

Wemyss Bay Village News

225th Edition

December 2008

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



Community Association

Great Turnout Saves Wemyss Bay Community Centre

Extra Ordinary Meeting

We are pleased to announce that over 50 people turned up for the EGM of the Community Association on Sunday evening to hear the pleas of the Community Association to help keep the Community Centre open.

Willie Wilson of Inverclyde Council explained to the group that he did not want to see the busiest and most utilised Community Centre in Inverclyde turned over to Inverclyde Council due to the lack of help within Wemyss Bay. He was glad to see this was not the case as so many people had turned up to voice their concerns.

Kirsty Donnelly spoke to the body of the hall to explain that if we managed to secure the services of a Treasurer the Community Association would be in a position to carry on. Any other positions within the group could be looked at a later date. Willie took control and asked for proposers for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Kirsty Donnelly, Iain Buchan and Elaine Blue were all proposed again to stand. Edna McKillop volunteered to take up the position of Treasurer and was dually proposed and elected on the committee. This allowed us to apply by Inverclyde guidelines and this post secured the safety of the Community Centre to us the Wemyss Bay residents.

Forms were passed out for people to show their support in where they could help the Community Association. Many new people came forward to join the Community Association and others to help with the running of various parties and events etc during the year. We also had people willing to take a larger role in the running of the Gala which means we can look forward as a village to another wonderful Gala weekend. Many people put forward ideas which we as an Association will take on board and look if feasible of implementing.

Thanks to all who came on the night and to the others who did not manage but showed their support by volunteering their services for the Community Association. We can all look forward to a bright future now for the Community Centre.

We look forward to welcoming all new members and our first meeting of the New Year will be held in the Rogue's Room, Inverkip Hotel on 7th January at 7.30 pm.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Association would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to seeing you all at events in 2009 with our new stronger and more motivated team.

Woodland Association

The Woodland Association will be holding a work session on Sunday 9th January giving everyone a chance to work off the excesses of the Christmas festivities. It is our intention to continue clearing some of the ditch on Cliff Terrace Road along with overhanging vegetation and we will continue to clear the cut material stacked in the old reservoir. We will work from Cliff Terrace Road and will base ourselves initially at the Ardgowan Road end. We work from 9.30am – 3pm and provide all the necessary gloves, safety glasses and tools. In addition we stop for coffee/tea and biscuits in the morning and provide hot sausage rolls at lunchtime. Children are welcome to come along (we do have gloves to fit) however they must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult. We have a small, but dedicated, band of volunteers but it would really make a difference to our work if a few more people were to join us, even for an hour or two.

Membership of the Association runs from January till December and we welcome new members. It costs £3 for a family membership or £2 for individuals. Membership money helps towards our insurance and day to day running costs.

The Woodland Association has planted over 5000 bulbs throughout Wemyss Bay Wood but, in order to help reintroduce native species this is a drop in the ocean. Again this year we are looking for your help. We are working in an area of almost 18 acres so we need a lot of bulbs and wildflowers. If you are buying bulbs for your garden why not add an extra pack or two for the woods? We are specifically looking for Native British Bluebells, Snowdrops and Wood Anemones. We have already had several hundred daffodil bulbs donated and at present do not need anymore of these.

In addition we are looking for a variety of wildflowers including Bugle, Primroses, Ragged Robin, Devil's Bit Scabious and Kidney Vetch. As it is against the law to dig up wildflowers these will all have to be purchased from specialist suppliers. We can buy these in bulk to reduce costs (we can also buy bulbs in this way). As an example 50 Wood Anemones will cost us £14 while 50 primroses will cost £28.50 and the same number of scabious £37.

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the bulbs and wildflowers please make a cheque payable to Wemyss Bay Community Woodland Association and send it to Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay. You will be very welcome to come along and help plant the bulbs.

If you have bulbs to donate please contact Eila Tel: 529375 to arrange uplift. Again, if you would like to, you can help with the planting.

Help us to make sure that we have a very broad selection of native wildflowers in the Woods – in this way we can encourage a large variety of insects, birds and animals, so that they too can enjoy our local greenspace.

