Wemyss Bay Village News

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Gala Weekend Friday 17th – Sunday 19th June

Put the dates in your diary now and don't miss out on the biggest and best Gala yet.

Friday night is Country and Western Night! Tickets will go on sale for this year's Friday night extravaganza from **Monday 6th - Thursday 16 June. They will be available from the Community Centre box office Mon – Fri from 6pm - 7.30pm and Sat & Sun 11.30 – 12.30 & 2.15 – 3.30.** Tickets are priced £5 for adults and £3 for under 12 year olds with the under 5s getting in free. We are also offering a family ticket which will admit two adults and two children and will cost £15. This years Friday night event is a bit different from the usual ceilidh. We have decided to change the event this year to a Country and Western night with popular local band "The Midnight Rebels". The night will kick off at 7.30pm with the usual raffle, prizes, buffet, and themed merchandise on sale to make you look the part (sorry no spittoons supplied, you have to bring your own!). There will be prizes for the best dressed cowboys, cowgirls and Native Americans so why don't you look out those Stetsons, brush your cowboy boots and get into the spirit of the evening. Last year was a complete sell out, so don't miss out this year! It's a great family night out! See you there! (Please note that the marquee will be a no-smoking area. You are welcome to smoke outside the tent.)

Saturday 18th is Gala Day with events starting at 12 noon when this year's Gala Queen, accompanied by her attendants, will officially open the Gala, ably assisted by Councillor Forbes. There will be a variety of stalls run by local organisations including the Brownies, Lending Library, PTA, Largs Gymnastics, Graffiti Dance Group, Mums and Tots and the Woodland Association. Once again the youth club will be running the tuck shop and the burger stall – last year all the burgers were sold out by 1.30pm so get along early if you are feeling peckish. AFD will be repeating their popular pie and Bovril stall (pie & Bovril £1, pie only £1, Bovril only £1!!). The Community Centre will be given over to the Guides tearoom – always a popular attraction with all the lovely home-baking.

Gala Day would not be complete without all the rides and fairground attractions for the young (and young at heart). This year they will be even bigger and better than before. There will still be the children's carousel and Bouncy Castle for the little ones, with the Giant Bouncy Slide for those a little older. In addition there will be some aimed at older children, teenagers and adults. Laser Quest is back again by popular request and for the first time we will have Equaliser and a Giant Inflatable Assault Course, which could develop into a competition for the whole family and is bound to provide loads of laughs. Stephen hopes that he will not be quite as muddy at the end of this year's Beat the Goalie.

"The Animal Man" will be coming along to the Gala bringing with him a selection of animals from the well-known rabbits and Guinea pigs to the more exotic snakes, giant cockroaches and tarantulas! There will be an opportunity to see some of these animals close up and, for the more daring, you may even be able to pet them. In the centre, for the little ones, there will be a Punch and Judy show. There will be a tombola, putting competition, coconut shy, wheel of fortune, bottle stall, plant stall, Father's Day gifts (nice timing as this falls on the Sunday), wooden toys, Dancing gear, face-painting, Bookworm T-shirts and lots of other sideshows. This year's Balloon Race is sponsored by the Body Shop who have provided a fantastic prize (and will also be available for makeovers on the day) – tickets will be available at the box office in the fortnight leading up to the Gala, at the Barn Dance and on Gala Day.

This year, once again, the beer tent will be providing a range of alcoholic and soft drinks. Spirits, canned and bottled drinks will appear side by side with "Helga's Big Jugs", last year's sell-out beer from Houston Brewery. We will also have a wide range of soft drinks for the under-18s and drivers out there. Please note, we will not sell alcohol to anyone suspected of being under 18 and it is illegal to purchase alcohol on behalf of anyone underage. Anyone abusing this will be asked to leave as our licence would be in jeopardy if this was to happen and, should the police visit, we would be shut down. The bar will be open from 12noon until 5.30pm and from 7.00pm until 11.00pm. Throughout the weekend the marquee will be strictly a no-smoking area. You are welcome to smoke outwith the marquee but we decided to introduce this both from a safety point of view (canvas and naked flames really don't go together) and also from a health point of view for children and non-smokers.

