

Wemyss Bay Village News

236th Edition

February 2010

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

Wemyss Bay Community Association - Annual General Meeting Community Centre - Sunday 21st February at 7.00pm

Once again we have reached the time of year for our Annual Meeting. We have had another productive year with most of the old Association staying on and with the help of the many new volunteers who came forward last year. We have had many successful events that could not have taken place if these people did not come forward.

Our Chairperson Kirsty Donnelly is now stepping down after 10 hard working years with 7 years being in the hot seat. She has done an amazing job helping to organise all the events and keep the Community Centre running smoothly. Kirsty will be standing down as of Sunday 21st February.

The Association would like to thank Kirsty for her tireless effort over the years.

We would hope to fill this position at the AGM. If you wish to put yourself forward please do so at the AGM. If we are not successful in finding a Chairperson the responsibility for the running of the Community Centre will fall to Inverclyde Council. At this time the Community Association will be disbanded.

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesday 16th February. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 9th & 23rd February.

Inverclyde Council

The food waste trial was funded by the Scottish Government for one year and, although Inverclyde Council was able to extend the trial for an additional 5 months, it is not possible to continue the service without additional funding. The Council is considering a combined food and garden waste collection scheme and is liaising with neighbouring local authorities regarding a joint venture. A combined collection scheme would be dependent on a suitable treatment plant being available within reasonable travelling distance of Inverclyde. We will keep the public updated regarding developments.

In the meantime, should you be interested in home composting, subsidised compost bins can be ordered by calling 0845 600 0323 or at www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk/html/compost.asp.

Advice on reducing food waste and recipe ideas are available on www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk/html/foodWaste.asp.

The last food waste collections will take place during week commencing 25 January. Householders should be notified by postcard and it is hoped to have stickers placed on food waste bins giving details of last collection dates. Residents can retain their green boxes and use them to transport recyclates, such as glass, to their neighbourhood recycling point or recycling centre.

Friends of Wemyss Bay Station

The lights have been out in the Station Bookshop since just before Christmas, while Network Rail's contractors moved into do some basic repairs, and repaint our rooms. As we had to move out all our stock we decided to take the opportunity to make changes to our arrangements and extend the shelving for books, and give our customers more to see, and space to browse. We needed to arrange more effective heating as well. This is taking a little longer than anticipated, but we hope to be open for business again by the beginning of February, when we are looking forward to welcoming all customers, old and new.

Wemyss Bay Nursery and Primary School PTA

We held school Christmas discos for all pupils on Friday 11th December. It was well attended and raised nearly £200.

Our first event for 2010 was a Family Quiz Night on 22nd January. We had a great turn out of parents, friends and pupils. The night was good fun and raised £250. This profit went to the Jubilee School Garden fund. The winning team received £25.

The 50/50 club that is organised by the PTA also supports the garden. We haven't had a lot of requests for 50/50 numbers so far which results in lack of funds for the award winning garden. If you do wish a number, costing £12 for the year, please contact Pauline on 522523.

Dates of our meetings for 2010 are 1st March, 26th April, 24th May and 7th June.

Everyone is welcome. The PTA meets at 6.30pm for a cuppa and the meeting starts sharp at 7pm. Please come along and share your ideas for fundraising events for 2010.

Country Club

Club meetings to be held in FEBRUARY/MARCH at 2:30 pm in the Chart Room, Kip Marina Inverkip are as follows

Wednesday 10th Feb - speaker to be arranged by Mr Bruce Barrie on the subject of "So you want to go cruising!"

Wednesday 24th Feb - Mr Gordon McFarlane on the subject of "An Antiques Roadshow "

Wednesday 10th Mar - Mr Alex Hunter on the subject of "Islands of Scotland "

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 tel 522316

WEA Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Branch

Our Spring session continues with a predominately "travel" theme to begin with. We meet every Wednesday morning from 9.45 until 11.30 approx. in the Reading Room of Skelmorlie Community Centre. Everyone is welcome and there is no annual membership. Each talk costs £2.50 (£2.00 conc.) Tea, coffee and biscuits are available on arrival and a warm welcome is assured. For further details please contact Jenny McGee - 521090.

10th February - **"Travels in Morocco"** - a pictorial talk by Jan Marshall of her many visits to this fascinating and beautiful country.

17th February - **"Beside the Seaside"** - a musical treat as Glyn Bragg plays and discusses some of our favourite holiday sounds.

24th February - **"Confessions of a Travel Writer"** - Cameron Simpson takes a humorous look at his time travelling on a press pass.

3rd March - **"The Fenwick Weavers"** - Jim O'Neil presents the amazing story of the earliest recorded co-operative.

10th March - **"Eric Starling"** - the story of a Scottish Air Pioneer as told by aviation writer Iain Hutchison.

