

Wemyss Bay Village News

228th Edition

April 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 6th May at 7.30pm. If you are interested in finding out what is going on in the village or the upcoming 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 May edition will be Friday 24th April at 6.00pm.

Gala Weekend

The Association has started the preparation for this year's Gala. It will take place on the 12th and 13th of June. As always we require a lot of help from the villagers to make the weekend the success it always is. If you can help out in any way please let us know by attending a meeting or approaching a member of the Association.

Work to commence on Wemyss Bay Astro Pitch in June

The final plans for upgrading the Blaise park in Wemyss Bay Primary School are at an advance stage.

We hope to see the work start once the school closes for the Summer break where an all weather grade 3 surface will be laid. The park will be a seven aside size and will be fully enclosed with a 5m ball catch fence around it with higher fencing behind each goal. The park will be fully floodlight so community groups can use the facility in the winter evenings

Talks on hiring the facility are at an early stage but use of the park will be for W/Bay school (school hours) and the community groups after school hours, evenings and weekends.

The W/Bay Steering Group will work with the Council and Community groups to discuss how we can manage the use of the park for the community.

Regards
Wemyss Bay Facilities Steering Group

Country Club

Club meetings to be held in April at 2.30 pm in The Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip are as follows:
Wednesday 8th – Mr Norman Hollywood on the subject "By Car to Lake Garda"

This is the last open meeting of the session and we will recommence early October. 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 14th & 28th April. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 7th & 21st April.

Remember your food waste collection will be collected every Tuesday.

Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone for their good wishes, cards and gifts received since my recent operation, it is lovely to know that you have all been thinking of me. I am recovering well and will soon be back running around the village as usual.

Sharon Murdoch, Castle Wemyss Drive.

Hello from Wemyss Bay Primary PTA

Our last meeting was on 2nd March. One of the issues raised after the Valentine's Disco is our need for PTA members to be trained in First Aid skills. Our PTA agreed to have two members trained. Watch this space for an update.

Our May event is a Pampered Chef evening. This is on Thursday 14th May. There will be a cookery demonstration and the ability to purchase kitchen items and much more. Tickets will cost £5 and include a glass of wine (the only thing to drink while cooking!!) or soft drink.

Watch the school newsletter for more information about this evening.

Our next meeting is on Monday 20th April and as ever we welcome new members

Have a great Easter

Jill Pearson - Secretary PTA

1st Wemyss Bay Guides

Guides in Wemyss Bay were their usual busy selves during the months of February and March. The girls celebrated Thinking Day in a variety of ways. Firstly by gaining their World Thinking Day badge. The Guides iced biscuits with the world flag on them, completed a world flag jigsaw and learned what each part of the flag symbolises. We were fortunate enough to have Nynke, Ciara and Saskia's Gran (Mama we were told to call her!) come along to Guides for the night and teach us how to sing taps in Dutch, which was another aspect they had to complete for the badge. The girls found out that Dutch is a tricky language to learn, however they made a great attempt at trying to sing it! For the final part of the badge and as part of our traditional Thinking Day celebrations, each patrol chose a country to find out about the Guide uniform and Guiding. We were all able to learn about American, Australian, New Zealander and Ghanaian Girl Guides and their uniform! We had some beautiful models showing of the versions of the uniform that the girls had recreated! Well done to all those who took part and gained their badge!

We were also able to celebrate Thinking Day as part of our Division celebration which was held at Greenock Town Hall. Kendal carried our unit flag and Megan, Saskia, Rachel and Mhairi represented our unit in the Division choir. The girls had to learn a variety of songs and actions, and with only 3 rehearsals they put on a wonderful performance. Well done to you all, we are really proud of you!

As something a bit different this year, before we went to our Thinking Day service we joined up with Skelmorlie Guides and took part in a sponsored swim at the Waterfront. 11 of our Guides took part and they all managed to swim a number of laps around the lazy river and still have enough energy to go on the flumes! Hopefully all our sponsor money will be in soon and we can share our total with you next month!

