Wemyss Bay Village News

213th Edition October 2007

Email: villagenews@wemyssbay.net
Community Centre Tel: 521955 http://wemyssbay.net/

New Look Village News

Welcome to this months Village News which is now a team effort by The Community Association. We are the group that bring you your Gala, Christmas light switch on and also oversee the running of the Community Centre.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Rogues Room at the Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm. On the 3rd October we will be discussing the lack of community facilities in Wemyss Bay. We have a brief meeting to discuss the running of the centre and to discuss any issues arising by any of our user groups. Our meetings are informal and finish with a drink in the Hotel Bar. We are always looking for new and fresh ideas and would welcome anyone in the community to come along. If you are interested please either pop along to our next meeting or email the above address if you would like a chat before coming along.

Any articles, information or queries should be directed to villagenews@wemyssbay.net or placed in the Village News Folder in Spar. The closing date for the Nov edition will be 6pm Fri 19 Oct.

PTA New Session

As a new session at school has began so does a new session of the PTA. It is all change this year and as the new chairperson I would like to take this opportunity to thank our retiring board for all their hard work, in particular Gillian, Sarah, and Anne. I would also like to thank Susan and Fiona who have also left for all their hard work and support.

The new board is now made up of Donna Galvin – Chairperson (that's me), Kirsty Donnelly - Vice Chair, Jill Pearson - Secretary and Marion Maclean - Treasurer. At the moment our meetings are held in the Nursery and we are always looking for new members so please come along and give any help you can, we give everyone a warm welcome!

Although there are a lot of new people we are already planning fundraising events for both the kids and the adults. For the kids we are organising a Hot Dog Day on Friday 12th October which is always very popular with the children. We are also organising a Halloween Disco for Primaries 4 - 7 on Friday 27 October. We will give you more details about both events nearer the time.

For the adults we are organising a Gifts Galore evening on Thursday 8th November. There will be a wide variety of stalls with lots of great gift ideas for Christmas. There will also be wine so why not come along, do a bit of shopping and have a glass of wine and a chat too. It is a good way to catch up, and also support the PTA at the same time. We will give more details on the event soon.

I hope that everyone will continue to support the PTA and come along to all our fundraising events, the more people that come along the more we can help the school.

Our next meeting is in the Nursery on Monday 1st October, so please come along and give us a hand. We are delighted to welcome any new members

Thanks *Donna Galvin*

100 years since the sinking of the SS Kintyre

Tuesday18 September marked the centenary of the sinking of the SS Kintyre just off Wemyss Bay pier. At 11.45am, the SS Kintyre (314 tons) collided with the Maori (3500 tons). Within 4 minutes the stern was under water and the rest of the ship soon followed.

Tragically, one life was lost when Chief engineer William Lennox drowned. Everyone else on board managed to escape to safety.

The wreck is now a popular diving attraction for scuba divers, lying 200m north of Wemyss Bay pier at a depth of 30 to 50 feet.

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/

Wemyss Bay Adult Association Winter Programme 2007/2008

With the temporary closure of Wemyss Bay Primary School due to the extension and refurbishment project, some of the classes have moved temporarily to Inverkip Primary School, Station Road Inverkip.

SUBJECT	VENUE	DAY AND TIME
Pilates	Inverkip School	Monday 7-9pm
Art Class	Wemyss Bay Portacabin	Monday 7-9pm
Cross Stitch	Wemyss Bay Portacabin	Tuesday 7.30-9.30pm
Salsa Dancing	Inverkip School	Wednesday 6.30-8.30pm
Yoga	Inverkip School	Wednesday 7.40-9.15pm

There are spaces available in all classes, which commenced 10th September and the Art Class on 24th September. Fees will be £24 for the 12 week course.
For further information, please contact Morag Wilson on 521626.

