

Wemyss Bay Village News

175th Edition

April 2004

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Community Centre Tel: 521955 <http://wemyssbay.net/>

Rory Makes a Splash!

Very well done and congratulations to Rory Kelham, aged 9, who raised a magnificent total of £425 for Macmillan Cancer Relief when he swam 100 lengths of Largs Pool during the recent swimathon held there. This money will go directly towards the local Macmillan appeal, which is currently trying to raise £250,000 to fund a specialist pharmacist and a further Macmillan Nurse to be based within the Inverclyde area. Rory would like to thank Wemyss Bay Primary School and all his teachers for their donations, everyone at his dad's work, and all the friends, family and neighbours who helped him raise so much.

Macmillan Cancer Relief helps people who are living with cancer. In the UK, over a million people are living with cancer and four in ten people will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime. These figures are forecast to increase. This means that the demand on services will also increase. So, as well as taking action today to support people with cancer, Macmillan Cancer Relief is shaping the future of cancer care. Their challenge is to ensure that they continue to provide the support that each individual with cancer deserves.

Celebrating its 18th year, the swimathon annually attracts 30,000 swimmers and in 2003 alone raised a staggering £1.9m. The range of timed and non-timed challenges meant that there was something for all ages and abilities.

A Name from the Past

Does anyone remember William Boyd who was the Wemyss Bay Pier-master in the 1940s? Recently his grand-daughter, Margaret Elliot Smith, who stayed with the family in the pierhouse contacted the Wemyss Bay web site. Margaret sent in a number of photographs from the time. Willie Boyd took photos every Sunday and, during the week, these were mailed to son-in-law George Elliott, who was serving with the RAF in the middle east, and also to his son Hugh Boyd, serving with RAMC in France. Hugh was taken prisoner at St. Valerie in 1941, aged 21, and spent 4 years in a POW camp in Poland.

Several pictures show some of Willie's prize-winning displays of flowers and hanging baskets around the station, which were planted up and tended by him. All the plants were started off in the greenhouse behind the Station Master's house. There were two huge tiered displays, several flower boxes and numerous hanging baskets.

In one of the pictures of the station, you can clearly see display cases containing the crests from paddle boxes of early Clyde paddle steamers. Margaret wonders if anyone has any idea of where these crests are now. You can contact Margaret with any information c/o:

David@dabssystems.flyer.co.uk

Meanwhile if you would like to have a look at the pictures provided by Margaret, please log on to:
<http://wemyssbay.net/pictures/past.html>

More Awards for Local Butcher

Once again local butchers, Mearns T McCaskie, have collected a number of awards from the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders. They won a gold award for their Bacon, Cheese and Tomato Burger, silver for their Breakfast Porker, which is a combination of pork sausage-meat, smoked bacon and finely chopped pieces of black pudding, and bronze for their Tuscan Chicken, a chicken breast in an Italian marinade, stuffed with sun-dried tomatoes and mozzarella cheese and wrapped in bacon. Having tried the Tuscan Chicken I can assure you that it is absolutely delicious and, as it comes in an oven-ready container with cooking instructions, it couldn't be easier. With an ever-increasing range of ready-made meals there is even more reason to buy your butcher meat locally. SMFT president Mark Barnett said, "As a Federation we are proud to promote these awards as it highlights the fantastic range of meal solutions available from independent butchers throughout Scotland."

Congratulations on their success to Nigel, Elizabeth and all the staff.

PTA

The recent Car Wash was a great success with the PTA kept busy for over two hours washing cars and serving tea, coffee and fabulous home baking. Thanks to all who supported this event.

The Wherries evening on Friday 5th March was another fantastic event. The band was amazing and had everyone joining in. The PTA would like to thank the Wherries for their efforts on the night.

Thanks also to everyone who handed donations in to the school for raffle prizes, with a special thanks to Inverkip Hotel for their generous donation. The combined total for the Wherries and the Car Wash was over £500.

The PTA will be holding a car boot sale in the school car park soon so keep an eye open for the posters and go along for a great chance to pick up a bargain.

Information about what the PTA is up to can be obtained from the committee chairperson, Sharon Fulton Tel: 521552

Advertising Payments

The Village News is organised through the Community Association for the benefit of the people of Wemyss Bay. It is edited, administered and distributed by volunteers. The mix of adverts changes from month to month. Recently a handful of adverts have been removed on the grounds of late or non-payment. The decision on removal of an advert occurs once an advertiser has accumulated three or more months of arrears and has not responded to reminders. A few advertisers owe almost £100 which considerably affects us since the revenue from advertising is what pays for the costs of printing the Village News and enables us to ensure that every home in Wemyss Bay receives a free copy. Any surplus revenue is used to benefit the Community in the provision of improved Centre facilities and various events during the year. Although we do not intend to name these persistent non-payers in the Village News, as a registered Scottish Charity the Community Association accounts must be available for public scrutiny and debtors will be identified in the accounts. The Association's year-end is 31st March and accounts will appear on the village web site. On the other side we do have many prompt payers and would like to thank those people. Also, some advertisers have opted to pay in advance for a number of months advertising which helps our administration considerably. If anyone is interested in this alternative to receiving a monthly invoice please contact us.