During March all three leaders celebrated their birthdays with Amy having a special one! We all celebrated together with a party, games and a cake. We also made some tea-rific Mothers Day cards which you have all hopefully received along with your breakfast in bed! We are planning some Easter activities for the end of the month along with completing another part of the confectioner's badge.

Finally a date for your diary!

COFFEE EVENING AND BEETLE DRIVE ON TUESDAY 28TH APRIL AT 7.30 PM IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. COST £1 WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO BARNARDOS.

Come and help 1st Wemyss Bay Guides Change the World!

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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AFD £1,000 Draw

The annual AFD £1,000 Draw took place at our Race Night on 23rd February. The £1,000 top prize was won by Mrs McDonald from Inverkip and there were 10 other lucky people who won prizes all worth at least £50 each. The AFD Coaches would like to thank all sponsors, parents, friends and neighbours who supported both the Raffle and Race Night and helped us raise money for club funds.

AFD Sunday Coaching Sessions

Most of the AFD Sessions are full but anyone wishing to enquire about places should contact Iain Buchan on 07791 964277.

There will be no AFD Sessions on Sunday 5th and 12th April.

ATFC

In their last 3 matches the Under 13's team beat league leaders Parkmoor 5 - 3, drew with second place Langcraigs 2 - 2 and defeated Kilwinning 13 - 0. They have won 7 and drawn 1 of 9 league games (only 1 of them at home) and are now 3rd top of the league with 9 games in hand over the league leaders.

The Under 12's team drew their last match and, in their first year playing 11 A Side, continue to improve week by week.

The Under 10's have played and won a number of friendlies recently with some of these matches against teams at an older age group.

ATFC Under 10's and Under 13's Squads are taking part in an Easter Football Tournament in Barcelona. Various fundraising activities have taken place i.e. ATFC Race Night, Sponsored Cycle round Millport. Good Luck Boys!

Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church - DIARY OF SERVICES

Come celebrate with us!

Palm Sunday :	April 5th at 11.00am: The Minister :Admission of New Communicant
April 9th - 7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion shared with Inverkip
April 10th - 7.00pm	Good Friday Service in Inverkip Parish Church
April 12th - 7.00am	Easter Dawn Service at Meigle Beach – followed by tea & bacon rolls back at the church hall. 8.30am Short Service of Holy Communion in side aisle 11.00am Easter Sunday Service : The Minister
April 19	11.00am Divine Worship: Revd. John Page
April 26	11.00am Divine Worship: Revd. John Page Preceded by a brief Service of Prayers for the Sick in the side aisle of the church at 10.15am.
May 3	11.00am Divine Worship: Revd. John Page

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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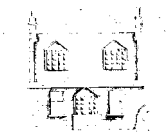
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Ross Finnie MSP

Congratulations to the local volunteers who have established Friends of Wemyss Bay Station. Wemyss Bay Pier always stood out as one of the finest on the Clyde but Gourrock Pier was also very impressive with Rothesay and Fairlie, for example, had character of their own. Now Wemyss Bay is the only one left "as she was" so it is good that a group dedicated to conserving the architectural heritage of this local land mark has been established, They deserve every support.

Talking about Wemyss Bay Station inevitably raises the question of tourism on the Clyde in general and Wemyss Bay in particular. We still have the iconic PS Waverly plying her trade and keeping the Clyde on the map. But whilst Rothesay and the Isle of Bute generate a good deal of PR activity the important role of Wemyss Bay Station and the surrounding facilities get scant attention. I think the local tourism strategy needs to revisit this issue,

With the Bank of England lending rate at 0.5%, inflation at 3.2% and projected to fall to 2% I find it impossible to understand why constituents with small businesses are telling me that their Bank is reluctant to lend and not at least that 6-7% for starters. You the taxpayer bailed the banks out. They simply have to be told to lend to viable businesses at competitive rates or face being nationalised.

