

Wemyss Bay Village News

205th Edition

January 2007

Ken and Eila Roberts Tel: 529375 eila@wemyssbay.plus.com
Community Centre Tel: 521955 <http://wemyssbay.net/>

Happy New Year!!

The Community Association would like to wish all residents of Wemyss Bay a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. We hope that you all enjoyed the festive season, that Santa was good to you, and that the need for Aspirin has passed!

From Our Community to the Third World

Once again, the Christmas Lights Switch-On Night was a great success, with over 500 people turning out to enjoy the carol singing before coming to the community centre for mulled wine and mince pies. Santa distributed around 175 presents to the pre-5s and primary age children and a clown provided entertainment. Following a number of requests last year to make donations, the Community Association decided to place donation buckets around the centre. £178 was collected and it was agreed to send the money to the Oxfam Unwrapped Christmas Appeal for third world countries. Your donations have purchased a tool kit for farmers, water for a farm for 6 months, the planting of 50 trees, training and equipment for a teacher and 2 goats. All of these items were chosen because they provide ongoing support and assistance to communities much less fortunate to our own. At this time of year, when we have so much, it is appropriate to turn our thoughts to other communities suffering from poverty, starvation and destitution. Thank you and well done to everyone who made donations. It is not too late for further personal donations – if you would like to take part, go to www.oxfamunwrapped.com or visit any Oxfam store. Thanks are also extended to Inverclyde Council for providing tea, coffee and mince pies for 100 people and juice and crisps for 100 children. (The remainder of the mince pies, shortbread, juice, crisps, chocolate and mulled wine was provided by the Community Association.) The clown, who proved extremely popular with the children, was supplied by Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council and we thank them. For the first time, the Christmas tree was sited in the school playground and thanks go to Mr Glass, school janitor, for all his assistance on the night. Thank you to the school catering staff who kindly allowed us to borrow pots large enough to make the mulled wine. The Community Association committee and numerous other volunteer spent many hours decorating the centre, making all the arrangements and working on the night and their efforts are greatly appreciated. To all the community organisations who participated, thank you, you really add to the enjoyment and atmosphere of the night. Finally, a huge thank you must go to Santa for taking time out from his very busy schedule to spend several hours meeting all the youngsters.

Woodland Association AGM

The Woodland Association AGM will take place on 21st January at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. 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

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

The Bible Club and Youth Group, run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM), resume on Monday, 8th January 2007. We hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year! The Bible Club is from 6.15pm to 7.30pm and all children in Primary School are welcome, from P1 to P7. Activities include games, songs, competitions, Bible stories and other activities. The Youth Group is from 7.45pm to 9.30pm and is for young people in P6, P7 and high school, with similar activities suitable for that age, including games and a tuck shop. There are no fees for either club. Contact Stephen Renton for more information on 01505 355994.

Ardgowan Football Development

Christmas Fun Day - AFD held their Christmas Fun Day on Sunday 3rd December in Greenock Sports Centre. Over 250 kids and parents enjoyed the fun which included games, penalty kicks (involving Mums & Dads!) and a visit from Santa.

First Aid Course - Wemyss Bay now has four new First Aiders thanks to a First Aid Course organised by AFD. Craig Hoey, Keith Jackson and Bobby Pyott from AFD and Stephen Renton from the Bible Club & Youth Group all completed this certificated First Aid Course.

AFD 2007 - AFD starts back on Sunday 7th January, with ATFC starting on Thursday 11th Jan 2007.

The AFD £1,000 Grand Draw will take place at the Race Night on Saturday 2nd March 2007. Raffle Tickets will be issued to all parents on Sunday 7th January but anyone else wishing to buy raffle tickets should speak to one of the AFD Coaches or contact John Reid on 522431.

Just a Book Club

Anyone interested in reading for fun, come and help start 'Just a Book Club'. Our first meeting will be in Wemyss Bay Primary School on Thursday 11 January at 7pm. For more details, please phone 521626.

