

Wemyss Bay Village News

214th Edition

November 2007

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

Community Association

As we let you know last month The Village News is now a team effort by The Community Association, the group that bring you your Gala, Christmas light switch on and also oversee the running of the community centre. We would like to thank everyone now involved in producing your Village News and also everyone in distributing it, who appreciate that getting them out at the beginning of the month is very important as we don't want anyone to miss what is going on in the village.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Rogues Room at the Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm and at our last meeting we had a council representative there to discuss the lack of facilities in Wemyss Bay. We are now working very hard towards improving that situation and will keep you posted on the next stage of our project. Our next meeting will be the 7th November and our AGM will be in the Community Centre on Sunday 25th November at 7.00pm.

We would like to also take this opportunity to thank past members of the Community Association who have now moved from the area. Finlay and Lorraine McFee who were very actively involved in organising the Gala and Christmas Lights switch on in addition to Finlay being our Treasurer for many years. For those who remember he also organised the annual village cleanup (something maybe we should be considering doing again). Our past Secretary George Anderson and his wife Muriel have also moved to pastures new, down to Chichester to join the rest of their family. We wish them all well in their new homes.

Any articles, information or queries should be directed to villagenews@wemyssbay.net or placed in the Village News Folder in the Spar. The closing date for the Dec edition will be 6pm Friday 23rd November.

Christmas Light Switch On - Friday 30th November

Believe it or not it's that time of year again!! With Christmas beckoning, it is time for us all once again to meet around our tree. Just for this year our tree will be shining brightly from the Community Centre car park due to the school refurbishment. We will meet there at 6.30pm for our usual Christmas Carols with the much needed help from our school children and IF we all sing loud enough Santa will HOPEFULLY find us in our new spot. Afterwards please join us for some festive cheer in the Community Centre.

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/>

Well Done Susie

Congratulations to our Judo Club coach Susie Kirkpatrick who has just scooped a top award for her dedicated work with special needs children. Susie helped coach the Scottish Special Olympics judo team to win gold and has now won her own national award from the British Judo Association for all her hard work. She was given the Make A Difference Award for her major contribution to the sport at a ceremony at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. As well as travelling to Glasgow to coach the Scottish special needs team Susie runs our very own Wemyss Bay Judo Club in the Community Centre every Wednesday from 7.30 – 9.00 and every Friday from 6.30 – 8.00. Why not come along and give it a try.

Local Artist Wins Top Gong

Well done to local Wemyss Bay artist Anne McLean who won the Greenock Art Clubs "selectors choice" statuette recently. The club celebrated its 130th anniversary and held its annual exhibition in the McLean Museum with around 100 paintings on show. Anne who has been a member of the club for more than 20 years has always enjoyed painting especially life drawing.

The Country Club

(Previously known as the Country People's Club) will meet on 14th November at 2.30pm in THE CHARTROOM, KIP MARINA, INVERKIP, when the speaker will be Lesley Smith on the subject of "Memories of Kuwait".

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 13th & 27th November. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 6th, 20th November.

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.

Gardening Tip for November

Raise height and final cut for lawns, apply autumn feed now if not already done. Clean and overhaul mowers for over winter. On good days dig over vacant border areas for winter weathering Beech and oak leaves 6 inches deep make a good over wintering mulch for tender perennials. Clear up other fallen leaves and rubbish, keep garden tidy over winter.

Village News Distributor

Thank you to all the people that emailed us when spotted Jill and Harry on their rounds with their bright orange shopping trolley. Hope you all enjoy your prizes.

PTA

Just a quick update from the PTA, we have had our first fund raiser, the hot dog morning which went really well. The next date for your diary is November 8th; this is the date for the Gifts Galore Night which is being held at the Community Centre. The entrance fee is £2.50 and includes a glass of wine. There are going to be a variety of stall there including, handbags, Belgian Chocolate, handmade jewellery, Osborne Books, Bobbie McCabe Designs, hand made soaps and many more. It is on from 7.00pm till 9.30pm so come along have a glass of wine and do some Christmas shopping too!