Duncan McNeil

WEMYSS BAY VILLAGE NEWS – ON THE BUSES

Earlier this year, I called for your views on public transport provision and particularly how you felt you were being served by local buses. The amount of responses I received confirms my view that this is a real problem in our villages.

One particular area of concern is access to health services and I have now written to both NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Strathclyde Passenger Transport alerting to them about the lack of a direct transport links to the Inverclyde Royal Hospital. While it is a simple 10-minute journey for those with a car, those who rely on public transport will know a round trip involves four buses via Greenock. And the service that runs from Wemyss Bay railway station doesn't divert through Inverkip to allow residents there to get the benefit. To add insult to injury, it only goes one way and won't take you back! This has left many elderly residents with no easy way of accessing the hospital for appointments and even forced into the expense of a taxi.

There is no doubt action is needed and I will be interested to see what steps the health board and the transport providers take to address this situation now that I have raised it. I am also still keen to hear other examples of people being let down by gaps in their service.

A bill has been introduced by one of my Parliamentary colleagues Charlie Gordon that seeks to iron out these transport anomalies through greater regulation.

It is important that those who live in our outlying villages are not overlooked when it comes to basic services like public transport.

Comic Relief 2009

Two Inverclyde Academy schoolgirls Lauren Gallacher and Sophie Edgar from Wemyss Bay would like to thank family, friends and neighbours who sponsored them for this years' Comic Relief. The girls decided that they would like to do something funny for money so they walked from Wemyss Bay to Gourrock in their pyjamas. They managed to raise over £100 and thank everyone for their generous support. Well done Girls!!!!

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.

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David Cairns MP

SECRETARY OF STATE LISTENS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

Businesses in Inverclyde, like those across the rest of the country, are being hit by the global credit crunch. And I know from talking to local entrepreneurs that they sometimes wonder if the UK Government really understands the difficulties they face when dealing with the banks.

So I was delighted when the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Rt Hon Jim Murphy MP, accepted my invitation to come to Inverclyde and meet local companies. An entire cross section of the business community came along to meet him; everyone was represented from large multi-nationals, to home-grown medium sized businesses right down to small firms employing one or two people.

Jim sits in the Cabinet, and it was a great opportunity for Inverclyde companies to ensure that their concerns reached the heart of Government. The message which came across loud and clear was that banks were still reluctant to lend and they were hoarding the money the Treasury gave them to kick-start the economy.

The Secretary of State outlined some of the help which the Government had already given to businesses such as the Enterprise Guarantee Fund, the Capital Enterprise Fund and the Working Capital scheme. But it was clear from the comments of the local business community that the banks were sometimes not delivering on these schemes.

He is now going to take this up at the next Cabinet meeting and make sure that the Chancellor and the Prime Minister are aware of what is happening on the ground.

85th Greeock & District - 1st Wemyss Bay

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have all been really busy recently. Beavers have been working on their Healthy Eating Badge, where they tasted the delights of lots of different fruits and also the unhealthy option of a chocolate fountain. All the Beavers could tell what was healthy eating options and what was not healthy foods to eat. They also enjoyed a thorough fitness workout to gain their Health & Fitness Badge. More recently they gained their Air Activities Badge by making paper aeroplanes and then testing how far they could fly them. We also had a visit from a pilot who explained to them about flying a plane and helicopter. We have a few spaces left in Beavers at the moment as quite a few of our Beavers are moving to Cubs, so if you have a boy or girl aged between 5 years and 8 months and 8 years please call me.

Some of our Cubs recently enjoyed a night at Everton, where they went on a hike and enjoyed the singing of an indoor camp fire. The weather wasn't that great so we had to improvise! On the Saturday they enjoyed a variety of wide camps, despite the weather and all went home thorough soaked and tired. At present the Cubs are working on their Home and Personal Safety Badges. Recently we had two Cubs who attained their Chief Scout Silver Award and moved up to Scouts. Well Done to Emma McQueen and Suzie Gallagher. We have a limited number of spaces in Cubs at the moment so if any boy or girl aged between 8 and 10 years is interested in joining us please call me.

