

Wemyss Bay Village News

180th Edition

October 2004

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Community Spirit Alive and Well in Wemyss Bay

On 1st September Wemyss Bay Community Association held an emergency meeting in an effort to fill all its vacant committee places. As a Scottish charity and therefore governed by charity laws, they would be unable to continue to function without a full committee. This would place the future of the Community Centre in jeopardy and would result in the Village News being would up and future Galas and Christmas lights social evenings being cancelled.

At the emergency meeting the outgoing committee were delighted at an attendance of over 60 local people determined to keep things going. Kirsty Donnelly chaired the meeting and was able to report that in the run-up to the meeting two people had come forward to express an interest in the post of Treasurer with someone volunteering only that afternoon to take on the duties of Secretary.

The chair was handed to Ian Dyer of Inverclyde Council to conduct the formal business of electing the officers and the committee. Kirsty Donnelly and Ian Buchan were returned to the posts of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively, with Kirsty also continuing as Letting Secretary. Elaine Blue was elected as Secretary with Stephen McFeeley taking over as Treasurer.

The four directly elected committee members are Ann Marie Cockburn (Gala Co-ordinator), Pamela Noble (Assistant Treasurer), Finlay McFee (changes in charity's laws and regulations), and Jenny Eaton (Gala Queen Organiser). The committee also includes a representative from each user group and the meeting approved the representatives from AFD, the Brownies, Bible Club, Guides, Nursery Parents, 14-19 club, Woodland Association, P4-P7 club, Village News, Sunday School, Judo, Karate and Dancing. Representatives are still required from the Tiny Tots and the Drama Group. Anyone whose child attends these organisations is welcome to come forward - just check with your organisation and then contact Kirsty on 520738.

Kirsty thanked George Anderson the retiring secretary, who has been forced to give up on health grounds, Finlay McFee, the outgoing Treasurer and Lorraine McFee, who was responsible for all invoicing, for their work and commitment to the Community Association over the last 4 years. George and Finlay were each presented with a pewter quach as a memento of their involvement, while Lorraine received a pewter photograph frame.

In closing the meeting Kirsty highlighted the positive aspects of the recent crisis. We now have a larger, more representative committee who are committed to taking the Association forward and building on the work of previous committees. She thanked everyone for their attendance and noted that many of those present, although not elected to the committee, have volunteered their time and effort for future events like the Christmas lights social evening and next year's Gala.

Even if you were unable to get along to the meeting it is not too late to volunteer to help out with the Community Association. Perhaps you are a tradesman who could help out from time to time with any maintenance problems at the centre or maybe you would like to put your name down now to help out at next year's Gala? The other area where help is needed is with the bouncy castle. There are bouncy castle parties held most weekends at the centre and the user groups who meet prior to the parties are extremely accommodating and put the castle up for the parties. At the end of the parties however we need two, or preferably three people to put the castle away. At present this tends to fall on the same people all the time. Would you be willing to put your name on a rota to help out? The idea is to form small teams of three, each with someone who "knows the ropes" and by doing this, we could spread the load, with each team only having to take a turn every three or four weeks. It only takes half an hour each time, can you help? By coming together, the community has ensured that the Community Association can continue to function and that the centre, the Village News, the Christmas light social evening and the Gala weekend have been saved. Community spirit really is alive and well in Wemyss Bay! Thank you.

Recycling

This month Greenlight will be collecting newspapers & magazines, plastic bottles & milk cartons, food & drinks cans, rags and carrier bags on Mondays 4th and 18th September. Do your bit for the environment.

Friends of Ardgowan Hospice

This year's door-to-door collection during Hospice Week raised £766.17, a slight increase on last year. Mrs Miller, the local co-ordinator would like to thank everyone who supported the cause for their continuing generosity and, in particular, extends a special thank you to her willing band of lady collectors.

This year Mrs Miller found that she was struggling to find enough collectors with so many people on holiday or working during the Hospice Week, and ended up having to cover several areas on her own, finishing off on the Saturday in charge of the ferry collection at the Bute Highland Games. Cancer is something which, unfortunately, will touch most of us at some time during our lives, affecting us, our family or friends. Anyone who has visited a loved one in a hospice will know the valuable work that they do. Perhaps now is the time to consider whether you can help out with future events. If you think that you may be interested in supporting this worthwhile cause you can contact the **Friends of Ardgowan Hospice** through the hospice at **12 Nelson Street, Greenock** or on **726830**. Alternatively contact me on 529375 and I will pass your name on to Mrs Miller. Remember that you don't need to wait until Hospice Week to make a donation or to do some fundraising. Contact the group at any time throughout the year and they will let you know how you can help out.

