

Wemyss Bay Village News

227th Edition

March 2009

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

Wemyss Bay Community Association

Our next meeting will take place in the Inverkip Hotel on Wednesday the 1st April at 7.30pm. If you are interested in finding out what is going on in the village or the up coming events we are organising please come along. We are a friendly group who make all our visitors most welcome.

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 April edition will be Friday 20th March at 6.00pm.

Duncan McNeil MSP

I was lucky enough to get an invite to the official opening of Inverclyde Academy last week, giving me a rare opportunity to mix with the great and the good.

Of course, the HRH Princess Anne was there to give the school the Royal seal of approval.

I imagine the Princess Royal has opened a lot of schools in her time but I am sure even she was impressed by the state-of-the-art facilities, with its plasma screens, gym halls and recording studio.

It is already being held up as an example of best practice for other councils by the Scottish Government.

I certainly couldn't have imagined attending somewhere like Inverclyde Academy in my own school days and I am delighted for the teachers, parents and pupils who now have this fantastic facility.

While there is more to high quality education provision than just bricks and mortar, I am sure the new Inverclyde Academy will prove an ideal setting for our young people to make the most of the opportunities open to them there.

Hopefully it will act as a springboard to a bright future for them all.
www.duncanmcneil.com

Country Club

Club meetings to be held in March at 2.30 pm in The Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip are as follows:
Wednesday 11th – Miss Francis Dunlop with the "Inverclyde Waulking Song Group"
Wednesday 25th – Mr John Gallacher on the subject of "R.M.S.Titanic"

All members, old and new, and visitors will be made most welcome. The subscription is £10 per annum and £1 for visitors. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary Ann Haig on 522316.

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays the 3rd & 17th & 31st March. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 10th & 24th March.

Remember your food waste collection will be collected every Tuesday.

Hello from all at the PTA

It's been a busy February. We had hot dog day at the morning break at school on Thursday 5th February. It was enjoyed (as usual) by all the pupils.

13th February was the Valentine's disco. Both discos were well attended and all the pupils enjoyed their evening. Thanks to all PTA, teacher and parent helpers who came along on the night. We took the opportunity at the disco to sell our 50 / 50 club balls. If anyone hasn't got and wishes to purchase a ball, please let one of the PTA members know.

21st February was our table top sale morning in the school. Several people booked tables and turned up with lots of goodies for sale. Unfortunately and possibly due to our lack of advertising, the sale was poorly attended by potential buyers. A lesson learned by the PTA members.

Our plans for March include a Family Bingo night on 27th. We have run a night like this previously and it's been well attended and enjoyed by adults and children.

In May we are planning a Pampered Chef Can't Cook Won't Cook evening. Watch the Village News and school newsletter for more information.

Out with fund-raisers the PTA are spending money on wet weather boxes for the children and also purchasing benches for the school garden.

An issue that is always discussed passionately at our monthly meetings is parking and safety for the school children when crossing the road. Could all people dropping children at the school please avoid parking on the well marked zig-zag areas and be aware that children are crossing both Ardgowan Road and Lomond Road to get into the school grounds. Please be vigilant and reduce your speed.

As always the PTA welcomes new members.

Many Thanks

Jill Pearson - Secretary PTA

Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church

DIARY OF SERVICES

All Services conducted by the Minister

March 1	11.00am	Lent 1	
March 8	11.00am	Lent 2	Holy Communion
March 15	11.00am	Lent 3	Ordination & Admission of Elders
March 22	11.00am	Lent 4	Mothering Sunday: Cradle Roll Service
March 29	11.00am	Lent 5	Preceded by a brief Service of Prayers for the Sick in the side aisle of the church at 10.15am.
April 5	11.00am	Palm Sunday: Admission of New Communicants	

The World Day of Prayer Evening Service on Friday 6th March in Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church at 7.30pm will be conducted by the Minister. All are welcome.

Stated Annual Meeting: Thursday 19th March in the church hall at 7.30pm

Change to Hospital Practices – please note that from now on hospitals are no longer in a position to furnish ministers or chaplains with patient lists as it contravenes their Data Protection Policy. It is imperative therefore that the minister is informed of the name, date of admission and ward number of anyone wishing a pastoral visit.

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Stuart McMillan MSP

Since I last spoke to Village News readers a lot has happened in the world of Scottish politics.

Bashir Ahmad MSP

It was with shock that I received the call recently informing me that my colleague Bashir Ahmad MSP had suddenly passed away. Bashir was a true gentleman and always had a smile and kind words when he met you. Bashir will be a loss to Scottish politics and I know he was well thought of by all sides in the Parliament.

