many of the other landlords, the pub is more than just a business. It is a familiar place for regular visitors and a social hub that helps to bind the community together.

'It's where the politics gets sorted,' said George Stewart, who has been landlord at the Lochranza Hotel for 25 years. 'I would get lynched if I was to close the bar during winter. People come out through thick and thin to support the bar.' George believes that the year-round commitment to the community is part of what a bar means.

## SUPERMARKET PRICING

And yet the very business of running a bar is increasingly under threat. 'It would be cheaper for me to buy any of the top range beers in Asda than from my bulk suppliers,' said Ross. This was an absurdity pointed out by every landlord contacted by *The Arran Voice*. They say that for a Government supposedly obsessed with responsible drinking, it seems hypocritical to tax the licensed trade so much that shoppers can walk into a supermarket and buy a can of beer for less than a bottle of water. Many landlords suspect that their customers

increasingly drink at home.

Just as bar-owners are struggling to adapt to this commercial reality, new licensing laws have created a raft of additional financial burdens. All licensees — from the Auchrannie to Mac's Bar — are having to absorb these extra expenses. Norman Bond of the Catacol Bay Hotel has just spent an extra £5,000 on top of his usual operating costs to pay for legal fees, training certificates for experienced staff and the required jumping through health and safety hoops. At a time when landlords are already toughing it out, this 'extra paperwork,' as Tommy from the Ormidale described it, is not helping.

## VILLAGE SPIRIT

Many island publicans feel that the draconian licensing laws forget the social importance of the village bars. Robert Wain from the Kinloch agreed with the views of other bar-owners that pubs are places where responsible landlords can keep an eye on things, rather than people getting tanked up at home or on a street corner. Neil Bulger, licensee of the Corrie Hotel for 20 years, points out that the island is licensed and policed by a police force that also polices a city which, according to the UN, is the most violent in the developed world.

Neil also points out that the rise in under-used holiday homes is hurting the island. 'The biggest downfall for rural pubs is holiday homes bought only for investment that lie empty,' he says, and

adds, 'Who wants to live in a village with no pub?' It is this wider concern that unites the trade. Richard Small of the Auchrannie occasionally has to refute comments that the loss of guesthouses on the island is good for the Auchrannie. He contends that the range of bars that the island is renowned for is exactly why people come to Arran, and told *The Arran Voice* that 'The survival of bars in the villages is good for the whole island.'

## HARD GRAFT

Despite the difficulties, local landlords are preparing to put in the graft necessary to keep the island's bar scene alive. Ian from the PHT is optimistic that the numbers of bars on Arran will rise within five years. 'I think there will be more,' he says. 'The downhill trend can't go on. It's got to turn around.' All landlords agreed that effort is now required to put events on and attract people to the pub. Anne and Rod Acuna at the Kildonan Hotel, recognised by travelling pool teams as one of the best bars on the island for food, is unequivocal. 'You have to go that extra mile,' said Anne. 'People are buying into all this doom and gloom, but in the end January is always like this.'

## ARRAN'S BARS IN THE 1970S

*The Arran Voice* has compiled a list of the bars on the island in the 1970s. It shows that just 30 years ago there were over 40 bars. This list is available on our website: [www.arranvoice.com](http://www.arranvoice.com)

comments/corrections welcome!

## THE ARRAN VOICE PUB PRICE GUIDE

*Some bars have been forced into price hikes due to licensing legislation and beer duty rises.*

Island Bars (15 in total)	Cheapest lager (pint)	Guinness	Cheapest spirit	Current licensee
Auchrannie Cruize Bar	£3.30	£3.50	£2.45 (35ml)	20 years
Bar Eden	Landlord uncontactable			
Brodict Bar	Did not supply prices when called			15 years
Cameronia Bar	£2.50	£2.70	£2.00	12 years
Catacol Bay Hotel	£3.00	£3.20	£2.10 (35ml)	3.5 years
Corrie Hotel	£2.90	£3.00	£1.50	20 years
Glen Isle Hotel	Prices unavailable. Closed until 6th March.			
Kildonan Hotel	£2.40	£2.60	£1.80	7 years
Kinloch Hotel	£2.50	£2.90	£1.50 (whisky)	52 years (within same family)
Lagg Hotel	Prices unavailable. Closed October-March			
Lochranza Hotel	£2.95	£3.10	£1.50 (vodka)	25 years
Mac's Bar	£2.80	£2.95	£1.95 (35ml - vodka)	7 years
Ormidale Hotel	£3.00	£3.15	£2.00 (35ml)	57 years (within same family)
Pierhead Tavern	£2.60	£2.85	£1.40	1 year
Sannox Bay Hotel	£2.85	£3.00	£2.00 (35ml)	5 years

*Prices quoted on week beginning 19th January 2009*



## Co-op call — Wake up to hearing problems

NEXT TUESDAY, 27th January, you will find the Brodick Co-operative staff dressed in pyjamas, dressing gowns, nightcaps and slippers. They'll probably have a giant alarm clock as well. The idea is to stage a 'wake-up call' on the very common and much-ignored problem of hearing loss.

The staff in the Brodick store will be joining thousands of colleagues across the UK in helping to launch a £2 million fundraising campaign for RNID, the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. With the support of its members and customers, the Co-operative hopes to raise more than £2 million by the end of the year for the charity. All money collected at local stores will directly benefit people who are deaf or hard of hearing in the region.

It is easily accepted that as we get older, the eyes become a little tired and a pair of glasses come in handy. A small degree of sight loss is almost universal, and attracts no comment. The same loss of accuracy happens to our ears, but is far less well recognised and catered for. It is estimated that four million people in the UK are losing their hearing but doing nothing about it, either because they regard it as inevitable or because they feel that hearing troubles carry a stigma which is quite absent from partial loss of vision. Most sadly of all, people fear that a hearing aid will be too expensive. During the partnership with the Co-op, RNID aims to test the hearing of one million people and will campaign to ensure that in future everyone aged over 55 is invited to have their hearing tested on the NHS. It's a long-overdue facility.

Liz McLean, store manager at Shore Street, said: 'Coming to work in our pyjamas is bound to get us some strange looks from customers but if we can raise money for this worthwhile cause and give people a wake-up call about their hearing, it'll be a dream come true.'

For anyone aware that hearing can sometimes be more difficult than it was, here is a chance to share the concern with professional people and get advice and help.

## Local MP against Royal Mail privatisation

KATY CLARK, Member of Parliament for North Ayrshire and Arran, has strongly criticised plans to allow a private company to buy a significant minority stake in the Royal Mail. The proposal was one of a number of recommendations contained in the Government-commissioned Hooper Review concerning the future of Royal Mail, published in December.

Katy met with the Business Secretary before Christmas to outline her concerns. She said this week: 'I am very concerned at the proposal to sell a substantial part of Royal Mail to a private company. This proposal is likely to lead to large numbers of job cuts, a decline in the terms and conditions of employees and a decline in the quality of service that is provided to the public. If such a proposal goes ahead I believe it paves the way for full scale privatisation of Royal Mail in the future.'

The local MP believes that investment is needed in Royal Mail and that money should be made available to modernise the way work is done, but

argues that a private company would spell disaster. She said, 'I welcome the conclusion of the Hooper review that the six days a week delivery must be maintained and protected but believe it should go further. With an investment in improving the technology currently used by Royal Mail and the support of highly motivated and highly skilled postal workers, deliveries should still be taking place twice a day with the first one taking place at a sensible early morning time.'

### COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS

Katy would like to see Sunday collections re-introduced so that any post sent over the weekend is able to reach its destination as swiftly as possible. 'The changes we have seen over recent years have lead to a worse service for all of us as customers,' she said. 'We now need to invest to see a real improvement in service and a strong future for a publicly owned and run Royal Mail.'

## Parents notified of nursery registration

REGISTRATION FOR all local authority nurseries and partner provider centres on Arran will take place in the week beginning 26 January 2009. This applies to children with dates of birth between 1 March 2005 and 28 February 2007. Parents wishing to register their children for nursery education should apply directly to the nursery of their choice and birth certificates should be produced at the time of registration.

Parents are requested to contact nurseries to confirm the most suitable time to register.

- Corrie Primary Nursery Class, (tel: 810 244)
- Kilmory Primary Nursery Class, (tel: 870 262)
- Lamash Primary Nursery Class, (tel: 600 527)
- Shiskine Primary Nursery Class, (tel: 860 207)
- Brodick Nursery, (tel: 302 065)
- Whiting Bay Nursery, (tel: 700 616)

## High school lights waste energy throughout night

ARRAN'S NEW HIGH school building in Lamash continues to be lit up during the evening due to a major electrical engineering fault. Contractors responsible for the fault, which affects an entire upstairs corridor within the building, have been aware of the ongoing problem since May last year. The fault means that classroom lights cannot be switched off individually. Unlike the floodlights at Brodick Castle, it appears that there is no compensatory feel-good factor or social utility for the illumination. *The Arran Voice* contacted Hochtief PPP Solutions (UK) Ltd on Monday morning to ask when the problem will be fixed, but at the time of going to press had yet to receive a reply.



## Arranvoice.com Online Poll

This week's question is:

**Do you think yellow bands in Brodick are a good thing?**

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

Last week's question was:  
**Should mobiles be allowed in hospital wards or not?**

Yes: 50%

No: 42.9%

Not Sure: 7.1%

Poll expresses views of those who've voted online.



# Editorial

## GRATITUDE

We offer our most sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to our appeal for the survival of *The Arran Voice*. Every one of you has played a vitally important part in ensuring that this independent, island-run newspaper can continue to reflect your views and interests, and we have been deeply touched by your generosity and support. The overwhelming evidence that *The Voice* is needed gives us a solid mandate to go forward as a community enterprise.

The full list of contributors appears on our web-site, with the exception of those who have requested that their names be withheld.

Although we are assured that we can continue, there is no room for complacency. The task ahead of us is a formidable one, partly because of our essential philosophy. *The Arran Voice* has from the start been committed to providing free publication of the small notices that are the life-blood of a community. Many groups on the island work on a voluntary basis, and cannot afford to pay for every communication of what they intend to do or when they next meet — but without the activities of such bodies, we would all be immeasurably the poorer. Arran is renowned for its active, busy community and its rich cultural life. These things constitute a large part of its unique appeal, in turn benefiting its tourism industry. Much of this appeal may well die unless the mechanics of facilitating it are provided. For this reason, our Message Board is, and always will be, a free service. Similarly,

our letters page will always provide space for every opinion, no matter how contentious.

We make no charge to charitable organisations for printing news of their fund-raising or non-profit-making events. In hard business terms, this policy is economically a tough one to support, but we believe that without it, Arran would lose a valuable and unique medium of communication between members of the community. At the same time, we have to survive economically, and this is impossible without advertising. We try to provide the best possible service to our advertisers, both in the printed paper and on our hugely popular web-site, which receives over 100,000 hits a month, many of them from across the world. Charities benefit from a reduced rate, and we are always happy to back up the activities of entrepreneurs who advertise with us, providing free reports on any note-worthy innovation or event. In our view, business at its best is to the benefit of the whole community. We are dedicated to the principle of encouraging local shopping and support of local enterprise, coupled with a keen and well-informed interest in sport and every form of art, from painting and poetry to music, film and theatre. We really do, as Schumacher so succinctly put it, 'think globally and act locally.'

Within the next few weeks, we will be giving details of how the public can take up membership of the community enterprise that underpins and runs *The Arran Voice*. Meanwhile, we thank you again, and renew our pledge to listen to your opinions and serve your needs.

Quote

**'We had fun.'**

*George Bush, summing up his presidential time in office.*

*Glad somebody found it amusing. 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*  
Fishing Correspondent: *John Kinsman*  
  
Poetry Editor: *Jason Watts*

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

*The Arran Voice is registered as a newspaper*

## PRESS POLICY

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

# Voice mail

## Readers' News and Views...

### LOCHRANZA CHOIR

Following on from a successful concert in November and an appearance at the Lamash Carol Service, Lochranza Choir is preparing to restart rehearsals. Having battled with snow and ice which caused a final rehearsal to be cancelled and prevented one choir member and several ticket holders from attending the concert, the choir has decided to aim for a May performance, hoping for more favourable conditions. The choir is, as ever, made up of members who have never sung in a choir before and those who do not read music, as well as those who do. Membership now extends as far as Sliderry and Whiting Bay with car-sharing a possible option for those travelling from further afield.

If you can make a commitment to Monday nights starting on 2nd February, you will find a warm welcome at Lochranza Hall (7.30pm), especially in the tenor and bass sections of the choir. Please contact Alison Richards (Tel: 830 208) for further details.

*Alison Richards,  
Lochranza*

### QUIZ THANKS

May I, through your columns, thank all who supported the Arran Patient and Transport Service by taking part in the Christmas Quiz and Alan Johnston of the Book and Card Centre for generously providing the prize. The winners were Archie and Maureen Cumming of Lochranza.

Here again are the questions, with the answers.

*Elma Stevenson*

Cosmic bunny (*Space Hopper*), Throw the burgers on this (*Barbie*), Stairway to heaven (*Jacob's Ladder*), Equine pastime (*Hobby Horse*), Ogle at this mix up (*Lego*), Nommag (*Backgammon*), Currents of air (*Draughts*), A game full of ups and downs (*Snakes and Ladders*), Ring for a snack (*Hula Hoop*), Single parrot (*Monopoly*), Check out this game (*Chess*), Solitary Car (*Uno*), An insignificant activity (*Trivial Pursuit*), Not a lazy woman (*Action Man*), Not Jill's (*Jacks*), Turn pot around (*Spinning top*), Climb 10 before prank (*Scalextric*), 10 or a 'Z' in this game (*Scrabble*), Shakespearean tragedy (*Othello*), Leap over whisky (*Hopscotch*), Have you lost yours? (*Marbles*), Too drunk? Have 40 of these (*Tiddlywinks*), Can come? (*Meccano*), I play (*Ludo*), Annoyance (*Frustration*), Colourful optical instrument (*Kaleidoscope*), Vehicle for double income no kids yet (*Dinky Car*), This should run

on time (*Clockwork train*), Little Margaret's plaything (*Peg Doll*), Look in the allotment for this (*Cabbage Patch Doll*), They change voltage up or down (*Transformers*), Us? (*Wii*), Your very own baby (*Tiny Tears*), Game for crocodiles (*Snap*), Mr Bunn the baker and friends (*Happy Families*), Spot this one! (*Dominoes*), Agatha's record breaker (*Mousetrap*), Was lead piping involved? (*Cluedo*), Flat fish on wheels (*Roller Skates*), Gilbert & Sullivan operetta (*Patience*).