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UK GOVERNMENT DONATES £20 MILLION TO HELP HAITI

Grumbling about natural disasters like heavy snow and flooding is almost a national pastime. And goodness knows Inverclyde's had plenty of both recently. But all that pales into insignificance when you see the suffering of people in Haiti after the devastating earthquake which stuck their island. Up to 200,000 may be dead, buildings are flattened and two million people are without food and water. We are facing an immense humanitarian crisis and we have all been shocked by what we have seen on our TV screens.

As soon as the disaster happened the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) swung into action and they have already tripled the amount of aid from £6.2 million to £20 million. A team of 64 UK search and rescue personnel together with heavy lifting equipment and sniffer dogs were dispatched almost at once, along with assessment personnel. The most basic needs are water, food and shelter and that's exactly where UK resources are being targeted. The Haitian Red Cross is already helping over 20,000 families, thanks to funds from DFID, and the World Food Programme is also using Government money to feed the islanders.

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world and it will need help for years to come. That's why the British Government has pledged help with the rebuilding programme and we will be there long after the disaster has disappeared from the news.

To donate to the rescue effort just call the Disasters Emergency Committee on 0370 60 60 900.

Inverclyde Council

CLEANER, GREENER, SAFER AND STRONGER WINTER CAMPAIGN

FANCY MAKING YOUR FOOD GO FURTHER?

Would you like to learn how to save £430 per year? The average Scottish household throws away £430 of food waste every year! Inverclyde Council and Stepwell are running free cook schools in January, February and March to help you kick this expensive habit. The cook schools are open to all and will cover a variety of skills such as basic cookery expertise, how to make the most of your freezer and how to ensure you get the perfect portions.

If you would like to get involved please contact Karen Barclay on 01475 712065 for more information. Cook schools are limited to 8 participants only.

A cook school will be held in Wemyss Bay Community Centre on Tuesday, 16 February, 1 pm - 3 pm.

For storage tips and recipe ideas to help reduce waste, visit www.wasteawarelovefood.org.uk

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council

THURSDAY 4TH MARCH 2010

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

AGENDA

Chairman's welcome and Opening Remarks

Apologies for absence

Police Matters

Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 4th February 2010. Matters arising

Secretary's Report and Correspondence

Treasurer's Report

Planning Matters

Date and time of next meeting (Thursday 1st of April in the Inverkip Hotel)

Any other business



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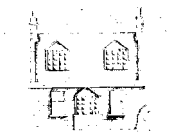
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Ross Finnie MSP

FOCUS MUST BE ON ROOT CAUSES OF KNIFE CRIME- FINNIE

West of Scotland Liberal Democrat MSP Ross Finnie has called on the Scottish Government to focus on the root causes of knife crime.

The Scottish Government today launched the latest phase of their No Knives, Better Lives initiative in Inverclyde today. A series of new hard hitting posters, bus advertisements and pavement chalk stencils will depict the life changing choice between “knife or life” that many young people face.

Commenting Mr Finnie said:

“I was pleased to see a reduction in the number of serious assaults in Inverclyde and a drop in the number of youths found carrying knives in the area despite an increase in the number of stop and searches.

“We must continue this hard work by diverting young people away from carrying knives or even getting involved in gang violence is the most effective way of reducing the horrific injuries caused by knife crime in Inverclyde.

“Tackling the root cause of why people choose to carry a knife in the first place must be the priority.”

Stuart McMillan MSP

Cost of alcohol abuse:

Recently a study argued that alcohol misuse could be costing the Scottish taxpayer around £3.56 billion per year averaging £900 per adult in Scotland. These figures are a damning indictment on our society and only serve to highlight the drastic problem Scotland faces with alcohol.

Throughout Scotland support is growing to introduce minimum pricing, from Health Board Chief Executives, Police Chief Constables and now the Westminster Parliament's Health Select Committee. Therefore, recently in the Scottish Parliament I raised the issue with the Health Secretary to ask what further support the Scottish Government has received to its Alcohol Bill. Tackling the cheap booze culture and its related problems particularly in the health and justice areas is vital. Therefore, I hope opposition politicians recognise the need for drastic action on alcohol misuse and not vote down the Bill as they currently plan to do. If readers of Village News would like further information about the Alcohol etc (Scotland) Bill then please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Help with Fuel Bills:

Before Christmas Village News readers will remember that I raised the issue of Energy Assistance and urged constituents to contact the Energy Assistance Package (EAP) to find out more information on how to reduce their bills and heat their homes. I would also like to make readers aware that the scheme has now been extended. Central heating systems, home insulation, thermostats and green energy devices will be on offer to low-income families with children under 16. Therefore, Families who receive a wide range of benefits including child tax credit, income support and housing benefit will be eligible. I would, again, urge Village News readers to contact the scheme's national free phone helpline number - 0800 512 012 for advice and assistance.

