GOLFERS BUGGED BY PETROL PINCH

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

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

The police have been informed of the petrol pinching by Corrie Golf Club and enquiries are ongoing. In the meantime, local golfers are working out ways to stop it happening again. ‘What I’m doing now is filling it with just enough to get me round the course and no more, so it won’t be worth anyone’s while to pinch,’ said Stevie, who is also devising a more long-term solution. ‘I’m trying to think of some way to secure my tank and I’ve got some friends working on ideas.’

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

IN THIS ISSUE: Snow Queen Play / Victorian Magic at Castle / Fish Farm Company in Trouble / Massive NAC By-Election Swing
20P PRICE DIFFERENCE

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

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

CALLS FOR OFT INVESTIGATION

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

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

IRREPROSABLE

All that changed when the major oil brands pulled out, leaving the sustainability of transport fuel supply infrastructure in the lurch. Now petrol retailers can theoretically buy from four local distributors with access to branded fuels: Scottish Fuels, Highland Fuels, Gleaner Oil and Gas and Regency Fuels (more info see box on the right). Other major suppliers will refuse to deliver to places like Arran. ‘A Strategic Plan must be prepared for the preservation of fuel supplies and other essential services whilst options are still available,’ said PRA Director Ray Holloway. He told The Arran Voice that ignoring the need for a plan or delaying the acknowledgement of the contents of one that has been produced is ‘an irresponsible action.’

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

SCOTTISH FUELS (EX-BP/NATIONAL SITES)

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

HIGHLAND FUELS (EX-ESSO SITES)

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

GLEANER OIL & GAS (EX-SHELL SITES)

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

REGENCY OILS (TEXACO SITES & OTHERS)

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

Karaoke Competition

Boxing Day, Friday 26th December at 9pm
MAC’S BAR
£100 Cash Prize for the best singer
ALL WELCOME
Tel: 01770 302 226
Mac’s Bar are also looking for a Karaoke compere for a regular Friday Night Karaoke Spot — anyone interested in this position should contact Mac’s Bar on 01770 302 226.

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Fish farm company in trouble

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

'GAME OVER,' SAYS ANALYST

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

There has been an unusual amount of trading in the company, with shares changing hands at a very low price. On December 9th, a holding of 203,000 shares was sold for one krone (about 10p) per share. Another 156,000 shares were brokered at a similar level by HQ Direct the next day. The biggest lender, DnB Nor, has demanded the company acquire between NOK 120 (£13.00/$17.50) and NOK 150 million (£16.3 million/$21.9 million).

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

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

New Year break

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

Our Christmas edition will be out two days early, on Tuesday December 23rd. All deadlines for this number will also be earlier. Advertisements should be with us by tomorrow as you read this, Friday 19th December, or Saturday 20th at the absolute latest. Contributions, letters, photos and copy of all kinds should reach us as early as you can make it, but by Sunday morning, 21st December, as your last chance.

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

Dropped rubble eyesore on String Road

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

Festive good news on the phone

By Sheridan Waldon

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

For more information contact:

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

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

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

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

Turning up in all innocence for a breath of fresh air and a round of gently-assisted golf is a treat to be much looked forward to. All the worse, then, to find on arrival that some other person has put greedy fingers on the petrol cap and siphoned off the contents of the tank. It’s not so much the loss of the petrol’s value as the knowledge that some member of Arran’s community is not to be trusted. We have for many years felt comforted by the sense of reliability that has been such a strong feature of the island. There is no anxiety about undertaking a solitary drive in an oldish car. If it breaks down, the next person along will stop and offer help. Such mutual care and kindness is worth more than any insurance policy. It gives everyone a sense of safety. It is a generosity that makes life secure and enjoyable.

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

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

THE ARRAN VOICE PRODUCTION TEAM

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The Arran Voice is registered as a newspaper

PRESS POLICY

We welcome contributions from readers for all sections of The Arran Voice. Material can be submitted online and 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 to the author. Any content submitted 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.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL PILOT SCHEME

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

First of all may I thank everyone who took the time to write to, or phone me with suggestions. The Community Council has not reached a final decision on how the money should be used. We know that our final decision will not satisfy everyone but we are determined that any scheme that we select will benefit, if not all the community, then a large part of it. There are certain criteria that must be followed and points have had to be clarified with the Government as to the use of the money, and whether there would be any continued funding for any pilot project. We have been informed that this is a one-off payment, so naturally we have to adjust any thoughts to take this into account. We will therefore be making further deliberations early in the New Year.

I can assure you that the Community Council will do its utmost to ensure that the £10,000 is used wisely for the benefit of the island. We therefore wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

A Y Gourlay, Brodick

For more news, this week and every week, register FREE at www.arranvoice.com / 18th December 2008

Your letters can be sent by e-mails to: info@arranvoice.com, or by post to: Voice Mail, The Arran Voice, Pier Buildings, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AX
**CHILDREN BOOGIE AT SCHOOL DISCO**

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

![Great dancing by Ryan from P2](image1)

**MSP CALLS FOR DALRY BY-PASS**

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

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

**HARBOUR DARKNESS SENDS FERRY TO GOUROCK**

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

**AYR TAX OFFICE CLOSURE**

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

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

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

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

CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY URGED

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

FOE Scotland is calling for the Scottish Government to improve on European standards by limiting the power station's carbon emissions to 350g of CO₂ per kilowatt-hour, significantly less than the 500 grams per kilowatt-hour set by California and accepted by the European Parliament environment committee. However, the emissions of any new power plant will hinge on 'carbon capture and storage' technology (CCS), and this is still in its infancy. It captures carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted from power plants and stores it away from the atmosphere, thus cutting global warming — but the snag is, the process can use between 10% and 40% of the energy produced by a power station. The first integrated CCS power plant started operating in Germany in September 2008.

