Wemyss Bay Village News

221st Edition July 2008

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

Wemyss Bay Gala 2008

Well another year over and what a great success yet again! The weather of course was a great attribution to the weekend and the fantastic community spirit. The committee have received nothing but positive feedback and have commented on how much everyone is looking forward to next year's event!!!!!!

Friday night was well attended and enjoyed by adults and children alike with Radio Clyde 2's Bill Smith providing the music and entertainment.

Saturday began with the arrival of the Gala Royal Family and the grand opening by Radio Clyde's Dr Proctor. All stalls and attractions were busy as usual and thanks to Funworld, the Sumo Suits went down a storm!!!!!! (Could the person who borrowed one of the helmets please return it Spar Shop at Wemyss Bay).

Feedback is that perhaps a bigger Marquee would be needed to accommodate the volume of enthusiastic audience cheering on the multi talented participants from the Brownies dancing team, Graffiti Dance Troupe, Jo Jingles and her tiny musicians to the grand talent competition.

Wemyss Bays Got Talent

We sure do!!!!! What a fantastic variety of acts, from dancers, singers, musicians, magicians and even a stand up comedian. Well done to every one of the 15 acts who participated. It was evident that they had put in so much effort and preparation in the run up to the event, which proved to be a roaring success with the marquee at its full capacity. Andy Hearl aged 11 wowed us all with his guitar and vocal ability and took first prize. Our thanks go to Tesco of Greenock for sponsoring this event.

John Scott from Your Radio continued to entertain us with his chat and fantastic music till the very end…….

Wemyss Bay Garden Competition 2008

The competition was hotly contested with many good applications. Only nominated gardens were entered.
All entrants had excellent displays with various bedding, shrubs, vegetables etc. Each garden viewed was of a high standard.
This year's winners were as noted below.

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Jim McDonald	Alistair Livingston	Robert Bain	Jill Best
13 Kilchattan Place	29 Ryan Road	11 Striven Road	1 Katrine Road
Wemyss Bay	Wemyss Bay	Wemyss Bay	Wemyss Bay

Wemyss Bay Association would like to say a massive THANK YOU

The gala was a major success this year and The Association would like to thank all those who gave up their precious time over the weekend to make the event the success it was.

A special thanks to the sponsorship we received. This included donations of many kinds including money, food, free hire and prize donations. For sure the gala would not be possible without the endeavours of this core team.

Group Steers Towards Wemyss Bay Astroturf

The Wemyss Bay Faclities Steering Group are happy to announce that after an 8 months campaign fighting for better facilities within Wemyss Bay, Inverclyde Council have taken notice of the lack of facilities within the area and granted the construction of a 7 aside Astroturf pitch in the school grounds of Wemyss Bay primary.

The construction of the park should start in June 2009 although the group has still to meet with various Council officials to work out the fine details of the footprint of the park.

A more detailed report of the constuction will be drafted after the group meet with the officials and work on these details.

It has been a hard 8 months of work where the Steering Group met fortnightly in the first few months and worked tirelessly to draft a fifteen page document, to hand to Inverclyde

Council, to show how Wemyss Bay had been neglected over the years with the lack of leisure facilities.

Working closely together with our local Councillors and Council officers helped bring this facility together.

Thanks to all who helped over the last 8 months and to those who will see the job through to completion.

Wemyss Bay Steering Group
Iain Buchan

Wemyss Bay Parent Council

Following 9 months of pressure from Wemyss Bay Parent Council, Wemyss Bay Facilities steering committee and many others, Inverclyde Council have at last committed approximately £350,000 to install an all weather sports pitch at the school. The project is currently planned for June 2009, with completion in September 2009.

This has been a real community effort, and I would like to thank all involved.

The newly extended school will be opening its doors to pupils on Wednesday 20th August, and our first Parent Council meeting of the term is planned for 6.30pm on Thursday 28th August at the school. Any parents of children at the school or nursery are welcome to join us.

