

Wemyss Bay Village News

191st Edition

October 2005

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Sponsored Walk

Calling all females!!!! I am organising a sponsored walk in aid of breast cancer. The walk will take place on Saturday 29th October at 1pm, leaving Wemyss Bay Community Centre and going to the Firth Hotel in Gourrock. We need your help to participate so that Wemyss Bay can raise as much money as possible for this very worthy cause. Anyone interested in taking part please call Elaine on 522407 or e mail me at Elaine@McFeeley.plus.com A.S.A.P.

Wemyss Bay Primary PTA

FUTURE FUNDRAISERS: Dates for the diary for fundraisers in the next couple of months are as follows:

Thursday 6th October 2005 - Beetle Drive 7- 9pm - a fun night out for all the family!!

Thursday 10th November 2005 - Gifts Galore Evening - a ladies night with a variety of stalls selling gifts to give you a head start on the Christmas shopping!! Time to be confirmed. Tickets are £2 each and include a glass of wine. These will be available, nearer the time, from the school.

December (date to be confirmed) - Christmas Discos for the pupils of Wemyss Bay Primary

Please note we are also intending to produce a Christmas tea-towel, complete with self-portraits of all the children. These should be available from the 10th of November - ideal stocking fillers for Grannies and Grandpas etc.

WEA - Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Branch.

The Workers Educational Association meets every Wednesday morning from 9.45am until approximately 11.30am in the Reading Room at Skelmorlie Community Centre. We have a varied programme organised for the coming months which will provide talks on all manner of subjects, from travel through current affairs, and history to literature. There is something for everyone. You don't have to do anything more than sit back and, hopefully, enjoy an hour or so of excellent and often entertaining speakers with some like-minded people. You don't have to commit to a year's subscription, just pay for each talk you attend. We also organise twice yearly outings to places of interest.

The programme for the next few weeks is as follows:

5th October - "The Highland Clearances" by Donald McKay.

12th October - "Robert Burns - The Lassies and What Happened to Them" - Joan Biggar.

19th. October - "Madelaine Smith- Did she or Didn't She?" - John Gallacher.

26th. October - "Mongolia- Land of the Big Sky" - Ian Barr

2nd. November - "Pictish Symbol Stones" - Irene Hughson.

9th. November - Outing to the Scottish Parliament. All welcome to come along. Contact Jenny McGee 521090 to book or for further details.

For further information about the WEA, its programme, or help with transport, please contact **Jenny McGee** on **521090**.

Country People's Club

The October / November meetings of the Country People's Club to be held at 2.30pm in The Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip are as follows:

Wednesday 5th October: Mr Alan Robertson - "Clydebank Waterfront Regeneration"

Wednesday 19th October: Miss Lesley Smith - "A World Cruise"

Wednesday 2nd November: Mrs Lesley Couperwhite - "Surfing the Past"

All members, old and new, and visitors will be made most welcome. The Subscription is £9 per Annum and £1 for visitors. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, **Ann Haig** on **522316**.

Kiddie Vandals

We have been contacted by a number of residents of Brueacre Drive about the continuing damage to shrubs and trees by children, some as young of four or five. When they purchased their homes residents of Brueacre Drive, Brueacre Place and the newer McLean houses in Mountstuart Drive paid to have the area landscaped and planted up and now pay a regular maintenance fee for the upkeep of the grass, bushes and trees alongside Brueacre Drive. On any dry day you will find groups of children playing in amongst the bushes. While no one minds children playing, when they wantonly damage the trees by pulling off branches or breaking them off near the ground, it becomes a different matter. Last year residents had to contribute, through their maintenance charges, to replacing dozens of shrubs which had been uprooted or seriously damaged by children. Already many of the new plants are dead and additional existing plants have been damaged to the point where they too will require to be replaced.

Many of the children involved do not live in Brueacre Drive and despite repeated requests to stop what they are doing, continue to damage the plants. Now some residents of Brueacre Drive have had enough and intend reporting further vandalism to the police. So, if your child regularly plays in the area and could be involved, perhaps it is time to reinforce the need to respect other peoples' property.

