Wemyss Bay Village News

235th Edition December 2009

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

Wemyss Bay Community Association

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Inverkip Hotel. 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.

We have recently had the Community Centre cleaned and painted and are waiting on new flooring to arrive for a couple of the storeage rooms and also the main hall being sanded and resealed. This has been quite expensive for us and we are always thinking of new fundraising ideas

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY SERVICE FOR WEMYSS BAY

Drop of your fully addressed cards to Santas Post Office in the Community Centre on Sunday 13th December between 1pm & 4pm for us to sort and distribute to the Elf Delivery Association. Your cards will be delivered to all of Wemyss Bay during the following week. We look forward to seeing you there and will be very grateful for the delivery donations received for our funds.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bible Club and Youth Group

On behalf of Bible Club and Youth Group we would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas as we celebrate the birth of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. We will be holding our Christmas parties this month and these are always special occasions on our calendar! The clubs will resume, after the Christmas and New Year break, on Monday, 11th January 2009. New children and young people are always welcome at both clubs on a Monday evening. Bible Club is from 6.15pm to 7.30pm and is for children in P1 to P6. Youth Group is from 7.45pm to 9.30pm and is for young people in P7 and high school. 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.

Recycling centres

Winter opening hours

Pottery Street (cars and vans):
Mon to Fri 8 am – 8.30 pm
Sat and Sun 8 am – 7.30 pm

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 Fri 25 Dec, Fri 1 Jan and Sat 2 Jan. The centres will be open on Boxing Day from 8 am until 4 pm.

Waste collection

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

Remember your food waste is collected every Tuesday.

1st Wemyss Bay Guides

CONGRATULATIONS to Chantelle M, Kirsty B, Kirsty Mc, Rachel M, Jayne B, Mhairi B, Olivia E and "wee" Mhairi Mc! These girls all took part in Guidespell 2009 which was an all singing, all dancing extravaganza to celebrate 100 years of Girlguiding in Greenock Division! Rachel and Mhairi B opened the show as lead singers, whilst everyone else sang and danced fantastically in their florescent costumes. Kirsty B and Kirsty Mc recreated Meryl Streep's famous role in Mamma Mia by singing in a trio during the Abba item. Chantelle was a member of the senior dance team and Rachel, Mhairi B and Jayne all danced superbly as super troopers. "Wee" Mhairi was a member of the chorus and danced a voulez vous dance. Olivia played the role of a mischievous yet charming Girl Guide in the "Hold the front page" sketch very realistically! During the Scottish item, everyone sang tremendously well. Jayne and Rachel danced Girlguiding Scotland's very own Scottish Country dance, A Hundred Thousand Welcomes and "wee" Mhairi was a marvellous, yet itchy midge! Chantelle sang a beautiful duet during the "Hong Kong" item, while Mhairi B danced alongside her. Kirsty B, Kirsty Mc and Chantelle all sang and danced extremely well when they recreated "The Steamie" with their pals. Kirsty Mc was a member of the senior dance team and Rachel, Jayne and Mhairi B sang clearly and smiled brightly during the Hillbilly item, where Olivia and "wee" Mhairi had a starring role as "Giddy Up Girls!" Chantelle and Kirsty B entertained everyone during their sketch "Hing" which involved them "hinging oot an ole tenement flat!" All the girls were magnificent in the finale which brought a tear to almost everyone's eye. The show was simply astounding and this was shown through the girls' dedication, talent and enthusiasm. 1st Wemyss Bay Guides are exceptionally proud of these girls and very happy to have them represent our unit. (check out the website www.guidespell.co.uk for photos and comments!)

1st Wemyss Bay Guides would also like to congratulate Mrs Battley who was the wardrobe mistress for Guidespell 2009. Mrs B took excellent care of all the girls and ensured they all looked perfect every night, no matter how many times they managed to lose things!

During October, 20 1st Wemyss Bay girls and 2 leaders attended the Division Ice Disco, where the girls were able to meet up with Guiding friends from around Inverclyde. The girls had an excellent time and are already looking forward to the Division Cinema day in December.

As always 1st Wemyss Bay Guides held their annual witch hunt at the beginning of November. We hope the residents have recovered from listening to the screaming of our 30+ girls (and parents!) This year the theme was Harry Potter and the girls had to watch out for the dementors (our Young leaders) who had taken over the village for the evening. All the girls survived and we would like to say a huge thank you to Katie D, Nicola and Sophie's mums who came along to help us and to Nynke and Saskia's dad as we couldn't have held the night without them.