Scottish Budget Bill

The opposition parties agreed to support the Scottish Budget Bill at the second time of asking, except the Green Party. It seems they realised that a consensus approach was necessary as the previous actions of Labour and Lib Dem politicians to vote down the budget left local authorities and the public sector in limbo. The budget will deliver many things including: £1.8bn of additional resources for public services, £230m of spending brought forward to invest in capital spending projects, resources to freeze the Council Tax, resources to abolish or reduce business rates, cut Prescription Charges from £5 to £4, provide for more police on the streets and £16 million for 18,500 new apprenticeships this year, which was offered in the first budget but was rejected by Labour and the Lib Dems. Due to the block grant from Westminster to Scotland being reduced by £1bn over the next 2 years the Scottish Government will be restricted to what they can do.

Wemyss Bay Consultation

I recently sent out the further part of my A78 Inverkip consultation to all households in Wemyss Bay. The purpose of this is to gauge the opinions of the local community as to how constituents feel about using the A78 and whether they feel traffic calming measures are required. Alongside this, I asked whether the speed limit should be restricted. So far my office has received a response rate of more than 10%. I will collate all the information and make constituents aware of the findings in due course.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW OFFICE ADDRESS (From 2nd March 2009):

Contact: Stuart McMillan MSP

Unit 27, Sir James Clark Building, Abbey Mill Business Centre, Seedhill Road, Paisley, PA1 1TJ

Tel: 0141 889 9519

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

www.stuart-mcmillan.net

Ross Finnie MSP

The Scottish Parliament duly passed the SNP Government's Budget – at the second attempt. Much mischief has been made that failure to pass the Budget would result in chaos: not so. Unlike for example in the United States where failure to pass the budget can result in services being cut off within days the Scottish legislation allows the existing budget to continue and allows time for a revised Budget to be tabled.

Given that nowhere can escape the recession, not even Wemyss Bay, was concerned that the Budget was only 3% different from the pre-recession days and more worrying there was no hint of longer-term thinking to address the current circumstances.

In the negotiations that preceded the final passing of the Budget we secured agreement on three matters which we believed would be of help to everyone. First, we got agreement to revenue support for public bodies in order to assist with accelerating capital projects to improve the infrastructure and help with unemployment. Second, as the fall-out from the financial services sector is likely to be substantial it was agreed that the Financial Services Advisory Board be reconstituted to assist with reconstruction. Third, the Government's Economic Advisory Board was, as a matter of urgency, to review strategically the budget to ensure it was geared to meet the challenges of recession.

Contact Ross Finnie MSP at:

54 Kelly Street, Greenock PA16 8TR

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

Tel: 01475-805020 Fax: 01475-805021

website www.rossfinniemsp.org.uk



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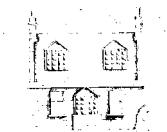
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Woodland Association

Work Sessions

The Woodland Association holds work sessions every four weeks – our next sessions will take place on Sunday 1st March and Sunday 29th March. We will concentrate on clearing the remaining rhododendron from the top level of the terraced gardens, near the Victorian fernery. We will work from Cliff Terrace Road and will base ourselves initially at the Ardgowan Road end. – this is where you can collect your tools and gloves however if you join us after 10.30am, you can collect everything from where we are working, just walk along Cliff terrace Road till you find us.. 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 and soup 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

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. To join the Association send your name, address, phone and email details along with a cheque made payable to Wemyss Bay Woodland Association to Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay PA18 6HA

Activity Sessions and Guided Walks

The Association is currently drawing up its 2009 programme of activity sessions and guided walks. Following the popularity of previous years this will again include Bat Walks, Mini-Beast Safaris and Treasure Hunts. If you have a particular favourite which you would like to see included please contact Eila at the address below.

If you are involved in running any community group and would like the Woodland Association to tailor-make and run a walk or activity session for your members contact Eila for information.

Further Information

For further information about any aspects of the work of the Woodland Association contact the Secretary, Eila Roberts on 529375 or email eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

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 ball games, table-tennis, pool, badminton, board games, computer games and arts and crafts. 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.

Help Needed

The P4 – P7 Youth Club desperately needs some additional adult leaders. We meet in the Community Centre on Thursday evenings during term time from 7.00 - 8.15pm where we have a range of activities including ball games, board games, arts and crafts, pool and table-tennis. If you are interested in getting involved you **MUST** be prepared to be vetted through the Disclosure Scotland scheme. If you are interested contact Eila on 529375 or drop in and visit us any Thursday evening.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's mobile travel centre will be at Wemyss Bay pier on Thursday 26th March from 10am to 1pm in the pier car park. The travel centre provides information to people in rural areas on bus, rail and ferry services, long distance coach services and short stay breaks. You can also find out about trips round Strathclyde, Britain and Europe. The travel centre will also be at Largs Train Station from 2pm to 4pm on the same day, as reported in the Largs and Millport.