CCS at Hunterston will involve compressing CO₂ into liquid form then taking it away to be piped for storage in an empty oil well (although deep ocean dumping and 'mineral sequestration' options have been considered for other projects). No details of proposed locations for the storage of the carbon emissions have yet been made public. There are no suitable storage locations near Hunterston and the energy used in compression and costs of transporting the CO₂ are likely to form a major part of the operational cost.

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

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

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

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

View the report at: www.planningdemocracy.org.uk/NPReport.pdf

CHILDMINDEERS COME TOP!

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

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

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

Originally set up in 1985, the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) is based upon a network of volunteer members from 32 local authority areas and 32 public consultation expert Clare Symonds says the Planning Framework failed to consult widely enough with community groups. She claims that the Scottish planning system is 'on shaky foundations indeed', and her report concludes by saying the the fact that the Scottish Government cannot meet its own standards 'sends the wrong message to local authorities that are considering how to consult on the next generation of development plans.'

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PLANS TO EASE ARDROSSAN FERRY TRAFFIC

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

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

The Council report considers it ‘desirable to assist the regeneration of the area by providing a greater availability of short term parking close to the main amenity areas and around 60 staff who work to promote the organisation.

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

Contact: Leigh McEwan (SCMA, Communications Co-ordinator) on 01786 445 377
E-mail: information@childminding.org
Website: www.childminding.org

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

Tailbacks from the Princes St traffic lights can extend back to the railway line.
Do you have an island-based event you want to promote? Add it to ArranOnline.com free of charge, and it will automatically appear in these listings (subject to space and suitability). Alternatively, send details of your event to:

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

**EVERY DAY (OR MOST DAYS)**

- Arran Craft Gallery, beside Bilslands, Brodick — open Monday–Saturday, closed 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January
- Arran Art Gallery, Shore Road, Whiting Bay — open daily, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day
- The Burnside Gallery & Exhibition Space, Sculpture Garden, Auchrannie Road — open daily (except Thursdays) all year round 10.30am–5.30pm (current exhibitions: Christmas Show of paintings, crafts and exclusive presents for Christmas)
- Corrie Art (former Corrie Village Shop), Corrie — mixed exhibition, daily 1–6pm, December 25th/26th and January 1st/2nd
- Main Fine Art, Michael Main Gallery, Douglas Centre, Brodick — open 10am–12.30pm & 2–4.30pm
- Isle of Arran Distillery, Lochranza — winter opening times until 16th March: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 10am–4pm, Sunday 11am–4pm (restaurant closed, tea & coffee available), closed December 25th/26th and January 1st/2nd
- Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodick — closed for the winter
- Clauchdale Pottery, The Store, Clauchdale, Brodick — open 7 days, closed December 25th/26th and January 1st/2nd
- Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, gym inductions, fitness assessments, personal training daily, all fitness classes suspended for Christmas Holidays from 21st December
- Balmichael Visitors Centre, String Road — Mondays and Tuesdays closed during winter, except Mo/Tue 22nd/23rd December and Mo/Tue 29th/30th December, closed for holidays from January 4th–28th
- Arran Adventure, beside Auchrannie Spa, Brodick — open December 29th/30th/31st for outdoor activities, then again from 5th January daily
- Brodick Castle, castle closed for the winter, park open all day, shop open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10am–3.30pm until Christmas
- KA Campus, Arran High School, Lamlash — regular fitness classes, gym inductions closed December 24th/25th/26th/31st and January 1st/2nd.

**THURSDAY 18TH**

- Senior Aerobics, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 9.30–10.30am
- Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 10.45–11.45am
- Cardiac Rehab, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 12.30–2pm
- Lochranza Craft Club, Lochranza Hall, 2pm (Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, 3–5pm
- KA Jog, all levels, KA Campus, Lamlash, 5.30–6.30pm
- Pilates, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–6.45pm
- Beavers & Cubs, Theatre & Dance Studio, Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.15–8pm
- Junior Scottish Country Dancing, Lamlash Church Hall, 6–7pm
- Legs, Bums & Tums, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–7.15pm
- Outdoor Boot Camp, Ormidale Park, Brodick 7–8pm
- Arran High School Christmas Concert, Theatre AHS, Lamlash, 7pm for 7.30, tickets from Arran High School
- Brodick Bridge Club, Ormidale Pavilion, 7.15pm
- Brodick Embroidery Group, Library, Brodick, 7.30pm
- Middle Eastern Dancers’ Practice & Lessons, Lamlash, Church Hall, Beginners 7.30–8.30pm, Intermediates 8.30–9.30pm, classes suspended until 15th January 2009
- General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

**FRIDAY 19TH**

- Last day of school before holidays
- Chocolate Morning, Lamlash Primary School, sales of recipe books and chocolates, 9.30am
- Yoga, Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am
- Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, Brodick, 9.45am
- Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, restart on 9th January 2009
- Lamlash Friday Club, Lamlash Church Hall, 2pm
- Kids’ Club, Games Night, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–8pm
- Arran Pipe Band Practice Session, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
- Arran Torch Players, rehearsals suspended during school holidays
- Jazz Café, BYOB, Whiting Bay Village Hall, Whiting Bay, 8pm
- Quiz Night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
- Over 21’s Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

**SATURDAY 20TH**

- Dance School, KA Campus, Lamlash, all day
- RNL Shop Lamlash open 10.30am – 12.30pm
- Family Games, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 3–4pm
- Fun in the Pool, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 4–5pm
- WRI Children’s Party, Shiskine Hall, 2–4pm
- WRI Children’s Party up to P5 (incl.), AHS Theatre, Lamlash, 2.30pm
- WRI Children’s Party, Whiting Bay Hall, 4–7pm
- Youth Club, Church Hall, Brodick — Carol Singing in Brodick, 7–10pm
- Disco, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

