

Wemyss Bay Village News

189th Edition

July 2005

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The Best Gala Yet!

This seems to be the opinion of the majority of people who attended this year's fun packed weekend. The Barn Dance on Friday night was a break from the traditional ceildh but hugely popular, with most people entering into the spirit of the event and dressing up. All 220 tickets were sold out within only 5 nights. With the weather staying dry, the same record attendances were seen on Gala Day when crowds of locals and visitors to the area turned out to enjoy a huge array of stalls and sideshows, organised by local groups, in addition to the exciting fairground rides. Events got under way when Gala Queen, Kayleigh Stewart and attendants Pamela McLeod and Erin Pyett were crowned and the Gala declared open by Councillor Forbes. For the first time we had a team of roving reporters from P7 at Wemyss Bay Primary who were out and about photographing and interviewing people attending the Gala. The four boys did a great job and we hope to bring you their reports in the next Village News. Saturday night was Karaoke night in the marquee with a variety of singers (some good, some not so good!!!!) belting out their favourite songs. The evening was so popular that by 8.00pm the marquee was full and, for safety reasons, we were unable to let anyone else in. If you missed out, we are sorry, but you will just have to get down earlier next year! Despite the severe thunder storms and flash floods over night, Ardgowan Football Development displayed their talents at their Open Day and tournament on Sunday when parents, family and friends turned out to watch the children being put through their paces.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

The success of the Gala each year is dependent on the hard work of an army of volunteers who turn up over the weekend to help out, in addition to members of the Community Association who give a lot of their time in the weeks leading up to the big event. A big thank you is extended to everyone who was involved in any way. In particular thanks should go to Ann Marie, the Gala co-ordinator and Kirsty, chair of the Association who worked tirelessly to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Ann Marie started working well before Christmas to ensure that everything was organised. I am sure that everyone who came along over the weekend and had a fabulous time would like to congratulate Ann Marie and her team for all their efforts.

Each year many local business and individuals sponsor the Gala by donating money or raffle prizes. Each donation is very gratefully received and is put to good use. We would like to thank the following for their support this year: Adult Association; Brownies; Cardwell Garden Centre; David Cairns MP; Graffiti Dance Troupe; Guides; John Harkins (Bay Ices); Inverkip Hotel; Wemyss Bay Chip Shop; Mearns T McCaskie; Finlay & Lorraine McFee; Marilyn McLaughlin (McLaughlin Training); Richard Nicholson (R N Gardens); Nursery / Parent Focus Group; Parent Teacher's Association; Pearson of Wemyss Bay; Seaview Café; Shoto-Budo Karate; Skelmorlie Golf Course; Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church (Fair Trade); Spar; Brian Spence (Wemyss Bay Pharmacy); Mandy Taylor (Body Shop); Woodland Association; Youth Club; Inverclyde Council.

We would also like to give special thanks to Maria Bage (Maria's Alterations) who made sure that the Gala Queen and her attendants' gowns fitted perfectly, Hugh Meek for all the electrical work involved over the course of the weekend, the Seaview Café for providing the soup for Saturday night's popular Soup Kitchen and finally Gordon and Liz Roders for entertaining the little ones with their Punch and Judy shows.

Thank You

To all my sponsors. I am writing to thank you most sincerely for your generosity and support of my recent Flora London Marathon 2005 success. You will be pleased to hear that my total raised was an amazing £3,000 and I could not have done that without your help!

Thank you once again and please be assured that your kindness will be used to its utmost advantage by the recipients of the money raised, namely the Scottish Cot Death trust at The Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill.

With kindest regards,

David Cushley,

Inverkip Hotel.

What Is Your Child Doing?

On Monday 6th June I was driving back to Wemyss Bay at 7.45pm, and as I approached the footbridge at the marina I noticed two young boys standing looking up the road. When I was about 20yards away one of them deliberately threw a handful of gravel my car. When it hit me it was like the worst hailstones you could imagine. Had I not seen what was coming I could easily have smashed or gone careering into oncoming traffic. I immediately telephoned the police and when they eventually arrived I was able to identify the culprit to them.

The youth involved was an 11 year old boy from Wemyss Bay, who although admitting he was on the bridge said, "I don't think I threw any stones". The police could do little else, as I had no one with me as a 2nd witness, so they took him home and spoke with his parents. As he continued to deny the stone throwing his parents said he would not lie so it could not have been him. I have heard nothing from the parents who are therefore abdicating all responsibility.