The Country Club

As advertised in last month's Village News the above club (previously known as the Country People's Club) will recommence on Wednesday 3rd October at 2.30pm in THE CHARTROOM, KIP MARINA, INVERKIP. The October Speakers are:
Wednesday 3rd Mrs Jane Cox on the subject of "A presentation on Erskine Hospital.
Wednesday 17th Mrs Roina Sloss on the subject of "Backpacking in Indo-China".
Wednesday 31st Mr Hugh Kerr on the subject of "Kayaking in the Islands".
This is a non political and non denominational club which was founded over 20 years ago for all in Wemyss Bay and district aged 50 years and over and is held on alternative Wednesday afternoons in the attractive setting of the Function Room at The Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip.
Speakers have been arranged covering many varied subjects and the afternoons are always rounded off with a welcome "cuppa" and time for a chat! Two social events are also held during the session along with a summer outing.
The annual subscription is £10.00, with visitors paying £1.00 per meeting.
We are keen to increase our membership and extend an invitation to all who have some time to spare to come along and join us. You will be made most welcome. Contact: Mrs Ann Haig 522316

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays 2nd,16th & 30th October. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 9th & 23rd October.

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.

Christmas Present idea from Skelmorlie Golf Club

For something different this year why not purchase a £50 gift voucher which would allow you to golf from Christmas until the end of March. Why not pop up for a visit and enjoy unparalleled views of the Clyde Estuary. Very rarely do we play on winter greens. Vouchers may be obtained from the Clubhouse on 520152 or the Secretary, Mrs Linton on 522626.

Wemyss Bay Shoto Budo

A martial art based on Self-Defence, Self-Awareness, Personal Health and Well Being. The Wemyss Bay Club started on 11th May 2002 in the Community Centre and runs every Saturday from 2-3pm. Why not come along and give it a try. http://www.wemyssbay-shotobudo.com

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Tuesday 7.45 -9.15pm Finnart St Paul's Church Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock (experienced students)

Wednesday 7.45 - 9.15pm Skelmorlie Community Centre, Skelmorlie (Newcomers Welcome)

For further information or to come along, contact Patricia on 01475 785685 or 07775 842 286.

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Ardgowan Football Development – John Reid
AFD 2007/2008

The AFD 2007/2008 Session started on Sunday 19th August. With over 150 kids now registered there are only limited spaces available in some sessions. Anyone interested in registering their child should come along between 12pm – 4pm on a Sunday or phone the club mobile – 07791 964277.

We are delighted to welcome John Rush; Donald Stirling; Gordon 'Rio' Ferdinand; Kenny Wilson ; Kenny Lynn and Ryan Roders to the AFD Coaching Staff.

ATFC

ATFC now has squads at Under 8, 9, 10 and 11 and, for the first time ever, has entered an 11 A Side Team in a league. Martin Thomson will coach the Under 12 side that will play in the Johnstone & District League and all our home matches being played on the grass pitch behind the Community Centre. We would like to wish Martin and the boys the best of luck for the season ahead. Please come along and support the local boys every second Saturday from 10:30am.

The under 12's are still looking to extend their squad. If you are interested in a trial please contact the AFD mobile.

Sponsors Wanted

Anyone wishing to sponsor Ardgowan Football Development or the Ardgowan Thistle under 12 Squad should contact John Reid on 522431 or AFD Mob: 07791964277.

Jobs for Wemyss Bay Recruits

Two young Wemyss Bay Entrepreneurs have struck it lucky by winning full time jobs with computer giants IBM and Blair Joiners. William Baxter (Billy) and Natalie Kerr both of Inverclyde Academy were awarded jobs after taking part in the local Business Challenge of "The Recruit". Over a thousand Inverclyde kids from 5th & 6th year schools took part in the challenge. This was reduced to thirty six where six teams were made up to take part in Business challenges and team activities over a five month period.

Billy of Etive Road won the job with IBM and started his employment on the 17th of September. Billy was delighted with the position offered to him and told us that he would take every opportunity to further his career with Big Blue. Natalie starts with Blair Joiners as a Trainee Accountant. John Turley of Blairs was so impressed by Natalies enthusiasm and work ethic, decided to offer her the job as an accountant at the local Greenock business. Good luck to both of the young entrepreneurs as they take on fulltime positions with their respective employers.

Keep your eyes peeled for our new Village News Distributor

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jill Pearson (and Harry) for taking on the above role. We have splashed out on a new mode of transport for delivering your news!!!! Email us at villagenews@wemyssbay.net when and where you see her and WHAT is the transport????????

Gardening Tip for October

Lift your summer bedding, plant bulbs and establish your spring bedding before severe weather begins (assuming Wemyss Bay gets severe weather that is). Give flower borders a 4 oz per sq yard dressing of bone-meal.

Do you know you have three councillors?