### RAW MILK SUGGESTION

Why do our dairy farmers have to suffer? Why (in Scotland, but not England) does a natural, healthy product have to be adulterated by law? Yet we can buy cigarettes as long as they have big capital letters saying that we shouldn't?

In the US, organic dairy farmer and champion of raw milk, Mark MacAfee reckons he gets 10 x the price for his milk than conventional farmers. Of course he is extremely fortunate that raw milk sales are legal in California. However in many other US states where raw milk cannot be sold, 'cow share' schemes operate. This is a form of Community Supported Agriculture that could easily be set up on Arran to bypass the Draconian pasteurisation laws. Interested consumers buy a share in a cow, the farmer gets paid to look after and milk the cow, and the shareholder gets the equivalent share of their healthy raw milk. As no money changes hands for the milk it is legal! If both parties are willing, the shareholders can also assist on the farm as and when required. This allows a farmer to only keep a few milk cows if he wishes.

Several members of the Transition Arran and Holy Isle movement would be interested in such a scheme if we could find farmers willing to participate. It may be that other consumers would also be interested? Anyone who is interested please contact me at tel: 700266 or e-mail [mandy.hunter@live.co.uk](mailto:mandy.hunter@live.co.uk)

*Mandy Hunter*

### MSP APPEALS FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR GAZA

*Kenneth Gibson MSP asks if we will publish this appeal, which is going out to all pharmacies on Arran and across Ayrshire.*

### Medical Supply Appeal for Gaza from Edinburgh Direct Aid

I seek your support for the above. Hospitals in Gaza region are struggling

*Continued on page 5*



# News in Brief...

## Grand Green Debating Final soon

A team of four contestants from Arran High school is getting ready for the Grand Final of the Big Green Challenge, a schools' debating competition organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The grand prize for the winners is a trip to visit renewable projects in Iceland, while the runners up earn themselves a visit to the Eden Project in Cornwall.

The other finalists are from Sandwick Junior High School (Shetland), Portree High School, and Gairloch High School, and the clinching debates take place in the Scottish Parliament on Friday 30th January. Local MSP Kenneth Gibson will be there to cheer the Arran team on, and says he has 'no doubts they will bring the trophy back to the island and can then look forward to a fantastic trip to Iceland.'

## Cash to improve Ayrshire's oral health

The Scottish Government has released a further £6.97m for the development of new dental facilities in Ayrshire. A 4.3 million pound dental centre in Cumnock, a dental suite in the Ardrossan Resource Centre and the creation of a state-of-the-art facility in Dam Park Dental Centre in Ayr are among the Government's £82m primary and community health care project plans. 'In the tough climate we find ourselves in, capital projects are a crucial way for the Government to stimulate the economy by providing local employment opportunities,' said Health Minister Nicola Sturgeon. 'People in Ayrshire and Arran can now look forward to new and improved dental and other health facilities thanks to our massive and unprecedented cash injection.' Dr Wai-yin Hatton, Chief Executive of NHS Ayrshire & Arran, said: 'By focussing on dental centres in Cumnock and Ayr and a resource centre in Ardrossan, we have the opportunity to further improve oral health throughout Ayrshire.'

## Arran's twitchers needed for record-breaking birdwatch effort

People in North Ayrshire are being asked to spend an hour of their time next weekend (24-25th January) watching wildlife to help out with the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch. 2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the original Birdwatch, and the event has grown into the biggest garden wildlife watching event in the world, helping to provide vital information about how some of the country's best loved species are faring. Last year, 491 people in North Ayrshire took part in the survey, and found that the chaffinch was the most common garden bird, just above the starling and the

house sparrow. Chaffinches were spotted in 78.88% of gardens with an average of 5.88 birds per garden. This year the RSPB is encouraging as many people as possible to get involved by downloading a form from [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) or phoning 0300 456 8330.

## Islanders urged to join consumer panel

Island volunteers are being urged to join a Scottish consumer panel to boost the voice and representation of consumers in all parts of Scotland. Consumer Focus Scotland's network gathers the views of volunteers from across the country to help produce a picture of what problems and issues they face. Consumer Focus then acts as a lobby and pressure group to address these problems. Issues range from education to the environment, health to housing, local government to food and diet. They also include energy and postal services. The information is collected regularly and it is used to inform policy and research for Scotland's foremost consumer organisation.

Consumer Network co-ordinator Gill MacGregor says that Arran currently has no volunteers and so its views and needs are not being represented, so she is encouraging islanders to get involved. 'This is a home-based opportunity,' she points out. 'There are no qualifications or preconditions for being a member, and although the time commitment is relatively small, the benefits for knowing that we are in touch with the real experiences of Scottish people are huge.'

Contact Gill MacGregor:  
Tel: 0141 227 6462  
[gill.macgregor@consumerfocus-scotland.org.uk](mailto:gill.macgregor@consumerfocus-scotland.org.uk)

## Could you run an island?

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust (IGHT) is looking for a new business manager to run the island. Six years after the community buy-out, many people who previously left the island have returned to Gigha. The population has now risen beyond 150 and the island's primary school roll has jumped from six to 23 pupils.

The IGH is seeking a business manager and a property officer to work alongside the trust and the local community to continue the development work on the island. The island trust already manages a growing housing stock and wind farm, making it a net exporter of energy and raising revenues for Gigha's community benefit. Argyll and Bute Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'The position of business manager lies at the heart of the ongoing success of the community and is a fantastic opportunity for someone looking to make a real difference. It also has the added benefit of being based in one of the most scenic parts of the country.'

# Voice *extra* mail

*continued from page 4*

to cope with the sick, wounded and the injured. Supplies of basic medicines and equipment are running scarce.

Edinburgh Direct Aid is an organisation with experience in delivering aid to various part of the world and they are coordinating a convoy of medical aid to Gaza as a gesture of humanitarian support and it will depart when it is safe to do so.

Donations of basic in-date medicines, painkillers, drugs of any kind listed by the World Health Organisation, are being sought, along with disposables such as gloves or dressings. The plan is to take at least two trucks of supplies and also to purchase items from local suppliers. We realise that there is a high demand for humanitarian assistance for various parts of the world. However, Gaza urgently needs help.

Dr Richard Simpson MSP has helped to assess the list of medicines provided by the Ministry of Health in Gaza and what might be needed most. Donations can be delivered to my office, or I can collect them.

It is also possible to make a secure online financial donation directly to Edinburgh Direct Aid. The account is

held at the Co-op Bank. Account details are as follows:

Sort code: 83-91-25

Account number: 50113293

Please include a message informing Edinburgh Direct Aid that the donation is for Gaza.

With thanks in anticipation of your assistance.

*Kenneth J Gibson MSP  
Cunninghame North*

[Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)  
Tel: 01294 833 687

*Readers please note that medicines cannot be accepted from members of the public, as such items as out-of-date antibiotics could be dangerous. Money donations will be welcomed, however.*



# Recycling...

you are currently  
recycling  
**just 20%**  
of your total  
household waste

## Reduce Reuse Recycle





# On the Green

By **Alison Prince**

## Bending Time

LET'S FACE IT, the cyber world has taken over a lot of what used to come through the letterbox and land on the mat with a promising thud. Admittedly, the post wasn't always as promising as it sounded — there have always been fliers for hearing aids and double glazing, and plastic-wrapped exhortations from gardening firms and purveyors of kitchen knives and thermal underwear. But there used to be far more letters. Now, there is far more e-mail. And for some magic reason, unlike posted mail, e-mail gets answered at once. I think it's the modern equivalent of dusting, which nobody seems to do any more, or certainly not on a daily basis. (When I was a kid we had these ebony elephants on the mantelpiece that looked a bit grey after just one non-dusted day, but then, that's open fires for you.)

### ELECTRONIC DUSTER

Nowadays, you whisk around every morning with the electronic duster, deleting incoming message-particles and sending off brisk answers. It always takes longer than you expect, but eventually the job is done and you think, 'There. That's dealt with. Cleaned up. Sorted.'

But of course it never is. The inbox is perpetually un-tidying itself with more of this incoming cyber-dust. It's a cycle of tutting and mopping and fending off. There isn't the same urgency about a real, physical letter. It has presence. Its hand-writing is the actual imprint of the person who has written it, as direct as a small blast of their appearance and personality. The writer won't expect an instant reply, because that is not within the world of the real letter. It is an artefact. It deserves — nay, it commands — respect. It needs to be thought about for a day or two. Or a week or two. Or even, heaven help us, a month or two. For the letter will inevitably join a pile of other letters, together with bills and bank statements, if your bank still works that way. All these pieces of paper have a certain portent, and they cannot be dealt with at cyber-speed. They take their place on ever-lengthening lists of things to do, under a sub-head that says, 'Deal With Paperwork.' And they have a terrible tendency to stay there.

At Christmas, a time spent largely in Dealing With Paperwork, I was mortified to receive a card from a dear friend asking with a touch of plaintiveness if I had received the

poetry book she sent me in May. *May!* Oh, the guilt. She had gone through the whole sequence of small trouble that sending a book involves. She had undertaken the writing and wrapping and enveloping and addressing, the carting to the Post Office and weighing and stamping. Even if I'd had her e-mail address, to reply with a quick rattle of the keyboard would have been inadequate. Her gift merited a proper, hand-written reply. Strangely enough, the response usually bubbles up at once, true gratitude mingling with comments and scraps of news and all sorts of cheerful diversions — but there is never time to write it at that moment. A reply requires that you sit down in the evening, with pen and pad and a dislodging of the cat from the lap, to devote proper time to it. And time seems to go quicker as the hours tick by. George Bernard Shaw was well known for his brief and witty post-cards, so he must have had the same problem. But then, he was famous, even in his own lifetime, so people probably felt privileged to get an answer at all — even though they never knew that these brief communications would fetch a fortune on Ebay.

I love my non-electronic friends, I really do. I like the variations of handwriting and the cramming of afterthoughts into the margin, the impetuous underlinings and the occasional scrawled drawing. These letters, unlike e-mail, get read again, many times, and are often kept. Which is not the same as Saved. They, along with poetry books and the occasional blessed cheque, are the reason why we must continue to cherish what is now rudely called Snail Mail. And it can produce wonderful small absurdities. Last week I received an unpromising window envelope with a bar code and mechanical franking — but in its top left hand corner it said in classy brown capitals, TIME. Below this, in business-like sans-serif, it instructed, DO NOT BEND.

Einstein, you should be living now. What an age this is, when the recipients of advertising material for an American magazine are exhorted not to bend time! But it does bend, of course. At its inner edge, it drags. And at its fast, outer curve, there isn't a moment to answer letters. Great. I knew there must be an excuse somewhere. Now I really must get on with the e-mail.



# High winds batter island

THE STRONG south-easterly winds that struck Arran last week caused a bit of damage around the island. Several shed roofs in the Southend and Shiskine area became casualties of the gales, and Janis Murchie of Arran Carriage Driving needed some quick thinking plus a hammer and nails to save the roof of one of her stables.

Scottish Hydro Electric undertook some tree clearance work on Sunday morning to clear the affected power lines which had previously caused a brief power cut in Whiting Bay on Saturday evening. Fallen trees on the main road in Whiting Bay and on the road opposite Lamlash golf course required chainsaw work to make passage safe for drivers.

On the east coast of the Northend, waves showered areas of the road with a layer of seaweed, and one boat-dwelling local temporarily lost part of his kitchen to the sea. Dan Goronwy had to retrieve his fridge from Corrie port when the wind dislodged a bungee cord and sent his flannel-covered coolbox into the swirling eddies of the harbour.



Cool under pressure. Dan Goronwy rescues his fridge from Corrie port



The tip of this fallen pine had fallen into the road at the Lamlash golf course hill on Saturday due to the high winds



# Village shoppers 'pay for a peek'

THE 2009 ARRAN Rugby Club calendar is continuing to arouse significant local interest. So much so, in fact, that people are paying just to thumb through the pages to view pictures of the semi-nude local rugby models.

Bev Hodkinson of Bay News said that a few regular customers now regularly admire the calendar on the shop shelf. And because proceeds from the sale of the calendar go to rugby club funds, she has started a 'cheeky peek' honesty box. 'I thought people should donate a few coppers every time they looked,' said Bev. 'So we've now got a tin beside the counter.' The tin reads: 'If you just want a peek at the rugby club, then please donate here!'



*Bev Hodkinson has started an honesty box for locals wanting to browse the rugby calendar*

## TASTEFUL

The calendar features pictures of local rugby players (without their rugby kit) in various situations at the premises of local business sponsors. It was shot tastefully — and with a good dose of humour — by a group of photographers on the island and designed and produced by *The Arran Voice*. It might not be everyone's cup of tea to have a picture

of semi-nude local rugby lads on your kitchen wall, but the calendars continue to sell well and proceeds from sales go to rugby club funds to enable the team to travel to away games. So if you want your own cheeky peek to support a good cause, have a look in Bev's shop — or better still, buy your own calendar and look when you like!

# Raku workshops



RAKU IS THE ANCIENT Japanese ceramic art of glazing and firing, and Arran Visual Arts is providing two workshops in this wonderful art, run by Simon Thorburn. They will be at the Balmichael Centre on Saturday 14th and Saturday 28th February, two weeks apart to allow for the firing process between them.

