

Wemyss Bay Village News

211th Edition

July 2007

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Gala Round-Up

The Beach Party on Friday night was hugely popular, with most people entering into the spirit of the event and dressing up. With a popular Radio Clyde DJ and buffet included in the ticket price, everyone agreed that it was well worth the money and will be queuing up early for their tickets next year. All 250 tickets were sold out within only 2 nights.

Despite the rather overcast weather, Saturday was a success as locals and visitors to the area turned out to enjoy a huge array of stalls and sideshows, organised by local groups, in addition to the exciting fairground rides. Events got under way when Gala Queen, Zoë, Gala King, Dale and attendants Mhairi and Ryan were crowned and the Gala declared open by David Cairns MP. Ardgowan Football Development displayed their talents at their Open Day and tournament on Sunday when parents, family and friends turned out to watch the children being put through their paces.

Thank You

The Community Association would like to say a huge thank you to the following people, companies and organisations for helping us with our Gala Weekend: A.D. DRAUGHTING AND DESIGN; ALLURE; ARDGOWAN FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT; BILLY HARRISON, SHOTO BUTO; DDZ MARINE; DAVID CAIRNS MP; FUNWORLD; HERBALIFE; HUGH MEEK; INVERKIP HOTEL; JOAN McCLURG, PARTYLITE; KEOGH AND SAVAGE; KIP McGRATH EDUCATION SERVICES; LONDIS; MR AND MRS FORBES; NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR; NEILL FORREST PHOTOGRAPHY; PARKDEAN HOLIDAY PARKS; PEARSONS GARAGE; RE-MIX HAIR SALON, GOUROCK; SCOTTISH POWER; SEAVIEW CAFÉ; SKELMORLIE CHINESE RESTAURANT; SKELMORLIE GOLF CLUB; SPAR, WEMYSS BAY; THE ADULT ASSOCIATION, WEMYSS BAY; USA LIMOUSINE; WEMYSS BAY CHIP SHOP; WEMYSS BAY PHARMACY; WEMYSS BAY PTA; WEMYSS BAY YOUTH CLUB; WOODLAND ASSOCIATION.

We would like to thank you all for the sponsorship and/or donations of raffle prizes.

Thank You

The Youth Club would like to thank everyone who supported the Burger and Hot Dog Stall at Saturday's Gala. They raised the magnificent sum of £500. Every year the money raised at the Youth Club stall is donated to local charities and this year is no exception. The proposal at present is to split the money between two charities. Once this has been finalised we will let you know which ones have benefited.

Situation Vacant

After 6 years on the Community Association Committee I have decided to resign as, in addition to personal and health reasons, my position has become untenable. In addition I will be stepping down as editor of the Village News, with the September edition being my last.

The new editor will require around 5 full days a month to compile, layout and write each edition prior to sending for printing. They must also be prepared for the numerous phone calls and emails. From simple enquiries to the bizarre – if anyone has a question or complaint in which the words Wemyss Bay figure then, it seems, if they can't think of who else to contact, they contact the Village News! In addition, as both Liz Canning and I have decided to give up the distribution of the Village News, they will need the best part of a day to deliver each edition round all the distributors in the village and beyond. If you are interested in taking on the role of editor please contact Kirsty on 520738.

Although Ken is also resigning from the Committee, he is willing, if the Community Association wish, to continue with the adverts in the meantime and anyone taking on the editor's role will have to work closely with him – the number of adverts each month determines the size of each edition and the amount the editor has to fill as the idea is to balance the number of pages of adverts with those of text.

I hope that a new editor can be found quickly and I wish them luck!

Eila

Grand Gala Raffle

Congratulations to everyone who won prizes in this year's Grand Gala Raffle. There were too many prizes to list every winner but the main prizes were won by:

Marco: Karate Package (1 year membership of Shoto-Budo Karate, 3 months free practice sessions, full karate outfit)
Alison Smith: 15 " LCD Television
Jacqueline Murdoch: £100

Unclaimed Raffle Prizes

There are two prizes unclaimed from the Grand Gala Raffle, drawn on Gala Day. Ticket no. 000455 in the name of Robert Beveridge and ticket no. 001901 in the name of M Brown. If you know either of these people could you please ask them to contact Michele Barrett (meesh_barrett@hotmail.com) to arrange to claim their prize.