Robin Thomson
Chair Parent Council

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

We held our summer parties and prizegivings for Bible Club and Youth Group on the 16th June at the Community Centre. There were lots of prize-winners! At Bible Club the following won prizes: Jennifer Drainer (x3), Hollie Bain, Jonathan Renton, Orianne Murdoch, Emma Thomson, Jaye Gourley, Emma McQueen (x2), Mairi Maclean (x2), Amy Donnelly, Nicola Higgins, Nicola Anderson and Victoria Jackson. The prize-winners at Youth Group were Niamh McLaren (x2), Sophie McQueen (x2), Melissa Robson, Melissa Murdoch and Ciara McLaren, with Team Haribo winning the team contest! Well done to them all. We concluded the session with an outing to Funworld at the end of June for Bible Club. We have had a good year which included outings to 10 pin bowling, Laser Planet and Adventure Golf at Xscape for Youth Group, and we also celebrated Bible Club's 15th anniversary last October. Thank you to everyone who helped with and took part in Beat the Keeper at the Gala Day which raised funds for the clubs. The clubs will resume in September and are run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM).

Attic Players (Skelmorlie, Wemyss Bay & Inverkip Drama Club)

Attic Players is 3/4 of a century old - one of the oldest clubs in this area. We are celebrating with a Dinner dance in Brisbane Hotel, Largs on 19th September. Members old and new (and potential!) and their friends are invited. Please contact Richard on 522793 for info or tickets.

Our next production will be the ever-popular black comedy "Arsenic and Old Lace" on November 28th & 29th. We're looking for actors, especially male - if interested (or in other kinds of involvement) please call Hazel on 529591 or Richard on 522793

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1st Wemyss Bay Guides

Wow! We have definitely had a busy summer term but it has been great fun!

The Gala Day was a great success, the tea room was busy with the cake and candy which was handmade by the Guides themselves (and Gran Morris and Aunty Catherine who we owe a huge thank you to!) The coconut shy and ball in a bucket were kept super busy with everyone determined to try and get a prize! We must thank everyone for their hard work on the day including all the Guides who helped at the stalls, Mrs Battley, Kirsty, Mairi and Seoniadh in the tea room, Judith and Muriel for their contributions and assistance on the day and of course Amy and Jane who ran around keeping check on everything that was going on! It was definitely worth it as we managed to raise an amazing £475!! Thank you!

Guides finished this year with our annual sausage sizzle. This year due to the weather we didn't manage to get to the beach, but we did have it at the back of the community centre. The girls were all fire safety aware, due to them all gaining their fire safety badge previously in the year! Everyone managed to get some sausages and burgers as well as the all important smores that we love!

This year, Wemyss Bay Guides decided to have an award presented at the end of the year that was linked to attendance, uniform and of course contribution to the community and Guiding. This proved to be such a difficult decision for the Guiders as over the past year all of the girls involved with Wemyss Bay Guiding have been such excellent ambassadors for the community and Guiding, their behaviour and enthusiasm has been recognised throughout our County, so we should really have had 27 Guiding Stars!! One Guide who did stand out just a tiny bit further due to her excellent attitude and contribution to community and weekly meetings, was Jayne Borthwick. Jayne was given a certificate and trophy which she will keep for a year. Well done Jayne and all girls at 1st Wemyss Bay Guides!! Let's hope we continue with such a great reputation next year!

We are looking forward to next term which begins on Tuesday 19th August where we already have our annual camp planned in for the middle of September and our Baden Powell Challenge girls will get to complete their final section of the award. We will also be looking forward to hearing from Amanda about her adventures in Switzerland and Alison about her time in Ghana.

Finally, we would like to thank all parents, families and friends of the girls and young women associated with 1st Wemyss Bay Guides for all your help and support over the year. We have definitely had a superb year! Have a great holiday everyone!

Our numbers are quickly filling up at Wemyss Bay Guides and we only have a few places left. If you would like to join or put your daughters name down for a place when she does turn 10, please contact Alison Carmichael 520697 or girlguidingwemyssbay@yahoo.co.uk .