Woodland Association

The Association had a very successful rhodi-bashing day when staff from Timberland joined them on 22nd September and are now looking forward to a similar day on Friday 7th October when a dozen members of staff from IBM will be coming along to help as part of an ongoing partnership between Scottish Businesses in the Community and Greenspace Scotland. It is great when we get outside help, as every additional volunteer really can make a difference, but it would be even better if we could make sure that even more local people came out to help.

If you are interested in coming along on 7th October you will be really welcome or, if you are unable to our next scheduled working weekend will take place on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd October. We are continuing come on a weekday, to work in the area approaching the terraced gardens so enter through the gate in the wall on Ardgowan Road, opposite the end of Castle Wemyss Drive. On normal working weekends we work from 10am – 3pm however on 7th October we are starting at 9.00am to suit the IBM volunteers. We provide all the necessary gloves, safety glasses and tools. In addition we stop for coffee/tea and biscuits in the morning and provide soup and hot sausage rolls at lunchtime. Children are welcome to come along (we do have gloves to fit) however they must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult. If you are able to come along to any of the work days please let Eila know on 529375 in order to cater for the correct numbers.

The Association's next committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 19th October. Meetings are open to current members or anyone interested in joining. Membership costs £2 for individuals or £3 for a household. You can find out more about any of the work of the Association by contacting Eila on 529375 or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

Community Association

The Community Association meets on the first Sunday of every month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. The next meeting will take place on Sunday 2nd October.

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.

Community Association Annual General Meeting

The Community Association AGM will be held on Sunday 6th November at 7.00pm in the Community Association. At this meeting, elections will take place to fill the posts of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Committee spaces. In addition the committee includes one representative from each community group. In order to ensure that the Association represents the interests of the whole community a good turnout is required. Please make every effort to come attend the meeting. We promise that you will not be roped into taking on anything unless you want to!

Thank You

Jack and Mairi would like to thank all their friends who came to their party and made it such a success. Both were delighted with all the lovely gifts they received.

(Sorry we didn't fit this in last month.)

What's On In the Community Centre?

Apologies to Graffiti Dance School for missing them out in last month's timetable of what's on at the centre. In addition we have had a new group start up in the last couple of weeks: on Monday evenings after the junior Bible Club, the same organisation (Strathclyde Bible Ministries) are running a Youth Group in the Community Centre. Here is a list of most of the activities held in the Community Centre each week:

Monday	6.15 – 7.30pm	Bible Club (P1 – P7)
	8.00 – 9.30pm	Youth Group (P6 – S6)
Tuesday	9.30 – 11.30am	Tiny Tots
	4.15 – 6.15pm	Drama
Wednesday	7.30 – 9.00pm	Judo
Thursday	9.30 – 11.30am	Tiny Tots
	7.00 – 9.00pm	Youth Club (P4 – P7)
Friday	6.30 – 8.00pm	Judo
Saturday	10.00 – 12.00noon	Graffiti Dance Class
	12.15 – 1.45pm	Art4Kids
	2.00 – 3.00pm	Karate
Sunday	10.30 – 11.30am	Sunday School
	12.00 – 4.00pm	Ardgowan Football Development

In addition to these activities the centre is used by the Nursery on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and every weekday afternoon. Although all the children are now based in the school, they are taken to the centre for their gym and music sessions and any other activities which require space to run around.

Saturday and Sunday afternoons after the Karate and Football are largely reserved for parties – sorry we are unable to fit them in between lets mid-week due to the time required at the end to tidy up or take the bouncy castle down. It is possible however to shoe-horn a few more lets into the calendar in the spaces between or after the current regular lets. If you are interested in booking the centre for a one-off or regular let contact **Kirsty** on **520738**.

Councillor Eric Forbes

I think I should explain the Council's position with regard to what is happening on the trunk road (A78) and I refer specifically to two issues: loose water at the Lighthouse development and parking at Wemyss Bay pierhead.

In almost all instances the Council has no locus at all other than being a facilitator to pass on complaints and concerns. We are not the solvers of the problem.

