

Wemyss Bay Village News

218th Edition

April 2008

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

A FUN FILLED WEEKEND FOR ALL THE FAMILY

This year's gala weekend will take place between Friday 13 June and Sunday 15th June. As usual the fun starts on the Friday with a FREAKY FRIDAY disco, including DJ and licenced bar. This will be a fancy dress venue (optional) and we want to see as many weird and wonderful outfits as possible (we know you won't let us down!). *Tickets will be priced at £5 per adult and £3 per child. This is slightly cheaper than last year as there will be no buffet. We have however organised Harkie to come along with his catering van which will be parked in the car park outside the community centre for the duration of the night.

On Saturday the day's events kick off at 12pm when this year's Gala Queen will be crowned. There will be entertainment from local groups including Scottish Country Dancing from the Wemyss Bay Brownies, a dancing display by Graffiti Dance School and this year we are hoping to find an up and coming star in our very own talent competition. So get those vocal cords tuned or if we have any budding comedians, magicians, dancers etc, come along and let us see what you can do (more details next month).

We will have our usual attractions such as QuadSports, the ever popular Laser Quest, giant inflatable rides for the smaller children, magic teacups, bouncy castle, tattoos, face painting, the animal man, portable ceramics studio and much much more. In addition to this we will be visited by the local fire brigade, police and coast guard.

The entertainment will be compared throughout the day when you will have the chance to win some great prizes in our raffle and stand up bingo.

After last years success and by popular request, Saturdays event will now run until 9pm when the bar will be closed and those who are still standing are more than welcome to join us in a clean up.

Sunday at 11.00am as usual is turned over the the Ardgowan Football Development for their annual presentations (more in next months village news)

As usual we are looking for volunteers to help in any way they can, including helping to set up the marquee on the Friday, building gazeebos on the Saturday morning, working behind the bar (no experience necessary), manning stalls and general clean up duties. Please contact Denise on 521437. Any other gala enquires contact Ann Marie on 522998.

*Tickets will be on sale Monday 2nd June between 6pm and 8pm at the ticket office situated in the community centre. PLEASE NOTE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS!

The Country Club

We are a non-political and non denominational club which was founded over 20 years ago for all in the Wemyss Bay and district aged 50 years and over. The Club meet alternate Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm in the Function Room at The Chartroom Kip Marina Inverkip. We have speakers who cover many varied subjects and our afternoons are always rounded off with a welcome cuppa and time for a chat. The annual subscription is £10 with visitors paying £1 per meeting. Contact Ann Haig on 522316 for details

This month's speakers are:

9th April - Mrs Margaret Anderson, "Castles and Country Houses"

23rd April – Luncheon and AGM.

PTA

The next meeting will take place on 28th April in the portacabin at 7.00pm. If you are interested in helping please come along. Kind Regards, Donna

Wemyss Bay Garden Competition 2008 - Open to all Wemyss Bay Residents

Enter your own garden or nominate another. Entries will be judged from the 1st - 10th June 08. Winners will be announced on the Gala Day and in the Village News. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Entries by phone: Sandy on 520738

or by e-mail to: sandy66@talktalk.net

Conditions supplied on enquiry.

1st Wemyss Bay Guides

Guiding in Wemyss Bay has certainly been bitten by the International bug! We are lucky enough to have 3 girls and one leader taking part in International opportunities through Guiding this summer. Guides Elaine and Florence have seized the chance to participate in the International Guide Camp Ayrwaves. This is a week long camp in July and will allow the girls to meet many different Guides from as far as America and Canada. They will also be able to try a number of different activities whilst at the camp. Another Guide Amanda has decided to take the opportunity to go with a group from South Ayrshire to travel to Switzerland for a week long holiday. Amanda will be visiting one of the four Guiding World Centres, "Our Chalet" whilst in Switzerland, which is sure to be a mountain top moment for her! Finally leader Alison Carmichael has been selected to be the assistant leader of the Scottish Ghana Building Links Team, who are travelling to Ghana this July to participate in a development project. This year's project is an environmental project, working with the Ghanaian Forestry Commission on tree planting and education. As with all Ghana Projects there will be a continual focus on the development of Guiding throughout Ghana. Alison will be travelling around Ghana and visiting a number of villages.