Messy Beach

The children in P4/3 at Wemyss Bay Primary have been to the beach. We collected some unnatural things. We thought that the beach was very messy and we want to say to people, "Look what you've done to the beach". We all felt sad because a long time ago it would have been good fun.

P4/3, Wemyss Bay Primary School

Adult Association

Our new programme for January to April is as follows:-

Monday	Pilates Computing -	7.00-8.00pm - starts 15.1.2007 6.30-8.30pm - starts 15.1.2007
Tuesday	Ceramics - Needle & Stitches	7.00-9.00pm - starts 16.1.2007 7.30-9.30pm - starts 8.1.2007
Wednesday	Jogging Club (Jog Scotland) Yoga	6.30-8.30pm - starts 10.1.2007 7.40-9.15pm - starts 10.1.2007
Thursday	Book Club Salsa Dancing	7.00-9.00pm - starts 11.1.2007 7.00-8.30pm - starts February 2007

The Salsa Dancing is having a long break and will hopefully be re-starting in February. Details in next month's edition.

Attic Players

The long running local drama club has, at the time of writing, a couple of openings for actors (male and female) for the spring production (which is a comedy by Richard Gordon). If you're interested, please ring Bill on 520095.

Wemyss Bay web site

If you run a group in Wemyss Bay or the surrounding area, you can now add details of your group to the web site and keep those details up to date through an online control panel. Go to the following address to add or update details of your group:
<http://wemyssbay.net/todo/>

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Happy New Year! I hope 2007 proves to be a healthy and fulfilling year for you.

It seems to me that the turn of the year is not celebrated as widely as it used to be. Nowadays Christmas is the main event: "Christmas is for the children" – or so many maintain; and from my point of view that should be an encouraging trend. The celebration of the coming of Jesus is central to Christian Gospel; but the turn of the year also has its significance, particularly in Scotland.

Not so many years ago, Watchnight Services were held on New Year's Eve, not Christmas Eve. Christmas Day was not an official holiday in Scotland until the 1960's, whereas New Year's Day was. First footing was expected in the village where I grew up. A light in any window was an open invitation to anybody who cared to call; and visitors usually carried a lump of coal – for warmth throughout the year; a piece of black bun – for food in the cupboard; and the customary dram – presumably for conviviality; these are numbered among the many symbols and superstitions of New Year celebrations, customs that have more or less died out. I notice too that *Old Moore's Almanac*, an astrological look ahead, is still around, and some will dabble in its pages in the hope of foretelling a rosy future for themselves.

Resolutions also used to be made at the beginning of a New Year; this provided an opportunity to start with a clean slate, to put right any personal wrongs in the past year – relationships that can be repaired, perhaps, or letting go of something that has troubled you throughout 2006.

As you take your first tentative steps into this New Year may you find release from the past by letting the light of Christ lead you into a more hopeful future.

Rev W Armstrong

CHURCH CALENDAR 2007

Sunday Worship, every Sunday at 11.00am
Sunday Club (*for children*), every Sunday at 11.00am (*from 14 January*)
OUT OF THE ARK (*for primary school children*) the last Monday of the month
BIBLE STUDY, every Monday, 7.30pm (*from 22 January*)
BALLROOM DANCING, every Tuesday, 7.00pm (*from 9 January*)
COUNTRY DANCING, every Wednesday, 7.30pm
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, 11 and 25 January, 7.30pm
FRIDAY LUNCHESES, every Friday, 12.15-1.30pm

England fans stranded in one way street

Two English football fans in Cologne lost their car after mistakenly thinking they had parked it on a road called 'One Way Street'. The pair copied down the sign at the end of the road, "Einbahn Strasse", so they didn't forget where they'd left the hire car. But when they came to find it again they found that every second street in the inner city was called "Einbahn Strasse". It was only when they found a policeman that they were told the sign was to inform drivers that they were on a one-way street. They finally managed to find their vehicle hours later with the help of the German police.