Unlike European ceramics, where all decoration is applied to the article or pot before it goes into the kiln, raku is a hot process. The piece is fired to prevent thermal shock later, and after that it goes into a second, high-temperature firing where a glaze, usually of

copper or tin, is fused into it. From this kiln, the piece is removed in a state of almost molten heat and immediately put into a 'reduction chamber' loaded with combustible materials that release carbon as they burn. Newspaper, wood, sawdust — anything will do. The effects created are unpredictable but incredibly decorative and intriguing. Members of the course can try their hand at throwing a pot on the potter's wheel or model freely, but either way, their product will go through the raku process.

For all details and to book a place, phone Alison Armstrong on 600 724.

# Water shock due to 'gap in system'



## NON-DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLIER FAILS TO NOTIFY BUSINESSES

Local businesses in Brodick received an 'unreserved' apology from Business Stream after they were deprived of their water supply without any warning last week. All household customers of Scottish Water had received advance notification of the engineering works, but Business Stream, which supplies water to non-domestic premises, forgot to inform some of their customers. 'There was a gap in our system,' said a spokesman. 'We are looking at improving business processes to avoid a repeat of this in future.'

## COFFEE SHOP FORCED TO CLOSE

The works by Scottish Water had been planned months in advance to extend the water mains to Brodick's new Springbank housing development beside the Isle of Arran Homes office. But last Wednesday morning some local businesses were forced to close their doors for the day, as they were unable to make contingency plans for the water switch-off. John Copperwheat's coffee shop was one notable casualty of the administrative blunder. The Arran Brewery was also badly affected by the surprise switch-off, which occurred during the middle of a brew.

The owner of one local business in Brodick who didn't want to be named had called Business Stream on Tuesday afternoon after she heard local residents talking about the disruption to the water service. She was told categorically at 4.45pm by an employee of Business Stream that there was no trace of works planned for the area.

By the end of the week, the company admitted the mistake and contacted *The Arran Voice* with details of its apology. 'Unfortunately business customers weren't notified of the infrastructure works,' said the company spokesman. 'Business Stream wants to apologise unreservedly for the inconvenience.' Companies affected by the unannounced shut-off can apply to Business Stream for compensation via its website [www.business-stream.co.uk](http://www.business-stream.co.uk). It is not known how much is available.

## SYSTEMIC PROBLEM?

The failure to notify businesses would appear to be a systemic result of the newly-revamped arrangements for water supply in Scotland. Although Scottish Water remains the wholesale producer of water, the distribution to non-domestic premises has been opened up to competition. Business Stream were awarded the licence and started supplying in April 2007, but because it is a new water retailer that was created directly from Scottish Water, a raft of rules is in place, designed to avoid Business Stream receiving unfair advantage over other new retailers. These include 'robust and demonstrable separation between wholesale and retail businesses' and strict rules to ensure independent decision making for Business Stream and Scottish Water. 'We are an arms length company,' explained the spokesman.

This 'arms length' arrangement meant that domestic Scottish Water customers were informed of the waterworks, whereas non-domestic Business Stream customers were not.



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 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 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

General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick 10pm

### FRIDAY 23RD

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

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

Filmobile, *Australia*, Arran Highschool Theatre, Lamlash, 6.30pm

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

Arran Pipe Band Practice Session, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm

Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm

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

### SATURDAY 24TH

Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, All day

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football, Training, 10.30am–12noon

Karate, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 11.30am–12.30pm

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

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

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

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

Quiz Night, Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm

Disco, Ormidale Hotel Brodick, 10pm

### SUNDAY 25TH

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

Arran Wargames Club, Arran High School, Lamlash, 1–4pm

Kids' Club Sunday Matinée, 1.30–3pm

AA Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Margaret's Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm

Fiddle Class, Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 5.30–6.30pm

### MONDAY 26TH

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.30–10.30am & 10.45–11.45am

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

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

Weight Wise, Hospital Bungalow, Lamlash, 5–5.30pm

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

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

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

Aerobics, KA Campus, Lamlash, 7–8pm

Sannox Cricket Club, Indoor Practice, Auchrannie Gym, Brodick, 7–9pm

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

Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, Lamlash, 7.45–9.15pm

General Knowledge Quiz, Cameronia, Whiting

Bay, 9.30pm

### TUESDAY 27TH

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 28TH

Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am

Yogalates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick 10–11am

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 Rehearsal, Lesser Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.15–10.15pm

Senior Young Musician Competition, Arran High School Theatre, Lamlash, 7.30pm

### THURSDAY 29TH

Senior Aerobics, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.30–10.30am

*Knowing me, Knowing you*, Personality and communication workshop, (info: Sally Campbell, 600 822), Kilmory Hall, 10.30am–4.30pm

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

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

General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick 10pm

# Out & About

## UP & COMING

### WEEKEND-EVENTS

*Knowing me, Knowing you*, Personality and communication workshop day 2, Kilmory Hall, 10.30am–4.30pm

Arran Riding Club, New Year Ride, Cladach Wineport, Saturday 31st, 11.30am (bring packed lunch)

Jumble Sale, Arran Music and Drama Club, Brodick Hall—Saturday 31st, 12–3pm

### UPCOMING RUGBY MATCHES

Under 16's

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

Lochranza Choir, restart rehearsals from Monday 2nd February, Lochranza Hall, 7.30pm, new singers welcome (enquiries: Alison Richards 830 208)

Whiting Bay W.R.I, Lesley van Bogerijn on *Reflexology*, Lesser Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.3pm

Corrie Filmclub, *Cinema Paradiso* (Tornatore, Italy 1988)—Sunday 8th February, 8pm

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

Donald McKenzie Memorial Darts Competition, Kildonan Hotel—Saturday, 21st February, 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



# Trident 'completely useless' say generals

THREE SENIOR officers, Field Marshal Lord Bramall and Generals Lord Ramsbotham and Sir Hugh Beach, wrote to *The Times* newspaper last week denouncing Trident as 'irrelevant', and arguing that rather than wasting tens of billions of pounds renewing the scheme, the money could be better spent.

Kenneth Gibson MSP agrees entirely. He said last week:

'This intervention lays bare the truth about the UK's weapons of mass destruction, when even former defence chiefs admit they are a useless waste of money. ...Trident is frankly obscene, and in the current economic climate it must be obvious that resources should be better spent. To build a 'son of Trident' would be an act of immense

folly. Instead of building a new nuclear weapon systems, which UK taxpayers pay for but under 'dual key' can only be fired with American permission, Westminster should be calling for an end to nuclear weapons and this shameful waste of resources.

'It is not just defence chiefs that think the UK Government is wrong, but governments around the world. Scottish civic society, trade unions, religious denominations, the Scottish Government and community groups like the Arran Justice and Peace Group are united in their determination to keep a new generation of trident missiles out of Scotland. The voice of the former defence chiefs adds considerable weight to the argument.'

## 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.

23

The percentage of children in North Ayrshire living in poverty (August 2006).

17

The number of times in the past couple of years that *The Arran Voice* has received crossword submissions using fictitious names.

650

The approximate value in pounds sterling of the fuel recently stolen from a house near the Ross Road (see News from the Blues, pg 14)

1/3

The proportion of children born in Scotland to Eastern European mothers. According to the head of Scotland's Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), the country is in danger of becoming a 'retirement home sitting on the edge of Europe' unless radical measures are taken to welcome new migrants.

4,300,000,000

North Ayrshire's share of the national debt projected for 2013, due to UK Government plans to borrow a further £500 billion over the next four years.

4,000,000

The amount paid in grant funding by the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust to purchase the island from the laird in 2002.

1/3

The proportion of drivers who have parked illegally due to frustration with the lack of parking spaces (according to a survey by Privilege Insurance). Not really a problem here, yet!

241

The number of tonnes of seaweed delivered to Arran's shores by the high South-easterly winds over the weekend (OK — so this one's made up!).

# Green laundry dries in rain

**BRODICK GUESTHOUSE IS  
WORLD'S FIRST BUYER OF A  
'SHIELING DRYER'**

Expensive electricity bills could be a thing of the past if a new design for drying clothes outdoors catches on. David Gracie has developed the 'Shieling Dryer,' a tent-like structure that can be put up in the garden to dry clothes, even when it is pelting down with rain.

On Thursday, Chris and Jan Atkins installed the dryer in the garden of their Brodick B&B and and became part of the world's first commercial sale of a 'Shieling Dryer.' The inventor hopes that it will become a popular and useful addition for households and those green-minded businesses that do a lot of day-to-day laundry, such as accommodation providers and restaurants.

## GOING GLOBAL

David and his wife Moira run the Shieling Campsite in Craginure on Mull and have been drying their clothes in this way for 22 years. But David has decided it is now time to take the invention global. In 1977, he built a large tent on the grounds of



*No planning permission required! Chris Atkins installs the collapsible drier in his guesthouse garden*

his campsite to house and dry-out a damaged clinker lifeboat, so that the wood could be repaired. 'Later folks on the campsite started using it to dry their clothes,' explained David.

Positioned at right-angles to the prevailing wind, it protects drying clothes from the Scottish elements.



*Moira and David Gracie say the drier 'runs for free on fresh air'*

Depending on the model, the drier provides up to 40m of drying line and in blustery conditions side shields can be attached to repel the driving rain.

Last Thursday, some wet and windy conditions were already putting the Shieling Dryer through its paces. It remains to be seen just how it will cope with Arran's fierce January gales, although its inventor believes that two decades of Mull weather constitute an impressive badge of honour for his product.

## THE RIGHT TIME

David suspects that it is hitting the market at just the right time. 'Maybe now, with the price of electricity going up and global warming becoming serious, its time has come,' he said.

Chris and Jan Atkins run the picturesque Belvedere guesthouse in Brodick, but they also run two tumble dryers, which consume 4 kilowatt units per hour. 'Sometimes they are on all day and it adds up,' said Chris. They are hopeful that the dryer will save a few pennies, whilst also being the environmentally responsible option. 'It means that at this time of year you can hang stuff outside that you wouldn't normally do,' said Jan. 'You don't have to worry about the rain coming on.'

For more information see [www.shielingdrier.co.uk](http://www.shielingdrier.co.uk) or pop in to see the Shieling Dryer in action at Belvedere Guesthouse.



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



Happy Birthday Janis  
from all the team

### MIKE AND STEF

Mike and Stef, two cheerful folkies with banjo, guitar and countless songs, will play and sing for any get-together, just for the fun of it. Phone 700 340.

**KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU**  
**Personality and Communication**  
**2 day course 29-30 January 10.30-4.30 Kilmory Hall**  
Further information Sally Campbell 600822

Montrose House would like to thank Donald (Freddie) Galbraith the postie for coming back after his round to deliver the special Telegram for Cath Sillars 100th Birthday.

### Lochranza Choir

Rehearsals  
Mondays 7.30pm,  
Lochranza Hall  
Starting 2nd February  
New members  
very welcome.

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

### Lamlash Footy Meeting

Footballers interested  
in playing for or training  
with Lamlash are invited  
to come for a meeting  
at the PHT this Friday  
23rd January at 7.30pm.

### Arran High School

Senior Young Musician  
Competition

Arran High School  
Theatre

7:30pm — Wednesday,  
28 January

All Parents and Friends  
Welcome



### MISSING

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

### HMS DARING LEAVES THE CLYDE

Employees at the Scotstoun yard gathered on the quayside to wave goodbye for the last time to *HMS Daring* last Friday, 16th January, as the Type 45 Destroyer set sail to her Portsmouth base, where she will undergo further trials before beginning active service operations. The estimated £6 billion contract for construction of up to eight of the new battleships is credited with safeguarding 2,000 jobs in the Clyde region and saving Glasgow's shipbuilding industry.

The crew of *HMS Daring* paid tribute to the support they had received from the City of Glasgow since the launch of the warship in 2006. Commanding officer Paul Bennett said: 'For some of Daring's crew, Glasgow has been their home for almost three years and it has been a great place to be stationed.' The Type 45 Destroyer Class is intended to provide the backbone of the Royal Navy fleet over the next 50 years. Six are currently scheduled for construction, with another two awaiting UK Government approval.

### CONCERN ABOUT STRANDED SAILORS

25 Filipino sailors involved in a union dispute are stranded on a cargo ship in the Firth of Clyde. The crew of the *Silver Constellation* has refused to go to sea in a dispute over wages and the ship's condition, and concern is mounting about their welfare. Food is said to be running low and one crew member is believed to be unwell with a back injury. The International Transport Workers' Federation has contacted the ship's owners to request supplies.

### SLUMP IN PRAWN DEMAND

Scottish West Coast fishermen expect to see 50p per kg lopped off live prawn prices as the nephrops market stays in the doldrums.

The price of tails has already come down to about £3.20p-£3.30 per kg at Mallaig, and 50p off live would simply be the latest development to depress the prawn fleets in the Firth of Clyde. At this time last year, live was about £5 per kg. This year's high is more likely to be around the £4.25 mark, fishermen believe. Price reductions are bearing out predictions of a sticky start to the year, with one Mallaig-based spokesman for the industry agreeing that the prawn market is effectively still in difficulties. However, things could have been worst, he said, had it not been for an easing of the oil price. This had allowed easier absorption of disappointing market levels. He said: 'This situation is recession-driven and reflects lack of demand in the market. Over-supply means cold stores are still full and just not emptying. Prawns are still in the doldrums and there is no sign of an upward trend.'





## Stef's stab at the weather

By **Stef Holmer**

*Amateur Meteorologist*

### Summary of last week's forecast:

What a weekend! Managed to get out for a wee while on Saturday. Then it arrived as expected. I think 'blootering weather' is the appropriate Scottish expression. Is it going to get better? I can only use that favoured term forecasters find so handy, namely — 'unsettled'.

### General Summary for 22nd January to 26th January:

We have a very complicated picture on the weather charts this week.

A nasty low pressure, just off our north coast, with the long weather fronts that gave us a thoroughly miserable day on Tuesday, started moving further north on Wednesday. This allowed us a wee bit of respite from the wind and rain for a few hours.

However by Thursday it will have deepened, bringing more fronts, strong south westerly winds and more heavy rain. On Friday an associated low will come racing in to be centred over the south east of England, bringing more strong winds and rain. By Sunday and Monday we will find ourselves somewhere in between the two low pressure areas and things may ease off a little with less wind and lighter showers.

