

Wemyss Bay Village News

192nd Edition

November 2005

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Fireworks Code

If you intend holding a bonfire party this year please remember to follow the fireworks code. In this way you will ensure that not only will your guests enjoy themselves but also that everyone will be safe. Please show a little consideration as well for neighbours with pets. Many pets are terrified by fireworks and, while owners are aware that fireworks are likely to be let off on Bonfire Night and can sedate their animals if necessary, all too often fireworks are let off for several nights before and after November 5th. If you intend letting off fireworks on a different night please have the courtesy to let pet owners nearby know in order that they can make appropriate arrangements for their animals.

- **Only** buy fireworks that meet BS7114 from a shop you know, and keep them in a closed box.
- **Always** follow the specific instructions for each firework carefully.
- **Always** light fireworks at arm's length using a taper. **Never** use a naked flame.
- **Always** stand well back and **never** go back to a firework once it's been lit.
- **Never** put fireworks in a pocket.
- **Never** throw fireworks.
- **Always** light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves to hold them.
- **Never** gives sparklers to a child under five and have a bucket of water handy to cool down sparklers as soon as they have burnt out.
- **Always** keep pets indoors.
- **Never, never leave children unsupervised when there are fireworks around.**

Christmas Lights

This year the Christmas light switch on will take place in Wemyss Bay on Friday 2nd December. The Community Association would like to invite you to come along to the school at 6.30pm where there will be carols around the tree prior to the lights being switched on at 7.00pm. Afterwards you are very welcome to join us in the Community Centre for some mulled wine and mince pies, or tea & coffee if you are being good! There will be juice and crisps for the children.

Kirsty has been in touch with Santa again this year and he has promised us that he will try and spend some time in the centre meeting all the children and finding out what they would like him to bring them. Obviously this is very good of him, as he is very busy just now supervising the elves and making sure that all the toys and presents are ready for Christmas. Unfortunately Rudolph will not be able to come along as he is at a secret training camp with the rest of the reindeer, preparing to take Santa to visit children all around the world on Christmas Eve. If everyone is very good, Santa may even have a small gift for pre-5s and primary age children.

If previous years are anything to go by, the evening will be a real community affair, giving everyone a chance to meet, mingle and get into the spirit of Christmas (and I don't just mean the mulled wine!!).

Community Association Annual General Meeting

The Community Association AGM will be held on Sunday 6th November at 7.00pm in the Community Association. At this meeting, elections will take place to fill the posts of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Committee spaces. In addition the committee includes one representative from each community group. In order to ensure that the Association represents the interests of the whole community a good turnout is required. Please make every effort to come attend the meeting. We promise that you will not be roped into taking on anything unless you want to!

Largs Film Club.

Peter Allam hopes that discussions about hall hire costs will be resolved by the end of October and that the cost per screening will be £3 per person. The repertoire will be primarily acclaimed classics from European and Asian cinema of the last 50 years. For further details contact **Peter** on **01475-674317** or e-mail: **pete.ga@virgin.net**

Toc H

The Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay branch of Toc H is now engaged in their winter activities. Among these are the advertising, printing and circulation of the 2006 Calendar. It is expected that these will be available in the shops by mid November and, by Christmas time, it is our aim to ensure that a copy is in everyone's home, especially of those who have a telephone as it is a convenient way of remembering the numbers of local trades people.

We are also making arrangements for the Senior Citizens' Party on Saturday 3rd December, and anyone who has not previously been invited and would like an invitation, please make contact, but please remember places are limited. For more information contact **Neil Nicholson** on **521171**.

The Clyde Coast Strathspey and Reel Society

The Clyde Coast Strathspey and Reel Society play both traditional Scottish music and a variety of other kinds, in concerts or for dancing. We are happy to play for charitable and fund-raising groups, churches etc, or for private functions.

We have been running for well over ten years and are always keen to welcome new players, at any age and level of ability, on fiddle, accordion, or other instruments. We meet most Saturday mornings at 10:00 in Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish Church hall.

For any information or bookings please contact **Elizabeth Robertson** on **01475 675681** or email: **CCSRS@wrrwright.e7even.com**

WEA - Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Branch.