The PTA is looking for more people to come along and lend support, remember that the more we can do the more the kids benefit, so come along to a meeting they are fun, informal and don't take too long!

Thanks Donna Galvin

Youth Club

The p4 - p7 youth club meets every Thursday during term time from 7 - 8.30pm in the Community Centre. For more information about the youth club phone Liz on 520205 or Eila on 529375

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.

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Ardgowan Football Development – John Reid

AFD 2007/2008

The AFD Sessions for 2007/2008 are as follows:

Primary 1	12:05 – 13:20	Tom McClurg & Alison Polea
Primary 2	13:25 – 14:40	Iain Buchan & Rio Ferdinand
Primary 3	14:45 – 16:00	Bobby Pyott & Donald Stirling
Primary 4	12:45 – 14:15	Keith Jackson & Kenny Wilson
Primary 5	12:45 – 14:15	Graham Anderson & Kayliegh Ann
Primary 6	14:15- 15:45	John Reid, Craig Hoey & Kenny Lynn
Primary 7/Girls	14:15 – 15:45	Graham Todd & John Rush

There are very few spaces left in any of our sessions but parents should contact Iain on 07791964277 if you have any enquiries.

The ATFC Under 12 Team plays in the Johnstone & District 11 'A' Side League. Most of the matches will be played, on a Saturday morning, on the grass park behind the Community Centre and we would encourage parents to come along and support the team (Their first two home matches have ended in narrow 6 – 5 and 7 – 3 defeats so goals and entertainment are guaranteed!). We would like to thank Parkdean Holiday Park for their sponsorship of the ATFC Under 12's.

August	September	October	November	December	January
Registration Day	Fair Sporting Masters Golf Event	School Holidays	AFD trip to Soccer Circus?	Xmas Fun Day Sun 2nd Dec @ Greenock Sports Centre	AFD Restarts 6th January
AFD Restarts		No AFD on 14th or 21st October			
ATFC Restarts		No ATFC on 17th October		Xmas Holidays	ATFC Restarts 9th January
AFD Old Crocks		ATFC @ Largs		No AFD/ATFC until 6th & 9th Jan	
February	March	April	May	June	July
AFD £1,000 Grand Draw	AFD Coaches Conference	Easter Holidays	AFD Restarts	AFD Gala Day	Football Tournaments
AFD Race Night			ATFC @ WB	Football Tournaments	
			AFD Old Crocks		

Coach & Player Profile – Primary 2 Session

Name:	Euan McDonald	Iain Buchan
Age:	6	49 (But not for long!!)
School/Job:	St Ninians	Business Analyst
Hobbies:	Bike/Swimming/Drama	Golf
Favourites:		
Football	TeamScotland	Greenock Morton
Football Player	James McFadden	Lev Yashin (Russia)
Holiday	France	Mawgan Porth (Cornwall)
Food	Pizza and Macaroni	My Wife's Cooking (crawler!)



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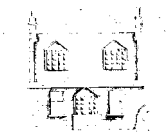
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HELLO - FROM WEMYSS BAY ON THE HILL!

We're back and we are still on the hill, things are great and there's lots going on from Pr. 1 to Pr. 7.

Primary 7 have been sending stories about what is going on in Wemyss Bay Primary to the Largs and Millport Weekly. The following four stories were written by Thomas Innes, Sophie McQueen, Lauren Gallacher and Jamie Roberts.

Potted Sports

Wemyss Bay Primary pupils are all divided into four Houses which are called Arran, Bute, Cumbræ and Iona. Through the year all the Houses take part in different events. These events are Potted Sports, Sports Day, Beetle Drive, Dotty Challenge, Maths Problem Solving and Knots and Crosses. Points are awarded to each House after each event. At the end of the year the House with the most points win the Jubilee Cup.

To start off the year the first event was Potted Sports. On Friday 14th September everyone in Wemyss Bay Primary, including the Nursery, participated in Potted Sports. Pupils were divided into four teams in each House. The House Captains were responsible for looking after the younger children. For Potted Sports we took part in activities including Leaping Ladders, Football Dribbling, Target, Putting, Slalom and Quoits and Beanbags. Most of the pupils enjoyed the running and jumping events which were Relay, Hurdles, Slalom and Leaping Ladders. The pupils found the Ball Pool Shoot one of the hardest events, throwing balls into small target holes. At the end the scores were added up and results given, 1st – Iona, 2nd – Arran, 3rd – Bute and 4th – Cumbræ.

