

Wemyss Bay Village News

184th Edition

February 2005

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Asian Tsunami

No-one can have failed to be moved recently by the scenes of total destruction following the recent tsunami which affected many countries surrounding the Indian Ocean. The number of deaths stood at over 220,000 when the Village News went to the printers, with a further 20,000 missing – a number which is virtually impossible to comprehend. In addition over 1.8million people are homeless or displaced. As an island nation ourselves we grappled to come to terms with what it would have meant for us. Over one third of the dead are children and even for those who survived many are now orphans. Deaths were reported in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Maldives, Malaysia, Burma, Bangladesh, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and Seychelles.

The British public is on target to donate almost £200m, the largest amount ever for any disaster appeal. Many local people have chosen to donate online, at banks, building societies & the post office, by sending cheques to the Disaster Emergency Committee or directly to some of the many charities involved, and by making cash donations at some of the many collection points in shops. Shortly after the appeal was launched, staff in Wemyss Bay Spar placed a collection bucket on the counter. When we went to print the total reached was £1430 and set to keep on rising. Well done to everyone who contributed. Remember that the requirement for aid stretches beyond the immediate need of food, medicine and emergency shelter to the long time rebuilding of many shattered nations. You can continue to donate at Spar, at your bank, building society, post office or directly online to the Disaster Emergency Committee www.dec.org.uk. Remember if you are a tax payer to tick the gift aid box or confirm it in writing with your donation as, in this way, the charities can reclaim the tax you have already paid from the taxman. This doesn't cost you anything but increases your donation by 28pence in every pound: a £10 donation from you is worth £12.80 to them.

Gala Volunteers Wanted

This year's Gala will be held from Friday 17th till Sunday 19th June. As a change to the usual Ceilidh, this year we will have a Barn Dance on the Friday night. (Jeans, checked shirts and Stetsons are optional!) Saturday will be a fun-packed day with a mix of stalls, fairground attractions and music all afternoon and, after a short clean-up break from 5.30 – 7.00pm, the bar will re-open with evening entertainment. On Sunday AFD will be running their annual prize-giving, displays and tournament. Everyone involved in running the Gala does so voluntarily and already some of the arrangements are in place. The success of the weekend however is dependent on having enough volunteers to make sure that everything runs smoothly. In order to allow Ann Marie to plan everything in advance, we need more volunteers to come forward now and therefore we are holding a Volunteer Recruitment Evening on Sunday 20th February at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

Can you spare a couple of hours on Friday to help set up? What about helping out at the bar for an hour or two at some time over the weekend? Never tried face-painting – now is your chance. The centre's bouncy castle needs supervising, why not spend an hour here bring out the big kid that's hidden inside you? Tables need cleaned and glasses need washed all weekend – you wouldn't want us to run out of glasses just when you are about to be served! Maybe you could get involved with your children for an hour of litter collection (pick-up sticks provided).

Many people do not get involved because they think that they have to be available the whole time – not so. By recruiting enough volunteers, rotas can be drawn up in order that everyone only does an hour or two and has the rest of the weekend free to enjoy themselves.

A number of people indicated that they would be willing to help when they attended our Save the Centre meeting last year, but we are still looking for more. If you would be available at any time over that weekend, come along to the Community Centre on Sunday 20th February and enjoy an informal chat over wine and nibbles. Find out a bit more about how you can get involved. The success of this year's Gala depends on you and, guess what, its fun! If you can help but are unable to come to the meeting please phone **Ann Marie on 522998**.

Shoe Box Appeal

I am currently filling and distributing empty shoe-boxes to help the people of Asia who have lost everything in this awful earthquake. They are being filled with bare essentials e.g. shaving foam, deodorant, packet soups, baby foods, nappies, toothpaste, hair-brushes and so on. Already I have sent 50 off to where they are so urgently needed. (I would like to say a big thank you to all my great neighbours in Leven Road who helped by all filling a box or two or SIX in one case (thanks Phyllis)!!

If you feel you can help (maybe you have had too many toiletries for Xmas!) you can obtain empty shoe-boxes and hand them back to my son John on the Ice Cream Van. Thanks.

Susan Harkins

New Look for Old Floor!