Contact Eila on 529375 to find out more about any aspect of the Association's work or for a membership application form.

P4 – P7 Youth Club

The P4 – P7 Youth Club will resume after the Christmas break on Thursday 6th January. The 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 and glass art. A tuck shop is available during the course of the evening selling a range of drinks, crisps and sweets.

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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Ross Finnie MSP

As I write this piece, my morning newspapers are telling me and you that the bosses of The Royal Bank of Scotland ("RBS") are "sorry" for the part they played in bringing RBS to its knees and contributing to the global banking collapse. And so they should be for I suspect that hardly anyone in Wemyss Bay will escape unscathed from the effects of the credit crunch.

Those running small businesses have been particularly badly affected. Lines of credit are being reviewed, interest rates are being more than doubled and exorbitant arrangement fees are being imposed on any excuse. I don't know about you but I think bankers have lost the plot

You and I, as taxpayers, have invested billions of our hard earned cash to prop up the banking system. Now let me be clear that is the only bit I agree with. The banking system is a unique industry because of the role it plays in oiling the wheels of the rest of the commercial system. But in agreeing to save the banking system I certainly did not agree to save failed bankers or the perverse practices of failed bankers.

May be I am being naive but I thought your money and my money was being pumped into the banking system in order to help those individuals and small business most affected by the credit crunch and to try and restore some normality to the banking system. Of course we are in a serious recession and of course there will be pain but the good folk of Wemyss Bay don't need the situation made worse by failed bankers trying to save themselves by putting everyone else out of business

With our cash the Government is the piper it must call for a more sensible tune.

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

Wemyss Bay Brownies

The Brownies have had a busy and very noisy session.

By the time you read this 13 girls will have made their Promise, and we welcome them all, over 20 will have completed the Hostess badge and hopefully the Booklover badge.

Next year we start celebrating our 100th birthday (and I think I am starting to look it) and in the run up to the celebrations Girlguiding UK is trying to "Change The World" a bit at a time. This enterprise involves 18 charities and the Branch Associations (former Crown Colonies). It's not just about cash, but about awareness.

The Brownies have chosen a few they wish to be involved with. They want to help provide books for African children (linked to the Booklover badge), help build a meeting place for girls in Anguilla (including a sleepover with a Caribbean theme including food and cocktails – "they must have fruit and umbrellas Brown Owl"), collecting socks for the homeless and whatever else they can fit in!

The Brownies are organising a raffle at the Christmas Lights switch on, so please support us and the Community Centre.

To all the girls, parents, supporters and especially Ruth, Amy and Jennifer who give up their time week after week may I wish you all a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and let's all remember the reason for the season.

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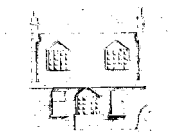
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Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council

PLANNED WINDFARMS IN COWAL

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council adopts a neutral stance towards energy produced by wind turbines, but has a policy of opposition to the installation of wind turbines in inappropriate locations, particularly Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and the cumulative impact of wind power generating stations on the Clyde coastline.

The Council has recently received the following information from Philip Norris of Cowal and Renewable Energy Sense (CaRES) – who supported the Community Council in its opposition to proposals to establish turbines on the Leapmoor above Inverkip and Wemyss Bay.

There are currently three industrial wind installations – potentially 38 giant turbines – planned for the hills above Dunoon.

Corlarach Hill (above Innellan) – a public inquiry is to be held to decide the appeal by the developers, West Coast Energy, with the main hearing scheduled for January 20th-29th next year. The developers are appealing against a unanimous decision by Argyll and Bute Planning Committee to refuse permission to build this industrial complex. The application detailed 14 giant turbines, each 125m (414 feet) high.

Black Craig (above Loch Striven) – the developers are appealing the fact the council planners have not decided on their application for 16 turbines, each 101m high on high ground at around 1500 feet. The appeal is scheduled for April the 14th-22nd next year.