**SUNDAY 21TH**

- Boys’ Football, KA Campus, Lamlash (Astroturf or Games Hall), 10–11am
- Arran Wargames Club, Arran High School, Lamlash, suspended for school holidays
- Kids Club Sunday Matinée, 1.30–3pm
- AA Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Margaret’s Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm
- Fiddle Class, Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 5.30–6.30pm
- Christmas Carol Singing with Arran Brass Monkeys, Kilnmore Hall, 6.30pm

**MONDAY 22ND**

- Ways 2 Walk Group, Ormidale Pavilion Car Park, Brodick, 9am
- Scottish Country Dancers, Beginners & Improvers, Corrie Hall, 2pm
- Weight Wise, Hospital Bungalow, Lamlash, 5–5.30pm, suspended until 5th January
- Sannox Cricket Club, Indoor Practice, Auchrannie Gym, Brodick, 7–9pm, Suspended for holidays
- Ab Class Beginners, KA Campus, Lamlash, 6.30–7pm
- Aerobics, KA Campus, Lamlash, 7–8pm
- Brodick Bridge Club, Golf Club House, Lamlash, 7.15pm
- General Knowledge Quiz, Cameronia, Whiting Bay, 9.30pm

**TUESDAY 23RD**

- AA Alcoholics Anonymous, Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
- Indoor Bowling, Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 2–4pm
- Body Conditioning, KA Campus, Lamlash, 8–9pm
- Scottish Country Dance Class, Brodick, Church Hall, 7.30pm
- Pop Music Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

**WEDNESDAY 24TH**

- WRI Children’s Party, Kilnmore Hall, 5.30–8pm
- WRI Children’s Party, Kildonan Hall, 6pm
- Circuit Training, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6–7.15pm

**THURSDAY 25TH**

- Lochranza Craft Club, Lochranza Hall, suspended for holidays
- Table Tennis, Kildonan Hall, suspended for holidays
- Middle Eastern Dancers’ Practice & Lessons, Lamlash Church Hall, suspended until 15th January
- General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, suspended

**EVENTS OVER CHRISTMAS/New Year**

- Boxing Day Dook, 5 £ towards RNL, register with Sally Hunter (600 952), Friday 26th December, Lamlash Pier, 1pm
- New Year’s Ceilidh, BYOB, soft drinks and snacks (strictly no glass, just plastic and cans), reservations possible under 600 995, Arran High School Theatre, Saturday 27th, 8pm
- Bridge Party & Supper, all welcome, book in advance (600 900), Monday 29th December, Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm
- Shiskine Hogmanay Party, tickets only (860 427), Wednesday 31st December, Shiskine Hall, 10pm–1am

**UP & COMING**

**PLAN AHEAD**

- Schools off for x-mas/New Year, Monday, 22nd December 2008–Sunday 4th January 2009
- AHS Parents’ evenings S4 — Monday, 26th January, 7pm
- AHS Parents’ evenings S1 — Thursday, 5th February, 4.15pm
- AHS Parents’ evenings S2 — Tuesday, 28th April, 7pm
- Half Term School Holidays — Monday, 9th–Thursday 12th February
- Schools’ In-Service Day — Friday 13th February
- Arran Drama Festival 2009 — 25th–28th February
- Arran Music Festival 2009 — 25th, 26th & 27th March
- Schools’ Easter Holidays 2009, Monday 6th April–Sunday 19th April
- Schools’ In-Service Day — 1st May
- Wyrd Sisters, Play by Terry Prattchet performed by the Arran Torch Players, 1st–3rd May (incl) May Day — Monday, 4th May (Schools off)
- The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, musical performed by the Arran Music and Drama Club — Monday 25th–Saturday 30th May (incl.)
- Arran Wildlife Festival 2009 — 13–30th May
- Arran Folk Festival 2009 — 7th–14th June
- Schools’ Summer Holidays — Wednesday 1st July–Sunday 16th August
- Teachers’ Return — Friday 14th August

**OUT & ABOUT**

*For more news, this week and every week, register FREE at www.arranvoice.com / 18th December 2008*
FOLLOWING THE RECENT controversy regarding attacks carried out by ravens on farm animals, I thought some independent insights might be helpful.

In his excellent monograph, The Raven (T and AD Poyser 1997), David Ratcliffe concludes that "At one time the raven had a reputation for killing sheep, but probably few shepherds in more recent years believed it would arrack a healthy ewe or ram ... Lamb killing is a different matter." Ratcliffe goes on, "In February/ March 1953, M.G.Ridpath investigated reports of lamb killing by ravens in Pembrokeshire for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In an observation of 100 hours in a coastal area with five breeding pairs of ravens, he found no evidence of attacks on either ewes or lambs. By contrast, in an inland and upland area (the Prescelly Mountains) during 220 hours observation, he saw two lambs actually killed by ravens and nine other attacks on lambs and eight on ewes. The success or failure of the attacks on lambs depended mainly on the vigour of the mother defender her lambs, and the close proximity of the sea, with its food for the raven..."

In his excellent monograph, The Twelve Days of Christmas, during which Peter Alexander Wilson, Crawford Logan and Peter Thomson enjoyed some of the spiritual ingredients of a Christmas. With over 80 people attending, it raised some much needed funds for both the upkeep of the church and the Arran Youth Foundations.

One thing that has declined is the so called ‘sport’ of egg collecting. Being particularly beautiful and multi-coloured, Raven eggs were greatly prized by collectors, one reddish or "erythristic" variety being regarded as almost their Holy Grail. It is surprising how common this egg collecting was before the introduction of the Wild Bird Protection Act in 1954. Persecution by the old style game-keeper rigidly protecting his livelihood has also diminished. The sight of gibbets hung protecting his livelihood has also diminished. The sight of gibbets hung with pathetic rows of crows, jays, magpies, and hawks etc. are thankfully a thing of the past, although poisons are still sometimes used in some quarters. A pair of ravens nested successfully in the copse of mature Scots Pines alongside our house in Corriegills. There are three new properties here, built on the foundations of the old farmstead and buildings. I wonder if the birds would have been tolerated so close at home when it was a working farm?

