

Wemyss Bay Village News

215th Edition

December 2007

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

The Wemyss Bay Community Association wishes all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year

Christmas wishes are sent to you from all of us who help with the Village News and the Community Centre Association. We take this opportunity to thank you for coming along and showing your support and enjoying our festive cheer after the Christmas Light switch on. Hope you enjoy this month's edition and look forward to receiving any ideas or articles from you, just send to the above e-mail address or place in the Village News folder in the Spar.

We held our Annual General Meeting in the community centre on Sunday 25th November and here is part of our Annual Report.

"Once again this has been a very successful year for the Community Association. The Community Centre, one of the busiest in Inverclyde with regular lets, including the Nursery, Tiny Tots, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Junior and Senior Bible Clubs, Youth Club, Dance classes, Judo, Karate, Football and Sunday School, as well as now being used for the Brownies Country Dancing team rehearsals and also hosting the school Basketball and Athletic after school clubs. Out with the times of these lets numerous one off bookings fill most of the remaining space and the ability to hire the centre, complete with bouncy castle or disco, for birthday parties continues to be popular and most weekends a party takes place on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings. In addition to parties and various meetings, other irregular lets have included parliamentary surgeries for both local MPs and MSP's and used again as a Polling Station."

Throughout the year a number of free lets were given for charitable fundraising events and this is something, which we will hopefully continue to offer.

Some of our major outgoings in this financial period were an upgrade in the electrics, new chairs, new disco lights, re-turf of the area out by the park and a new storage container.

The Annual Gala also surpassed those of previous years and once again it was decided to extend the event over three days starting on the Friday with a family themed fancy dress and music evening. On Saturday we had our traditional Gala Day, with lots of stalls, entertainment, displays, sideshows and fairground attractions that proved popular with young and old alike. Many more user groups ran stalls than in previous years, which, in addition to raising their profile within the village, also provided a welcome boost to their own individual funds. Sunday was turned over to the Ardgowan Football Development's Annual Prize Giving. An undertaking of this sort depends on an army of volunteers and by the time of the Gala the community had pulled together to provide a willing team of helpers. The whole committee work tirelessly for months in advance to ensure that everything runs smoothly and to make the gala the success it is.

At the Annual Christmas Lights switch on as usual, Inverclyde Council provided tea, coffee and mince pies for the adults and juice and crisps for the youngsters and our thanks must be extended to them. However the Association decided to boost the festive cheer by serving mulled wine and shortbread and having Santa in his fabulous grotto handing out 250 Christmas lucky bags to the children resulting in a great crowd congregating in the community centre after the switch on generating a real community spirit. Our thanks are also extended to the Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council for providing a children's entertainer at this event.

Thanks must be extended to everyone in the Community, whether they are Association Committee Members, Leaders or members of the groups that use the centre, gala volunteers and members of the local community who make use of the centre or attend special events. Without all of these people we would not have a Community Centre because we would not have a community".

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

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 Feb edition will be 6pm Friday 25th January.

PTA

Hello again just a wee update from the PTA about our recent fundraisers. We held our first big fund raiser, Gifts Galore, in the Community Centre on 8th November. We had a great range of vendors who came along with lots of lovely gift ideas and those who came along to support us had a great night, shopping, having a glass or two of wine and a good chat. We also sold our Reindeer Dust and Santa letters on the evening and these were popular as they always are.

The PTA was also at the Christmas Cracker in the School where we sold more of the Reindeer Dust and 50/50 club numbers. The money raised from the 50/50 club goes towards our prize winning Jubilee Garden. There is a draw once a month and the winner receives a prize, this year the prize money was £33. The more people who buy numbers not only ensure the garden getting back to it's prize winning status but the bigger the prize each month, so if you don't have your number please get one, anyone in the PTA will be able to help you.

We will be back in the New Year with more fundraisers, if you have any ideas, come along to our meetings and help out.