The Workers Educational Association meets every Wednesday morning from 9.45am until approximately 11.30am in the Reading Room at Skelmorlie Community Centre. We have a varied programme organised for the coming months which will provide talks on all manner of subjects, from travel through current affairs, and history to literature. There is something for

everyone. You don't have to do anything more than sit back and, hopefully, enjoy an hour or so of excellent and often entertaining speakers with some like-minded people. You don't have to commit to a year's subscription, just pay for each talk you attend. We also organise twice yearly outings to places of interest.

The programme for the next few weeks is as follows:

2nd. November - "Pictish Symbol Stones" – Irene Hughson.

9th. November - Outing to the Scottish Parliament. All welcome to come along. Contact Jenny McGee 521090 to book or for further details.

For further information about the WEA, its programme, or help with transport, please contact **Jenny McGee** on **521090**.

Country People's Club

The November meetings of the Country People's Club to be held at 2.30pm in The Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip are as follows:

Wednesday 2nd November: Mrs Lesley Couperwhite – “**Surfing the Past**”

Wednesday 16th November: Mr Peter Allan – “**Stories Behind Some Famous Paintings**”

Wednesday 30th November: Dr Khin May Sein – “**Land of the Pagodas**”

All members, old and new, and visitors will be made most welcome. The Subscription is £9 per Annum and £1 for visitors. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, **Ann Haig** on **522316**.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Sunday 13 November is Remembrance Sunday, the day on which we remember those who died in the World Wars of the 20th Century. The *Service of Remembrance* in Church begins at the earlier time of 10.45am and is followed at Noon by a wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial in Wemyss Bay.

SUNDAY

Morning Worship, 11.00am

Sunday School and Crèche, 11.00am (*September-June*)

MONDAY

Bible Study, 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Scottish Country Dancing, 7.30pm

THURSDAY (*except school holidays*)

Noah's Ark, 1.30-2.45

A group for all children (aged 0-5) and their parents/carers.

THURSDAY

Men's Fellowship, 7.30pm (fortnightly)

Organised by members of our Church and Inverkip Church.

Speakers are invited to address the Club on topics of general interest.

10 November – Courage Remembered

28 November – Visit to Greenock Regnal Circle

FRIDAY

Friday Lunches, 12.15-1.30pm

Come along and enjoy delicious soup and sandwiches.

All proceeds go to Church Funds.

SATURDAY

JUNIOR BADMINTON, 1.30-4.30pm

in Skelmorlie Community Centre

Wemyss Bay Primary PTA

Last month's Beetle Drive was very well attended and enjoyed by all. It raised the magnificent sum of £114.

On Thursday 10th November the PTA are hosting their Gifts Galore Evening - a ladies night with a variety of stalls selling gifts to give you a head start on the Christmas shopping!! The event runs from 7pm – 9pm and tickets are £2 each including a glass of wine. Tickets can be obtained from the school. The evening will give the opportunity to purchase from The Body Shop, The Book People, Usborne Books, The Belgian Chocolate Shop, Gourrock Post Office, PTA stall, Jeweller & Dried Flower stall, Hand-Made Scarf stall, The Woodland Association and will also include a Nail Bar. Tickets are selling fast so make sure you get yours before they run out. It promises to be a great night.

During December the PTA will be running Christmas Discos for the pupils of Wemyss Bay Primary

Please note we are also intending to produce a Christmas tea-towel, complete with self-portraits of all the children. These should be available from the 10th of November - ideal stocking fillers for Grannies and Grandpas etc.

Remember, Remember

Remember, Remember

The fifth of November,

Gunpowder, treason and plot.

We know no reason

Why gunpowder treason

Should ever be forgot.

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.

David Cairns MP: INVEST HELP LOCALS STAY WARM THIS WINTER

With the onset of winter the weather gets colder and we all automatically turn up our heating to keep warm. It's only later when the fuel bills come in that we realise just how much it's cost and, if we are environmentally minded, we might spare a thought for how the extra energy we are using is contributing to global warming.

So what can we do about it? We can't turn off the heating, higher international oil and gas prices are well beyond our control and surely one person can't stop global warming? Well, there are small things that every household can do which will cut energy use, save money and help the environment. Just remembering to switch off lights, lagging pipes, insulating your house or installing a modern central heating system will help. But not everyone can afford this, or knows where to turn for advice – and that's where the local Inverclyde Energy Safety Team (INVEST) come in.