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

AN AUDIENCE AT Corrie Church was entertained by ‘Stanza’ last Saturday evening. The popular annual performance was boosted by some new material including a topical boardroom skit about the streamlining of Santa’s ‘North Pole Incorporated’ due to competition from online retail distributors. At the interval folks tucked into locally-baked mince pies in the festive atmosphere. The highlight was a mock-debauched performance of an alternative version of The Twelve Days of Christmas, during which Peter Alexander Wilson, Crawford Logan and Peter Thomson enjoyed some of the spiritual ingredients of a Christmas pudding. With over 80 people attending, it raised some much needed funds for both the upkeep of the church and the Arran Youth Foundations.
For more news, this week and every week, register FREE at www.arranvoice.com / 18th December 2008

Readers will be glad to know that we now have two new telephone lines, so it will be easier to get hold of us. Our numbers are now as follows:

303 636
303 649
303 650

It's a very flexible system, with all three numbers able to contact any of us. Please leave a message if you want to contact us out of office hours, and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

NEW PHONES AT THE VOICE

Put your small announcements on our message board, FREE!

Lamlash SWRI

The Children’s Christmas party will be held in the High School on Saturday 20th December, 2.30–4.30pm. We look forward to seeing all children up to, and including, primary five.

Santa has promised to be there at 4 o’clock — Please come along.

COMING ALONG AND SING

Christmas Carols at Kilmory hall with the Arran Brass Monkeys

6.30pm, Sun 21st December

Tea, Coffee, mince pies, mulled wine & Ronnie's Nuts!

Bridge Party

Open to all visitors or locals beginners or experienced players

Where? Lamlash Golf Club

When? Monday 29 December 7pm

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

Phone 600 900 in advance to book in.

Chocolate Morning

Lamlash Primary School,

Friday 19th Dec 9.30am.

Recipe books and chocolate goodies for sale.

Bridge Party

Open to all visitors or locals beginners or experienced players

Where? Lamlash Golf Club

When? Monday 29 December 7pm

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

Phone 600 900 in advance to book in.

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

MISSING CAT

6 month old female brown and grey tabby with ginger flecks

Answers to “TALI”

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

Please, please check your sheds, outbuildings and vehicles...

Please call 601339/078256 44161

Marine News

By John Kinsman, Fishing Correspondent.

UNEXPLODED BOMB FOUND IN LARGS

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

DARING HANDOVER

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

‘CATCH LESS, LAND MORE’ APPROVED

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

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

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

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

After the business, Elma introduced our demonstrator, Assya Baumgärtner, who showed us how to make Christmas decorations which were traditional and eco-friendly. Afterwards members were given the opportunity to make one themselves.

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

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

Massive NAC by-election swing

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

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

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

The results of the first preference votes were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNP</td>
<td>1363</td>
<td>48.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>33.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>11.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LibDem</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>3.37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soc Lab</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>2.44%</td>
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Cllr Anthea Dickson was elected at the third stage of counting, which gave the following result:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNP</td>
<td>1415</td>
<td>51.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>35.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>12.50%</td>
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BRODICK PRIMARY SCHOOL pupils performed an impressive Christmas play entitled the ‘Snow Queen’ on Monday this week. It was a festive spectacle featuring the many talents of all ages at the primary, from the beautiful singing of Ailsa McMillan to some inspired acting by those performing as trees and flowers. Shannon Galbraith played a feisty, no-nonsense Snow Queen who captured the mind of Oisean Swinton-Boyle’s character with an icy spell. It was up to Ailsa’s character Gerda to rescue him with the loving power of a rose. Her journey was full of adventures as she met a family of crows, snowball-throwing children, a kind king and queen, a group of flowers and a menacing gang of thieves. But eventually the Snow Queen and her icicle-wielding side-kicks were banished by Gerda and the friends she made.

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

SNOW QUEEN PLAY SPREADS FESTIVE CHEER

ADVERTISING in The Arran Voice
1/32nd Advertisement £25 (Mono)/£32 (colour)
in Classifieds — £16 (mono)
in Personals — £11 (mono)
1/16th Advertisement £46 (Mono)/£60 (colour)
in Classifieds — £30 (mono)
in Personals — £20 (mono)
Line Ads from only £3.50
Discounts available for block bookings
All above prices plus VAT
We will be happy to visit you at your premises to discuss any advertising.
Our full ratecard is online at: www.arranvoice.com
FREE PERSONAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGES
Send us your name and short Christmas message for publication free of charge. Please include your phone number so that we can contact you if we have to. Space will be limited so send your messages in early to save disappointment.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
at Arran High School
Thursday, 18th December
7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)
ALL WELCOME
Tickets £3
Tickets are available from Arran High School

FREE PERSONAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGES
Send us your name and short Christmas message for publication free of charge. Please include your phone number so that we can contact you if we have to. Space will be limited so send your messages in early to save disappointment.

NEW YEARS PARTY at The Burnside
Saturday 27th December in the High School Theatre, 9pm
Contact Janice 606095 for ticket info and to reserve a table.

The Rowan Singers also entertained (Picture by Arran Photography)

Some children from Brodick primary school sing Christmas carols in the cafe

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

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

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

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THE JAZZ CAFE BAND
Traditional jazz band
will be playing at WHITTINGTON HALL on Sunday, 14th December
from 3.00 to 5.00 pm
Admission is £3.00

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS!
The Arran Cattery at Woodside Farm
For cat holidays
contact us now

CLADACH SAWMILL
YOUR LOCAL SUPPLIER OF HEAVY DUTY TIMBER OAK AND DECIDUOUS.
TOOL SERRERS AND JOINERS.
FROM PRECUT TIMBER TO LARGE FRAME WORK.
Sawmills, Framers and Joiners.
Bothwell, Near Glasgow.
Tel: 01650 883 052.
Arran Wedding then Indonesia...