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays the 8th & 22nd July. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 1st, 15th & 29th July.

Wemyss Bay Community Association

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 September edition will be Friday 15th August at 6.00pm.

Womens Only Martial Arts

This new class will be held on a Thursday night from 8.30-9.30pm. For more information please contact Billy Harrison on 790370.

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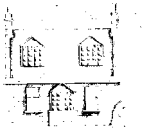

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Inverclyde Council's Cleaner, Greener, Safer, Stronger Summer Campaign sets sail during the summer months!

The Council's new seasonal Campaign will be rolled out throughout July and August and will outline how local people can stay safe and help the environment during the summer.

An Information Session on the Campaign will take place in Wemyss Bay Community Centre on Thursday 17 July 2008. Council staff will be present from 10.00 to 12.00 to meet residents and hand out leaflets with information on:

- recycling during the summer;
- details of walks in Inverclyde;
- the Council's Clean Up or Pay Up Campaign;
- how the Council can support groups that would like to organise a community clean-up event;
- how to dispose of bulky household waste; and
- summer home and road safety advice.

If you can't make it along to the Information Session but would like to receive a leaflet, please call 01475 714750 and one will be posted to your home.

Wemyss Bay Brownies

What a wonderful year Girlguiding Wemyss Bay has had!

We started with a super outdoor activity weekend at Netherurd (the Scottish Training Centre just outside Peebles). The girls had a ball I have never seen so many 'drookit' weans in my life. They canoed, built rafts, climbed walls, sailed paper boats with candles in the dark. Wow! And a fish fell out of someone's pocket

I think part of the highlight of the weekend was the fire alarm at 3am. Everyone was in their jammies and barefoot and it was cold and drizzling, and it was an hour before we got back in. The wee girls were starting to get petted lips and the bigger ones were getting to that slightly hysterical teenage stage and I was thinking "I just want a gin and tonic", but hot chocolate had to do.

What team work was displayed 59 of the 60 children were outside in seconds – one slept through the alarm, but Wilma, our District Commissioner, went straight back in to get her out. It was harvest time and wee insects had got into the system and set off the alarm. We didn't know that though so she was really brave.

We had Halloween fun, Christmas carols, danced (didn't win the trophy this year but got close) been indoors and outdoors.

We've developed, encouraged the girls and had fun with them.

The Brownies raised £155.32 at the Gala Day which will pay for their District Barbeque and our USA night that we are finishing with.

I want to thank Amy and Jennifer our assistants who come along every week, Allison for helping with the dancing, all our other supporters who appear when needed and everyone who has passed in good wishes for Ruth.

See you all at the end of August

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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

Adult Association

Autumn/Winter Programme to be held in Wemyss Bay Primary
Classes on Offer

Monday:
Pilates 6.30-7.30pm Guitar Group 7-8.30pm Art Group 7-9pm

Tuesday:
Yoga 7.40-9.15pm Cross Stitch 7.30-9.30pm

Wednesday:
Yoga 7.40-9.15pm

Thursday:
Book Club 7.30pm

New Classes on offer:
Belly Dancing, Conversational Spanish, Card Making, Rug Making
The dates and times have still to be arranged for the above classes. Classes will only go ahead if there is sufficient interest.

To ensure a place on the course of your choice we invite you to come along to our Enrolment Evening on Tuesday 9th September from 7-9pm in Wemyss Bay Primary School where there will be wine and nibbles for everyone.
Thanks *Morag*