You may have noticed that the flooring in the Community Centre was looking decidedly shabby, indeed the floor in the corridor was held together in places with tape! When the Community Association approached Inverclyde Council, who own the building, they agreed to replace the floor in the corridor on a health and safety basis, but turned down pleas to do anything in the main hall.

The Community Association were advised by flooring experts that the main hall only required to be sanded back to the original wood, removing several layers of paint and varnish accumulated over the years, and then re-sealed properly. Even this took a week and the entire costs were met by the Association, who are now considering what can be done to improve the kitchen, toilets and back room.

Unfortunately the work involved created an unbelievable amount of dust which got into every corner and cupboard and even coated the roof beams! Well done to Kirsty and her band of volunteers for working so hard to get everything spick and span for the lets starting up after Christmas.

Arthur Brocklebank

My name is Arthur Brocklebank. When I was 11 my father and mother and I came to live in Wemyss Bay, having been bombed out during the Greenock blitz.

As my father was organist at the English Episcopal church on Inverclyde's estate, Lord Inverclyde invited us to stay at the castle for a couple of nights until he made enquiries in the area about accommodation for us. He approached Mr Stewart of Dunloe and suggested opening up Ardvaa. This was agreed and we moved in with what possessions we could rescue from our wrecked house in Caddlehill Terrace in Greenock. Soon, other evacuees moved in and we became a small happy community.

Every day, I caught one of Dunlop's buses at the Smithy to take me to Greenock Academy. Dunlop's buses found the hill from the Hotel on the main road quite a challenge especially if they were full.

It did not take me long to meet up with some of the boys and girls who lived close by and I remember Hugh and Nan Barr, Ronnie Herbert and Ian Ramsey from the grocer's shop particularly well.

I joined the Skelmorlie Scouts with Mr Alexander as the Scoutmaster and headteacher of the primary school, *delivered* fish on my bike round the area from Smith's fish shop in the village, joined the Skelmorlie tennis club, fished off the rocks in borrowed boats below Ardvaa for mackerel and plaice, played and got many a soaking in the famous creek, and, on Saturdays and Sundays, delivered milk with horse and cart from the estate farm. The horse was named "Boy".

The arrival of the Americans with their armoured cars and tanks brought great excitement to the village. Pearson's garage had the job of welding on exhaust snorkels to the vehicles, and when the beach was covered in concrete it was fun running to welcome the landing craft when they crossed over from Rothesay. We were told, secretly, that these Americans were training for landings in Sicily.

The estate walled garden above the castle was kept going during the war years and we boys had great adventures clambering over the wall to pinch some apples. Often the gardener would come round which forced us to lie face down until he passed by. We were never caught!

My father joined the local Home Guard; one of his duties being to guard Wemyss Bay pier at night against invasion by the Germans with his rifle and one bullet.

A year after the war ended, we left Ardvaa and returned home.

These were happy years but, at the age of 75, I have forgotten nearly all the names of the many friends I made. I would be delighted, if any of my contemporaries from those days are still alive, would care to get in touch. I now live in Dingwall.

Arthur Brocklebank

[Email the webmaster of the Wemyss Bay web site (go to <http://wemyssbay.net/talk/memories.html>) if you wish to be put in touch with Arthur.]

Woodland Association

As most people will be aware by now, work started in the main wood at the beginning of January. They are making significant progress with the rhododendron clearance and have also started work in the central barren area and on the path creation. The contractor will be responsible for the removal of the remaining one third of the rhododendron; carrying out essential tree surgery; limited thinning of sycamore; some levelling in the central area of the wood to include addition of top soil and seeding; construction and maintenance of main and secondary paths; chemical treatment of Japanese knotweed and rhododendron ponticum over a five year period; and the construction of informal seating and installation of benches.

Throughout the past year volunteers have worked tirelessly on rhododendron removal within the main wood. As part of the funding package, the Association had to commit to providing a £10,000 donation in kind, which amounted to 1600 hours of volunteer labour. Over the course of the year there have been 49 work days worth volunteers amassing 1906 hours, considerably more than the minimum required. In this time two thirds of the rhododendron has been removed including that in some of the densest areas. Working weekends continue on a fortnightly basis. During the time that contractors are working the Association will concentrate its attention on the terraced gardens however, as soon as the contractors finish there will be more work to be carried out in the main wood, particularly involving planting of wildflowers and shrubs. We will also continue our work on the ditch and drainage along Cliff Terrace Road and already the path is considerable drier underfoot. We are aware that over the past few weeks with the torrential rain, the drain has not been coping with the volume of water and we will continue working on this alongside Inverclyde council to improve things.