Still paying attention? What does it all mean to us on the ground? Here goes....the voice of doom.



### Thursday

Overnight strong winds and heavy rain will continue through the morning, possibly clearing a little in the afternoon with a couple of sunny spells if you're lucky. Temperatures will feel a little milder at 8°C. Later in the day the heavy showers will be back. Also the wind will be pretty strong, force 4, and increasing as the day goes on up to 25mph or more.



### Friday

Still very wet and windy (not so strong, though at around 20–25mph from the west). It will probably be more like heavy and frequent showers rather than constant rain. We will feel a sharp drop in temperature, down to 5°C. The wind and rain will ease off by evening.



### Saturday

Still very cold, around 4°C, with strong winds (20mph) and some heavy wintry showers all day (sleet and snow perhaps). There may be an odd glimpse of the sun, though. Take your chance to be out and about when you can, well wrapped up and with wellies and brollies. It looks like the wind will drop a bit later.



### Sunday

A wee improvement today. Remember the bit I said in the general summary about being between lows. The result will be a significant drop in wind, down to a 10mph breeze. There may be a lingering shower or two in the morning, but the afternoon will be cloudy with sunny intervals. It will be cold, though, at 4°C. A few more showers coming in during the evening.



### Monday

Another drier day with quite a few sunny periods, and only occasional showers. Still quite cold at 5°C and the wind will increase a little from the west and south. A better start to the week.

### Outlook (Very long-range stuff)

Quite a lot of rain and showers in the middle of the week with fresh to strong south westerlies. Staying cold at around 5°C.

### Ferry Notes

The winds will certainly be strong, especially on Thursday. It will be close to the limit, but my feeling is that they will not be strong enough to cause disruption.

# MP adds pressure to poverty campaign



Local MP Katy Clark added her support to a motion calling upon the government to stick to its promise to end child poverty by 2020.

23% of children live in poverty in North Ayrshire and Arran, well above the Scottish average. 'I find this figure deeply distressing,' said Katy, 'and will continue to do everything in my power to help to raise the issue and campaign for more to be done to lift these children out of poverty.'

600,000 children have been 'lifted out of poverty' since 1999, but Katy has urged the Government to

keep sight of the end target, saying, 'Despite the improvements in the last nine years much more still has to be done. With 3.9 million children still living below the poverty line, the UK has one of the largest levels of child poverty in the industrialised world.' She warned, 'There is no doubt the current economic climate will make it more difficult to meet the 2010 target,' but added, 'Child poverty shapes a child's life. It can affect how healthy they are, how long they live, what qualifications they attain from school.'



## North Ayrshire Council Social Services and North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership

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**Review of Services to Older People on Arran**

At

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# MP urges OFT probe into petrol prices

**CALLS FOR THE** Office of Fair Trading to investigate Scotland's rural fuel distribution and retail market have been made by Alistair Carmichael, Lib Dem MP for Orkney and Shetland. As on Arran, his constituents pay over 10% more for petrol than in neighbouring mainland filling stations.

'Anybody who tells you that the price difference is just the result of transport costs, forget it. It's nonsense,' said Mr Carmichael. 'We sit now at about 15p per litre over the mainland price. When I started [as Member of Parliament] it was about 10p. For an island community where we don't have the same critical mass of population, where the private car is not just the only feasible means of transport but even the environmentally preferable option, such high fuel costs are a real strain.'

## ISLAND PRICING

Local fuel retailers recently joined in a petition by the Petrol Retailers Association to release the findings of a study into the sustainability of rural fuel supply. The Government-funded report has been published in part, but meanwhile, Arran's fuel costs — like those of many other Scottish islands — remain substantially higher than those on the mainland (see below).

## MARKET FAILURE

'What we have is market failure,' said Mr Carmichael. 'Competition does not come into being on Shetland. I think if the OFT looked into this with an open mind, they would find that the market wasn't operating as it is supposed to.'

Local petrol retailer Bob Haddow of Arran Transport has questioned the massive price differential for many years, but his enquiries could not be acted upon by Holyrood politicians, because fiscal regulations are a reserved matter. Now it seems that political momentum is gathering in Westminster to treat the issue with more urgency. Both Alastair Carmichael and Arran's MP Katy Clark say they will be discussing ways to



*Bob Haddow talks with Brodick's community councilor Harry Davidson about his planning application for a new filling station at Invercloy. The local fuel retailer believes Arran needs to address the underlying causes for the island/mainland price difference.*

address the chronic price difference in coming weeks.

## WHAT IS THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION?

Alongside improving market mechanisms, Alastair Carmichael believes that vehicle excess and fuel duty should be abolished and replaced with road user pricing which would effectively be levied at a variable rate.

He concedes that such a move could not happen overnight, but argues that there are routes currently open to address the problem. 'In the short to medium term I would like to see the Government in Westminster apply to Europe for a derogation to allow for different rates of fuel duty within the UK,' he said. Portugal, Greece, Spain and now France have secured permission for this for similar reasons.

## POWERFUL IRONY

The UK Government has always defended its reluctance to apply for a derogation because, unlike Portugal and Greece, the UK had no regional variations in fuel duty prior to joining Europe. But more recently France gained new permissions to ease fuel duty for its rural areas. 'The irony of it is that the UK government voted in

favour of France's application,' said Mr Carmichael.

*The Arran Voice* will keep readers posted on any developments in the situation, particularly regarding the OFT's response.

## FUEL THE DIFFERENCE

Each week *The Arran Voice* will publish the price difference between two petrol stations divided by 12 miles of water and a few hundred yards of tarmac.

*Prices are in pence per litre, quoted on Tuesday 20th January, 2pm*

### Arran Transport, Brodick

Unleaded **101.5**

Diesel **113.9**

### Ardrossan Filling Station

Unleaded **85.9**

Diesel **97.9**



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# Council plans yellow lines for Brodick

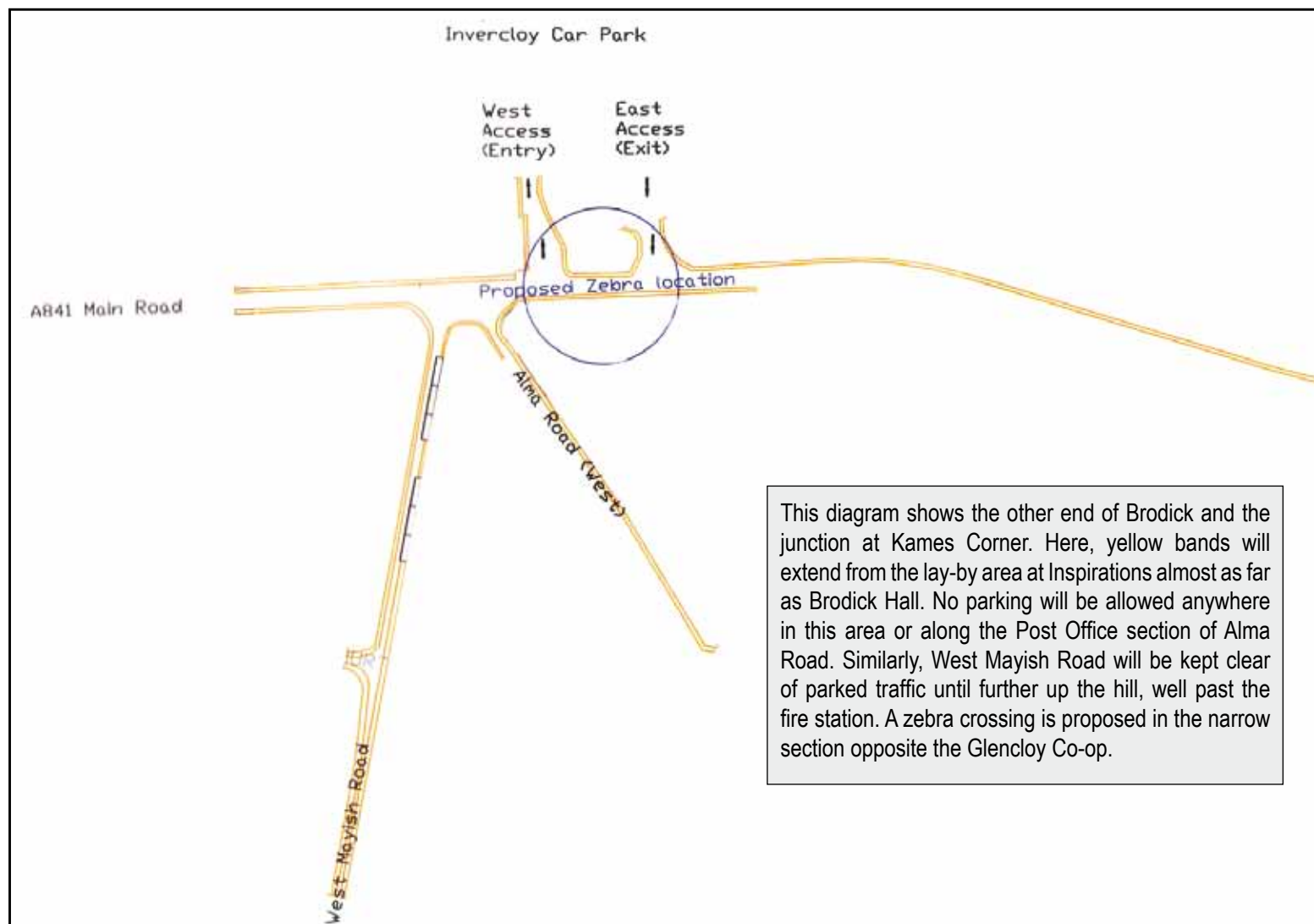
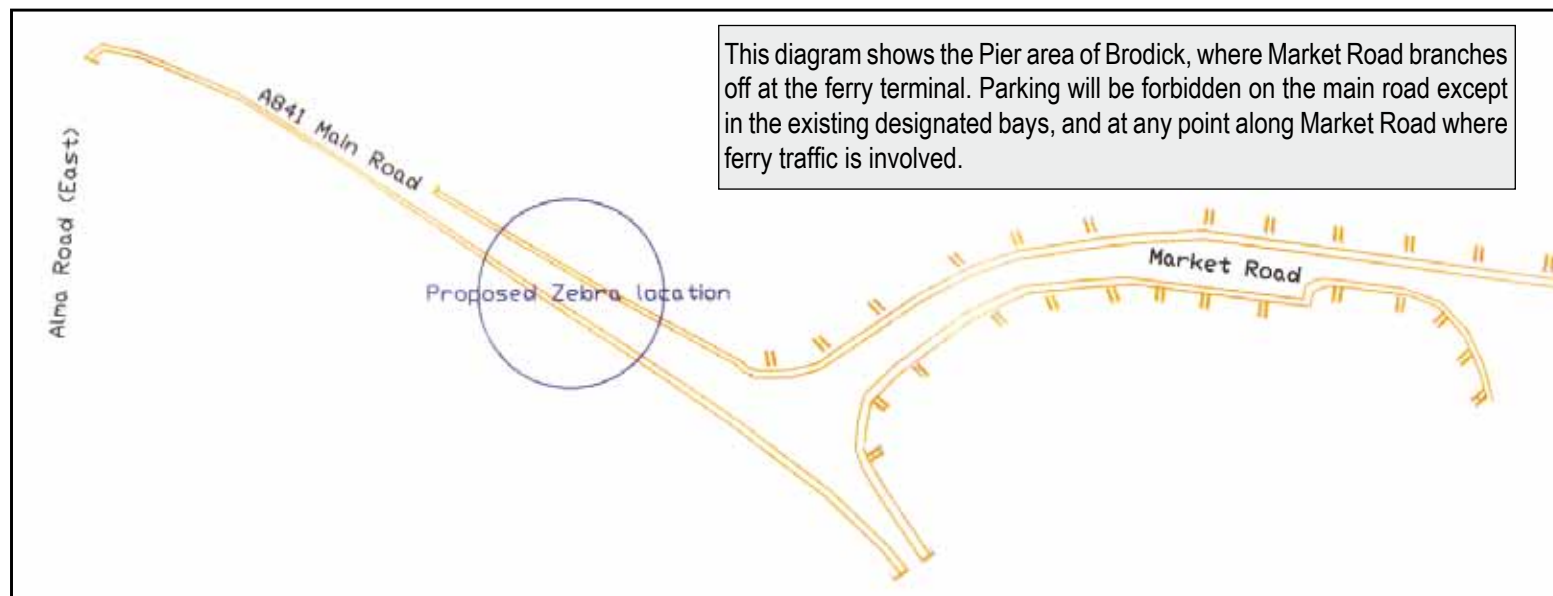
THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY be dissent about the yellow bands agreed by the Arran Community Council to be necessary in Brodick. Many will concede that the inconsiderate parking of cars right up to the sharp bend at Kames Corner has caused a hazard both to cars and pedestrians. Particularly at boat times during the summer months, it has been impossible for buses and commercial vehicles to get through, and the tail-back

of traffic from the pier has made driving through the village difficult and dangerous. At the ferry terminal, the questions about picking up and dropping passengers will doubtless continue, but the ban on parking along that section of the main road is likely to be seen as no more than formalisation of common sense.

Predictably, arguments will be put forward about the urbanisation of a rural village, but logic must point out that it is

traffic, rather than yellow paint, which causes the city-like noise, pollution and inconvenience. The Glencloy car park behind the small Co-operative store usually has ample parking space available, and it must be hoped that an amicable agreement can be reached about the new move.

Our online poll this week asks for your opinion, and our letters page is open to your views.



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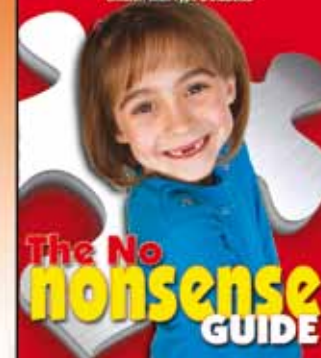
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# News from the Blues



## SGT BOB MACKAY RETURNED TO LAMLASH POLICE STATION THIS WEEK

The police report that it has been a 'quiet' week on the island, with a few incidents of note.