Name the Duck

Congratulations to Leah who won the soft toy and £25 at the Woodlands Stall. Leah is very talented – not many Labradoodles (cross between Labrador and Standard Poodle) could manage to pick out the winner, far less write down their name and phone number! Don't spend all the money on biscuits and bones!

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays 10th & 24th July, 7th & 21st August and 4th & 18th September. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 3, 17th & 31st July, 14th & 28th August and 11th & 25th September.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church - JULY/AUGUST 2007

Looking ahead to August – already! – our Church will be involved in NEXUS SCOTLAND 2007, a “Dynamic New Christian Event for Scotland” which runs from 23-25 August at the SECC in Glasgow. The event will be similar to, though bigger, than the inspirational “Big Saturday” held two years ago.

We are running a bus to the Saturday evening Worship event in the Clyde Auditorium, the venue which will also house “Fandabidozzie”, a special Praise Party for children, that same afternoon.

Apart from a massive Christian Resources exhibition there will be people sharing their “stories” about the ways in which God is working in their churches and communities.

The theme of the event is “Reach UP, Reach IN, and Reach OUT” – reaching up to God, reaching in to ourselves and those with whom we share, and reaching out to those who are not necessarily part of the Church.

Whether you are on the INSIDE or the OUTSIDE, NEXUS SCOTLAND 2007 could be the spark that ignites your faith. You are very welcome to join us.

W Armstrong

The Church is open for Worship and the Children's Club every Sunday at 11.00am throughout the summer months. Come and join us. You will be made welcome.

Chernobyl Children Lifeline

8 year old Katrina and mum Sarah took part in a sponsored walk around the Greenock Cut on Sunday 20th May to raise money for the above charity.

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

Thank You and Good Luck

For almost three years, Stephen McFeeley has been the Treasurer of the Community Association. Now Stephen, Elaine and their two sons, Ben and Ryan, are about to set off for a new life in Singapore. The Association would like to thanks Stephen very much for his dedication and hard work over his period in office and wish him and his family good luck and every success for the future.

Community Association

Wemyss Bay Community Association meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Inverkip Hotel. Due to the holidays, the next meeting is the September one, which will take place on Wednesday 5th. 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.

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council - (www.inverkip-wemyssbaycc.co.uk)

It's good to see the season of Sun and light warm evenings upon us once again, although the dreaded midge is not so welcome.

In May, Turley Associates, acting on behalf of Scottish Power held several open days in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay to present their proposals for the Inverkip Power Station site.

Proposals for the site ranged from between 400 and 700 new houses.

On Tuesday the 12th of June, Lynne Chambers and Innes Nelson of the Community Council, along with Fergus McLeod of Inverclyde Planning met with Radio Scotland presenter Laura Maxwell at Inverkip Power Station.

On air Lynne Chambers pointed out that the Scottish Executive had already stated that the A78 was over capacity at peak travelling times. Innes Nelson said that a solution for the site was for it to be developed into a Science Park with small business units and quality waterfront offices which would allow local people to work locally and traffic to flow in the opposite direction at peak travelling times thereby helping to alleviate congestion rather than add to it. Fergus McLeod stated that the site had been released from the greenbelt for mixed use in the 2005 local plan and that the site should not all be housing. He also stated that local views of what should happen to the site would be considered. Lynne Chambers commented that in the past when there had been opposition to developer proposals that local views had been totally ignored by Inverclyde Council.

An application which will affect us for a 14 turbine windfarm located on the top of the Cowal hills directly above Innellan opposite Inverkip and Wemyss Bay was submitted to Argyll and Bute planning department in June by developer West Coast Energy.

The 410 foot turbines will have a huge visual impact on Inverkip and more especially Wemyss Bay. The visual impact will also compromise our valuable tourist industry and views travelling by boat down the Clyde will be adversely affected. The proposal is outside the preferred area of search for wind farms in the finalised draft of the Argyll and Bute local plan. So although the planners have identified areas where windfarms should be sited and the Cowal Peninsula is not one of them. If you want to learn more about the Corlarach Hill application visit the South Cowal Community Council website at <http://www.southcowal.org/> and <http://www.argylewindfarms.co.uk/>.