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

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

Bella’s Diary

By Margaret Kay

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Malkie’s fame is still following me around. This week it was the Co-op, the Medical Centre and on the beach. “How is that wee pup doing?”, “How is Wee Malkie getting on?” I think I may not be the only one who will miss him when he goes to his new home.
Getting to know Alistair Aitkenhead

By Nick Underdown

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

CORRIE BOCHAN
Alastair first came to Arran in the 1950s with his wife May on their holidays ‘like everyone else on the West Coast of Scotland’. They stayed in a bochan in Corrie that used to be an old joiner’s shop behind the village hall. ‘Four walls and a fire. That’s all you needed.’

AN INNOCENT ABROAD
‘Then the army got hold of me,’ said Alastair with accepting humour. ‘I was an innocent abroad’.

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

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

‘Sport is not just rugby and football,’ says Alastair. He is passionate about the importance of physical exercise and believes it essential for all children to have fun at their own level of ability. It is this vision which underpins his abiding passion for dance.

AN INNOCENT ABROAD
‘Then the army got hold of me,’ said Alastair with accepting humour. ‘I was an innocent abroad.’

Posted at the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun in the foothills of the Himalayas, he was launched into a world of British army majors establishing control of the biggest non-conscripted army in the world. ‘Most of the time was spent footering about with the fighting a thousand miles away,’ he recalls. A year before the end of the war, Alastair became Company Commander in Peshawar near the Afghanistan border to protect supply routes. ‘No-one has ever won against the Afghans,’ he remarks — for he believes that Britain is still fighting an unwinnable war.

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

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

The Burnside
Mistletoe Magic

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

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

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

20% OFF
Art materials, Art Kits, Brushes and brush kits, Bears and baskets, Craft supplies, Children’s Kits, Cards and card making supplies, Decorative papers, Graphite pencils etc, Hand made papers, (with pressed flowers etc), Paint your own pots, Paint your own Grummel! Pastels and pencils, Prints, Specialist papers, Videos, Arran wrap

W.S. Merwin has said of the human race, ‘Our real importance is our capacity for responsibility for every form of life, the recognition that we are a part of the entire universe.’ His poetry was unavailable in the UK for over 35 years until the publication of his Selected Poems in 2007.
This is a shortened version of an actual letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Quality sent to a man named Ryan DeVries regarding a pond on his property. With beavers about to be reintroduced to Scotland, we feel sure this will be useful to future dam owners.

Mr. DeVries wrote back as follows:

Dear Mr. Price,

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

I would like to challenge your department to attempt to emulate their resourcefulness, their dam ingenuity, their dam persistence, their dam project any time and/or any place you choose. I believe I can safely state there is no way you could ever match their dam skills, their dam project.

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

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

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

Thank you,

Ryan DeVries
& The Dam Beavers

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

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

We find that dams of this nature are inherently hazardous and cannot be permitted. The Department therefore orders you to cease and desist all activities at this location and to restore the stream to a free-flow condition by removing all wood and brush forming the dams from the stream channel ...

Mr. Price wrote back as follows:

Dear Mr. DeVries,

I agree with you that the beavers would be highly offended. I think they would be highly offended that you call their dam project 'debris.'

I would like to challenge your department to attempt to emulate their resourcefulness, their dam ingenuity, their dam persistence, their dam project any time and/or any place you choose. I believe I can safely state there is no way you could ever match their dam skills, their dam project.

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Thank you,

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& The Dam Beavers

BIG MINCE PIES

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

Ingredients:
- Pastry for 2 pies.
- Fruit mincemeat.
- 2 cups of chopped apples.
- ⅛ cup of raisins.
- 16 x chopped pecan halves.
- 3 tablespoons of rum flavouring — or the real thing!

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

TURKEY SOUP

Ingredients:
- Carcass of one turkey.
- 4 cups of chicken stock.
- 4 cups of water.
- 1 cup of dry white wine.
- ⅛ cup of all-purpose flour.
- 6 peppercorns.
- 2 parsley sprigs.
- 1 celery stalk, chopped.
- 1 medium onion, chopped.
- 1 bay leaf.
- 1 carrot, chopped.
- 2 teaspoons of butter.
- 1 teaspoon of vegetable oil.
- ½ teaspoon of thyme.

Method:
1. Heat up the butter and vegetable oil over medium-high heat. Cook the celery, onion and carrot, stirring for about 10 minutes.
2. Add the flour and reduce to medium heat, cooking for 2 more minutes.
3. Stir in the chicken stock, water and dry white wine. Bring to a boil.
4. Add the turkey carcass broken in pieces, plus the peppercorns, parsley, bay leaf and thyme.
5. Simmer the soup, covered partially, skimming any froth as it comes up to the surface, for 90 minutes.
6. Once cooked, strain the soup, then find this and many other great recipes on our website at www.arranvoice.com / 18th December 2008
7. Serve immediately or refrigerate if serving later.
Building a record collection

By Douglas Hamilton

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

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

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

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

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

My recommendations are as follows:

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

News from the Blues

NO MOT
On Thursday 11th December at 4pm on the C147 near Sliddery, a 30 year old male driver from Sliddery was reported for not having MOT.

DRIVING WITHOUT TAX DISC
On Thursday 11th of December at 7.30pm on the Shore Road Lamlash a 33 year old Lamlash female was reported for not having tax or insurance for her motor vehicle.

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

From Him to Her at Seventy-Eight

By Lector Senilis

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

From Him to Her at Seventy Eight
Lent mnnvii

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

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

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

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

Snap a red squirrel and win £100

The Arran Voice has teamed up with the Arran Brewery in a special photography competition to help conserve the island’s red squirrels. The Brewery is planning the production of a new Arran Red Squirrel Ale for early next year, and is looking for the perfect image of a red squirrel to be used on the new beer bottle labels. It’s going to be on the beer label and it’s got to scream out to you and say, “This is something different!” said Gerald Michaluk, director of the Brewery.