### 1,800 LITRES OF FUEL STOLEN

Sometime between 23rd December 2008 and 16th January, a large quantity of heating oil was stolen from a farm on the Ross Road. The padlock to the tank had been broken and 1,800 litres was siphoned off. The owner of the farm recently returned to the island and after the second day back, he discovered the theft when the heating no longer worked. The value of the stolen fuel is estimated at £650. Police enquiries are still ongoing.

### OUT OF DATE DRIVERS SPOTTED

Two drivers were issued notices when police noticed that they were failing to display a valid excise license on their vehicle. One driver was issued the notice in Brodick on Tuesday 20th January. The other driver was found without a valid tax disc in Lamlash last week. The incidents are part of the police's continuing road safety campaign.

# Fill her up!

By Alasdair Smith

IN THE SMALL French Provençal village where I spent a fine fortnight some years back there is a tiny and quite fabulous wine shop, owned by M. Gibet. He's usually to be found sitting serenely outside it, reading the morning paper and smoking one of those little cigars you get in tins.

The great thing about M. Gibet's shop is that he will happily fill your empties at a fraction of the cost for the bottled article — and all he asks for is modest remuneration and that your bottles are clean. (Actually, I suppose all he really asks for is the money, it's up to you if you want to put fresh wine in dirty bottles.) Inside his shop, its coolness enhanced by the basic render finish on the walls (very minimalist, very noughties!) lie six enormous plastic vats, each with a small blackboard hanging from the kind of nozzle and hose you might see on an old fashioned petrol pump. Scribbled on each is such basic information as “Côtes du Rhone, 11.5%,” or “Côtes du Rhone 13.5%,” or (my personal favourite) “Côtes du Rhone 15%.” The signs do not bother to tell you if the wine is red or white — you can see for yourself through the translucence of the huge plastic vats.

We're not talking vintage here

— these are young wines. So young in fact that they are hardly out of nappies. Their ages are measured in terms of months rather than years (Ah yes, the October 2008, 15%, that was a great month!) but what they lack in maturity they make up for in youthful charm and vigour — as well as a frighteningly high alcohol content in some cases. These are wines for supping over a hearty plate of pasta, or for those occasions (in our household at least) when we just want to slump down in front of the TV, and not have to pay too much for a drink to make the programmes seem better than they actually are.

When your bottle is empty you don't throw it away, or even set it aside for recycling in the big skip down at the supermarket. You simply give it a good rinse out, sterilise it if you must, then take it back along to M. Gibet the next morning and get it filled up again (along with the other dozen empties you have.)

Life is so much simpler. I don't have to stand in front of huge ranges of imported wines, trying to decide which of the 300 or so different varieties from the New World will satisfy my palate. Just stick the nozzle into the bottle and pull the trigger. Santé!

the  
**Wee**  
voice

## More Snowboards and Sushi

By Christian Pomeroy

I WROTE ABOUT the first half of my holiday last week, and here is the rest. The next day (after a HUGE Christmas dinner) we drove from my uncle's house up to a small flat island up in the north of Holland, called Texel, in the Wadden Zee. My other grandmother is in the old folks' home, but we were staying in her house, where we settled and unpacked.

The next couple of days there was frost and ice about five to ten centimetres thick, so we decided to go walking. I was complaining (as befits a teenager) about the absence of hills. It encouraged the wind to blow stronger, thus making my nose sore. This wind added extra chill to the temperature of about negative one to two degrees Celsius. It was really cold, so the ice got thicker, except where the wind had made the water ripple and prevented ice

from forming. My mum called these areas 'wakken' and where these were the ice was a lot thinner, so if you were skating (which many people were), you had to stay clear of them, or risk sudden immersion (falling in!)

We collected oysters, which were growing on the beach in the same quantities as we have winkles on rocky Arran beaches, which I found quite interesting, but not amazing. We collected a bag of these, meaning to eat them, but the bucket froze over and we had to dump them back in the sea. Then, on New Year's Eve we bought some fireworks (the Dutch are really BIG on fireworks!) including some handheld (and thrown, obviously) rotjes, and at midnight we welcomed the new year with a hail of rockets, fountains, rotjes and some homemade pyrotechnics. There was a kind of firework called a 'killer bee'. It had

wings, and you lit it and it flew up into the air going BZZZZZZZZZZ ! And they were really cool. I also ate some Sushi, which I had bought in a shop (the equivalent of Co-Op) and that was really good. There was even wasabi (grated Japanese horseradish), which I warily avoided because of its eye-watering hotness. The sushi came with some soy-sauce in a small fish-shaped see-through bottle, which I thought was quite funny.

The next day I got up and came downstairs to find my parents realising that the boat left today instead of tomorrow! After a short while trying mobile phones and getting as much reception as you would expect inside a lead box, we packed really quickly and left the island on the Texel version of the Caledonian Isles, which was, I hate to say, far more organised than our own

ferry. It took about the same amount of cars and people, and was loaded and unloaded in about half the time. We then drove hurriedly back to Ijmuiden, and boarded the overnight ferry, where we were once again subjected to the Entertainment on board, and the cabin. The next day we arrived at Newcastle, disembarked and drove back to Ardrossan, Arran, and finally Home. Some say home is where you hang your hat, but I think home is where you definitely need to be after a holiday, especially one as long as 12 days. And anyway, I didn't take a hat.

*This week's Wee Voice was written by Christian Pomeroy, who thinks sushi is tasty.*



## A couple of corrections

*The Arran Voice* would like to correct a mistake published in last week's article 'Pipe band calls for new recruits'. Grant Irving has not left the band as published. The confusion lay in the fact that Ian Grant left the band a few months ago. And the photo was of Alan Stout, not Grant! Apologies. The Arran Pipe Band is still looking for drummers though, so anyone interested please get in touch with the band.

*The Arran Voice* would also like to apologise to the hard-working members of the Shiskine Village Hall Committee. It was of course them, not the Shiskine Valley Trust that cooked up the haggis for Shiskine's recent Burns Supper.



*Teamwork in the kitchen*

## Margot Sandeman

MARGOT SANDEMAN, who died this week, was one of Scotland's greatest artists. Her love of Arran dated from the early days of the Second World War, when she used to come to the island with her close, equally talented friend, Joan Eardley. Both of them were at Glasgow School of Art during the years between 1938 and 1942, and when they came on their frequent visits to Arran, they used to stay in the little Corrie house called The Tabernacle, in the grounds of Hillcroft. The two young painters developed in different ways, Joan best known for her complex-textured evocations of city children in their gritty setting, while Margot moved towards the lyrical, open gaze that gave her work an extraordinarily skilled simplicity, somewhere between Matisse and the refined traditions of Japanese art. They remained closely devoted friends until Joan's untimely death in 1963.

Margot was born in 1922 of parents who were themselves artists, her father a self-taught water colourist and her mother, Muriel Boyd, an internationally-known embroiderer who trained with Jessie Newbery at Glasgow Art School.



*Drooping Bluebells*

Despite the interruption of Margot's study years by the war, by the time she was 20 she was already making her mark in the artistic world. A fellow-student and friend was Ian Hamilton Findlay, who died last year but was considered by many to be Scotland's most talented artist. Margot collaborated with him on publications for the Hawthorn Press and produced all the illustrations for his 'concrete poetry'.

She married James Robson, a superb potter, in 1946, and they bought The Bothy in High Corrie in the years following the birth of her two sons, Peter in 1954 and David in 1960. Motherhood did not interrupt her painting. Margot won the prestigious RSA Guthrie Award in 1964 and the Anne Redpath Award in 1970, with a Scottish Arts Council award in the same year. She held solo exhibitions in the Richard Demarco Gallery in Edinburgh and the Hughson Gallery in Glasgow, and her paintings were bought by countless private collectors. Always, the visual rhythms and colours of Arran lie at the heart of her work, informing even the richness and colour of still life compositions. Her close friend, the art historian Cordelia Oliver, wrote perceptively in 1991 that there was 'no other whose work reveals such a combination of deep-rootedness in a given place with an equally strong sense of mind set free to soar into a world of visual poetry.'

Margot stopped exhibiting after her husband's death and was



*Margo Sandeman in The Burnside.*

disinclined to interact with the public, but Mhairi Smeir persuaded her to mount a solo show at the Burnside Gallery in 2004, after which interest in her work boomed and her prices were suddenly in the 'high demand' bracket. Among the many glorious pictures shown were the 21 'sonnets' that constitute a collective painted tribute to Arran. They are among her most famous works. At the time, there was a strong appeal that they should be bought for Arran and given a permanent home here, but alas, the funding could not be accessed, and they are likely now to be purchased by Aberdeen for their collection. They are Arran's loss.

What remains, however, is indestructible. Margot Sandeman gave us a recognition that the patterns of the sea among rocks and of brambles on cliff-tops, of sheep-tracks, clouds, waterfalls, children in the sun and a quiet moment of looking at bluebells wilting on a table evoke the very spirit of Arran. It is our everlasting fortune that these things have been shown to us afresh by an artist of such clear, uncluttered, sumptuous perception.

### Freight

Maura Dooley (1957- )

I am the ship in which you sail,  
little dancing bones,  
your passage between the dream  
and the waking dream,  
your sieve, your pea-green boat.  
I'll pay whatever toll your ferry needs.  
And you, whose history's already charted  
in a rope of cells, be tender to  
those other unnamed vessels  
who will surprise you one day,  
tug-tugging, irresistible,  
and float you out beyond your depth,  
where you'll look down, puzzled, amazed.

The poet addresses her unborn child. 'Freight' is taken from *Sound Barrier*, Maura Dooley's selected poems 1988–2008, published by Bloodaxe ([www.bloodaxebooks.com](http://www.bloodaxebooks.com)).

Poem  
of the week

## The Burnside

While we are awaiting the launch of the  
Building Design Competition for the new Art Centre...

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# ICE on your mobile for safety

## ICE STANDS FOR 'IN CASE OF EMERGENCY'

If you have the bad luck to be involved in an accident or be struck by sudden illness, paramedics will want to contact your particularly close friends or relatives, to let them know what has happened. If you are carrying a mobile phone, they will check to see if it has an emergency number listed under the simple heading of ICE (In Case of Emergency). This is still a fairly new idea, so most often when they look at an injured person's phone they find only a list of names and numbers that gives them no idea who to call.

The ICE idea was dreamed up by a paramedic who had been faced too often with not being able to contact a casualty's close friend or relative. It is catching on quickly, as it is so simple and costs nothing. Paramedics attending a crisis situation now routinely check the patient's mobile in the hope that an ICE number may be there, as this will enable them immediately to call the person (or persons) listed and let them know what has happened.

If you carry a mobile, just key in the three letters, ICE, followed by the number of the friend or relative who would like to know if you get involved in any kind of emergency. If you want to supply more than one contact person, simply enter further numbers under ICE2, ICE3 etc. It's easy to do, and it makes good sense. ICE will speak for you if you are not able to. It could save your loved ones a lot of worry. Most likely you'll never need it, but in that case you've lost nothing. List your ICE numbers today!

# Record Collection

By Douglas Hamilton

*Douglas Hamilton resumes his guide to the best recordings for anyone seeking to build a collection of famous and tuneful classical music. He begins with all-time great Mozart performances by Alfred Brendel, who has recently retired from the concert hall.*

It is surely time for us to explore the riches of Mozart's music. Mozart was perhaps the most complete of all composers, excelling in every musical form available, universally admired by both his contemporaries (Haydn commented 'we shall not see his like in 100 years') and posterity. Among others, Tchaikovsky and Britten were great admirers. Where to start? In every genre of classical music, Mozart produced works of genius — and in considerable quantity!

You will notice that, in starting with the Piano Concertos, I have listed two sets, each of five concertos, which amount to just over a third of his piano concerto output. (Beethoven, by contrast, wrote 5 piano concertos, most other great composers even fewer). Mozart himself performed many of these concertos, and used them to publicise his music. Not all Mozart's piano concertos are as great as the ones listed below, but the selections offered are all masterpieces. Mozart at his best (and there is a great deal of 'best') is possibly the most uplifting composer of all. One commentator has commented that some other composer or other may be more melodic, or more harmonically daring, but Mozart's writing is almost always 'right'.

There are many great recordings of the Mozart Concertos, and Brendel himself has re-recorded some of them (9 & 25; 20 & 24; 22 & 27) with MacKerras and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra to great critical acclaim. Other distinguished Mozartians

include Murray Perahia (on Sony — highly commended), Richard Goode on Nonesuch, Howard Shelly on Chandos, Mitsuko Uchida on Philips (also available in the 'Duo' series), Daniel Barenboim on EMI and Vladimir Ashkenazy on Decca. The CD-buyer will find much delight in any of these performers.

Why then choose Brendel as the outstanding performer? He is one of the most distinguished Mozart pianists of the last 40 years, and when he gave his final concert before retiring this year, he chose to play a Mozart concerto. His performance of no.23 (K488 in A, one of the loveliest of all piano concertos, not just Mozart's) moved *The Gramophone* reviewer to say it was 'as refreshing a performance as you could ever hope to hear this side of heaven. ...Brendel's tone and translucent texture are a constant joy'. The same reviewer said Brendel's playing of No.19 (K459 in F) 'sparkles throughout'. His performance of No.22 in E flat (K482) won *The Gramophone* Concert Award the year it was issued, while no.27 (K595) 'has an imposing opening movement, a beautifully serene Larghetto and a graceful yet sparkling finale.'

When the first set was reissued at mid price as a Duo double CD, the *Penguin Guide* hailed it as 'the Mozartian bargain of all time.... Distinction of the performances.... Sensibility of the playing, at one with the composer's world.' The second set is described by the *Penguin Guide* as 'a first class follow-up.... Highly recommended'. So, as a recommendation, the playing is highly distinguished, the recording first-rate, and it is a bargain too!