Anyone who wishes to loge an objection can send it to Brian Close, Planning Services, Milton House, DUNOON PA23 7DU quoting Ref 07/00851/DET. These should be in by 29th of June although we have had no problems with late objections in the past.

The Community Council are pleased to announce that Liz Roders of Wemyss Bay is now a Community Council member and brings with her valuable Community Council expertise.

If you have any concerns we can help with please contact us, or we would be pleased to see you at our monthly meetings which are normally held at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of each month in The Rogues Room at Inverkip Hotel. Our next meeting is on the 5th of July 2007. The Community Council is still actively seeking new members. If you are interested please contact Lynne Chambers on 522603 or Innes Nelson on 520092.

Patchwork & Quilting Class – Rita Carmichael

I am hoping to start a patchwork and quilting class in Skelmorlie in September and, in order to get an idea of the number of people interested, I should be grateful if you could give me a call. The class would be suitable for complete novices and those with a little experience. If you would like more information or are interested in becoming involved contact Rita Carmichael on 529289.

WARNING – Rogue Traders

We have received reports from a number of local people that a gang of rogue traders are operating within the Wemyss Bay area. The group, of at least four men, can be identified as most are Irish. They knock at doors offering to carry out building and mono-block work.

Anyone considering using them should be aware that they are not accredited in any way, you receive no guarantee, they are not VAT registered, they accept only cash payments, they have no insurance and you have absolutely no comeback should something go wrong. The standard of their work is extremely shoddy and they use substandard materials.

When one local resident complained that the final cost was more than they had quoted, she was subjected to verbal threats and sexual innuendo. Another resident was subjected to verbal threats and physical assault when she complained.

Strathclyde Police are aware of these “workers” and advise residents not to use them. Clearly it is in your interest to secure competitive quotes from a number of reputable companies prior to having any work carried out on your property. Legitimate builders will always be willing to provide references from satisfied customers. Don't be caught out – if you are approached turn them down and report any threats to the police.

Quads, Scramblers & Mini-Motorbikes Break Law

It is against the law to use any powered vehicles on private ground without the permission of the landowners. As Inverclyde Council does not permit such use on its property, it is illegal to use these vehicles in the woodland, on playing fields, such as behind the community centre, and on any grassy areas owned by the council. It is also illegal to use quad bikes or mini-motorbikes on public footpaths or roads without the relevant insurance and tax documents. This means that even driving along a pavement or road to get to an appropriate area is illegal.

The Village News has been contacted by a number of local residents to complain about children driving around, particularly in the woods and behind the community centre and causing significant damage to the paths and grassy areas. One local resident pointed out that, depending on the direction of the wind and surrounding vegetation, it is virtually impossible to hear them coming until they are almost on top of you. Obviously this is extremely dangerous. Although there have been a number of complaints to the police about this, it seems that they are unable, or unwilling, to tackle this problem. Despite this, we would encourage residents to report any instances. If you wish to send the Village News details of your complaint and the date you reported it, we will keep a file and can then raise the matter with the relevant authorities if the police continue to fail to deal with this.

If you have bought your child one of these vehicles, you should consider where they are being used before the police turn up on your doorstep. In addition to taking action against those responsible, the vehicles may be confiscated.

Wemyss Bay web site

Do you run a group in Wemyss Bay or the surrounding area? Do you know that 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/>

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.

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.

Woodland Walks and Activity Days

Once again this year, the Woodland Association is planning a programme of summer walks and activities for all ages. Although the dates have not yet been finalised, posters will appear throughout the village and an e-bulletin will be sent out to everyone on our mailing list, along with letters to all our members.

Mini-Beast Safari: Things which are too small to notice can be the things which make a woodland work. Get up close to a selection of creepy crawlies and slimy beasties. Afterwards, make a hibernation chamber for lacewings and ladybugs.

Artworks in the Wood: Join us and take part in a range of art activities including petal dying, willow weaving and making shapes and designs from natural materials.

Bird Walk & Bird Boxes: A morning finding out about some of the birds who live in the woodland and what they eat. Help our feathered friends by making a nest-box to go up in the wood.