INVEST is a local not for profit company which I visited recently and they specialize in helping vulnerable people feel warm, safe and secure in their homes. They can offer free specialist energy efficiency advice to people who are struggling with their fuel bills, are having difficulty making ends meet or who are living in cold damp homes. In some cases they can help people access grants for central heating and insulation, particularly if you are a pensioner.

If you are finding things difficult and would like some advice on how to keep warm and help the environment, why not call INVEST free on **0800 783 2817**. They can help anyone in Inverclyde who is having serious problems heating their house, so why not give them a ring and see if you qualify. You may find that you can do your bit for global warming and save money at the same time.

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

Bulb and Wildflower Appeal

The Woodland Association has planted over 5000 bulbs throughout Wemyss Bay Wood but, in order to help reintroduce native species this is a drop in the ocean. Again this year we are looking for your help. We are working in an area of almost 18 acres so we need a lot of bulbs and wildflowers. If you are buying bulbs for your garden why not add an extra pack or two for the woods? We are specifically looking for Native British Bluebells, Snowdrops and Wood Anemones. We have already had several hundred daffodil bulbs donated and at present do not need anymore of these.

In addition we are looking for a variety of wildflowers including Bugle, Primroses, Ragged Robin, Devil's Bit Scabious and Kidney Vetch. As it is against the law to dig up wildflowers these will all have to be purchased from specialist suppliers. We can buy these in bulk to reduce costs (we can also buy bulbs in this way). As an example 50 Wood Anemones will cost us £14 while 50 primroses will cost £28.50 and the same number of scabious £37.

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the bulbs and wildflowers please make a cheque payable to Wemyss Bay Community Woodland Association and leave it in a sealed envelope, with your name and address in the Village News folder in Spar, or send it to Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay. You will be very welcome to come along and help plant the bulbs.

If you have bulbs to donate please contact Eila Tel: 529375 to arrange uplift. Again, if you would like to, you can help with the planting.

Help us to make sure that we have a very broad selection of native wildflowers in the Woods – in this way we can encourage a large variety of insects, birds and animals, so that they too can enjoy our local greenspace.

Last year we had a good display of snowdrops in three main areas however due to the amount of wood chippings created during the work in the wood our daffodils were not as spectacular as we had hoped. We are confident that this year the hard work will have paid off and we shall all enjoy a healthy display. As each year goes on the bulbs will divide and spread to cover an even larger area. Our bluebells are doing well, as are the ransomes (wild garlic), and wood sorrel.

Greenlight

Greenlight will continue their regular kerbside collections for residents of flats, with uplifts on Mondays 14th & 28th November and 12th December. 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

Woodland Association

Our next scheduled working weekend will take place on Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th November. We are continuing to work in the area approaching the terraced gardens so enter through the gate in the wall on Ardgowan Road, opposite the end of Castle Wemyss Drive. We work from 10am – 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 soup and hot sausage rolls 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. If you are able to come along to any of the work days please let Eila know on 529375 in order to cater for the correct numbers.

The Association's next committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th November. Meetings are open to current members or anyone interested in joining. Membership costs £2 for individuals or £3 for a household. You can find out more about any of the work of the Association by contacting Eila on 529375 or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

In January we will be holding our AGM (the date is yet to be confirmed but will be in the December Village News). This meeting is open to anyone interested in the work of the Association although only current members are eligible to vote. In addition to the normal business of an AGM with the election of committee, approval of annual report and accounts, part of the meeting will be given over to discussing what else should be done in the main wood. It has always been the Association's intention to provide special provision for cyclists however lately it has been suggested that this is not necessary. What do you think? Should there be any play equipment for the little ones? What about some fitness/adventure equipment? In order to carry out any further work we need the approval of Inverclyde Council but first of all we need to know what you would like. We will have some suggestions at the AGM but we are keen to hear your views. Even if you are not interested in getting involved on a regular basis please come along to the meeting and discuss what else, if anything, should be done in the main wood. The terraced garden area is slightly different and a feasibility study will be carried out shortly to identify the possible options for work here prior to going out for public consultation.

Thanks IBM

On Friday 7th October members of the Woodland Association were joined by 10 members of staff from IBM for a day of rhodi-bashing. The day was very successful and a large area of rhododendron was cleared with the result that it is now possible to see, from Ardgowan Road at Castle Wemyss Drive, right up to the railings on Cliff Terrace Road.