The Roads Department have recently been clearing the overhanging vegetation along Ardgowan Road to improve road safety. We welcome this but hasten to point out that this is totally unconnected to the work of the Association and any comments or problems connected to this should be directed to the Roads Department, or your local councillor.

In the next few weeks volunteers will be working on cutting wood to size for bird and bat boxes. The "kits" will then be taken into the school, to involve the children in the construction. Thereafter they will help site the boxes and will take part in the ongoing monitoring of our local bird population. We are appealing for donations of untreated wood around 150mm wide and 15mm thick and, if you would be prepared to help with cutting the wood to size we would be very grateful to hear from you. Contact **Eila on 529375**. Bird boxes should only be treated on the outside while it is essential that for bats the wood is totally untreated. If you would like leaflets on constructing boxes for your own garden contact us and we will provide them.

Our volunteer work sessions continue on a fortnightly basis. As usual we meet at the Ardgowan Road end of Cliff Terrace Road at 10am and work until 3pm. Gloves, tools and refreshments are provided. Recently some people have been along with their children for the first time and were amazed at how much they enjoyed themselves. Why don't you give it a go at one of our forthcoming sessions: Sat 5th & Sun 6th and Sat 19th & Sun 20th February, Sat 5th & Sun 6th and Sat 19th & Sun 20th March. Contact Eila on the above number for further information.

Our AGM was held on Sunday 23rd January and the following people elected to serve as office-bearers for the next year – Chairperson: Richard Charnock-Smith, Treasurer: Finlay McFee and Secretary: Eila Roberts.

Adult Association

The following groups have re-started in Wemyss Bay Primary after the festive holidays:-

Tuesdays: Cross-Stitch (7 – 9pm)

Wednesdays: Yoga (7.40 – 9.15pm)

Thursdays: Pilates (6.30 – 7.30pm)

The Sign Language group has now moved on to level (1). This is being held in Branchton Community Centre, Greenock. There are places available in all groups. For further information, telephone **Morag Wilson on 521626**

Found

A lady's Accurist wristwatch was found in the playground of Wemyss Bay Primary School prior to Christmas and as yet is unclaimed. If you think that it may be yours contact **Mr Glass**, the school janitor, **on 521792**.

Mobile Phone Mast

An application to Inverclyde Council for permission to install a 13.5 metre high monopole, which would accommodate three antennae and a 2.3 metre fence at the BT exchange in Forbes Place, has been refused. The Planning Committee considered a number of objections from local residents before turning down the application.

George Anderson

We previously told you that, following heart surgery early last year George, the previous secretary of the Community Association, was awaiting major surgery to repair an aneurysm.

We are delighted to let you know that George underwent his operation before Christmas and is making a marvellous recovery. Although he still has a bit to go to get back to normal, he is improving every day.

Everyone at the Community Association wish George a very speedy return to full health. We miss you and can't wait for you to be fit enough to get involved again, even on a small scale.

Telephone Scam

In case you may have missed recent publicity regarding the latest wave of phone scams, we have been asked by Strathclyde Police to bring this to your attention. It applies to home and/or work telephones, land lines and mobiles.

If you do receive one of these calls, upon answering the telephone, you will hear a recorded message congratulating you on winning an all expenses trip to an exotic location. You will then be asked to press 9 to hear further details. If you press 9 you will be connected to a premium rate line that costs up to £20 per minute. Even if you disconnect immediately, if you have already pressed 9, it will remain connected for a minimum of 5 minutes, costing around £100. The final part of the call involves you being asked to key your postcode and house number (which can have other undesirable consequences). After a further 2 minutes you will receive a message informing you that you are not one of the lucky winners. The total bill will be £260 and you won't discover this till your bill arrives some weeks later.