Everyone had a great time doing all the activities and were kept busy all morning.

Safe Kids

Recently Primary 7 took part in Safe Kids which was held at Finlaystone.

Safe Kids is organised and run by Strathclyde Police. The aim of it is to show us, through different activities, the dangers we might face at home and in the wider community. The activities were Drug Safety, which was a policeman telling us about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. The next one was Fire Safety, which was all about what can cause house fires and problems escaping from them, for example, a cup of tea on the DVD player and the bike in the way of getting out. Then there was Heart Start which was showing us how to put a patient in the recovery position. After that we went to the Coast Guard and they were teaching us how to save someone from drowning. Next we went to Road Safety, which was about a road accident where we had to discuss whose fault it was, the driver or the pedestrian. After that we went on the Invernet Bus and learned about safety on the internet. Finally we went to Stranger Danger which told us why not to tackle strangers in case they were armed, but to phone the police.

Red Arrows

Recently the Red Arrows came to Greenock to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the QE2. Every class went out to see them and I'm sure everyone was amazed by them because they were cheering them on and waving their hands. The display started at around quarter past twelve and lasted around thirty minutes. They did Barrel Rolls, Loop the Loops and flew very low sometimes. At one point they split up, everybody thought they had gone away and were disappointed, but soon they came back and everybody was happy because it is better than doing Maths! A lot of people wished they were in one of the planes doing Barrel Rolls, Loop the Loops, flying low and high then doing near misses at approximately 500mph. The noise was deafening and some children covered their ears because of it. Then the jets let out jet stream and at one point they did a circle half blue half red. It was spectacular. The Primary One's, after the display, were pretending to be the Red Arrows, running around the playground with their arms outstretched.

Junior Road Safety Officers

1st to 5th October was Walk to School Week. We all hope we did well. The results of Walk to School Week will be in next month's news letter.

Mr Glass' Garden Club

Mr Glass has been working with the Gardening Club to make our school more homely. Mr Glass entered the Florafest Flower Festival and Wemyss Bay came second for their tub of flowers. As usual we entered the Schools' Gardens contest. Unfortunately we didn't win but at a special assembly we awarded Mr Glass a certificate and a box of chocolates. We would just like to say Well Done to Mr Glass!! We think the garden is beautiful.

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MacMillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 28th September Wemyss Bay Primary held a MacMillan Coffee Morning. Parents and relatives came to hear the children sing. Each class sang two songs with Primaries 2 + 3 and Primaries 6 + 7 sang together. Primary 1 sang "Put Your Finger on Your Nose", with actions, and "The Big Ship Sails". Primary 4 and Primaries 6 + 7 sang a variety of songs from Disney. Primaries 2 + 3 sang "Daddy's taking us to the Zoo Tomorrow" and "Rocking around the Mulberry Bush" and Primary 5 sang Good Morning and Building a House. We learned all these songs with our singing teacher Mr Murray. We went onto the stage, the curtains opened and all you saw were lots of people sitting there ready to listen. We sang to them and they applauded.

We all had great fun learning these songs and it was obvious that all the parents and relatives had great fun listening to them. In total we raised £135.82 for MacMillan Nurses.

