

Wemyss Bay Village News

223rd Edition

October 2008

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

Community Association - GALA

Last year's gala was another re-sounding success; this was down to the dedication and hard work of the Community Association, who are a very small core team. The number of hours put in by this team is not something that we can sustain moving forward.

As a core team we manage to do all the ground work to prepare for the Gala and get it ready to commence on the Friday evening. The problem was some of the volunteers who agreed to help us over the weekend dropped out at the last minute leaving us too stretched and at some points stalls and the bouncy castle were unmanned. As a group we cannot physically man all posts ourselves and rely on volunteers to enable the Gala to run.

For this reason it is very unlikely that the Gala will take place in 2009 unless we can get some dedicated and reliable volunteers who can help enough to spread the workload.

If you are interested in joining the team and can dedicate a significant portion of your time beginning in the New Year then please come along to our AGM on Sunday 26th October at 7pm in the Community Centre. We will assess the situation in the New Year and communicate whether it is viable or not for next year.

Any articles, information or queries should be directed to villagenews@wemyssbay.net or placed in the village news folder in the Spar. The closing date for the November edition will be Friday 24th October at 6.00pm.

Ardgowan Football Development

AFD Sunday Sessions

The P2, 3, 4 and 5 sessions are full but there are still a few spaces available in the P1, 6 and 7 sessions. 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	14:15 – 15:45

All AFD enquiries directed to Iain Buchan on 07791 964277.

Holiday Calendar 2008

There will be no coaching sessions on the following dates:

October:	Sunday 12th and 19th (AFD)	Wed 15th and 22nd (ATFC)
December:	Sunday 14th, 21st and 28th (AFD)	Wed 17th, 24th and 31st (ATFC)
January:	Sunday 4th (AFD)	Wed 7th (ATFC)

The AFD Christmas Fun Day will be held on Sunday 7th December

Ardgowan Thistle Under 13's

The ATFC U 13 Squad has won their first two matches, both away from, in their first season of competitive football. They defeated Giffnock Saltires 6 – 4 and St Caddocks 3 - 2.

www.ardgowanfd.co.uk

Woodland Association

On Wednesday 15th October the Woodland Association is holding a "Help the Birds" morning in the Community Centre from 10am – 12noon. Join in and make a variety of bird food and bird feeders prior to taking a walk into the wood to put them up. We also hope to make some bird boxes to add to those already in the wood, which have all been used this year for nesting.

There is a £1 charge per head which is used towards the costs of the materials involved and children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. For more information contact Eila Roberts on 529375 or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

Congratulations

The "Guess When I Wake Up" competition run by the Woodland Association at this year's Gala was won by Ingrid of Leapmoor Drive. Her prize was £25 and the Snoring Teddy.

1st Wemyss Bay Guides

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2008 - VIRGIN VIE NIGHT

WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE - £3 INCLUDES TEA/COFFEE/GLASS OF WINE

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO DIRECTLY TO WEMYSS BAY GUIDES!

Guides started back on the 19th of August and we are set to have an action packed year yet again.

We began by hearing from our International travellers. Amanda shared her stories of Switzerland and the activities she had got up to when she was there. She also told us all about the number of different Guides and Scouts she had met. Definitely gave the girls some inspiration for our own District trip in a couple of years.

Alison then showed all the Guides her photographs, video clips and items she had bought back from Ghana. The girls were able to see and hear about Guiding in Ghana and they soon realised there are a number of huge differences! Alison, Jane and Amy are now lucky enough to have a full Ghanaian leader uniform that which just happens to be bright yellow with blue trefoils, so you won't miss them when they are wearing it!

In the middle of September, 15 of our Guides joined 9 Skelmorlie Guides to participate in our very own "International Jamboree" at South Newton. The girls took part in different crafts, games and cooking activities. They also were all given the chance to try crate climbing, which even Amy, Jane and Alison managed! Rhian made her promise at the top of her crates and was welcomed to Guides, by everyone watching! The girls even managed to fit in achieving their Go For It Grrreen through designing reusable bags, creating tea light holders and making natural orange jelly as well as many more activities! Everyone survived the wet weather and had a great time, even asking when the next camp was going to be!