Whilst there was no serious accident, the outcome could have been very different. A reckless act of stupidity could have cost me more than damage to my car. I accept that the boy concerned would not have realised that the consequences of his actions could have been potentially life threatening, but he must have known it was wrong. As it is there has been in excess of £1200 of damage to the car. The windscreen alone has over 500 chips in it. According to the police had the stones been any larger it would have caved in and I probably would not have been typing this note.

In conclusion I ask all parents, do you know where your child is and what they are up to? As parents it is our responsibility to ensure that our kids are aware of right and wrong. Since this happened I have spoken to neighbours and this does not appear to be the only incident at the footbridge. So, to other drivers, I suggest you approach the bridge with care if you see anyone standing on it as you never know what could be about to happen. Perhaps the next victim of stupidity might not be as lucky as me.

Bob Shadden

Woodland Activities Mornings

July sees the return of the Woodland Association's regular activities for children. Every second Saturday between 10am – 12noon there will be specially tailored events to suit youngsters of all ages.

On Saturday 16th July we will be holding an **Artworks** session which will include leaf painting and making a wall hanging using natural dyes. A fabulous **Mini-Beast Safari** will take place on Saturday 30th July when staff from the Rangers Service at Cornalees Bridge will be helping us find and identify some of the fascinating wildlife which lives in the wood. If there is time, we may even make some ladybird houses to go up in the wood. The special summer holiday events will conclude on Saturday 13th August with a **Woodland Treasure Hunt** with small prizes for every child taking part.

It is essential that children are accompanied to each event by a responsible adult. In order to cover the costs of materials, leaders etc it has been necessary to introduce a nominal charge of 50p per child. For more information contact **Eila** on **529375**.

Duncan McNeil MSP

We all know about smart cards and smart bombs, but what about smart water?

Not, apparently, water that can make itself into a cup of tea, but a crime prevention device, thanks to which, 16 laptops stolen from an Inverclyde primary school have been recovered and identified.

Smart Water marks property with a special mixture of chemicals, unique to every customer - your own "forensic fingerprint" if you like. Not only does this mean that if your property is recovered it can be returned, it also makes stolen goods almost impossible to sell on.

What fence, in the knowledge that handling loot coded with Smart Water can link them directly to the crime, is going to touch it? And, if a thief can't sell it on, there's no point in stealing it in the first place, is there?

Unsurprisingly, Smart Water is already proving to be a deterrent in England and I'm glad that Inverclyde is the first area in Scotland using it to protect valuable school equipment.

But Smart Water can do more. There is, for example, a spray kit. Installed on your premises, it sprays intruders with, again, a unique identifiable solution. This imprint stays with them for 6 months - providing the police with proof of a suspect's presence at the scene of a crime.

When we seem to hear continually about criminals using new technology to dream up innovative ways to commit crimes, it's good to see it on the side of crime prevention.

Duncan can be contacted at the Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock PA15 8JL, by E-mail:

duncan.mcneil.msp@scottish.parliament.uk** or via his website: **www.duncanmcneil.com

Ardgowan Football Development

AFD Gala Day: AFD brought their 2004/2005 session to a close with their annual Gala Day on Sunday 19th June (despite the weather's best efforts to ruin things!). Over 120 kids demonstrated their football skills on the school pitch before Joe McLaughlin, Head of Youth Development at Morton FC, and Sean Dillon, Kilmarnock FC, presented them with medals & certificates. Kids and parents then enjoyed a buffet before the Ardgowan Thistle U12's played a match against Morton FC U12.

Ardgowan Thistle FC: We are delighted to inform you that ATFC was formally announced as the first Greenock Morton Youth Football Academy. This announcement, made by Joe McLaughlin at our Gala Day, is a testimony to the progress the club & the kids have made since 2001 and gives our kids an opportunity to progress to Morton Pro Youth.

Cowal Police Tournament: AFD took 10 teams to the Cowal Police 5 'a' Side Tournament on 4th June. The Under 8 Colts won their competition and the Under 12 Sharks, despite being undefeated, lost their final on penalties. All teams did very well and their behaviour, sportsmanship and performance were a credit to the club and the village. Special mention to the Girls teams who, despite playing against girls 2/3 years older, played well and enjoyed their day.

Old Crocks: The AFD Old Crocks retained the AFD Quaich, for the 4th time, following a competitive & exciting 2 – 2 draw with Boca Bay Juniors on the Saturday of the Gala weekend. The veterans were leading 2 -1 with five minutes to go, thanks to two goals from a sprightly (!) John Reid, but a late equaliser saved the 'twenty something's' blushes! A match is now planned against the Morton FC Coaches.