Bishops Seat (above Dunoon) – Infinergy, a subsidiary of a Dutch company, is applying for an eight turbine installation, each 100m high. This third scheme has been renamed Dunoon Windfarm and is still at the application stage.

Philip Norris would like to bring to the attention of residents on this side of the river the enormous impact these giant turbines – should they receive permission to go ahead – will have on Largs, Wemyss Bay, Inverkip and Gourcock, destroying forever the scenic beauty of one of the finest seascapes in Scotland.

Earlier this year the results of polls showed that over 70% of respondents in Cowal were against the turbines, while on Bute the figure was over 80%.

To learn more log on to www.cowalwind.com and www.argyllwindfarms.com

On the CaRES website (www.cowalwind.com) under 'Objections' or 'Latest News' there are details of where objections can be sent, should you wish to do so. The Reporters have said letters of objection will still count.

Strathspey & Reel Society

Clyde Coast Strathspey & Reel Society (Clyde Coast Fiddlers) wish a very Happy Christmas to all our friends, and remember we are happy to play for your charity event, club etc. - contact Elizabeth Robertson on (01475) 675681 or Margaret Turner on (01505) 502663. Also if you like playing Scottish traditional and a variety of other music, on any instrument, how about joining us!

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

Country Club

No open meetings are being held this month but Meetings for January at 2.30 pm in The Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip are as follows:

Wednesday 14th – Miss Jennifer Boag on the subject of "The Road to Timbuktu"

Wednesday 28th – Miss Louise Bustard on the subject of "Plants that Kill, Cure or Comfort"

All members, old and new, and visitors will be made most welcome. The subscription is £10 per annum and £1.00 for visitors.

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

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Yoga

A new session of yoga will take place in the Community Centre starting Wednesday 7th January. It will run on Wednesdays from 9.45 – 11.15 am. Beginners are welcome.

If you are interested please contact Joanna on 528778.

Teacher: Joanna Reilly SYTA (Reg).

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

Beavers

The Beavers visited the local Fire Station at Skelmorlie where they had a very exciting and interesting time. During the next few meetings the colony will be concentrating on their Christmas Crafts. The colony have also completed their Fitness badge and are now working towards their Pet badge. They will also be attending the Pantomime with the other sections in the group.

Cubs: Eagle Pack

The younger members of the section attended the Cub weekend Camp at Stroove on 7th – 9th November where they achieved their Personal Safety Badge and their Chef's badge. 19 boys and 2 girls attended the weekend camp along with 2 boys from the Tiger pack. They had a great time and were very well behaved. Along with some of the older boys they attended the Armistice parade and all looked very smart. The Calendar photograph which included helpers and all sections was well attended on Friday 14th November. They will visit the RNLI lifeboat station at Largs on Friday 21st and we will all join in to attend the annual visit to the Pantomime at Kilmarnock on 28th.

Over the next couple of weeks the boys will be making a Christmas Craft.

The Cub football boys have been honoured by being included in the 100 Youth Groups Scotland Supporters Group – well done.

Cubs Tiger Pack

We had a great evening at Wemyss Bay woods listening to the bats with a very well informed lady who organises the Bat Walks. This was an interesting evening. Continuing on our wild animals theme we will have a visit from a local man who keeps wild birds and other animals and will bring his Sparrowhawk and one of his ferrets to let us touch and observe at the school on Wednesday 19th November. We have completed our Athletes badge this session and will be concentrating on our Christmas Crafts over the next couple of weeks.

Explorers

Last month the Explorer programme included a cooking night with a Chinese theme, the idea being all meals had to be cooked on camping stoves "trangias" to enable the meals to be cooked easily at camp. The menu included both sweet & sour chicken or prawns along with chicken or prawn chow mein both served with noodles, the Explorers had a good and very satisfying evening. This month also saw another five of the unit complete the first three modules of their Young Leaders training, these boys are actively helping at Beavers & Cubs both in Skelmorlie and Largs.

Tickets are selling well for the Group Panto Outing to see Mother Goose in Kilmarnock, any member of the group still requiring tickets please contact your section leader.

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.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

It's good to be here!!