We have 8 of our older girls finishing off their Baden Powell Challenge, which is the highest award a Guide can receive by attending the Challenge weekend in Glasgow in October. Well done girls, you are nearly finished!!

As always Guides in Wemyss Bay are planning a super busy year, if there are any members of the community who feel they would be able to assist in any manner please feel free to contact me. We are hoping to have an open evening to allow people to come along and find out what Guiding is all about in Wemyss Bay!!

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

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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.

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays the 14th & 28th October. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 7th & 21st October.

Remember your food waste collection will be collected every Tuesday.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

New Minister elected. The congregation voted overwhelmingly on 21st September to "call" the new Minister who had preached that day, and hopefully by the end of October the formalities will be complete and he will have been inducted. Were looking forward enthusiastically to the start of a new chapter in our Church's story.

SUNDAY CLUB

The Sunday Club is back into "term time" action again. All children are welcome, from crèche age upwards. A Movie Night was enjoyed on 28th September. The teachers are already planning a Christmas presentation, so that is something to look forward to. All you kids in Wemyss Bay - give Sunday Club a try (and then keep coming!) It's at 11:00 every Sunday.

NEW YOUTH GROUP FOR TEENAGERS

We are keen to get a new Youth fellowship type of group started, probably on Sunday evenings. There would be games chosen by the members (such as electronic games, board games, table tennis etc); quizzes, outings ... and a more serious section in the middle which could be for example discussion about things in the news and how we feel about them, an interesting talk or demonstration by a visiting speaker, and so on. Once it's established it will be run by its members and will be what they want it to be!

Members could be church attenders or not, provided they want to come and join in and contribute. Anyone interested should contact Roddy McAskil: roddy.mcaskil@btconnect.com (or phone Bill Wright at 520095).

CHURCH FETE

This year's Fete will be held on Saturday 8th November from 10am until 12 Noon in Skelmorlie Community Centre. We are hoping to have a few new stalls this year as well as some of your tried and tested favourites like the RED stall, brand new gifts, and home baking and the Tearoom (included in admission). So come along on the day and see What's New.

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

There will be no Bible Club or Youth Group on Monday 13th October or Monday 20th October due to the school holidays. We are planning a Youth Group outing in October however, find out more at the club! The clubs resume as normal on Monday 27th October. Bible Club is from 6.15pm to 7.30pm and all children from P1 to P6 are welcome. Activities include games, songs, competitions, Bible stories and other activities. 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 (such as dodgeball!) and a tuck shop. Come along and bring your friends, new people are very welcome! The clubs are run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM) and there are no fees for either club. If you would like further information, please contact Stephen Renton on 01505 355994.



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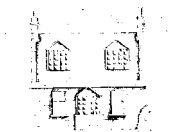
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Inverkip Bowling Club

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.

Hello - From Wemyss Bay Back Home!

Hi, we're back and ready to rock and roll as our talent show is approaching. The school is buzzing with events. Reports by Eilidh Black and Rachel Murdoch, Primary 7, and Katrina Gregory and Saskia Mulholland, Primary 6.

Our New School

Our first impression of the new school is that it's great. Everyone was amazed by the lift and they thought the reception windows were funky. Compared to the last school the classrooms are much bigger and better. All the teachers are enjoying the interactive whiteboards and we are being treated like royalty in this bright and big new school.

We tried out the new seats when we were at King's Glen and they are very comfy. There should be no accidents because you can not swing on them. Instead of having just one proper classroom we now have ten and there are other rooms as well. There's even a computer room. Everyone thought the toilets were very good and colourful.

When we first saw the new school we thought it was a hospital because it was so clean and bare. It looks lots better now we have work up on the walls. Lunchtime buddies have started at lunchtime as well as playtime. Primary 7 do that.

Events at Wemyss Bay Primary

Our first big surprise in our new school was that Mrs McEwan had sadly left us but she came back for a goodbye assembly and received flowers and a card from everyone at Wemyss Bay Primary.