David Cairns MP – Heroes Return Fund

In this month's article I would like to inform Wemyss Bay residents about a new Government initiative which could be of interest to some of your older readers. Next year will be the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two and there will be a number of events to commemorate this important occasion in our history. A new project, The **Heroes Return Fund**, launched a few weeks ago as part of the Veterans Reunited Programme, will provide £10 million of Lottery funding for veterans resident in the UK to travel to the countries in which they served in the Second World War. Speaking to many former servicemen in Greenock and Inverclyde, I know that many would really like to go back to the places where they fought all those years ago, perhaps to pay respects to comrades who didn't return. I am very pleased that we have been able to establish the Heroes Return Fund to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and I believe that the scheme is a fitting tribute to the courage and sacrifice of local veterans.

The scheme will run through until December 2005 and grants are available to fund travel costs for veterans resident in the UK and their carers to visit the countries where they served. Veterans who would like to participate should telephone the Veterans Agency free on 0800 169 2277 for more information and advice.

One final point. It is particularly important for any veterans who want to apply for support to travel to northern France for the commemoration of the Normandy Landings to telephone the Veterans Agency as soon as possible, because they are expecting quite a few applications.

David Cairns holds surgeries on the first and third Friday of the month from 10am – 12noon at his Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock Tel: 791820. Alternatively you can phone the office for details of his next surgery in Wemyss Bay.

School News

Both the recent Grandparents' Day and Parents' Day at Wemyss Bay Primary School offered an ideal opportunity to see a bit more of the work that children do in school. Head Teacher, Evelyn Ritchie said, "We were delighted at the excellent turnout on both days. Pupils had the chance to show their families some of their work and the feedback we received was excellent – commenting on

how interesting and enjoyable the days were to all the adult visitors.”

The school is participating in the Tesco “Computers for Schools” scheme. Whenever you shop in Tesco make sure that you collect your tokens and hand them into the school, which will use them for computer equipment and software. The more token they have, the more equipment they can acquire, so start saving those coupons!

Scottish Parliament Round-Up – Duncan McNeil MSP

Tippers Not so Fly Now

I don't need to tell anyone in Wemyss Bay that one of Inverclyde's greatest assets is its striking scenery, and it is infuriating when a number of selfish individuals seek to spoil the landscape for everyone else by strewing their rubbish all over it.

Illegal dumping doesn't just spoil the view, it endangers wildlife and your wallet – according to figures released by Keep Scotland Beautiful, it costs taxpayers £11 million every year.

That is why a new national fly-tipping hotline has been launched, backed by a national information campaign featuring Inverclyde's own Richard Wilson.

Funded by the Scottish Executive, the line provides a single point of contact for anyone who witnesses fly-tipping, or who wishes to inform the authorities of a fly-tipping site which needs cleared.

When caught, serious offenders will be dealt with by the courts. And, when the Antisocial Behaviour Bill becomes law, local authorities, the police and SEPA will have the power to issue fixed penalty fines for less severe offences.

If you witness fly-tipping, or find a fly-tipping site, help keep Inverclyde beautiful by calling the new National Fly-tipping Stop Line on **08452 30 40 90**.

*Duncan can be contacted at the Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock PA15 8JL, by E-mail: **duncan.mcneil.msp@scottish.parliament.uk** or via his website: **www.duncanmcneil.com***

W.E.A.

The WEA are rounding off this session with an outing on Wednesday 12th May. They will be visiting Drumlannrig Castle, near Thornhill in Dumfriesshire, ancestral home to the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch. The coach will be leaving Skelmorlie Community Centre at 8.45am and will return between 6.30 – 7.00pm. On the way home there will be a stop at Moffat to allow a little time for shopping or refreshments. Tickets, priced £15, include the cost of the coach and entrance to the castle and gardens.

For more information, or to book your place on what promises to be a very enjoyable day out, contact Jenny McGee Tel: 521090.

After the summer holidays the WEA will be resuming their popular weekly meetings in September. Details of the programme of speakers will appear in the Village News nearer the time.