Pupils of the Week

Week beginning: 17th September

Pr. 1: Joseph McCroray

Pr. 2: Katy Stirling

Pr. 3: Adam Hardie

Pr. 4: Jordan Marshall & Christopher Hulme

Pr. 5: Jennifer Drainer

Pr. 6: Craig MacLean

Pr. 7: Jamie Roberts & Sophie McQueen

House of the Week: Iona

Week beginning: 24th September

Pr. 1: Erica Horn

Pr. 2: Adam Bissett & Simon Drainer

Pr. 3: Aimee McFadyen

Pr. 4: Alicia Robson

Pr. 5: Graeme Wilson

Pr. 6: Rachel Murdoch

Pr. 7: Cameron McClurg

House of the Week: Cumbrae

Week beginning: 1st October

Pr. 1: Jonathan Irwin

Pr. 2: David Hendry

Pr. 3: Cameron Mangan

Pr. 4: Emma Smith & Lee Bartlett

Pr. 5: Graeme Wilson

Pr. 6: Greg Pollock

Pr. 7: Kelly Porteous

House of the Week: Cumbrae

Next month: Walk to School Week results, Primary 1's birthday party for Lenny and Hallowe'en party and disco.

Compiled by Rachel Murdoch, Primary 6 and Dario Zavaroni, Primary 5

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The History of Fireworks

The discovery of gunpowder used for fireworks is believed to have happened by accident in China 2000 years ago. A cook mixed 3 common kitchen ingredients with explosive effects!

The resulting black powder was next placed inside the hollow of a bamboo stick and when thrown into a fire, the gases produced caused an immense build up of pressure and blasted the tube apart. The basic fire-cracker was born.

An English scholar called Roger Bacon was one of the first Europeans to study gunpowder. He knew his findings had dangerous potential and wrote his notes in code in case they fell into the wrong hands. His code was so good that it took hundreds of years to crack!

Credit for developing fireworks into a true art form goes to the Italians. It is they who were able to launch them upwards and explode in a fountain of colours for the enjoyment of others. However we should remember that not everyone likes fireworks and to keep pets indoors.

Bonfire Cake

Sponge:

175g self raising flour

175g caster sugar

175g soft margarine

3 eggs size 3 beaten

1 orange, grated rind and juice

15 ml cocoa powder sieved.

To finish:

75g butter, softened

225g icing sugar sieved

red and yellow food colouring,

Chocolate orange sticks.

Heat the oven to 180c/Gas mark 4.

Grease a 1.2l pudding basin. Have ready, a baking tray.

Beat together flour, margarine, eggs and 2x15ml spoons of orange juice and rind until light and fluffy. Spoon half the mixture into the basin. Beat cocoa into the remaining half. Add to the basin and stir gently to marble the two cake mixes.

Ask a grown-up if you need help with the oven. Place the basin on the baking tray and cook in the oven for 30 mins. Cover with tinfoil and bake for a further 30 mins. Check with a skewer to see if it is cooked. The skewer should come out clean when removed from the cake. Turn out and cool on a wire rack.

Make icing by beating butter with icing sugar and 2x15ml spoons of orange juice until fluffy. Colour two thirds of icing using yellow/orange food colouring and one third a deeper red. Spread over the cake to give a flame effect. Decorate with chocolate orange sticks.

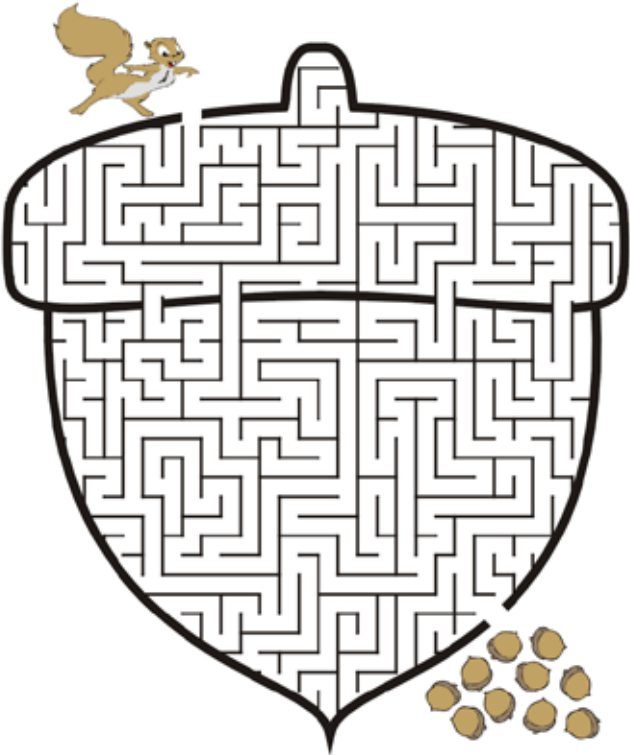
Bonfire Word Search

R	Y	R	J	C	Z	T	R	Y	J	B	G	G	H	C
P	E	P	O	R	A	E	O	U	M	M	U	R	D	V
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Maze