Scouts are also enjoying the outdoors at the moment and recently went hiking in Ben Lomond and had a weekend at Everton, where some of the olders Scouts and Explorers slept outside in wintery conditions. To see some of them visit our website, www.inverkipscouts.co.uk.

We now meet at Wemyss Bay School on a Thursday and Friday night and the kids are thoroughly enjoying all the space we have available to us.

Coming up is our annual Group Camp in May, letters will have been sent out and also our Summer BBQ. We are also hoping to get a trip to the cinema for the Beavers.

Anyone interested in joining us, or if there are any parents who would like to join and help out, please call me as we are looking for an additional Beaver, Cub and Scout Leader.

I can be contacted on 520932.

Liz Roders, Beaver Leader

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Friends of Wemyss Bay Station

At their recent Open Day the Friends of Wemyss Bay Station were delighted to welcome both local people and those from out with the area, an indication of the affection felt for this fine building. Mr Archie Clark, the architect who directed the refurbishment of the station 15 years ago, was amongst the first to arrive, and promised to supply photographs, plans and drawings resulting from his research into the history of Wemyss Bay and Skelmorlie, and their development as a result of the railway being built. His book, published at that time, "Caley to the Coast" is probably the definitive account of the station and pier, boats and trains.

Local councillor Luciano Rebecchi also joined us, and gave us his support, as did Stuart McMillan, MSP. Mr McMillan would like to see Wemyss Bay Station included in Inverclyde's tourist trail, and has already promoted the Friends' efforts in the Scottish Parliament with a motion.

Date of Lodging: 16 March 2009

Short Title: Full Steam Ahead for Wemyss Bay Station

S3M-03712 Stuart McMillan (West of Scotland) (SNP): That the Parliament welcomes the work being carried out by the Friends of Wemyss Bay Station who are a newly formed group of volunteers with a keen interest in and admiration for Wemyss Bay station; notes that the group has been granted the use of the empty accommodation at the station to use as a heritage site, and further notes that the group plans to collect and display photographs of the station in its Edwardian prime and has reintroduced floral displays as a reminder of the days when the station was famous for its displays of potted plants and hanging baskets.

The Friends have been given the use of accommodation at the station by First ScotRail to collect archive material about the station and the pier, to promote both station and pier services today, and to provide a local community interest in the station.

Anyone interested in joining us in these efforts is very welcome to come along to our meetings. Check our web-site for information: www.friendsofwemyssbaystation.webs.com or look for notices at the station or community centre.

To raise cash we plan to sell second-hand books at the station (donations welcome!). We also plan to have a gallery for use by local groups or individuals to display their work. We are just starting up and have a long way to go, but the possibilities are considerable. Please become a Friend of Wemyss Bay Station.

Nancy Cameron, Chairman, Friends of Wemyss Bay Station

Stuart McMillan MSP

Damages (Asbestos-related Conditions) (Scotland) Bill

I recently spoke in the final Parliamentary stage of the Damages (Asbestos-related Conditions) (Scotland) Bill. A bill which I have been involved in from its inception and am delighted that it has become legislation. This Bill overturns the appalling House of Lords decision preventing pleural plaques sufferers from claiming compensation and justice. I strongly welcome that the Scottish Parliament has responded positively on this issue, and I am sure that the vast majority of the population in Scotland will be supporting this legislation. I just hope the Westminster Government now follow Scotland's lead and act to provide justice for the other nations in the UK.

Prescription charges

On a final note I was disappointed to read that prescription charges for England are to increase to £7.20 in April of this year. This coupled with the 3% increase in Council Tax rates for people in England highlights the growing disparity between the Governments of Westminster and Holyrood. In Scotland we will benefit from prescription charges being reduced to £4 and then phased out by 2011 as well as the council tax freeze for the second year running. I am pleased to see the Scottish Government is continuing to invest and work hard for the families in Scotland, especially during these difficult economic circumstances.