The photographer who supplies the winning image will receive a cash prize of £100 and anyone can enter. The photo must be of a bona fide Arran red squirrel — not one from the mainland — and should be submitted either by disc to The Arran Voice office or by e-mail to info@arranvoice.com. It should be in as high a resolution as possible, for reproduction purposes.

The suitably reddish-coloured ale will be the first brew produced by Kevin Dewar, assistant brewer at the Ciadaich site. 1tp from the sale of every bottle will be donated to the Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group.

Two months ago, Conservative Party candidate for Westminster Philip Lardner visited the Brewery and suggested the red squirrel ale idea, which is now being put into action.

### From Him to Her at Seventy-Eight

Lent mnnvii

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Five cordial cards, affects you; and you say
“It’s not as if it were ‘significant’ –
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A ten-inch for Sylvester-tempo dance;
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So: let’s be groovy, and go back, go back!
Weekly Prize Crossword
One Crossword — two sets of answers!

Compiled by The Wee Scunner

Win an Arran Aromatics gift box worth £30 this week
You have until Tuesday, 30 December 2008 to send in your completed cryptic crossword.

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

Answers to Issue 87’s crossword can be found on page 19.

Cryptic Clues

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

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

Quick Clues — just for fun!

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

Down
1 Minor crime (5, 7)
2 Unspoken (5)
3 Spots (4)
4 Shine (5)
5 Scottish flags (8)
6 Shakespearian heroine (7)
7 Winter sport (12)
12 Hired killer (8)
14 Longed (7)
15 Inhabitant of Baghdad (5)
19 Chose by election (5)
20 Not that (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, with the word “Crossword - Issue 89” in the subject line.

Name: .................................................................
Address:.................................................................
Telephone/E-mail: ...............................................

Print Ordering Service

We are now offering prints of photographs that appear in each issue The Arran Voice*

8” x 6” prints from £8.50
8” x 6” front page prints from £15.00
CDs — £2.50 Images from £0.50
(exclusive of Postage & Packaging)

Discounts available for larger orders. Other print sizes are available

For more information, call 01770 303 636, or e-mail info@arranvoice.com

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

On this day...

1898 Gaston de Chasseloup-Laubat sets the new land speed record going 39.245 mph, in a Jeantaud electric car. This is the first recognized land speed record.

1912 The Piltdown Man, later discovered to be a hoax, is supposedly found in the Piltdown Gravel Pit, by Charles Dawson.


Star Birthdays

1943 Keith Richards, English musician
1964 Steven Spielberg, American film director
1963 Brad Pitt, American actor
1968 Casper Van Dien, American actor
1978 Katie Holmes, American actress
BILLY AND JANIE McLaren, owners of the McLaren Hotel, are halting the residential development at the Brodick shorefront property in favour of a refurbishment of the existing hotel and bar. ‘We’re taking it back to the very beginning,’ Billy told The Arran Voice. ‘We’re going to focus on the bar and the hotel, not the property.’

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

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

Over the past couple of years, the proposed McLaren Hotel development has been dogged by difficulties, from local objections to protracted negotiations with housing bodies. The built-in proposal to include an affordable housing element proved impossible to implement within the range of people on the housing list, and the details of the proposed plan became more and more complex. ‘It could have been levelled and then perhaps left with a half-finished building,’ said Billy. He is now looking to a different future, and says, ‘I’m going to put all my energies into rebuilding the business.’

Knockenkelley housing granted

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

The application submitted by Mr and Mrs Hamilton of Knockenkelley Farm was granted on the basis of Policy H1 of Alteration No 1 to the Local Plan which permits small scale growth of existing rural housing groups of four or more houses, ‘provided the proposal is sympathetic to the character and form of the existing group, it does not prejudice a future development opportunity and it complies with the Council’s Roads Guidelines.’

The application received objections from the Arran Civic Trust and a Glasgow-based landowner who has an unresolved application for a similar development in the vicinity. The granting of permission to build the two houses prevents further development at the Knockenkelley group as Policy H1 states that a group of four houses can only be expanded by 50% of the number of existing dwellings in this case two more units.

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

McLarens look to the future

Housing development shelved as couple plan to revive bar

Swords, skates and Euros

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

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

We went into Toulouse to visit the Christmas market and there was a huge outdoor ice-skating rink! As it was only 5 euros for 45 minutes I stepped forward nervously on to the ice and was immediately consumed in a whirlwind of expert skaters. I only fell over … 7 times and woke up the next day with a black bruise the length of my thigh!

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

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

We arrived back on Arran shattered and were met off the boat by our parents who were overjoyed to see us ... I think! I said goodbye to everyone still in French mode. Merci.

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

It’s a Car’s Lot

POACHED EGG AND POWER GURGLE

Anyone with a sneaking affection for the old Morris Minor will defend it ferociously against those who deride it as puttering wee has-been. Designed by the brilliant Alec Issigonis and making its endearing appearance in 1949, it established itself in the heart of British motorists as a car of enchanting character. Lord Nuffield dissented, saying it looked like a poached egg, but nobody took any notice. He was only a car-industry tycoon, so what did he know? On TV, Barry Humphries in full drag as an Australian tourist in Stratford shrieked in excitement on seeing a Minor Traveller with its sturdy wood-reinforced back end. ‘Look! A half-timbered car!’ he squealed. ‘Historic!’ And so it was. Martin Wainwright (not the hill-walker, just a lover of good old cars), has just published a book called Morris Minor: The Biography. Nicely timed for the Christmas market, it looks like a must for the nostalgic owner. It’s a chunky book of 224 pages, published by Aurum, in which Wainwright potters around all over the country looking for surviving Minors. Amazingly, there is still a factory in Sri Lanka that can supply doors and spare parts. The little car is still in general use there, and aficionados are pushing for a Minor re-launch, in the same way that we have the jelly-mould-shaped new-era VW Beetle. The main players danging their hooks in this potentially rewarding water are the Chinese. Who knows — the world may be set for a take-over bid by the Mollis Minoh. Ah, so. Very clever country, China. After all these centuries of tough times, it is set to come into its own — and probably everyone else’s.