In relation to the loose water on the road; this is part of a dialogue between the developer and the Scottish Executive. The Council are onlookers and I express considerable concern considering that we are coming into a worsening weather time of the year.

Parking at Wemyss Bay pierhead is a considerable discomfort to residents there but the Scottish Executive has made the decision to expand regulation and we as a Council can only pass on shared frustrations to the regulating authority.

These are two examples of where the Council is virtually an onlooker but affected by decisions taken away from us but have a profound effect on ourselves.

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** 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.

Ticket Prices

Did you know that you can use a concessionary travel card on the 8.30am train from Largs to Glasgow Central but not on the 8.50am train from Wemyss Bay to Glasgow? This means that you either have to wait for an hour for the next train or pay the full price. This obviously discriminates against retired or disabled people travelling from Wemyss Bay. Perhaps if enough people complain to Strathclyde Passenger Transport then this situation will be changed.

Thanks Timberland

On Thursday 22nd September staff from Timberland UK's Glasgow store joined members of the Woodland Association for a rhodi-bashing day. Seven volunteers came along and, despite the very wet start to the day, an enormous amount of rhododendron was well and truly bashed!

Timberland's founder and owner believes that it is important to put something back into the community and in order to do this every member of staff, in all of Timberland's stores throughout the world, gets paid leave to carry out voluntary work. Staff from Timberland came along to Wemyss Bay previously in April this year to assist the Woodland Association as part of World Earth Day. This time the event was "Serv-a-Palooza Day"; Timberland's own special day when staff from all their stores worldwide join together to help out conservation and environmental projects. Each store chooses a project to get involved with and luckily for us the Glasgow store have chosen to help here in Wemyss Bay.

Eyesores

Wemyss Bay is a beautiful place to live and, according to an article in "The Herald", is the "Toast of the Coast". As a desirable place to live lets make it worthy of this title.

Shopping Precinct: The road surface needs repaired as the condition is disgraceful. Litter also spoils the area beside the shops.
Road Works: Greenock Road, opposite the new "Lighthouse" flats has had problems due to pipe laying and surface water for months.

The Clock Tower: The time piece has been incorrect since a storm caused problems months ago.

Mrs Black

Since Mrs Black contacted us we have tried to find out what the current situation is with each of these points.

Shopping Precinct: The car-park at the shops is privately owned and responsibility for any repairs lies jointly with all the shop owners and with the residents of the houses above the shops. Unfortunately, not every shop owner or resident is prepared to contribute towards the costs of repairs and improvements despite Brian Spence's efforts. With reference to the problem of litter, Colin our local road-sweeper, cleans this area up on a daily basis but almost as soon as he has finished someone drops more litter. Road Works: As Eric Forbes has explained in his article this month, the problem at "The Lighthouse" has been subject to ongoing discussions between the developer and the Scottish Executive, who ultimately have responsibility for trunk roads. As the Village News went to the printer further work has been completed and the problem seems to be resolved.

The Clock Tower: As yet we have not been able to find out about any planned repairs but hope to bring information in the next edition.

Can You Help?

My name is Lucy Broadfoot. I am currently in 6th Year at the Dance School of Scotland. In order to pursue a career as a professional dancer I require to complete a further three years training and therefore I am auditioning for five dance schools in London and the surrounding area. Obviously this means travelling up and down to London at least five times (more if I get called for second auditions). As I cannot apply for a student loan until I am accepted and take up a place, I was wondering if anyone has any air-miles which they do not intend using, and which they would allow me to use. If you can help you can contact me on 520495. Thanks

Lucy

Community Council

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the Rogues Room at the Inverkip Hotel. If there is anything which you would like raised or, if you simply want to find out a bit more about the goings on locally then why not go along to the next meeting.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Many of our organisations are now up and running. The Scottish Country Dancing Group is in full swing; the Men's Fellowship has kicked-off; some will be giving thought to Bible Study from 17 October. If you would like to develop and interest by joining any of our organisations, you will be made very welcome.