Treasure Hunt: A morning of clues and activities for the young and the young at heart.

Bat Boxes and Bat Walk: Make hibernation and roosting boxes for these fascinating nocturnal creatures. Did you know that our most common bat, the pipistrelle, can eat up to 2000 midges a night and can still fit inside a matchbox?

It is important that all children must be accompanied, at all times, by a responsible adult. Remember to wear shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions and don't forget the midge repellent! In order to contribute to the costs involved there is a £1 charge for all walks.

For more information about any of the walks or about the work of the Woodland Association telephone **Eila** on **529375** or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com and have your name added to our email list for regular updates.

1st Wemyss Bay, 85th R & I Beavers - Liz Rodgers

The Beavers have had a great start in Wemyss Bay, not only are we full, but all the boys and girls have been invested and are fully fledged Beavers.

They have worked well towards their badges and most, if not all, of them have attained the Creativity, Healthy Eating and Health & Fitness Badges. But don't worry when we return after the summer we will finish off the badges and starting with new badges for everyone.

We also have 4 Beavers who are working towards their Chief Scout Bronze Award and they will carry on with this when we return.

This is the highest achieving badge a Beaver can get and Craig, Callum, Orla and Adam have all worked extremely hard on their badge, although, they are sadly leaving us, but will be returning as the first Cub Scouts in Wemyss Bay.

Our stall at the Gala Day went really well and we could not have done it without all our helpers. Thank you Beavers for all your help and to Mums and Dads who donated the bottles. Also to everyone who came to our stall and bought from it.

We cannot express our thanks enough to all the parents who have supported us and made the last four months really exciting, as the saying goes, 'Things can only get better!'

Beavers will return on the 16th August at 6:30pm and Cubs will start from 7:30pm. There are limited spaces in Beavers now, but please phone and have your name added to the list.

For all boys and girls aged between 8 and 10 years please come along to the Cubs on the 16th August and join in the fun.

I can be contacted on 528803. See you after the holidays.

Stolen Property

Recently there have been a significant number of thefts from garages and gardens, most occurring at weekends. Following the report about this in last month's Village News, a farmer on the Ardgowan Estate discovered a large campsite in the middle of inaccessible woodland and contacted Strathclyde Police. The site contained a number of tents, garden benches, garden tools, alcohol and children's toys. All the property will be logged into the lost and stolen property section at Greenock Police Station. If you have suffered a theft recently, then get in touch with the police and find out if your property has been recovered.

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 <u>or</u> 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 ken@wemyssbay.plus.com or phone: **529375**. Ken can advise and help with the lay out of your advert and any artwork.

Duncan McNeil MSP

This is the first column I've written for the *Wemyss Bay Village News* since my re-election back in May. It's a huge honour that you have again chosen me to represent you in Holyrood and, in the four years ahead, I will continue to do my utmost to make our community's voice heard.

Although the heat and bustle of the election campaign now seems a distant memory, we are still unsure about what this third term of the Scottish Parliament will see prioritised. The change in the political shade of administration and the move from coalition to minority government throw up several unknowns.

One stretch of uncharted waters into which I will be sailing is becoming Convener of the new Local Government and Communities Committee.

In contrast to some of the more esoteric business of Holyrood's Committees, Local Government and Communities' remit covers a raft of matters which directly affect you and your family.

It is charged with looking into how the services on which we rely – from education to planning – are delivered by local authorities. And, perhaps more controversially, it will also examine how they are funded – and by whom.

The communities' side focuses on housing, regeneration, tackling poverty and almost anything else which falls within the responsibility of the Communities Minister.

So there's a lot to get my teeth into – and no shortage of organisations trying to tell me where the Committee's priorities should lie. Over the summer, therefore, I plan to spend time examining the issues and talking to those involved, seeking their perspective.

Should we, for example, institute a major inquiry into drug use in our communities and all aspects of the damage it is doing? Do we need to think about how changes to local government funding would affect family budgets in places like Wemyss Bay?

It is easy for politicians to be blown off course by interest groups, or become immersed in trivial side issues, and the goal must be to ensure that that doesn't happen on this Committee.

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

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.