Piano Concertos 19-21, 23,24 Concert Rondos: Alfred Brendel, Academy of St Martins in the Fields conducted by Neville Marriner Philips Duo 442-269-2; also numbers 9, 15,22, 25, 27, the same line-up on Philips Duo 442 571-2



# Recipe

By Samantha Payn

## DRUNKEN LAMB SHANKS

*Serves four*

### Ingredients

- 1 bottle cheap red plonk
- 1 bayleaf
- Half a dozen peppercorns
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 4 lamb shanks
- 2 tbsp pearl barley
- 1 tin chopped tomatoes
- 1 fresh thyme sprig
- ½ tsp dried thyme
- 1 sprig fresh parsley
- 1 tsp salt
- 150g/6oz carrots, roughly chopped
- 1 large leek, cut into eight equal pieces
- 4 small potatoes, peeled, quartered
- 2 small onions, quartered
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 4 heaped tbsp flatleaf parsley leaves, blanched and refreshed in cold water

### Method

1. Marinade the lamb shanks overnight in the red wine, to which you've added the bayleaf, peppercorns and garlic.
2. Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/Gas 3.
3. Heat the oil in a large frying pan over high heat. Add the lamb shanks and fry, turning occasionally, until golden-brown on all sides.
4. Transfer the lamb shanks to a large flameproof casserole or ovenproof pan with a lid, and add the wine used for the marinade, tinned tomatoes, barley, herbs, and salt. Cover tightly with foil and then with the lid, and cook in the oven for 1½ hours.
5. Remove the casserole from the oven, add the vegetables and a little more water if needed. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper, then re-cover the casserole, and return it to the oven for another hour.
6. Remove the casserole from the oven and check that the lamb is moist and almost falling off the bone. If you think that it's not quite ready, return it to the oven for another 15 minutes and check again.
7. Transfer the lamb shanks from the cooking pot to a warmed serving platter and cover with kitchen foil while you finish the braised vegetables.
8. Place the casserole over a medium heat and bring the liquid to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer. Add more water if required to provide a nice gravy.
9. Add the blanched parsley leaves and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
10. To serve, ladle the braised vegetables onto warmed plates and place a shank on top of each portion.

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# To a Duck

*Colin Auld, bearing in mind the Bard's birthday and the Homecoming Year, sends us this splendid Burns-style salute to a duck, written by his father.*

Guid health, my friend,  
And best o' luck  
Wee bowly-leggit quackin' duck.  
Be carefu' noo and no' get stuck  
Amang the glaur  
For 'twixt thy chassis and the muck  
Is no' that faur.

It fairly warms ma hert tae see  
Your solemn face, your beady ee,  
As through the yaird, wi' rhythmic  
sweet,  
Your ways ye tak —  
Tae pond or burn in which to pree  
Wi' joyous quack.

Tae see you floating, calm, serene,  
Your feathers wet wi' pearly sheen  
Or dook your heid in watter green  
For grub or snail  
Your scrabblin' feet delight ma' een —  
Your busy tail.

How man can scan your donsie  
breist —  
Not to admire, but, savage beast,  
Tae lick his lips and think o' feast  
Aa' for his dinner —  
His slaverin' jaws in you weel  
creished —  
It maks me scunner!

I wonder what you think o' man —  
Can you perceive and understan'  
His evolution's mighty span  
Tae things Atomic.  
Do you regard him mystic — gran' —  
Or merely Comic?

Your modest needs pit him tae shame  
A few poor straws tae mak' your hame  
Some watter scooped frae dub or drain  
Your drouth to slake  
Some cauldrie worms tae fill your  
wame —  
An', whiles, a drake.

You do not share the flashing lights,  
The lordly hames in towering heights,  
The thousand wonders and delights  
He hauds in fee  
An' yet, my friend,  
You sleep o' nights —  
One asks, does he?

*John Gillies Auld (1909–1999)*

*(Long-time course record-holder at  
Whiting Bay Golf Club — and still  
would be if they hadn't made the  
course so easy!)*

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## All Welcome

**Scottish Episcopal Church**  
(in full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
Sunday, 25th January: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mrs Janis Gallagher. Coffee after service.  
Wednesday, 28th January: Holy Communion, 12.15pm. All Welcome.

**Church of Scotland**  
Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
'A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share' Sunday 25th January  
Rev. Gillelan Maclean  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30am  
All welcome  
Scottish Charity SCO 15072

**Arran Free Church of Scotland**  
25th 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**  
Meeting in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick.  
Sunday 25th January, 10.45  
Communion; Tea and coffee from 11.10. 11.30 Worship and Word,  
Speaker: Tom Hutchison. Everyone welcome

**Arran Free Church of Scotland**  
(continuing)  
Sunday 25th January, Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick, 11am  
Evening Service, 5 Glen Road, 7pm,  
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 28th, 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 25th January  
Brodick Church, 10.30am,  
Corrie Church, 12noon,  
Lochranza, 10.15am,  
Shiskine, 1 noon, 7.00pm, Service of Health and Healing,  
A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

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

**Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church**  
Sunday 25th January 2009  
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Lunch will be served in the Transept after the service and all proceeds to Church Funds. All welcome.

**Arran Churches Together**  
The offering for The Jacob Project at the Christian Unity Service on Sunday 18th January totalled £622.79.



# Weekly Prize Crossword

Compiled by **The Wee Scanner**
**One Crossword —  
two sets of answers!**

**ARRAN  
AROMATICS**
**Win an Arran Aromatics gift box worth £30 this week**
**You have until Tuesday, 3 February 2009 to send in your completed cryptic crossword.**
**This week's crossword sponsored by Arran Aromatics, Tel: 01770 302595, Website: [www.arranaromatics.com](http://www.arranaromatics.com). Winners are asked to contact the shop before collecting their prize.**
**Answers to Issue 91's crossword are on page 19.**

## Cryptic Clues

### Across

- 1 Past plus higher, in addition (4,3,5)
- 6 Initially with her imagination mainly notion (4)
- 10 Disgrace twitch marked person (9)
- 12 Six hat cereal (7)
- 13 Sovereign Majesty (5)
- 14 ...or lay of 13 (5)
- 15 Star rodents (4)
- 17 Sort starts in like kind (3)
- 19 Gut an coal clotter (9)
- 21 Humorist intelligence (3)
- 22 Suffer below shot (7)
- 24 Assume negative hell (7)
- 25 Records (3)
- 26 Clapped about eastern navy decorated (9)
- 29 Chase in stigma (3)
- 30 Just dry (4)
- 32 German camp beer (5)
- 34 Game soldier mushrooms (5)
- 35 March that is illusion (7)
- 38 Claimed on like Satan (9)
- 39 Jug were upset (4)
- 40 Burden then do nuts. (5, 3, 4)

### Down

- 1 Unctuously in a fawning way (12)
- 2 Tie the French chosen (5)
- 3 Yearbook from McCalman acts. (7)
- 4 Red and French stop (5)
- 5 Dithering when sick in holiday (11)
- 7 Lift crowd round yours truly (5)
- 8 Fitting encounter (4)
- 9 I fire apt beverage (8)
- 11 Large rodent concealed in decoy punch (5)
- 16 Stubborn tough bequeathed (12)
- 18 Confusing sudoku loses university glory (5)
- 20 A French mountain evil upset sherry (11)
- 21 Defeat most awful (5)
- 23 Almost mend peg 21 (8)
- 27 Fringed crept (5)
- 28 Army alibi (6)
- 31 Spry soldier in beer (5)
- 33 Brief upset timer (5)
- 35 Recess in picnic heath (5)
- 36 Spots cane (4)

## Quick Clues — just for fun!

### Across

- 1 Adaptation (12)
- 6 Powder (4)
- 10 Spotted dog (9)
- 12 Small herring (7)
- 13 Intended (5)
- 14 Bile secrete (5)
- 15 Three squared (4)
- 17 Writing liquid (3)
- 19 Waterfalls (9)
- 21 Chafe (3)
- 22 Unusual items (7)
- 24 Base (7)
- 25 Vale (3)
- 26 Domestic machine (9)
- 29 Small child (3)
- 30 Posh grocer's (4)
- 32 Edible bulb (5)
- 34 Weariness (5)
- 37 Cockney thief (7)
- 38 One who comes into her own after dark (9)
- 39 Watery part of milk separated from the curd (4)
- 40 Gory (12)

### Down

- 1 French miss (12)
- 2 Fourth letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 3 Desperate (7)
- 4 Cold (5)
- 5 Impediment (11)
- 7 Foreign (5)
- 8 Masticate (4)
- 9 Issue of ones issue (8)
- 11 At no time (5)
- 16 Scatterbrained (12)
- 18 Familiar (5)
- 20 Small measure of sugar (11)
- 21 Automaton (5)
- 23 Pictured (8)
- 27 Big wheel (5)
- 28 Greek tragedy queen (7)
- 31 Rub out (5)
- 33 Port and hot water (5)
- 35 Scottish seaside town (5)
- 36 Pack away (4)

Please send your completed crosswords to **The Arran Voice, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX**. Alternatively, e-mail your answers to [info@arranvoice.com](mailto:info@arranvoice.com), with the word "Crossword — Issue 93" in the subject line.

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## Issue 91 Crossword Answers

### Cryptic Answers

Across: 1 cadge; 4 backslide; 9 insipid;  
10 equator; 11 wanderlust; 12 inch;  
14 go west; 16 addict; 17 grieve; 18 crayon;  
22 ache; 23 determined; 26 havered;  
27 control; 28 dormobile; 29 spear.

Down: 1 chinwag; 2 dyson; 3 expressive;  
4 bodily; 5 cheesy; 6 scum; 7 intensity;  
8 earshot; 13 adornments; 15 whichever;  
17 gnashed; 19 nodular; 20 mendhi;  
21 rescue; 24 nerve; 25 ergo.

### Quick Answers

Across: 1 glove; 4 abdicated; 9 records;  
10 arbiter; 11 larch trees; 12 toll; 14 discus;  
16 cavity; 17 unlike; 18 editor; 22 pact;  
23 analgesics; 26 elderly; 27 cudbear;  
28 nosebleed; 29 delay.

Down: 1 garbled; 2 oscar; 3 earthquake;  
4 absorb; 5 deafen; 6 cube; 7 tattooist;  
8 Darnley; 13 baldheaded; 15 silicides;  
17 umpteen; 19 respray; 20 enzyme;  
21 placed; 24 ideal; 25 grub.

### Winner of Issue 91 Crossword:

Congratulations to **Chas MacAlister from Shiskine**  
who wins the gift voucher this week. x

## Issue 92 Sudoku & Kakuro Solutions

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

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

					12	10		
				17	8	9	29	
16	9	7	16	8	3	1	4	4
21	5	2	4	9	1	20	3	2
	15	6	9		13	9	1	3
7	4	1	2	11	5	8	7	12
13	8	5	16	1	2	3	6	4
	24	4	9	8	3	17	9	8
		3	1	2				

# Sudoku

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

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

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

## On this day...

- 1901** Edward VII becomes King after his mother, Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom, dies.  
**1906** SS Valencia runs aground on rocks on Vancouver Island, killing more than 130.  
**1968** Apollo 5 lifted off, carrying the first Lunar Module into space.  
**2003** Last successful contact with spacecraft Pioneer 10, one of the most distant man made objects.  
**2007** The jury portion of the trial against Robert Pickton, accused of being Canada's worst serial killer, opens in New Westminster British Columbia, Canada.

## Star Birthdays

- 1869** Grigori Rasputin, Russian Monk  
**1965** Brian McCardie, Scottish Actor  
**1967** Eleanor McEvoy, Irish Singer-songwriter  
**1981** Beverly Mitchell, American Actress  
**1986** Daniel Wayne Smith, American Actor  
**1988** Greg Oden, American Basketball 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.

		17	6			15	29		
13						12			25
18			9			23			
					16				
	3	26	4			9			16
9				34					
23				14					
							17		
	12				9				
				3			10	17	
	9					24			
			10				11		



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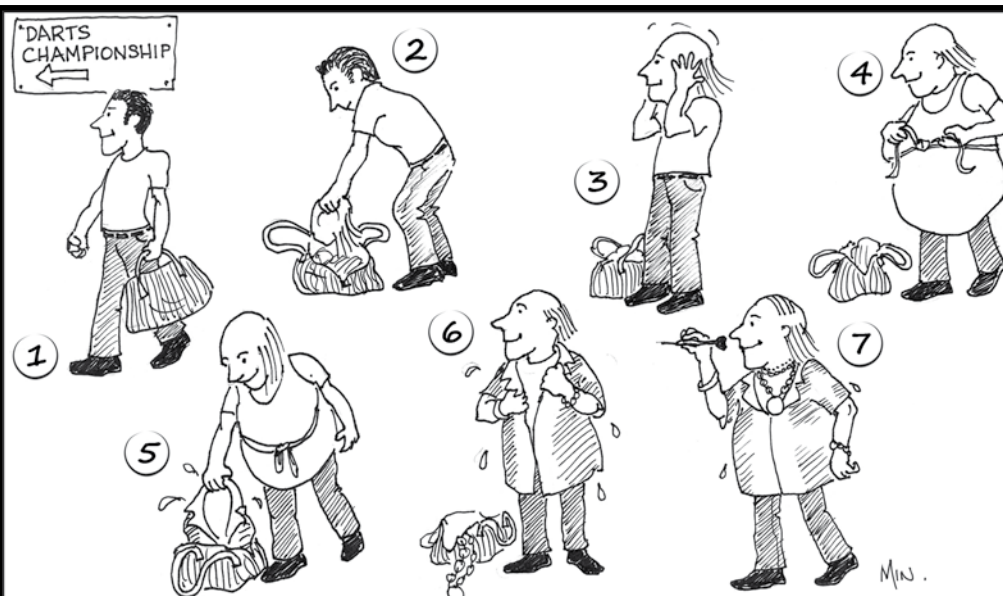
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## Readers' Recommended Books



### WHAT A CARVE UP!

By Jonathan Coe

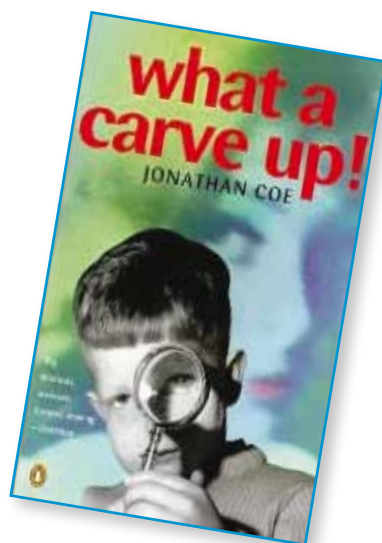
Penguin paperback  
£7.99  
ISBN 978-0-141-03503-1

Some books get to be classics very quickly. Jonathan Coe's wicked send-up of the 'eighties, first published in 1994, is one of them, and Penguin have very sensibly reissued it in their 'retro' list that looks exactly like Penguins always used to, orange at top and bottom with the title in the white centre bit. Coe's disillusioned take on the Thatcher era and the years that followed is furiously angry, but it's also very funny.

