

Wemyss Bay Village News

209th Edition

May 2007

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

Gala Weekend: Friday 15th – Sunday 17th June

This year the annual Gala Weekend will take place from Friday 15th – Sunday 17th June.

This year, for the first time, we are holding a disco on the Friday night with a "Beach Party" theme. With a popular DJ and a buffet, the evening is sure to be popular. The marquee will be decorated with a beach theme and we ask that everyone enter into the spirit of the evening and dress appropriately so dust off your shades and look out your shorts! Just remember to use plenty of insect repellent! Tickets go on sale on Monday 4th June at the Community Centre Box Office from 6.30 – 7.30pm and will be available at the same time every evening thereafter until they are sold out. Last year, we ran out of tickets within three days so make sure you get yours as soon as they go on sale or you will miss out on what is guaranteed to be a night to remember.

The events on Saturday start at 12 noon when this year's Gala Queen, accompanied by her attendants, will officially open the Gala. All the stalls will be run by local organisations or businesses and will include the Brownies, Guides, PTA, Mums & Tots and Woodland Association. Once again the youth clubs will be running the tuck shop and the hot dog & burger stall – last year they were sold out by 3.00pm so, although Liz has ordered even more for this year, you will still have to be quick. Ardgowan Football Development will be repeating their popular pie and Bovril stand. The Community Centre will be given over to the Guides tearoom – always a popular attraction with all the lovely home-baking. The Bible Club will again run the Beat the Goalie competition and Stephen hopes that he will not be covered in quite so much mud this year.

Gala Day would not be complete without all the rides for the young and young at heart. This year they will be even bigger and better than before. The Animal Man will be back again this year, bringing with him a selection of animals for the children to see and handle, including rabbits, guinea pigs, snakes and tarantulas! There will still be the Bouncy Castle, Children's Carousel and the Junior Inflatable Slide for the younger visitors. In addition there will be some aimed at older children, teenagers and adults. Laser Quest is back again this year at popular request along with the Giant Inflatable Obstacle Course and Giant Slide. There will also be displays from the Coastguard and Police and the Fire Brigade will be along with a tender, which is always popular with the little ones.

During Saturday afternoon, Ardgowan Football Development will take on Boca Bay Juniors in what has become a much coveted annual challenge. While we do not encourage gambling, there is a good chance of a couple of pennies changing hands.

This year once again, the beer-tent will be providing a wide range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Spirits, wine, canned and bottled drinks will appear side by side with "Helga's Big Jugs" from Houston Brewery.

For the first time ever, Gala Day will wind up at 8pm, however there will not be an earlier break and entertainment will continue through to the end, with last orders at 7.30pm. Obviously, therefore, there will be no need for tickets for Saturday evening, although there is a limit on numbers in the marquee so, unless you secure a place earlier in the day, you will not get in. With an early close on Saturday night, there is bound to be more demand for Friday night tickets, so make sure that you don't miss out. Ardgowan Football Development will host their Annual Open Day on Sunday 18th June at the Community Centre and Playing Field from 11.15am – 3.00pm. There will be displays of training sessions and games. Ardgowan Thistle Football Club will take on local guest teams. There will also be the annual presentation of certificates and trophies. This is a must for all parents, families and friends of youngsters attending AFD.

Each year, the Community Association has to gamble on the success of the Gala. Even if there is a poor turnout the marquees, bands, rides, beer etc. still have to be paid for. Over the years there have been many generous sponsors who help fund specific items or donate prizes to the raffles. Sponsors are still required for this year's event – would your business be prepared to help or can you provide a raffle prize?

Last year was the best Gala yet. A little luck with the weather and your support over the weekend could change that and ensure that this year breaks all the records!!