Woodland Association

Once again this year, the Woodland Association is running a number of walks and activity sessions during the summer months. There is a £1 charge for each event, unless indicated, and they run from 10am – 12noon each day. The meeting point for all the events is the Car Park at the Community Centre.
For more information, or to book a space phone 529375 or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com
Sat 12th July Wombling Morning: Join us for a morning tidying up the wood. Gloves and litter-pickers supplied. * No charge*
Wed 16th July Treasure Hunt: A morning of clues and activities for the young and the young at heart.
Wed 23rd July Mini-Beast Safari: Things which are too small to notice can be the things which make a woodland work. Get up close to a selection of creepy crawlies and slimy beasties
Wed 30th July Artworks: Join us and take part in a range of art and craft activities including petal dying, leaf painting and making shapes and designs from natural materials.
Sat 9th Aug Bird Walk & Bird Boxes: During the morning you will find out about some of the birds who live in the woodland and what they eat. Help our feathered friends by making a nest-box to go up in the wood.
Sat 16th Aug Folklore of Plants: An insight into how many of the plants, which we now consider to be everyday ones, had former uses and powers which were, perhaps, less than innocent.
Sat 23rd Aug Wombling Morning: Join us for a morning tidying up the wood. Gloves and litter-pickers supplied. * No charge*
Sat 30th Aug Mini-Beast Safari: Things which are too small to notice can be the things which make a woodland work. Get up close to a selection of creepy crawlies and slimy beasties.

Help Keep Wemyss Bay Tidy

"Just Bin It!"

85th Greenock District

Wemyss Bay Beavers and Cubs have had yet another great year.
Everyone had a tremendous time at the Cub and Beaver Activity day. The weather held out for us and by the time everyone left Everton they were well and truly exhausted. I have put in my request for the District not to have the Activity days during the Gala weekend next year, so that everyone that missed out can be there next time! Hopefully someone will listen. Can I also give a big thanks to all our parents who helped us on the days, we couldn't have done it without your help.
The Beavers have achieved almost all of their badges and are working towards the last remaining challenge badges with only a couple to get. We have had loads of new Beavers join us and sadly some leave us, but only to go to Cubs.
The Cubs, whom we started in September, are growing fast and they too have worked towards lots of badges, the most recent ones being their DIY, Road Safety and Outdoor Challenge Badge. We have a mixed group of Cubs, who all work well together both in their badgework and playing. The girls are just as competitive as the boys when it comes to badge work and games.
I am pleased to announce that we have a new scout leader in Wemyss Bay, thanks go to Roddy McCaskill for volunteering. He will start the Scouts in September, so we will be recruiting between now and then for all boys and girls aged between 10-14 years. Some of our Cubs will be going up to Scouts then, so come along and join in our fun.
We start back on the first Thursday in September and we will now be in the school. We will still be on a Thursday, however we are changing our times to 6:15 to 7:15 for Beavers and 7:15 to 8:30 for Cubs.
We will also have more spaces for Beavers, as some of them will move up to Cubs after the summer.
The 85th group are also part of Inverkip and we have spaces for Beavers in there too, so if there is anyone you know who would like to join, please call me about that.
Beavers are aged between 5yrs, 9mths and 8yrs, Cubs between 8 and 10yrs and Scouts between 10 and 14 years.
If there is anything you would like to ask me about any of the groups please do not hesitate to phone - 888751
Finally, thanks go out to all the parents, for getting the kids to come along, driving them to our events and also up that road at Everton, and a big thank you for sewing on all badges!

Liz Roders
85th Greenock District
1st Wemyss Bay Beaver and Cub Leader

PTA

Hello from the PTA, well that is another P7 that has moved on to their new adventures in High School. We have had another great Leavers Dance that everyone enjoyed and had a great time, the PTA members who came along and helped had a pretty good time too!! We all wish the P7s all the very best of luck in High School and hope that they will come back and visit the new school.

We also had a great day at the Gala where we ran a Tombola, Giant Connect 4 and an Aim Game. A big thank you to everyone who came along and helped run the stall. We raised lots of money for our funds which will be used for the pupils when we return to the new and improved school.

Now as ever we are still looking for more people to come along to our meetings and give us a hand. The meetings are fun and informal and not usually too long. We next meet on 1st September and it will be our first meeting in the new school so if you have an hour to spare please come along and give us your support.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me in my first year as Chairperson I couldn't have done it without you all.