Hire of Furniture

The Community Association can rent out furniture from the community Centre at a very reasonable cost. If you need to hire furniture, a table and eight chairs cost £10. In addition, it is necessary to leave a £50 deposit which is returnable when the furniture is returned to the centre in good condition. If you are interested in this service, please contact **Kirsty** on **520738**.

Anonymous Articles

While we are happy to print articles and withhold the sender's name, if requested, we must have a note of the person's name and contact details before we can print anything. This is to protect us, should someone later complain about an article. You will find that any publication will take the same position.

Woodland Association

The Woodland Association would like to thank everyone who took part in our Treasure Hunt at the Lights Switch-On, helping us to raise £40. The winner of the musical reindeer was Andrew Wilson.

Our first working weekend of 2007 will take place on Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th January giving everyone a chance to work off the excesses of the Christmas festivities. We are continuing to work in the area adjoining Ardgowan Road heading up to the point at the end of Cliff Terrace Road so meet at the Ardgowan Road of Cliff Terrace Road. 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 hot sausage rolls and soup at lunchtime. We have a qualified first aider present at all times (although thankfully, so far, the worst we have had to deal with is the odd scratch, minor cut or midge bites). Children are welcome to come along (we do have gloves to fit) however they must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult. We have a small, but dedicated, band of volunteers but it would really make a difference to our work if a few more people were to join us, even for an hour or two.

Membership of the Association runs from January till December and we welcome new members. It costs £3 for a family membership or £2 for individuals. Membership money helps towards our insurance and day to day running costs.

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.

We would like to thank everyone who have already made personal donations towards the Bulb Fund, in addition to the Community Association and Adult Association for their contributions. We have recently placed an order for around £400 of bulbs and wildflowers but still require a great deal more.

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.

Contact Eila on 529375 to find out more about any aspect of the Association's work or for a membership application form.

Found

A gent's wristwatch has been found in the Community Centre. If you have lost a watch then please contact Eila on 529375 with a description.

Duncan McNeil MSP

The decorations have come down, your waist has gone out and your credit card bills have gone through the roof. It must be the New Year.

The one thing to which your mind turns at this time of year (apart from pies, puddings and all the other food you can't have thanks to the two lettuce leaves and mineral water diet you foolishly promised to go on) is what the twelve months ahead hold for you.

For MSPs and Councillors, the most obvious highlight of 2007 will be the elections to the Scottish Parliament and Inverclyde Council.

But, before MSPs can even think about the fun and games of the election trail, there's a heavy legislative programme to get through.

We have the Custodial Sentences and Weapons (Scotland) Bill, which will end the current crazy system of automatic and often unconditional early release for prisoners. It will also impose new curbs on the sale of non-domestic knives, including a ban on the general sale of swords.

We will also be pressing hard to get the Bill to allow mesothelioma sufferers to claim full compensation and their families to claim for their own grief and suffering passed before Parliament is dissolved on 3rd April. This Bill will end the scandalous situation whereby sufferers of this horrible asbestos-related cancer face the distressing dilemma of either settling their damages claim while alive, or not settling their claim before death so that their relatives can claim a greater award. Most sufferers do not claim themselves so as not to disadvantage their families – an invidious position in which too many people in former heavy industrial communities like ours find themselves.

To help tackle child obesity, the Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Bill is also set to be completed. This will require schools to be "health promoting" and will enable Ministers to lay down statutory nutritional standards.

2007 will also see that rarest of beasts: a consultation on a health board plan for our hospital which is actually good news.

From now until 2nd February, you can register your views on the health board's proposals to secure Accident and Emergency services at Inverclyde Royal Hospital and to safeguard inpatient services such as trauma, orthopaedics and general surgery. It is important that the board is in no doubt that our community backs these plans and I would therefore urge you to get in touch with them to register your support.

Submissions can be made in writing to: John Hamilton, Head of Board Administration, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Dalian House, 350 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8YZ or e-mail to: southclyde@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Happy New Year!

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

WEA - Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Branch

Talks for the spring term start on January 24th in the Reading Room at Skelmorlie Community Centre at 9.45am until 11.30am approximately. Cost £2.00 (£1.70 Conc.) No annual fee, just come along to whatever takes your fancy.