Saturday night: After a short break from 5.30 – 7.00pm to allow us to clear up and make sure that we have enough glasses washed for the evening session, the bar will re-open and entertainment continue in the main marquee with a kid's disco followed by music and a karaoke special. There is no charge for this and everyone is welcome to come along and have a go. There will be prizes for the best singers and, of course, a booby prize for the worst. A lot of people think that they would never sing in public but, as the night goes on and you are caught up in the atmosphere, you will soon be belting out your favourite songs. Interspersed throughout the evening there will be quizzes and stand-up bingo, again with prizes.

Last year, for the first time, we had a soup kitchen and this proved so popular that we are running it again this year. If you are flagging a bit on Saturday night between 9.00 – 11.00pm, pop into the Community Centre for a choice of soup made by the Seaview Café. We will also be selling hot-dogs so make use of this to help soak up the alcohol a bit before you have to walk home.

Gala Helpers Still Needed!

Thank to everyone who has offered their services to help out behind the bar over the course of the weekend. The response has been great however we still desperately need people to help man the bouncy castle and do a bit of face painting and tidying up. An hour is all we need, more if you have the time. If we don't have volunteers coming forward soon it looks like we may have to drop the face-painting which would be a huge disappointment to all the children. Please contact **Ann Marie on 522998.**

AFD

To round off the Gala Weekend, Ardgowan Football Development will be holding their annual Open Day on Sunday 19th June. All parents, family and friends are warmly invited to come along and watch the children demonstrate the skills learnt over the last year.

11.00am All children meet
11.15am Procession
11:30am Training sessions and games
12:30pm Presentation of medals and certificates by Morton guest of honour
13.30/45pm Tournament – ATFC teams v local guest teams
15:00pm End

Woodlands Association Open Day

On Saturday 4th June we are holding an Open Day at the wood from 10.00am until 3.00pm. The programme for the day is as follows:

10.00am - Official Opening
11.00am - Guided Bird Walk
12 noon - Treasure Hunt
2.00pm - Guided Bird Walk

Throughout the day children will have the opportunity to make ladybird and lacewing nesting and hibernation chambers which will be put up throughout the wood. In addition there will be displays of our work so far and the opportunity to make your suggestions for the next phase of the work. There will also be a range of wooden toys on sale to help boost the association funds and allow us to continue our work. We also hope that rangers from Cornalees Bridge will pay a visit and demonstrate some of their chain-saw carving skills although this has still to be confirmed.

We will set up at the main entrance to the wood at Ardgowan Road and all activities will be based, or start from, there. We hope that you will be able to come along and join us at some point during the day and we look forward to seeing you then.

71st Scout Group Annual Jumble Sale Saturday 4th June

The local Scouts' Annual Jumble Sale will be held on Saturday 4th June in the Scout Hut in Skelmorlie.
This is an ideal opportunity to have a spring clearout of all those things which you have been keeping because they "might come in useful" but have never got round to actually using! Doors open at 2.00pm and entrance costs 20p.
The Scout Group would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in anticipation of their continued support for this event.

Having a Party?

If you are thinking of having a party, why not hold it at the Community Centre? Although it is pretty busy, party bookings are still available outwith 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 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 your booking or for more information contact Kirsty on 520738.
Remember that if you are having food at your party, the centre's kitchen was refurbished last year and is available for your use

Duncan McNeil MSP

Britain, they say, is a nation of animal lovers. Sadly, however, while that's true for most of us, a callous minority still continue to subject animals to cruelty to and neglect. And tackling the problem is not made any easier by the fact that the existing law is way out of date. It was designed for the 19th century, not the 21st.
The Scottish Parliament, therefore, has drawn up plans to update and reinforce the animal protection legislation. The draft Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Bill proposes to introduce a Duty of Care on animal keepers; allow animals to be taken into care before they start to suffer; raise the age for buying animals from 12 to 16; introduce a general prohibition on mutilations; and strengthen the law prohibiting animal fighting.