All of these International opportunities are just one of the amazing chances that Girlguiding can offer to the girls and young women in the UK. Unfortunately to be able to attend these events the girls must fundraise a large sum of money. Wemyss Bay Guides have already set about this with the Beetle Drive they had at the end of March, and they would like to thank everybody that attended that event. However, there is still a long way to go before they reach their target and therefore if there is anyone in the village that could support the girls in anyway at all please contact us!

During our weekly meetings the girls have recently working on their Showtime Go For It and their Sports Go For It. All the girls who completed these achieved them! Well Done girls! An Easter egg hunt and egg tower challenge have also taken place with the girls having a great time. The Guides are now looking forward to their summer term, when they will be able to be out and about as much as possible!

If you have any questions regarding Guides in Wemyss Bay, please do not hesitate to contact us at girlguidingwemyssbay@yahoo.co.uk or Alison Carmichael 520697

Strathspey & Reel Society

A recent "Telegraph" article suggested the Strathspey & Reel Society "helps hold the community together". I'm not sure how it could do that, but it does two things:

1 If you play any instrument, at any standard, you can have a lot of fun and enjoyment playing traditional (and other) music.

2 If you run a club or social group of any kind and would like us to play for a fund raising event, celidh, or whatever, we can.

Phone Bill on 520095, or Margaret on 01505 502663, or email ccsrs@tiscali.co.uk for info.

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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WEMYSS BAY ADULT ASSOCIATION

Why not try one of our evening classes and put a spring in your step this year.

Classes/groups will commence week beginning 21 April and run until end of June numbers permitting.

Monday

Pilates - 6.30-7.30pm

Guitar Group - 7-8.30pm

Art Group - 7-9pm

Inverkip School

Inverkip School

W/B Nursery Block

Instruct. Lynsey McLaughlin

Tutor Graham Deatcher

Tutor Pat Fulton

Tuesday

Cross Stitch - 7.30-9.30pm

Yoga - 7.40-9.15pm

W/B Nursery Block

Inverkip School

Tutor Donna Blackley

Wednesday

Yoga - 7.40-9.15pm

Inverkip School

Tutor Donna Blackley

The cost of the above classes £20 for 10 week course. For further information please contact Morag Wilson on 521626.

Duncan McNeil MSP

With the international credit crisis spelling, if not the end definitely a suspension, of cheap, freely available credit and wild fluctuations on the world markets pushing up prices, it's an uncertain time for your household finances.

So, when hardworking families want some stability, the last thing we need is more pressure being applied in the shape of a local income tax.

The arguments around this are well-documented. I am opposed to a local income tax in principle because I believe it punishes those in places like Wemyss Bay who want to work hard and who already pay their fair share.

The biggest losers would be families in which both partners work. Even worse, in an echo of the Poll Tax, the earnings of any children living at home will also be taxed and added to your total bill. But, on the other hand, the richest individuals, whose income derives from shares and investments, wouldn't pay a penny.

But questions about how on earth this can be fair are not the only ones which are going unanswered. Asides from the principle, there are also worries over the details – or lack thereof – of this specific scheme.

How much will the new tax have to raise to prevent cuts in services and job losses? Will the rate be 3p in the pound or, as is being predicted, more like 5p in the pound? Will we be paying more for fewer services?

Why are these details being kept secret? And why, crucially, has the modelling used to calculate the Scottish Government's local income tax plans been withheld?

These questions and more must be answered when the plans come before Holyrood's Local Government Committee. As Convenor of that Committee, it will be my job to make sure that Ministers actually provide the numbers on which they have based their assumptions and make sure that any change in local taxation is fair and sustainable.

Duncan can be contacted at the Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock PA15 8JL, Tel: 01475 791820, Fax: 01475 791821, by Textphone for the hearing impaired: 01475 791824, by E-mail: duncan.mcneil.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or via his website: www.duncanmcneil.com



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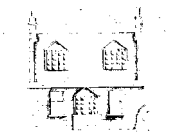
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HELLO - FROM WEMYSS BAY ON THE HILL!

