

Wemyss Bay Village News

193rd Edition

December 2005

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

The Community Association would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Christmas tree lights switch on will take place this year on **Friday 2nd December at 7.00pm. We will gather round the tree at the school at 6.30pm** for Christmas carols prior to the lights being switched on. To help us all get into the Christmas spirit, the Community Association will be holding a community get together in the Community Centre after the switch-on. Come along and enjoy the carol singers and Christmas music, mulled wine and mince pies, tea and coffee. This will also provide an opportunity to meet representatives from various community organisations and to find out a little more about what goes on in Wemyss Bay. Some of the local organisations will have stalls selling various things which can be used as Christmas presents. Weather permitting this year, for the first time, the stalls will all be in the Community Centre car park forming a mini Christmas Market. Santa will be taking time out from his very busy schedule to come along and meet the boys and girls in the centre and, if the elves have finished making them in time and everyone has been very good, there will even be small gifts for the pre-5s and primary school-age children. If you have not yet written your letter to him this may your last chance to put in your requests before the big day. Unfortunately Rudolph will not be able to make it along as he and the other reindeer are busy training for their mammoth journey to visit children all over the world on Christmas Eve.

Girlguiding Wemyss Bay

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are selling prize draw tickets (to be drawn on 2nd December) for a beautiful hand sewn Advent Calendar, a luxury Christmas hamper, a "traditional" Italian hamper and various other prizes. If you wish to take part please speak to any of the parents, children or leaders. Tickets £1 each and all monies to Girlguiding Wemyss Bay funds. Please join us on the 2nd of December at the Community Centre and celebrate the start of the Christmas season.

Girlguiding is having a mini German Christmas Market, so please join us, eat some lovely food, sing along with the carols, and see what Christmas crafts the girls have on offer.

The girls and leaders of Girlguiding Wemyss Bay wish you all the joys of Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Why not come and join us, go on surprise yourself.

Girlguidingwemyssbay@yahoo.co.uk

Can you spare 12 hours in 12 months?

Girlguiding UK is a growing organisation. In 2005 the number of girls and young women on joining lists eligible to join local units exceeded 50,000. That's 50,000 girls and young women who want to experience the fun and challenge that is Girlguiding UK. You can help them to do this!

If you can just donate 12 hours during 2006 you can help more of these young people to join us. Whether you want to help the wee ones (5-7 year olds) the middle group (7-10 year old) or the bigger ones (10+) or if you have a skill like bookkeeping, first aid, sewing....the list is endless.

It has been proven by the police and the social services that young people involved in organisations like Girlguiding are less likely to get into trouble, and even in Wemyss Bay we need your help. We have waiting lists too!

Can you please just give us 12 hours? It's not a lot to ask really! Please leave a message on 520615. Thank you.

Christmas Message from Father Boyle

The Christian message is one of hope. At the end of each year we tend to look back. At our Christmas tables we notice who isn't with us this time. At Hogmanay a few tears are shed for those we have loved and lost in the past year. But, for Christians our tears are of sadness not despair. Our hope is always in love, reconciliation and reunion in the life to come. May we always remember that along with Faith and Love, Hope is one of the great Christian virtues. May we find much to be hopeful of this Christmas and in the New Year.

Sponsored Walk

I would like to say a huge "Thank You" to everyone who was involved in the sponsored walk for breast cancer. When I initially decided to organise this, I never imagined I would get such great support. At the moment we have raised almost £3000 with more money still to be collected. I would like to say a special thank you to Jean Parkinson, Paula Nugent and also to young Rebecca Harrison. Well done to everyone for completing the walk!!!!!! Can I finish by saying a massive thank you to everyone who sponsored, donated and walked for this truly worthy cause!

Elaine McFeeley

David Cairns MP - 2005 AN EVENTFUL YEAR FOR INVERCLYDE

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone in Wemyss Bay a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Throughout the year my postbag has reflected the concerns of villagers, and I know that many of you remain worried about the future of our local hospitals and schools. On the Health Service front, we are at last making progress and I feel that the move to the Greater Glasgow Health Board is the right one for us. But we cannot be complacent and I have contacted the Greater Glasgow Health Board to stress that they must not use this re-organisation as an excuse to cut services. Schools continue to remain an issue, and I realise that many parents are particularly worried about the future of secondary education in Inverclyde. It seems to me that the Council have not listened enough to the concerns of parents and are determined to close some very good schools. I fear that this will not only have an adverse affect on children's education, but result in them having to travel longer distances to school.

Employment was a recurring theme thought the year and many people were unsettled by the job losses in the IT sector at the start of the 2005. During 2005 I have been in regular contact with Renfrewshire Enterprise about how we can attract more companies to the area, and I remain convinced that smaller home grown companies providing high skilled jobs are the way forward.