Since these calls are originating from outside the UK, BT and other telephone companies are left relatively powerless to act. The only safe solution is to HANG UP before the message prompts you to press 9; even safer is to HANG UP on any unsolicited 'free offer' call. This appears to be a variation on a theme, warnings have been sent previously regarding calls made by individuals claiming to be engineers conducting a test on the line and asking for 9, 0# and text messages similar to the routine described above. DO NOT DIAL 9 (or 9, 0# or 0, 9#) FOR ANYONE! BT has been contacted and confirmed the details as being true.

There is also another scam which mobile phone users should be made aware of: A "Missed Call" comes up. The number is 0709 020 3840 or similar. (The last few numbers may vary, but the first number will remain the same.) If you call this number back, you will be charged £50 per minute. People have complained about their phone bills, once they have realised the cost of the call but apparently this is completely legal. So beware, do not call back numbers beginning with 0709.

Keith Bartlett, Sergeant, Community Safety, Greenock. Tel: 01475 492509

Email: Keith.Bartlett@strathclyde.pnn.co.uk

Car Boot Sale

The Community Association is holding a Car Boot Sale at the Community Centre on Saturday 9th April from 10.30 – 12.30. £5 books your pitch and, as space is limited, it will be strictly on a first come basis. To reserve a space contact **Ann Marie on 522998**.

To add to the fun there will also be a "Beat the Goalie", the bouncy castle and, to make sure that your energy doesn't flag, a tea-room with home baking.

All money raised will be used to fund this year's Gala Weekend. It costs several thousand pounds to run a successful gala and we are dependant, to a large extent, on good weather to recover this initial outlay. By supporting the car Boot Sale you will help ensure that arrangements can be made to make this year's gala the best yet!

Greenlight Recycling

Greenlight will be continuing their regular kerbside collections with uplifts on Mondays 7th & 21st February and 7th & 21st March. They collect newspapers & magazines, plastic bottles & milk cartons, food & drinks cans, rags and carrier bags. Recycling couldn't be easier - do your bit for the environment.

Community Association

The next meeting of the Community Association will be held at 7.30pm on Sunday 6th February 2005 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. The Association is responsible for the management, letting and upkeep of the Community Centre and also organises the Gala Day, the Christmas lights switch-on and other community events. You are very welcome to come along to any of the meetings, whether you are interested in becoming involved or if you simply want to observe what goes on.

Bible Club

The Bible Club meets every Monday evening from 6:15 – 7:30pm in the Community Centre. The club is open to all primary school age children and any newcomers will be made very welcome. Activities include games, competitions, songs and Bible stories.

The club is off on Monday, 14th February due to the mid-term holiday, but will resume on Monday, 21st February.

Contact **Stephen Renton** on **01505 355994** for further details.

Scottish Parliamentary Report, Duncan McNeil MSP

Most of us have working environments which are fairly stressful and hectic. But can you imagine, instead of being interrupted by stupid emails from head office every 5 minutes, or having to listen to Doreen from accounts tell everyone with whom she has a telephone conversation the same pointless anecdote about one of her children, you had to try to work in noisy chaos, punctuated periodically with shouts of abuse aimed at the boss from the headbangers up the back? You simply wouldn't tolerate it.

So why should our children put up with it in the classroom? As HM Inspectorate of Education confirms, our children's education is already suffering thanks to the terrible state of our school buildings, but their learning environment shouldn't be made even worse by unruly, disruptive pupils.

You don't need to be an expert on education to know that good learning requires good order in the classroom. And, to help teachers reduce indiscipline, Inverclyde has been given £128,542 by the Scottish Executive to recruit new educational support staff – including learning support assistants, classroom assistants and pupil support base staff.

These staff, as Education Minister Peter Peacock says, "will free teachers to teach the new curriculum, help all pupils to learn undisturbed and deal intensively with those pupils who need it most."

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**

Attic Players

The Attic Players are pleased to announce that their next production will be a comedy, Family Planning by Frank Vickery. Performed on stage in Skelmorlie Community Centre on Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd April the show will probably sell out within the first few weeks of tickets being released as has happened for the last few productions. Priority booking forms will be sent out to our mailing list soon, to ensure that you receive one join our mailing list online at **www.attic-players.co.uk** and follow the links. Alternatively phone **Richard** on **522366** for details.