The Scottish Executive decided that the local councils should be made up in the same way as Parliament, which is Proportional Representation. For this reason your ward now consists of Larkfield, Branchton, Braeside, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay which makes it a 3 member ward.

Here are the councillor names and e-mail addresses should you require their services:

ciano.rebecchi@inverclyde.gov.uk
gerry.dorrian@inverclyde.gov.uk
ken.ferguson@inverclyde.gov.uk

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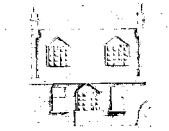

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HELLO - FROM WEMYSS BAY ON THE HILL!

Hello we are settled back in school after the summer holidays. As well as a new Primary 1 class there are new teachers too; Miss McNeil and Mrs Gurton. After two weeks we were sorry to lose our cook Miss Wilson but we look forward to seeing her when we move back to our new school. We have already voted for House Captains and the Pupil Council. The Eco Committee has been appointed and Vice House Captains and Junior House Captains chosen.

House	House Captains	Vice House Captain	Junior House Captains
Arran	Ross Pyott/Cameron Reid	Stuart Callender	Jamie Bissett
House Master: Mrs Morton			
Bute	Niamh McLaren Kelly Porteous	Ciara McLaren	Emma Smith
House Master: Miss Hair			
Cumbrae	Cameron McClurg Sophie McQueen	Craig MacLean	Nicola Anderson
House Master: Miss Fleming			
Iona	Ross Benton Sophie Leighton	Greg Pollock	Mairi MacLean
House Master: Mrs Dorman			

House Captains : House Captains set a good example on how to behave and help the House Masters try and make their House the best.

Pupil Council - The main job of the Pupil Council is to pass ideas from the pupils to Mrs Ritchie and the teachers. The Council will help organise some events, e.g. Health Week.

Chairperson: Kieran Hannah, Pr. 7, Vice Chairperson: Rachel Murdoch, Pr. 6

Secretary: Chloe Campbell, Pr. 5

Class Members: Iona Roders, Pr. 7, Nadina Valenti, Pr. 6, Dario Zavaroni, Pr. 5, Sophie McDougall, Pr. 4, Lyle McIntosh, Pr. 4, Amy Donnelly, Pr. 3 and Cameron Mangan, Pr. 3

Eco Committee - One of the Eco Committee's jobs is to refill water bottle at lunchtime. A new task for this year is organising recycling of playtime and lunchtime rubbish. Chairperson: Gayle Dougans. Pr. 7, Vice Chairperson: Mark Anderson, Pr. 7, Secretary: Kendal Smith, Pr. 6 Committee Members: Pr. 7 - Sophie Edgar, Lauren Gallacher, Allana McCormick, Cameron McDonald and Calum Sutherland

Pr. 6 – Mhairi Black, Katie Donnelly, Laura Francis, Ryan Galvin and Nicola Higgins

Junior Road Safety Officers - Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO) help with road safety matters. Soon they will be organising the 'Walk to School Week'. JRSO: Thomas Innes and Jamie Roberts, Pr. 7

Mr Glass' Garden Club - The Garden Club help Mr Glass keep the garden tidy.

Pr. 7: Craig Forsyth, Nicole Molloy, Richard Mutter, Alisdair Wilson

Pr. 6: Amy Freel, Daniel Gregory, Pr. 5:Adam Noble, Declan Weir

Pr. 4: Jillian Carson, Alexander Love, Pr. 3:Blair Cairns, Stephanie McManus

Pr. 2: Hollie Bain, Blake Sloan. Two Primary 1 pupils will join the Club in the Spring.

Pupils of the Week - Week beginning: 20th August

Pr. 1: House points not started, Pr. 2: Robert Innes & Katie McAskill, Pr. 3: Lauren Hodge

Pr. 4: Jillian Carson & Christopher Hulme, Pr. 5: Emma McQueen, Pr. 6: Rachel Murdoch

Pr. 7: Alisdair Wilson House of the Week: Cumbrae

Week beginning: 27th August

Pr. 1: House points not started, Pr. 2: Rebecca McConnachie, Pr. 3: Cameron Mangan

Pr. 4: Mairi MacLean & Victoria Jackson, Pr. 5: Katie Sutherland, Pr. 6: Eilidh Black