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

Stories written by Primary 5 pupils Katrina Gregory, Euan Benjamin & Madeleine Coxshott, Primary 6 pupils Rhian Hunter, Elidh Black, Rachel Murdoch, Craig MacLean and Daniel Gregory, and Primary 7 pupils Jamie Roberts and Thomas Innes.

Grandparents Day/Mr Armstrong's Retiral

On Tuesday 19th February we held our annual Grandparents & Parents Day.

Pupils from all stages took part in a concert held when their parents and grandparents arrived. Primaries 1 and 2 did singing games, Primary 3 sang an action song, the choir from Primaries 4 – 7 sang two songs, Primaries 4 and 5 percussion bands performed their Festival pieces. The Burns poetry competition finalists recited their poems. The winners were, from Primary 4 – Lauren Tucker, Primary 5 – Chloe Campbell, Primary 6 – Nadina Valenti and Primary 7 – Jamie Roberts. Euan Benjamin, our X-Factor Talent Show winner, also played a solo, Stairway to Heaven, on his guitar.

After the concert the grandparents and parents had tea and coffee and then went to visit their children in class. They took part in many different activities, e.g. in Primary 5 they made kites, they did problem solving in Primary 7, in primary 4 they played tables bingo and in Primary 2 they did language work associated with the bible story of The Lost Sheep.

At the end of the morning the parents and grandparents said they had enjoyed the concert and their time with the children.

On Tuesday 26th February we had a special concert for Mr. Armstrong, who is retiring after 28 years as our school chaplain. The staff and children presented Mr. Armstrong with gifts to mark his retirement.

Enterprising Inverclyde Showcase & Awards Ceremony

The Enterprise showcase took place in Greenock Town Hall on Wednesday 12th March and was about the enterprise schools were doing. All the schools had stalls with their enterprise posters, props, etc. The stalls had different items on them, some were selling items whilst others were giving free samples of food. Other stalls had made up posters and powerpoint presentations to help them talk about their projects. People came round all the stalls asking about the enterprise to test the pupils' knowledge. Our stall had two laptops, one had a powerpoint about Primary 7's Malawi project and the other had different enterprising events the school had completed, such as Fun Day, Go Yellow Day, Pancake Race, X-Factor Talent Show, Maths week and Health Week.

The presentation afterwards began with a speech by Mr Ian Fraser, Corporate Director of Education and Social Work and was taken over by Mr Robert Lamb, Enterprising Inverclyde. People went to collect trophies called the Business Engagement Award, ours was collected by Jamie Roberts, and the award for Most Enterprising Pupil. Wemyss Bay's award went to Natalie Roberts of Primary 5.

On Thursday 13th March, four pupils went to the Town Hall for the Enterprise Challenge. There were four challenges, making a giraffe out of newspaper, making a poster for the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race in 2011, were two. After making the poster it was time for lunch. For the dress up challenge we had to design outfits. We had to buy materials from the shop, these included paper plates, ink markers, feathers, wooden beads, metallic paper, felt, bin liners and much more. Rhian Hunter and Madeleine Coxshott were our designers and Greg Pollock and Craig Thomson were our models. We had a great time doing the challenges and enjoyed our enterprise experience.

Junior Ball

On Wednesday 5th March six pupils from school went to Greenock Town Hall to take part in the Junior Ball. There were around 150 pupils from schools throughout Inverclyde. We danced ten different dances, including The Scottish Man o War, Miss Brown's Reel, Wellington Square and The Honeymoon.

We all got a goody bag which included crisps, a crème egg, bottle of water and a bottle of fizzy juice. We had a small break between each dance which allowed us to get our breath back and then later we had a longer break to allow us to eat the contents of our goody bags.

We all enjoyed our evening and had a really good time.

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K-Nex Challenge

On Thursday 13th March Craig MacLean and Daniel Gregory went to Greenock Town Hall to take part in the inter-school K-Nex Challenge. For the boys to get to the final they had to create something for a playground. Craig made a slide and Daniel made a tyre swing.