Registration Day: The AFD Registration Day will be held on **Sunday 14th August from 1pm – 4pm**. We strongly recommend kids are registered on this day to avoid disappointment. Fees should be paid at registration when new kit will be issued.

AGM: The Ardgowan AGM will be held at **5pm on Sunday 21st August** in Wemyss Bay Community Centre and all parents are invited to attend.

New Session: Our 2005/2006 Session starts on **Sunday 21st August**. See you all then!

Wemyss Bay Bible Club

Wemyss Bay Bible Club held their summer party and prize giving on the 20th June at the Community Centre. Prize-winners were Meghan Blaikie (x2), Mark Anderson, Gillian Cann (x2), Abbie Galbraith, Nicola Anderson, Lee Bartlett, Gillian Kennedy, David Blaikie, Calum Sutherland, Jennifer Reid, Chantelle Murdoch, Melissa Murdoch and Kirsty Maclean. Congratulations to them all! Gifts were also given to Meghan & David Blaikie and Gillian Kennedy who are sadly leaving us this summer. We wish them and their families well. Finally, thanks to everyone who supported the Beat the Keeper event at the Gala Day. We raised a record amount of money and special thanks go to Graham Anderson and Iain Buchan of AFD for helping out between the sticks. Bible Club will be back on after the summer.

Village News

The success of the Village News relies heavily on the army of volunteer distributors who deliver each edition to every home in Wemyss Bay. Many of the distributors have been helping for years. We would like to thank them all for their efforts every month. We currently require a few new distributors - if you have an hour to spare once a month and would like to help with deliveries please contact **Ann Marie on 522998**. The more distributors we have, the smaller each area requires to be and the less time it takes for distribution, so you could really make a difference. Children love helping out – perhaps you could turn delivering the Village News into the opportunity for a family walk.

Very occasionally we hear of problems with someone not receiving their copy. If you experience any difficulties please let Ann Marie know.

Having a Party?

If you are thinking of having a party, why not hold it at the Community Centre? Although it is pretty busy, party bookings are still available outwith the regular lets. Even better, why not theme your party? When placing your booking just say if you would like a Bouncy Castle Party or would like DJs "Disco Divas" to provide your entertainment. A 2-hour Bouncy castle Party costs £52, while a 2-hour Disco booking only costs £50. To make your booking or for more information contact Kirsty on 520738. Remember that if you are having food at your party, the centre's kitchen was refurbished last year and is available for your use.

Pier Improvements

Caledonian MacBrayne have installed a new passenger gangway at Wemyss Bay pier to replace a ramp that was only 18 months old.

Two new gangways were commissioned at a cost of £2 million, one of which was for Wemyss Bay. The previous purpose built ramp was built for a new ferry, the MV Coruisk, but were unsuitable for other Clyde ferries.

The new gangway features a special lift for disabled passengers and is uniquely designed by a Hong Kong firm.

As well as the new passenger gangway, new ticket offices have been built at the end of the Wemyss Bay pier.

Waste collection

Still confused about which bins to put out each week? For the next couple of months we will continue to print reminders which we hope will be of assistance. Your blue and brown recycling bins will be collected, on your normal collection day, during the weeks beginning 4th & 18th July and 1st, 15th & 29th August. This means that your residual black bin will be emptied, on your normal collection day, during the weeks beginning 11th & 25th July and 8th & 22nd August.

Greenlight

Greenlight will continue their regular kerbside collections for residents of flats, with uplifts on Mondays 11th & 25th July and 8th & 22nd August. They collect newspapers & magazines, plastic bottles & milk cartons, food & drinks cans, rags and carrier bags. Recycling couldn't be easier - do your bit for the environment.

Dog Poo

There is an ongoing problem in Wemyss Bay with some inconsiderate dog owners still failing to clean up after their pets. On the Friday of the Gala weekend one volunteer had the unsavoury task of filling a bin-bag with mess left lying on the ground around the Community Centre where stalls were to be set up. This is an area where children play regularly and still there are a few ignorant dog owners who have no consideration for the health of others. Later that night a woman walking a Border collie was spotted allowing her dog to mess in the same area, despite it being obvious that people would be walking here the following day. The problem is not confined to the Community Centre – no matter where you go in the village the problem exists. The only thing worse than a child going home covered in dog mess, is when a child ends up contracting one of the many illnesses which can be picked up from dogs.