The Guides were also on parade at the beginning of November for Remembrance Sunday. Rachel carried the flag very well with Emma and Saskia being excellent escorts. Nicola laid the wreath with the assistance of a Brownie and a Rainbow. All the 1st Wemyss Bay girls who attended had their photograph taken as we tried to recreate a photograph which was taken in 1922 of the Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Guides on parade.

As this is our centenary year, there is going to be a display in the McLean Museum during 2010. We are hoping to have some interesting information and pictures of 1st Wemyss Bay Guides from over the years and therefore are appealing to any ex-member, parent, Guider or friend of 1st Wemyss Bay Guides who may be able to assist or share a story with us about their experiences. Please contact Alison Carmichael as soon as possible, on 520697 if you can help in any way.

As the first section of our centenary year comes to an end we would like to thank everyone in the village for their support and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Alison, Jane, Amy and all the girls!

1st Wemyss Bay Guides are full to the brim, so if you are 10 and would like to join or are nearly 10 please contact Alison Carmichael (520697) to put your name on the waiting list.

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Services for December - Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

December 6	11.00am	2nd in Advent: The Minister: Morris Coull
December 13	11.00am	Holy Communion: 3rd in Advent: The Minister

(Retiral Offering: Children's Hospice Association Scotland)

	3.00pm	Service of Health & Healing: The Minister
December 20	11.00am	4th in Advent: The Minister

Christmas Family Gift Service with participation by the young people of the church
(Bring a Selection Box gift for distribution at the Yorkhill Sick Children's Hospital)
Christmas Eve from 10.30pm Hot mince pies, shortbread, mulled wine and Christmas drinks in the hall

11,15pm	Carol singing in the church
11.30pm	Watch night Service

Church Activities
Country Dancing: Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Please pay us a visit and see if it is for you. You can contact Janet Hope on 520316 or just turn up on the night

Ballroom Dancing
Tuesday nights from 7.00pm till 9.00pm in the Church Hall, under the guidance of Andy Adair. The cost is £1.50 per session to Church Funds. For further information contact Norman Hollywood on 529035.

From the Parish Minister
I read of a soldier who was on duty one Christmas morning during the 2nd World War. It had been his custom to go to church each Christmas with his family. But on this occasion, stationed just outside of London, that was not possible.

So with some of his colleagues he made his way towards the city in the grey light of Christmas morning. Along the way they came upon an old building over whose main door were carved the words: 'Queen Anne's Orphanage'.

They decided to find out what kind of Christmas celebration might be going on. In response to their knocking on the door a matron came and explained that most of the children there had lost parents in the bombings.

The children were just finishing breakfast - but the rooms were bare of any Christmas trees and there were no presents. The soldiers dug out from their pockets anything that might serve as a gift: some sweets, a pocket-knife, pencils, some loose change and a good-luck charm.

Then the soldier who had organised the venture noticed one little chap in the corner of the room. Approaching him he asked 'and you, little fellow, what do you want for Christmas?' The child replied 'Will you hold me?' The soldier, with tears brimming in his eyes, picked up the little boy and held him in his arms.

That story reminds me of another. A little boy awoke with a start one dark night and cried out for his mother. As she comforted him in her arms she said 'You don't ever need to be afraid, for God is always with you and will look after you.' 'I know' said the little lad, 'but I need someone with skin on'. Christmas is the celebration of the time when God 'put skin on' and came amongst us in the person of his son Jesus.

With every good wish for a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year!
Morris Coull

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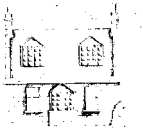

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IDC Considering closing Astropitch.

Due to damage to the new parks light box and the unauthorised switching on of the floodlights Inverclyde District Council are considering in closing the new facility unless you have an authorised Lett. This would mean that after school opening of the park for kids of the area would be stopped and Wardens would be used to patrol the area so that no one is able to use the park outwith school hours.

There is 24Hr CCTV in operation and the culprits who did this damage and the unauthorised users are known to the school and will be prosecuted next time any damage occurs.

Let's use the park and not abuse it.

If anyone witnesses any misuse of the facilities please contact the School, Wardens or the Community Association.

We have a great facility here. Let's not lose it.

Wemyss Bay Nursery and Primary School PTA

All the tea towel orders that we received have been distributed. We hope you're happy with your tea towels.

We had a Christmas shopping night on 12th November. Thank you to all those who attended and to the people who ran stalls on the evening.

50 / 50 club numbers will be on sale at the school Christmas Cracker on 21st November. This club helps to support the funding for our award-winning school garden. Numbers cost £12 each.