IBM, along with other companies is part of a group called Scottish Business in the Community which aims to encourage employees to participate in voluntary work by giving a day's paid leave. This year SBitC linked in with Greenspace Scotland and locally with Lower Clyde Greenspace to identify community projects which could accommodate volunteers for a day. In Inverclyde several projects were identified including Glenburn School, and Parklea Nursery in addition to Wemyss Bay Woodland Association and IBM volunteers were attending each to help out.

The Woodland Association was delighted to welcome the staff along and the fact that a number enjoyed themselves so much that they intend coming back as regular volunteers was an added bonus.

Thanks Graham

Although one of the regular volunteers at the Woodland Association is a qualified first-aider it was felt that with the additional volunteers from IBM coming along for a day it would be useful to have another qualified person along. Graham Anderson very kindly offered to come along and help on his day off and this was much appreciated. Luckily no-one required the services of either Graham or Eila.

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.

Councillor Eric Forbes

This month's article will give a flavour of the results from the interim report on the "HAVE YOUR SAY" household survey. 3119 people took the opportunity to have their say about the Council and returned the survey. That equates to about 10% of all households in Inverclyde. With regard to Wemyss Bay the number of houses that responded was 4% of the total which relates to 125 houses.

The knowledge of services provided by the Council or services thought to be provided by the Council was quite variable and differed between young and old e.g. some people thought that the Council was responsible for the provision of doctors, District Nurses and Health Visitors.

One of the pleasing statistics is that 82.5% of the people who responded from Wemyss strongly agreed or agreed that overall they were satisfied with Wemyss Bay as a "place to live."

The top three priorities were "lack of youth facilities" -"conditions of roads and pavements"- "dog fouling."

Dog fouling I feel is down to the owners (well initially down to the dogs.) However, proper control and responsibility will reduce this problem. The Council where appropriate will respond to the provisions of bins.

Conditions of roads and pavements are an on-going problem and are being closely looked at by the Council. An additional £700,000 was put in to the budget last year and consideration will be given to increase this during the next budget process.

With regard to lack of facilities for youth: I feel quite sad that most uniformed organisations find it difficult in attracting youngsters as in my younger days (so long ago) so many activities blossomed from membership of those organisations. Times have moved and focus changes and interests are different. Having said what I have said there is a great deal of time and effort being devoted by volunteers to youngsters and these people have to be thanked publicly.

In view of this concern being raised I am open to ideas but I would like to think that in looking at "facilities" then the whole range of ages would be taken into consideration and catered for.

I am still dealing with various complaints re. loose water, planning, litter etc.

The woods are now being used by more people and are taking shape and attracting interest from further afield. Every little helps and it would be appreciated.

The recent increased police presence in the area was due to routine operational work and it is nice to see Wemyss Bay getting its share of regular policing.

We have to look forward to the Xmas lights switch-on on Friday 2 December followed by festive cheer and entertainment.

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

Waste collection

Your blue and brown recycling bins will be collected, on your normal collection day, during the weeks beginning 7th & 21st November and 5th & 19th December. This means that your residual black bin will be emptied, on your normal collection day, during the weeks beginning 14th & 28th November and 12th December.

We hope to be able to notify you of any changes to collection times over the Christmas period in the December edition.

The Attic Players

The Attic Players will perform their latest production on stage in Skelmorlie Community Centre on Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th of November. Alan Bennett's "Say Something Happened" a comedy with a social message and the potted panto "Red Hot Cinder's" are two one act plays that will be bridged by a surprise entertainment item.

Tickets priced £6.00 (£4.50 concessions) include a complimentary glass of wine are on sale now at Wemyss Bay Pharmacy, and The Medical Hall, Spar Shop (dyers) in Skelmorlie. Alternatively please call Richard on 522366 or send an e-mail to tickets@attic-players.co.uk. With more than 200 people on their mailing list tickets are sure to follow previous productions and sell out.

Duncan McNeil MSP

If you're a commuter, how long do you spend sitting idle in queues of traffic every day? And what does that add up to in a week, or over a year?

Next time you're stuck queuing for the privilege of getting out of a junction, though, why not put the otherwise wasted time to good use? Try formulating an answer to the question, "What would make me take the train, rather than the car?"