A Big Thank You

My name is Ben McFeeley. It was my birthday recently and all of my friends came to my sports party. We all had fun and a really great time. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who gave me a birthday gift – it was really nice but I want to say a special thank you to Craig Hoey who helped keep us all very busy playing basketball and football.

Wemyss Bay Pharmacy

Make your pharmacy your first port of call for all health matters – after all Brian Spence, your local pharmacist is a medicines expert. Nowadays, as well as dispensing medicines, pharmacists offer an increasingly varied range of services aimed at helping you take charge of your health.

They dispense both NHS and private prescriptions using a computer system which automatically monitors your medicines for possible interactions. It is in your interest therefore, if you always use the same pharmacy as this enables your prescription history to be as comprehensive as possible. They also deliver dispensed prescriptions to housebound patients and collect repeat prescriptions from the local surgeries and also from both Greenock and Gourock Health Centres. They offer simple homeopathic remedies and, for patients who have difficulty with their medicines, can even prepare weekly medication cassettes.

The pharmacy has also recently started offering blood pressure screening so, if you are over 18 and have not had yours checked for a while, it is worth popping in. Many people who appear to be perfectly fit have blood pressure problems that they are unaware of. Untreated, blood pressure can cause a number of serious health problems so it is important to have yours checked from time to time.

You should have a rummage through your cupboards now and then. If you find that you have unwanted out of date medication take it along to the pharmacy. They run a nationwide DUMP (Disposal of Unwanted Medicines) campaign so please return all unwanted medicines and they will be disposed of safely.

In addition to counter medicines, first aid, and holiday supplies there is also a good choice of gifts and affordable toys. Look out for all the Christmas stock appearing in the next couple of months.

Brian and all the staff are available to give advice from 9.00am – 6.00pm Monday to Friday (closed for lunch 1pm – 2pm) and from 9.00am – 1.00pm on Saturdays. Details of emergency dispensing services after hours, on Sundays and on public holidays are displayed on the notice board in the surgery and in the local press. If all else fails, the police hold a list of the out of hour's service.

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.

Classified

Do you have something to sell? You can now post it free on wemyssbay.net Check out the classifieds at:

<http://wemyssbay.net/business/classified.html>

Bible Club

The club is open to all primary age children and any newcomers will be made very welcome. Activities include games, competitions, songs and Bible stories. Contact **Stephen Renton** on **01505 355994** for further details. The club will be closed for the October break on the 18th and 25th October and will resume as normal on 1st November.

Brownies

We have had to put the Pack Holiday plans on the back shelf just now as Ruth is in hospital again. We will look at booking a date, once we know that she is well.

Brown Owl's plans to go and run a training course for local leaders in the Cayman Islands are unable to go ahead just now after the devastating hurricane Ivan, which has battered the islands so badly.

Fiona and Julie, our two adult leaders are enjoying being with us and will be starting their Leadership Training this autumn, and of course there is the wonderful Amy (Young Leader). Thank you Village News, your article helped us to get these leaders.

We have had a couple of fun visits to the beach, but also discussed it in a bit more detail.

The girls were challenged to discover how they could find out whether or not it would be a high tide (hint – check the Greenock Telegraph), what the big concreted areas were for, how to “guddle” for fish in the rock pools and perhaps most importantly – how to skim stones – sorry but Brown Owl is still the champion.

We will be sticking with the back to nature or “Me and my community” this autumn as we will be gathering brambles and making jelly from them, and hopefully discussing more as we go through the woods.

Any girl interested in join Brownies, please leave a message on **520615**.

Seaview Café

The Seaview Café has a new extended menu and, with plans afoot to revamp the kitchen, even more changes are on the way. Pop in and try one of their tasty snacks or full meals between 7am – 7pm Monday to Saturday or 8am – 7pm on Sundays.

Having a Party?