SUNDAY

Morning Worship, 11.00am
Sunday School and Crèche, 11.00am (*September-June*)

MONDAY (*from 17 October*)

Bible Study, 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Scottish Country Dancing, 7.30pm

THURSDAY (*except school holidays*)

Noah's Ark, 1.30-2.45
A group for all children (aged 0-5) and their parents/carers.

THURSDAY (*began 29 September*)

Men's Fellowship, 7.30pm (fortnightly)

*Organised by members of our Church and Inverkip Church.
Speakers are invited to address the Club on topics of general interest.*

13 October – Bob Low, the Glasgow Viking Society
27 October – Lewis Rae, Working with Young People

FRIDAY (*date to be announced*)
Friday Lunches, 12.15-1.30pm
Come along and enjoy delicious soup and sandwiches.
All proceeds go to Church Funds.

SATURDAY (*begins 1 October*)
JUNIOR BADMINTON, 1.30-4.30pm
in Skelmorlie Community Centre

Girl Guiding

The Brownies and Guides have had their candle party and raised the magnificent sum of £200. During the candle party some of the girls did a fashion show of all the new Guide Wear (we don't call it uniform any more) and were so professional. If any parents are still unsure of what the girls can wear, or of any stocking fillers etc that can be bought please contact Allison or Marilyn or e-mail girlguidingwemyssbay@yahoo.com

Four of the Guides went off to Netherurd (the Scottish Guide Training Centre, just outside Peebles) with Allison, to join a Divisional indoor holiday in the new Garden House and by all accounts they had a ball.

Marilyn has just been contacted by the Cayman Islands (British West Indies) to say that Girlguiding is re-starting there after a year (the island was devastated by hurricane Ivan) and they want her out there to do some motivational training to get them moving again. She is also going to Commonwealth HQ in London in October as they want her to go off somewhere else to train. It will either be the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Anguilla or St Helena. So watch this space, and remember girls, if she can do it then so can you.

The Rainbows have spaces – so if you are aged five to seven and want some extra fun, contact us on our e-mail address.

The Brownies are still desperate for more adult help – remember you don't have to commit yourself to every week. We have about 30 girls who are needing you!

The Brownies are also looking for someone who is capable with a sewing machine to help sew country dance dresses for us.

David Cairns MP : Riverside Regeneration will Benefit All

You might wonder what the regeneration of Inverclyde's waterfront has to do with people living in Wemyss Bay, but the answer is quite a lot. There will be more quality housing, shopping and leisure facilities and, in the end, the whole area will benefit, not just those who live and work there.

I firmly believe that the River Clyde represents the future of our area, not just its past. New houses and amenities will help us attract new families to live here, send their children to local schools, spend money in local shops and contribute to our revival.

We should not be afraid of the regeneration, but should see it as a vital step in the renewal of the entire community. But it is absolutely crucial that local people too can share in the benefits of regeneration. There are three steps that must be taken to make sure that this happens:

1. We must have a Local Employment Agreement with the developers to make sure that local people get their fair share of the work. If possible, we should also secure modern apprenticeships so that our young people can benefit.
2. We must ensure that local people can get access to the river along attractive and safe walk-ways and cycle paths. The benefits of the new developments must not be confined to those who live and work there.
3. We should maximize the benefits for the wider community by seeking improvements to the existing town-centres, and other Inverclyde facilities.

The Riverside Regeneration is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to bring about massive improvements to Inverclyde. We must not fail this time.

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

Duncan McNeil MSP

If you're a smoker, I would hazard a guess that you don't think it was the smartest move you've ever made. I also imagine that you don't want your children to follow in your footsteps.

Important as support for smokers who want to give up is, we would all save a lot of time, effort and money if we could stop people taking up the deadly habit in the first place.

So how do we do it?

One move for which I have been campaigning is to raise the minimum age at which you can buy tobacco from 16 to 18.

For a start, this would end the anomaly of a pensioner committing a criminal offence if he smoked his pipe in his local, while it remained perfectly legal for his 16 year-old granddaughter to have a cigarette while waiting for the school bus. Also, the harder it is for young teenagers - who might pass for 16, but not 18 - to buy cigarettes, the less likely they are to get hooked for life.

