

Wemyss Bay Village News

202nd Edition

October 2006

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Drop Off Away From The School Gates

Strathclyde Police have released the following instructions about dropping children off at school on their web site as children go back to classes following the summer break.

Leave the car at home and reduce the risks of child injuries near the school gates!

Road policing officers are urging parents to think twice before setting off on the school run, as hundreds of thousands of youngsters return to school following the summer holidays. Choosing to take the car to drop off and pick up the kids at the front gates is highly tempting, but by choosing an alternative, like walking or public transport, the chances of a child being injured are greatly reduced.

In an effort to cut the risks, police will be paying particular attention to areas close to schools to ensure that mums and dads are not parking illegally or dangerously. Sergeant Derek Prentice is from the Traffic Education and Support Team. He said: "What may seem like a trivial matter can have serious or even fatal consequences. Dropping off children at the school gates increases the chance of a crash, as children are forced to cross between parked cars.

Parents must ask themselves, 'do we really need to take the car?' If there is absolutely no alternative, I would ask that children are dropped off as far from the gates as possible and certainly outwith any yellow zig-zag zones, to help reduce the chances of a collision. We all have a part to play in keeping road related injuries to a minimum, so please don't risk it."

Source of article: [Strathclyde Police web site](#)

This is a very serious issue for Wemyss Bay. Over the past few years a number of children have been injured when crossing the road around the Primary School.

Christmas Lights Switch-On

With less than 11 weeks till Christmas it is time to start thinking about the Lights Switch-On Evening. We hope that this year's event will take place on Friday 1st December, although this is to some extent dependant on Inverclyde Council and will be confirmed in the November edition of the village News. Once again the Community Association invites all residents of Wemyss Bay to join us for carols around the Christmas tree prior to enjoying a glass (or two!) or mulled wine in the centre. For those among us who do not drink, there will as usual be tea and coffee, and there will be shortbread and mince pies for all. Children will be catered for with juice and crisps.

If he has organised the elves to get all the presents made in time and can spare a couple of hours, we hope that Santa will be able to join us and will perhaps have a small gift for pre-5 and primary age children, but only if they have been very good. As Rudolph and the rest of the reindeer have already started training at their secret camp in Lapland for the big night it is unlikely that they will be able to join us, but you never know.

Last year, for the first time, local organisations participated in our Christmas market and we plan to run this again this year – hopefully with a few more stalls.

Why not put the date in your diary now and prepare to enter the festive season by coming along and joining in in a real community get-together.

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

The Bible Club and Youth Group, run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM), will be off on the 16th and 23rd October for the October holidays. They will start again on Monday 30th October, 2006 in the Community Centre.

The Bible Club is from 6.15pm to 7.30pm and all children in Primary School are welcome, from P1 to P7. Activities include games, songs, competitions, Bible stories and other activities. The Youth Group is from 8.00pm to 9.30pm and is for young people in P6, P7 and high school, with similar activities suitable for that age, including games (dodgeball!) and a tuck shop. There are no fees for either club. Contact Stephen Renton for more information on 01505 355994.

Pay Back

Drug dealers don't care where dirty needles end up – do you? Do you want to stop a dealer selling drugs in your area? Dealers don't care about lives or communities. They don't care about supplying drugs to school kids. They don't care about crime. In fact, they don't care about any of the problems they cause. But you don't have to put up with it. If you know anything at all about drug dealers please phone Crimestoppers. Your call is 100% anonymous and it will make a difference.

Do you want to remain completely anonymous? People have had enough of drug dealers. But some people are still worried about talking to us. So it's important to point out that you can call Crimestoppers absolutely anonymously. We won't ask your name and you won't be asked to give evidence in court.

We can't trace you and neither can anyone else. When you phone Crimestoppers we're not interested in who you are. We won't trace or record your phone call and the number won't show up on your bill.

Pay back – this project is paid for by assets recovered from crime.

Call Scotland Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111 - all calls are anonymous

This article was provided by Scotland Crimestoppers.

Country People's Club

As announced in the September edition of the Village News, meetings of the above Club will recommence on Wednesday 4th October at 2.30pm in The Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip and the October / November speakers are as follows:

Wednesday 4th October: Mr John Gallagher on the subject of "History of the Scottish Variety Theatre".

Wednesday 18th October: Mr Jim Tarves on the subject of "Mission Aviation Fellowship Worldwide".