If you are thinking of having a party, why not consider holding it at the community centre? Although it is pretty busy, party bookings are still available out with the regular lets. Even better, why not theme your party? When placing your booking just say if you would like a Bouncy Castle Party or would like local DJs, Disco Divas, to provide your entertainment. A 2-hour Bouncy Castle Party costs £52, while a 2-hour Disco booking only costs £50. To make a booking, or for more information, contact **Kirsty Donnelly** on **520738**. Remember that, if you are having food at your party, the centre's kitchen was completely refurbished last year and is available for your use.

Country People's Club

Are you aged 50+ with some time to spare on Wednesday afternoons? If so, we would be pleased to welcome you to the Country People's Club which was held until recently in the now demolished Heywood Hotel.

Meetings for the new session will be held at the new venue, "**The Chart Room**" at **Kip Marina** commencing on **Wednesday 13th October at 2.30pm** and fortnightly thereafter. A varied programme has been arranged and details of the next few meetings are as follows:

October 13th : Mrs Isabel Lind, Headmistress of Ravenscraig Primary School - "Life at the Chalk Face"

27th : Mrs Valerie Boa – "The History of the Clyde Pottery in Greenock"

November 10th : Mr John Steele – "The Secrets of HMS Dasher"

The annual subscription is £9.00 with visitors paying £1.00 per meeting. Further details may be obtained from the secretary, **Mrs Ann Haig**, on **522316**.

Adult Association

Classes have started now but there are still spaces in some. If you are interested in a class and would like to check whether there are any vacant places please contact **Morag Wilson**, on **521626**.

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm - Home Furnishings/Dressmaking

8.00-9.30pm - Cross Stitch/Embroidery

Wednesdays 7.45-9.15pm - Yoga

8.00-9.30pm - Introduction to Interior Design & Home Styling

Sign Language

Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm - Pilates

In addition to these classes, the following new classes are planned with the date and time still to be finalised: Book Discussion Group; Genealogy.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Thanks to Rev. Armstrong for providing an up to date programme of what goes on at Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church. If you decide to attend Sunday morning worship or any of the other activities within the church you will be made very welcome.

Every SUNDAY, 11.00am : **Morning Worship, Sunday School and Crèche**

Every MONDAY (from 11 October), 7.30pm : **Christianity Explored** a study course for all who would like to know more about the Christian Faith.

Every WEDNESDAY, 7.30pm : **Scottish Country Dancing**

Every THURSDAY, 1.30-2.45 : **Noah's Ark** is a group for all children (aged 0-5) and their parents/carers. The group has a fabulous selection of constantly updated toys and equipment.

Enjoy the fun in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

THURSDAY, fortnightly, 7.30pm : The **Men's Fellowship** includes members from our Church and Inverkip Church. Speakers are invited to address the group on a variety of topics of general interest.

Every FRIDAY, 12.15-1.30pm : Delicious, home-made soup and sandwiches are on offer at our **Friday Lunches**, all for a suggested donation of £2.00. The company is usually quite good too!

Every SATURDAY, 1.30-4.30 : **Junior Badminton** in Skelmorlie Community Centre

Nursery Rhyme Quiz

The winner of the Woodland Association's Nursery Rhyme Quiz was Naeomi Broadfoot who successfully completed the entire quiz, one of only eight all correct entries. Naeomi's name was drawn from all the correct entries by local pharmacist Brian Spence. She won a goody bag with a selection of toys and soft animals.

Mothers and Toddlers

The Mothers and Toddlers meet on Mondays and Wednesdays in the St Joseph and St Patrick's Church Hall from 9.30 until 11.15am. There are toys and refreshments available. All are welcome (0-5yrs.) Children must be accompanied by their own parent/grandparent.

Thanks to Father Boyle for the above information.

Drama

The Drama group meets every Tuesday from 4.30 – 5.30pm in the Community Centre. For information contact **Lana Lord** on **520820**.

WEA

The Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay branch of the W.E.A. meets every Wednesday from 9.45 – 11.45am in the reading room of Skelmorlie Community Centre. The programme for the next few weeks is as follows:

October 6th : Brian Searl – "A Year in the Life of Britannia"

13th : John Gallagher – "Titanic After the Collision"

20th : Outing to Discovery Point, Dundee

27th : Rob Hall – "Jazz Today"

November 3rd : Margaret Thomson – "Liz Lochhead"

10th : Professor Bill Wallace – "China as a World Power"

Everyone is welcome to come along to any of the meetings. There is no joining or annual fee and the entrance cost is a very reasonable £1.80 (£1.50 for concessions). For further information please contact **Jenny Mc Gee Tel: 521090**.