Hello - From Wemyss Bay Primary!

Here are three reports of just some of the things we were doing recently. Reports by Zoe McCallum and Emma McQueen, and Olivia Eaton and Natalie Roberts, Primary 6 and Michael Barrett and Stuart Callender, Primary 7.

Broomlee

On Wednesday 18th February Primary 6 left to go to Broomlee. Everyone was very excited and couldn't wait to go. The other schools with us at Broomlee were Inverkip Primary and Moorfoot Primary.

When we arrived at Broomlee we were put into groups and met our tutors. They were Claire, Isla and Genieive. We had a tour of Broomlee and then after lunch we had to put our bags in our rooms before starting activities. Two groups did archery and other activities included finding different shades of green and brown and the star course. In the evening we had to make our beds and after some free time we had our supper. We all got a piece of birthday cake because it was Mrs Dorman's birthday.

On the second day all our groups went down to the river. We had to solve problems and make rafts for ants and one group got to make hot chocolate. They had to get the water from the river and using a bucket, jug and some guttering get the water into a container to boil on a fire. In the afternoon there was the tree climb or pole climb. Some people even managed to climb to the top with a blindfold. Two groups managed the flying fox (zip wire) and one group did archery. After dinner there were night activities, eg a wolf game in the woods and the night line.

Friday was the last day. Our last activities were the ropes course or the Mohawk walk. After a packed lunch it was time to go home. We were all tired but had had a fantastic time.

Grandparents' and Parents' Day

On 27th February Wemyss Bay Primary had an exciting day. It was the day when our Grandparents and Parents could come into the school and work with us. In the morning many of our grandparents and some parents came in and did some activities with us. Here are some of the morning activities: P7 made gas masks from junk, in P4 they played Maths bingo, in P1 the y made policemen's hats and in P6 they made zoetropes.

At playtime the grandparents and parents went to the hall for tea and coffee and then they watched a concert of Festival entries and Scots poems.

In the afternoon more parents and grandparents came to school. This time some of the activities were: P5 made Egyptian pyramids, P2/1 made pet sock puppets and P3 made flowerpot pictures. After the activities there was more tea and coffee in the hall with the concert.

It was a fantastic day and everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Red Nose Day

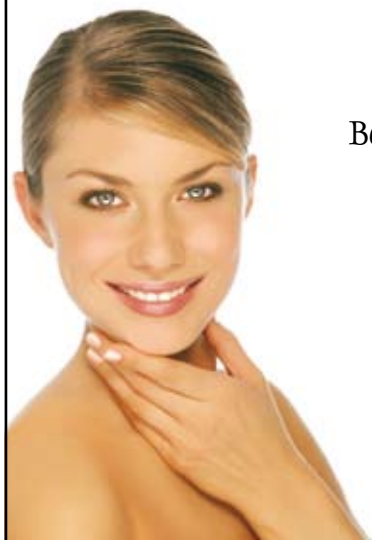
Comic Relief took place on Friday 13th March and we decided to have a Day of Culture. Everybody was able to dress up as their favourite artist such as singers, mines, actors, artists and anyone else they could think of. There was an art gallery of funny artwork produced by each class in the school and Karaoke was available too.

We raised over £250 and everyone enjoyed themselves.

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.

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Work Sessions

The Woodland Association holds work sessions every four weeks – our next session will take place on Sunday 26th April. 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.

Bat Walks

The walks will take place on Saturday 25th April and Saturday 9th May and will leave the Community Centre car-park at 8pm. Spaces are strictly limited and therefore booking is essential. To reserve a space contact Eila Roberts on 529375.

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. (Ask the mum of any child attending the club about the beautiful key-ring they received on Mother's Day.) 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.

KIDS PUZZLE

SUDOKU

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

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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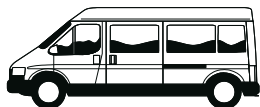
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