Gala Weekend – Help Still Needed

As usual the success of the Gala depends entirely on having enough volunteers to help out with the preparations and to ensure that everything runs smoothly over the weekend and this year is no exception. As each year the Gala gets bigger and better, it is even more vital that this year we have more volunteers. We require bar staff, face-painters, people to run the Association's stall, helpers at the bouncy castle, people to sell tokens for rides, staff for the soup kitchen, raffle ticket and balloon race sellers, furniture removers, tent erectors, cleaners, dish-washers, litter-collectors. We need volunteers from 8.30am till 11pm on Friday, 8.30am till 8.30pm on Saturday and again on Sunday until around 5pm. In order to give everyone the chance to enjoy the weekend we are trying to draw up a rota so that everyone just has to do an hour or two's work over the course of the weekend – are you available? There is something that everyone could do, so if you want to be involved in helping your community enjoy a great Gala weekend and are available over the course of the event, even for an hour or two, then please phone Eila on 529375.

Grand Gala Raffle

This year the Community Association is running a Grand Gala Raffle to help fund the weekend's events. With tickets only costing £1 each and a fabulous range of prizes including a full set of Karate gear, an LCD TV, £100 and many more great prizes, you really don't want to miss out on your chance to win. Tickets will be on sale in advance of the Gala from any member of the Community Association, at the Gala Box Office and through local organisations. In addition, they can be purchased at the Friday Beach Party and during the course of Saturday's events with the draw taking place on Saturday evening.

The Association holds a Lottery Licence which allows door-to-door sales however anyone selling on behalf of the Association will have a letter of authorisation so please ask to see it.

Inverkip Bowling Club – Eileen Newlands

Inverkip Bowling Club is currently hoping to recruit new members. If you are interested in participating in an enjoyable social pastime, whether you are an experienced bowler or a complete novice, young or old, male or female you will be extended a warm welcome if you visit us at the bowling green at Bridgend, Inverkip.

If you would like any more information you can telephone: Alex Anderson 521581 or Willie Gibson 521425.

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM) – Stephen Renton

All children of Primary School age are welcome at Bible Club which is on from 6.15pm to 7.30pm at the Community Centre. 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. The clubs are run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM) and there are no fees for either club. Please note that both clubs are off on Monday 7th May for the holiday and will be back on Monday 14th May. Contact Stephen Renton for more information on 01505 355994.

Adult Association – Morag Wilson

With the closure of the school, we have moved our groups to other venues as follows:-

Mondays Pilates 7-8pm St Joseph's Church Hall, Wemyss Bay
Tuesdays Cross-stitch 7.30-9.30pm Portacabin at Community Centre.
Wednesday Jogging Club 6.30-7.30pm Portacabin at Community Centre.
Yoga 7.40-9.15pm Inverkip Primary School.

There are places available in all groups. For further information, please phone Morag Wilson on 521626.

Dog Poo

We have had an increasing number of phone calls from people wishing to contact the local authority enforcement officers to report instances of owners failing to clean up after their pets. For the next few editions we will continue to print the direct phone number for complaints – remember that it is helpful if more than one individual makes a complaint. Let's try and clean up Wemyss Bay and put an end to irresponsible and anti-social behaviour of this type.

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

Chernobyl Children Lifeline – Glasgow Link – Sarah Gregory

I wonder if you remember the Chernobyl disaster? On 26th April 1986 a reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant in the Ukraine exploded. Belarus was the worst hit region. The people of Chernobyl were exposed to radioactivity 90 times greater than the Hiroshima bomb. It is estimated that it will take up to 400 hundred years to rid Belarus of contamination.

In 1992 the Chernobyl Children Life Line charity was founded, the purpose being to help the children of Belarus. It is made up of over 130 Link groups around the UK. The aim of these Links is to raise money in order to bring groups of children to their particular areas for respite care. It is estimated that a month in the UK eating uncontaminated food and breathing uncontaminated air boosts their immune systems to such an extent that it adds an extra two years on to their life expectancy.

The Glasgow Link covers out as far as the Inverclyde area and this summer is bringing over a group of 10 children for one months respite care. The Link is actively raising funds to meet the costs of this visit and future visits. To help boost these funds 8 year old Katrina and her mum, Sarah, have organised a sponsored walk on Sunday 20th May around the Greenock Cut.