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The course is short but challenging, and is playable throughout the year. It is only rarely that we play on winter tees. There is no need to book tee times except for competitions.

Monthly Credit facilities are available, which can spread the cost of membership over 10 months.

Full Membership (Ladies & Gents)	£398
Student (any age) & Intermediate (18 to 21)	£224
Juniors (Male and Female 15 to 17 years)	£100
Juniors (Male and Female 10 to 14 years)	£80
Senior membership (70 or over on 1st March)	£338

Country Membership (residing out with 30 miles radius of the Club or have a permanent address in Argyll, Bute and Cumbrae)	£224
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We are the cheapest private course in the area. We have several social functions throughout the year. Members can also use the clubhouse for private functions.

We welcome visiting parties and provide full catering as required.

For more information contact the clubhouse 520152 or Ellen Linton (secretary) 522626
sgcsec@yahoo.co.uk
Donnie McDiarmid Past Captain

Wemyss Bay Community Centre – Monday 9 March 09

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BUYING FAIRTRADE GOODS HELPS REDUCE POVERTY

Goods carrying the distinctive blue and green Fairtrade logo get pride of place in Inverclyde's shops during Fairtrade Fortnight (23rd February - 8th March). As most people in Wemyss Bay will know, Fairtrade ensures that farmers and producers in the developing world get a fair price for what they sell and are not exploited.

Please try to buy at least one Fairtrade product during Fairtrade Fortnight. Our shopping habits can make a difference to the world's poorest people. It is tempting to forget about world poverty when things are difficult at home. But there are two billion people living on less than \$2 per day and we should always remember that.

Few local retailers sell Fairtrade goods but, the way to change that, is for shoppers to ask questions about what they buy. So next time you're shopping try to purchase something from developing countries and, if you don't see any Fairtrade goods, ask the retailer to stock them.

Countries need to trade to reduce poverty and that's why our UK Government led efforts to secure fairer international trade rules. Around £12 million has been spent supporting fair and ethical trade initiatives and a further £400 million on helping developing countries build their trading capacity.

Governments can't solve this problem alone. We need people from Wemyss Bay, and every other village and town in the country, to include Fairtrade items with their weekly shop. It's the only way to ensure that poorer countries can lift themselves out of poverty.

Contact Details: David Cairns MP, 20 Union Street, Greenock, PA 16 8JL

Tel: 791820 Fax: 791821

Email: cairnsd@parliament.uk

1st Wemyss Bay Guides

Guides started back after Christmas with lots of activities. They made over 70 bagpipe badges to be given out to all the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Leaders at the annual Burns Supper and Ceilidh which was held at the end of January. This was a great success with the Guides enthusiastically joining in with all the dancing and reciting a number of different Scottish poems. Jane gave the Address to the Haggis, which included some tasty treats for all the girls! Everyone had an excellent evening.

After a great party, the girls have been continuing to work on their badges, with a number of them gaining badges including, Rachel who gained her hobbies badge, Dominique, Nicole, Amanda, Florence and Louise who all received their chocolate badge. (Yum yum!) Katie, Amy, Elaine, Emma and Ciara all planned and held a great party with games, food and juice to receive their party planner badge. Jayne worked very hard at both Guides and in her own time to achieve the independent living badge. Our new girls Megan, Olivia, Saskia and Katy have been working away on their promise challenges in preparation for making their promise at their own "mountain top moment!" The older girls in our unit have completed their Baden Powell challenge and are now assisting others in the unit with badges and activities and are assisting the leaders in preparation and running the activities!

The annual pancake challenge took place a little earlier than usual this year and had a gourmet theme, with leaders looking for the "poshest" pancake! There was a variety of entrants from a Queen Elizabeth look-a-like to a mountain of whipped cream and chocolate sauce! It was a difficult decision but based on presentation and taste the winner was Guide Gourmet made by Rachel, Mhairi, Emma and Jayne. Everyone made a fantastic effort though, well done!

Guides also managed to squeeze in some craft activities for Valentines Day. They managed to fill some woven heart baskets with lots of sweets for their valentine.

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

HELLO - FROM WEMYSS BAY PRIMARY!