Have a great summer and see you in August in the new school.
Donna Galvin.

Ross Finnie MSP

Reading the Wemyss Bay Village News is genuinely uplifting in stark contrast to the daily diet of gloom, doom and despair that fills our national newspapers... Last month's edition reported on the huge range of activities being undertaken by Wemyss Bay's Guides, Bible Club and Youth Group, the Scout Groups and to top it all the Primary School taking the lead in promoting healthy lifestyles through its health week and showing idealism is alive and well amongst our youth through their support for "Show Racism the Red Card"

That is why I get depressed at the tendency to demonise young people. They are the future and should be seen as part of the solution not part of the problem. Following my piece last month on responsible drinking obviously I welcomed the Government's announcements on tackling alcohol abuse. But I took grave exception to the plan to raise the age limit for buying at an off-sale from 18 to 21. There is a minority who cause a problem but the majority should not be stigmatised in this way.

Two editions ago I wrote about how the attractiveness of Wemyss Bay to young people, in the longer term, might be affected by the proposed closure of the birthing unit and Inverclyde Royal. The Health Board has extended the period for consultation. Does this mean they are listening? I hope so.

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

Duncan McNeil MSP

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

Youth Club

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.

Help Wanted

The P4 - P7 youth club is seeking two additional adult leaders who must be prepared to be vetted through the Disclosure Scotland Scheme. For more information contact Eila on 529375

Inverkip & Wemyss Bay Community Council

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Rogues Room at the Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm however there will be no meeting in the month of July. 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

HELLO - FROM WEMYSS BAY ON THE HILL!

We're back and although we are still on the hill this is the last report from King's Glen Campus. Next time you hear from us we should be back in our new school.

Choices for Life

On Thursday 15th May all the pupils from Primary 7 went to the S.E.C.C. in Glasgow for Choices for Life. Choices for Life are about what choices you make in life. We were told about how to react to drugs and alcohol. There were lots of video clips, singing and one game called Choices Family Fortunes. The Choices Family Fortunes was all about what you would do if you were forced to take drugs or drink alcohol. There were two families, the Simpsons and the Adams. The Simpsons family won the game by one point. Other entertainment there included The McDonald Brothers, The Attic Lights and a school choir. There was also a play which was performed by Pace Theatre Group. The play was really interesting and it showed you how dangerous drugs can actually be. At the end of the afternoon we were all given a backpack with lots of goodies inside.

It was a really good afternoon and everyone enjoyed it very much.

Dalguise: Residential Trip

On Monday 9th June 43 pupils and 5 staff travelled to Dalguise adventure centre for a week of activities. On the way there we stopped off at Noah's Ark in Perth where we did go-karting, ten pin bowling and spent time in the soft play area.

When we arrived at Dalguise we were met by our "groupies", DJ and Christine. They then showed us our rooms and took us around the grounds. After dinner we took part in 'Wacky Races'.

During the week we participated in a variety of activities including abseiling, climbing, archery, giant swing, raft building, challenge course, fencing and various nature/eco trails. In the evening there were various activities including disco, games and camp fire.

The giant swing was a team building exercise where everyone had to pull the giant swing up as far as the people on it wanted to go. Then it was released by the people on the swing. You could hear us screaming for miles! At archery we played several games where we built a pizza depending on where you landed on the target, some pizzas were top heavy with chicken! Mrs Dorman, with several bullseye, proved to be a budding Robin Hood! The zip wire was challenging because we had to sit on a platform and dangle over the edge. Mrs Buchanan is still shaking from her experience!

We enjoyed all the activities and had a super week. On the last day none of us wanted to go home except we had run out of clean clothes!

Have a great summer.

Compiled by Iona Roders and Kieran Hannah, Primary 7

What's on In the Community Centre?

For more information on any of these groups you need to get in touch directly with the relevant organisation.