Pr. 7: Thomas Innes House of the Week: Iona

Week beginning: 4th September

Pr. 1: J Rasmussen, Pr. 2: J Lyne & A Galbraith, Pr. 3: P Das Pr. 4: N Thomson, J MacLean,

Pr. 5: C Campbell, Pr. 6: D Mitchell Pr. 7: L Gallacher, K Hannah House of the Week: Arran

Week beginning: 10th September

Pr. 1: M Kelly, Pr. 2: J Gourley & K Stirling, Pr. 3: C Murdoch Pr. 4: S McDougall & D McKinnon,

Pr. 5: J Drainer, Pr. 6: N Valenti Pr. 7: N McLaren, G Dougans House of the Week: Bute

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Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church – Rev Bill Armstrong

On Sunday 14 October we will celebrate the harvest. This may be seen to be anachronistic when there is little evidence, even in our small communities such as ours, living as we do on the edge of the countryside, of the kind of harvests the older generation probably remember, as I do myself.

I grew up in a small community in Kirkcudbrightshire. From our home I could watch hay and corn being cut. When I was old enough I was allowed to drive a tractor in the fields as the sheaves were collected and built into stacks. In those days there was a natural rhythm to life that followed the seasons of the year.

Nowadays, we can have salads at Christmas and strawberries in the spring. The supermarket shelves never seem to vary. All kinds of produce is available all year round.

Why, then, does the Church persist in celebrating the harvest in October?

Just as the Church celebrates Christmas and Easter at specific times of the year, so the Church makes time to remember that the gifts of nature, which we can so easily take for granted, are the gifts of God. It is also incumbent on the Church to ensure that the gifts of God are shared equitably with those who have little to survive on. This year our harvest gifts will go to the Glasgow City Mission which helps those who have made the streets of the city their home. We try to help the City Mission as best we can throughout the year, but by measuring their need against our plenty at this particular time of the year we remind ourselves of the goodness of God, and that we should share what we have in plenty.

W Armstrong

We meet for WORSHIP every Sunday at 11.00am
There is a SUNDAY CLUB and CRECHE for youngsters every Sunday at 11.00am.
Sunday 14 October, 11.00am – HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Our Church organisations meet as follows:
First and last Mondays of month, from 3.45pm – OUT OF THE ARK in Skelmorlie Community Centre
Contact: Fiona Neilson (529158)
Every Monday at 7.30pm – BIBLE STUDY Contact: The Minister (520703)
Every Tuesday at 7.30pm – BALLROOM DANCING Contact: Andrew Adair (520411)
Every Wednesday at 7.30pm – SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING Contact: Helen Howie (522842)
Fortnightly, on Thursdays at 7.30pm – MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Contact: The Minister (520703)
Every Friday, 12.30-1.30pm – FRIDAY LUNCHES Contact: Margaret Spence (522300)
We meet for WORSHIP every Sunday at 11.00am
There is a SUNDAY CLUB and CRECHE for youngsters every Sunday at 11.00am.
Our Church organisations get going again this month.
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Every Tuesday at 7.30pm – BALLROOM DANCING Contact: Andrew Adair (520411)
Every Wednesday at 7.30pm – SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING Contact: Helen Howie (522842)
Fortnightly, on Thursdays at 7.30pm – MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Contact: The Minister (520703)

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

Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay – Senior Citizens' Christmas Party 2007

Unfortunately there is no longer a Toc H branch in Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay. However, a new committee, the Senior Citizens' Social Fund has been formed and the Christmas Party will take place as usual!

A new invitation list is being compiled, so anyone aged 65 and over, residing in either Skelmorlie or Wemyss Bay and wishing to attend the party should contact Iona Doull on 520390.

Names must be submitted before the end of October.

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The History of Halloween

Halloween is believed to have originated in Ireland as the pagan harvest festival. Halloween is now celebrated on 31 October in much of the western world, including Canada, America, Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

The original Halloween lantern was made from a turnip with a burning lump of coal inside. Irish immigrants took the 'neep lantern' custom to North America in the 1840's, but a shortage of turnips and the fact that pumpkins are easier to carve meant that the 'neep lantern' was soon replaced by a pumpkin lantern.

Making a Halloween lantern

Pumpkin skin can be quite tough so an adult should supervise lantern making.