Attendance Allowance:

I was disappointed to hear in the Parliament chamber some opposition parties calling for an end to Attendance Allowance in Scotland. Attendance Allowance (AA) is a non means tested tax free benefit paid to people over the age of 65 requiring help from another person due to severe mental or physical disability. It is paid directly into an account of the recipient's choice. Therefore, it's an essential lifeline for the vulnerable in our society which is not means tested. If this was to be scrapped it could plunge many people into the poverty threshold. I hope opposition politicians will see sense and back down from their proposal to scrap attendance allowance. This allowance must be continued in order to help the most vulnerable in our society and allow them to receive the care they require.

Upcoming Surgeries:

Friday 12th February 15:15 – 16:00 at Wemyss Bay Station.

Friday 9th April 15:15 – 16:00 at Wemyss Bay Station.

Wemyss Bay Martial Arts

*Wemyss Bay Martial Arts is an art for all ages 6 and above.
Shoto Budo even has adults over the age of 60 still practicing.
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personal health and well being to name but a few.
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*Martial arts is suitable for male and female.
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Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

From the Parish Manse

Just these words . . . to say 'The best laid schemes...' have had to contend with the severity of this winter's deep chill and many have 'gang aglay' often for the lack of salt. As always it's easy to be wise after the event.

Like the old country Doctor who was celebrated for his wisdom. 'Dr.Sage,' a young man asked 'how did you get so wise?'

'Weren't hard' said the doctor, 'I've got good judgement.'

'Well, Doc, how does one get good judgement?'

'That's easy' said Doctor Sage. 'Good judgement comes from experience. And experience, well, that comes from having bad judgement.'

With that in mind we press on into this new year of opportunities to be all that we can be.

I don't know whether she was a Christian or not. She certainly lived and acted like one. Her name was Maggie and she lived in a retirement home. She took an interest in an elderly man named George. He was old and no-one ever came to visit him.

One day, just like turning off a switch, George stopped talking. He also refused to leave his room. He was responsive enough to function and co-operate a little. He still ate his meals and took a shower , but he became a mute, a recluse who never said another word.

Maggie was the only person in that nursing home who went to see him and she went every day. He did not seem to object , but he never uttered a word.

She was working on a quilt and she took her quilt with her. It was the first one she had ever tried to make and she just sat in his room and chatted away, telling him all kinds of stories and experiences. She had been on the stage and just loved having someone to tell all her stories to... When Maggie finished the quilt everyone loved it and spoke of its beauty. It was displayed in the main hall of the nursing home. The same week that she finished the quilt - George died. In his room a letter was found. It was addressed : 'To be opened when I die'. Inside was a brief note: "Tell Maggie I love her.' When they told Maggie, she cried as if her heart would break. She loved him too. She made that quilt just for him. And that explains why George was buried wrapped in Maggie's quilt.

Two morals in that story as we move into this new year. First, we should tell people we love them. We should tell them when they can hear it and perhaps respond to it. Secondly, there are people who need us. They may need a helping hand, a kind word, a bit of encouragement, something to help them get on their feet...whatever it is... God sends us to make a difference.. to be 'the salt of the world'.

With every good wish

Morris Coull.

Soup Lunches

Home made soup, filled rolls, good company and fellowship – every Friday at 12.15 in the Church Hall – we look forward to seeing you there.

Sunday Club for all our children: We join the church service for 15 minutes then head up to Sunday Club for activities, stories, songs and much more! We then finish off with juice and a snack. Do come along!

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

Bike Handed into the Police Station

A Raleigh bike was found last week at the top of Leven Road. The resident handed the bike into Greenock Police Station.

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Dog Poo

First Complaint from a concerned Villager

Like many others, I have had to walk the gauntlet of dog poo along most of Lomond Road when going to school to collect my grandchildren. I know you have championed this cause before, but I believe there to be two animals involved. The dog who has poor bowel control, and the donkey who walks the dog, who has no brain control. I am not sure which is worse! Actually I do. The donkey or ass is worse because he or she knows full well the effect their animal has on the pavement, and also that children will walk through it, and carry the mess, the smell, and the disease home. These people don't need a poop scoop, they need a navvies shovel and a brain replacement.

I am sick and tired of seeing the end result (pun intended) but never clapping eyes on the beasts who walk the dogs. My conclusion is this: there are worse animals in Wemyss Bay than the dogs! Even worse still, these animals will not take any responsibility, or care what their dog does, so it will continue. Are we prepared to live in a village with more than our share of 'village idiots'?

In the unlikely event that one of these animals (not the dog) is reading this, then 'get your act together'!!

Name and address supplied.