The PTA funded new wet weather boxes for all nursery and P1-P7 classes within the school. There are a variety of games within these boxes to keep pupils occupied during wet weather breaks

Our next meeting is 7th December. Please come along.
Jill Pearson Secretary PTA

St Josephs and St Patrick's Church

Mass times:
Mass is offered daily, including Sunday at 10am.
Saturday vigil Mass is at 6pm.
Mass on Sunday evening at 6pm.
Fr. John Morrison

Inverclyde Academy

Diary dates are as follows:

December 2009
Thurs 3rd - Parent Council meeting 6pm
Tues 8th - S5/6 Parents Evening 4-6pm
Tues 15th - School Panto "Weans in the Wood" 7pm
Thurs 17th - Christmas Concert 7.30pm
Mon 21st - Christmas Disco 7-10pm
Wed 23rd - School closes at 2.30pm

January 2010
Wed 8th - School reopens at 8.50pm
Wed 27th - Holocaust memorial services
Wed 27th - Parent Council meeting 6pm
Thurs 28th - S4 reports posted to parents/carers

WEMYSS BAY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Friday 4th December 2009

at 7.00pm

(Carols from 6.45pm)

at the

Community Centre Car Park

Come and join us for
mulled wine and mince pies
in the Community Centre afterwards.

Visit Santa in his grotto.

Children's Entertainment.

Christmas Market.

P4 – P7 Youth Club

The youth club will stop for Christmas on Thursday 3rd December. Once the Christmas decorations are up, it is impossible to accommodate around 60 youngsters safely without one of them, or the decorations suffering a mishap. The club will resume on Thursday 14th January.
With 85 children now enrolled at the youth club, and with a weekly turnout of around 60+, we desperately need new leaders. The club meets on Thursday evenings from 7 – 8.15pm during term time. Leaders are volunteers and receive no pay and have to agree to be vetted through the Disclosure Scotland Scheme (this will be arranged and costs covered). Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Eila on 529375.

Until such time as additional permanent leaders are found, a parents' rota will be in place to provide the additional help required on a weekly basis. If one adult came forward for every child, we could have 2 additional helpers each evening and parents would only be called upon once each year. Unfortunately, so far, only 22 parents of over 85 children have agreed to take part! If there is not a significant increase in this number prior to Christmas, numbers at the club will be severely curtailed from January onwards, with only children whose parents are on the rota getting places.

Woodland Association

Earlier this year the Woodland Association brought in specialists to conduct a detailed survey of every tree in the woodland to identify any dead or diseased trees which required work to be carried out to ensure the safety of woodland users. Work started at the end of November and will be completed within two weeks. It is important to remember that dead trees have a vital part to play in all woodlands as they provide essential habitats for many birds and insects. Where it was safe to do so trees have been left in place or, where necessary, the minimum amount of tree surgery carried out to make them safe. It was however necessary to conduct some major felling work as some of the trees had reached the end of their natural life and, where they bordered footpaths, posed a risk to the public. Until the Woodland Association was formed there had been no maintenance carried out for over 50 years and therefore, although regrettable, this work was essential and a significant number of trees have been felled.

At the same time as the tree surgery, further treatment also took place of rhododendron re-growth. Rather than widespread spraying, which is detrimental to other plants, each rhododendron has been individually injected – a method which has proven to be one of the most successful in eradicating the species. When walking through the wood you may have noticed paint on plants – this is not vandalism but a simple way for the contractors to identify the plants they have already treated. As the rhododendron will die back completely after the treatment, the paint will not be visible for long.

For further information about any aspects of the work of the Woodland Association please contact the secretary, Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay. Tel 529375 or email eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

Country Club

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

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Friends of Wemyss Bay Station

The Friends of Wemyss Bay Station were delighted to receive an award recently from Passenger Focus naming them as the Best Station Adopter in Scotland for 2009. We have been credited for encouraging Network Rail to embark on its present programme of repairs to the station, which is supported by the Railway Heritage Trust, and praised for making full use of surplus accommodation, and also for reintroducing plants to the station.

The Friends are hoping to make use of waste ground at the Station for conversion into a Community Garden. The ground is very poor, mainly rubble and ash, but would be suitable for raised bed gardening. We are seeking grant funding to help us establish the first phase of this, in a small area at the end of the carpark. Anyone interested in this project is urged to call in at the bookshop at the station and sign our petition supporting the idea, or fill a form requesting a raised bed (or two) in the first phase. The garden would be run like an allotment.