This is not an invitation to indulge in a spot of daydreaming; your answers could help make a real difference. Because, as you may have read in the press last month, Scottish Ministers have now inherited new rail powers. Not only is this good news for the redevelopment of Gourock - the ability to make all the key players in the rail industry work together for the public benefit could make this ambitious transport interchange project a reality - it gives us all the chance to have a bigger say in how the rail network meets our needs.

The Executive wants to make the most of its increased responsibilities, the new financial controls and the new relationships between the rail industry in Scotland and the Scottish Executive.

What this means in practice, however, is up for debate - and the Executive wants to know what you think the strategic priorities for Scotland's railways should be. What do existing and potential customers want from the railways? Are there specific changes you would like to see to the rail network or services? And, of course, are there ways in which we could encourage more people to use the train instead of the car?

For more information, log on to: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/10/0690315/03166> or contact my local office.

The deadline for responses is 28th December.

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

Scout Group

This year's Gang Show will take place in Skelmorlie Community Centre on the evenings of Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th and Saturday 5th November with an additional matinee show on Saturday. Tickets for these shows always sell out quickly so if you haven't purchased yours yet contact the Scout leaders as soon as possible or you will be too late! As usual, the leaders, parents and boys have been working exceptionally hard on this year's show and the final result promises to be a very entertaining evening.

Kiddie Vandals

I have had a number of people contact me in response to the article on Kiddie Vandals in last month's Village News. It is apparent that not only Brueacre Drive, but also Brueacre Road, is the target for these youngsters who show little regard for other people's property or for the plants and shrubs that are planted in communal areas. It is now clear that every child involved, both in Brueacre Drive and Road can be identified and that any future incidents will result in all the names being passed on to the police.

Local residents recognised that they have some way to go when recently some parents have been seen sitting on the Bench in Brueacre Drive, watching as their, and other children, damage the shrubbery. Obviously the only option now is to report the matter to the police each and every time it happens. The only way to prevent your children being reported in by ensuring they are not involved.

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.

Finally

That's all for this month. **The closing date for any articles or adverts for the December edition of the Village News is 20th November.** 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 place it in the Village News folder, which is kept behind the counter in Spar or send it **to Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay PA18 6HA**
Tel: 529375 e-mail: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com (*This is a new e-mail address so, if you have been using my old one please change it.*)

Kids' Stuff

400 years ago a man called Guy Fawkes and some of his friends tried to blow up Parliament because they didn't like King James, who was the King at that time. They had hidden 36 barrels of gunpowder and lots of firewood in a cellar underneath the building. Their idea was to set light to the gunpowder and cause an explosion during the ceremony to open the Parliament on 5th November 1605 and kill the king and the entire Parliament. Before they were able to carry out their plan they were caught, tortured and then killed. Every year since, people have remembered Guy Fawkes by having bonfires, burning a "Guy" and letting off fireworks on 5th November.

We also celebrate St. Andrews Day this month on 30th November. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. The wordsearch this month is all about Guy Fawkes Night and St. Andrew. How many words can you find?

G	U	Y	F	A	W	K	E	S	S	O	K
U	T	N	I	A	S	R	G	C	P	L	A
N	D	E	R	I	F	N	O	B	A	D	T
P	B	S	E	T	E	K	C	O	R	E	H
O	A	W	W	P	M	V	T	E	K	G	E
W	N	E	O	L	Q	O	B	F	L	N	R
D	G	R	R	T	L	M	W	I	E	O	I
E	E	D	K	P	E	X	H	F	R	R	N
R	R	N	S	V	Y	M	E	T	S	T	E
N	S	A	O	Y	V	S	E	H	C	A	B
J	T	N	E	M	A	I	L	R	A	P	G
D	N	A	L	T	O	C	S	H	F	U	N

- ANDREW
- BANGERS
- BONFIRE
- FIFTH
- FIREWORKS
- FUN
- GUNPOWDER
- GUY FAWKES
- NOVEMBER
- PARLIAMENT
- PATRON
- ROCKET
- SAINT
- SCOTLAND
- SPARKLERS
- KATHERINE
- WHEEL

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.

S	R	E
A	T	C
D	T	E

- 20 words – at least you're trying!
- 30 words – good
- 40 words – shows promise
- 50+ words – brain-box!!

SUDOKU

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