Wednesday 1st November: Mr John Clark on the subject of "Clyde Muirshiel's Wonderful Birds".

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

THANKSGIVING for the harvest will be the main focus of worship this month. As summer gives way to autumn, local farmers have been harvesting their crops. Though the pattern of country life has changed markedly over the years the traditional harvest scene is still evident in some places.

In Church, we tend to look beyond our borders more so than in the past. We still recognise the harvest in the traditional way, but we try to support as best we can organisations like Christian Aid who, in turn, are helping farmers to help themselves in the poorest countries of the world, particularly in Africa and South America. Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service is on 15 October. You are welcome and join us.

CHURCH DIARY

Every Sunday at 11.00am – MORNING WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL and CRECHE
Last Sunday of the month at 10.15am – PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
Every Monday after school – OUT OF THE ARK (*Skelmorlie Community Centre*)
Every Monday at 7.30pm – BIBLE STUDY
Every Tuesday at 7.30pm – BALLROOM DANCING
Every Wednesday at 7.30pm – COUNTRY DANCING
Every Thursday between 1.15 and 2.45pm – NOAH'S ARK (*for Mothers and Toddlers*)
Thursdays, 12 and 26 October, at 7.30pm – MEN'S FELLOWSHIP (*with Inverkip Church*)
Every Friday, 12.15-1.30pm – FRIDAY LUNCHES

W.E.A. - Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Branch

The programme of talks for October and early November is as follows:

4th October - "Perfume" the history and attraction of perfume by Joan Biggar.

11th October - "Land of the Long White Cloud" – an illustrated talk on New Zealand, the land and it's' people by Roger Watts

18th October - "Kate Cranston's Tearooms" - a look at the tradition and style of these charming Rennie Mackintosh tearooms with John Gallacher

25th October - Outing to Kelvingrove Museum.

1st. November - "Deserts and Canyons of the Western USA. An illustrated talk by the entertaining and informative Ian Barr.

All talks start at 9.45 a.m. until about 11.30 a.m. No annual fee, simply pay as you go - £2.00 (£1.80 concessions) Skelmorlie Community Centre Reading Room. Everyone welcome. For further information or help with transport contact Jenny McGee Tel. 521090.

Community Association

Wemyss Bay Community Association meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Inverkip Hotel. The Association is responsible for running the Community Centre, the Annual Gala and Christmas Lights switch-on evening. You are welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

Councillor Eric Forbes

Over the past month there has been a scaremongering story in the Greenock Telegraph regarding "bugs in Bins". It was generated from stories from south of the border that microchips were going to be used to impose a waste tax on householders. The fact that there was a microchip in the bins was not a secret from the word go. The purpose of the chip was to track bins to respective households for administrative reasons and also for education in recycling if a household is not carrying out the appropriate method of recycling household waste. There certainly is nothing devious with this procedure and in any case the local authority has no legislative power to impose any tax. The setting of such a tax, if there was ever to be one, lies with central government or with the Scottish Executive.

On the question of recycling, residents have taken the challenge on board with enthusiasm and Inverclyde Council is at present one of the best performers in Scotland and are achieving the targets set down by the executive. This is as a result of residents appreciating the need for changing attitudes and actively doing so. Well done and keep up the good work.

There are ongoing meetings taking place with the Primary School Board on the question of decant and I am sure we will have a resolution to the problem in the very near future.

The Council has been very active on the management restructuring front. Since John Mundell was appointed as Chief Executive he has very quickly set about addressing the issue of Corporate Directors and very soon we shall have the appointees in place. This then allows him to address the issue of the next level of Officers. The Council is determined to go forward in a positive way and this is part of that process.

The Woodlands group is now back working in the woods again on a more regular basis and any extra help would be much appreciated. I believe that the woods have been transformed and are now a more friendly and interesting place to walk into and through.

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.

2nd Wemyss Bay Brownies

By the time you read this Brownies will have started back. The girls have a very interesting programme arranged for the winter with lots of fun added in.

The pack is very popular and therefore very full. If you can spare a few hours a year to help out we'd be very grateful. You don't need to come every week – we really explore job sharing! The leaders also have as much fun as the girls; where else can you be 10 for the rest of your life?

Want to join us? Leave a message on 520615 or e-mail girlguidingwemyssbay@yahoo.co.uk.

Go on surprise yourself!

Community Council

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the Inverkip Hotel. The meetings are open to residents of the area and you are welcome to attend.

Inverkip Library information

INVERKIP LIBRARY: More than just books....