There have been lots of events since we started back at school. There are two new teachers; Miss Giambattista in Primary 7 and Miss Mitchell in Primary 2/1. Primary 6 started swimming and have been on a sponsored walk, and Primary 7 have been to the safe Kids event at Finlaystone. Primary 4 visited Vikingar and the Viking village. We have elected House Captains and the Pupil Council.

Last week after twenty-eight years of doing a great job as teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Head Teacher Mrs Ritchie retired. On her last day we had potted sports followed by a Caribbean lunch which was really enjoyable. In the afternoon we had an assembly to say goodbye to Mrs Ritchie. She got presents from the P.T.A., the parents and children, the staff, and flowers and a special card with photos of all the classes from the pupils.

This Monday our new Head Teacher Mrs Irvine started her new job at Wemyss Bay Primary. We had an assembly so we could meet her and get to know her.

House Captains

Arran	Bute	Cumbræ	Iona
Mhairi Black	Ciara McLaren	Eilidh Black	Rhian Hunter
Katie Donnelly	Rachel Murdoch	Nadina Valenti	Greg Pollock
Vice House Captains			
Dario Zavaroni	Euan Benjamin	Emma McQueen	Saskia Mulholland
Junior House Captain			
Andrew Wilson	Cara Murdoch	MacKenzie Smith	Greg McIntyre

Pupil Council

Primary 3:	Rebecca McConnachie	Blake Sloan
Primary 4:	Blair Cairns	Priya Das
Primary 5:	Jack Craig	Natasha Thomson
Primary 6:	Chloe Campbell	Graeme Wilson
Primary 7:	Laura Francis	Kieran Jenkins

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Food Waste Collection Service is the dish of the Day!

More than 5,000 households in Inverclyde are benefiting from a weekly food waste collection service as Inverclyde Council extends the recycling options open to local people – and early indications are that locals are 'hungry' for the new dish on the recycling menu!

Participating residents – including 700 households in Wemyss Bay - have been issued with information leaflets, kitchen caddies, corn starch liners and containers for the outdoor storage of food waste.

Under this new system, all types of food waste can be recycled including meat, dairy products and vegetables. Feedback from householders has been very positive and people are particularly happy that their food waste containers are emptied every week on the same day as their existing bins. The weekly collection service takes place regardless of whether recycling or residual bins are being uplifted.

The Council is pleased by the response from the local people and is encouraging everyone to give this new initiative their full support.

Frequently asked questions

What types of food can I recycle?

You can recycle all your food waste including:

- ✓ meat and fish (raw and cooked)
- ✓ all dairy products such as eggs and cheese
- ✓ fruit and vegetables, including the skins
- ✓ bread, cakes and pastries
- ✓ rice, beans and pasta
- ✓ meat and fish, including bones
- ✓ teabags and coffee grounds

What should I not put in my food waste container?

- X bottles, cans or jars
- X foil or cling film
- X food or drinks containers
- X liquids, including oils and fats
- X packaging
- X carrier bags

How do I recycle my food waste?

Line your kitchen caddy with one of the special liners then place your food waste into your caddy. When the liner is full, tie the top and place it in your outdoor storage container until your next collection day.

How often is my food waste container collected?

Your container will be emptied once a week, every week, regardless of whether it is your recycling or residual waste collection day.

Will the food in my kitchen caddy smell?

Your kitchen caddy should not smell if you tie the liners securely and put them into outside container on a regular basis. Your outside container has a sealed lid which will stop smells and keep your food waste secure from pests.

What do I do if I need more liners for my kitchen caddy?

A supply of liners will be delivered to you twice a year. However, if you run out of liners before your next delivery, please call the Recycling Helpline on 01475 715901 and we will arrange to send some out to you.

What happens to the food waste once it has been collected?

It is sent to a facility where it is safely turned into compost to be used in landscaping, land restoration and specialist planting programmes.

Who can I speak to if I'm still unsure about what I can and cannot recycle under the food waste collection service?