Councillor Eric Forbes

Eric would like to remind everyone that, if you have a problem or query which you think he may be able to help with, he can be contacted at the Municipal Buildings **Tel: 717171 Fax: 01475 712976 or e-mail: **Eric.Forbes@inverclyde.gov.uk**** Outwith office hours he can be contacted at **home: 520012** or on his **mobile: 07747 006725**.

Eric believes that rather than waiting several weeks for a surgery, it is better for his constituents if he is available at the end of a telephone at any time. Thereafter, if necessary, he can arrange a suitable follow-up meeting.

Bible Club

The Bible Club will be off for the Easter holidays on 5th and 12th April. The club will resume on Monday 19th April from 6.15 – 7.30pm in the Community Centre. All Primary school age boys and girls are welcome to come along to the club. For more information contact Stephen Renton Tel: 01505 355994.

Gala Weekend 18 – 20 June 2004.

Yet again the Gala Committee are looking for volunteers to help with the Gala this year. Last year was a great success and we hope to have another bumper of a weekend this year. This can only be done with the help of the local community. We have decided to run the Gala over the weekend again with a family Ceilidh on the Friday night, Gala Day on the Saturday from 12pm onwards and a Karaoke/Disco in the Marquee on the Saturday night. For this to work we desperately need bodies

to help with various events i.e. bouncy castle, beer tent, face painting, etc etc (no experience necessary!). I know this seems early to be looking for help, but we need to know that we have the manpower to operate the weekend. It's a huge task for the limited number of committee members to organize on their own. If you can help in any way, please call Ann Marie (Gala co-ordinator) on 522998. And remember, there is a committee meeting on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Rogues Room at the Inverkip Hotel. If you have any comments or ideas which you think would make the weekend even better than last year's event, then come along (we really are quite a nice bunch!)

Community Council

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the Rogues Room of the Inverkip Hotel. If you have any issues which you would like raised, or if you are just interested in observing the meeting, you are very welcome to go along. You may remember that following the reorganisation of Community Councils by Inverclyde Council, no-one from Wemyss Bay stood for election and therefore all the councillors are from Inverkip. If you have an issue but are not able to attend in person or, if you are interested in going along in an informal but regular basis Tel: 01475 520489

Have You Seen Rascal?

Over a fortnight ago a 1½ year old cat called Rascal went missing. He is black with a white chest and paws and is greatly missed by his family. Please check your huts and garages in case he has accidentally been locked in. If you have any information which may help trace Rascal please Tel: 522283.

Parking Plea

Customers trying to park at the shops, especially elderly people trying to get to the pharmacy or hairdresser are often unable to find a space. This is a particularly problem when the school is coming in and out and parents are dropping off or collecting their children. The parking area is maintained by the local shopkeepers and is meant for the use of customers and residents in the flats above. If you use the car-park but are not shopping please consider parking in the community centre car-park instead.

The same thing applies to the surgery car-park – it is solely for the use of staff and patients attending for treatment. Often the car-park is full but there are only one or two patients in the surgery at the time. This selfish behaviour could delay a genuinely ill person reaching the doctor.

Finally a number of cars are still parking on the zigzags at the school. This is dangerous and illegal. Obviously these individuals have no consideration whatsoever about the safety of children. Perhaps its time to start taking a note of registration numbers and passing them on to the police?

What would you like to see in the Village News?

Since taking over editing the Village News last September we have listened to a number of suggestions and tried to include them where possible. We are very aware however that many people may be sitting at home with great ideas about how to improve things. If you have any suggestions please contact me and I will do my best to implement them. Perhaps you would like to contribute to the newsletter on a regular basis – if so get in touch and we can chat about how you can contribute. Contact Eila Tel: 529375

E-mail: eilaroberts@care4free.net or leave your suggestions in the Village News folder behind the counter in Spar.

Campbell Martin MSP

Campbell Martin, SNP list Member of the Scottish Parliament will be holding a surgery on Monday 10th May from 9.00 – 10.00am in the Community Centre. If you have any issues which you would like to raise, you are welcome to attend.

Girlguiding in Wemyss Bay Brownies

The Brownies have a new fundraising web site www.buy.at/wemyssbaybrownies If you access this site you can buy from high street stores, which offer a mail order service, at the normal price but the stores pay the Brownies commission! If you are going to order by mail order anyway, and it's not

going to cost you a penny more, it makes sense to support a local organisation at the same time. Stores taking part include Marks and Spencer, RAC, Sky, Comet, MFI and many more – all are well known names. You should note that this does not signify that Girlguiding UK, Girlguiding Scotland nor Girlguiding Wemyss Bay support these businesses.