What?

Books for adults and children
FREE INTERNET ACCESS
Talking Books, DVDs
Community Information
Photocopier

Where?

Within Inverkip Primary School

When?

Monday & Thursday 3.30pm-7pm
Tuesday & Friday 2.00pm-5pm
Saturday 10am-1pm

Please call in and see for yourself

Telephone: (01475) 521557

E-Mail: library.inverkip@inverclyde.gov.uk

Or visit: www.inverclyde.gov.uk/Libraries

Bulb and Wildflower Appeal

We hope that everyone noticed the beautiful display of snowdrops throughout the wood in February and March. Some of the patches are off the main paths so you have to look out for them carefully. March and April also saw daffodils appearing throughout the wood, but particularly along the border with Ardgowan Road. Unfortunately the daffodils planted in the terraced gardens did not do as well as they fell foul to the local squirrels who ate the flower heads off most of the plants before they had a chance to open. Hopefully next year the bulbs will have divided and we will see an even better show. During April and May the bluebells and wild garlic were making an appearance while later in the summer many other wildflowers, including foxgloves, wood avens, celandine and sorrel could be seen.

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.

Dementia Research

Three girls, Amanda, Elaine and Kirsty, ran round Wemyss Bay 3 times and made £178.10 for research into dementia. They did this after Amanda had talked about her great gran who suffers from this horrible illness. Alanah cycled with them as the official "team photographer". Some of the photos will be available on the Wemyss Bay website. Well done girls and thank you to all the residents who gave so generously! The girls did get a treat – a big barbeque at Brown Owls house (Amanda's granny) and they deserved all of it.

WEMYSS BAY PRIMARY PTA

Off to another flying start with the fundraising - £401 raised at our recent Car Boot Sale so a big thank you to all you came along and supported this event. These Boot Sales just keep getting more and more popular with 43 pitches taken this time. The next one will probably be February - watch this space.

Our next planned fundraiser is a Gifts Galore Ladies night. This is scheduled to be held in the school on the evening of Thursday the 9th of November and we hope to have a number of stalls along to get you off to an early start with the Christmas shopping. More details nearer the time from the school.

Recycling

As you know, there is a glass recycling point in the car park next to the community centre and a new glass point at the Inverkip Power Station access road. However, the council would welcome suggestions from residents for an additional recycling point in Wemyss Bay. This point would be for separated glass recycling and possibly dry recyclates. If you have any suggestions please contact Allan Walker at Inverclyde Council on 717171.

Anonymous Articles

We recently received an article for the Village News, which was sent anonymously. 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. You will find that any publication will take the same position. If the sender of the recent article would like to contact me again, with their name(s) and contact details, we will be happy to include their article in a future edition.

Duncan McNeil MSP

If you're a football fan, is there anything which annoys you more than inconsistency from the referee? One minute, your player gets booked for winning the ball with a brave tackle. The next, their burly centre half fells your striker with a tackle so late you'd need a calendar to time it and you don't even get a free kick.

But the most a ref's inconsistency is going to cost you is 3 points or some money. And it gives you something to talk about in the pub.

It's a different matter, though, where far more important decisions, such as those taken in the courts, are concerned. If criminals are seen to be handed wildly differing sentences for the same crime, not only are victims and their families let down, public faith in the justice system is undermined.

The Sentencing Commission for Scotland, therefore, has published a report on improving consistency in sentencing.

The independent, judicially-led body recommends the creation of an Advisory Panel on Sentencing in Scotland (APSS), which would prepare draft sentencing guidelines for consideration by the Appeal Court of the High Court of Justiciary. And, to ensure input from outside the judiciary, the APSS would not be a judges' closed shop.

The guidelines announced by the Appeal Court would not dictate sentences in individual cases, but would guide those passing sentences. Where a judge imposes a sentence which is outwith these guidelines, he or she would be required to explain themselves.

For there to be fairness and justice in the legal system, there must be consistency in sentencing. And, as Commission Chairman, the Rt. Hon. Lord Macfadyen, puts it, "these principles demand that similar crimes committed in similar circumstances by offenders whose circumstances are similar should attract similar sentences."

Duncan can be contacted at the Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock PA15 8JL, Tel: 01475 791820, Fax: 01475 791821, by Textphone for the hearing impaired: 01475 791824, by E-mail: duncan.mcneil.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or via his website: www.duncanmcneil.com

Feed the Birds

The RSPB is urging people to think about different ways they can help wildlife in their gardens as part of Feed the Birds Day on October 28th.