If you have any questions about the recycling of food waste, you are welcome to call the Recycling Helpline on 01475 715901 where staff will be pleased to help.

Retiral

Thank you to everyone for all your kind wishes and generosity on my recent retiral. My twenty eight years in Wemyss Bay Primary have not only been extremely enjoyable but it has also been a delight getting to know all your lovely children.

Having never worked in a school, I was pleasantly surprised, after being appointed by the first head teacher, Len McConnell, to find Wemyss Bay School such a relaxed friendly environment for staff and pupils alike and despite more and more demands having been placed upon everyone, this still remains 28 years later.

I have been asked on several occasions how I knew it was time to retire. I started in Wemyss Bay School assisting Mrs. Janet Hope in Primary One on the same day as my third child started school, the older two already in Primary 3 and Primary 5. I later progressed to having three grandchildren in school and the thought of having any great grandchildren in school, was just too much!

I felt last year when we were decanted to King's Glen it was in fact the end of an era and therefore, moving back into the refurbished building was not an option for me. It has however, been a joy to have been part of Wemyss Bay School community and your support and kindness throughout the years have been very much appreciated. Marlyn Darroch.

W.E.A.(Workers Educational Association) Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Branch

Yes, that's what WEA stands for. Not Women Embroidery Artists, Wonderfully Eccentric Aristocrats nor Wildly Exciting Activists (though some of us may have been these in the past!) We are a group of folk from all backgrounds, of all ages but who have a common interest in keeping minds active and a wish to go on learning about the world past and present and all that entails. If you come along you will get a warm welcome and a cup of tea or coffee and you will not have to pass a test or produce a certificate or even have to talk if you don't want to. Just escape the west coast weather and the hurly burly for an hour or so and make some new friends into the bargain.

The series of talks for the Autumn session will begin on Wednesday 24nd. September at 9.45 a.m. in the Reading Room of Skelmorlie Community Centre. This opening talk is entitled "The Earth from Space" by an eminent astronomer Duncan Lunan. A chance for us to see on slide what we will never see in reality

Wednesday mornings from then until early December will provide talks on all manner of subjects, from travel through current affairs, music to literature. There is something for everyone. You don't have to do anything more than sit back and hopefully enjoy an hour or so of excellent and often entertaining speaking with some like-minded people. You don't have to commit to a year's subscription just pay for each talk you attend, which is less than the cost of a Starbuck's coffee!

The programme for the next session is as follows:

1st October – Alex Lochrie "Never Too Old"

8th October – Ken Welsh "Columbian Heritage"

15th October – Jean Scorie "The Witchcraft Accusations"

22nd October – Judith Thomas "WEA- Past, Present and Future"

29th October – Autumn Outing (to be confirmed)

5th November – Roger Watts "In Search of Timbuctoo"

12th November – Ronnie Scott "Glasgow's Historic Cemeteries"

19th November- Brian Searle "The Yangtze Incident"

26th November – Ian McDonald "Canada – a trip across the Rockies, Calgary to Vancouver.

3rd December – Sherry, Shortbread and a Surprise!

For further information or help with transport please contact Jenny McGee tel. 521090.

Tough Approach to Clean Up Inverclyde

'Clean up or pay up!' That's the message Inverclyde Council is sending as part of a new approach to tackling environmental crime in Inverclyde.

The new 'Clean Up or Pay Up' campaign started earlier this year and incorporates a zero tolerance approach to those who shirk their responsibilities by:

dropping litter; fly-tipping; and failing to clean up after their dog.

Environmental Wardens and Enforcement Wardens from the Council's Safer Communities Service patrol Inverclyde and will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to anyone caught failing to clean up after their dog, dropping litter or fly-tipping.

The campaign will also target local shops to remind them of their responsibility to properly contain and clear up waste that comes from their premises – particularly food outlets.

It's hoped that in the long term, irresponsible locals will change their behaviour and realise that everybody has a responsibility to keep Inverclyde clean.