Having just taken over as a local minister (Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church)
I'm pleased to have this opportunity to contribute to the "Village News".

John Glenn, the first American astronaut to orbit the earth, recalls taking a government test in which one of the questions was "Who am I?" At first the answers came easily:
I am a man, an American citizen, a husband, a father, an astronaut.

Then the answers became more difficult to find. Finally it was as if self-understanding faded away into an unanswerable mystery.

In a sense that is what this approaching Christmas Season is all about... mystery... holy mystery. A mystery alluded to by the poet! theologian Janet Morley who begins her prayer, not with the words Almighty God but Vulnerable God. Coming into the world through a child born in a stable... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

God knows that for something to be real in this world it has to be local.

Have a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year!
Morris Coull

P.S. Join our special services this Christmas.

The Church will be filled with candlelight, poinsettias and evergreen and a warm welcome awaits you, your family and friends,

Sunday 21st December at 11am - Christmas Family Gift Service with participation by the children.

Christmas Eve from 10.30pm - Hot mince pies and mulled wine in the Church hall. Carol singing will be in the Church from 11.15pm leading into the Watch night. Service at 11.30pm

Parking is directly across from the Church. Overflow parking available at Beach house.

Skelmorlie Golf Club

The club is offering a membership incentive to new members, male, female and juniors. For £50 new members can join until March 09, and then if they decide to become full members, that £50 will be deducted from next year's membership.

Juniors (male or female 10-17 years of age) cost £10 with the same conditions as adults.

A NICE CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Skelmorlie golf course is playable all the year round and it is very rare that we play to temporary greens.

If you are interested please contact the Clubhouse 520152 or Ellen Linton (secretary) 522626.
Monthly credit facilities are available.

Christmas Party Night – Saturday 13th December at 7.30 pm

Fun and games plus a quiz and disco.

This is priced at £12.00 and included is a hot buffet. Tickets are available from the Clubhouse.

Donald McDiarmid
Captain
521735

David Cairns MP

2008: Inverclyde's year of change

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

As 2008 draws to a close it gives us the perfect opportunity to reflect on what has happened in Inverclyde during the last 12 months. It's certainly been a busy year for both Wemyss Bay and, indeed, the whole of Inverclyde. There have been highs and lows and, while we must not lose sight of some of the very challenging issues facing our community, there is always a place for remembering some of the good things that happened during the year. Over the course of 2008 there was much to celebrate and, in many ways, Inverclyde has changed for the better. New schools have been built, there are more homes to buy and to rent and the regeneration of our waterfront continues apace.

Perhaps the biggest change in the village over the last year was the refurbishment and extension of Wemyss Bay Primary School. Bussing the children to the empty primary school in the East End of Greenock was a major exercise but, in the end, it has all proved worthwhile. The village now has a large-state-of-the-art primary school, children have access to modern facilities and teacher morale has improved. Thanks to the multi-million pound investment, pupils will find it easier to achieve their potential and take part in the full range of activities available to them.

And the even better news is that it doesn't stop there. Inverclyde Council has agreed to build a multi-purpose play area adjacent to the school which will be suitable for a wide variety of games such as netball, basket ball and tennis. Wemyss Bay is one of Inverclyde's success stories and over the years it has gradually expanded. So as more and more families move into the village, it is only right that we invest in facilities for them and their children. Inverclyde needs more areas like Wemyss Bay with good housing, a good community spirit and a can do attitude.

The village is fortunate in that it is relatively new and not in need of regeneration. But in other areas of Inverclyde it is a different story. Greenock's Waterfront, once deserted and abandoned, now bristles with new homes and more development is on the way. Plans are afoot to develop the James Watt Dock area and turn it into a place where people can live, work and play. The Sugar Sheds, so badly damaged by fire earlier in the year, are being made wind and watertight and there are ambitious plans for a marina, business units and leisure facilities. Not only will this benefit everyone in Inverclyde when completed, but it will also generate hundreds of construction jobs during the building phase.