These proposals send out a clear message that animal cruelty will no longer be tolerated. I particularly support the plans to place a duty on animal owners to care for their animals, rather than just avoid cruelty. This, I believe, represents a fundamental – and welcome – shift in emphasis.
The draft Bill is now out to consultation, giving you the opportunity to help shape the reforms. If you care about animal welfare, I would urge you to make a submission.

The consultation runs until Monday 4th July 2005 and the consultation document and the draft Bill are available online at: **http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/05/1683736/37373** or from my constituency office.
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***

Woodland Activities Mornings

July sees the return of regular activities for children in the wood. Every second Saturday between 10am – 12noon there will be specially tailored events to suit youngsters of all ages. On Saturday 16th July we will be holding an **Artworks** session which will include leaf painting and making a wall hanging using natural dyes. A fabulous **Mini-Beast Safari** will take place on Saturday 30th July; while on Saturday 13th August there will be a **Woodland Treasure Hunt**. It is essential that children are accompanied by a responsible adult. In order to cover the costs of materials, leaders etc it has been necessary to introduce a nominal charge of 50p per child. For more information contact **Eila** on **529375.**

Martin Mulholland

Hi All! To all parents, kids and helpers of AFD / ATFC. Just a quick update and thank you. As many of you are aware, I have resigned my position of Treasurer and coach of AFD/ATFC. I just thought I would write this note to thank you for all the help and fun over the last couple of years and to wish you all success in your involvement within AFD/ATFC. It is the kids and people like yourselves that will help to take the club forward. Thanks and Good Luck

Martin Mulholland

Councillor Eric Forbes

Road safety issue has raised its head in the village and this is in relation to several complaints that I have received concerning the speed of traffic. Speeding is really within the power of the person behind the wheel and therefore care and control are exerted by them initially. However, the police are responsible for the enforcement of vehicle speed and I have informed the Traffic Department as well as the Community Officers who will give this complaint their attention. This does not refer only to private vehicles but also commercial vehicles and they too will be advised accordingly. Commonsense and good awareness of road conditions have to prevail otherwise it could result in someone being badly injured and this is not acceptable. Please play your part and make the roads safe.

I can report that discussions have taken place and it is certain that the 30mph speed limit will be extended westwards on the A78 to beyond the Wemyss Bay Hotel. I have had several complaints regarding speed etc. in this area and my approaches to the Scottish Executive have resulted in this action being taken.

A sum of money has been allocated to Inverclyde Council by WESTRANS and some of it will be used on a feasibility study and design exercise at Wemyss Bay Station for provision of a park and ride facility. Improved and additional car parking will go a long way to prevent the current unacceptable parking situation at Wemyss Bay pierhead.
As a result of receiving this money I have also received an assurance that the bus shelter near Ardgowan Road outside North Lodge, which has been vandalised with graffiti, will be replaced during this financial year.

Contact Me: 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** Outwith 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.

David Cairns MP - Argyll and Clyde Health Board Abolished

The abolition of the Argyll and Clyde Health Board by Health Minister, Andy Kerr MSP, was a brave decision - and I believe it was the right one. The Health Board had a long history of problems and despite numerous re-organisations, new managers and endless rounds of board meetings, in the end, the Health Board was unable to serve the needs of Inverclyde and it had to go. I could never understand how, at a time of record investment in health, the Board's financial deficit continued to grow, and I was frustrated that local people did not see the benefits from the extra funding given to Argyll and Clyde. The Health Minister's decision to write off Argyll and Clyde's £80 million debt gives the Greater Glasgow Health Board a chance to start with a clean slate and focus on delivering the services that Inverclyde needs.

But the Argyll and Clyde's problems were more than financial. They seemed unable to consult people properly about changes to our local hospitals and, despite public outrage at their proposals; they planned to press ahead with their hugely unpopular plans. And it was only the united opposition of our entire community that stopped them in their tracks.