On a loftier plane, guess what is the most-wanted car in Britain? Forget your economical run-around — it’s the Aston Martin DB9. On a slowish test drive to Inverness, The Herald motoring correspondent got around 24 mpg out of it, and admitted that the car ‘didn’t like rumbling along at 50mph.’ However, once he was on an emptier road and rumbling along at 50mph. ‘On the Bonnie bonnie banks of Loch Lomond’ and it was chaos when we had to teach them ‘Strip the Willow’!

The old Morris Minor will be poached as the most-wanted car in Britain. Forget your economical run-around — it’s the Aston Martin DB9. On a slowish test drive to Inverness, The Herald motoring correspondent got around 24 mpg out of it, and admitted that the car ‘didn’t like rumbling along at 50mph.’ However, once he was on an emptier road and rumbling along at 50mph. ‘On the Bonnie bonnie banks of Loch Lomond’ and it was chaos when we had to teach them ‘Strip the Willow’!

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18th December 2008 / The Arran Voice Ltd Tel: 01770 303 636 E-mail: info@arranvoice.com

CARS FOR SALE

‘07 Toyota Yaris Diesel 1.4
5 Door, Silver, 17,000 Miles

‘05-05 Nissan Almera 1.5 S
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‘05-54 Vauxhall Astra Estate
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‘05-05 Nissan Almera 1.5 S
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‘02 BMW 320D Touring
5 Door Estate, Blue Metallic

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

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

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

VANS/COMMERCIALS

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04 Ford Transit SWB
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1.9 Diesel, White

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Potatoes for sale — Golden Wonder, Kerrs Pinks, Marris Piper, dirty carrots and pony carrots. Regular deliveries Slidderly-Brodick. Contact W. Cook 820218

Arran Lamb Prepared for the freezer £5/kg Delivered throughout the Island. Please contact Richard McMaster - Tel 820 253

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RECYCLING

Free to uplift — 1 double bed, 2
pieces of corner seating unit — off-white leather tel: 01770 700 385

Bagged Manure for uplift — Tel 600 517.

Small neat piano in good condition free to uplift 600 552

Vanity Unit — Length 30inch -
Depth 25inch includes leg caps, waste pipe but pale blue wash basin slightly damaged Free to uplift - Tel: 700 453

Do you have something for sale? Our competitive rates and clearly laid-out advertising will help sell your car, boat, sofa... whatever you have.

Classified listings start at just £3.50 + VAT, though charities benefit from significant savings on our standard rates.

You can add your recycle items to ArranOnline.com free of charge, and they will appear here automatically, subject to space and suitability.

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TAXI SERVICE & PRIVATE HIRE MINI-BUS

for weddings, funerals & all other occasions

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THE BAY GARAGE

OFFICE HOURS

Our office at the Pier Buildings is manned — or womanned — from 9.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Lunch-break is from 1.00–2.00pm, but there is often someone in at this time as well, so it’s worth trying us.

ADVERTISING TERMS

1. The deadline for receiving advertisements is 5pm on the Monday prior to publication. At this time the Publisher reserves the right to reject or substitute any copy missing from booked space.

2. All advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice.

3. All advertisements must be paid for prior to publication. Extended runs of advertising will be invoiced monthly in advance, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

4. In the event of an advertisement not appearing for any reason, the liability of the Publisher will be limited to either a re-insertion, or refund of the discounted cost of that advertisement.

5. Cancellation of any advertisement must be received at least 24 hours prior to the publication deadline. Any refund will take account of any block-booking discount that no longer applies due to cancellation.

6. Any error must be notified to the Publisher within 14 days of publication. A re-insertion or refund of the price paid for the incorrect advertisement will be offered only if that error materially detracts from the advertisement.

7. The Publisher (or their Agent) agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of any liability arising from publication of their advertisement, however caused.

8. The Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

Our ratecard is online at: www.arranvoice.com
**Arran three points from win**

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

**Arran pool league – week 7**

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

The Drift were comprehensively beaten regardless a good start against Bar Eden and a guest appearance by Craw. The Shurig boys played some hardball tactics, placing pool maestro Ewan Ingram against one of Lamlash's big names Lee Girbow. ‘It was a deliberate match up,’ alleged John Copperwheat after the game. After taking a 3–1 lead in the singles, the Drift were comprehensively beaten despite a good start against Bar Eden and a guest appearance by Craw.

The strength in depth of Lamlash showed the return of Nicol and Malcolm adding to the existing power. Rumours have it that the ex-Drift player toosh was hoping for the draw, so as to keep the existing power.

Hokie squad had slumped to 5–3 before the Gallon, JC losing his own game to toosh in another strategic manoeuvre by the Whiting Bay gamesmen. Arran's Rugger Seniors were just three points away from an impressive away win that way to the last, with Lee Girbow managing a 3–1 victory even with a last minute call-off and a slight reshuffle of pairings. The score slightly flattened Lamlash as two of the games went to the second last and one all the way to the last, with Lee Girbow managing to hole a 4-foot for the game. Shurig possibly will feel a point would have been a fairer result but the win puts Lamlash in an already strong position with their home tie still to come.

Brodick couldn’t manage to play on the rescheduled date due to a club competition so Whiting Bay played the game at a later date suitable to both teams and will rearrange with Corrie and play the game on a rescheduled date due to a club competition so Whiting Bay couldn’t manage to play on the end of a 4-0 whitewash this time, with Whiting Bay getting much needed points after the opening day defeat to Lamlash. Whiting Bay were fielding a stronger team than last month with the return of Nicol and Malcolm adding to the existing power.