Run for Life

Congratulations to Andrea from her neighbours in Morar Road, on her Run for Life, in memory of her husband James, at Bellahouston Park on June 10th this year, in the great time of 28 mins. Well done from us all.

Adult Association Programme – Autumn / Winter 2007/2008

Our **Enrolment Evening** will be held on **Tuesday 4th September** in **Wemyss Bay Nursery** (portacabins in the car-park), next to Community Centre from 7-9pm.

The following classes will be on offer:-

- Salsa Dancing
- Sketching, Watercolours and Acrylic Painting
- Card Making
- Guitar Group
- Jogging Club
- Book Discussion Group
- Yoga
- Cross-stitch and Knitting
- Pilates

For further information, please contact Morag Wilson on 521626.

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

The Bible Club and Youth Group held their summer parties and prizegivings on the 18th June at the Community Centre. Prize-winners at Bible Club were Nicola (x2), Jennifer (x3), Nicola (x2), Melissa (x3), Jonathan (x2), Simon, Victoria, Katie, Abbie and Rachel, and at Youth Group Michael, Chantelle (x3), Mhairi and Louise. Congratulations to them all. A special presentation was also made to Youth Group leader Elsbeth Barr who is leaving. We concluded the session with an outing to Funworld at the end of June. Thank you to everyone who took part in or helped with the Sponge Toss and Soccer Circus (with AFD) events at the Gala Day which raised money for the clubs. This summer marks the 15th anniversary of the Bible Club starting and we are thankful to everyone who has supported us throughout that time. Our planned starting date for Bible Club and Youth Group after the summer is Monday 10th September, 2007. The clubs are run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM).

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

THANK YOU !! Once again the Scout Group must thank the local communities for their continued support at our recent Jumble Sale.

The "CONNOR APPEAL" is being run by our Cubs packs to raise funds for Yorkhill hospital where one of our cubs is being treated for kidney failure. The cubs recently raised £155.98 at the Wemyss Bay Gala Day.

Cubs

Both Cubs packs will be away to Sheffield for their 21st annual week long summer camp in July.

Explorer's

Before attending the World Jamboree, at the end of July our two Explorers will host Scouts from Denmark

Scouting Sunrise on 1st August

All present and former Group members are invited to the Groups celebration

on the 1st August. Full details of the sunrise event, along with the sunset reunion event, are available from any of the Leaders.

For further information concerning the Group or any of the sections please contact Iain Carmichael on 01475 520697 or Email:

"The71stAyrshireScoutGroup@Yahoo.co.uk"

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**.

Loony Laws

Charles Dickens wrote, "The law is a ass" and when you read some of the real laws below, I'm sure you will agree!

In Great Britain, a pregnant woman can legally urinate anywhere she wants to, including in a policeman's hat.

In Liverpool, it is illegal for a woman to be topless in public unless she is employed as a clerk in a tropical fish store.

In Upton upon Severn, it is illegal for married couples to live in a discarded bus.

In France, kissing on the railway is illegal.

The law in Finland states that to get married, both the man and woman must be able to read.

In Toronto it was illegal, until recently, for anyone to ride a streetcar on a Sunday after having eaten garlic.

It is illegal to swear in French in Montreal, although there are no restrictions about doing so in English.

According to Article 40 of the Beijing Traffic Laws, drivers of motor vehicles who stop at pedestrian crossings are likely to receive a fine.

In China, in order to go to college you must be "intelligent".

In Denmark, it is illegal to start a car if there is anyone underneath.

In France, no pig owner may call his or her pig Napoleon.

It is illegal to land a flying saucer in the vineyards of France.

In Greece, a driver's licence can be revoked if the driver is deemed poorly dressed or even appears unwashed.

In Guinea, it is illegal to name a baby Monica.

The law in Iran suggests that sexual relations between men and wild animals are not recommended, especially if they involve a lioness. (!)

In Iran, it is illegal to eat snakes on a Sunday.

In Israel, it is forbidden to bring bears onto the beaches at Haifa.

In Italy, people in Milan are legally required to smile at all times, although there are exemptions for patients in hospitals or those attending funerals.

In Madagascar, it is illegal for pregnant women to wear hats.