One very important way to improve Inverclyde's prospects, and relieve the pressure of house building in Wemyss Bay, is to ensure that the Waterfront Development in Greenock and Port Glasgow goes ahead. This is why I am backing the call for an Urban Re-generation company for Inverclyde as it will be able to access money and expertise to develop our Riverfront for the benefit of all.

As the year draws to a close I am optimistic about Inverclyde's future; we live in a wonderful place and have many talented and kind-hearted people in our community. And by working together, we can transform our area into a bright, modern, exciting place where people will want to come and live, work and have fun.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

David

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, Fax: 791821, or alternatively you can phone the office for details of his next surgery in Wemyss Bay. These details, along with other information, appear on his website: www.davidcairns.com

Attention All Mothers and Toddlers.

Manicure Mondays At Funworld – Greenock: While the children are at play in the safe and secure surroundings of FunWorld, why not take some time out and treat yourself to a manicure. Prices range from 7 pounds for a file and polish to 15 pounds for a deluxe manicure. First booking 10am, last booking 2pm. To make an appointment telephone Ann Marie on 07768 348525, or Mandy on 07734 851256 (appointments not always necessary)

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

THE CHRISTMAS CRUSH: Bethlehem was so crowded that Mary and Joseph had to make do with a stable for shelter. They had gone to Joseph's home city not for any festive celebration but to take part in a census, a head count by the occupying Roman authorities; but that didn't seem to bother them. In Bethlehem, they had to find a place where Mary's baby could be born; but nobody, except an overwrought innkeeper, was prepared to find a space for them.

Much as we might sympathise with their plight, there is nothing in this part of the unfolding Christmas story that would inspire other than our sympathy. The inspiration for the colour and magic reflected in our Christmas celebrations comes from stories of angels and curious Wise Men from the East who brought lavish gifts to the new baby they believed had been born to be King. Between now and Christmas some will be running around searching out the perfect gifts for families and friends. Perhaps the more important gifts should be drawn from the first part of the story.

There was no room in Bethlehem for Jesus. Plan to make a space in your crowded Christmas Crush for him who is central to our celebrations, but is often forgotten; and spare more than a thought for those who would value the invaluable gifts of your time and your company at Christmas.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 18 December, 11.00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY and GIFT SERVICE

Children are invited to bring gifts that will be sent for distribution by the Salvation Army in Greenock

Saturday 24 December, 11.30pm

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Christmas Pies and Punch served from 10.30pm

Sunday 25 December, 11.00am

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Readings and Carols for all the family.

Sunday 1 January 2006, 11.00am

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

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.

Clyde Coast Strathspey and Reel Society

The Clyde Coast Strathspey and Reel Society plays traditional Scottish music and a variety of other kinds, in concerts or for dancing. We are happy to play for charitable and fund-raising groups, churches etc, or private functions.

We have been running for well over ten years and are always keen to welcome new players, at any level of ability, on fiddle, accordion, or other instruments. We meet most Saturday mornings at 10:00 in Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church hall. For any information or bookings please contact Elizabeth Robertson on 01475 675681 or email: CCSRS@wrrwright.e7even.com

Surgery Opening Hours

The doctor's surgery will be close for Christmas on Friday 23rd December and re-open on Wednesday 28th December. At New Year the surgery will close on Friday 30th December and re-open on Wednesday 4th January. On all other days the normal surgery hours apply. When the surgery is closed, as with all other out of hour's times, an emergency service will be operated by NHS 24. You can contact them directly by calling 0845 741 3003. If you mislay this number call the normal surgery number and a recorded message will tell you what to do. Hopefully no-one will require to make a call this Christmas.

Duncan McNeil MSP

It's dark when you get up, dark when you leave the office, money is leaving your wallet at an alarming rate and the television is full of perfume adverts which look like they were written after drinking, rather than smelling, the product. Yes, the festive season is wall-to-wall fun.

Indeed, if some are to be believed, it's too dangerous to even try and enjoy ourselves at Christmas. Every year there seems to

be a fresh round of scare-stories about the latest killer toy, credit card fraud, poisonous Christmas dinners, incendiary decorations etc.

I'm determined, however, not to let the doom-mongers win. After all, just as at any other time of the year, a few sensible precautions can keep you out of trouble.

Take your Christmas night out. A great chance to let your hair down, have a few drinks and settle some old scores by telling your colleagues exactly what you think of them.