The PTA wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Donna Galvin

Your Refuse Collection Days Over The Holiday Period Are As Follows:

Normal Collection day	Refuse Collected on	Comments
Tuesday 25/12/2007	Monday 24/12/2007	One day before (blue)
Tuesday 01/01/2008	Monday 31/12/2007	One day before (black)

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/>

Community Centre Car Park

Can we remind all residents that the car park is unavailable for parking Monday through Friday between 8am and 9am and 3pm and 4pm, this is to allow for the arrival and departure of the decant buses. Can we ask all residents to attire to this to enable the children and teachers to embark and disembark safely.

Bible Club

The Bible Club and Youth Group celebrated the 15th Anniversary of Bible Club at the end of October with a special bouncy castle night and group photo of the two groups together. The Youth Group also had a bowling outing to Largs in October. Top scorers were Andrew McHardie (135), Kirsty Maclean (125) and Chantelle Murdoch (121) - well done! 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. The clubs are run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM) and there are no fees for either club. Contact Stephen Renton for more information on 01505 355994. The clubs will have their Christmas parties on Monday, 17th December 2007. We will then be off for a few weeks before resuming on Monday, 7th January 2008. May I take this chance to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Christmas wishes from your local councillors

Ken Ferguson, Ciano Rebecchi and Gerry Dorrian would like to wish all the residents of Wemyss Bay a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anniversary Wishes

Charlie and Ella Lambert congratulations on your Golden Wedding from all your family, friends and neighbours.

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Ardgowan Football Development – John Reid

Race Night & £1,000 Raffle

The Annual AFD Race Night will take place on Saturday 23rd February 2008 in the Wemyss Bay Community Centre. Parents should speak to Tom McClurg about tickets.

The £1,000 Raffle will be drawn at the Race Night in February. All of the prizes in our raffle are worth at least £50, with the majority worth well over £100, so anyone wishing to buy tickets should speak to one of the Coaches.

ATFC Under 12's

The ATFC Team have now settled into 11 'A' Side league football and have won three of their last four matches. This team will take part in the Copa Marbella Foot ball Tournament in April and the boys will be involved in a range of fundraising activities over the next few months. Anyone interested in sponsoring the boys should speak to Martin Thomson, John Reid or Tom McClurg.

Alison Polea

Alison has decided to take a break from her role coaching the P1 Session to concentrate on her studies. We would like to thank Alison for her support and to wish her well for her exams.

Facilities

You will no doubt be aware that there is a severe lack of sports & leisure facilities in Wemyss Bay and re-development of Wemyss Bay Primary, albeit welcome, has led to a further reduction in the already limited facilities available to clubs like AFD. We intend to run a campaign, hopefully with your support, to highlight the lack of facilities available in this area. More information will be issued early in the New Year.

AFD Calendar 2008

January	February	March	April	May	June
AFD Restarts 6th January	AFD £1,000 Grand Draw	AFD Coaches Conference	Easter Holidays	AFD Restarts	AFD Gala Day
ATFC Restarts 9th January	AFD Race Night on 23rd February		ATFC trip to Spain	ATFC @ WB ATFC Casino Night	Football Tournaments

Seasons Greetings

All the Coaches at AFD would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the best at Christmas and in the New Year. See you all in 2008!!

www.ardgowanfd.com

Coach & Player Profile – Primary 6 Session

Name:	Daniel Harkins	John Reid
Age:	10	42
School/Job:	Ardgowan Primary	Partnership Manager
Hobbies:	Football/Golf/Rugby/Cricket	Football/Talking
FAVOURITES		
Football Team:	Morton	Greenock Morton
Player:	James McFadden	Andy Ritchie
Holiday:	Puerto Pollensa	Rome
Programme:	Simpsons	Simpsons/Spooks
Food:	Chinese	Seafood/Pasta



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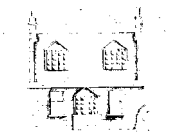
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Duncan McNeil MSP

Christmas is supposed to be a magical time of the year. Well, it is if you own an off licence or a toy shop – the piles of money just keep magically appearing in your till.