Councillor Eric Forbes

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - well done to those who turned up on 1 September and made sure that they had a working committee and community support. I listened to Office Bearers who had a strong commitment to make sure the Association was a success. Good luck to them.

PARKING AT WEMYSS BAY PIERHEAD - this has now turned into an even bigger frustration exercise than what was there previously and therefore at times a parking place is a good find. Certain changes have reduced the number of places available. However we cannot excuse those car owners who just indiscriminately park (abandon) where they see fit causing obstruction and breaking the law. We know, and all accept, that the existing circumstances are not geared up to cope with the present demand never mind the future but everyone should adhere to the parking regulations and respect why they are in place. Businesses have to be serviced and that is a fact. Bus stops have to be observed and, until that changes, we are where we are. There has been a lot of public exposure and lobbying and I will continue to have dialogue with the stakeholders to see if we can change the set up. Regulations have to be policed and that could result in an expensive visit to Wemyss Bay. It will not be solved tomorrow, therefore I ask that Wemyss Bay residents play their part when down at the pierhead.

SPAR CAR PARK - I am led to believe that some consideration is being given to increasing the number of parking spaces to include parking for the disabled.

WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION - the small but happy band of volunteers are continuing to do their bit and the formal contractual work in the main woods will start soon. The end result will be a place to go and spend some relaxing time in a managed woodland. We should all be supportive of this community initiative.

LEVEN ROAD TREES - the legal process has started and it is now in the hands of the Procurator Fiscal for his/her consideration. The requirement is on the landowner to present a re-planting plan which is acceptable to the Council Officers and is commensurate with the provisions of the Tree Planting Orders legislation. We shall wait and see, and then another part of the process will kick in.

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

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

Meeting to Discuss Station and Ferry Problems

The Greenock Telegraph reported that Councillor Alistair Watson, chair of Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority, is arranging a meeting shortly to discuss various issues relating to Wemyss Bay Station and pier and the surrounding area. These issues will include the state of the station itself, car parking issues, the pedestrian crossing, the relocation of the bus stop and parking permits for residents. Councillor, Eric Forbes and Duncan McNeil MSP have also been involved in the discussions.

Scottish Parliament Update – Duncan McNeil MSP

While the campaign against NHS Argyll and Clyde's deeply flawed Clinical Strategy is taking up by far the greatest proportion of my time both here and at Holyrood, it is not the only matter sitting in my in-tray.

The ongoing problems at Wemyss Bay station and ferry terminal, for example, continue to be a source of aggravation for residents, passengers and businesses.

Equally unhappy with the current situation is Cllr Alistair Watson, Chair of Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority, who, as you may recall, was appalled at the state of the railway station when I met him there recently.

I am also aware that tourism chiefs are concerned at the message the state of the station and terminal sends to locals and to visitors.

That is why what is being dubbed a "summit meeting" of the key players is to be held in the near future. This offers, I hope, a chance to put in place a sustainable maintenance programme and address parking space – which is essential for any major transport interchange.

Of course, it would be naïve to think that the interests of ferry passengers, local residents, the transport authorities, local businesses and everyone else will be in complete harmony. But surely it cannot be beyond us to come to a solution which we can all accept and which fulfils the potential of these valuable local assets.

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

Murdered to Death

Picture the scene: a country house weekend, a dotty, rich old lady and her niece, a frisky Colonel, a French art dealer, a drunken butler and a local sleuth, not to mention a murder or two. An Agatha Christie thriller? No, but a hugely entertaining spoof written by Peter Gordon that will be performed by the Attic Players on stage in Skelmorlie Community Centre on the 26th and 27th of November. Director Liz Neill will draw from the wealth of experience she has gathered over the years, especially from her acting and directing days at The Little Theatre in Gateshead, to direct this 2 Act play. With 10 characters, 5 male & 5 female, and lots of 'goings on' this is sure to stretch the capabilities of all involved and provide our audience with the perfect follow on from 'Allo 'Allo. Having so many people unable to see 'Allo 'Allo, Murdered to Death is expected to sell out very quickly. Tickets are priced £6, including a complimentary glass of wine, and are selling out fast.

