

Wemyss Bay Village News

219th Edition

May 2008

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

WEMYSS BAY'S GOT TALENT

Gala Weekend Friday 13th June - Sunday 15th June

Forget London, forget Birmingham, forget Manchester Here it is, our very own Wemyss Bay Talent Show. We may not have Simon Cowell or Louis Walsh as our judges but be assured there will be some serious judging going on, as well as some serious prizes. To ensure your spot in the limelight, just fill in the application form in this month's Wemyss Bay News and post it in the WEMYSS BAY'S GOT TALENT box situated in the Spar Shop.

Gala Weekend

As usual the fun starts on the Friday with a FREAKY FRIDAY disco, including DJ and licensed bar. This will be a fancy dress venue (optional). Outfits can be as weird and wonderful as you like! They can also be inexpensive e.g. why not come along with your clothes on back to front, or inside out anything goes, remember it is FRIDAY THE 13th. *Tickets will be priced at £5 per adult and £3 per child. There will be no buffet this year however we have 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, Tug Of War competition and this year we are hoping to find an up and coming star in our very own talent competition as mentioned above. 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.

We will have our usual attractions such as Quadsports 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 to the Ardgowan Football Development for their annual presentations.

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 gazebos on the Saturday morning, working behind the bar (no experience necessary), manning stalls and general clean up duties. Please contact Denise on 521437 if you can spare some time. Any other gala enquiries 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.

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. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Entries by phone: Sandy on 520738 e-mail: 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

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

In April the Youth Group went on an outing to Paradise Island Adventure Golf at Xscape. The best score was posted by Zoë McCulloch who shot a round of 50. Top boy was Alisdair Wilson with 52. Melissa Murdoch and Ciara McLaren also posted impressive scores of 51. The best team was Zoë, Melissa, Elaine and Chantelle, while the best score by a leader was a 35 by Ian - his round included four holes in one! Also congratulations are due to Colette Scott who passed her driving test in April!

Please note that due to the school holidays there will be no Bible Club or Youth Group on Monday 5th May. The clubs will be back on the following week. If your child would like to come to either of the clubs, they meet on a Monday evening at Wemyss Bay Community Centre. Bible Club is from 6.15pm to 7.30pm and all children in Primary School are welcome. 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. If you require further information, please contact Stephen Renton on 01505 355994.

Wemyss Bay Community Association

Our next meeting will take place in the Nursery Portacabin on the 12th May from 7.00 pm till 9.00pm.

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 June edition will be Friday 23rd May at 6.00pm.

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85th Greenock District – 1st Wemyss Bay

The Beavers recently enjoyed a day out to the cinema, where everyone got to see either 'Horton hears a who' or 'Gameplan'. In total there were 290 Beavers from Greenock District and it goes without saying that all of our kids behaved themselves and tidied up after themselves too. All Beavers and Cubs are thoroughly looking forward to Camp and no doubt by the time everyone is reading this we will have already been and a great time will have been had by everyone. Inverkip Beavers got to stay on the Friday night and Wemyss Bay Beavers stayed on the Saturday night, with all Cubs, Scouts and Explorers staying for the two nights as well as the Leaders. In total 130 kids from the 85th will have stayed at the weekend and worked towards new badges.

Beavers are at present working towards the Scottish Challenge badge and Cubs are working towards their Discovery Challenge Badge.

Still to come is the Beaver Day on the 7th June at Everton and the Cub Day on the 14th June again at Everton. I will send out letters detailing all events for both days nearer the time.

Beavers are collecting for 'Mary's Meal's' and have almost filled a 5 litre bottle full of pennies. This goes towards their 'seven' badge which is given out for collecting for a charity. I look forward to counting all the pennies once the bottle is full!

Can I also add that we are still looking for a scout leader and anyone thinking of helping please call me for further details.

We also now have spaces for Beavers, so join us from 6pm to 7pm on a Thursday at the Church Hall. Cubs run from 7pm to 8:30pm. If you are looking for something to do on a Thursday night come along and join us.

Anyone looking for further details or information please call me on 888751.

Can I further add that we are NOT looking for a Beaver leader. There seems to be some confusion, with us and Skelmorlie.

The Wemyss Bay Beavers and Cubs are not connected to the Skelmorlie Group, but are part of Inverkip and the Greenock District.

Liz Rodgers

Beaver Leader

1st Wemyss Bay.

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:

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

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.

PTA

Well time is really passing and we in the PTA are starting to plan the primary 7 leavers dance!!! Where has the school year gone???????