But I shouldn't be so cynical. The festive period is what you make it and, although we like to moan about the pitch black mornings and the seemingly endless demands on our wallets, it's still a great chance to have fun and catch up with friends and family.

One seasonal irritation which we shouldn't have to put up with, though, arises on long, dark evenings. I speak, of course, of the menace caused by bone-idle dog owners who can't be bothered cleaning up after their pets.

Not only is this practice selfish, lazy, unsightly and unhygienic, during the winter months, when the evenings are long and the pavements covered in fallen leaves, pedestrians are far more likely to step in it.

There is simply no excuse for dog owners despoiling the pavements and parks of places such as Wemyss Bay in this way. That is why MSPs passed the Dog Fouling Act in 2003 which gives the council and police powers to hand on-the-spot fines to anyone failing to bag and bin their dog's mess. The new Act applies to all public areas and creates an offence of failing to clean up after a dog, instead of the previous, harder to prove, offence of allowing a dog to foul.

I had a well-documented disagreement with the previous Inverclyde Council over its refusal to use this new legislation in the years immediately following its enactment, but a change of heart has seen the introduction of Environment Wardens who are issuing the fines.

The wardens, of course, can't be everywhere at once, so if you see a dog owner committing an offence, or you are sick of a particular area being plagued by dog fouling, you can call Inverclyde Council in complete confidence on (01475) 714200.

At this time of year, we are reminded that dogs are not just for Christmas. A dog is not a toy and anyone who takes ownership of one also takes ownership of all the responsibilities which come with it. Perhaps we should remind them that these responsibilities aren't only owed to the dog, but to the community also.

Finally, if I don't see you before it, may I wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock PA16 8JL

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

Textphone: (01475) 791824

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

If your daughter wishes to join us please e-mail to girlguidingwemyssbay@yahoo.co.uk or leave a message on 520615 and information will be passed to the Guider in charge.

We would like to wish the residents of Wemyss Bay a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you

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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 Primary 1 to Primary 7.

Stories written by Primary 7 pupils Thomas Innes, Sophie McQueen, Jamie Roberts and Lauren Gallacher.

Primary 1- 3 Halloween Party

On Friday the 26th of October Primaries 1-3 had a Halloween party. It was in the afternoon from 1.30 to 3.00. All the children came in their costumes and were dressed as witches, skeletons, vampires, zombies, power rangers, pirates and many more. The three classes played games such as The Witch is in Her Cave, Pass the Parcel and In and Out go the Dusty Bluebells. They also danced to Halloween songs, including Ghostbusters and Monster Mash. The classes had party food and drink, in a Hallowe'en theme, including chewy sweets shaped as body parts and witch's blood that was actually cherryade. They all had a really good time and enjoyed themselves.

Primary 4-7 Halloween Disco

Whilst Primaries 1-3 had their party, Primaries 4-7 had a disco. Everyone dressed up and some of the costumes were skeletons, witches, ghosts, St. Trinian's schoolgirls and many more. There was a tuck shop, organised by the P.T.A., which was busy all afternoon. Prizes were awarded in four categories. Katie Donnelly, primary 6, won scariest costume. Cameron Mc Donald, primary 7, won best costume. Jordan Marshall, primary 4 won best girl dancer and Kieran Hannah, primary 7, won best boy dancer. The DJ was crazy, he pretended he didn't know it was fancy dress then put a clown wig on. He played a wide variety of songs which everyone enjoyed dancing to.