Here are two reports of just some of the things we were doing recently. Reports Madeleine Coxshott and Katrina Gregory, Primary 6.

HEROES' DAY

On 16th January the pupils of Primaries 6 and 7 had their annual project day. This year it was on their Heroes and all the pupils came dressed as their hero.

During the morning parents and grandparents came into school to interview the heroes. There were lots of different heroes for them to talk to. Some of them were Barak Obama, Florence Nightingale, Walt Disney, parents, grandparents, great grandparents and adventurers like Steve Irwin and Bear Grylls. There were even Olympic gold medallists Chris Hoy and Michael Phelps.

The staff and pupils had had the opportunity to interview the heroes the previous day. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed Heroes' Day.

The day had been the conclusion to eight weeks hard work. During those weeks the pupils gathered information about their heroes from books, the internet and family. At the end they put the information into files with pictures.

Festival

In January Primaries 1, and 3 took part in the Inverclyde Music Festival. Primary 1 took part in the Singing Games for Primary 1 and sang The Wombling Song. They did really well and qualified for the final later in the week. They went back on 30th January and this time they won. They got the IBM Trophy and a winners certificate.

Primary 2 also took part in the Singing Games. They sang I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing. They did really well and received 81 points. Primary 3 took part in the Action Songs. Their song was Who's That Coming Down the Road. They were second and received a runners-up certificate.

Everyone at Wemyss Bay Primary is very proud of all the classes that took part in the Festival.

Anonymous Articles

While we are happy to print articles and withhold the sender's name, if requested, we must have a note of the person's name and contact details before we can print anything. This is to protect us, should someone later complain about an article.

And Now For the Small Print . . .

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.

With respect to articles, we reserve the right to edit as we see fit to prevent offence and / or inaccuracies. We also reserve the right to ask local groups / individuals to respond to any articles received.

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 April edition will be Friday 20th March at 6pm.

71st Ayrshire Group

Bingo Evening Raises Almost £400

More than 70 people had their eyes down for the Group Bingo evening which was held in Skelmorlie Community Centre in February. It was great to see so many mums and friends from both villages turnout to support the local scout group. Fantastic prizes were won, with the top prize being scooped by Gillian Pollock from Wemyss Bay. Almost £400 was raised which will go to support 70th anniversary activities and the annual cub summer holiday.

Eagle Pack

Congratulations to Cub Scout Lyle MacIntosh who designed the Eagle Packs clock to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Scout Group, we do hope all parents liked their clock.

24 Cubs & 6 leaders enjoyed their Second Pack holiday to the YMCA Stroove House in Skelmorlie in January, the theme for the weekend was the "Wild Wild West". Activities included Badge work, Make a Teepee, Wide Games, Make a Totem Pole, Night Hike and lots of games. All the boys and girls are now looking forward to this summers Pack Holiday to Bispham Hall Scout Estate, Billings, Wigan.

7 Cubs will be moving up to Scouts at the end of February. Enjoy the scout Troop, Cubs!!!

Also at the end of the month the Eagle Pack will be running a "Bring a Friend Night"

At this time the Eagle Pack (Friday) is full but there are still a few places in the Tiger Pack (Wednesday)

Please speak with one of the Leaders if you are interested in joining

Tiger Pack

After a break for the local school holiday the Pack will return to a "Pancake" themed night of fun and games, which will end with the cubs enjoying a few pancakes to eat.

March will see the Cubs work on the Mother's Day craft Items that bring much joy to the cubs as they make them and to their mother's when they receive them.

The Pack looks forward to future programme and ideas organised by the sixers and seconders, who have been more involved in suggesting new games, badges for their Pack programme.

The Pack are also looking forward to a Bug walk at the beginning of March with Eila Roberts.

THE BAY Explorer Unit

The unit have been active this year in preparing for respective Duke of Edinburgh awards, where the participants must complete four sections, Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. These four sections ensure participants are pushed and tested, while enjoying themselves, as they learn how much they can achieve by their own efforts

February saw four of the Unit attend a Young Leaders Training weekend at Lapwing Lodge where they completed the training stage of a number of the Young Leaders modules, Feedback from the boys was that the weekend was "enjoyable" and they now seem inspired to complete their mission to gain their Young Leaders Belt

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.



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KIDS PUZZLES

NUMBER SEARCH

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

Try and match the numbers below in the grid. They may be horizontal or vertical.

1388

1512

4457

5222

6528

6693

6943

7499

7515

7935

SUDOKU

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

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.

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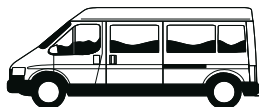
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