In Paraguay, duelling is legal, provided both parties are blood donors.

In Peru, unmarried young men are prohibited from having a female alpaca living in their homes or apartments.

In Russia, it is illegal to drive a dirty car.

In Saudi Arabia, a wife can divorce her husband if he fails to keep her supplied with coffee.

In Sweden, it is illegal for parents to shame or insult their children.

In Sweden, it is illegal to train a seal to balance a ball on its head.

In Thailand, it is illegal to leave your house if you are not wearing underwear.

In Turkey, all drivers must carry a hygienic body bag suitable for transporting a corpse up to 18st 12lb, or else face a fine and up to 6 months in jail.

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**.

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**.

New Treasurer

Stephen McFeeley has resigned as treasurer of the Community Association as he is moving to Singapore. The new Treasurer is Cheryl Cairns. We wish Cheryl every success in her new post.

David Cairns MP – New legislation will ensure equality for all

I believe passionately that everyone in Inverclyde should be treated equally and I am opposed to all forms of discrimination. In fact, seeing the inequality around me and wanting to do something about it was what led me to get involved in politics. I want to see an Inverclyde where all employees are treated fairly regardless of their gender; where the old and the disabled are not discriminated against by public and private sector organisations; and where a person's race and sexual orientation makes no difference to the goods and services they receive. That's why I am in favour of the Government's commitment to a new Single Equality Act and I welcome their consultation on how to make Britain a fairer place for all.

Equality measures and anti-discrimination laws sometimes get a bad press and I don't think they deserve it. This isn't about treating one group in society more favourably than others, but about making sure that every member of our community has a chance to fulfil their potential. Those of you who have disabled family members will want to ensure that they are treated equally by everyone they come in contact with; fathers rightly expect that their daughters should have the same opportunities as their sons; and none of us want to see an elderly grandparent refused access to healthcare or financial services simply because they are old.

Our Government has done a lot to promote equality in the last 10 years. There is workplace legislation to prevent discrimination because of age, disabled people have better access to transport and we have outlawed discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. But, the truth is, our anti-discrimination laws have grown up piecemeal over the last 40 years and we need a new Equality Act so we can simplify the existing legislation, while ensuring that we extend better protection to everyone. We need to adopt a pioneering approach to tackling discrimination if we are to make the best of everyone's skills and talents.

Inverclyde, like the rest of Britain, is very different from what it was 40 years ago. In those days nobody would have thought that the Wemyss Bay Community Centre should be disabled friendly, no one would have expected the local primary school to cater for children with varying educational needs and very few of the married women in the village would be working. But times move on and we need to have laws which reflect our changing world. In the 21st century our elderly are demanding fair access to services, there are many workers and students from overseas in our midst and gay people are playing a full part in our society. I believe we should celebrate how far we have come to reach today's fairer society. But we need to acknowledge that the law has grown up over many decades and should be reviewed to see if it needs modernised, so it can respond to today's world and not yesterday's. Equality and diversity doesn't just benefit individuals - but communities and business too. If Inverclyde is to grow and prosper, we need to utilise all of the talents of all of our people regardless of age, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or, indeed, anything else.

The equality legislation is out for consultation and if you want to find out more, or make a contribution, have your say by logging on to **www.communities.gov.uk/index**

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

Finally

Please note that there will be no August edition of the Village News. We will return as normal with the September edition. **The closing date for the September edition of the Village News will be Monday 20th August 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

Were you away somewhere nice on holiday while the school was off for the summer? Perhaps you stayed in Britain, or maybe you went abroad somewhere. There are so many countries all over the world that you can visit on holiday. Can you find all the countries in this month's wordsearch?

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

AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
BAHAMAS
CANADA
CORFU
CRETE
CUBA
DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC
ENGLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
GREECE
IBIZA
IRELAND
ITALY
KENYA
LANZAROTE
MAJORCA
MEXICO
MINORCA
MOROCCO
PORTUGAL
SPAIN
SCOTLAND
TUNISIA
TURKEY
UNITED
STATES
WALES

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.

I	D	S
V	E	O
S	R	C

20 words – at least you're trying!

35 words – well done

25 words – good

45+ words – brain-box!!

SUDOKU

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

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.