Walk To School Week

Last week every school in Inverclyde took part in Walk to School Week. The reason we do this is to encourage children to walk and stop congestion outside the school. Thomas Innes and Jamie Roberts are the Junior Road Safety Officers in the school and had to collect information about who walked and who didn't. At Assembly, on the previous Friday, Jamie and Thomas had to tell everyone about it. During the week they had to collect the data from every class each day and collate the information before sending it in. Many people walked and only around seventeen children got the car that week. Thomas and Jamie had to write down how many people walked, got a local bus or took the car. There was another option, park and stride, one child did this, basically it's taking the car just under half way and walking the rest. We were one of the sixteen schools in Inverclyde to achieve 80% or better with pupil participation during Walk to School Week.

Primary 7 Visit Inverclyde Academy

On Wednesday 24th October Primary 7 went to Inverclyde Academy for their Induction Day, together with children from other schools in Inverclyde. Every class was split into two groups A + B because some classes could only take 20 pupils. The subjects we got were English, Maths, Technology and P.E.. At Technology group A built a boat and group B made keyrings. We got to choose our P.E. activity from Football, Basketball, Swimming or Gymnastics. At English we made hands and wrote inside them, one about our personality and the other about what we wanted to be when we grow up. At Maths we didn't do Maths! We were taught about New Maths.

Being at Inverclyde Academy was different because of moving around the classes. It made the day feel like it was going faster.

Every school got two guides to help out and take children from class to class.

Lenny's Birthday Party

Lenny is a cuddly lion who lives in Primary 1. On the 10th October Lenny was one year old. Primary 1 had a party for him. They wrapped up boxes and put ribbons round them for presents, made party hats, learned songs and made invitations. At the party they played games and some got people got up and sang. There were crisps and cakes to eat and juice to drink. Mrs Canata made Lenny a birthday cake and some boys and girls iced the cake. Every one had a fun time at the party.

By Lyle Macintosh, Primary 4 with help from Sophie Elliott and Andrew O'Donnell, Primary 1

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Pupils of the Week

Week beginning: 8th October

Pr. 1: Sophie Elliott, Pr. 2: Eve Lynch and Marco Zavaroni, Pr. 3: Andrew Wilson

Pr. 4: Jillian Carson & Jack Craig, Pr. 5: Graeme Wilson, Pr. 6: Alan Weston, Pr. 7: Ross Pyott

House of the Week: Cumbrae

Week beginning: 22nd October

Pr. 1: Jack Noble, Pr. 2: Dani Glover, Pr. 3: Amy Donnelly, Pr. 4: Lauren Tucker

Pr. 5: Natalie Roberts, Pr. 6: Daniel Gregory, Pr. 7: Ross Benton

House of the Week: Cumbrae

Week beginning: 29th October

Pr. 1: Danae Lavery, Pr. 2: Eve Robinson, Pr. 3: Fraser McDonald, Pr. 4: Nicola Anderson

Pr. 5: Katrina Gregory, Pr. 6: Emma Thomson, Pr. 7: Sophie Edgar

House of the Week: Cumbrae

Next month: Maths Week, Fun Day, Christmas Cracker

Compiled by Chloe Campbell, Primary 5 and Lyle Macintosh, Primary 4

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church – Rev Bill Armstrong

December 2007

The arrival of our first grandchild, Bruce William, has added to our anticipation of Christmas. Though he will be only two months old when we sit down to our Christmas Dinner and open our parcels, he will be the centre of attention.

We often say that Christmas is for the children, but we do get caught up in their anticipation of what is about to happen and we share their excitement when Christmas Day finally arrives. Christmas may be for the children, but it is really about the coming of Jesus, born in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago, a very different world from the one we inhabit.

Mary did not have the benefits enjoyed by our daughter when her son was born. There was no comfortable hospital bed, no mid-wives and doctors at her beck and call; only a borrowed stable with a straw-lined manger. There were no baby-grows; only strips of cloth. There were no friends to support her other than her husband Joseph and, eventually, a bunch of mesmerised shepherds. There were no practical gifts; only the unusual offerings of decidedly odd Wise Men – gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Our grandson may enjoy material benefits that never came Jesus' way, but my wife and I do hope and pray that he will benefit from coming to know Jesus and allow him to become the centre of attention in his life.