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Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church – Rev Bill Armstrong

At the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month 1918, the Armistice was signed that brought the First World War – “the war to end all wars” – to an end. On Sunday 11th November we will commemorate the 89th anniversary of that day out of loyalty to those who died fighting in defence of our country. But the carnage of that and subsequent wars has meant that many millions have died for causes that were seen, at that time, to be just. And the fighting goes on.

Many still bear the physical and mental scars of conflicts around the world; and many now question the legitimacy of wars in which our troops are involved in the likes of Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Remembrance Sunday, in Church and at the War Memorial, we will continue to remember those who died. We will also pray for peace in our world, a world that seems to be teetering blindly toward the abyss of conflict rather than searching for ways to peace.

W Armstrong

We meet for WORSHIP every Sunday at 11.00am – except the Remembrance Service on 11 November which is at 10.45am

There is a SUNDAY CLUB and CRECHE for youngsters every Sunday at 11.00am.

Sunday 11 October, 10.45am – REMEMBRANCE SERVICE in the Church followed by an Act of Remembrance at Noon at the War Memorial.

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, 12.15-1.30pm – FRIDAY LUNCHES

Contact: Margaret Spence (522300)

Wemyss Bay Guides

At the end of August Wemyss Bay Brownies and Guides went to Netherurd in Peebles. As this was our District camp, it meant we were able to meet other Guides and Brownies from Skelmorlie, Inverkip and Greenock.

We took part in loads of fun activities including climbing, raft building and canoeing. Everyone ended up in the lake even Mrs Batley, who was at her final camp! We also made lots of crafts based on our theme of light, including cd mirrors, gel candles and photo frames.

As we are sure most of the village know the highlight of the weekend had to be our 3AM fire alarm! This turned out to be a false alarm but gave us a real insight into what to do in the event of real fire and has encouraged the Guides to start their fire safety badge.

Our future plans for the rest of this session include attending the Girlguiding UK BIG GIG in Manchester to see McFly, taking part in another District Guide camp, this time at South Newton and hopefully with no fire alarms!

If anyone is interested in attending Guides or in helping on a Tuesday evening please contact us at girlguidingwemyssbay@yahoo.co.uk or pop along on a Tuesday at 7.30!

Thank you

I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all my friends in Mount Stuart Drive, for being so supportive during my recent stay in hospital. I am so grateful to you all for all that you did, especially bringing Rebecca and Josh to visiting....also to everyone for lovely cards, flowers and good wishes...

I realise what a lucky person I am to have you all in my life...

Love Margaret Hobson x

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

Beavers: Last month saw 10 Beavers move on to Cubs, which now means our waiting list has re-opened. The Colony are also looking for another leader, any adult who is interested please contact one of the present leaders. Our joint Halloween party with Cubs will take place on 29th October.

Cubs: The Tiger Pack recently had a "Five Sense Night" touch, smell, taste, sound and sight. It was such a good night which kept the boys thinking and time went by very quickly with the Leaders operating five bases. The pack also enjoyed a further night of origami and various games with paper. The Pack recently had a very enjoyable evening at Lunderston Bay with a lovely night weather wise. One of the Rangers was very good with the boys and showed them how to look under the stones for star fish, crabs, hermit crabs and lots of other little beach beasts. He put them in a white tray and told the boys all about them. They had great fun as they were down at the waters edge but had to be careful as the tide was coming in. Needless to say most of them went home with wet feet. The evening ended with the Leaders cooking sausages. Altogether it was the perfect night, warm, dry and no midgies!

Both Cub Packs had a joint weekend camp at Balvonie on 19th -21st Oct.

Again the Cubs and Leaders added their support to the Tartan Army at Hampden Park for the Euro 2008 qualifier between Scotland v Ukraine football game, with the perfect result a great day was enjoyed.