As the owner of three dogs I know that it only takes a few minutes to pick up after your pet. It is the owner's responsibility and they can be heavily fined for failing to do this. Perhaps if, whenever you see a dog owner walk away without cleaning up, you pick up the phone and report them to the council the message will eventually get through. There is no excuse – if you are not willing to behave responsibly you should not have a pet in the first place!

Bird Boxes Vandalised

Two bird boxes which had been put up by the Woodland Association were destroyed recently by vandals. Both were inhabited at the time by families of blue-tits. It is against the law to approach or harm any nesting birds and anyone caught doing this can be heavily fined or imprisoned, even if the birds are not an endangered or protected species. If you know who is responsible or if you spot anyone else approaching nests or bird-boxes please report them to the police.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to 14 year-old Naeomi Broadfoot who achieved a distinction in her Intermediate Ballet exam recently. Naeomi, her sister Lucy and fellow Wemyss Bay pupil, Mia Valenti all attend the Dance School of Scotland.

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.

Councillor Eric Forbes

WELL DONE - thanks have to go first of all to our Community Association organisers who again put together a very enjoyable Gala weekend and then to all the people who turned up to support the event. We have an excellent community spirit in Wemyss Bay and it stands out when events are organised. Thanks to everyone.

NEW LIGHTING COLUMNS on A78 - the reason for the work on the A78 is simply to replace ageing lighting columns and upgrade the level of lighting on the main road. Once the new 30mph stretch is extended towards Kishorn Road then some further lighting work may be required.

Contact Me: I would like to remind everyone that, if you have a problem or query which you think I may be able to help with, I can be contacted at the Municipal Buildings **Tel: 717171 Fax: 01475 712976 or e-mail: Eric.Forbes@inverclyde.gov.uk** Out with office hours I can be contacted at **home: 520012** or on my **mobile: 07747 006725**. I believe that rather than waiting several weeks for a surgery, it is better for my constituents if I am available at the end of a telephone at any time. Thereafter, if necessary, I can arrange a suitable follow-up meeting.

David Cairns MP: G8 Summit can make a real difference to Africa

In the next few weeks the leaders of the eight richest and most powerful countries on the planet will gather at Gleneagles for their annual summit. And this year, thanks to Britain's presidency of the G8, poverty in Africa will be at the top of the agenda. I can tell from my postbag that is something many people in Wemyss Bay feel very strongly about and I know that, like me, you will be hoping that our Prime Minister, Tony Blair, can persuade his fellow G8 leaders that they must do more to help Africa. Britain is leading the way on reducing poverty in Africa and we have already achieved much. Just a few weeks ago the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, met with other Finance Ministers from the G8 and was instrumental in persuading them to write off 100% of the debt owed by 18 of the world's poorest countries – a total of £22bn. This is enormously significant for these countries and augers well for next month's summit at Gleneagles.

But Africa's problems are huge and no country can solve them on their own. That is why it's vital for the other national leaders to get behind Britain and agree to more aid, better terms for trade and a further increase in debt relief. Only by working together can we hope to lift people out of poverty and despair. Every 24 hours 30,000 children die because of poverty and over a million people have to live on less than \$1; it's just not acceptable and there's never been a better opportunity for us to make a difference than at next month's Gleneagles summit.

I think that Bob Geldof's Live 8 concerts are a great way to show support for Africa and I know that many local people are hoping to get tickets. Others will be going to Edinburgh to show their solidarity with the campaign to *Make Poverty History*, while yet more will be demonstrating their support for the cause by wearing white wristbands. Whatever you decide to do, the important thing is that we keep up the pressure so that world leaders know that we want to help Africa and won't take no for an answer.

David Cairns holds surgeries on the first and third Friday of the month from 10am – 12noon at his Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock Tel: 791820. Alternatively you can phone the office for details of his next surgery in Wemyss Bay.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Every Sunday, 11.00am	MORNING WORSHIP, Sunday school and Crèche
Every Wednesday, 7.30pm	COUNTRY DANCING
Every Thursday, 1.15-2.45pm	NOAH'S ARK

Finally

That's all for this month. There will be no Village News next month as many of our distributors are on holiday so the next edition will appear in September. **The closing date for any articles or adverts for the September edition of the Village News is the 20th August.** This is an absolute deadline and cannot be extended under any circumstances! If you would like a reminder let us know and we will add you to the e-mail list. If you have anything which you would like included please send it to **Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay PA18 6HA Tel: 529375 e-mail: eilaroberts@care4free.net** or place it in the Village News folder, which is kept behind the counter in Spar.