But someone in the pub or restaurant might have their mind on something other than dancing like a tailor's dummy with rheumatism or remembering the words to "Hi Ho Silver" for the karaoke challenge. There's a chance they could be looking to slip something in your drink. You might think it unlikely, but campaigners say hundreds of people are sexually assaulted each year after their drink is spiked with a so-called "date rape" drug.

But, by taking a few simple steps, you can minimise the risks. Never leave your drink unattended, don't share or exchange drinks, try to drink out of bottles instead of glasses – which are harder to spike – and never accept a drink unless you see it being poured. Remember, if you're not keeping an eye on your drink, then someone else might be.

So don't let the criminal few, or indeed the peddlers of seasonal scare stories, spike your Christmas. Just use your head and go and enjoy it.

Merry Christmas,

Duncan

Duncan can be contacted at the Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock PA15 8JL, Tel: 01475 791820, Fax: 01475 791821, by Textphone for the hearing impaired: 01475 791824, by E-mail: duncan.mcneil.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or via his website: www.duncanmcneil.com

Councillor Eric Forbes

2005 is coming to a close and, although it is a time for reflection, I believe in Inverclyde we should look positively towards 2006 and to the continuing regeneration programme.

In Wemyss Bay over the past year we have had to discuss and resolve many issues and, as we move into 2006, probably the biggest issue will be the extension and refurbishment of Wemyss Bay Primary School. Discussions are still ongoing regarding the final design and whether a decant is necessary or not (no decision has been made on this to date). Information will be disseminated to all the stakeholders on a regular basis.

I am also sure that people in Wemyss Bay have opinions on the proposed development of a Community Windfarm in Inverkip, which in actual fact spreads a fair bit down towards Wemyss Bay. I would be happy to hear what people have to say. You will find my contact details below.

I would like to say a big thank you on behalf of Inverclyde Council to the Wemyss Bay community for playing their part in the recycling exercise which has resulted in Inverclyde being one of the top authorities in Scotland. Well done!

I greatly appreciate all the assistance I have had over the last year from all the various groups, volunteers and individuals. By working together we can continue to improve the quality of life of the community.

On behalf of my wife, Fiona, and myself, I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Eric

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

Community Association

The next meeting of the Community Association will take place on Sunday 4th December at 7.00pm in the Inverkip Hotel.

Can You Help?

Hello from New Hampshire in the States. When I was 16 (I am now 56) in 1967, I was at a French language school in Tours, France. There was a Scot there at the same time, Richard Murdoch, in his twenties at the time. A distinguishing feature was that he was very tall, about 6 feet 7 inches or so. Any chance you know of such a person?

Linda Stinchfield

If you think that you can help, please contact Eila on 529375 or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

Santa's Bad Day

One particular Christmas season a long time ago, Santa was getting ready for his annual trip, but there were problems everywhere. Four of his elves got sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones so Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule. Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her mum was coming to stay for Christmas. This stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where. More stress.

Then when he began to load the sleigh one of the boards cracked, and the toy bag fell to the ground and scattered the toys. So, frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum.

When he went to the cupboard, he discovered that the elves had hidden the liquor, and there was nothing to drink. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider pot, and it broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found that mice had eaten the straw end of the broom.

Just then the doorbell rang, and irritable Santa trudged to the door. He opened the door, and there was a little fairy with a great big Christmas tree. The fairy said, very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't it a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?"

Thus began the tradition of the little fairy on top of the Christmas tree!

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.

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.

Woodland Association

The Woodland Association will have a stall in the Community Centre at the Christmas Lights Switch On on 2nd December and will be selling toys, made of wood or with a nature theme, which will make ideal stocking fillers. Why not come over to see us while you are enjoying your mulled wine and waiting for the kids to see Santa?

Work is continuing to clear rhododendron in the terraced garden area and over the last three months there has been a huge difference to the area as a result of the work of the volunteers. Already many native species are starting to regenerate and this is bound to continue in the coming months. Plants and trees which previously struggled for light and space now have a chance to flourish. The Association would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped over the course of this year, especially those from outwith Wemyss Bay who will not benefit directly. In particular though, thanks must go to the regular die-hards who have turned out, regardless of the weather conditions, for almost three years now. In order to give everyone a breather and allow some time for Christmas preparations, there will not be a working weekend during December. Weekends start again with a vengeance on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th January when we would welcome volunteers, old and new, to join us to work off the excesses of Christmas. We are continuing 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. We work from 9.30am – 3pm and 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 that she can cater for the correct numbers.