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

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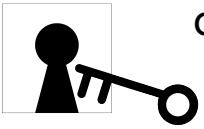

Call : 24 Hour
01475 521160
or 07951 227767

Stuart McMillan MSP

Recently I attended the public meeting on the future of maternity services in Inverclyde. There was a good attendance of around 60 people at the meeting and I was the only Parliamentarian there. This was an opportunity for all to listen to the concerns of the public in the Inverclyde area and I am sure that the health board officials were left in no uncertain terms the desire of the Inverclyde public to not only maintain the current services but to bring back the consultant led services.

In the short term I fully agree with the Independent Scrutiny Panel recommendations that the current maternity services should remain for the three year period alongside an education programme. However, my ultimate wish is for the IRH to have the Consultant services return thus allowing expectant mothers the choice they deserve.

The staff of the Community Maternity Unit (CMU), do a tremendous job and they deserve more time with full support from the health board to do their job. They certainly have the support of the public.

In the March edition of Village News I mentioned that I had written to Inverclyde Council to establish what resources have been spent on leisure facilities throughout Inverclyde broken up per area including Wemyss Bay. Unfortunately, the response I received this week did not include Wemyss Bay. I have therefore gone back to the Council to receive the figures. Once I have this I will make readers of Village News aware.

Thirdly, during a tour of the Parliament with St Stephen's High School, Port Glasgow this week, we had a discussion about the new Government proposals for raising the age of purchasing alcohol in off licenses and shops to 21. The pupils who spoke were unanimously in support of raising the age limit as they recognise the problems that currently exist within their peer group. This was refreshing to hear as some reports this week have said that the Government are targeting one group in society unfairly. I enjoyed the discussion I had with the pupils and teachers and know full well, that these pupils are determined to succeed both in school and post school.

Finally, I took part once again in the annual Tug 'o' War competition for Barnardo's. The event is sponsored by HBOS who donate money to Barnardo's for each team that enters. I am so glad this only happens once a year as it takes me weeks to recover. It's all for a good cause though.

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

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.

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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David Cairns MP

PROUD OF THE NHS AT 60

On July 5th our NHS will be 60 – something we can all celebrate. Those of us who have grown up with the NHS, and that's now the majority of the country, tend to take it for granted that if we are sick we can go along to the GP, the hospital, or even the specialist and be treated without having to worry about the cost. But it wasn't always so. Before the founding of the NHS families scrimped and saved to pay for visits to the GP; hospitals were poorly equipped, charitable foundations that not everyone was eligible to attend; and employers' insurance schemes excluded wives and children because it didn't matter if they became sick and died, after all, they weren't actually producing anything.

To this day, the NHS remains the single greatest achievement of any Government, past or present. No other policy ever had such a profound impact on the ordinary everyday lives of people. Thanks to the foresight of the post war Labour Government and Anuerin 'Nye' Bevan, the Minister of Health, we now all enjoy an NHS free at the point of need - something our grandparents and great-grandparents could never have dreamed of. When the NHS first opened its doors infectious diseases were still a big problem, people came from far and wide with seriously advanced illness which they had been unable to afford to treat and surgeries were inundated with women and children who had never been able to afford medical insurance.

Our society has come a long way since those dark days. The world has changed and it's important that the NHS changes with it to reflect modern needs and expectations. There are new challenges for our much loved NHS. New drugs and massive improvement in medical technology, also better clinical practices to name a few. Now we look for a much more personal service focused on preventing ill health as much as curing it. But one thing has remained constant over the last 60 years, we have always had access to good local healthcare - and that's the way I want it to stay.

People in Wemyss Bay, and throughout Inverclyde, love their local health service and are determined that it will remain at the heart of our community. This became obvious when our hospital was under threat by the now defunct Argyll and Clyde Health Board. Hundreds of constituents contacted me to protest about the Health Board's plans to downgrade our local hospital to something resembling a minor injury clinic. The whole community rose up in anger against these plans. Politicians of all political parties forgot their differences and worked together with local people and the Greenock Telegraph and, in the end, we won and IRH was saved.