What's On at the Arts Guild

Musical Theatre Workshop: Monday 11th to Friday 15th July from 10am – 5.00pm. The workshop is for children aged 8 – 13 years and costs £40 per child (£30 per additional child from the same family).

Phurios Productions returns, after it's successful production of Titanic, with another week long intensive drama workshop. This year we will present a fun filled drama/musical performance based on a week long rehearsal period, which will culminate in a public performance, to which all parents and friends are encouraged to come along. Last year it was a sell out!

Half of the available spaces have already been booked. If you are interested in the course for the Drama Queen or Young Actor in your life, contact the Box Office NOW - 01475 723038

The Good, The Bad and the Botoxed: Saturday 23rd July @ 7.30pm. Tickets £8.00 (£6.00)

This is a new one woman comedy drama from multi award winning playwright Rona Munro.

Beryl needs to look good for her son's wedding. She hasn't had a makeover since she was 16 and tried ironing her hair while wearing an egg white face mask. Young beautician Hayley has been told she'll lose her job if she doesn't peel more faces and lift more chins. 78 year old Etta just wanted a shampoo and set!

None of them could have expected their day at the Salon to turn into a scene from Crimewatch, when a vengeful client returns wanting more than her money back! Held hostage in fear of their lives the three woman are forced to bargain for their freedom with unexpected results!

Review of the show: "We were promised a wrinkle creasing night of comedy and fun entertainment...and that's just what we got. Yes, Fiona Knowles is back on the road with her latest new production... and its an absolute cracker!

Arguably her best show yet, The Good, The Bad and The Botoxed is just what it says on the lid.

From the moment she walked onto the stage, the multi-award winning actress had the full house audience gripped to her every word as she comically skipped from one character to the next with slick and truly polished professional ease.

There was some poignant moments equally matched by some stupendous lines which left everyone doubled up in their seats with tears of laughter streaming down their face.

Although the previous productions are hard to beat, The MsFits Theatre Company has once again proved that the winning combination of Fiona Knowles and renowned playwright, Rona Munro is nothing but a sure-fire hit." Linda Jolly Carrbridge - Community Arts

Go-Ahead for Quad Bike Track

A planning application for the formation of a quad bike area with access and parking at Kellybank Cottage, Wemyss Bay was approved by Inverclyde Council Planning Committee recently.

Community Council

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the Rogues Room at the Inverkip Hotel. If there is anything which you would like raised or, if you simply want to find out a bit more about the goings on locally then why not go along to the next meeting.

Sorry

Our computer died last month and despite the best efforts of a number of IT experts we still lost a huge number of files – I know, we should have backed things up a bit more regularly. If you sent anything through to me for May or June's edition of the Village News and it did not appear I am very sorry. Please resend as soon as possible and I will put it in the next edition. If you are one of our advertisers, we would appreciate you getting in touch with your email address as we lost the address book as well.

Please contact: Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay PA18 6HA Tel: 529375 e-mail: eilaroberts@care4free.net

Kid's Stuff

Go along to the Woodland Association's Mini-Beast Safari on Saturday 30th July and discover some of the fascinating insects which live in Wemyss Bay. The names of some of them can be found in this month's Wordsearch. Can you find them all?

D	B	E	J	O	S	A	W	F	L	Y	L	F	E	S	R	O	H
K	A	I	L	S	E	O	T	I	U	Q	S	O	M	F	T	O	A
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BEETLE
BLUEBOTTLE
BUMBLE BEE
BUTTERFLY
CATERPILLAR
CLEG
DADDY-LONG-LEGS
DRAGONFLY
FLEA

GALL WASP
GARDEN WASP
GARDEN SPIDER
GNAT
GRASSHOPPER
GREENBOTTLE
GREENFLY
HARVESTMAN
HONEY BEE

HORNET
HOUSE-FLY
LACEWING
LADYBIRD
MIDGE
MOSQUITOES
MOTH
SAWFLY
SHIELDBUG

SLUG
SNAIL
TICK
WASP
WOOD ANT
WOOD WASP
ZEBRA SPIDER

WORDFINDER

Try and find as many words as possible using the letters below. Each letter can only be used once and every word must contain the letter in the middle square. No plurals, names or hyphenated words are allowed. There is at least one 9-letter word.

I	D	S
V	E	O
S	R	C

20 words – at least you're trying!
35 words – well done

25 words – good
45+ words – brain-box!!