Wednesday 24th January: "Women of Scotland" by Elizabeth Walker.
Wednesday 31st January: "The Wonderful World of Writing" by local author John Steele.
Wednesday 7th February: "From Henry Faulds to Shirley McKie - Fingerprints on Trial."
by ex-Chief Supt. Donald Reid.
Wednesday 14th February: "Santorini- A Volcano with a Dreadful Past" by Julian Hill.

For further information or help with transport please contact Jenny McGee Tel. 521090.

Dog Fouling

Discovering you have stood in dog dirt is really annoying. What is worse is that there is evidence of repeated eye infections for years as a result of people not cleaning up after their pet.

That is a real situation highlighted by Inverclyde Council staff who, since April, have been making irresponsible dog owners pay up – issuing £40 fixed penalty notices for each offence.

It is an offence not to clean up after your dog in all public open spaces including parks, footpaths, beaches and even common backcourts. Legislation has been in place for the last two years giving local authorities powers to fine those responsible for dogs leaving mess. Up until now owners have paid little attention because the law was rarely enforced – a situation which has now changed in Inverclyde where an increasing number of fines have now been issued. Assistant enforcement officers, usually working in pairs in case they need to give evidence, are on patrol in problem areas – such as Battery Park and Murdieston Park – but they also respond to specific complaints from residents.

One officer said, "We can be out at 7am if someone has reported a particular person walking their dog at that time and we are out on evenings and weekends too. Most people realise that they have done something wrong; they know they are not supposed to do it. Some people protest but we have instant access to police and can trace owners through car registration plates. They can be fined up to £500 for not giving their name and details."

Her colleague said, "Owners must also put the bags in suitable bins. Throwing the bag in the river, in bushes or down the drain is unacceptable. I would much rather everybody just picked it up and disposed of it properly in a bin. It's not nice to be out and see it happening or stand in it and the health implications are very serious."

There was a case of a man allowing his dog to foul bushes in a front garden every day. There were five complaints from different individuals. The householder's granddaughter had fallen in some dog dirt four years earlier and had got some in her eyes. This could have caused eye infections and on occasions it can lead to blindness. In this case, the dog-owner was caught and fined.

The enforcement crackdown has encouraged people to approach dog owners themselves and point out that they could be fined for not cleaning up after their dog.

"We are also getting more reports from members of the public," said one of the officers. "Anyone reporting a dog-owner doesn't have to give their name. We are prepared to sit and wait, even if it takes a few mornings, to catch whoever has been reported."

If you want to report an irresponsible dog owner call 01475 714200

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 "BayB's" 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 recently and is available for your use.

Funny Extracts from Insurance Claim Forms

- "I pulled into a lay-by with smoke coming from under the bonnet. I realized the car was on fire so took my dog and smothered it with a blanket."
- "On approach to the traffic lights the car in front suddenly broke."
- "I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident."
- "I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."
- "The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention."
- "I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way."
- "In an attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole."
- "I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection a hedge sprang up obscuring my vision and I did not see the other car."
- "An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished."
- "I was thrown from the car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows."
- "I saw a sad-faced old man as he bounced off my windscreen."
- "I had to swerve three times before I hit the tree."

The Country Peoples Club

The Country People's club meets on Wednesdays at 2.30pm in The Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip. Speakers for future meetings are as follows: -

10th January	Mrs Elizabeth Young	"On Being a Missionary
24th January	Mr John Steele	"Secrets of HMS Dasher"
7th February	Mr Glyne Bragg	"Music of London"

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 tel: 522316.

Councillor Eric Forbes

Well, it's back to work and all the pain and pleasure that brings and I hope you all had an enjoyable festive time. What is on the table for Wemyss Bay in the months to come?