According to the RSPB, 61% of the population regularly put out tasty treats like bread, peanuts and seeds. While these foods are always welcome, there are several other things we can do to benefit the birds.

Richard Bashford, Feed the Birds Day project manager, said, "We want people to let their gardens go a bit wild – just leaving a small area of long grass will encourage insects and provide food for birds. Planting shrubs and building a pond will also be extremely beneficial."

You don't need to have a traditional garden to be able to help. If you live in a flat you can put up a window feeder or plant up a window box with nectaring plants. If you have a courtyard garden, putting up a bird table or encouraging climbing plants to grow up your walls will help.

You can also be creative with the food you supply. Nuts and seeds are great but why not spice up your birds' diets by putting out cheese, fruit, cooked rice, bread or even non-salty bacon.

You can do as little or as much as you have time for. Just providing food, water and shelter can really help birds and turn your garden into a wildlife haven for you to enjoy.

For further information and RSPB events listings, tel: 01767 680551, or go to www.rspb.org.uk/feedthebirds

Note: The Woodland Association has put up over 30 bird boxes in the wood, many made by local children during the summer bird days and in addition has provided extra nest boxes for the school's garden. They also have a number of bird feeders throughout the wood. If you can help by taking a turn to refill the feeders please contact Eila on 529375.

Avoid Another Rail Disaster

Back in 1994, two people died when teenage thugs placed objects on the Wemyss Bay to Glasgow railway line at Peat Road.

The train struck the objects and train driver Arthur McKee died along with student Alan Nicol.

Gary Dougan and Craig Houston were both given 15 year jail sentences for causing these deaths.

However, in the last week, the Wemyss Bay train hit concrete placed on the track THREE times near to Inverkip station.

Thankfully the trains were not going fast enough for anything but minor damage to occur.

David McEwan, Detective Superintendent and leading the investigation by British Transport Police, was quoted in the Greenock Telegraph as saying, "We have seen objects like that derail a train. People have been jailed for life for this crime, a reckless act that could cause injury or worse. If you have any information on these incidents, please contact British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40. The first of the two incidents took place near the bridges of Finnockbog Road and Langhouse Road. The other incident took place around 10pm."

Hire of Furniture

The Community Association can rent out furniture from the community Centre at a very reasonable cost.

If you need to hire furniture, a table and eight chairs cost £10. In addition, it is necessary to leave a £50 deposit which is returnable when the furniture is returned to the centre in good condition. If you are interested in this service, please contact Kirsty on 520738.

Can You Help?

The Youth Club is desperately looking for donations of any unwanted PS1s which you may have lying around. They started off with three but unfortunately now only have one left although they have plenty of games. Perhaps you have one lying around gathering dust since you moved on to more up-to-date models. Why not give it to a good home? Hand it in any Thursday between 7 and 8.30pm to the Community Centre or phone Eila on 529375.

Waste collection

Your blue and brown recycling bins should be collected on Tuesday 10th & 24th October and 7th & 21st November. This means that your black bin should be emptied on Tuesday 3rd, 17th & 31st October and 14th & 28th November.

David Cairns MP : Are you sitting comfortably?

I've never been a fan of the 'nanny state' and I do not believe that it is the job of Government to tell people how to look after their children, but I am backing the new law on children's car seats. **Every year in the UK about 2,000 children are killed or injured in motor accidents, simply because they are not sitting in a proper child car seat.** We can't allow this carnage to continue and that's why the Government brought in new laws about child car restraints in September. Basically, it's quite simple, and if your child is under 12 or smaller than 135cm (4' 5") you will need to have a suitable child restraint fitted to your car.

The last time the law on this was updated was in 1993 when there were far fewer cars than there are now, and many of those on the road did not have rear seat belts. The old rules said that you should use child seats and boosters if they were available, but with the advent of rear seatbelts and the increasing tendency for children to be ferried about by parents, the Government thought the time was right to update the rules so that all children travelling in cars will be protected. If you want to see how the new regulations will affect you, then why not check out the Department of Transport's website at www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk. I believe that every child in Inverclyde has a right to travel safely, but we need to be sensible about these things, and I don't envisage Strathclyde Police standing outside local primary schools weighing and measuring children to ensure that their parents have complied with the new laws! Parents, grandparents and other people who carry children regularly will need time to become aware of the regulations, and I understand that there has been a recent run on booster cushions in Inverclyde shops, so finding the right car seat for your child is not something you can do overnight.