At the moment the Brownies are on the look-out for anyone who can come along for an hour, for just the odd week, to teach them how to sew, as the present Guiders are absolute “haddies” when it comes to sewing.

The article in last month’s Village News was very productive as two ladies from Wemyss Bay phoned to say that they were interested in helping with the Brownies. They have been along to a meeting and, at the time of writing, have survived the experience. We will give them a few weeks to make sure that they are happy and tell you more in the next News.

Guides

The Guides however are struggling. Jenny Scott is having to move to the east coast and that leaves the two Alisons without back-up and, wonderful as they are, it means that they are back in the “not-covered-by-insurance-due-to-lack-of-adult-cover” scenario.

The Guides have 30+ girls attending regularly and are so full that they cannot take in the Brownies who are 10 years old, which in turn means that the Brownies cannot take in the Rainbows who have turned 7 (or any other little girls who have moved to Wemyss Bay). This in turn will prevent the Rainbows from taking in the 5 year olds – a vicious circle.

Is there anyone out there who could help out with the Guides (even on a job share)? What about all the

Ex-Guides who are now working or perhaps at University, could you spare the odd evening? Just think of all the fun you had.

It is very encouraging that so many girls want to join the Girlguiding organisation especially as it nears its 100th birthday.

Guiders

Marilyn has just received an e-mail from the Caribbean and is off on her travels again in October, just when it’s getting cold again in Scotland. It’s a tough job, but someone has to do it!

To help or for more information, please leave your message on the answering machine at 520615.

Adult Association

Wemyss Bay Adult Association are still running classes in Wemyss Bay Primary School and it is not too late to join up for the spring session. Why not try one of the following classes and put a spring in your step this year:-

Tuesday	- Cross Stitch/Embroidery	- 7.30-9.30pm
Wednesday	- Yoga	- 7.40-9.15pm
Thursday	- Body Sculpt	- 6.30-7.30pm

If you are interested in getting involved and would like further information please contact Morag Wilson Tel: 521626.

Inverkip Library to Remain Open

Due to council cutbacks, Boglestone Library in Port Glasgow and East Library in Greenock are to close and the libraries’ book budget is to be reduced by £76,000. There was also a recommendation from council officials that Inverkip library should close, but this was rejected by councillors. They made the point that the library served an expanding population in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay where access to the main libraries in Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock is not so easy.

Shaping up for Summer

Do you want to get in shape for summer? Then get along to the new Body Sculpt class at Wemyss Bay Primary School every Thursday between 6.30 and 7.30pm. The sessions offer a combination of low impact moves and body toning exercises. For more information contact Morag Wilson on 521626

Thoughts of an Older Person

Remember that older folk are worth a fortune – with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their tummies. Although I’m getting older, I have two gentlemen with me always. Will Power helps me get out of bed and Arthur Ritis never leaves me

alone. The minister says that, at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter. I do all the time. No matter where I am, in the lounge, study, kitchen or upstairs, I am always asking myself, "What am I here after?"

Woodland Association

Since funding for major works was secured, legal issues relating to ownership and access to a 1m wide strip of land have led to continuing delays in contractors starting work. Final negotiations are now underway, and hopefully work should begin at anytime. (I know, we've been saying this for a while, but every time we thought it was sorted something else came up! This time everything appears to be progressing well and the go-ahead should now come through quickly. Honestly!!)

In the meantime volunteers continue their fortnightly rhododendron clearance programme. Anyone interested in joining in will be made very welcome. Gloves, tools and refreshments are provided and there are plenty of other people around to help you get started. Work sessions take place fortnightly on both Saturdays and Sundays from 10am -3pm. You don't have to attend for the full day – even a couple of hours makes a difference. The programme of work sessions for forthcoming weeks are Sat 3rd & Sun 4th April, Sat 17th & Sun 18th April and Sat 1st and Sun 2nd May. The Association also intend starting the occasional mid-week session. If you would be able to help, or if you would like information about any of the work of the Association contact Eila 529375.

In addition to rhodi-bashing, anything between 6 – 15 sacks of rubbish are removed every weekend, and even small people enjoy a bit of wombling! Everyone involved in collecting rubbish are provided with gloves and litter-pickers, even children, who must be supervised and are not allowed to collect glass. Many people assume that rubbish is mainly dropped or left behind by teenagers – nothing could be further from the truth. In addition to bottles, cans, papers, sweet wrappers and poly bags, we have previously removed, amongst other things, a bed-frame, a toilet, chairs, microwaves, car batteries, most of the units from a kitchen and assorted household and garden waste. We would echo the comments from Duncan McNeil - if you witness fly-tipping, or find a fly-tipping site, help keep Wemyss Bay Woods and Inverclyde beautiful by calling the new National Fly-tipping Stop Line on **08452 30 40 90**.