And some progress has been made. When the Smoking, Health and Social Care Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament in June, it included my amendment to give Ministers the power to raise the minimum purchasing age. The issue is now being examined by a group of experts, led by Dr Laurence Gruer OBE, which will duly advise Ministers.

It's important that this Expert Group knows the facts. So, last month, I arranged for them to meet public health officials from Guernsey, where raising the minimum age has seen the number of young smokers halved. The Guernsey officials were more than happy to share their valuable experiences and certainly exploded some of the popular myths.

The job, however, is far from done. Despite the evidence, despite the backing of MSPs and the BMA, some scepticism remains. My efforts in the coming months, therefore, will be focused on building a cross-party consensus to make it clear that we want it to be as hard as possible for our children to make the worst decision of their lives.

Do you support raising the age for buying tobacco to 18? Vote online now at www.DuncanMcNeil.com

Duncan McNeil 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

Bulb and Wildflower Appeal

The Woodland Association has planted over 5000 bulbs throughout Wemyss Bay Wood but, in order to help reintroduce native species this is a drop in the ocean. Again this year we are looking for your help. We are working in an area of almost 18 acres

so we need a lot of bulbs and wildflowers. If you are buying bulbs for your garden why not add an extra pack or two for the woods? We are specifically looking for Native British Bluebells, Snowdrops and Wood Anemones. We have already had several hundred daffodil bulbs donated and at present do not need anymore of these.

In addition we are looking for a variety of wildflowers including Bugle, Primroses, Ragged Robin, Devil's Bit Scabious and Kidney Vetch. As it is against the law to dig up wildflowers these will all have to be purchased from specialist suppliers. We can buy these in bulk to reduce costs (we can also buy bulbs in this way). As an example 50 Wood Anemones will cost us £14 while 50 primroses will cost £28.50 and the same number of scabious £37.

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the bulbs and wildflowers please make a cheque payable to Wemyss Bay Community Woodland Association and leave it in a sealed envelope, with your name and address in the Village News folder in Spar, or send it to Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay. You will be very welcome to come along and help plant the bulbs.

If you have bulbs to donate please contact Eila Tel: 529375 to arrange uplift. Again, if you would like to, you can help with the planting.

Help us to make sure that we have a very broad selection of native wildflowers in the Woods – in this way we can encourage a large variety of insects, birds and animals, so that they too can enjoy our local greenspace.

Toddlers Group

The Toddlers Group meets every Monday and Wednesday from 9.30 – 11.30am at St Joseph's and St Patrick's Church Hall (behind the church). There is loads of fun for the toddlers, with biscuits and juice, and coffee and tea for the parents and carers. New members are always welcome so why not come along and join in

Greenlight

Greenlight will continue their regular kerbside collections for residents of flats, with uplifts on Mondays 3rd, 17th and 31st October and 14th & 28th November. 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

Waste collection

Your blue and brown recycling bins will be collected, on your normal collection day, during the weeks beginning 10th & 24th October and 7th & 21st November. This means that your residual black bin will be emptied, on your normal collection day, during the weeks beginning 3rd, 17th & 31st October and 14th & 28th November.

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 September 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 place it in the Village News folder, which is kept behind the counter in Spar or send it **to Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay PA18 6HA Tel: 529375 e-mail: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com** *(This is a new e-mail address so, if you have been using my old one please change it.)*

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	D	R
T	E	A
O	L	L

20 words – at least you're trying!
 35 words – well done

25 words – good
 45+ words – brain-box!!

SUDOKU

6				2				3
	3			4			5	
		5			8	1		
			6		3	4		
2	5						9	1
		7	2		9			
		2	9			7		
	4			8			6	
1				3				5

We have a new puzzle for you this month. Sudoku is straightforward once you get the hang of it and relies on logic to solve it. Place a number from 1-9 in each empty square so that each row, each column and each 3x3 block contains the numbers 1-9. (This means that no number can appear twice in any row, column or 3x3 block.) Good Luck