Explorers: Late September and October saw the unit away to an activities weekend at the Scout centre in Lochgoilhead where the boys and leaders had the opportunity to participate in Climbing & Abseiling, a river run through a cold Scottish burn, where the boys seemed to enjoy the fact that the leaders were seen to shiver from the effects of a "ducking" in the river, these were followed by a team session on the Jacobs ladder and archery. On Sunday the activities were the "Big squeeze" an opportunity to slither through a very narrow split in the local hillside followed by a very pleasant afternoon kayaking on the loch. A great weekend was enjoyed by all. The unit's last meeting before the October break saw a patrol challenge night with a number of varied challenges giving the Explorer's the chance to discover if they really could tell own brand coca cola from the real thing. Mum's you will have to stop buying the own brand as they really can tell the difference!

If you wish any further information about the group or any particular section please contact Iain Carmichael on 01475 520697 or Email The71stAyrshireScoutGroup@Yahoo.co.uk or one of the section leaders.

Please contact Iain Carmichael on 01475 520697
or Email "The71stAyrshireScoutGroup@Yahoo.co.uk"

Woodland Association

Over the summer months, the Woodland Association ran a number of very successful activity mornings for children, including a Treasure Hunt and Mini-Beast Safari. In addition two extremely well attended evening Bat Walks took place – unfortunately on the first the bats were not particularly co-operative and only a few were detected, but on the second they were out in force! Following the success of these evenings, members of the association were delighted to be asked to organise bat walks for groups of local Brownies, Guides and Cubs and these walks will take place at the beginning of November.

During the October break a Bird Feeder morning was held in the Community Centre where children had the opportunity to make a variety of bird food and feeders before taking a walk into the wood to hang the feeders up for the local wildlife. If you are walking through the wood, look out for the feeders – they may give you some ideas for feeding the visitors to your garden. Bird feeders and food do not need to be expensive – if you would like some ideas for attracting wildlife to your garden contact Eila on 529375 or look out for the next bird food workshop.

Work on removing the remaining rhododendron from the terraced garden area and its approaches is continuing and is nearing completion. If you are interested in taking part and would like to receive regular email briefings about work dates please contact eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

Finally, although regeneration of native plants is progressing well in the main wood, there is still a need for additional bulbs, seeds and wildflowers both there, and in the terrace area. Once again the Association is appealing for donations to the Bulb Fund. If you have unwanted native plants, such as bluebells or snowdrops in your garden please get in touch. Alternatively you can make a financial donation to allow us to purchase plants – this is one of the best ways as we can ensure that all plants are native, come from sustainable sources and we also get a bulk discount! Donations can be sent care of: Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay Tel: 529375 or handed to any committee member. Cheques should be made payable to Wemyss Bay Woodland Association.

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

It's October already and I'm sure I'm not alone in wondering where this year has gone - the Christmas adverts seem to start as soon as the leaves turn brown these days!

Now that everyone has been stood down from the red alert of a Westminster election (thankfully), we can all focus on the job in hand, improving Scotland. The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) has just taken place and it appears that Scotland has done less well than we would have hoped for. This will have a knock on effect to public services. One good thing that came to light though was that the new Cabinet Secretary for Finance, John Swinney MSP met with officials from the Treasury and we will now access the £900m of Scottish money that had been unclaimed by the previous Scottish Executive.

I attended the party conference in Aviemore. Amongst the activities I took part in, I chaired the RNIB fringe meeting and I took the delegation from Clydeside Action on Asbestos around to meet with relevant Ministers. I am a Vice Chair of the Cross Party Group on Visual Impairment and I have been working with Clydeside Action on Asbestos since early summer.

Recently, I met with and wrote to Strathclyde Passenger Transport about the feasibility of a second hourly train from Wemyss Bay to Glasgow. With the population in Inverclyde shifting westwards, I thought an extra train, especially at peak times, is something that should be examined. I will update you on how this progresses.