1. Cut a circle in the stem end and lift out a lid.
2. Scrape out the seeds into a bowl and scrape the flesh into another bowl.
3. Carve a scary face.
4. Add a tea light.
5. Find a tasty way to use the pumpkin flesh and seeds by trying our pumpkin pie or pumpkin soup recipes.

Curried Pumpkin Soup
Serves 4

1 grown-up to help
2 tbsp olive oil
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 tbsp mild curry paste
1kg diced pumpkin
1l low-sodium chicken or vegetable stock
200ml pot natural yoghurt
Chopped chives, to garnish

1. Heat the oil in a large non-stick saucepan and cook the onion over a medium heat for 5 minutes until soft.
2. Add the curry paste and pumpkin and cook, stirring for 2-3 minutes.
3. Add the stock and simmer for 20 minutes or until tender.
4. Allow the mixture to cool slightly and put in a blender and blend until smooth.
5. Return to the pan and stir in the yoghurt. Add ground black pepper to taste.
6. Spoon into bowls, and garnish with chives.

Perfect for warming up after trick-or-treating.

The pumpkin seeds can be roasted to make a tasty snack. Once you have taken them out of the pumpkin, rinse them in water and pat dry with kitchen paper. Put the seeds in a roasting tin brushed with a little olive or vegetable oil and, if you like, some ground spices and bake in a moderately hot oven for about 20 minutes. Give the seeds a stir as they bake and keep an eye on them to make sure they don't burn. Try them as a lunchbox snack or to add some crunch to salads, risotto or pasta.

Halloween Word Search

P	H	P	T	I	B	L	Y	S	E	H	V	Z	R	T	U	M	A	K	H
C	A	F	U	S	D	F	R	R	D	M	C	A	H	E	H	L	F	S	A
B	L	G	F	M	T	A	B	A	Q	R	U	D	M	O	D	P	N	A	U
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C	N	O	B	H	S	X	J	C	T	R	R	C	U	E	P	T	O	C	O
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apple cider
bag of treats
bat
black cat
bob for apples
broomstick
candy apples
candy bars
candy corn
candy treats
caramel apples
cauldron
costume
costume party
ghost
ghost costume
goblin
haunted house
hay ride
hot cider
jack o lantern
mask
monster
pumpkin
spider
treat bag
trick or treat
vampire
witch
witch costume

Halloween Maze

Can you find your way through the maze from the witch to the ghost?

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

Beavers: The Colony are back in full swing and working towards more badges, along with enjoying a few frantic Beaver games.

Cubs: The Tiger Pack are continuing their monthly Centenary programme with a recent "Bring a Friend Night", the night introduced the fun of scouting to a new group of local children resulting in three new members to the pack. By the time of reading this month's village news, the Tiger Pack will also have completed their first visit of the session which will be a visit to Lunderston Bay, where a Ranger will help the Cubs explore and discover the local beach front, with the night ending with a "sausage sizzle".
Already the Eagle Pack have had a taste of Scouting in the great outdoors with a recent outdoor activities night and as you read this article I know a number of local mothers will also have sampled the "fun" of Cubs with a "Mother & Cub" night. September will see the first of the pack Investitures and Going Up Ceremonies when new cubs make their promise and a number of the older cubs move on to the Scout Troop. 12 cubs and 3 leaders added their support to the Tartan Army at Hampden Park for the Euro 2008 qualifier between Scotland v Lithuania football game, with the perfect result, a great day was enjoyed by all.

Pack Holiday 2008!!
Yes the planning has started already with two Cub Scout Leaders visiting "The Fylde Scout HQ" Camp site at Lytham St. Annes where the Packs will holiday next July.

Scouts:
The troop have now started back with a mixture of new Scouts and a few Scouts from last year. The new Leaders have asked that we encourage all previous troop members still of scouting age, 10½ to 14 years old, to come along.

Explorers:
The Unit continues to grow in size with five new members moving up from the Scout Troop.
Already this session four members of the unit have completed their practice Duke of Edinburgh Bronze hike and hopefully they will have completed their final hike by late September, leaving them only their service activity to finish. September also saw members of the Unit attend the selection camp for the "Ayrshire Contingent" to the Blair Atholl 2008 Jamborette. The unit will also be spending a weekend at the Lochgoilhead Scout Activity Centre.