Have a wonderful, Christ-centred Christmas.

God bless,

W Armstrong

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 16 December, 11.00am – CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE

Sunday 23 December, 11.00am – THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS

Monday 24 December, 11.30pm – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Pies and Punch will be served from 10.30pm

Sunday 30 December, 11.00am – CHRISTMAS LESSONS and CAROLS

Sunday 6 January, 11.00am - EPIPHANY

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)

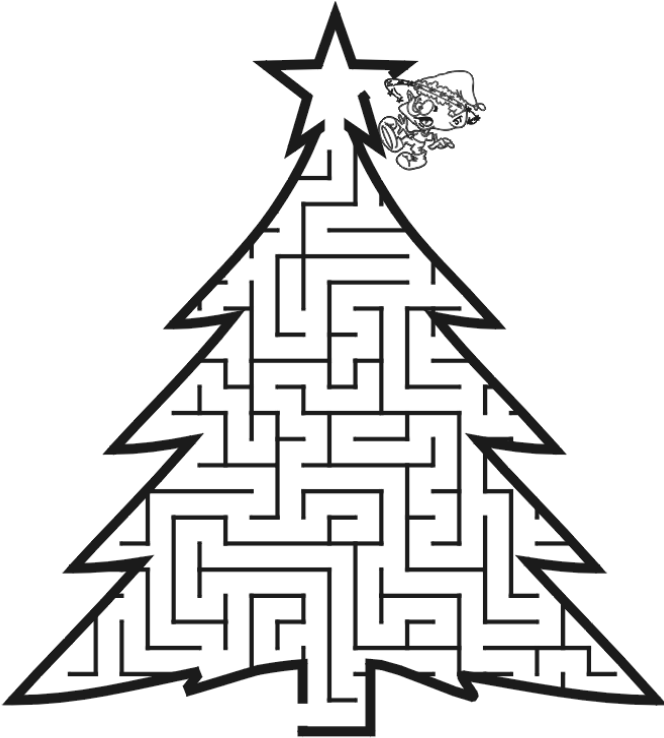
Christmas Word Search

T	H	S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S	E	P	W
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- CELEBRATE
- REINDEER
- CHRISTMAS
- TREE
- RIBBONS
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- DECORATIONS
- STOCKINGS
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Maze

Help the dizzy elf find his way down from the christmas tree before he falls off.



Wemyss Bay Guides

We have been very busy this session with a variety of activities. At the beginning of the October holiday we travelled down to Manchester to the MEN Arena to go to Girlguidings' very own BIG GIG. This event was a huge success, and we all got to see McFLY, Natasha Bedingfield, Kate Nash, The Hoosiers and loads of other great people! We all stood out with our sparkly cowboy hats and made sure everyone could hear us with our whistles! Some Guides didn't even manage to sit down the whole night!

At the end of October it was our annual Witch Hunt, which saw all the girls out and about the community searching for some bones that had gone missing from the graveyard at the community centre. All the girls seemed satisfyingly terrified which is the main aim! Following the scariness we had a Halloween party as well, and everyone had great costumes to show off!

November hasn't been a quiet month either; we started with a very special evening which the girls had been planning for a long time. We had a "This is your Guiding life" evening for Mrs Battley who sadly left us at the end of last year. Mrs B seemed overwhelmed by all the work the Guides had put in to arranging the evening and everybody had a wonderful time, reliving some extraordinary Guiding experiences. Once again Mrs B we would like to say that we are all still missing you!

In the middle of November 8 of the girls went to South Newton in Kilmacolm for a District Guide camp. Our theme for the weekend was Christmas and the girls managed to make a number of different crafts including angel mobile phone charms, table decorations and decorating Christmas cakes. Obviously Santa also made a visit on the Friday night leaving all the girls some presents in their stockings! The girls also all managed to fit in some climbing on the climbing wall at South Newton as well!