At the Town Hall the boys had to create a buggy that could hold a shoe. First they sketched a drawing of it then were told it could be no bigger than a sheet of paper. It also had to be sturdy, lightweight and fast. It had to have a roof, sides, 3 or 4 wheels. The boys had an hour to build it.

Both boys said it was really fun and would do it again if they could.

Pupils of the Week: Week beginning: 3rd March

Pr. 1: Erica Horn, Pr.2: Simon Drainer, Pr. 3: Olivia Cassidy, Pr. 4: Jordan Marshall, Pr.5: Ross Gallacher, Pr. 6: Nadina Valentine, Pr. 7: Cameron McClurg

House of the Week: Cumbrae

Week beginning: 10th March

Pr. 1: Jack Noble, Pr. 2: Eve Lynch & Blake Sloan, Pr. 3: Andrew Wilson & Amy McCroray, Pr. 4: Nicola Anderson, Pr. 5: Jennifer Drainer, Pr. 6: Aidan Morrison, Pr. 7: Calum Sutherland,

House of the Week: Iona

2nd Wemyss Bay Brownies

The Brownies took part in a lovely Thinking Day Service this February, where they said their goodbyes to Mr Armstrong. The following Sunday was our Divisional Thinking Day Service in Greenock Town Hall. This was a very colourful service with loads of action songs. Just a shame there was such a low turnout, considering how many Brownies we have. "Loving your God" is one third of the Brownie Promise after all.

We understand that some of the girls had to attend their own church on the Sunday morning, and that some of your work patterns/family commitments make the services difficult, however we don't think it was as many as the absentees were.

The girls who were at either of the services (and those whose parents spoke to us in advance) will have their names at the top of our next Pack Holiday list.

The collection from the Town Hall and from the Smartie Tubes (have you all handed them in please) is going towards Water Aid as Greenock Division are hoping to build a well in a needy area.

The hall was very chocolaty, flowery and chickeny at our meeting before Easter as the Brownies made Easter Bonnets, cards, chocolate nests (you should have seen their hands – and faces) and played the chocolate game. They had a ball.

Now that the nights are getting lighter we ask that all the girls bring a jacket with them as we may take advantage of any fine weather to go outside. On occasion we have had the odd girl come without a jacket ("Mummy said I didn't have to because I was coming in the car") and we have had to cancel all plans for outside – not fair on the rest of the girls. So please!

Anyway, here's to the Spring/Summer term and hopes for lots of good weather and fun.

The Guiders

Inverkip Bowling Club

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

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

Wemyss Bay Community Association

The next meeting will be held in the Nursery Portacabin on 21st April at 7pm.

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 May edition will be Friday 18th April at 6.00pm.



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David Cairns MP

Knowledge economy is the way forward for our children

I am often asked to go along to schools to talk to children about my role as the local MP, and every time I go into one I am struck by just how much modern education relies on technology. A generation ago computers in schools were almost unknown, now when I visit a local school pupils will have been on my website and spent time researching the House of Commons on the Internet. It's a different world from the one previous generations grew up in and the pace of technology is changing all the time. The Internet's gone mobile, children spend their time instant messaging their friends and every self respecting teenager has their own page on one of the many social networking sites, something unheard of even a few short years ago.

Of course, in our modern world it is vital that children learn about emerging technologies as soon as they appear on the market. And that was why I was so pleased when the UK Parliament's Information and Technology Committee launched a competition for primary schools, encouraging them to use technology to improve their local community. One lucky school will win £1,000 in the Scottish final and the overall UK winner will be in line for a cash prize of £4,500. From what I've seen of our local primary schools we can compete with the best, and there's no reason why Wemyss Bay Primary couldn't be right up there with the winners.

Wemyss Bay is a real success story and it's expanding all the time and, as more and more families with children move there, the local primary school needed to be refurbished and extended. As with all big construction projects it's not been without its problems but, once the refurbishment is complete, village children will really benefit from being educated in a modern, state of the art school bristling with technology. In fact all of Inverclyde's new schools are being kitted out with interactive white boards, modern computer facilities and upgraded audio visual equipment.