Group: Tickets are now on sale for this year's Christmas Pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock. The production this year is "Beauty & Beast" produced by the creators of BBC TV's "The Tweenies"
Please contact Iain Carmichael on 01475 520697 or Email"The71stAyrshireScoutGroup@Yahoo.co.uk"

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

There will be no Bible Club or Youth Group on Monday 15th October or Monday 22nd October due to the school holidays. We are planning a Youth Group outing however, find out more at the club! The regular Monday clubs resume on Monday 29th October. 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 P7 and high school, with similar activities suitable for that age, including games and a tuck shop. Come along and bring a friend! The clubs are run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM) and there are no fees for either club. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Bible Club starting and we are thankful to everyone who has supported us throughout that time. Contact Stephen Renton for more information on 01505 355994.

Emotional Freedom Technique

Lynda Kelly
(Heavenly Holistics)

Louise Mackie
(Transitions)

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Stuart McMillan of the SNP is a list MSP for the West of Scotland

I am a local man and I was elected as a Regional MSP for the SNP in the West of Scotland at the Scottish Parliamentary election in May this year. I grew up in Port Glasgow and now live in Greenock with my wife and baby daughter. I am a Greenock Morton fan and hope that the new "air of optimism" running through Scotland, especially after the spectacular win against France in the Euro 2008 qualifier, will extend to Cappielow.

As a Regional MSP, I cover the 9 constituencies in the West of Scotland region although I will ensure an Inverclyde voice is heard loud and clear at Parliament. To date, and even before becoming an MSP I campaigned to save the Maternity Unit and the A+E services at the IRH. Now I am campaigning against car parking charges at the IRH.

I am a member of two committees in Parliament – Justice and Audit. The Justice Committee have just announced a review of the Police Force and the role of the Police in today's society. We will also be looking at many other issues over the four year period. Despite my reservations, the Audit Committee is actually quite interesting. It looks at all the public bodies and how they spend our taxes allocated to them. Thanks to Audit Scotland and the Accounts Commission we now have a clearer picture as to how our taxes are spent.

I know that anti-social behaviour, the lack of police on the streets, lack of sporting facilities and unemployment take top priority among voters. As an MSP I have been meeting with relevant organisations to discuss these issues and how to make progress on the current situation.

I am keen to promote the excellent aspects of Inverclyde and the West of Scotland. There is the untapped tourism potential, the high educational standards achieved each year by our pupils and schools and the youth of our communities who get involved with the many local groups and organisations and who represent themselves, their families and Inverclyde to the highest standard. We have a lot to shout about and it's important to remember that not every young person / youth is out to cause trouble.

As an MSP, whether it is as a Constituency or Regional, The most important thing that I can do is to represent my constituents to the best of my ability. That is what I will do whilst I have the privilege of being an MSP.

Contact details:

Email: stuart.mcmillan.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Website: http://www.stuart-mcmillan.net Tel.: 0131 348 6810 Fax: 0131 348 6809

Surgeries:

Wemyss Bay Community Centre - Saturday 10 Nov, 12 Jan, 8 Mar, 10 May 09.00 – 09.45 hrs.

Youth Club

The p4 - p7 youth club meets every Thursday during term time from 7 - 8.30pm in the Community Centre. There are a number of different activities on offer including computer games, football, basketball, badminton, pool, table tennis, board games and arts and crafts. In the near future we intend extending the range of equipment and activities on offer. There is also a tuck shop offering a range of crisps, drinks and sweets.

Since the club started there has been no increase in admission costs however we now find that we have no option but to increase the weekly entrance fee to 75p. This will come into effect following the school October holiday.

For more information about the youth club phone Liz on 520205 or Eila on 529375

Inverkip & Wemyss Bay Community Council

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Rogues Room at the Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm. You are welcome to attend any of the meetings or alternatively find out what is going on by logging on to: www.inverkip-wemyssbaycc.co.uk

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.

Woodland Association

The Woodland Association will be holding a Bird Feeder morning on Wednesday 17th October from 10.30am - 12noon in the Community Centre. During the morning we will be making a variety of bird food and feeders to help our feathered friends survive the cold winter months. We will then take a walk into the woods to put the feeders up. There is a £1 per head charge for the session to help towards the costs of the ingredients. Children must be accompanied and supervised at all times by a responsible adult.