In our future plans we are all aiming to complete our Confectioners badge, seven girls are going to make their promise and we currently have six girls well on their way to receive their Baden Powell Challenge (the highest award available to Guides.) As you can imagine every week is jam packed!

We would like to extend an invitation to the community to join us on Tuesday 18th December for our Christmas Carol service at the community centre at 7.00 pm. This is an event for all of Girlguiding Wemyss Bay and we look forward to seeing you all there.

We still have a few places available at Guides, so if you are looking for any information please do not hesitate to contact us at girlguidingwemyssbay@yahoo.co.uk or call Alison Carmichael on 520697.

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

The younger sections, Beavers and Cubs, had great time at the Halloween party and would like to express their thanks to the leaders who organised the event. I believe that a number of the Leaders also had a good time!!

Beavers: November saw the colony active in a number of areas of the Scouting programme and now looking forward to the Christmas events.

Cubs: Both Packs are busy doing different badge work, with the Tiger Pack working on their Computer badge.

24 Cubs and Leaders attend Hampden Park for the Euro 2008 football qualifier between Scotland and Italy, which I hear was a day to remember and I suspect will be a day for the boys to recount in the future with an "I was there" story, the only thing that dampened the day was the score.

Scouts: The Troop had their first outing of this session with a visit to the Ibrox Climbing Centre, where the boys showed their skills on the different routes.

Explorers: This month saw the Unit camping at Culzean Scout Camp Site, enjoying some basic camping activities such as, fire lighting, pioneering and wide games.

The group this month would like to thank all parents and boys for the tremendous turn-out at the Remembrance parade, it is always appreciated by the Leaders and the Group helpers to see the boys turn-out in such good numbers for this event.

The group would also like to thank everyone who gave their support to our recent Bingo evening where we raised £300+ towards our group funds

New members and Leaders / Helpers: at present we have spaces in most sections of the group, if you or your children are interested please contact us.

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

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David Cairns

Wemyss Bay set to benefit from the regeneration of Inverclyde

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all. I hope that the coming year will be a good one for families in Wemyss Bay and that the village will continue to thrive and prosper. Christmas is a special time for us all. It gives us a chance to look back over the year which is ending, and forward to the new one about to begin. This year, as I write this article for the Christmas edition of the Wemyss Bay newsletter, I look around Inverclyde and realise just how much has changed for us all during 2007. And much of that change will impact on people living in the village - although at first glance they may not realise it.

Families are moving into the new homes springing up along our Waterfront. From the flats at the James Watt Dock to the houses at the Kingston in Port Glasgow, our riverfront is rapidly coming back to life. Once again, it is a place where families can find a home. This flurry of house building is good news for people living in Wemyss Bay as, not only will they have more houses to choose from if they decide to move, but the new developments will mean that there is less pressure to build additional homes in the village. Wemyss Bay has a unique character and a real community spirit, which is especially evident at Christmas, and it would be a great pity if this was destroyed because of thoughtless expansion by developers keen to build in Inverclyde.

Many of Wemyss Bay's children are already having their school refurbished and new school buildings are on the way. Primary pupils in the village will soon be moving back into the extended and upgraded Wemyss Bay Primary School, and the brand new Inverclyde Academy, which many of their older brothers and sisters will attend, is on track to open in the autumn of 2008. And more new schools for other areas are planned for the next few years. Our children are our future and I am pleased that, at long last, our Council is investing heavily in education. Every child in Inverclyde deserves the opportunity to be taught in a modern school equipped with state of the art facilities. Now, thanks to Inverclyde Council's building and refurbishment programme, that's exactly what they will get.

Shopping always looms large at this time of year. And that is something that is also changing. The first new superstore in the Port Glasgow Retail Park has already opened, and more big name stores are due to move in over the next few years. Tesco has substantially upgraded their Greenock store and several new shops have moved into the Oak Mall during 2007. More expansion is planned for the Mall and it may be enlarged to take in extra stores and a new car park.