Environmental crimes spoil it for everyone else and are a significant cause for concern for many residents. By rolling out this campaign, the Council is acting on feedback from local people. Respondents to a recent Citizens' Panel Survey said they felt the most important thing the Council should do to improve the environment was to tackle litter and fly-tipping.

The Fixed Penalty Notice fines are:

£40 for failing to clear up after your dog – rising to £60 if the fine is not paid within 28 days; and £50 for dropping litter or for fly-tipping.

If you have any questions about the Clean Up or Pay Up Campaign, please call 01475 714200.

85th Greenock District

Beavers started back with 9 new members, which is fantastic. The new boys and girls have started working towards their investiture and have mastered their promise and prayer with no problems whatsoever. We have several boys and girls going to Cubs soon and still have some places left. Everyone is working hard to achieve their Chief Scout Bronze Award and Moving On badges before going up to Cubs.

We also had several new boys and girls joining Cubs and they, too are working towards their investiture. All our Cubs are working towards their Promise Challenge and thoroughly enjoying it.

We have plenty of spaces for Cubs so why not come along and join us on a Thursday night between 7;15 and 8;30.

The 1st Wemyss Bay Scouts have now started and all enjoyed their first nights in the new school. We are hoping that before long we will have a full scout troop in Wemyss Bay, the first ever.

We now meet in the school, which has made a big difference to our nights, but would like to thank Father Boyle for making us most welcome when we first began. Without the hospitality of the church the first ever Wemyss Bay group would not have been able to get off the ground. Almost two years later we have 60 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, which is excellent.

Forthcoming events this year include, a trip to the Gang Show, Halloween Parties, Christmas Parties and a trip to the Panto in Glasgow. I will keep you informed about these dates nearer the time.

Can I just add that we are in no way affiliated to the 71st Ayrshire group in Skelmorlie. Skelmorlie are in a different district and the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in Wemyss Bay are attached to the 85th Group in Inverkip. If there is any confusion about this please contact me.

Anyone wishing to join the Wemyss Bay group, or looking for more information please call me on 520932.

Liz Roder, Beaver Leader

P4 - P7 Youth Club

The P4 – P7 Youth Club meets in the Community Centre on Thursday evenings during term time from 7.00 - 8.15pm. Entrance costs 75p and is open to any child in primaries 4 - 7. There are a variety of activities on offer including football, dodge-ball, rounders, basketball, table-tennis, pool, badminton, board games, and music. We have two Nintendo Wii consoles, Sony Playstations and assorted games. Over the past few months we have also done some arts and crafts including ceramic painting, scratch art bookmarks, mug painting glass art. A tuck shop is available during the course of the evening selling a range of drinks, crisps and sweets. *Please note that the club is closed on Thursday 16th October for the school break.

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.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who supported the P4 – P7 Youth Club's Burger and Hot Dog stall at the Gala. We raised £400 which will be used to pay our hall fees and purchase some new games and craft materials.

Ross Finnie MSP

I travelled to Bournemouth last week to attend the Liberal Democrat federal conference. The week began with the collapse of the world's largest financial institutions Lehman Brothers in the United States and, forty eight hours after the Financial Services Authority had assured everyone that HBOS was a sound financial institution, it ended with Scotland's oldest bank the Bank of Scotland being swallowed up by Lloyds TSB as part of a rescue package. It has made it a nervous week for mortgage holders and savers in Wemyss Bay and elsewhere

Sadly, the takeover of the bank of Scotland does not draw a line in the sand of the credit crunch. It does provide comfort for savers and depositors but for house owners and mortgage holders the down ward readjustment of house prices will continue for some time. For those whose jobs are connected with or dependent upon the construction industry the prospects are bleak

Whilst in Bournemouth, my Party's Treasury Spokesperson, Vince Cable, made a number of useful suggestions including: putting house price inflation under the control of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee; preventing lenders from pushing families into homelessness through repossessions, and confronting our obsession with property – houses are homes to live in not gambling chips for speculative gain.

I used to work in the financial services sector and well remember observing after the last banking crises how financial success breeds excess, unearned rewards feed greed and overconfidence leads to financial folly. And as with the last collapse it is ordinary people who suffer – this time financial regulations and controls must be radically altered to protect the ordinary citizens from such excesses.