Ardgowan Football Development

The 2004/2005 AFD Sessions commenced on Sunday 29th August and most sessions are now full with over 160 kids now attending football coaching every Sunday. Elaine McFeeley has taken on the role of Girls coach and still has some spaces available for P4 – P7 girls. Anyone interested should go along on Sunday and speak to Elaine or one of the other coaches.

What Would You Like To See In The Village News?

Since taking over editing the Village News in September last year 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 will be holding a surgery for constituents on Monday 8th November from 9 – 10 am in the Community Centre.

Attention All Morton Fans

Are you interested in travelling to Morton away matches by bus from Wemyss Bay? Contact **John** on **522431** or **Graham** on **07815 847631** for more details. Families are especially welcome.

David Cairns MP

Just one topic has dominated our area over the last few months – the future of Inverclyde Royal Hospital. I have to admit to being utterly dismayed at the proposals by Argyll and Clyde Health Board to downgrade the IRH and move key services to Paisley. I accept that they have real problems to deal with, but centralising everything at one super-hospital is not the way forward.

Thankfully, in recent weeks, I get a sense that the tide may just be beginning to turn. I have argued publicly that we can't solve the problems of the NHS "one-hospital-at-a-time" and that we need a national solution to what are, after all, national problems in our national health service. So I was delighted at the announcement of a commission led by Professor David Kerr of Oxford University, to devise just such a national framework, and even more delighted when he accepted our invitation to make Inverclyde his first port of call.

So while it is far too early to put out the bunting, we now have a real chance to move beyond the narrow options of Argyll and Clyde Health Board and have a proper national debate about what our NHS should look like in the 21st century. We may not get everything that we want, but we will ensure that our voice is heard and that the problems of an area such as Inverclyde cannot be ignored, or left to the mercy of an un-elected and unaccountable health board, the majority of whose members neither work nor live in Inverclyde.

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.

Learn to bake!!!

The Nursery is asking parents to get more involved in their children's education by volunteering to go along and help out now and then. This gives you the opportunity to find out a bit more about what your child gets up to at the nursery and who knows, you might even learn something.

With Amy now at nursery, Kirsty Donnelly, chair of the Community Association went along recently and learnt, for the first time, how to make scones. So get baking Kirsty, we'll all be round for afternoon tea!!

Community Council

The Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council will hold their October meeting in Wemyss Bay Primary School at 7.30pm on Thursday October 7th.

Macmillan Cancer Relief

A "Taste of Hollywood" Charity Ball, with music by The Harry Margolis Big Band, will be held in Seamiill Hydro on Friday 12th November at 8.00pm. This is a black tie evening and starts off with a cocktail reception prior to a 5-course meal. Tickets are £40 each with tables seating 10 – 12 people. All proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Relief. Contact **Kathy Peacock** on **529771** for tickets or more details.

Mobile Phone Mast

The latest information available from Inverclyde Council's Planning Department is that the applicant has asked that the application be put on hold at present as they look into the possibility of alternate sites. This could change at any time however. If the application were to be withdrawn altogether then objectors would be notified by the planning department. If however there is simply an amendment to the original application then only those nearest affected by the statutory requirement for neighbour notification would be informed. We will try and keep you up to date.

Kids' Stuff

Halloween takes place this month and many of you will be getting dressed up to go trick-or-treating. When I was young we called it guising and although some people gave you an apple, a tangerine some nuts and maybe some sweets, other people had us dooking for apples or trying to eat scones, dripping with treacle, which were hung from string – a very messy but great fun time for all. Hope you have as much fun. The wordsearch is all about Halloween. Can you find all the words?

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

APPLE
COSTUME
DRACULA
FACE-PAINTS
GHOST
HALLOWEEN
MASK
NUTS
OCTOBER
PUMPKIN
SCARY
SKELETONS
SWEET
TANGERINE
TREACLE SCONE
TRICK OR TREAT
VAMPIRE
WITCHES

WORDFINDER

Try and find as many words as possible using the letters below. Each letter can only be used once and every word must contain the letter in the middle square. No plurals, names or hyphenated words are allowed. There is at least one 9-letter word.

P	R	D
I	E	C
D	T	E

20 words – at least you're trying!

40 words – shows promise

30 words – good

50+ words – brain-box!!

Finally

That's all for this month. **The closing date for any articles or adverts for the November edition of the Village News is the 20th October.** This is an absolute deadline and cannot be extended under any circumstances! 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.