Work continues to complete the final rhododendron clearance in the terraced garden area. We are aware that the area looks desolate at present but please bear with us. The top wood has flourished in the last two years since completion of the work there as the native undergrowth has returned, bringing with it an enormous increase in insect, animal and bird life. The terraced area and its approaches will see a similar change now that the non-native species have been removed.

We have received a number of calls from residents who are concerned about the state of the wall bordering Ardgowan Road. This area is owned by Inverclyde Council and they have responsibility for its maintenance. The Woodland Association first raised concerns about the safety of the wall over four years ago. It did take some time, and a lot of effort by the then councillor Eric Forbes, to establish exactly who was responsible but despite clarifying this, the council has still failed to deal with the problem. We would suggest that any complaints be directed to the Roads Department, and Grounds Maintenance Department and copied to your three local councillors. Perhaps, if more people complain, there will be a chance of having the problem resolved.

If you would like any further information about any of the work of the Woodland Association please contact Eila Roberts on 529375 or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

Duncan McNeil MSP

I should begin by saying how pleased I am to be writing this column. When I wrote my article for the September edition, I feared that Eila Roberts' impending departure from the editor's chair might make that issue the last. But I should not have been so pessimistic. Not only do I applaud Eila for her unstinting work with the Village News over the years, I congratulate the community association for taking up the baton and keeping this valuable community resource going.

You may recall that my theme back in September was that the prohibitively low ceiling on the value of small claims cases in Scotland is denying justice to decent people who have been wronged. To recap quickly, small claims proceedings let you pursue someone who owes you money, has sold you faulty goods, has damaged your property etc. quickly, cheaply and without hiring a lawyer.

I had therefore been calling on the Justice Minister to bring the mere £750 upper limit here into line with the more realistic £5,000 limit which operates south of the border. And the Minister did accept my argument that there was a need for the limit to be re-visited if the Small Claims Court was to do the job for which it was intended.

I was pleased, then, when I read the announcement some weeks later that, from January 2008, the upper limit on the value of claims which can be dealt with under small claims procedures will be raised to £3,000.

This, of course, is a welcome step forward. But why, I wonder, was it decided not to bring the limit into line with the £5,000 ceiling which operates in England and Wales? Isn't a homeowner in Wemyss Bay who has been sold a defective £4,000 kitchen just as entitled to justice as a homeowner in Morecambe Bay with the same defective £4,000 kitchen?

Surely the Executive is not taking decisions just so it can be different from England, or to keep lawyers in a job?

I have questioned the Minister over this and have asked that the operation of these limits be reviewed been after they have been in place for some months.

I await his comments with interest. Justice you cannot access is no justice at all – and when simply lifting an arbitrary barrier would let people pursue the cowboys who think they can act with impunity, why only lift it half way?

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David Cairns MP

New business start ups show Inverclyde is turning the corner

Sometimes when you read about Inverclyde, you could be forgiven for thinking that all our businesses, factories and shops had closed down. But nothing could be further from the truth and recent figures from the four main Scottish Clearing Banks paint a bright picture. Latest business start up figures from March to June this year show that 99 people started their own businesses, a 52% rise on the 2006 figure and one of the largest increases anywhere in Scotland. That's 99 people who have so much faith in our area that they decided to invest their time and money in Inverclyde, because they believe that there is a market here and that their business can succeed.

In the course of my work as an MP I've met several of these new entrepreneurs and I know that a number of them come from Wemyss Bay. Some take huge risks to get a foot on the business ladder, even going so far as putting their homes up as security for their new businesses. Starting out on your own is a massive undertaking and I have nothing but admiration for the people who are willing to risk all to be their own boss. I wish some of the doom and gloom merchants who spend their time talking down our area could meet these budding entrepreneurs; they are full of enthusiasm for their businesses - and for Inverclyde- and they are confident that they will succeed.

Inverclyde is changing and it's changing for the better. All you have to do is walk around the Greenock Waterfront or go up to Port Glasgow to see the sheer amount of regeneration that is going on. There is an air of optimism about the place and the figures from the Clearing Banks prove that people are picking up on that. A generation ago, who would have believed that almost 100 new businesses would start up in Inverclyde in the space of just a few months. It's great to see so many people starting up on their own and it shows that we are beginning to turn the corner.