Lunch Out

Every Friday Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church hold an open lunch session to which everyone is welcome to attend. Lunch is served from 12.15 – 1.30pm with home-made soup and sandwiches the order of the day. A charge of £2 covers costs, with any profit going in to the church funds. So next time you can't think of what to have, or don't feel like making anything, why not pop along?

Recycling

Greenlight have been recycling waste products since 1991. As a non-profit making company their main objectives involve creating local employment and improving the local environment. They need your help to put recyclable materials into bags and place them on the pavement outside your house on the collection dates. They collect newspaper, magazines, junk mail, catalogues, telephone directories and Yellow Pages but they cannot take envelopes or cardboard. In a separate bag, recycle all food and drinks cans (ideally washed out!) but remember they cannot recycle aerosols or paint cans. You can also help by recycling plastic bottles and carrier bags, as long as they did not contain powerful cleaning products such as bleach. Finally Greenlight will recycle all clean clothing, including shoes, handbags, belts and also teddy bears or other fabric toys – remember that charity shops will also accept quality clothing.

Greenlight collect in this area every second Monday, including bank holidays, with a break only at Christmas time. The next few collection days are Mondays 5th & 19th April, and 3rd, 17th & 31st May. If you would like to know more about Greenlight and its other recycling initiatives you can telephone them at: 01389 721012

Thank you

Last month we told you about Isa Archibald from Toward Road who was celebrating her 80th birthday. Isa had a fantastic time and has asked us to convey her thanks to all her family, friends and neighbours for their cards, presents and good wishes. They are very much appreciated. One special surprise present took the shape of her son James who, having emigrated to Canada in 1974, made a special journey to join in the celebrations.

TV team look for volunteers

Popular TV programme "House Invaders" are looking for people in Inverclyde to volunteer to take part in the programme and have three rooms of their house revamped. Participants must be outgoing, fun people. You must also have lots of leftover paint, wood and fabric as the aim of the show is to transform your home by recycling leftovers. The show will be fronted by Anna Ryder Richardson and Gordon Whistance, ably assisted by two joiners and all-round handymen. If you are interested phone Ellie or Charlie for an application on 0121 605 5519 You never know, maybe House Invaders will visit Wemyss Bay.

Share your News

If you have news relating to Wemyss Bay, don't keep it to yourself! Go to <http://wemyssbay.net/> and click on news to publish it on the Wemyss Bay web site. Don't forget to let the Village News know too.

Finally

That's all for this month. The closing date for any articles or adverts for the May edition of the Village News is the 20th April. This is an absolute deadline and cannot be extended under any circumstances! People have regularly been sending in articles one or two days after the official closing date and up till now we have accommodated them but it creates problems for us and the printer. If you would like a reminder let us know and we will add you to the e-mail list. If you have anything which you would like included please send it to Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay PA18 6HA Tel: 529375

E-mail: eilaroberts@care4free.net or place it in the Village News folder, which is kept behind the counter in Spar.

Please note that we do our best to ensure that adverts are neither misleading or offensive, however the appearance of an advertisement in the Village News does not imply that either the editors or the Community Association endorse the advertiser or their products / services.

Kid's Stuff

April is busy with Easter, Passover and Saint George's Day all happening this month. It is also meant to be a wet month with lots of April showers. Don't eat all your Easter eggs at once! See if you can finish this month's wordsearch.

H	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E
F	O	G	M	F	Y	H	S	N	N
C	W	L	U	R	N	B	R	I	G
E	C	K	I	I	V	U	E	A	L
A	G	G	T	D	Y	N	W	S	A
S	E	G	U	A	A	N	O	L	N
T	O	G	S	Y	D	Y	H	I	D
E	R	J	T	P	N	L	S	R	T
R	G	O	O	D	U	M	T	P	D
R	E	V	O	S	S	A	P	A	F

APRIL
BUNNY
CHOCOLATE
EASTER
EGGS
ENGLAND
FRIDAY

GEORGE
GOOD
HOLIDAYS
PASSOVER
SAINT
SHOWERS
SUNDAY

We received a request for more quizzes and so this month we have introduced a word finder as well as our usual wordsearch. See how many different words with four or more letters you can make using the letters below. Each word must contain the letter in the middle box, you are not allowed proper nouns, plurals or hyphenated words and you can only use each letter once. There is at least one nine-letter word.

A	S	P
E	S	R
N	G	E

10 words: Keep trying
20 words: Shows promise
30 words: Getting there
40 words: Clever clogs
50+ words: Genius