Please show your support by sponsoring Katrina and her mum!

If you are interested in finding out more about the CCLL Glasgow Link please contact Sarah (committee member) on 521206 or Madeleine Tait (Chairperson) on 0141 221 0649.

Community Association

Wemyss Bay Community Association meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Inverkip Hotel. The Association is responsible for running the Community Centre, the Annual Gala and Christmas Lights switch-on evening. If you are interested in becoming involved in the work of the Association, or even if you simply would like to find out a bit more about what is going on, you will be most welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays 1st, 15th & 29th May and 12th & 26th June. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 8th & 22nd May and 5th & 19th June.

1st Wemyss Bay, 85th Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Beavers – Liz Roders

On Thursday, the 22nd February 2007, history was made when the first Beaver Scouts were formed in Wemyss Bay. 12 boys turned up on the first night, all of whom wanted to be a Beaver and join in the fun. This date is even more significant given the fact that it was Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, birthday on that day. On the 29th March 13 boys and 1 girl made their promise to be a Beaver Scout.

This is a new and exciting time for us not only in Wemyss Bay but also in Inverclyde for the scouting movement, as we go from strength to strength in 2007, under the watchful eye of District Commissioner, David McCallum.

In the coming months we will be joining in the fun at the Centenary Camp at Ardgowan Estates, March at the Founders Day Parade and also have a stall at our own Gala Day.

Whilst we are part of the 1st Inverkip, we are hoping that, as more boys and girls want to join that we will be able to start our very own Cub Scout Troop in Wemyss Bay, so watch this space for more information.

Meanwhile if you are aged between 5 years 8 months and 8 years, want to join in the fun and be part of the scouting movement, and are doing nothing much on a Thursday evening between 6:30pm and 7:30pm, come along and join us at the Church hall here in Wemyss Bay.

Call Liz on 528803 for more information.

Village News - Can You Help?

We have a dedicated band of distributors who help out each month by delivering the Village News to homes in their area however we still require more help. In particular, we need more distributors to cover parts of Greenock Road and the Lighthouses. If you can spare an hour once a month please phone Eila on 529375.

Similarly if you are aware of any other areas in the village which do not receive regular copies of the Village News, please get in touch in order that we can rectify this.

Do you have some local news and are desperate to share it? Telephone Eila on 529375 or send your articles to

eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

71st Ayrshire Scout Group & THE BAY Explorer Unit - Iain Carmichael (ESL)

Our Beaver colony saw six new members along with a new parent helper join us this month. During this month Beavers have again been busy with a visit from our local Community Police Officer, who very kindly let the boys sit in the police car and chatted with them all about safety issues. The beavers also completed their creativity badge using the sponsored kits from "hot wheels matchbox cars" where they had to design a race track, a racing car and make a junk model racing car.

Both Cub Packs have taken to the great outdoors this month with a pond dipping night and a night hike, along with their continued badge work.

This month saw the Explorer unit spend their first night under the stars in their new hammocks, the boys enjoyed the new camping experience and now look forward to the next opportunity to use the hammocks. Plans for the unit to attend our area's centenary camp at the end of May are almost complete. The area scouting team have organised a host of activities for the boys to try.

May sees the group's preparation for our annual Jumble Sale in June start, this is the group's major fund raising event of the year and the support of the local community is key to the success of the event and ultimately the group for the next year, for collection dates see our separate advert in this month's village news.

Please contact Iain Carmichael on 01475 520697 or Email The71stAyrshireScoutGroup@Yahoo.co.uk for further information concerning the Group.

No New Houses at Bridgend

A number of people have contacted us to ask about the clearance of the woodland behind the cottages at Bridgend. The landowners, Ardgowan Estates operate a commercial forestry business complete with the Bankfoot Sawmill. The trees in the area which has been cleared were planted around 30 years ago and have now reached the height and age for harvesting. This work has been carried out following discussions and approvals from the Forestry Commission.

There is no suggestion that there is any intention to use the land for anything other than further forestry planting so, in a few years time, the area will once again be covered in woodland.