The long delayed development of Gourock now looks set to get under way next year after Network Rail finally reached a decision on the upgrading of the station. This will kick start the town's regeneration and help the surrounding area. And I know from my discussions with Gallagher's, the developers in Port Glasgow, that they still plan to build more large retail units to attract big named stores to the town. So shopping facilities in Inverclyde will improve.

All in all, it's been a good year for Wemyss Bay and for Inverclyde and I have every reason to believe that the coming one will be even better.

Contact Details: David Cairns MP,
20 Union Street, Greenock, PA 16 8JL
Tel: 791820 Fax: 791821
Email: cairnsd@parliament.uk

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays the 9th & 23rd December. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 2nd, 16th & 30th December.

Remember your food waste collection will be collected every Tuesday.

In the event of adverse weather conditions refuse collection services may be delayed.

HELLO - FROM WEMYSS BAY PRIMARY!

It has been a busy and exciting time. We are all pleased that we won the 'Walk to School Week'. Craig MacLean and Emma Thomson our Junior Road Safety Officers worked very hard and encouraged us to do our best and walk to school each day. Thank you Craig and Emma. The next few weeks will be very busy with Fun Day, Christmas Cracker and practising for the official opening.

Here are two reports of some of the things we have been doing. Reports by Mhairi Black and Rachel Murdoch, Primary 7, Euan Benjamin, Primary 6 and Frazer Smith, Primary 5.

Competing in Liverpool

On Saturday 7th November, two Primary 7 pupils from Wemyss Bay Primary, Mhairi Black and Rachel Murdoch went to Liverpool for BBC competition called Choir of the Year. We are members of the Inverclyde Schools Training Choir.

After a long five hour drive we arrived at the hotel around 4pm. The next day we went to the Royal Philharmonic Hall for the competition. Our choir was taking part in the Children's category and there were another five choirs in our group.

We were all very excited. This was the first time our choir had entered the competition and we were the only choir from Scotland in the final. We sang three songs and our conductor Mrs MacLean was very pleased with us and proud of how we sang.

Unfortunately we didn't win but we did very well all our parents are proud of us. The winning choir was Masquerade. We all had fun and would like to take part another year.

Darden Smith

On Wednesday 5th November Darden Smith a singer/song writer from America came to Wemyss Bay Primary to teach Primary 4 to 7 some songs.

One activity that we did was to make up our own song. When Michael Barrett, a Primary 7 pupil, was asked for his suggestion he said, "Oh no, I forgot." So we made a song called Oh No I Forgot. The song included dancing cows, rotting cheese and many other extraordinary things. Another song we made up was about Things That We Like.

Darden told us that if there is something we want to achieve just believe in ourselves and one day it may come true. He told us to close our eyes and imagine ourselves doing the thing that we wanted to do when we were older. All students had lots of questions. Darden was impressed by the questions especially when he was asked if he was pleased that Barack Obama was the new President. He was.

Everyone had a great time and learned a lot.

By Euan Benjamin, Primary 6, and Frazer Smith, Primary 5

Pupils of the Week

Week beginning: 6th October

Pr.1. David McKinnon, Pr.2. Jack Noble & Gemma Weir, Pr.3. Jaye Gourley & Robert Innes, Pr.4. Andrew Wilson, Pr.5. Alexander Love, Pr.6. Reece Cairns, Pr.7. Craig MacLean

House of the Week: Arran

Week beginning: 20th October

Pr.1. Ben Jennings, Pr.2/1. Danae Lavery, Pr.3. Dani Glover, Pr.4. Greg McIntyre, Pr.5. Craig Horn, Pr.6. Madeleine Coxshott, Pr.7. Daniel Gregory

House of the Week: Cunbrae

Week beginning: 27th October

Pr.1. Iona Kerr, Pr.2/1. Finn Rankin, Pr.3. Daniel Weston & Eve Lynch, Pr.4. Stephanie McManus & Stuart McAleese, Pr.5. Sophie McDougall, Pr.6. Amy Brady, Pr.7. Ciara McLaren

House of the Week: Bute

Week beginning: 3rd November

Pr.1. Matthew McGinn, Pr.2/1. Calum McAskill, Pr.3. Adam Bissett, Pr.4. Olivia Cassidy & Adam Galvin,
Pr.5. Frazer Smith, Pr.6. Adam Noble, Pr.7. Ryan Galvin

House of the Week: Iona

Week beginning: 10th November

Pr.1. Taylor Lee, Pr.2. Isla Roberston, Pr.3. Charlotte McKeegan, Pr.4. Fraser McDonald, Pr.5. Lyle MacIntosh, Pr.6. Natalie Roberts, Pr.7. Eilidh Black & Rachel Murdoch.