Updated IT systems are really important for schools. The world has moved on tremendously over the last twenty years and our children need to be prepared for the new knowledge economy. In the past Inverclyde's economy was based on manufacturing and heavy industry but our future lies in being at the cutting edge of the information society. Software companies, biotechnology and research and development are the modern growth areas and, if we want Inverclyde to prosper and our children to succeed, they need to be equipped with the skills that employers of the future will be looking for.

This point really hit home during my recent surgery in the Wemyss Bay Community Centre when I looked across at the construction going on at the primary school. My surgeries in the community centre are always popular and the one I held recently was no exception. Some people come along because they are concerned about their children's education, others want an increased police presence in the village, while yet more are campaigning for better facilities. The one thing they all have in common is that they want a brighter future for everyone in Wemyss Bay be they children, family, friends or the community at large. Technology is coming on by leaps and bounds and can help us with many things, but it will never replace the shared sense of identity and common purpose found in village communities throughout Scotland.

David Cairns MP, 20 Union Street, Greenock, PA16 8JL

Tel: 791820 Fax 791821

Email: cairnsd@parliament.uk

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

There will be no Bible Club or Youth Group on Monday 7th April or Monday 14th April due to the school holidays. The clubs resume on Monday 21st April. In March we celebrated Easter and we also sadly said goodbye to Victoria from Youth Group who is moving down south. 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. If you would like to come to either of our groups, you will be made very welcome. The clubs are run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM) and there are no fees for either club. If you require further information, please contact Stephen Renton on 01505 355994.



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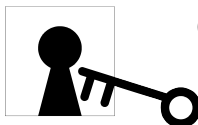
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We are a small but friendly club, and are always looking for new members, i.e. ladies, gents, girls and boys. We have a vibrant junior section and have a strong family culture.

We also have a clubhouse which can be used for private functions.

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Country Membership	£224

This applies to people living outside 30 mile radius, but includes Argyll, Bute and Cumbrae.

Family Membership

When both parents and a child take out a membership one of the parents will receive their membership half price for the first year.

For more information please phone 520152 or 522626

With Thanks Donald McDiarmid, Captain.

Stuart McMillan MSP

Since my last contribution the Parliament has seen some lively debates and historic decisions taken. One of the most satisfying decisions, for me, was to see the Graduate Endowment being abolished.

This unfair burden was placing students in a difficult financial position, with many feeling they were unable to go on to higher education after leaving school. I'm sure students in Wemyss Bay and indeed the whole of Inverclyde will appreciate not having to pay this fee, when and if, they attend Higher Education.

The announcement following the passing of this Bill that colleges and universities are to get an additional investment of £20 million is further good news for further and higher education. Education is a priority for many but should not be a privilege for the wealthiest. The abolition of the Graduate Endowment and this investment into colleges and universities should go towards encouraging more people into higher and further education. With such financial input for education in Scotland it is obvious the Scottish Government are committed to providing students with the tools to create a smarter and more prosperous Scotland.

At recent surgeries I have held in Wemyss Bay I have been consulted on the issue of community funding. On the back of this I have written to the Chief Executive of Inverclyde Council to ascertain how much money has been spent on leisure facilities in each of the following areas during the last 10years:

Wemyss Bay, Gourock, Greenock West, Greenock East, Port Glasgow Upper, Inverkip, Greenock South West, Greenock Central, Port Glasgow Lower and Kilmacolm.

I am trying to establish what funding has been made available to community halls, children's play parks, multi-purpose parks e.g. football pitches – (grass, red blaze and Astroturf). Alongside this I have also written to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice to ascertain how the Proceeds of Crime Act funding will be allocated and to ask him to look favourably on Wemyss Bay in future funding rounds.

I hope to receive answers soon and be able to inform Village News readers in my next submission.

Surgeries: Saturday 8th March 2008 - 09.00 - 09.45, Saturday 10th May 2008 - 09.00 - 09.45

Parliamentary Office, 14 William Street, Paisley, PA1 2LZ Tel.: 0141 889 9519

E-Mail: Stuart.McMillan.MSP@Scottish.Parliament.uk Website: <http://www.stuart-mcmillan.net/>

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

BEAVERS

The colony continue with their badge work with the new Beavers joining in with great enthusiasm!!