It is worth mentioning that Bankfoot Sawmill is an excellent source of competitively priced timber and the Woodland Association would like to thank them for donating wood and providing more at cost price for all the bird boxes which were constructed last year.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church – Rev W Armstrong

Over the past few weeks, politicians have been pandering to our prejudices and baser instincts, each promising paradise as a better bargain than their opponents – you may have noticed that Parliamentary and Local Authority elections are only days away. Throughout that time the Church has been preparing to support Christian Aid Week, a time when Christian people are encouraged to focus on the needs of the impoverished regions in our world, particularly in Africa and South America, and away from self interest.

To give credit where it is due, the Chancellor of the Exchequer is as conscious as anyone in government of Third World debt and poverty. Millions around the world have little to live on and little prospect of a lifestyle approaching ours, despite our quibbles. Christian Aid, like Oxfam and other relief agencies, attempts to help people in desperate circumstances to help themselves so that they are more able to fend for themselves. It makes a lot of sense.

We are becoming more aware that we live in an interdependent world. When you cast your votes on May 3, do it for better reasons than prejudice and self interest.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK takes place from 13 - 19 May

Regular Events

SUNDAY WORSHIP, every Sunday at 11.00am

SUNDAY CLUB (*for children*), every Sunday at 11.00am

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, last Sunday of every month, 10.15am

OUT OF THE ARK (*for primary school children*) the last Monday of every month

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**.

T-Shirt Sayings

I childproofed my house, but they still get in.

(On the front) 60 Is Not Old. (On the back) If You're A Tree

I'm Still Hot – It Just Comes In Flushes

At my age, "Getting Lucky" means finding my car in the parking lot.

My reality check just bounced.

Life is short...make fun of it.

I'm not 50. I'm £49.99 plus VAT

I need somebody bad. Are you bad?

Buckle up – it makes it harder for aliens to snatch you from your car.

I'm not a snob. I'm just better than you are.

It's my cat's world. I'm just here to open cans.

Earth is the insane asylum of the universe.

Keep staring...I may do a trick.

We got rid of the kids. The cat was allergic.

Dangerously under-medicated.

My mind works like lightning. One brilliant flash and then it's gone.

Every time I hear the dirty word "exercise", I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

Cats regard people as warm-blooded furniture.

In God we trust.....all others we polygraph.

Bouncy Castle Parties

Not sure what to do for your child's birthday party? Think of the mess which a dozen or more small people can produce in your home. Looking for a solution? Then look no further than Wemyss Bay Community Centre. You can hire the centre, complete with Bouncy Castle for a 2-hour party for only £52. Community Association volunteers open and lock up after your party and set up the bouncy castle and put it away again. All you have to do is come along with your guests and have fun. You are asked to return the centre to the state you found it but a quick brush over is enough to tidy up. The centre's kitchen is available if you wish to provide hot food and there are plenty of tables and chairs.

For more information, or to make your booking, contact **Kirsty 520738**.

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 x 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.

Disco Parties

Is your child a bit too old for Funworld or a Bouncy Castle Party? Think of the expense of taking 8 or more youngsters to the cinema for the afternoon followed by a McDonald's. Why not consider holding a Disco Party in Wemyss Bay Community Centre. You can hire the centre, complete with disco unit and Tiffany and Amy, the resident DJ Bay-B's, for only £50 for a two hour party. Community Association volunteers open and lock up after your party and the DJ Bay-B's set up and run the disco. All you have to do is come along with your guests and have fun. You are asked to return the centre to the state you found it but a quick brush over is enough to tidy up. The centre's kitchen is available if you wish to provide hot food and there are plenty of tables and chairs.

For more information, or to make your booking, contact **Kirsty 520738**.