School News

Last month Wemyss Bay Primary School raised £460 for the Tsunami Appeal. Well done to everyone involved. Also last month, parents whose children are in P6 & P7 were invited into the school for Heroes Day recently. Each child conducted personal research and then gave a presentation about their own heroes.

The Greenock Festival takes place this month and the younger children are taking part in the Singing games Competition. P1 compete on Tuesday 1st, The Nursery on Wednesday 2nd and P2 on Thursday 3rd February. Good luck to everyone taking part.

The School's Environmental group took part in the RSPB Great Garden Birdwatch recently. This is an annual event which encourages people to take time to count all the birds that visit their garden, or other chosen area, over the space of an hour. The figures are then collated nationally to give comprehensive statistics on the rise and fall of Britain's bird population. Following on from this the school will be working alongside the Woodland Association when children will be involved soon in the construction of bird boxes. They will then help site the boxes in Wemyss Bay Wood, where they can then take part in the longer term monitoring of our local bird population.

What's On at the Arts Guild?

The Happy Gang's Magic Sweetie Shop - Saturday 5th February @ 11am & 2pm Tickets £7.00 Family Ticket £25.00 (4 seats). Our soft centred Heroes "The Happy Gang" are hard at work in their Sweetie Shop, cooking up a selection box of sweet treats just for you. But bah humbug! Who's hiding and plotting sticky Chaos? See the return of our old favourite Bertha Big Foot and our new Monster called Flossie.

Don't miss "the Music", "the Magic" and "the Wonky Wizardry" from the show that everyone wants a taste of..... it's "The Happy Gang's Magic Sweetie Shop"!!!

Godspell - Wednesday 9th to Saturday 12th February @ 7.30pm Tickets £8.00 (£6.00) KAYOS are back with another sure-fire hit! For four nights they will be filling our stage with an all-singing, all-dancing musical spectacular. Last year, they brought 'Fame' to the Arts Guild and it sold out. Be sure not to miss out, tickets available now!

SCDA One Act Play Festival - Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th February @ 7.30pm Tickets £6.00 per evening Buy tickets for Thursday and Friday and get Saturday FREE! How does 9 plays over 3 nights sound? A dash of comedy, a sprinkling of tragedy and a hefty dose of local talent. Watch the Greenock Players, George Square Players, POOL Theatre Company and Thistle Theatre Company battle it out to go through to the Western Division competition. And all this on your doorstep!

Kids Art Classes: Due to phenomenal demand we had to add a third session to our Saturday art classes. These three classes are now all full. But we do still have some spaces left in our **Adult Life Drawing Classes** which start this Monday @ 7.30pm. Taken by Bill Stewart our artistic whizz, these classes are suitable for both beginners and those with some experience.

If you want to book tickets for any of these shows you can visit the Arts Guild Theatre, Campbell Street Greenock, call the **Box Office** on **01475 723038** or e-mail **laurajane.greer@artsguildtheatre.co.uk**

David Cairns MP : Inverclyde People Help Tsunami Victims

None of us will ever forget the terrible suffering the people of Asia experienced on Boxing Day. While we were settling down to recover from Christmas, a huge tidal wave was heading across the Indian Ocean to wipe out coastal towns and villages in a dozen countries. Whole areas were devastated, over a million were left homeless and the death toll is relentlessly marching towards the 250,000 mark.

At times like we realise that we really do live in a global village, and the response of the people in Greenock and Inverclyde to this tragedy has been tremendous. Local churches had special collections, some raising over £10,000, schools had cake and candy stalls and people all over the constituency felt moved to hold fundraising events. I've lost count of the number of Tsunami fundraisers I've seen in the local paper, and one constituent even handed £30 into my office and asked me to send it to Asia.

These are magnificent efforts and I'm pleased to say that local generosity has been matched by action from the British Government. The United Kingdom has already committed £75 million to immediate humanitarian aid and the Prime Minister has made it clear that our final aid package will top £200 million. None of this money will be diverted from other Third World countries, and our determination to tackle poverty and HIV/AIDS in Africa remains as strong as ever.