The main issue will be the decision regarding the situation in relation to Wemyss Bay Primary. King's Glen Primary School was placed on the table as a possible decant school and the School Board after due deliberation felt that it was the preferred option rather than St.Columba's, all things being considered. This caused some concern amongst parents as they felt that a final decision had been made. Some of the parents attended the following School Board meeting and others made representations by letter or e-mail. After the School Board meeting I held an "impromptu surgery" and this allowed those in attendance to voice their concerns. I then made the offer of supplying transport to view both King's Glen and St.Columba's and this took place on Wednesday 22 November 2006 when approx. 50 parents, grandparents and other relations took up the offer and a full bus load experienced the run to both schools and viewed the accommodation. After that event a letter was sent out by the Authority through the School to parent(s) and invited comment/observation on the options available. The responses to this will be fed into the discussion process and will be taken into account when the decision is taken at the Education Committee on Tuesday 9 January 2007. The decision reached will also have taken into account the views of the parents, the views of the Head Teacher and the staff and the Council's Officers' professional advice on all fronts. Once the decision is made then we can then get into the nitty gritty of sorting out the issues in respect of the chosen option. We all want what is best for the children during their stay at whatever location during the building period of what is virtually a new school and I am sure in the spirit of co-operation we will all work towards that end and finally moving back into a school "fit for purpose" in the 21st.century education world.

Communication is essential and I will ensure this takes place.

The next item is the entering into discussions with the Council to obtain LNR status (LOCAL NATURE RESERVE) for the woodlands in Wemyss Bay. This involves contact with Scottish Natural Heritage, Legal and Ground Services of the Council. The process was initiated in 2003 and approved by the Head of Planning Services and because of the amount of work that has taken place in the woods it is now felt that the time is right to move the process along. We are now looking at addressing the issues indicated in Phase 2 of the project. The woodlands have changed character due to a lot of hard work on the part of the Association and we see the rewards of more people and children using the woods as an area of recreation and relaxation and of course of natural interest. The Association is always looking for volunteers to assist on the "working weekends" and I hope that the residents of Wemyss Bay could see their way to offering some assistance in the future workings within the woods and besides the work it is a very healthy and sociable way of getting together in the interests of the community. Finally, a short note just to say that we are still in discussions with the Insurance Company in relation to the usage of the play bond as a contribution towards the installation of the MUGA (Multi Use Generation Area) at Wemyss Bay. I shall keep everyone up to date on this one.

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.

TOC H

The Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay branch recently held their customary Senior Citizens Party, where a considerable number of the strong and sprightly residents braved the appalling weather. Good quantities of tea and buns were consumed followed by light entertainment. Bob Beattie and David Carnduff sang and performed on the electric keyboard, Kirtsie Doull recited; Rev. Bill Armstrong and Jennifer sang and gyrated. Jennifer and her mother Sheona soothed our senses with songs and piano. Iona Duff presided and only the chickens learned to regret their fate!

Do You Remember Thomas?

My name is Thomas Sutton Moodie. I was born at the South Lodge, Wemyss Bay in 1927. My father was the postman in Skelmorlie. The Moodie family consisted of seven - there were four boys and a girl. I am wondering if anyone can remember us. I used to know Hughie and Nan Bar, Tommy and David Landels, Ronnie Herbert, Tommy Kid and Carson McCartney. My relatives lived in Upper Skelmorlie. As a boy I was a friend with Jim Halliday who lived at Woodburn cottage, just up the hill from the Wemyss bay hotel. If you remember me, please get in touch - Telephone: 01422 353814 or e-mail: tom.moodie@tiscali.co.uk

Interested in Advertising?

1500 copies of the Village News are produced each month. Over 1200 homes in the village receive a hand-delivered copy and the remainder are placed in the doctor's surgery and local shops. In addition copies of the adverts are displayed in the Community Centre for one month.

<u>Advert Size</u>	<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>Price</u>
1/8th page (standard)	64mm 45mm	£12/issue
1/4 page	128mm x 45mm or 64mm x 90mm	£24/issue
1/2 page	128mm x 90mm	£45/issue
Full page	180mm x 128mm	£90/issue

(Dimensions are approximate, width x height)

If you would like to discuss taking out an advert in the Village News, either as a one-off or on a regular basis, why not contact **Ken** at eila@wemyssbay.plus.com or phone: **529375**. Ken can advise and help with the lay out of your advert and any artwork.