This is all good news for Inverclyde - but it doesn't stop there - and in the coming year we can look forward to even more regeneration. River Clyde Homes will start building new houses with back and front doors which people can rent, and the next stage of the Waterfront development will focus on building factory units and offices so our riverside will again become a place where people can work. But I am ambitious for Inverclyde, and I want to ensure that people from Wemyss Bay to Kilmacolm get the chance to benefit from the huge amount of public money being poured into the area. That's why I am working with local agencies to try to ensure our community gets its fair share of the jobs that the regeneration will bring. I am determined that we will all get a chance to take advantage of the changes that the coming years will bring.

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

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

Gardening Tip for December

Collect and burn any rose leaves showing signs of black spot.

Plant plant deciduous trees and shrubs during mild weather including fruit trees and roses.

Think of protecting any valuable trees and shrubs in the garden from winter weather.

Move containerised plants to sheltered positions.

Plan and order spring bedding plants.

Lag any outdoor stand pipes or taps or better still turn off inside and leave the drain cock open.

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.

What's Christmas like in other countries?

In Belgium on the 6th of December Sinterklass is celebrated which is entirely different from Christmas. Santa Claus is called de Kerstman or le Pere Noel and he comes on Christmas day to bring presents to the children.

In Brazil Santa is called Papai Noel. Their customs are similar to the UK and the US. For those who have enough money, a special Christmas meal will be chicken, turkey, ham, rice, salad, fresh and dried fruit. Poorer people will just have chicken and rice.

Finnish people believe that Santa lives in the Northern part of Finland called Korvatunturi north of the Arctic Circle. People from all over the world send letters to Santa Claus in Finland. (It is only fair to say that the people of Greenland say that really, Santa lives in Greenland) There is also lots of cooking and eating and a sauna is also part of the celebrations. Santa comes with presents after dinner.

Germans love to decorate their homes at Christmas. Many will have electric candles in their windows and often an 'Adventskranz'- a wreath of leaves with four candles. On each Sunday of Advent another candle is lit. Most homes will have little wooden cribs and lots of hand-made decorations. 'Der Weihnachtsmann' (Santa) brings presents in the late afternoon of Christmas Eve after people have been to a Church Service. The presents are then found under the tree. One member of the family will ring a bell and call everyone to come to the room.

In Hungary Tel-apo or Mikulas (Santa) comes on the 6th of December. Children clean their shoes and put them outside their door at night-time. Next day sweets or small toys appear in them in red bags. On the 24th of December children go to the cinema or visit family because Little Jesus brings the tree and presents to their house. The tree is decorated with chocolates and meringues. They sing Christmas songs and share out their presents.

But lets all move to Latvia because Santa brings presents on each of the 12 days of Christmas starting on Christmas Eve. And it was in Latvia that the first Christmas tree was decorated in 1510.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The custom of sending Christmas cards started in Britain in 1840 when the first 'Penny Post' public postal deliveries began. (Helped by the new railway system, the public postal service was the 19th centuries communication revolution, just as email is for us today) As printing methods improved, Christmas cards were produced in large from about 1860. They became more popular in Britain when a card could be posted in an unsealed envelope for one half-penny-half the price of an ordinary letter.

In many countries, most people post Christmas greeting cards to their friends and family, and these cards will be hung on the walls of their homes. In the UK this year, the Royal Mail expects to handle over 100 million cards EACH DAY, in the three weeks before Christmas.

BOXING DAY

In English-speaking countries, the day after Christmas Day is called 'Boxing Day'. It doesn't mean it's time to slip on the gloves! The name comes from the custom which started in the Middle Ages around 800 years ago: churches would open their 'alms boxes' (boxes in which people had placed gifts of money) and distribute the contents to poor people in the neighbourhood on the day after Christmas

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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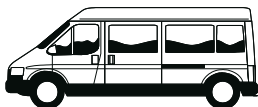
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