CUBS

The Tiger pack continue to prepare for their up and coming hike, with the Leaders helping the cubs use Tranga stoves to make hot drinks. The Leaders explained to the Cubs the necessary safety rules when using the stoves. The outdoor theme included tracking signs and what equipment we need to take when going on our hike.

The Eagle hosted 50+ Cubs and friends on their recent Bring-a-Friend night, a great time of games and challenges entertained the Pack and kept the Leaders on their toes.

The kick-off meeting for the Pack Holiday to Lytham St. Annes saw 35 Cubs and parents attend to discover what activities and visits are planned for this summer

Cubs from both packs recently did a great job raising funds for the annual Pack Holiday this summer. They took part in a sponsored Stay-Awake Night. The Cubs and leaders gathered at Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church Hall at 7:30PM on Friday 14th where the night began with some games to help the boy's burn off their energy. Time flew in, and, before long, it was time for a very enjoyable supper of Marshmallows dipped in chocolate from the Chocolate Fountain! Through the night, Play stations, DVDs, Giant Jenga, Giant Draughts and Giant Connect Four undoubtedly helped the boys (and the leaders!) keep their eyes open. Come 7:30AM, everyone had used up all their energy and were ready to go home to a well deserved kip!

SCOUTS

During the Easter weekend 8 scouts and their Leaders had their first camp of the year at Everton Scout Camp in Inverkip.

EXPLORER SCOUTS – THE BAY EXPLORER UNIT

The Explorer's have a busy month with some craft activities and badge work along with some usual and unusual challenges.

If you wish any further information about the group in general or any section in particular please contact Iain Carmichael on 01475 520697 or one of the section leaders.

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays the 15th & 29th April. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 8th & 22nd April.

Youth Club

The p4 - p7 Youth Club meets every Thursday during term time in the Community Centre from 7 - 8.30pm. There is a 75p entrance charge and a tuck shop is available during the course of the evening selling a range of drinks, crisps and sweets.

There are a variety of activities on offer including football, dodge-ball, rounders, basketball, table-tennis, pool, badminton, board games, and music. We have recently purchased two Nintendo Wii consoles and games and these are bound to prove popular. Over the past few months we have also done some arts and crafts including ceramic painting, scratch art bookmarks and made tea-light holders as Christmas presents. Occasionally we do some cooking/baking, which is always popular, especially when we made Mars Bar cakes recently.

Leaders are vetted through the Disclosure Scotland scheme and first aid cover is also provided. If your child is interested in joining or for more information contact Liz on 520205 or Eila on 529375. Parents are asked to return the emergency contact sheets as soon as possible, if they have not already done so.

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

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Fond thanks, appreciation and kind retirement wishes to our dearly loved Minister for 29 years Bill Armstrong, have come not only from the congregation but other churches, the schools, youth organisations, Gaelic choir and many other parts of the community. A dinner at Seamill Hydro attended by over 200 from across the community, was one of several special events to mark the occasion.

The process to seek a new Minister has begun and may take some months. A "nominating committee" has been elected and the vacancy has been advertised. A "Parish Profile" describing the area and the church, is provided to any qualified person who expresses an interest in the position. Thereafter various processes are followed and with God's will we and our new minister find each other.

In the meantime all services and other activities continue, and we are very happy to have Rev. Morris Coull, a retired minister living in Largs, as our locum Minister. We are also officially looked after as a congregation by our "Interim Moderator" Rev. Andrew McLean, a neighbouring minister appointed by the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley.

By the time you read this we will all have celebrated the miracle and joy of Easter and the start of the new church year, including joint services with Inverkip Church. Blessings to all of the community of Wemyss Bay and Skelmorlie! WRW.

CHURCH DIARY

Sunday Worship – every Sunday, 11.00am.