Michael Owen, an incompetent writer with troubles of his own, is offered an astonishingly lucrative contract to write the detailed history of the Winshaw family — and bumbles his way into a horror story. The Winshaws are appalling. Every member of the unsavoury clan, apart from mad aunt Tabitha and Mortimer, a hapless dissenter who eventually gets his own back, is an archetypal Thatcherite monster. Dorothy Wishaw marries a decent farmer and turns his farm into a nightmare of intensive production. Hilary Winshaw, through back-stabbing, ruthless rudeness and the voicing of loud, crude opinions, becomes an immensely rich journalist and TV presenter. Henry Winshaw, with neither morals nor brains, decides that politics is an easy option and fetches up on the front bench. Roddy Winshaw, wealthy West End art dealer, uses false promises of professional backing to seduce female art students. There are more, each one a risibly recognisable exponent of the commercial free-for-all that landed us in the current mess. Between them, they carve up, stitch up and sell off anything they can get their

greedy paws on, including the state industries and the Health Service.

The book is a complex structure, at one level a blistering satire but at the same time a baffling detective story, pursued with total incompetence by Michael, the reluctant biographer — who himself, of course, has also been bought. The whole thing culminates in a Gothic evening at Winshaw Towers during which every member of the dreadful clan comes to a sticky and appropriate end. Satire morphs into farce — quite suitably, for the characters concerned have throughout this savage book behaved so appallingly that they are far beyond the world of reason. The same sense of something close to hysterical amusement has marked this year's grotesque economic events, but Jonathan Coe saw the black humour inherent in the chance-grabbing 'eighties before anyone else. When the chips are well and truly down, he suggests, all you can do is keep haplessly playing the game. Or give up and laugh.



## It's a Car's Lot

THE NEED OR otherwise for yellow lines in Brodick has been hotly debated for many years and this driver, for one, will heartily welcome their appearance at the north end of Brodick village.

With ample car parks behind the wee Co and at the Ormidale Pavilion, it has always been a source of wonder for me that people must park at this narrowest, busiest stretch of the high street. I know how frustrating it is trying to get out of the wee Co car park because the traffic flow at that point has been reduced to single file in alternate directions by the presence of cars parked along by the bank. Yellow lines will, perhaps, prevent the vicious circle of 'I'll park on the road because I can't get out of the car park because of people parked on the road' — so long as people abide by them.

For those who passed their test a long time ago and rarely take their car to the mainland here is a little refresher course on the significance of those stripes at the side of the road.

Single yellow lines can apply for anything between one and 23 hours per day, including Sundays. They

will be accompanied by a sign listing the restricted times. If this does not mention days of operation it means that the restriction applies seven days a week.

Double yellow lines always mean 'at any time' and they no longer need to have an accompanying sign.

In parking restriction terms Bank Holidays are not the same as Sundays, so waiting restrictions will apply on a Bank Holiday unless they are expressly exempted on the sign.

It is true that yellow lines must have a T-bar where they terminate or change from double to single or vice versa, but T-bars are not required where a yellow line meets a parking bay or zebra crossing as bays and crossings effectively sit on top of the yellow line.

This driver would argue that it is not the presence of the yellow lines themselves that is a sign of urbanisation, so much as the presence of a multitude of cars and heavier traffic. There are, of course, other ways to deal with this, like providing a better public transport system. But in the meantime, I'll see you in the car park!

## Squirrel beer competition delay

DUE TO A FEW last minute design tweaks, the Arran Brewery has yet to finalise the label for its forthcoming Red Squirrel Ale, so photographers eager to see which image won the competition and scooped the £100 prize will have to wait until the next issue of *The Arran Voice*. In the meantime, the Brewery has reported that the first batch of the new ale is a tasty wee beer, and as feisty as the red squirrels that inspired it.

## Sport-at-a-glance

### TEAMS ASSEMBLE FOR KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

The Arran Pool League Knock-out Competition will take place this Sunday 25th January in Kilmory Hall.

Which team will join the island's pool team hall of fame in the ultimate showdown of green felt teamwork?

Previous winners were: Ormidale Hotel (1983-84) Kinloch Hotel (1984-85) PHT (1985-86) Whiting Bay (1986-87) Nags (1987-88) Breadalbane (1988-89) Drift Inn (1989-89) Nags (1990-91) Nags (1991-92) Drift Inn (1992-93) Lagg Hotel (1993-94) Steamers (1994-95) Drift Inn (1995-96) Drift Inn (1996-97) Lagg (1997-98) Aldersyde (1998-99) Aldersyde (1999-2000) Kinloch (2000-01) Kinloch (2001-02) Bar Eden (2002-03)

### CALCUTTA CUP

Due to the lumpy sea and general weather conditions last weekend, the arrival of the Calcutta Cup was delayed until Wednesday of this week (again, weather-permitting). A full report about the Cup's journey around the island will feature in next week's *Arran Voice*.



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**Brodick Golf Club**

**AGM**

**Golf Club House**  
**Wednesday 4th February**  
**7.30pm**



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**Feis Arainn**

**A.G.M**

**Thursday 29th January 2009**  
**(Diardaoin 29 Faoilleach 2009)**

**Arran High School - 7.30pm**

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# Golf Results

**22nd January 2009**  
By **Dougie MacFarlane**  
**Arran Golfers Association**

**RESULTS:**  
Winter League 2008/2009.  
Saturday 17th January 2009, Third round results, Corrie Golf Club

The 3rd round games got underway at the second time of asking, with a slight break in the wind and rain enabling two games to take place, although by the end of the matches the weather was definitely winning the day. The game between Corrie and Lamlash was postponed as Lamlash had four players on the mainland and a few others missing for the rescheduled date. This will now take place in the next couple of weeks. The game involving Corrie and Brodick from the previous month will be played hopefully before the beginning of March, enabling a slightly clearer league table going into the final round of matches in March.

The first game to be played was between Machrie and Brodick which ended in a tied match overall with 2 points each.

The second match was between Whiting Bay against Shiskine. This game ended up with Whiting Bay edging out Shiskine by 2 and a half points to 1 and a half. Appologies for the short report but as the day was so awful not too many people stayed around to gather details of the matches and the appeal of a warm bath and a large whisky seemed slightly more appealing!! (Dougie MacFarlane)

**FIXTURES:**  
4th round next month February 1st, Lamlash Golf Club  
Draw as follows:  
Lamlash v Brodick, 10:00am  
Machrie Bay v Shiskine, 10:50am  
Whiting Bay v Corrie, 11:40am

## Whiting Bay Golf Club

**RESULTS:**  
Saturday 17th. Whiting Bay beat Shiskine by 2 and a half points to 1 and a half points in the AGA Winter League at Corrie, played in ..... [I] interesting [/I] weather conditions!

**FIXTURES:**  
The Winter Cup game on Sunday 18th was postponed due to the weather and will now be played next Sunday, the 25th January.



# Brodick golfers lock clubs in Clochendichter

By **Lenny Hartley**

*Eye-on-the-green Lenny Hartley reports on the much-lamented loss of Brodick golf club's Scots pine, news of Peroni's city break for putting practice and Aly Hume's bunnet....*

**Clochendichter, 17th January:**  
**Alma 4-1/2 Village 2-1/2**  
**Street 4 Knowe 4**

The first games of the singles matches were played on a cold, blustery and showery day after high winds brought trees down all over the Island, including one of the Scots pines which stood majestically midway between tee and green on the par 5 5th hole.

The 30ft high tree finally succumbed to the weather after being battered by golf balls since the re-modelled course took shape 13 years ago, and is now reduced to a 15 foot high skelf. Another Skelf, approximately 10ft smaller, grievously remarked that Club Captain Brian Smith's absence could be explained by his being called away to an urgent meeting held by the ladies, as they wished to place an elevated tee on top of the remainder of the tree in order that some of them may achieve a par 5.

## HORN START

Due to Health and Safety it was decided to forgo the usual Shotgun Start and instead blow a ship's horn to alert the players of the commencing match. Unfortunately this caused Sneaker's last minute replacement Andy McCrindle to head for the pier thinking that the Clansman needed a pilot for a trip to Greenock. Fortunately for all concerned Calmac discovered that they still had a few unused trips to Ardrossan from their secret wintertime Frugal Ardrossan Redirection Transport Shipping (FARTS) Policy.

As tradition dictates, the first match always includes the reigning champions and Alma were playing the Village. The match promised to be a cracker. In the corresponding fixture last year with Alma's Captain Lenny Hartley on Safari, vice-captain Jim Nichols took over the reins and steered Alma to a historic 8-0 victory. However, for this year Alma was without manager Jim Nichols, who preferred the company of an Anglo-Nubian and was bleating about vice-captain Donald Mckinnie's selection of

Lenny Hartley in the team.

**Game 1:** The Village captain John Beattie was playing against Lenny Hartley and the game was evenly matched until the turn when John went two up after pars at the 9th and 10th. Hartley was under pressure after a very poor display against Machrie in the AGA at Corrie the previous day and was lucky that a heavy squall blew John off course. Hartley won four out of the next six holes to win 2 up.

**Game 2:** Alma VC Donald 'Stud' Mckinnie was paired against Jimmy 'Jasper' Armit. A close match was shrouded in controversy, with McKinnie sinking a short putt out of turn. Jasper could have claimed the hole, but in keeping with his new appearance decided to be a gentleman and let the matter rest. Jimmy was probably wishing he had claimed the hole as he lost 2-1.

**Game 3:** Andy McCrindle was paired against the Village's Iain (Bung) McMillan. Bung incidentally should be in the Guinness book of records, as in around six decades of golfing he had only been a 2nd Class competitor for approx 6 hours when he played on the Brandon the other week. He scored so well that he went immediately back to First class, in a stroke reducing his playing time by half. Fresh from his sprint to the Pier, McCrindle steered a course through the puddles using his handicap to the full to win 3-2.

## HOLY ENCOUNTER

**Game 4:** Sam McCalla was paired with Aly Hume. Not much to report in this match. I was hoping that Aly's bunnet would get blown onto the beach so I could recount the tale about Aly in the early sixties when the first hippies were arriving on the Island. Toddler Aly was down at the beach and a long haired, bearded hippy appeared out of the surf, causing an astonished Aly to run home proclaiming that Jesus was on the beach! However his hat didn't get blown off so I won't mention that one until I get the slightest excuse. The game finished with a crucial win for Alma with Sam beating Aly by 1.

**Game 5:** Robbie Duncan was playing Lindsay Keir. Lindsay was two up after four holes but Robbie fought back to square the match, causing the vertically-challenged baker to demand that we stop playing singles and instead play carpet bowls or pingpong!

In the others matches Matt Keir won

well against an under-the-weather Bert McGunnigle (5-4), Sid Sillars beat Peter McCalla (3-2) and Bruce Jenkins beat Gus Robertson (4-3).

## THE STREET VS THE KNOWE

In the other match the league Leaders were up against the Knowe. Under pressure Knowe manager Gordon 'Nog' Hendry wielded the axe and brought in many new faces in a desperate attempt to stop the slump. McRae, Dobson and Raeside were all dropped with Bobby 'Peroni' McRae being despatched to an exclusive rehab clinic in Glasgow to practise his putting.

## FIGHT-BACK

Match 1 saw the Street Captain Nicol Hume play young Matt Dobson. Nicol was soon 5 up but lacked the killer touch against a fellow Killie fan and let Matt back into the game. Matt deserves great credit in fighting back for a draw.

John Hartley and Dougie Robertson starred in a battle of the Jammy Dodgers. With Hartley, using his handicap wisely to go 4 up after 4, preserved his lead to win by 2.

Russell Duncan and Brian Robertson faced each other for the first time since their victorious campaign In the 1983 Merchants Trophy. Brian was one of the new faces brought into freshen up the Knowe and would have been happy holding southpaw Russell Duncan to a half.

The other matches resulted in wins for the Street's Andy Martin and Stevie Bunyan, who beat Gordon Hendry and Brian Boal. The Knowe's Iain McDonald, Gordon Robertson and David Hendry won against Willie Innes, Chris Paddinton and Gordon Sillars respectively.

## LEAGUE TABLE

- Street 25 pts
- Alma 20 pts
- Knowe 18 pts
- Village 17 pts

## NEXT GAME FEBRUARY 15TH

- Alma v Street
- Knowe v Village
- Horn start at 10:30am



BRODICK BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS	LAMLASH BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS
15TH JANUARY 2009	MONDAY 19TH JANUARY
N/S 1st M. McGill & E. McConnell +3440 2nd T. Martin & D. Hamilton +3210 3rd D. Bruce & J. Murchie +2650	N/S Isabel McArthur & E. McKellar +640 E. McNiven & V. Iutz +500 J. Barclay & J. McArthur +160
E/W 1st J. MacLure & A. McKelvie -1710 2nd H. Boyd & E. Paul -1730 3rd C. McAllister & V. Iutz -2090	E/W H. Boyd & J. Murchie +1220 P. Adamson & E. McConnell +970 A. Carr & P. Thomson +800

# Arran pool league — week 9

## NICOL EXECUTES ‘STUNNING GRANNY’

P.T. 1934 came as close as any team this season to a major upset last week, when they were beaten by the margin of just 7-5 by a visiting Bar Eden team. The match also saw in-form pool maestro Euan Ingram lose his first singles game of the season in his bout against Jamie Picken. The Southender laid a cunning trap which coaxed Euan into potting the white along with the black.