I have also invited the Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill MSP to Inverclyde and he has agreed to come. We are just working on arranging a suitable date. This will give the Cabinet Secretary a chance to see at first-hand what areas and issues are giving cause for concern here in Inverclyde. Again, I will update you on this.

Much progress has been made on flooding problems in Inverclyde following a meeting I had with Scottish Water. They have agreed to study and work on problem areas which have been causing real inconvenience to motorists and residents in Inverclyde.

I'm pleased to say that my Parliamentary Office has now opened. Under Parliamentary rules, Regional MSPs must share an office, or else open up a satellite office under acute restrictions. I am therefore sharing an office with Bill Wilson MSP in Paisley. Please feel free to contact my office with any issues.

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 9-9.45am.

The Woodland Association Would Like To Say Goodbye

The Woodland Association said a fond farewell last month to Finlay and Lorraine McFee who have left Wemyss Bay for rural Argyll. Finlay was the association's treasurer for the past 4 years and kept a rigorous control of the purse strings. Both he and Lorraine took part in virtually every work session held by the association in its five years of rhododendron clearance and, although it may be a bit safer now for everyone else, we will miss the "Machete Man". Friends, including association committee members, took Finlay and Lorraine out for a farewell dinner and presented them with gifts and a scrap book covering the history of the area and the last five years' work.

During their time in Wemyss Bay, Finlay and Lorraine were fully involved in the community. Finlay was treasurer of Wemyss Bay Community Council, prior to its merger with Inverkip.

Invernet Bus

Anyone who enjoyed the Invernet Bus at the Gala has the opportunity to enjoy it again. It will be arriving at the Wemyss Bay Community Centre on Wednesday 7th November from 7.00 till 9.30pm.

WEMYSS BAY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

**Friday 30th November 2007
at 6.30pm
at the
Community Centre Car Park**

Come and join the fun!!!



What's on In the Community Centre?

Interested in what's going on in Wemyss Bay? Here is a run-down of everything that happens regularly in the Community Centre. For more information on any of these groups you need to get in touch directly with the relevant organisation.

Monday	6.15 – 7.30pm	Bible Club (P1 – P7)
	7.45 – 9.30pm	Youth Group (P7 - S6)
Tuesday	9.30 – 11.30am	Tiny Tots
Wednesday	7.30 – 9.00pm	Judo
Thursday	9.30 – 11.30am	Tiny Tots
	7.00 – 9.00pm	Youth Club (P4 – P7)
Friday	6.30 – 8.00pm	Judo
Saturday	10.00 – 12.00pm	Graffiti Dance
	2.00 – 3.00pm	Karate
Sunday	10.30 – 11.30am	Sunday School
	12.00 – 4.00pm	Ardgowan Football

Duncan McNeil MSP

A series of tragic individual cases and damning official reports have exposed the extent to which children living in drug abusing households are unidentified, and therefore unprotected, by child protection and other services.

Over the last few months, we've had HM Inspectorate of Education's scathing evaluation of Edinburgh's child protection services, figures confirming an increase in the number of children on child protection registers and the publication of so-called "letters of assurance" between the Scottish Executive and local authorities, police forces and health boards which do anything but "assure". The last of these revealed that any number of children in Inverclyde could be at risk from their drug addicted parents and the council has no way of knowing who or where they are.

This is a complex issue. It impacts on numerous policy areas – most notably child protection, justice, health and local government – and hence numerous Ministerial portfolios. Accordingly, I have been arguing for a single Cabinet Secretary to take charge and lead a concerted programme of Scottish Government action.

In his closing speech in the debate on drugs misuse on 6th September, the Justice Secretary assured me he would discuss the child protection points I had raised with the Cabinet Secretary responsible for children's services. But, when I asked him at Justice and Law Officers Questions on 27th September how these discussions had gone, he had no progress or action to report.

Given that the risks to children forced to live in the dangerous squalor of a drug abusing household could scarcely be more grave, and the apparent inability of the authorities to quantify, let alone address, the problem, I have made representations to the relevant Cabinet Secretaries asking them, as a matter of urgency, to show leadership and take this issue seriously.