But at the end of the day, everyone who regularly carries children will have to comply and **it is driver's responsibility to make sure that all his passengers, large and small, abide by the rules.** The Government recognises that there might be an emergency situation when a relative or friend without a proper child seat has to pick up a youngster and drive them for a short distance. You won't be breaking the law, but it does need to be an emergency and exemptions are not allowed for school runs or other journeys that are planned in advance.

Our children are our future, and if this new law saves three or four boys and girls in Inverclyde from death and serious injury every year, then that far outweighs the inconvenience of buying and fitting suitable child car seats.

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, Fax: 791821, or alternatively you can phone the office for details of his next surgery in Wemyss Bay. These details, along with other information, appear on his website: www.davidcairns.com

Bat & Moth Night

The Woodland Association is holding a Bat & Moth Night walk on Saturday 14th October, leaving from the Community Centre at 7.30pm. On the walk you will learn a bit about bats and how to use a bat detector. Hopefully we will track and see some bats. In addition we will be looking and finding out a bit about some of the moths which live locally.

There are 17 species of bats in Britain and all are protected by law because their numbers have decreased so dramatically in recent years. It is illegal to disturb a bat roost and you need a special licence for permission to handle bats.

Did you know that Britain's commonest bat, the pipistrelle, is only 4cm long and weighs about 5 grams – less than a 2p coin? It can fit into a match box. Despite its small size a pipistrelle bat can eat up to 2000 midges in a night!

Bats can see very well, probably better than we do at dusk, but even their eyesight needs some light and they would be unable to find their insect prey in the dark. Bats have solved this problem and can find their way about at night and locate their food by using a sophisticated high frequency echolocation system. Our hearing ranges from approximately 20Hz (cycles per second) to 15 to 20 kHz (1000Hz) depending on our age. In comparison, some bats can hear sounds up to 110 kHz in frequency. By emitting a series of often quite loud ultrasounds that either sweep from a high to low frequency or vary around a frequency, bats can distinguish objects and their insect prey and therefore avoid the object or catch the insect. With the ability to detect and catch a midge, there is no way that they are going to fly into something as big as a human so stories of bats getting caught in your hair are just old wives tales.

If you are interested in joining the Bat & Moth Night walk please contact Eila on 529375 or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com to reserve a place. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult - please stress the importance of being quiet during the walk. The cost is £1 per person which goes towards the costs of bringing in an expert guide.

Interested in Advertising?

1500 copies of the Village News are produced each month. Over 1200 homes in the village receive a hand-delivered copy and the remainder are placed in the doctor's surgery and local shops. In addition copies of the adverts are displayed in the Community Centre for one month.

Advert Size	Dimensions	Price
1/8th page (standard)	64mm x 45mm	£12/issue
¼ page	128mm x 45mm or 64mm x 90mm	£24/issue
½ page	128mm x 90mm	£45/issue
Full page	180mm x 128mm	£90/issue

(Dimensions are approximate, width x height)

If you would like to discuss taking out an advert in the Village News, either as a one-off or on a regular basis, why not contact **Ken** at eila@wemyssbay.plus.com or phone: **529375**. Ken can advise and help with the lay out of your advert and any artwork

Wemyss Bay web site

If you run a group in Wemyss Bay or the surrounding area, you can now add details of your group to the web site and keep those details up to date through an online control panel. Go to the following address to add or update details of your group:

<http://wemyssbay.net/todo/>

There are also various new polls on the web site, issues include wind-farms, celebrating Britishness, skateboarding and speed cameras. Vote here: <http://wemyssbay.net/news/polls.asp>

Finally, a new message forum, with a lot more features and functionality than the old message board, has been added to the site: <http://wemyssbay.net/wbayforum/>

Woodland Association

There are a number of ways in which you can become involved and help with the Association's work. One of the most important and easiest is to keep your eyes open and report incidents of anti-social behaviour to the police. Perhaps you would be prepared to take a plastic bag with you when you walk through the wood and collect any rubbish you find. If a few more people were to do this, then our already stretched volunteers could concentrate on other work rather than having to organise litter

collection mornings as well. Maybe you would take a turn filling the bird feeders as this needs done several times a week. You can join the Association – in addition to updates on our work you have the satisfaction of knowing that your membership money enables us to continue running and membership only costs £2 for an individual or £3 for a household for a calendar year. Finally, why not consider joining one of our regular work parties – they are a great way to fit in a bit of exercise and are also enjoyable and sociable days. For information about any aspect of the work of the Association, or if you are interested in getting involved, please contact Eila on 529375.