House of the Week: Iona

Wemyss Bay PTA

As Christmas is fast approaching the PTA is as busy as ever. In November we held our Gifts Galore evening which was a great success. We had a good selection of stalls which gave those who came along a chance to get a head start on their Christmas shopping while having a glass(or two) of wine and a chat. Thanks to all of you who came along and made the evening so successful, we couldn't do it without your support. We are also still selling number for the 50/50 club. This is a fund that goes towards the upkeep of our prize winning Jubilee Garden that Mr Glass and the pupils take care of. It costs £12 for the year and every month you will be entered into a draw for a cash prize. The amount of the prize depends on the number of people in the 50/50 club, at the moment the prize is £40, the more people the bigger the prize and the more we can do in the garden. If you would like to join you can get a form from the school or get in touch with a PTA member.

We are now busy organising the Christmas Disco for all the pupils of Wemyss Bay. The disco will be on Friday 12th December, P1-P3 6pm till 7.15pm and P4-P7 7.45pm till 9pm. The cost will be £1 payable on the night and there will be the usual tuck shop selling sweets and drinks.

In the New Year we are running a workshop "Lose Weight and Laugh" on Thursday 9th January at a cost of £5 per head. The maximum number of people we can accommodate on this course is 30 so if you are interested in coming along please get in touch with any member of the PTA, book early to avoid disappointment!!

Look out for more events happening in the New Year, as always we are trying to raise as much money as we can for the school.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all at PTA events in 2009!!

Many Thanks
Donna Galvin

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Kirn Drive (cars only)

Mon to Sat 8 am – 8 pm

Sun 8 am – 7 pm

Changes to normal opening hours during the festive period

The recycling centres at Pottery Street and Kirn Drive will be closed on Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Fri 2 Jan 2009. The centres will be open on Boxing Day from 8am until 4pm.

There is no charge to householders using the recycling centres.

The recycling centres should be used only when they are open. DO NOT leave anything outside the gates. This is illegal dumping and subject to a fine of up to £40,000.



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Stuart McMillans MSP

Sometime ago I mentioned to Village News readers that I was seeking information from Inverclyde Council regarding what funding was being made available for leisure and community facilities in the Wemyss Bay area. It took a Freedom of Information request to receive the information. I have been told by the Council there has only been repairs and maintenance activity on the Wemyss Bay Community Centre at a cost of £8,000. Alongside this, the response indicated that there are plans for new playing field/sports pitch facilities around the new Wemyss Bay Primary School which village residents will be already be aware of.

I have since written to the Chief Executive of Inverclyde Council regarding the reported investment of £20million by the Council in leisure facilities. I have queried why Wemyss Bay and Inverkip appear to have been omitted from any investment. I hope the Council will look seriously into this matter and allocate sufficient funding to provide new facilities in the Wemyss Bay area.

The Scottish Government is supporting a national hotline to help Scots who are facing debt problems in this economic downturn. Many people will be finding it difficult to make mortgage payments and with the festive season fast approaching their financial problems are ever increasing. I would encourage Village News readers to contact the hotline on 0808 808 4000 which gives free, confidential and independent advice. Taking such action can be an important step in addressing any financial problems people may have.