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

**Fixtures:**
- Sunday 14th December, Brandon and Winter Cup, 24 played, CSS 67
- Sweeney Results:
  - 1st C. Pattenden 76 (11) 65
  - 2nd A. Dobson 76 (10) 66
  - 3rd G. Hendry 76 (1) 75 (8) 67
  - Scratch: J. Armit 76 (10) 66
  - 1st C. Pattenden 76 (11) 65
- Fixtures:
  - Sunday 21st, Friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay Golf Club

**Golf Results**

**Arran Golfers Association Winter League 2008/2009**

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

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

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

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

Brodick couldn’t manage to play on the rescheduled date due to a club competition so Whiting Bay played the game at a later date suitable to both teams and will rearrange with Corrie and play the game on a rescheduled date due to a club competition so Whiting Bay couldn’t manage to play on the end of a 4-0 whitewash this time, with Whiting Bay getting much needed points after the opening day defeat to Lamlash. Whiting Bay were fielding a stronger team than last month with the return of Nicol and Malcolm adding to the existing power.

**Fixtures:**
- Tuesday 30th December, Two Club Competition, 1pm shotgun start
- Fixtures:
  - Wednesday December 10th, Traditional Christmas Competition
  - Thursday 11th December, Ladies 18 hole Medal
  - 1st Elizabeth Ross 85-19 66
  - 2nd Viv Parks 92-24 68
  - 3rd Jenni Turnbull 91-21 70
  - Best Scratch, Fiona Crawford 85 (bih)
  - Fixtures:
  - Tuesday 23rd December, Winter Cup, 12.00pm tee-off
  - Tuesday 30th December, Two Club Competition, 1pm shotgun start
  - Fixtures:
  - 1st Yoanne Brothers 21 points (wins a voucher for Galbraith’s butcher)
  - 2nd Pat McDonald 20 points (another Galbraith’s voucher)
  - 3rd Elizabeth Sinclair 19 points (acb)
  - 4th Morag Gardner 19 points (acb)
  - 5th Kate McAdam 19 points (acb)

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

**Macbie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday 9th December, Winter Cup
- 1st David Price 62
- 2nd Ian Buchanan 62
- 3rd Brian Sherwood 67
- Scratch David Price 70
- Two’s David Price, Alistair MacDonald

**Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club**

Thursday 11th December, Ladies 18 hole Medal
- 1st Elizabeth Ross 85-19 66
- 2nd Viv Parks 92-24 68
- 3rd Jenni Turnbull 91-21 70
- Best Scratch, Fiona Crawford 85 (bih)

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Sunday 14th December.
- At last the weather allowed the following fixtures to get under way on a soggy Whiting Bay Golf Course. Thanks to Whiting Bay for hosting and the delicious soup and rolls, much appreciated by all players. Also the condition of the course was a credit considering the weather it’s had thrown at it in recent weeks.

- Rolls, much appreciated by all players. Also the condition of the course was a credit considering the weather it’s had thrown at it in recent weeks.

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

**Bridge Club**

**Brodick Bridge Results**

18th December 2008
- N/S
  - 1. T. Martin v D. Hamilton +120
  - 2. J. McArthur v M. Cumming -130
  - 3. D. Bruce v D. Subie +90
- E/W
  - 1. L. Trickett v E. McNiven +17801
  - 2. J. Barclay v M. Gardner +1580
  - 3. H. Boyd v L. Paul +1420

**Lamlash Bridge Club**

15th December 2008
- N/S
  - 1. P. Adamson & E. McKellar -380
  - 2. M. Gardner & L. Trickett -840
  - 3. M. McGill & C. Bone -1120
- E/W
  - 1. E. Paul & E. McNiven +1870
  - 2. A. Bilsland & T. Martin +1840
  - 3. H. Boyd & J. Murchie +1570

**Arran Artists Calendar 2009 On Sale Now!**

**Price Slashed! Now £9.99**
Cairnhouse reindeer riders turn out for Christmas Show

By Dawn Murchie

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

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

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

NOVICE
1. Nicola C., Dolly
2. Megan, Ally
3. Lynn Ramage, Katie
4. Katy Thomson, Hardie
5. Amy Downard, Malakye
6. Emma, Dynah

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

MINI CHALLENGE
1st equal Nicola C. and Megan
2nd Amy D., Malakye
3rd Lynn, Katie
4th Amy D., Malakye
5th Lauren, Fudge
6th equal Nicola M., Bingham
Pageboy and Nicola C., Dolly

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

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

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

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

Broderick bowlers enjoy Christmas meal

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

Alma Trophy for Ladies Singles
Ann Hollingworth (Lavinia Hendry, runner-up)

Brian Wilson Cup for Gents Singles
John Mcconnachie (John Lauder, runner-up)

David Auchinvole Cup for Pairs
Roger Peacock and John Kerr (Alex Gardiner and Fiona Brown)

Bob Cameron Cup for Triples
Alex Gardiner, Ann Whattam and Rod Smith (John Lauder, Fiona Brown and Lavinia Hendry)

President's Bowl
Charles Hendry

Stewart Cup
John Lauder

Centenary Triples
Jackie Donaldson, Tony Wooden and Iain Hendry

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

Alma Trophy for Ladies Singles
Ann Hollingworth (Lavinia Hendry, runner-up)

Brian Wilson Cup for Gents Singles
John Mcconnachie (John Lauder, runner-up)

David Auchinvole Cup for Pairs
Roger Peacock and John Kerr (Alex Gardiner and Fiona Brown)

Bob Cameron Cup for Triples
Alex Gardiner, Ann Whattam and Rod Smith (John Lauder, Fiona Brown and Lavinia Hendry)

President's Bowl
Charles Hendry

Stewart Cup
John Lauder

Centenary Triples
Jackie Donaldson, Tony Wooden and Iain Hendry

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

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

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

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

JUNIORS
• Shannnon 19
• Abbie and Sarah 10
• Lauren and Hannah 9

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

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

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

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

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

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

Don't say we didn't warn you!

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

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

Continued on page 23