Sunday Club for youngsters – every Sunday, 11.00am

Prayers for the Sick – last Sunday of every month, 10.15am

Bible Study – every Monday, 7.30pm

Ballroom Dancing – every Tuesday, 7.00pm

Country Dancing – every Wednesday, 7.30pm

Men's Fellowship – fortnightly on Thursdays, 7.30pm

Friday Lunches – every Friday, 12.15-1.30pm

85th Greenock District - 1st Wemyss Bay

Congratulations go to Orla Roders, Craig Horn and Adam Way who all collected their Chief Scout Bronze Award Certificates at our recent Award Ceremony in the Arts Guild. A further congratulations go to Callum Rush, who unfortunately couldn't make it on the night, but has received his award.

Congratulations to Adam Hardie, who recently received his 'Moving On Award' to go from Beavers to Cubs.

We now have spaces in Beavers, so if you would like to come along and join in our fun on a Thursday night, please call me.

At the moment Beavers are enjoying sampling healthy and unhealthy foods for their Health & Fitness and Healthy Eating Badges, and will soon be starting on the new Scottish Badge.

Events still to happen include a trip to the cinema, which all the Beavers thoroughly enjoyed last year, our Group camp at Everton on the 9-11th May, letters will go out after the Easter Holidays, although Beavers will only be able to stay for the Saturday night - 10th, and a Beaver day at Everton, which at the moment is the 7th June. Cub activity day is on the 14th June at Everton.

We have several boys and girls in Beavers, working towards their Challenge Badges as they will be joining Cubs soon, so parents we need your help with this as some of it is done at home.

We recently had a new girl join Cubs, with Emma McQueen taking her promise.

All Cubs at present, are working towards their Fitness Challenge Badge and are enjoying all the running about that they have to do and sampling healthy and unhealthy foods.

We have spaces for Cubs, so boys and girls come along and join in our fun.

Beavers now run from 6pm - 7pm and Cubs from 7pm - 8:30pm.

We are in St Josephs and St Patricks Church Hall on a Thursday Night.

We are still looking for Parents to help us with our Scout Troop, so if there are any out there please call me on 888751.

Liz Roders,

Beaver Leader

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1st Wemyss Bay Ardgowan Football Development – John Reid

Easter Holidays

Date	AFD (Sunday)	Date	ATFC (Thursday)
23rd March	Off	27th March	On
30th March	On	3rd April	On
6th April	Off	10th April	Off
13th April	Off	17th April	Off
20th April	On	24th April	On

Weather

We would like to apologise to the kids in the Primary 4 – 7/Girls Sessions for the number of cancellations there have been this year. Unfortunately the weather has been very poor recently, even professional football has been badly affected, and our 'state of the art' blaes pitch does not help! We will be organising a trip for these kids and information will be issued to you shortly.

Coaches

Our new Coaches are currently undertaking the SYFA Coaching Certificates and by the end of this session all of our coaching team will have achieved Levels 1 – 3. We would like to welcome Merv Dicks to our Coaching Team and hope he enjoys his time with AFD. This brings our total number of coaches to 15.

We recently held a First Aid Course for coaches and all of them have now undertaken some form of first aid training with all but one having a First Aid Certificate. All of our Coaches have undertaken an Enhanced Disclosure.

ATFC

Sessions

All ATFC Coaching Sessions have now been moved to Inverkip Primary School on a Thursday night. Although the gym halls at Inverkip are not ideal for football coaching, this move does ensure that ATFC is on every week and avoids us having the young kids out at night in terrible weather. As soon as the weather and light improves ATFC will return to Wemyss Bay.

We are fast approaching Tournament Season and we will provide ATFC Parents with a list of the tournaments we will be participating in over the summer months.

Under 12 Squad

The ATFC Under 12 Squad continues to make progress in the Johnstone & District 11 A Side League. The move from 7 A Side to 11 A Side football is a big step but the boys have adapted well and, against teams who have been playing 11 A Side longer, have notched up a number of victories. At AFD we believe that kids should play only 7 A Side until aged 11 before moving up at that stage.

The Squad are participating in the Copa Marbella Football Tournament in Spain from 7th – 11th April 2008. This is an excellent opportunity for the boys to play football against teams from across Europe and everyone is looking forward to the trip. This trip is being funded by parental contribution and a fundraising programme (Not the Race Night & Raffle) and not by AFD subscriptions.