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

Country Club

As already announced the meetings will commence on Wednesday 1st October at 2.30 pm in The Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip when the amended Speaker will be Mrs Margaret Arthur on the subject of "Hearing Dogs for Deaf People".

Speakers for the remainder of October are as follows:

Wednesday 15th – Rep from Fire Service on the subject of "Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service"

Wednesday 29th – Miss Heather Cameron on the subject of "A visit to Malawi".

All members, old and new, and visitors will be made most welcome. The subscription is £10 per annum for visitors.

Further details may be obtained from the Secretary Anne Haig on tel. 522316

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

Beavers Jump for Joy

Already the first five Beavers have moved up to Cubs, the boys Cameron, Mark, Aidan, Aidan P and Lewis completed their move at a recent "moving-up ceremony". The 71st Ayrshire Beaver Colony is open to children aged between 6 and 8, to find out more information or to register your child on the list, please any of the leaders.

Cub News

After a short summer holiday both Cub Packs headed off on their week long Summer Pack Holiday at Flyde District Scout Headquarters in St. Anne's-on-Sea. 48 Cubs and Leaders had a great time and the sun shone all week. Saturday was spent travelling to the site and over the week the boys all completed two new badges. Some days were spent on camp and others were spent off site, visiting Lake Windermere, Blackpool and on the final day a trip to the Cubs favourite, Camelot Theme Park. On the days off site the boys enjoyed a boat trip, steam train ride, tram ride and a visit to the Circus. The whole trip was voted 10 out of 10 and everybody is looking forward to next year's holiday to Bispham Scout Estate Wigan.

At this time the Eagle Pack is full but there are some places available in the Tiger Pack which is on a Wednesday at Skelmorlie Primary School.

Both packs were represented at St. Joseph & St. Patrick's S.C.I.A.F. Fete in Wemyss Bay where they ran games for children and made pancakes on a tin can.

Some of the Cubs who attend Cub football travelled to Hampden for the Scotland v Northern Ireland game.

The recent Mother and Cub night was a great success with over 80 Mothers and Cubs attending. Congratulations to all the Mothers for entering into all the activities with great enthusiasm! Subs collected on the night amounted to £80 which has been donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

We have launched our new Barrs returnable bottle appeal this week. Any returnable Barrs lemonade bottles can be handed to any 71st Cub and all money raised by this appeal will be donated to Inverclyde Downs Syndrome Group.

Tiger Pack have been concentrating on compass work and this week saw the cubs going for a walk around the village trying not to get lost and ending in a sausage sizzle back at the school. The Cubs completed their athletes badge during the recent Olympics. October will see the Cubs out in search of the local Bats!

If you have an 8 – 10½ year old who is interested in joining Cubs please contact any of the Leaders.

Explorers

The Unit has continued its participation in the "Duke of Edinburgh" award scheme, running in parallel with our own Scout award/badge system, this gives the Explorer's the opportunity to "volunteer" at a number of local groups, where they demonstrate their commitment to the community.

This weekend will also see the unit out and about with the boys completing another hike, so hopefully the weather will have been good for us!

Please contact Iain Carmichael on 01475 520697 or Email "The71stAyrshireScoutGroup@Yahoo.co.uk" for further information concerning the Group or any of the sections.

Strathspey & Reel Society

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



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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

David Cairns MP

Keep warm this winter: claim your insulation grant

It might seem strange to start talking about winter when autumn's barely begun, but there is no time like the present to start planning for the colder months ahead. For as the autumn chill and the dark nights set in, we all use more electricity and, in no time at all, your bills start going up. So can you do anything about it, and is there any help out there to combat ever rising fuel bills? The answer is yes. The UK Government recently introduced measures to help families insulate their homes and the good news is that everyone qualifies.

From now on every household in Wemyss Bay will be eligible for at least 50% off loft and cavity wall insulation. And for villagers on low incomes or over seventy it's completely free. All houses benefit from insulation, but this is particularly true if you live near the river and feel the cold blast from the strong winds coming up the Clyde on a winter's day.