The Tsunami was an unprecedented disaster hitting a huge area and nobody could have been prepared for the scale of the devastation. Yet within 24 hours the Department for International Development had distributed £1 million worth of aid, including the dispatch of an aircraft carrying emergency supplies. I don't believe that either the government or the people of Greenock and Inverclyde will suffer from compassion fatigue. We are all in this for the long haul, and we will continue giving aid until the people in these countries can rebuild their towns and villages and get their economies back on a firm footing.

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.

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, however that many people may be sitting at home with great ideas about how to improve things. 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: ailaroberts@care4free.net or leave your suggestions in the Village News folder behind the counter in Spar.

Country People's Club

The Country People's Club meets every alternate Wednesday at 2.30pm in the Chartroom at Kip Marina. All members, old and new, and visitors will be made most welcome. The subscription per annum is £9 and £1 for visitors. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Ann Haig, on 522316. The programme for the next few meetings is as follows:

February 9th Jill Vedebrand: Travels With My Sea Captain

23rd Trevor & Ishbel Jones: Fairtrade Fortnight

March 9th Jim Hunter: Plants – and Things!

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

TSUNAMI APPEAL: Church members raised £1,065; this included £100 from our Sunday School.

Every Sunday, 11.00am MORNING WORSHIP, Sunday School and Crèche

Every Monday, 7.30pm BIBLE STUDY – studies in St John

Every Wednesday, 7.30pm COUNTRY DANCING

Every Thursday, 1.15-2.45pm NOAH'S ARK

Every Friday, 12.15-1.30pm FRIDAY LUNCHESES

Every Saturday, 1.30-4.30pm JUNIOR BADMINTON

Thursday 3 February, 7.30pm Illustrated talk by Bill Wright on the Amalfi Coast

Thursday 17 February, 7.30pm Talk by Paul Cowan of the North Ayrshire Library Service

Sunday 20 February, 11.00am Guides Thinking Day Service

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council News

Remembrance Sunday 14th November 2004: The people of Wemyss Bay turned out to remember the brave citizens who gave their lives during conflict and war in order to protect our freedom. Although the weather was cold and windy we had a good turnout. All age groups were represented, as were the churches, from a wreath laid by a senior citizen to those laid on behalf of the various youth organisations present.

Community police officers: We now have two community police officers between both villages Kenny Wilson has now been joined by Lesley Strachan.

Mobile Phone and Tetra Masts: We need strict safety rules to protect residents from the possible health effects of mobile phones and Tetra masts. The *Telegraphs* Investigation which found at least 33 phone masts in Inverclyde. At the moment, health fears aren't a reason to reject an application for a new phone mast. It would be more beneficial if phone companies were forced to share masts. This would cut the numbers by as much as 75 per cent across the country. People have genuine health concerns. The Scottish Executive should be looking at the emission levels and then make a decision on whether we need a change in planning legislation to allow health concerns to be considered. Our Local MP David Cairns said he has regular meetings with mobile phone companies and passes on the concerns of constituents. He said there was no evidence of a risk to human health but young children shouldn't use the phones while their skulls are not as thick. He said: "The companies contend they have done a good amount of research. They also state there's no evidence these masts are harmful. Council leader Alan Blair said planning bosses had no choice but to accept the opinions of experts. If a mast was rejected on health grounds, the Scottish Executive could overturn it on appeal. The only way to stop more of these applications being passed is for the community to object to each application as it is put forward.

We also call for the Scottish Parliament to take the necessary steps to delay the installation of terrestrial trunked radio (TETRA) communications masts in Scotland until potential health risks have been properly assessed and the relevant planning guidance has been amended to incorporate appropriate mandatory health and safety standards. These masts will be used by the police service and literature regarding these, advises that they should be strongly objected to. An article regarding these was published in the Greenock Telegraph on 10.01.2004; also have a look at this web site (www.no2tetrascotland.org.uk)
For more information about Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council contact Harold McPherson on 07977 126519 or email: harold@crcuk.net

And Now For the Small Print.....

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.

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:

February 2nd Jill Vedebrand : Travels With My Sea Captain
9th Norman Lytle : Manitoba to Hudson Bay
16th Donald Mackay : Lords of the Isles
23rd Ian Mitchell : Iceland's Mountains
March 2nd Iain Quinn : A Steamer Surprise!