Woodland Association

Bat Walks

The Woodland Association will be running two Bat Walks in the next couple of weeks. Why not come for an evening walk and find out about our local night-time wildlife and learn how to use a bat-detector. Both walks cost £1 per head, which is used to offset the costs of the equipment required. On Saturday 26th April a Family Bat Walk leaves the Community Centre car-park at 7.30pm, while on Saturday 3rd May a walk will depart at 8pm for adults and over-12s only. Both walks last for around 2 hours, although the route is structured in such a way to give plenty opportunities to peel away from the group earlier if required. Although we do go through the wood, we stick to paths at all times however, it is still advisable to wear boots or sensible shoes. Please remember to bring a torch, and to check in advance that the batteries are working! As a result of the high demand for last year's walks, numbers are strictly limited and booking is essential.

For more information or to book a space contact Eila on 529375 or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com. If you are interested in joining us but find these dates don't suit, then check out the flyer in this edition of the Village News for details of walks later in the year. In addition, if demand is high enough, we may schedule additional walks.

Fly-Tipping

In the space of three hours recently, three members of the Woodland Association managed to collect almost three quarters of a skip worth of rubbish which had been dumped in the Woodland. Amongst the items collected were an armchair, fold-down bed, toilet and numerous sacks of builders' rubbish! Perhaps those responsible were planning on building a house in the woods, or perhaps they were simply ignorant individuals who care nothing about our surroundings or the safety of those using them. It is obvious that those responsible for dumping items such as these are loading them into a car and taking them to the wood – why then not drive the extra couple of miles to Kirn Drive or Pottery Street and dispose of them responsibly. Alternatively phone Inverclyde Council, who will make arrangements to collect unwanted bulky items, although certainly there is a charge.

Do we really want Wemyss Bay to end up as an eyesore? It is the responsibility of all of us to dispose rubbish responsibly but also to report incidences of fly-tipping to the council, who will investigate and who can instigate criminal proceedings.

Wemyss Bay Judo Club

The club is run by Suzi and her team. Lots of local kids both boys and girls attend. Some have entered competitions and been very successful over the years. If your child or you are interested please feel free to along and speak to Suzi who will give you a warm welcome.

The Judo Club meets on a Wednesday from 7.30 – 9.00pm and a Friday evening from 6.30 – 8.00pm.

Gardening Tip for April

A good time to improve old or worn lawns.

Begin mowing programme:

Aerate, scarify and apply spring fertiliser.

Over-seed worn areas and keep moist until established.

Hoe borders and beds, ensure soil is moist, apply a thick mulch around beds to keep in moisture and keep down weeds.

Complete rose pruning and apply rose fertiliser.

Sow hardy annuals in prepared beds and half hardy annuals under glass

Final Thought

Patience

Patience is a virtue and a power too.

Patience tells us that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step and that we get over there one step at a time.

Patience teaches us not to rush.

Knowing that there is a reason and a season for everything it enables us to smile at the challenges, realizing that there is an answer to every problem.

Even though we cannot see it, yet there is awareness that within every crisis there is an opportunity.

Children's number search

Can you find the numbers below in the table? Why not time how long it takes to complete.

2	8	0	9	7	7	9	0	7
2	9	4	7	3	9	1	9	5
1	4	3	8	1	3	2	0	1
2	1	1	7	4	1	2	2	0
6	3	6	5	0	0	2	0	1
0	3	9	7	2	6	6	0	5
8	5	8	8	1	4	5	9	3
6	9	8	1	3	3	5	2	6
6	6	1	2	4	5	7	0	8

2028

5425

2187

6605

3459

6612

3510

8145

5389

8896

SUDOKU

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

Sudoku is straightforward once you get the hang of it and relies on logic to solve it. Place a number from 1-9 in each empty square so that each row, each column and each 3x3 block contains the numbers 1-9. (This means that no number can appear twice in any row, column or 3x3 block.) Good Luck.

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.

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 May edition will be Friday 18th April at 6pm.



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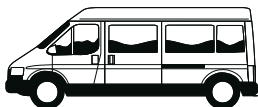
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