Upcoming surgery:

Friday 12th December – Kip Marina, Board Room, Main Office – 15:00 – 15:45

Contact: Stuart McMillan MSP,
Parliamentary Office, 14 William Street, Paisley, PA1 2LZ
Tel: 0141 889 9519
E-mail: Stuart.McMillan.MSP@Scottish.Parliament.uk
www.stuart-mcmillan.net

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

We will be holding Christmas parties at both Bible Club and Youth Group on the 15th December before our Christmas break, and the clubs will then resume on the 12th January 2009 in the new year. The clubs are run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM) and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. 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 and a tuck shop. New people are very welcome.

If you would like further information, please contact Stephen Renton on 01505 355994.

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.

Dog Poo

We have had a few calls from angry residents again this month who are infuriated with the amount of dog poo which is not being cleaned up as per the law. All the complaints informed us that around the school area there is a big problem.

If this is a problem in your street please call and allow the Environmental Wardens to assess the area and hopefully eradicate the problem.

If you want to report an irresponsible dog owner please call 01475 714200.

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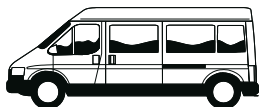
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Duncan McNeil MSP

School Meals

The debate over free school meals has been raging lately and as ever in politics all is not what it would seem. On the face of it, it is difficult to argue with free school lunches for our youngest schoolchildren. But if you scratch under the surface, you are reminded that nothing is that simple and the age old game of priorities kicks in. The Parliament's education committee gave its backing to plans to introduce free school meals for all primary one to three pupils. Of course, it is a great idea to ensure all of our youngest children get access to a healthy and nutritional lunch every day. But then cost implications come into play and that's when things get difficult. With local authorities already feeling the squeeze and no new money forthcoming, it could mean other programmes in our smaller schools being put in jeopardy.

To fund the school meals, it could result in the likes of the breakfast clubs and after school support having to go. And the double sittings needed to feed more children in the small canteens may impact in the curriculum, squeezing out additional PE lessons. Of course, in an ideal world all our children would be fed at school without impact on the rest of the educational provision. In reality, it leaves the government with some difficult choices to make and not everyone is going to like them. It may be we get our free school meals but at what cost? It's a hot topic and one I would be very interested to hear what people make of it.

Duncan.mcneil.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

1st Wemyss Bay Guides

As mentioned in last month's village news, 1st Wemyss Bay Guides held their first Virgin VIE night at the start of November. Our grand total is now in and we raised £190! WOW! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed, this amount will make a huge difference to making our centenary celebrations as best as they can be!

Wemyss Bay Guides were lucky enough to manage to get tickets to the Greenock and District Scout Gang Show at the end of November. 24 Guides and 3 leaders went to the Arts Guild to cheer on all of the participants. All of the performers tried their very best and put on an extremely entertaining performance! It definitely gave the girls some inspiration to take part in the Girlguiding version next November!

A number of you will have seen us selling our soup and juice at the turning on of the Christmas lights at the start of December. Again a huge thank you to Muriel, Kirsty, Mary and Allison B for providing the soup! This money will go towards paying our let, providing arts and crafts materials and contributing towards trips and camps! Thank you!

We plan to be busy during December with a variety of Christmas crafts and preparations for our Carol Concert which will be held on Tuesday 23rd November. We would welcome everyone and anyone from the village to come and join us. There will be singing for everyone and performances from the girls to entertain everyone! Tea/coffee and wine will be available to everyone and any donations we collect will be sent to Erskine Hospital for wounded soldiers to try to help them to enjoy Christmas as well.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the village for their support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, from all the Guides and Amy, Jane and Alison.

Alison Carmichael
520697

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KIDS PUZZLES

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

S	U	B	C	A	N	D	Y
L	S	B	A	L	L	E	K
E	N	E	L	F	T	E	D
D	O	L	L	S	E	R	K
T	W	L	G	T	R	E	E
O	W	N	I	A	X	A	I
Y	B	M	F	R	M	W	C
S	A	N	T	A	F	R	B

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

BALL
BELL
CANDY
DEER
ELF
GIFT
SANTA
SLED
SNOW
STAR
TOY
TREE

SUDOKU

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

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. There will be no January edition. The closing date for the February edition will be Friday 23rd January at 6pm.

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