But there are still challenges ahead. Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board now want to close the Community Midwife Unit. I have written to the Board's Chief Executive saying that I do not agree with these plans and that the unit should be given a chance to establish itself. We need an information campaign to let women know that for many of them a local midwife led unit is a safe option. There will always be some services that are better delivered in large specialist hospitals, and we need to balance the safety of patients against the distance that they have to travel. But I am yet to be convinced that the best option for all local mothers is to travel to Paisley to give birth.

It's our National Health Service, not the bureaucrats, and it's important we let them know that. Bevin would have been proud of how we fought to keep our hospital. Sixty years on the NHS is alive and well and it's up to us to see that it is there for our children and grandchildren.

David Cairns MP
20 Union Street, Greenock, PA16 8JL
Tel: 791820
Fax 791821
Email: cairnsd@parliament.uk

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

BEAVER BUZZ:
The beavers have now finished for this year and will start back again on Monday 1st September. The boys have been working hard on badge work over the last few weeks and many have achieved their craft and animal badges. Last night saw the investiture of three boys: Jack Noble from Wemyss Bay and Craig and Jack Louden from Skelmorlie. The colony also said goodbye and thank you to Paul and Janice Scouller who have been leaders for the past six years. Paul and Janice will still remain involved with the 71st Ayrshire Group in a fund-raising capacity. From September, the colony will be run by Fiona Riddell, who would welcome additional support from any willing volunteers. If you feel you could help for one hour on a Monday night, please call Fiona on 522901.

CUBS - Tiger Pack
We have been practicing tracking signs and going out and around with trails for the boys to follow and solve. We had a "try some different sports" night with badminton, basketball and table tennis. We finish cubs next Wednesday 25 June 2008 with a sausage sizzle at Lunderston Bay.

CUBS - Eagle Pack
During June, the Eagle Pack have enjoyed two outdoor pack meetings which have taken place in Skelmorlie and the Meigle. The boys enjoyed exploring the surrounding woods, on their hike, where they played wide games, "Blind Trail" along with helping to cook their sausages. With the forthcoming Water Fun Night scheduled for the 27th of June at Mains Farm in Skelmorlie, the Cubs are looking forward to more adventures and fun.

The recent joint father and cub night, once again, proved to be a great success with over a total of 55 attending , from both packs. As well as several active games to take the fathers back to their childhood days, the cubs and their dads also completed a 'Straw Tower Challenge' and recapped on their knots in the Reef Knot Relay.

This session's outing, on Saturday the 31st of May, involved a visit to Greenock Morton football club, the People's Palace in Glasgow before concluding with a number of games on Glasgow Green. The support from a number of Parents who volunteered their time to support this trip was appreciated and helped make it a safe and enjoyable experience for all concerned.

July sees the cubs and Leaders off on their annual week Pack holiday, with everyone hoping for good weather

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 Group would like to thank everybody who donated in any shape, size or form to the Annual Jumble Sale without all your help this event would not be the success it is.
Yours in scouting Iain Carmichael

Final Thought
Treasure every moment you have.

Treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time. Remember that time waits for no one.
Yesterday is history and tomorrow a mystery.

Today is a GIFT... That's why it's called the PRESENT.

Kid's Puzzles

Word Play

Can you unscramble the letters below to find an 8-letter flower?

L I A D F O D F

Can you find something to play with in the words below?

A POTATO YIPEE

Look at the clues and see if you can make new words by changing just one letter in each of the words:

1. *Change* LOOK *into a novel.*
2. *Change* LINE *into a number.*

.

3. *Change* SWAY *into a bird.*

SUDOKU

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

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.

There will be no August edition. 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 September edition will be Friday 15th August at 6pm.

Having a Birthday?
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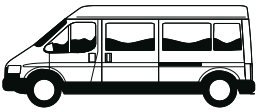

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