I have also tabled a series of parliamentary questions, asking exactly what meetings have taken place between the Cabinet Secretaries and what progress has been made towards improving communication and joint working between the different agencies and services. Can they assure us that effective systems are now in place to identify children affected by drug misuse? Are they confident that the Scottish Government is meeting the needs of such children? And have they designated a lead Cabinet Secretary to co-ordinate and drive forward the necessary action?

The real victims of drugs are the people whose only involvement with them is to have the misfortune to be the child, parent of neighbour of an addict. Their welfare and interests should be the system's top priority, not an afterthought. The Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock PA16 8JL

Tel: (01475) 791820 Fax: (01475) 791821

Textphone: (01475) 791824

David Cairns MP

Local campaigning delivers for the world's poorest people

The Chancellor's recent Comprehensive Spending Review provoked a flurry of comments in the media from right across the political spectrum. But one of the most important parts of it and, indeed, one of the most overlooked, is the amount of extra money that will be spent helping the developing world. I know from the letters and emails I receive that this

is something which people in Wemyss Bay care very deeply about, so I thought I would use this month's column to let you know about the increase in aid. The Spending Review sees the budget for the Department for International Development increase from £5 billion to £9 billion by 2010. This means that the UK's aid budget will have increased by more than threefold in real terms since 1997.

Ever since I was first elected, constituents in Wemyss Bay have contacted me and asked me to lobby the Government about increasing aid to the developing world. Some of you will already know that I have often discussed this with Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development, and it is good to see that the Government has listened to your concerns and made significant increases to overseas development funding for the next three years. Who can ever forget the magnificent 'Make Poverty History' campaign or the part that many local churches played in highlighting the problems of the third world? It's thanks to campaigning by people like you that global poverty was kept firmly at the top of the Government's agenda.

Our Department for International Development is internationally recognised as one of the world's leading development organisations. We can now continue to meet our international development commitments and we are also on track to meet the UN goal of spending 0.7% of our Gross National Income on helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

We can all be proud that Britain is a world leader in efforts to tackle global poverty. The current settlement ensures that our total multilateral aid and bilateral aid to Africa will be more than doubled by 2010, as pledged at Gleneagles. We are also continuing to work towards the Millennium Development Goals and will spend £8.5 billion on education by 2015 and give a further £1 billion to the Global Fund for HIV/Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Climate change hits poorest countries hardest and that's why it's right that we donate £800 million to the Environmental Transformation Fund to help them cope with global warming. These programmes are already lifting 3 million people out of poverty every year - and helping to abolish school fees in Africa resulted in millions of children being enrolled in school.

So your campaigning is having a direct influence on Government policy. But we can't be complacent as there is much more to do. As the Prime Minister outlined in a speech to the UN in July, there are still 72 million children not in school, 30,000 African children die from diseases we know how to prevent or cure and, worst of all, poverty kills a child every three seconds. So the next time you see a campaign on global poverty make sure you write to me about it, for only by continuing to campaign together on this issue can we ensure that our international aid budget continues to expand and that the UK maintains its position as a world leader in the field of international development.

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

Tel: 791820 Fax: 791821 Email: cairnsd@parliament.uk

Final Thought

Create Beauty

We see things not as they are, but as we are. Perceive through the inner eye and you will naturally create beauty in your thoughts.

Five simple rules to be happy:

- 1 Free your heart from hatred
- 2 Free your mind from worries
- 3 Live simply
- 4 Give more
- 5 Expect less

Thought For The Day

If you think you can or think you can't, you're absolutely right.

Henry Ford

A Date for your Diary

On Thursday 15th of November, the Mums and Tots at St.Joseph and St.Patrick's Parish Church are having a Crafty Shopping evening at the church hall in Wemyss Bay. Doors open at 8pm and tickets are available from Jackie Watt at £2 each by 'phoning 522023. On the night there will be card-making, soap-making and jewellery-making demonstrations, and lots of Christmas goodies.

And Now For the Small Print . . .

While we are happy to print anonymous articles we must have a note of the persons name and contact details. 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.

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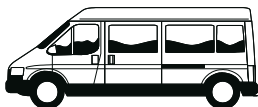
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