And one of the best things about these new businesses is their sheer range and diversity. In the last year we have seen everything from hairdressers to coffee shops to web design companies set up in Inverclyde. It's a really exciting development and proves that we are entering a new employment era, with a wide range of jobs in all sorts of small and medium sized enterprises becoming available. I, for one, would prefer see hundreds of small, vibrant, locally grown companies rather than several large ones, as they offer a broad range of employment opportunities and if one company closes then there are others who can absorb the displaced workers. The days when we could rely on a few large factories offering thousands of low skilled jobs are gone; niche businesses, catering for specific needs, are the way forward.

Another surprising, but welcome, fact is the variety of people deciding to set up on their own. Gone are the days when only young men started businesses. Now there are increasing numbers of women going it alone, and it is not uncommon to find people going into business as a second career after 20 or 30 years working for someone else, often in a completely unrelated field.

Starting your own business certainly takes courage and hard work and I'd like to wish our 99 newest entrepreneurs well. The next Richard Branson has to come from somewhere – Who's to say it won't be Wemyss Bay?

Contact Details:

David Cairns MP
20 Union Street
Greenock
PA 16 8JL
Tel: 791820 Fax: 791821

Email: cairnsd@parliament.uk

W.E.A. SKELMORLIE AND WEMYSS BAY BRANCH

The new programme for the Autumn session is finally out so here are details of our first few meetings.
Wednesday, 3rd. October -"The Hen Harriers of Clyde Muirshiel Park" An illustrated talk about this fascinating bird found in our local area. Duncan Watt.
10th. October - "The Life of Agatha Christie" - You've read her books now find out more about the private life of this prolific crime writer. Dorothy McMahon.
17th October - "Inverclyde Tourist Group" A group of knowledgable volunteers working to make tourists aware of what Inverclyde has to offer. Isobel Lamb.
24th October - The Autumn outing to Glasgow's newly-refurbished Botanic Gardens.
31st October - "The Immigrant Ship" A story of local history. Joan Biggar.
7th November - "Holmwood House" Glasgow's hidden gem of a villa designed by renowned architect "Greek" Thomson. Roger Watts.
As you can see from the above topics, the Workers' Educational Association aims to provide interesting and mind-broadening talks on a vast array of subjects. Our local group is a lively one of folk from all ages and backgrounds, and you do not have to join to enjoy talks which may interest you. Everyone is welcome and tea/coffee/biscuits await you on arrival. Wednesday mornings 9.45 - 11.30 in the Reading Room of Skelmorlie Community Centre. £2.50 or £2.00 Concessions. For further details or help with transport please contact Jenny McGee, 521090.

And Now For the Small Print . . .

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Halloween Recipe

Pumpkin Pie
Serves 6-8

Pumpkin pie is a traditional American recipe associated with Halloween and Thanksgiving

Ingredients:
One and a half pounds (675g) pumpkin, peeled and fibrous centre removed, cut into cubes
4 oz. (125g) caster sugar
3 eggs
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
half a teaspoon of ground ginger
3 teaspoons ground cinnamon
5 tablespoons milk
10 oz. (275g0 plain flour
two and a half ounces (65g) hard margarine
two and a half ounces of lard
3-4 tablespoons water

Cooking Instructions:

1. Place the pumpkin in a colander over a pan of boiling water and steam for about 20 minutes or until tender
2. Mash to a pulp and cool
3. Sift the flour and two teaspoons of cinnamon into a bowl
4. Rub in the fats till mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs
5. Mix with water to form a firm dough, lightly knead and roll out on a floured board
6. Line a 10.5 inch x 7.5 inch (26 x 18.5cm) tin with the pastry and reserve the trimmings
7. Prick the base, line with greaseproof paper and baking beans
8. Bake at 375F, Gas Mark 5, 190C for 15 minutes
9. Remove the beans and paper and bake for a further 5 minutes
10. Whisk the eggs and sugar together with the nutmeg, ginger and 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon
11. Fold in the mashed pumpkin and 4 tablespoons of milk and pour into the pastry case
12. Roll out the pastry trimmings and cut into strips with a pastry wheel
13. Brush the strips and the pastry edges with the remaining milk
14. Position strips in a lattice pattern over the pie top
15. Bake at 375F, Gas Mark 5, 190C for about 40 minutes, or until filling has set
16. Cut into wedges and serve warm or cold with whipped cream.

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