We have had a very successful Hot Dog Day and have another one planned for Friday 23 May so please remember £1 on that day, although we will send out a wee reminder nearer the time.

Like everyone else we are looking forward to getting back to our new and improved school and to mark the occasion we are planning a permanent memorial that will tie in with a fund raiser and as soon as we have all the details we will let you know.

As always we are looking for people to come along to our meetings. They take place in the nursery portacabin and are informal and fun. So if you can spare an hour one Monday a month then please come along and lend your support.

Thanks Donna Galvin.



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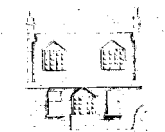
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WEMYSS BAY ADULT ASSOCIATION

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	Inverkip School	Instructor	Lynsey McLaughlin
Guitar Group - 7-8.30pm	Inverkip School	Tutor	Graham Deatcher
Art Group - 7-9pm	W/B Nursery Block	Tutor	Pat Fulton

Tuesday

Cross Stitch - 7.30-9.30pm	W/B Nursery Block		
Yoga - 7.40-9.15pm	Inverkip School	Tutor	Donna Blackley

Wednesday

Yoga - 7.40-9.15pm	Inverkip School	Tutor	Donna Blackley
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The cost of the above classes £20 for 10 week course. For further information please contact Morag Wilson on 521626.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

We're still very much firing on all cylinders, with fine worship led by our locum Minister, Revd. Morris Coull, and other activities going ahead as usual. Our Easter worship, much of it shared with Inverkip Church, and including the "Sunrise" service on Meigle Beach was again wonderful and well attended. Meanwhile the work of finding a new Minister continues. Our Services are at 11:00 on Sunday, with Sunday Club and crèche for children, and tea and coffee afterwards - and we'll do our very best to make anyone and everyone welcome.

On Saturday 21st June at 10-12 we have a Car Wash / Coffee morning - so come along and enjoy coffee and cakes while your car gets a wash and brush-up in the car park!

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

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, mug painting and made tea-light holders as Christmas presents. Occasionally we do some cooking/baking, which is always popular.

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.

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Ardgowan Football Development

AFD Sunday Sessions

Following the recent spell of bad weather, all AFD Sunday Sessions are now operating normally. The session times are as follows:

Primary 1	12:05 – 13:20
Primary 2	13:25 – 14:40
Primary 3	14:45 – 16:00
Primary 4	12:45 – 14:15
Primary 5	12:45 – 14:15
Primary 6	14:15 – 15:45
Primary 7/Girls	14:15 – 15:45

AFD Sunday Sessions are on throughout May but there will be no AFD on Sunday 25th May due to the Annual Coaches Conference.

Gala Day

The world famous AFD Pie & Bovril Stall will return at this year's Village Gala Day and the Old Crocks (Some now the wrong side of 50) will play a friendly match against a local team.

The AFD Gala Day on Sunday will be along usual lines with a Guest Speaker from the World of Football, Kids Parade; Presentation of Awards; Coaching Sessions and Inverclyde's Fastest Disappearing Buffet!!

Trip to Soccer Circus

To compensate for the number of times we have cancelled the outdoor sessions this year, due to weather and poor facilities, we have organised a trip to Kevin Keegan's Soccer Circus. This trip, for the P4 – P7/Girls Sessions, will take place on Sunday 22nd June, more information to follow.

ATFC

Coaching Sessions

The Wednesday night coaching sessions will now return to the grass area at the Community Centre from 6.30pm – 8.00pm.

Under 12 Squad

The Under 12 coaching session has now returned to the grass area at the Community Centre from 6.00pm – 7.30pm on Thursday nights.

The Under 12 Squad participated in the Copa Marbella Football Tournament in Spain from 7th – 11th April 2008. This was an excellent opportunity for the boys to play football against teams from across Europe and, despite the weather (yes it was raining!) the boys, coaches and parents all enjoyed the trip. The two teams reached the semi-finals of the Trophy and Shield respectively and collectively Ardgowan won the Fair Play Award. Well done boys you were a credit to your club and your parents!

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 go 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.



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Water Pressure

Voluntary and charitable organisations are sometimes called “Cinderella services” - and not because of their passion for ballroom dancing in dangerous footwear. It's because, despite delivering vital services and value for money, they can be taken for granted by their ugly government sisters.

And times have become harder in recent months, with the Scottish Government's harsh settlement for local government giving councils a smaller share of the Scottish budget than ever before. As we know, voluntary sector groups are bearing the brunt of the resulting financial pressures.