Insulation saves on energy bills not just one year but every year, and it is really worth doing. Insulating your loft can reduce bills by around £100 per year and cavity wall insulation can save another £150. It can make a real difference to family budgets and give you an incentive to clear all that rubbish out of your loft! To find out more information on how you can save money on insulation, just call free phone 0800 512 012.

Oil and gas prices are falling again so, hopefully, the big power companies who were quick enough to increase their prices when Oil was hitting \$150 dollars a barrel, will have the decency to pass some of the savings onto customers. But if your company doesn't don't hesitate to shop around and change supplier – something which people in Scotland are far less likely to do than our neighbours across the border. There are plenty of suppliers out there all looking for business, so it is well worthwhile going onto some of the internet price comparison websites to see if you can get a better deal.

Power companies constantly change their offers and you need to be vigilant. Some will cap bills if you sign up for a couple of years; most offer reductions if you get your gas and electricity from the same supplier; and you can also cut your bills if you sign up over the internet and are able to pay by direct debit. But some households, especially those on low incomes, are stuck with expensive pre-payment meters. It is not right that the poorest should have to pay most. That's why the UK Government has told gas and electricity companies that if they don't do something to reduce the prices charged to customers with pre-payment meters, the law might be changed to force them to do it.

Pensioners are also set for more help as the Winter Fuel Allowance for over sixties goes up by £50 to £250, and over eighties get an extra £100 taking their payment to £400. While vulnerable people who qualify for Cold Weather Payments will see them rise from £8.50 to £25 a week.

Contact Details:

David Cairns MP
20 Union Street
Greenock
PA 16 8JL

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

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Duncan McNeil MSP

SHORT SELLERS OR SOLD SHORT?

'It's the economy stupid' was the phrase that became famous during Bill Clinton successful campaign to win the presidency at the expense of recession-hit George Bush.

Well, I think you would be forgiven if you struggled to keep pace with the developments of the last few weeks, with the billion dollar buyouts in the US and the loss of Scotland's oldest bank, leaving the Scottish Government pleading for jobs.

Much of the language used in the last fortnight will be completely new to people and for many, short-selling would be something JJB Sports would do during the summer.

Sadly, we are all now well aware of the consequences the black arts in the financial sector can have on our lives.

But while short-selling has been found to have played its part in the collapse of HBOS, I believe it is just a symptom of the wider malaise.

Rather than short-selling, I think people have been sold short – sold short by the greed that has engulfed our financial sectors.

Right now, it is hard-working people who can't buy a home, can't sell their home, have to cope with the rising bills and worry over their pensions and savings.

The only way to avoid a repeat of this banking nightmare is introduce strict regulation measures that will keep the greed in check.

While it may not be what the big banking bosses want, it is what the people want.

So I was heartened that the Prime Minister Gordon Brown set this out as a priority in his keynote speech at the Labour Party conference last week.

For me, the financial institution in this country have had their chance at having a free hand in the markets and summarily failed.

If the banks don't trust each other with their money at the moment, how can they expect us to trust them with ours?

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

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W	G	G	N	P	Z	N	N
Q	H	B	A	T	F	Y	K
M	O	O	N	W	E	B	Y
P	S	P	I	D	E	R	N
G	T	O	W	L	C	O	I
S	P	O	O	K	A	O	G
B	L	A	C	K	T	M	H
Q	P	W	I	T	C	H	T



See if you can find all these words in the grid.

BAT
BLACK
BROOM
CAT
GHOST
MOON
NIGHT
OWL
SPIDER
SPOOK
WEB
WITCH

SUDOKU

4				5		3		
	1	5	3	2	7			4
	7				8			
1	6			7			3	
5		4	6		2	7		9
	2			1			6	5
			7				2	
2			4	9	5	1	8	
		7		6				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 November edition will be Friday 24th October at 6pm.

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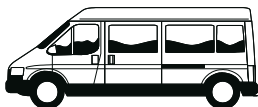
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