At the end of the day bureaucratic structures don't really matter – it is services that are important. We need to focus on improving health care, and that's why I and my colleague, Duncan McNeil MSP, will be meeting the head of Greater Glasgow Health Board in the coming weeks. We need to make sure that the new Health Board has a clear picture of the services that we need here in Inverclyde, and I am determined to see that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. The Greater Glasgow Health Board has a good record and I want to make sure that they put the NHS in Inverclyde back on the road to recovery.

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.

Bible Club

The Bible Club meets on Mondays at the Community Centre from 6.15pm to 7.30pm. All Primary School children are very welcome and activities include games, songs, competitions, Bible stories and other activities. We will be holding our summer party and prize giving on Monday, 20th June before stopping for the summer. Contact Stephen Renton for more information on 01505 355994.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Every Sunday, 11.00are	MORNING WORSHIP, Sunday school and Crèche
Every Wednesday, 7.30pm	COUNTRY DANCING
Every Thursday, 1.15-2.45pm	NOAH'S ARK

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to local resident Mr Maurice Dawson who recently celebrated his 95th birthday. Maurice is on the committee of the Woodland Association and has a near perfect attendance record at the volunteer rhodi-bashing weekends, putting some of the younger volunteers to shame. Friends from the association treated Maurice to a surprise birthday party at the Inverkip Hotel. In addition to the Woodland Association, Maurice is involved in running the local branch of TocH, is on the management committee of Skelmorlie Community Centre, teaches adult literacy and is an enthusiastic member of the Country Peoples' Club. We are sure that his many friends join us in wishing him the very best on his birthday and look forward to his nest milestone!

Waste collection

Still confused about which bins to put out each week? For the next couple of months we will continue to print reminders which we hope will be of assistance. Your blue and brown recycling bins will be collected, on your normal collection day, during the weeks beginning 6th & 20th June and 4th & 18th July. This means that your residual black bin will be emptied, on your normal collection day, during the weeks beginning 13th & 27th June and 11th & 25th July.

Get Well Soon

We are sure that many of you would like to extend best wishes for a speedy recovery to Rev Bill Armstrong. Bill is out of hospital and recovering well at home. He hopes to return to work within the next few weeks.

Greenlight

Greenlight will continue their regular kerbside collections for residents of flats, with uplifts on Mondays 13th & 27th June and 11th & 25th July. 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.

Village News

The success of the Village News relies heavily on the army of volunteer distributors who deliver each edition to every home in Wemyss Bay. Many of the distributors have been helping for years. We would like to thank them all for their efforts every month. We currently require a few new distributors - if you have an hour to spare once a month and would like to help with deliveries please contact **Ann Marie on 522998**. The more distributors we have, the smaller each area requires to be and the less time it takes for distribution, so you could really make a difference. Children love helping out – perhaps you could turn delivering the Village News into the opportunity for a family walk.

Very occasionally we hear of problems with someone not receiving their copy. If you experience any difficulties please let Ann Marie know.

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 and / or their products / services.

Finally

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

Kid's Stuff

Guess what this month's wordsearch is all about – it's not really that hard to figure out that it must be about the gala. If you look hard enough you will find the names of some of the rides, sideshows, stalls and other treats which can be found on Gala Day. Hope the weather is good and that you all come along and enjoy yourselves. See you there!

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

ANIMALS
ASSAULT COURSE
BALLOON RACE
BEAT THE GOALIE
BOUNCY CASTLE
BURGERS
CANDY FLOSS
COAST GUARD
COCONUT SHY
DANCE
EQUALISER
FIRE BRIGADE
FUN
GALA
GALA QUEEN
GIANT SLIDE
GUINEA PIGS
ICE CREAM
KARAOKE
LASER QUEST
MUSIC
PUTTING
RABBIT
SNAKE
TARANTULA

WORDFINDER

E	R	A
Q	E	I
L	S	U

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! 25 words – good!
30 words – well done! 35 words – brain-box!