Then, as if this wasn't enough, the spectre of crippling water rates raised its head.

Under an agreement introduced by the previous government, the voluntary and charitable sectors are exempt from water rates. This is particularly important for churches, as they have large floor spaces, but use relatively little water. This exemption, though, was put into doubt by Ministers who began consulting on its future.

Together with colleagues, local churches and voluntary groups, therefore, I had been pressing for the scheme's extension. Perhaps due to this intervention, or perhaps intervention from a higher power, the Scottish Government saw sense. Ahead of a debate on a Labour motion regarding the difficulties facing the voluntary sector last Thursday, Ministers tabled an amendment conceding that the exemption should be extended.

We'll need to see the details, but there's no doubt that this is a victory, not just for our community's voluntary, church and other charitable organisations, but for those who rely on the services they provide.

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

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 chickeney 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



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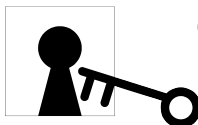
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Inverkip Bowling Club

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

David Cairns MP

Inverclyde people are not parochial

In my experience people living in Inverclyde are not parochial. Very far from it. If my postbag is anything to go by, they take a keen interest in what is going on in the world around them and, at the moment, the two main issues concerning them are Zimbabwe and Beijing. The world is a much smaller place than it used to be and we already have refugees from Mugabe's brutal dictatorship living in Inverclyde. And, of course, we have long standing links with the Chinese community who have been in our midst for many years. So it is really not surprising to find that local people are interested in these two great international events.

The question I am always asked is should we boycott the Beijing Olympics. In my view, no. We are all concerned about Tibet but I don't think that boycotting the Olympics is the right thing to do. China's human rights record is certainly not good enough and this is something which UK ministers raise regularly with Chinese leaders. But what we have to ask ourselves is how can we most influence China? Is it by abandoning it and leaving the Chinese to their own devices, or continuing a dialogue with them while, at the same time, raising our concerns and encouraging them to look outwards?

Neither the Dalai Lama nor the major human rights organisations are asking for a boycott of the Olympics. They recognise that the Games can be a force for good, and it is only by turning the spotlight on China that we can hope to exert pressure for change. At the heart of the issue is whether the causes of Tibet and civil liberties can best be served by isolating China, (even if this were possible in the inter-dependent 21st century), or by engaging with them. Engagement is preferable to isolation and humiliating China is unlikely to achieve anything and would, ultimately, be counter productive. For if we boycott Beijing other nations may retaliate, as happened in the 1980s, and stay away from the London Olympics and the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. You can easily get into a tit-for-tat situation which does no good for international diplomacy, or for our hard-working and wholly innocent athletes.

Zimbabwe is the other big international issue of the day. Living in the UK it's easy to take democracy for granted, but all you have to do is watch the evening news to understand how desperate things are in Zimbabwe. Results pinned up outside the country's 9,400 polling stations show that the outcome is in no doubt, but still Mugabe clings to power and refuses to accept the will of the people.

The question is what can be done about it? This is an African problem and what we need is an African solution. Those best placed to solve the problem and exert pressure on Zimbabwe are its immediate neighbours. The UK is the country's second largest bilateral donor and last year we spent over forty million pounds on aid. We will not desert the long-suffering people of Zimbabwe in their hour of need, but it is clear that those with the most influence are the countries on its doorstep. They need to know that Britain, and the rest of the international community, will stand full square behind them as they strive to ensure that the real winner in the Zimbabwean election is democracy.

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

Tel: 791820 Fax 791821

Email: cairnsd@parliament.uk

Hire of Furniture

The Community Association can rent out furniture from the community Centre at a very reasonable cost.

If you need to hire furniture, a table and eight chairs cost £10. In addition, it is necessary to leave a £50 deposit which is returnable when the furniture is returned to the centre in good condition. If you are interested in this service, please contact Kirsty on 520738.

Skelmorlie Golf Club

The Club is now gearing up for it's 10th year as an 18 hole Golf Course. It was founded in 1891, and was a 13 hole course, until 5 new holes were developed and opened for play in 1998. The course, while a short par 65, is challenging and rewarding, and has stunning views over the Firth of Clyde, and open all the year round.

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.

Our membership rates are as follows:

Annual Membership	£448
Junior Membership	£80 or £100
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.

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community Council is in ongoing communication with Scottish Water regarding flooding in the local area. Scottish Water has advised residents to report instances of flooding to their 24 hour helpline - 0845 601 8855.