With work on the first phase of the main wood completed, the Association is already considering what should be included in the second phase. It is likely that the parking / service bay which had to be shelved in phase 1 will be included along with a short family cycle path. Other possibilities are also being considered at this time and will be discussed at the Association's AGM which will be held at 7.30pm in the Community Centre on Sunday 22nd January. There will be a committee meeting in January prior to the AGM. If you have any questions or comments about the work of the Association please come along to the AGM. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, and proposals for the next phase will be discussed. Don't worry, you will not be roped into serving on the committee unless you really would like to – we have a number of people willing to continue, although fresh faces and new ideas would be very welcome. If you are unable to come along but have any comments contact **Eila** on **529375** or E-mail: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

Best School Garden in Inverclyde

Congratulations to Wemyss Bay Primary School janitor, Jim Glass, and pupils from P3 – P7 who formed the Gardening Club. As a result of all of their efforts they recently won the "Cathie Allan Memorial Shield" for the "Best School Garden in Inverclyde". In addition to an impressive trophy they also won vouchers for Cardwell Nursery Garden Centre. As the competition was open to all schools in Inverclyde, Wemyss Bay did exceptionally well to come out on top however, when you consider the time and effort involved and the results achieved, it really was most well deserved.

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.

What Would You Like To See In The Village News?

Since taking over editing the Village News two years ago 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.

School News

Their success in the Best School Garden competition obviously gave Wemyss Bay Primary a taste for success. They recently won a Radio Station IBM Innovation Award adding another handsome trophy to the school collection and in addition the primary sector children involved attended a function to celebrate their success.

The annual Christmas Cracker fete was held last month and was, once again, very well attended and supported. Unfortunately, at the time of going to print, the final total was still not known.

On Children in Need night did you happen to spot some of Wemyss Bay Primary pupils in the BBC studio? They were attending after working hard to raise money for the charity. Money is still rolling in and the total amount raised has not yet been finalised. Well done to all the children involved.

The Nursery Nativity play will take place on Tuesday 13th December – arrangements are still being finalised regarding the time and venue but details will be available from Nursery staff shortly.

The P1 – P3 Nativity play will be held in Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church at 6.30pm on Thursday 22nd December. After all this everyone will need a holiday! The staff and pupils of Wemyss Bay Primary School would like to thank all parents and the wider community for their support during 2004 and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank You Ann Marie

After almost two years of coordinating the distribution of the Village News, Ann Marie has had to step down due to work and family commitments. Many people are unaware of the amount of work this entails. When 1500 copies of the Village News appear on your door-step you firstly have to split them up so that each distributor has enough, before dropping them off at homes and businesses throughout the village and beyond.

Liz Canning has kindly agreed to take over the distribution co-ordination.

Gala 2006

Yes, it is almost the time of year again when we start appealing for help for the Gala. We work on the principle that if we shout long enough and loud enough eventually enough people will come forward to allow the weekend to go off smoothly. This year it is even more important to get help early.

For the last few years the Gala weekends have run smoothly thanks, in no small part, to the organisational skills of Ann Marie Cockburn. Now at college full time and with two young boys, Ann Marie has decided that it is time that she got to enjoy the Gala with her family. Although she will not be too far away with a word of advice, we really need to get organised early in order that other people can take on the many tasks which Ann Marie previously coped with.

A victim of its own success, the Gala has expanded to cover a whole weekend every June. Do you have spectacular organisational skills? Would you like to co-ordinate the Gala? Alternatively, can you help out over the course of the weekend? It is important to start thinking about what you can do to help. If more people would even give an hour or two over the course of the weekend things would run smoothly (and some of the Community Association Committee might get some sleep!).

If you are able to help, please speak to any member of the Community Association.

Waste collection

Your blue and brown recycling bins should be collected, on your normal collection day, during the weeks beginning 5th & 19th December and 2nd & 16th January. This means that your residual black bin should be emptied, on your normal collection day, during the weeks beginning 12th & 26th December and 9th & 23rd January.

There may be changes to the normal refuse collection times over the festive period however at the time of the Village News going to print discussions were continuing between the Cleansing Dept. and the relevant unions so we are unable to bring you details of any changes. We have been assured however, that all customers affected by changes will be notified in plenty of time. If you require to check out the details contact Transport and Cleansing Department Tel: 717171 or look out for notices in the Greenock Telegraph.

Community Association AGM

At the Community Association AGM last month the following office-bearers were elected: Chairperson (and Letting Secretary) - Kirsty Donnelly; Vice- Chairperson (and Facilities Manager) – Iain Buchan; Secretary – Elaine Blue; Treasurer – Stephen McFeeley; Assistant Treasurer – Pamela Noble. In addition Jenny Eaton, Michelle Barratt and Ann Marie Cockburn were elected to the committee. Every centre user group and community group is entitled to send one representative to sit on the committee along with a representative from the Village News.