Our new book, 'The Caledonian Railway's Wemyss Bay Station', is proving very popular. If anyone wishes to buy a copy it might be as well to do so soon. The Station Bookshop is to close for three weeks, as from Monday 23rd November. We are to have a number of repairs done and some decorating. The date for re-opening is not certain, and may not be until after Christmas. We would like to thank all our Friends and the many people who have supported us over the last few months by donating or by buying books and CDs. It has been very encouraging to find so much interest in our efforts at the Station.
Nancy Cameron, Chairman, FoWBS

Ross Finnie MSP

As we approach Christmas, the effects of the recession are clearly being felt and I suspect that most Wemyss Bay residents are, in some way or other, feeling the pinch. Finance and costs are very much top of the agenda both in the Scottish Parliament and in our own Inverclyde Council. Personally, I think it is right that if local residents are having to tighten their belts then Scottish and local governments have to do the same.

One can have a legitimate argument about who was to blame for the crisis but the hard fact is that if, for example the Scottish banks had not been bailed, indeed had the whole financial system not been supported, goodness knows what sort of calamitous state we would all be in. The money used to prop up the financial sector didn't grow on trees and it will have to be paid back.

I don't support cuts that would damage economic recovery but otherwise like ordinary households its time to face reality.

In the Scottish Parliament I will support measures that protect front-line services but since we cannot afford the current level of spending I will be asking whether some spending lines achieve their objective. For example, I would rather protect care for the elderly than pursue universal free school meals and free prescriptions where those most in need are already catered for. Hard choices, yes, but we're all having to make them and it may not quite be the same as last year but we will still manage to enjoy Christmas.

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.

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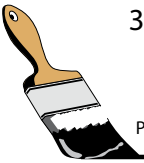

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Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council

November's Business Meeting was held in Wemyss Bay primary school on Thursday the 5th and while there was a poor attendance it was certainly a lively meeting including a presentation by a strategic housing officer from Inverclyde Council. The Council is drawing up its future housing plans and looking at housing provision in the area from 2011-2016. As might be expected in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay there were interesting questions and comments particularly about the impact of the proposed mixed use village on the Power Station site.

In the immediate future the Community Council is intending to hold its monthly Business Meetings alternating between Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Primary Schools - notice of where the meetings are due to be held will be on our website - www.inverkip-wemyssbaycc.co.uk or an Agenda will be posted on the notice board outside the school. The meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of the month. All welcome.

The Community Council wishes all Wemyss Bay residents a happy and peaceful festive season.

Thanks - Lynne
Lynne Chambers, Secretary IWBCC

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2009

Business Meeting to be held in Inverkip Primary School at 7.30pm

AGENDA

A/Chairman's welcome and opening remarks
Apologies for absence:
Police Matters
Presentation: Inverclyde Local Development Plan
Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 5th November 2009. Matters arising
Secretary's Report and Correspondence
Treasurer's Report
Planning Matters
Date and time of next meeting - to be arranged
Any other business

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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National Conversation:
I hope that some readers of Village News were able to attend the National Conversation event held at Port Glasgow Town Hall on Monday 16th November. I believe it's vital that as many people as possible engage with Scotland's future and take part in the conversation as ultimately it will be the people of Scotland who decide which path Scotland will take. Therefore, I would be grateful to hear the thoughts of people who attended the event. To make your views known please contact me at my office details attached below.

Energy Assistance:
The Scottish Government have recently announced changes to the £60 million Energy Assistance Package in order to help more fuel poor households. In future, households with a band E energy performance rating will benefit as well as those in band F and G by, where appropriate, insulation and heating system upgrades will be made available to eligible households. Therefore, I would encourage Village News readers to pick up the phone or go online to find out more information. The freephone number is 0800 512 012 and the web address www.energyassistancepackage.com. My office would also be happy to help anyone with any queries about energy efficiency and can be contacted on 0141 889 9519

Flooding:
It's the time of year, again, for torrential downpours of rain throughout Scotland. Recently we witnessed heavy rain in Inverclyde and more is forecast to come. I would encourage people to log on to Scottish Environment Protection Agencies (SEPA) website to learn about flood warnings in the area or phone Floodline on 0845 988 1188 for current flood alerts and warnings, together with advice on what to do before, during and after a flood. These are small measures but it's important that people are aware of what support is out there to help them prevent damage to their property.

Lastly, I would like to wish all readers of Village News an enjoyable festive period and a Happy New Year.