David Cairns MP: Mum's the word as new employments rights kick in

Last year over 800 women in Inverclyde gave birth to babies, including many new mums living in Wemyss Bay. Most of the mums were in work when they became pregnant, and many of them will have wanted to return to work after the birth of their baby. Women are an important part of the workforce and the Government knows that, if we are to ensure that businesses thrive and industry gets the best people for the job, we need to make it as easy as possible for mums to go back to work after they've given birth. But mothers need time to bond with their babies, and not everyone is well enough to return to work a few short months after their baby is born, so in April of this year the Government extended paid maternity leave for new mums to 9 months.

It is not the job of politicians to tell people how to live their lives and it is up to each individual mum to decide if they want to return to work after they give birth. However, it is our job to give them more choices and support so they can take a decision that is right for them and their baby. And this is exactly what we have done over the last decade by steadily increasing maternity leave and maternity pay and by giving increased rights, not just to working mums, but to dads too.

In the last ten years we have doubled maternity pay from £55 per week to £106 per week and we have tripled maternity leave from 14 weeks to 9 months. And the good news is, that within the next few years paid maternity leave will be increased again and mothers to be will be entitled to a full year's maternity pay. All this means that women have far more choice than ever before and an increasing number of them are opting to return to work when their babies are older. It's important to try and balance the rights of workers with the needs of business, and I think that over the course of the last 10 years we have been successful in extending the rights of all employees, without damaging Britain's competitiveness in the wider world.

Helping mums back to work is about more than just increased maternity leave and better maternity pay. Many mothers want to return to work part time and this is why we introduced the right to request flexible working for parents with children under the age of 6. This has proved very popular with mothers returning to work, as it gives them an opportunity to keep their skills up-to-date, while, at the same time, giving them the chance to spend time with their children. Most employers in Inverclyde seem to be responding well to this, as they recognise that it is in their interests to hold onto experienced, reliable workers, rather than have to go to all the effort and expense of recruiting a new, untried member of staff.

But sometimes things can go wrong when women are returning from maternity leave. Any mum who thinks that her employers are not complying with the law can get advice from her union or, if she is not a union member, she can contact Inverclyde Employment Rights on 888039 for free, confidential information. More details on maternity rights are also available from the Department of Trade and Industry website at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file34285.pdf>.

Women have certainly come along way in the workplace in the last 10 years and, with increased employment rights and protection from discrimination, they will certainly go a lot further.

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

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 June edition of the Village News will be Sunday 20th May 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**.

Wordsearch

Did you know that we should eat at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day to stay healthy? This month's wordsearch contains the names of just some of the fruit available to us. This month, why not try something you haven't tasted before?

Y	R	R	E	B	W	A	R	T	S	E	P	A	R	G	APPLE
R	A	Y	A	P	A	P	S	D	T	X	E	D	L	O	AVOCADO
R	M	E	B	O	C	N	I	U	A	S	C	L	Y	G	BANANA
E	G	N	A	R	O	L	A	K	R	N	N	F	C	E	CLEMENTINE
B	L	I	G	N	C	S	O	N	U	O	I	T	H	N	COCONUT
P	M	E	A	N	O	S	G	F	A	M	U	P	E	R	FIG
S	A	L	E	O	N	T	N	I	T	E	Q	L	E	N	GRAPE
A	N	P	O	L	U	O	A	M	S	L	U	U	B	E	KIWI
R	D	P	D	E	T	N	M	N	R	V	G	M	A	S	KUMQUAT
A	A	A	H	M	D	I	E	N	G	L	R	E	E	T	LEMON
E	R	E	C	R	A	W	L	A	I	E	T	O	C	A	LIME
P	I	B	A	E	C	I	O	R	R	Q	R	N	G	R	LYCHEE
L	N	I	E	T	O	K	N	O	L	C	S	I	G	I	MANDARIN
E	L	P	P	A	V	O	C	A	D	O	F	A	N	N	MANGO
E	M	I	L	W	C	L	E	M	E	N	T	I	N	E	MELON

WATERMELON

WORDFINDER

A	E	P
N	E	T
R	I	D

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 are over 70 words and at least one 9-letter word.

20 words – at least you're trying! 30 words – good
40 words – shows promise 60+ words – brain-box!!

SUDOKU

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

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