Make sure that your group is adequately represented by finding out who your group representative is. If you don't have one then why not volunteer yourself? The Community Association meets once a month, alternatively at the Community Centre and at the Inverkip Hotel and we are a fairly sociable group, staying after the meeting for a drink together.

If you are interested in getting more involved with your local community why not come along to one of our meetings, all of which are publicised in the Village News.

PTA

We managed to raise £400 at the Gifts Galore evening. Thanks to all stallholders and parents etc who supported the event.

The PTA raised the grand sum of £400 on their stall at the Christmas Cracker. Again thanks to the generous support of parents, friends and grandparents who came along and purchased the school tea-towel, reindeer dust, letters to Santa and the Mulled Wine Spices which we were selling. On top of this we have currently sold over 60 numbers in support of next year's 50/50 club. This fundraiser is specifically to support the Jubilee Garden upkeep and 50% of sales is ploughed straight back into the garden with the other 50% being issued in prize money over the year. The more members we have, the bigger the prize fund. Some numbers are still available - contact the school for details.

Greenlight

Greenlight will continue their regular kerbside collections for residents of flats, with an uplift on Mondays 12th December. So far we have been unable to confirm their dates for 2006 but hope to bring these in the next Village News. 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

You Might Be a Scrooge If.....

..... your only contact with three spirits on Christmas Eve is vodka, gin and whisky.
..... you turn on the lawn sprinkler to keep carol singers away.
..... you buy all your Christmas gifts at the petrol station
..... your favourite Christmas film is "Jurassic Park".
..... you think "Ho, Ho, Ho" is something to do with the Green Cross Code man and a tin of sweet corn.
..... your best Christmas tradition involves an open fire and venison!
..... your favourite past-time is replacing the bulbs in your neighbour's decorations with duds.
..... your favourite sweets are humbugs

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>

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.

Wemyss Bay Pharmacy Opening Hours

On Christmas Eve the pharmacy will be open from 9am – 5pm. It will be closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day, will be open from 10am – 12noon on Tuesday 27th December and will return to normal hours on Wednesday 28th. Over the New Year period the pharmacy will be open as normal from 9am – 1pm on 31st December. It will be closed on New Year's Day and the 2nd of January, open from 10am – 12 noon on Tuesday 3rd January and resume normal opening hours from Wednesday 4th January. If you require regular medication remember to order and collect your prescription in advance and, while you are in the pharmacy, why not check out some of the lovely Christmas gifts.

Seaview Café

The Seaview Café will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and the 2nd of January. For the rest of the festive season normal winter opening hours apply. It opens at 7.30am and closes at 5.30pm mid-week with a later closing on Fridays and Saturdays. So, during the holidays, when you are fed-up cooking or can't think of what to do next with the left over turkey why not have some time off and nip down to the Seaview Café for lunch.

Finally

We would like to thank readers, advertisers and regular contributors for their input over the last year. We are always grateful to receive your comments, information or ideas for articles. We also would like to thank Rhona Martin for printing the Village News every month and especially for putting up with all the last minute alterations. Finally we have to thank Ann Marie Cockburn and her army of volunteer distributors who ensure that you receive your copy of the Village News every month. We hope that everyone has a lovely time over the festive period and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

The closing date for submission of articles and adverts for the January edition of the Village News is 15th December. We know that this is a little earlier than usual but we need the extra time, as the printers will be shut over the festive period. Send your information to **Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay** Tel: 529375 E-mail: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com or drop it into the Village News folder in Spar. Adverts should be sent to Ken at the same address.

Kids' Stuff

Have you ever wondered why no-one sees Santa when he visits their house on Christmas Eve? Even if he only had to visit every child in Britain he would spend less than 0.003 seconds in each house! At that rate he could win every Olympic and World record for running. No wonder he needs all the biscuits we leave out for him – he needs the energy to keep going. Now that's magic!

I hope that you've all been good and Santa brings you lots of lovely presents. This month's wordsearch is all about Christmas. See how many words you can find.

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

BAUBLES
BRANDY BUTTER
CARD
CAROLS
CHRISTMAS
CRACKERS
DECORATIONS
HOLLY
IVY
PRESENTS
PUDDING
RUDOLPH
SANTA CLAUS
SNOW
SNOWBALLS
SNOWMAN
STAR
STOCKING
TINSEL
TREE
TOYS
TURKEY

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.

D	A	C
R	E	O
D	T	E

20 words – at least you're trying!

30 words – good

40 words – shows promise

50+ words – brain-box!!

Here is a clue to the 9-letter word: Your tree should be ??? by Christmas Eve.

SUDOKU

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

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