The Association has decided to increase the number of work sessions for the next couple of months in a bid to complete the rhododendron clearance of the lower wood prior to the winter months. During October we will be working on Sunday 1st, Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th and Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th. We are continuing to work in the area adjoining Ardgowan Road heading up to the point at the end of Cliff Terrace Road so enter through the gate in the wall on Ardgowan Road, opposite the end of Castle Wemyss Drive and turn up the hill to your left. We work from 9.30am – 3pm and provide all the necessary gloves, safety glasses and tools. In addition we stop for coffee/tea and biscuits in the morning and provide hot sausage rolls at lunchtime. Children are welcome to come along (we do have gloves to fit) however they must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult. We have a small, but dedicated, band of volunteers but it would really make a difference to our work if a few more people were to join us, even for an hour or two.

The Association has a number of bush-saws, bush-hooks and loppers which are available to hire, for a reasonable cost. To date these have been borrowed by two residents' associations who were carrying out work in their local area. If you would be interested in hiring the tools please contact Eila on 529375.

Mechanical Problems

After every flight, pilots fill out a form called a gripe sheet, which conveys to the mechanics problems encountered with the aircraft during the flight that need repair or correction. The mechanics read and correct the problem, and then respond in writing on the lower half of the form what remedial action was taken, and the pilot reviews the gripe sheets before the next flight. Never let it be said that ground crews and engineers lack a sense of humour.

Here are some actual logged maintenance complaints and problems as submitted by Qantas pilots and the solution recorded by maintenance engineers. Note: Qantas is the only major airline that has never had a major accident.

P = The problem logged by the pilot

S = The solution and action taken by the maintenance people.

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement. S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough. S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit. S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield. S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent. S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear. S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud. S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick. S: That's what they're there for.

P: IFF inoperative. S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windshield. S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing. S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny. S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums. S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

P: Mouse in cockpit. S: Cat installed.

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer. S: Took hammer away from midget.

Woodland Association Activity Morning

To tie in with the RSPB Feed the Birds project, the Woodland Association is organising an activity morning during the school holidays on Tuesday 17th October from 10 am – 12 noon in Wemyss Bay Community Centre. We will be making a range of bird feeders, which we will later put up in the wood.

In addition we will be planting up seeds and nuts to bring on for planting out in the next two years.

The cost of the event is £1 per person which helps towards the costs involved. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

For more information or to book a place, please contact Eila on 529375.

P4–P7 Youth Club

The p4 – p7 youth club meets every Thursday during term time from 7 – 8.30pm. There is a 50p entrance charge and a tuck shop is available during the night. With a wide variety of activities to choose from there is something to suit everyone whether you prefer football, basketball, badminton, table-tennis, rounders, arts & crafts, music, computer games, board games or some of the other activities which take place on a regular basis.

Come along any Thursday night and speak to Liz or Janice.

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 "BayB's" 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.

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.

Finally

The closing date for submission of articles and adverts for the November edition of the Village News is the 20th October at 6.00 pm. Send your information to **Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay** Tel: **529375** E-mail: **eila@wemyssbay.plus.com** or drop it into the Village News folder in Spar. Adverts should be sent to Ken at the same address. If you wish to discuss an article for inclusion or if you have any questions about advertising please feel free to phone us on **529375**.

Kids' Stuff

Halloween takes place this month and many of you will be getting dressed up to go trick-or-treating. When I was young we called it guising and although some people gave you an apple, a tangerine, some nuts and maybe some sweets, other people had us dooking for apples or trying to eat scones, dripping with treacle, which were hung from string – a very messy but great fun time for all. Hope you have as much fun. The wordsearch is all about Halloween. Can you find all the words?

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

APPLE
 COSTUME
 DRACULA
 FACE-PAINTS
 GHOST
 HALLOWEEN
 MASK
 NUTS
 OCTOBER
 PUMPKIN
 SCARY
 SKELETONS
 SWEET
 TANGERINE
 TREACLE SCONE
 TRICK OR TREAT
 VAMPIRE
 WITCHES

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.

P	D	R
T	E	A
O	L	L

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

30 words – good
 50+ words – brain-box!!

SUDOKU

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

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