Steering Group News

The W/Bay Leisure Facilities Steering Group have drawn up a development document highlighting the 3 main facilities that need look into within the area.

This will be shown to the three Ward 6 councillors before showing it to the Inverclyde Authorities, but over the last 4 weeks we have had numerous last minute cancellations from them and are waiting to meet with the councillors at the end of this month.

The 3 main facilities that came up in the local poll were:

Astro Turf pitch in the school grounds. 29%

Community Centre Upgraded/extended 26%

Adventure/play/swing/MUGA park 22%

Gardening Tip for May

Deadhead and nip out the seed heads of daffodils and hyacinths after flowering.

Allow to die down naturally or move and replant to make way for bedding.

Pests and diseases are becoming much more common, check plants regularly and treat at first signs of trouble.

Keep on top of weeds with regular hoeing and dig out tap roots of perennial weeds.

Apply a high nitrogen fertiliser to grass areas and prepare for regular mowing.

Increase watering and begin fertilising of plants.

Remove dead flower heads and thin out weak or crossing shoots from early flowering shrubs.

Watch out for and remove suckers from roses, lilacs and fruit trees.

Stuart McMillan MSP

With the new tax year upon us much of the Scottish Government's work of the last 11 months became a reality.

Four important policies were implemented on 1st April which will have a significant impact throughout Inverclyde. Firstly, Council Tax payers will have had their council tax frozen, reversing the trend which saw the Council Taxes in Inverclyde increase by just under 60% since they were introduced.

Council's now have more control over their budgets with the reduction of ring fenced budgets, as agreed between COSLA and the Scottish Government. This allowed the Government to provide the resources for a Council Tax freeze.

Alongside this, the Government have also introduced the first reduction in prescription charges paving the way for them to be abolished by 2011. Prescription charges now cost £5.00 as compared to £6.85. By the time the charges are abolished, Scotland will be in line with Wales who abolished their charges in 2007.

Healthcare should be free at the point of access for all people and the phasing out of prescription charges is a big step towards providing that system in Scotland.

Inverclyde have many people who attend college and university and the imposition of the Graduate Endowment on the back of student loans has been a major financial burden. The Graduate Endowment has now been abolished saving each graduate £2,289. Leaving university with thousands of pounds of debt is a challenge so removing this debt burden, I believe, will provide some assistance.

Fourthly, 1700 small businesses in Inverclyde will now see their business rates being cut. The removal of business rates will be phased in with small businesses seeing a reduction in rates from this financial year.

Finally, although not a new policy but a further change nonetheless was the increase in payments for Free Personal and Nursing Care to older people in care homes. These payments increased in line with inflation.

I believe the introduction of these policies will create numerous benefits for residents in Wemyss Bay and throughout Inverclyde.

Contact: Stuart McMillan MSP

Parliamentary Office, 14 William Street, Paisley, PA1 2LZ

Tel.: 0141 889 9519

E-mail: Stuart.McMillan.MSP@Scottish.Parliament.uk

Next Surgery:

Saturday 10th May – Wemyss Bay Community Hall – 9am – 9.45am

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

After April's break all sections are now back and concentrating on outdoor activities as part of their summer programme.

May sees the group start preparations for our annual Jumble Sale in June, this is the group's major fund raising event of the year and the support of the local community is key to the success of the event and ultimately the group for the next year, for collection dates see our separate advert in this month's village news.

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.

The Chief Scout has awarded Alistair Wylie, Cub Scout Leader, 71st Ayrshire (Skelmorlie) with the Bar to the Silver Acorn for further specially distinguished services to Scouting locally.

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Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays the 13th & 27th May. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 6th & 20th May.

Ross Finnie MSP

The housing market in Wemyss Bay has always had a buoyant house market but now householders face increased mortgage interest rates and the availability of mortgage loans has nearly dried up. Of course the collapse of the sub-prime market in the USA has had a major influence. But we have to recognise that runaway house-price inflation has played a big part in this country.

Eleven years ago the Government set the independent Monetary Policy Committee the task of controlling headline inflation at around 2.5 per cent. By and large it has been successful but house price inflation has raged on. If mortgage payers are to see some stability in their interest payments and would be buyers are not to be squeezed out of the market it is time the Government gave the Monetary Policy Committee the task of controlling house price inflation.

Wemyss Bay residents cover a broad range of age groups but it has always been a popular village for young people about to start a family. It is, therefore, particularly disappointing that yet again Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board has gone out to consultation on the proposed closure of the birthing unit at Inverclyde Royal Hospital.