Bar Eden's 'golden balls' recovered in the doubles session, when he and Nicol Auld pulled off (in Nicol's own words) a 'stunning granny' against Tommy Mulholland and Stewart Kilpatrick. A good night was had by all.

Elsewhere, a travelling and temporarily homeless Drift In Drift Out squad conquered a mentally tough Kildonan team 10-2. The Kildonan players are becoming so resilient to their regular losses that Northend Thistle are considering taking sports psychology coaching lessons from the pool team.

Kildonan have yet to win a point from their first nine matches, but they still have the remainder of the season to improve on the performance of other recent league bottom-dwellers. In 2001-2002, a dispirited Drift Out managed just three points with three draws (home and away to Cameronia A, away to Breadalbane). In 2005-2006 the Catacol scored only one point in the entire season with a memorable away draw at Lagg. League secretary and P.T. 1934 player Eddie Picken fears Kildonan could sneak a hallowed point at Kilmory Hall this year. 'The Lagg/P.T. 1934 might be vulnerable for dropping the home point again this season,' said Eddie. 'That will be a twitchy night that one.'

In Whiting Bay, the Cameronia were up

	Pld	W	L	D	F	A	GOB	Pts
Bar Eden	10	10	0	0	78	42	6	30
Drift	10	7	2	1	73	47	6	22
Corrie	10	5	4	1	56	59	5	16
P.T. 1934	10	4	4	2	64	51	5	14
Cameronia	10	4	4	2	56	59	7	14
PHT	10	3	6	1	56	63	5	10
Catacol	10	3	6	1	53	67	5	10
Kildonan	10	0	10	0	34	79	1	0

7-0 against the Catacol and went on to win with a comfortable 8-game margin and steal the gallon.

Corrie were host to the PHT and the home team managed a rare home win, despite the best efforts of the visitors. The PHT seem to be best when teamwork is involved and their 1-shot-per-3-minutes strategy won them a fine gallon round.

## RESULTS:

Kildonan (G) 2 – 10 The Drift  
Cameronia (G) 10 – 2 Catacol  
Corrie 8 – 4 PHT (G)  
Bar Eden 7 – 5 (G) P.T. 1934 (G)

## DOUBLES COMPETITION

Matches to be played by February 15th. Venues in bold. Winners please phone 600418

- D. Cudrie/Richard (PHT) or C. Blackham/M. Wetton (Catacol) vs. B. Radtkouski/P. Holmes (PHT) or V. Dillon/Billy TF (P.T. 1934) — **Bar Eden**
- M. Worthington/C. Galloway (P.T. 1934) vs. S. Weir/S. Logan (Catacol) — **PHT**
- J. Copperwheat/S. Scott (Drift) vs. J. Lyon/S. Lawson (Catacol) — **Bar Eden**
- G. Willis/J. Ainsworth (Cameronia) or A. Duncan/N. Auld (Bar Eden) vs. L. Logan/N. Bond (Catacol) — **PHT**
- I. Murchie/S. Heaney (Drift) vs. G. McLeod/D. Hackett (Bar Eden) or C. McBain/J. Ferguson (Cameronia) — **Kildonan**
- S. McGovern/S. Pringle (Bar Eden) vs. E. Ingram/J. McPherson (Bar Eden) — **Bar Eden**
- L. Little/I. Roberts (PHT) vs. D. Head/F. Barr (Bar Eden) — **Kildonan**
- H. Driver/C. Wannop (Kildonan) vs. L. Girbow/C. Black (Drift) — **Bar Eden**

# Isle of Arran Primary Schools' Sports Hall Athletics Festival 2009

## RESULTS: GIRLS — TRACK/FIELD & BOYS — TRACK/FIELD

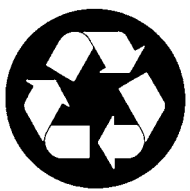
Event	Position	School	Name/s	Time/Dist/Score
2x1 Lap Relay	1st	Brodick	Sarah MacNeil, Ailsa McMillan	29.5
	2nd	Shiskine	Gemma Bennett, Taylor Smith	30.9
	3rd	Lamlash	Rebecca Crawford, Cara Miller	31.8
4x1 Lap Relay	1st	Brodick	Erin Boal, Isla Sillars, Alyssa Colwell, Isla Hill	62.6
	2nd	Whiting Bay	Imogen Armstrong, Asha Simson,	64.0
	3rd	Corrie/Pirnmill	Ellie Miller, Lynsey Fleming Anna O'Donnelly, Abbie Jackson, Dee McGloin, Saskia Thorburn-Eady	64.7
6 Lap Paarlauf	1st	Brodick	Sarah MacNeil, Ailsa McMillan	134.5
	2nd	Whiting Bay	Eilidh MacNeil, Kirsty Stewart	136.9
	3rd	Lamlash	Gabrielle Allison, Hannah Bone	144.8
2x2 Lap Relay	1st	Whiting Bay	Eilidh MacNeil, Lynsey Fleming	63.9
	2nd	Brodick	Erin Boal, Isla Sillars	64.7
	3rd	Shiskine	Gemma Bennett, Heather Snowdon	68.6
4x1 Lap Over/Under Relay	1st	Kilmory	Chloe Brookes, Charley Napier, Alex Muir, Katie Morrison	133.9
	2nd	Lamlash	Rebecca Crawford, Megan Ingham, Lina Locatelli, Courtney Taylor	135.3
	3rd	Whiting Bay	Laurny Fleming, Beth McCartney, Ellie Miller, Adelina Azemi	138.0
Circuit Relay	1st	Corrie/Pirnmill	Anna O'Donnelly, Dee McGloin, Ellis McKelvie, Fiona Bulger	157.4
	2nd	Whiting Bay	Beth McCartney, Ellie Miller, Lynsey Fleming, Chantelle Gunning	157.7
	3rd	Lamlash	Cara Miller, Lina Locatelli, Sarah Simpson, Courtney Taylor	159.5

Field				
Speed Bounce	1st	Brodick	Ailsa McMillan	67
	2nd =	Corrie/Pirnmill	Dee McGloin	64
	2nd =	Lamlash	Hannah Currie	64
	2nd =	Whiting Bay	Eilidh MacNeil	64
	3rd	Lamlash	Megan Ingham	62
Standing Long Jump	1st	Corrie/Pirnmill	Abbie Jackson	163
	2nd	Corrie/Pirnmill	Dee McGloin	150
	3rd	Brodick	Sarah MacNeil	147
Chest Throw	1st =	Brodick	Isla Sillars	4.50
	1st =	Lamlash	Cara Miller	4.50
	2nd	Brodick	Erin Boal	4.0
	3rd	Corrie/Pirnmill	Abbie Jackson	3.5
Vertical Jump	1st	Whiting Bay	Eilidh MacNeil	35
	2nd	Brodick	Erin Boal	34
	3rd	Shiskine	Taylor Smith	33
Standing Triple Jump	1st	Brodick	Ailsa McMillan	5.0
	2nd	Whiting Bay	Eilidh MacNeil	5.0
	3rd	Whiting Bay	Ellie Miller	5.0

Event	Position	School	Name/s	Time/Dist/Score
2x1 Lap Relay	1st	Brodick	Lyle Bunyan, Roy Soong	28.0
	2nd	Corrie/Pirnmill	Alastair Innes, Jamie McLaren	30.1
	3rd	Shiskine	Jasper Herbert-Lilly, Callan Taylor	30.8
4x1 Lap Relay	1st	Lamlash	Rory Hunter, Myles Johnson, Reece Currie, Marcel Gren	60.3
	2nd	Kilmory	Alan Dillon, Daniel McAllister, Donald Mulholland, Kieran Robertson	61.1
	3rd	Brodick	Michael Smith, Harry Anderson, Oisín Swinton-Boyle, Conner Percy	62.4
6 Lap Paarlauf	1st	Shiskine	Kerr Rankin, Iain Clarke	134.8
	2nd	Lamlash	Rory Hunter, Tilly Ford	138.9
	3rd	Kilmory	John Mulholland, Donald Mulholland	139.4
2x2 Lap Relay	1st	Brodick	Lyle Bunyan, Roy Soong	59.1
	2nd	Kilmory	Alan Dillon, Kieran Robertson	64.0
	3rd	Shiskine	Iain Clarke, Callan Taylor	64.4
4x1 Lap Over/Under Relay	1st	Whiting Bay	Jasper Herbert-Lilly, Jack Simmons, Robert Thomson, Matthew Tetlow	123.7
	2nd	Corrie/Pirnmill	Peter Gillson, Alastair Innes, Gregor Stewart, Aidan Gold	124.1
	3rd	Kilmory	Lyle Robertson, John Mulholland, Matthew McAllister, Daniel McAllister	125.8
Circuit Relay	1st	Shiskine	Finlay Murchie, Kerr Rankin, Jasper Herbert-Lilly, John-Luke Betley-Stewart	139.4
	2nd	Corrie/Pirnmill	Peter Gillson, Alastair Innes, Jamie McLaren, Aidan Gold	143.4
	3rd	Brodick	Fergus Gunn, Mungo Paul, Harry Anderson, Adam McNicol	148.0

Field				
Speed Bounce	1st	Shiskine	Iain Clarke	73
	2nd	Corrie/Pirnmill	Jamie McLaren	71
	3rd	Brodick	Oisín Swinton-Boyle	62
Standing Long Jump	1st	Brodick	Lyle Bunyan	1.77
	2nd	Whiting Bay	Joe Robson	1.75
	3rd	Lamlash	Rory Hunter	1.71
Chest Throw	1st	Shiskine	Finlay Murchie	4.50
	2nd	Whiting Bay	Jack Simmons	4.25
	3rd	Kilmory	Daniel McAllister	4.0
Vertical Jump	1st	Corrie/Pirnmill	Peter Gillson	44
	2nd	Brodick	Lyle Bunyan	41
	3rd	Whiting Bay	Jack Simmons	38
Standing Triple Jump	1st	Corrie/Pirnmill	Peter Gillson	6.0
	2nd =	Kilmory	Alan Dillon	5.5
	2nd =	Brodick	Roy Soong	5.5
	3rd	Kilmory	Daniel McAllister	5.25





## Arran's young athletes on track for finals



The island's primary schools gathered for an afternoon of field and track events last week as part of North Ayrshire's sports hall athletics competition. Deafening cheers filled the Auchrannie sports hall as children from Arran's seven primary school's gave some vocal encouragement to their classmates in the various running, throwing and jumping events. A number of teachers, staff from the Auchrannie and members of the mainland

North Ayrshire Leisure team were involved in the organisation of the event, which will see some of Arran's best young athletes progress to the competition finals next month. Ten boys and ten girls (plus two reserves) will be selected to take part in the final at the Magnum Leisure Centre on 24th February. Organisers said a big 'well done' to all the children who took part.

See page 23 for the results from the field and track events.

## And Finally ...

### GOD AND THE POST OFFICE

*We are indebted to John at Whiting Bay Post Office for this story.*

Jim worked for the Post Office, in the department where they deal with mail that has no legible address. One day shortly before Christmas, he picked up a letter that simply said, 'To God.' Jim opened the letter in search of a return address — and couldn't help reading the shakily written words. They said:

*Dear God,*

*I am 83 years old. I had saved up £100 from my small pension for Christmas, but yesterday somebody stole my purse. My two friends were coming for dinner as a special treat, but now I cannot buy food and the electricity meter will probably run out, as there isn't a pension day until after Christmas. I have no family to turn to, so you are my only hope. Please, can you help me? Agatha.*

Jim was touched. He showed the letter to his fellow workers, and they had a whip-round between them that produced £96 — only £4 short of what Agatha had lost. They put it in an envelope and sent it off to her then went home, slightly the poorer but thinking with a warm glow of the old lady and her friends enjoying their Christmas dinner.

In the New Year, Jim recognised Agatha's shaky writing on another letter to God. With a smile, he called the others and began to read it to them. It said:

*Dear God,*

*I can't thank you enough for your wonderful gift. My friends and I had a glorious Christmas, thanks to your divine providence.*

*PS — I thought you should know that the money was £4 short. I expect those bastards at the Post Office had it.*

*Agatha.*

## Lamlash football on the up

A RECENT MEETING held in the Pierhead Tavern has signalled the renaissance of Lamlash village's footballing ambitions. After failing to muster a squad last year, almost 20 players pledged their support for the coming season last Friday.

### COACHING

'It's time to get this running again,' said Lee Little, who alongside Ben Tattersfield had called the meeting to kickstart Lamlash's 2009 league hopes. In 2007-2008, a 'management power vacuum' in Lamlash led to a bit of disorganisation and by the time the season had come around, there was no side to field. This year Scott Campbell (Skeets) has volunteered to help out with some coaching.

### LOAN PERIOD OVER

'We need to get out training each week,' said Lee. Unlike Brodick, Northend, Shiskine and the Southend squads, the Lamlash gents have not kept up their footballing skills with weekly training sessions during the winter. But a few of the more talented Lamlash players have benefited by joining the strict training regime of Northend Thistle. Lee Little has acknowledged that any league success for Lamlash this year will doubtless be the result of the Thistle's excellent coaching method, but told *The Arran Voice* that all such players will be called back. 'Their loan period is over,' confirmed Lee.

Except for Northend Thistle and Southend United (who have not won a league match for over 15 years), Lamlash are many sides' favourite team to beat. But the Lamlash lads take this as a



*Playmaker Jamie Sillars could be instrumental in turning the Lamlash team around*

ready compliment, knowing that other teams' eagerness to beat them is a mark of both fear and respect.

Lamlash footballers are holding another meeting this Friday 7.30pm and *The Arran Voice* will keep league supporters posted with further developments within the squad.



*Despite the absence of goal-bagging hitman Jamie Murchie (above), Lamlash has a promising squad for the 2009 season*