Second Complaint from a Villager

People of Wemyss Bay it is time to start naming and shaming the owners of the dogs who are fouling our streets and not binning it.

As a dog owner myself I am dismayed at the number of owners who are letting their dogs foul the pavements and walkways of Wemyss Bay.

If you are one of these people, please take time to lift your dogs dirt and deposit in a bin or take it home and bin it there.

Why should we suffer your dogs mess because you cannot be bothered or forgot a bag?

If your kids are walking your dog then make sure they have the necessary bags/scoopers to pick it up and deposit it in a bin.

The council have been informed of the mess in the streets and penalties will be enforced if anyone is caught.

If you spot anyone deliberately letting their dog foul the pathways and not picking it up then inform the council.

Let's keep Wemyss Bay Clean.

Name and address supplied.

Third Complaint for a Villager

I took a walk along Lomond Road after dinner last night and was disgusted by the amount of dogs, dirt I had to manoeuvre round. When will these dog walkers get the message, pick up your dogs dirt, you wouldn't allow it in your own house or garden, so why allow it on our pavements and roads on Wemyss Bay.

Name and address supplied.

Dog Poo

The people who are letting their dog's do this know who they are. Please refrain from dirtying up our village and not to mention breaking the law.

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

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Hello from Wemyss Bay Primary

Happy New Year from everyone at Wemyss Bay Primary

We are looking forward to the Nursery and Primaries 1, 2 and 3 performing at the Festival, and Primaries 4 to 7 taking part in the Scots Poetry Competition. Reports to follow next month. This month's reports were written by Reece Cairns and Chloe Campbell, and Madeleine Coxshott and Emma McQueen, all in Primary 7.

Athletics

On 13th January the Athletics Team went to Ravenscraig Sport Centre to take part in the Sportshall Athletics Match. We had been training for a long time on Fridays at Golden Time. The first race was the girls' obstacle race which we won. Then the boys' obstacle race and they were 3rd. The next races were the girls' and boys' 2+2. This means that that for each race there were two boys or two girls who each had to run two laps. Dario took part in this even though he had a sore foot. The reserves race was next and they came 1st. There were various track events of different lengths in which both girls' and boys' teams did well. We moved on to the field events including long jump, triple jump, speed bounce, vertical jump and javelin. Saskia Mulholland, Euan Benjamin, Katie Sutherland, Craig Thomson, Emma Smith, Graeme Wilson and Nicola Anderson all came first at their events. Then it was back to the track events.

The first of these was the 6 lap relay which is two boys or girls running a total of six laps. The girls came first and the boys came second. The last race was the 4 by 2 relay, one of the reserves had to race instead of Dario because of his injury.

At the end of the match the result was that we came 1st. Unfortunately we didn't get through to the finals in March as we had been unable to attend the first match in our league. We are very happy to have come first at both our matches but a bit disappointed to not have got through to the finals.

Project Day

On Friday 15th January it was the Primary 6/Primary 7 Project Day. The theme this year was Rivers and we were allowed to dress up as travel agents. There were lots of different rivers. The most popular were the River Clyde and the Nile but there were some unusual ones too; the Congo, Kwai, San Antonio and Liffey were just some of them.

In the morning we set up our tables with maps, photos, souvenirs and some people had food. All the classes from Primary 1 to Primary 5 came into the hall to look at our folders and ask us questions. The teachers asked us questions like, Where does your river go through? Would you ever go there? Why did you choose it? This is all part of our final grade for the projects.

In the afternoon lots of parents and grandparents came in and looked at our folders and asked questions. They were very impressed with the amount of work we had done and how much we knew. There was even time in the afternoon for us to go and look at some projects too.

Project Day was a great success and we really enjoyed answering the questions. It was a fun day.

Wemyss Bay Brownies and Guides

Well done to our fantastic Brownies and Guides who took first place in their respective sections for country dancing at the Inverclyde Music Festival at the Greenock Town Hall. Huge thanks to Alison Carmichael for all her hard work and effort in teaching the girls to dance so well. Thank you also goes to Kirsty Carmichael for all her help with the dresses and hard work on the night.

Well done to all involved.

Gala Weekend - Saturday 12th June 2010

Do you sell pictures, jewellery, bags, soap or any other Art and Craft Products?

We are planning to have a Craft Market this year on the Saturday afternoon from 12-4.00pm. If you are interested in having a stall at our Gala this year please contact Bobbie at bobbie McCabe@btopenworld.com for information.

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Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of the **Wemyss Bay Community Association** will be held on **Sunday 21 February 2010** at **7pm** at **Wemyss Bay Community Centre**.

All are most welcome.

Please come along and support your community!



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

					2		8	5
					4			1
7		2	8					
		1			9		7	6
9	5							
		4	3			1		
8			1		7	4		
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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 March edition will be Friday 26th February 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
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