David Cairns MP

2009: A YEAR OF CHALLENGE AND CHANGE
Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all

2009 was a tough year. The global recession and the world-wide credit crunch took their toll; but as we look forward to 2010, there are a few signs that we are turning the corner, though there is still a long way to go.

Unemployment in Inverclyde has been falling in the last few months of the year and the days when we had one of the highest rates of joblessness in the country are long gone. The new business parks at Spango Valley and Pottery Street are a step in the right direction and I feel optimistic about their ability to attract jobs into the area.

Mortgages are easier to come by than earlier in the year. This is good news for people looking to move into the village and for those trying to sell their homes. And although property prices in the area have fallen, we are not as badly affected as other parts of the UK where the housing market has ground to a halt.

But no matter what the year threw at the Wemyss Bay, people kept their sense of community. Voluntary organisations flourished, the gala day went ahead and families got on with their everyday lives. That's the strength of the village and reason people want to live there.

I am hopeful that 2010 will be a better year for us all, and I wish you all the best in the months ahead.

Wemyss Bay Community Association
presents our **local area**

Christmas Card Delivery Service

Drop off your cards at the Community Centre

Sunday 13 December 2009

between 1pm and 4pm

and make a donation *(thank you!)*

Please make sure your cards are clearly marked with the name and full address of the recipient

Your cards will then be delivered in the Wemyss Bay local area during the following week.

Please take advantage of this service and help raise funds for your community centre at the same time!

HELLO - FROM WEMYSS BAY PRIMARY!

The second term at Wemyss Bay Primary is always busy but this year it was busier than usual. We were just back and we had Education for Work Week. All the reports this month were written by Primary 5 as part of their newspaper project. Look out next month for reports on the Primary 7 Fun day and Christmas Cracker.

Building Bridges

During the week Primary 7 were busy learning how to build towers and bridges.

Their first challenge was working in groups to build a tower. The object of the task was to build a tower with the least amount of bricks, the highest tower and in the least amount of time. Then they would check the cost and profit of the tower. Each group pretended they were working for a company and Mrs Dorman was their client.
Their tasks included building towers from Lego against the clock. Mrs Dorman timed the pupils. All the groups did really well.

Mr Robertson and Mrs Hamilton came to talk to them. They are both different kinds of engineers. Mr Robertson is a structural engineer and Mrs Hamilton is an electrical engineer. They made a circuit. They measured it using a laser and a measuring tape. During the week they built bridges out of different materials and on Tuesday they built a giant tetrahedron in the gym.

They all enjoyed their topic very much.

Fun Fruit Café

For the week Primary 4 turned their class into a café. The first thing they did was research the job that they were going to do. They went to Bongo's Café in Inverkip to learn the tricks of the trade. They learned about different jobs in the café like making chips. They learned the importance of customer service by knowing they always had to smile and be polite. They were even lucky enough to get to try some pumpkin cake!

They transformed their class into a café and they were busy making their own aprons, hats, table cloths and menus. They served fruit salads, cheese and oat cakes. There were servers, cooks and money collectors. There were also drinks on the menu.

Primary 4 really enjoyed their week's work and learned a great deal about the restaurant business.

Primary 2 Go Bananas for the Zoo!

For World of Work week Primary 2 found out all about the different departments in a zoo and how to look after them. They drew animal pictures of elephants, monkeys, reptiles, giraffes, tigers and penguins with a café and gift shop and then made them into a frieze of a zoo.

Nicola the vet from Blair Drummond Safari Park came to visit them and brought in a bear skin and giraffe tails which were taken from customs along with elephant tusks and a rhino horn. Nicola told Primary 2 that the animals go to see her when she comes in just as we go to see our doctor. Primary 2 were told how important it was to work as a team when working in the zoo. The only down side to the work was the smell and cleaning the mess!

A falconry expert from Kelburn Castle came in with three owls to show them and spoke about how they were looked after. The children thought it was fantastic! They also had a vet come in to talk about the animals and brought a dog in. What happy faces there were!

Primary 2 were asked what their favourite animal was. Adam was a monkey, Iona's a zebra and some of them wanted to be a zookeeper.

The children of Primary 2 had lots of fun learning about their topic.

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KIDS PUZZLES

SUDOKU

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

SUDOKU

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

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 February edition will be Friday 22nd January at 6pm.

BINGO NIGHT

Sundays 7.30 - 9.30pm

Wemyss Bay Community Centre

Cash Prizes

Tea/Coffee & biscuits provided

Anyone able to lend a hand or for more information contact David Adams

520223

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