If this community is to retain its attractiveness to young people then amongst other things it must have a hospital maternity unit close to hand.

Contact Ross Finnie MSP at:

54 Kelly Street, Greenock PA16 8TR

Tel: 01475-805020 Fax: 01475-805021

email ross.finnie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

website www.rossfinniemsp.org.uk

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

1st Wemyss Bay

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.

Story written by Primary 7 pupils Jamie Roberts and Sophie McQueen.

Malawi Coffee Morning

On Thursday 27th March Primary 7 organised a coffee morning and invited parents to come and learn about our link to Malawi and Malire Primary. Stalls were set up with leaflets informing the parents about what we have learned about Malawi. We also had a book stall where people could donate books to send to Malire Primary. There was a DVD about Malawi which parents could watch and a PowerPoint which Primary 7 had made on Malawi life and the education there. Mr Weir, grandfather of Declan in Primary 5, came to hand out leaflets about the work of Mission Africa.

They take education very seriously because it's their only chance to learn. Some children don't finish Primary school as they may need to help back home on the farm. Resources are low in Malawi so they make their own out of wood, twigs and anything available. Another stall was a charity stall called Mary's Meals. Mary's Meals is a charity that sends food to five different countries for hungry children. It costs £5.30 a year to feed one child.

We had some donations, Saskia Mulholland and Megan Lynch together raised £30.76 on a sponsored walk, Chloe Campbell, Abbie Galbraith and Katrina Gregory raised £64 from a garage sale, Scott Macintosh and Dario Zavaroni donated £5.30 each of their Easter money and the PTA donated £133, which was £5.30 for every child in Primary 7. All this money will be given to Mary's Meals. Declan Weir raised £65 for Mission Africa, by organising a competition to guess the number of sweets in a jar. Finally National Semiconductor donated £400 to Malire Primary.

Pupils of the Week:

Week beginning: 17th March

Pr1. Sophie Elliott, Pr2. Adam Galbraith, Pr3. Jamie Black, Pr4. Sarah Hulme & Diana McKinnon, Pr5. Devlin McCabe & Katrina Gregory, Pr6. Mhairi Black & Rhian Hunter, Pr7. Sophie Benfield House of the Week: Bute.

Week beginning: 24th March

Pr1. Calum McAskill, Pr2. Harry Brown, Pr3. Joshua Watson, Pr4. Alexander Love & Christopher Hulme, Pr5. Ross Gallacher, Pr5. Rachel Murdoch & Craig MacLean, Pr7. Mark Anderson House of the Week: Arran.

Week beginning: 31st March

Pr1. Finn Rankin, Pr2. Katie McAskill, Pr3. Cameron Mangan & Greg McIntyre, Pr4. Victoria Jackson, Pr5. Katie Sunderland, Pr6. Daniel Gregory, Pr7. Cameron Reid House of the Week: Cumbrae.

Woodland Association

Treasurer Wanted

The Woodland Association is looking for someone to take on the role of Treasurer. The knowledge of Quickbooks would be an advantage. The job is not particularly onerous and will take between one and two hours per month. If you would like to discuss the vacancy and the work involved, with no obligation, please contact Eila on 529375.

Final Thought

Smile Incessantly

We all know and remember a smiley person - someone whose heart seems to radiate through their teeth. And when they do, notice how it's almost impossible not to smile back...unless you are feeling very, very grumpy! So if you don't feel a smile coming on - why not do it anyway. Not only does it transform your inner chemical production and create 'happy hormones', but when people are on the end of your smile, they smile back (well most do). And if you really don't genuinely feel like smiling at life, the universe and everybody - fake it until you make it!

Kid's Puzzles

Directions: To find the keyword, fill in the blanks in words 1 through 10 with the correct missing letters. Transfer those letters to the correspondingly numbered spaces in the keyword. Approach with care, this puzzle is not as simple as it first appears.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. ME_AL | 6. D_NCE |
| 2. TRAC_ | 7. _EACH |
| 3. _LEAT | 8. P_NCH |
| 4. MO_SE | 9. _UNCE |
| 5. STAI_ | 10. _OOSE |

SUDOKU

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

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 June edition will be Friday 23rd May at 6pm.

Having a Birthday? Have a Disco Party!



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71st Ayrshire Scout Group

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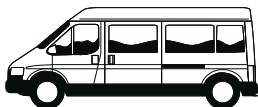
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