Waste collection

Your blue and brown recycling bins will be collected on Wednesday 3rd January (instead of Tue 2nd) and Tuesdays 16th & 30th. Your black bin will be emptied on Tuesdays 9th & 23rd January.

David Cairns MP: Inverclyde Royal Hospital – Saved

2007 got off to a great start with the news that Inverclyde Royal Hospital has been saved. There were many dark times during the last few years when it looked like we would lose the IRH altogether or, at best, have it reduced to little more than a cottage hospital. But the people of Inverclyde refused to accept the decisions of the old Health Board and, by working together, we managed to see off Argyll and Clyde, and persuade its successor that IRH should retain not only its vital A & E Department, but also the vast majority of its current services. A truly wonderful result.

But none of this happened by accident. It was down to the hard work of ordinary people in Wemyss Bay and, indeed, throughout Inverclyde, who refused to accept the previous plans to reduce our hospital to little more than an outpost of the Royal Alexandra. You are the people who marched in protest through Inverclyde, signed petitions, went to meetings and just refused to let our hospital wither away. This campaign succeeded because it was a community campaign, not a political one, and it had support across the entire political spectrum.

We have managed to keep virtually all of our major services. A & E, which so many of you contacted me about, will remain open and still be able to deal with medical cases, trauma and general surgery. People suffering from abdominal pain, breathing difficulties, fractures and accidents will also continue to go to Inverclyde Royal and not face the long, difficult journey to Paisley. And inpatient services, outpatient and day-care cases have also been saved with the bulk of them remain at IRH.

The new Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board have shown that they are willing to listen to what local people want, and their new proposals will secure the long term future of IRH, ending many years of worry and uncertainty for us all. Existing staff can now concentrate on dealing with patients instead of wondering if they will still have a job to go to; the hospital's newfound status will attract well qualified new doctors and nurses to work there, secure in the knowledge that they will have a future at Inverclyde Royal; and, best of all, everyone in Inverclyde now knows they can continue to get the best of treatment close at hand, should they ever need it.

It's a great victory for us all and we should celebrate our success.

Contact Details: **David Cairns MP**
20 Union Street
Greenock
PA 16 8JL

Tel: 791820
Fax 791821
e-mail: cairnsd@parliament.uk

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.

With respect to articles, we reserve the right to edit as we see fit to prevent offence and / or inaccuracies. We also reserve the right to ask local groups / individuals to respond to any articles received.

Finally

The closing date for the February edition of the Village News will be Saturday 20th January at 6pm. It is helpful if you send in any articles as soon as you have them rather than leave them to the very last minute – this means that we would have a little more time to put things together before having to get them to the printer. 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. If you wish to discuss an article for inclusion or if you have any questions about advertising please feel free to phone us on **529375**

Kid's Stuff

On Hogmanay, the Bells at midnight signal the start of the New Year and a time to make resolutions about what we are going to do better. This month's wordsearch is about the year: the number of months and their names, the number of weeks. It is also about Robert Burns, our national poet, who is celebrated all over the world on 25th of January with Burns Suppers, when people eat haggis, neeps and tatties and sing or recite some of Burns' poems and songs. See how many words you can find this month.

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

APRIL
 AUGUST
 BELLS
 BURNS
 DAY
 DECEMBER
 FEBRUARY
 FIFTY-TWO
 HAGGIS
 HOGMANAY
 JANUARY
 JULY
 JUNE
 MARCH
 MAY
 MONTH
 NATIONAL
 NEEPS
 NEW YEAR
 NOVEMBER
 OCTOBER
 POET
 RESOLUTIONS
 ROBERT
 SEPTEMBER
 TATTIES
 TWELVE
 WEEK

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.

R	M	A
B	E	S
D	C	L

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

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

SUDOKU

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

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!!