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 McGee Tel: 521090**.

Can You Help?

The Community Association is looking into the possibility of setting up some sort of computer system in the Community Centre which would let the various user groups set up several laptops at a time. There would also be a need to put several safety measures in place to restrict access to appropriate sites. We need someone with the technical know-how to advise us and help set everything up. If you can help, please contact **Kirsty on 520738**.

Wemyss Bay Brownies

The Brownies just got back from Kilmacolm ahead of the snow.

We had a super Pack Holiday weekend at South Newton (a farm owned by Girlguiding Renfrewshire, which has 2 large residential houses, a small residential house – used by the senior section, and three campsites). 20 girls and six leaders attended and we Harry Pottered all weekend. Each six had an owl (which delivered messages to them – fortunately none of them were howlers), had to try and get through Aragog's web, made volcanoes, searched for Welsh Dragon eggs (which began to hatch), played Quidditch for Muggles (probably their most favourite activity) and had "magic" lemonade which changed colour as it was poured. A wonderful time was had by all, and all the girls gained their Pack Holiday badge.

By the time you receive this, the country dancing team will have taken part in the Inverclyde Music Festival, our thanks to Allison Carmichael for training them, and we will have had our annual Burns Ceilidh with the Guides and Rainbows. Also this month we went to the Pantomime with the Guides, thanks to Mrs Battley for organising the trip. The baddie (played by Derek Lord) seemed to know that we were visiting and mentioned the girls several times, much to their delight. Oh, the magic of Panto!

Councillor Eric Forbes

GRAFFITI: I have had a few calls re. graffiti appearing at various places some being public and some being private. I am able to action the Council "graffiti team" to deal as quickly as possible with this unsightly and unacceptable behaviour. It is a different set up when it comes to private property inasmuch as it takes time to get to the appropriate responsible person within the organisation. However I do not give up and although it may take time I do persevere to get an early response and removal. The Council at this time are addressing this issue with the possibility of obtaining further graffiti removing equipment. The fact that graffiti on private property is not always removed timeously or at all by the owner leads to the question - should the Council offer a service at a cost to private businesses?

Offensive behaviour should realise the effect it has on area. Please stop it! The police are aware of this problem.

ROAD SAFETY ISSUE: At the recent Primary School Board meeting the issue of children being dropped off at the school gates in Lomond Road was raised as an area of concern. It would be appreciated if those who may be involved would think about where it would be safe to stop for all concerned pedestrians and passengers and not act in a way that would endanger either their own children or any other child. A little care gets you there! Contact me at the Council Offices **Tel: 717171 Fax: 01475 712976 or e-mail: Eric.Forbes@inverclyde.gov.uk** Outwith office hours I can be reached at **home: 520012** or on my **mobile: 07747 006725**.

Nuisance Calls

Did you know that even when someone withholds their telephone number it is still possible for BT and the police to trace the caller? I found this out recently when I resorted to reporting a string of nuisance calls. I am certain that the calls originated locally and only wish that, if someone is unhappy about something I have written in the Village News or about the work of the Woodland Association, they would be adult enough to discuss things instead of ending up with the police involved.

Finally

That's all for this month. **The closing date for any articles or adverts for the March edition of the Village News is the 20th February.** 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.

KIDS' STUFF

Lots of people complain that there is nothing to do in Wemyss Bay. This month the wordsearch is about some of the many different things you have to choose from if you live here and we haven't had space for all the things for adults. What not give it a go and find out if your favourite group's name is hidden among the jumble of letters.

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

ARDGOWAN
 FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT
 BIBLE CLUB
 BROWNIES
 COMMUNITY
 CENTRE
 CUBS
 DANCING
 FUN
 GUIDES
 JUDO
 KARATE
 RAINBOWS
 SCOUTS
 SHOTO-BUDO
 SUNDAY SCHOOL
 TODDLERS
 WEMYSS BAY
 WOODLAND
 ASSOCIATION
 YOUTH CLUBS

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.

20 words – at least you're trying!
 40 words – shows promise

30 words – good
 50+ words – brain-box!!

S	I	T
G	T	L
R	N	A