

Wemyss Bay Village News

203rd Edition

November 2006

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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.

- **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.**

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.

Christmas Lights Switch-On

This year the Christmas light switch on will take place in Wemyss Bay on Friday 1st 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.

The evening will also provide an opportunity to meet representatives from various community organisations and to find out a little more about what goes on in Wemyss Bay. Some of the local organisations will have stalls selling various things which can be used as Christmas presents. Following on from the success of last year's Christmas Market, and weather permitting, the stalls, and Santa's grotto, will all be in the Community Centre car park. 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!!).

Country People's Club

The Country People's club meets at 2.30pm in The Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip. Speakers for the November meetings are as follows:

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

Wednesday 15th Nov: Mr John Barr on the subject of "Deserts and Canyons of South West USA".

Wednesday 29th Nov: Mr Peter Baxter on the subject of "Enriching the Benmore Collections".

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 tel: 522316.

Blooming Wonderful!

Congratulations to Wemyss Bay Primary School, and in particular to janitor, Jim Glass, and members of the Gardening Club, for their success in retaining the Cathie Allan Memorial Shield for the Best School Garden in Inverclyde. Retaining the shield, which they won for the first time last year, Wemyss Bay came top of the entrants which included second placed Lady Alice primary and third placed Blairmore Nursery. In addition to the very impressive shield, the school received a £20 voucher for Cardwell Nursery Garden Centre.

Wemyss Bay Primary was placed for the first time this year in the Floralfest 2006 competition where they came a very respectable third behind winners, St. Gabriel's Primary. Entrants in Floralfest were each given a plant tub and a bag of compost by the garden centre and it was then up to them to design, plant and nurture their tubs. Again, Wemyss Bay won a shield and a £20 voucher for Cardwell Nursery Garden Centre, sponsors of the event.

There are currently over 20 children spread over p3 – p7 who are members of the Gardening Club and who, under the direction of Mr Glass look after and tend the garden. In addition thanks are extended to members of the PTA, who turn out whenever requested to help out with weeding and some of the heavier tasks.

An ornamental wrought iron scooter was made and donated to the school by the grandfather of Dillon Tawse. It will be used to hold plant pots and a flowering trough and will be on display in the school reception next year. His latest project is a penny farthing which will also go on display in the school. With over a dozen brackets for hanging baskets donated already, we can expect a fabulous display again next year.

Very well done to all concerned!

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.

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/>

Community Association AGM

Wemyss Bay Community Association is responsible for running the Community Centre, the Annual Gala and Christmas Lights switch-on evening. The Association is holding its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 19th November at 7pm in the Community Centre and you are warmly invited to attend. In addition to directly elected members, the committee comprises representatives of each of the centre's user groups and community organisations, however you do not need to be a member of the committee to get involved. There is always a need for new faces to help out with community events. Perhaps you have an hour or two to spend a month and would be interested in getting involved. Come along to the AGM and find out what you can do.

If you are unavailable on the 19th but would like to help, committee meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Inverkip Hotel and you are welcome to come along to any meeting.

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

Here are the dates and details of the programme for the rest of the Autumn session.

8th November - "The Music of London" The entertaining and knowledgeable Glynn Bragg returns to reveal Opera, Ballet and Show music plus stories of the great musicians associated with the City of London.

15th November - "The Bell Rock and Other Scottish Lighthouses" - Brian Searle.

22nd November - "The Empire Exhibition" - The story of the Art Deco style exhibition held in Bellahouston Park in 1938. By author and broadcaster Bob Crampsey.

29th November - "The Act of Union 1707" - bought and sold for English Gold. -Colin McKay.

6th December - End of Term Sherry and Shortbread plus the annual "Surprise" item.

All talks start at 9.45 until 11.30 approx. in the Reading Room of Skelmorlie Community Centre. No annual fee, simply pay as you go. £2 or £1.70 for concessions. Everyone welcome. For further information or help with transport please contact Jenny McGee Tel. 521090.

New Bus Route to Glasgow

Starting on 23rd October, McGill's are running a new bus route from Largs to Glasgow stopping on route at Wemyss Bay. The service will run hourly and hopefully, in the run up to Christmas, will run later at night. Bus timetables are available on all McGill's buses. Let's hope that it is well used so that we don't lose it.

Isabel Edgeworth

Police Consultation Exercise

Strathclyde Police are holding a series of public consultation meetings throughout the region to allow communities to have their say on the policing of their area.

The final meeting of the series will take place in Inverkip Primary School at 7pm on Thursday 23rd November. Strathclyde Police invite you to attend the meeting, where you can speak directly with senior police officers and local community policemen. The meeting aims to give you the opportunity to raise concerns about the way the area is policed and to voice your priorities, in addition to learning more about the force's plans for the area.

If you would like more information, contact the Community Safety Inspector on 0141 532 5909, or turn up on the night.

Ardgowan Football Development

AFD continues to go from strength to strength with membership now at an all time record of over 180 (including 15 girls). The Primary 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 Sessions are all full but there are limited spaces in the Primary 4, 7 and Girls Sessions. Anyone wishing to join should contact Iain on 07791 964277 or come along to the Community Centre on a Sunday between 12pm - 4pm.

Found

A ladies eternity ring has been found in the Community Centre. If you have lost a ring then please contact Eila on 529375 with a description of the ring.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

On Sunday 12 November we will gather at 10.45am in Church and at 12 Noon at the Wemyss Bay War Memorial to remember those who died in two world wars.

It was said that the First World War was "the war to end all wars", but it is very evident that war has continued unabated into the present century. One of our members said to me recently that there were only 14 days in the last century when it could be said that no war was taking place somewhere in the world; and the continuing conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Darfur, to name only three, show that even that expectation of peaceful days is a distant hope. The threat of yet another nuclear arms race has been sparked by North Korea and Iran and, as seems likely, our politicians will vote to replace, or upgrade, the Trident submarine system.

Amid all this aggressive intent, thankfully there are people in our world who work for peace. Last month Church leaders and others joined forces on the *Long Walk for Peace*. It may seem that this is only a powerless token gesture; but surely the time has come to find new ways of overcoming the hatred and insecurity that lie at the heart of our rush to continue to invest in weapons of mass destruction.

On Sunday 12 November we gather to remember those who went to war to bring peace to a divided world and we will pray that did not die in vain.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Services in Church at 10.45am and at the War Memorial at Noon.

CHURCH DIARY

Every Sunday at 11.00am – MORNING WORSHIP, SUNDAY CLUB and CRECHE

Last Sunday of the month at 10.15am – PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Last Monday of the month, 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, 9 and 20 November, at 7.30pm – MEN'S FELLOWSHIP (*with Inverkip Church*)

Every Friday, 12.15-1.30pm – FRIDAY LUNCHESES

Our annual CHRISTMAS FARE is on Saturday 18 November, 10.00am-Noon in Skelmorlie Community Centre.

Councillor Eric Forbes: "DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS!"

If there are two words that cause distress and concern then they are "PLANNING APPLICATION" and because of the process these concerns cannot be proved or dispelled until the application is presented at the Planning Committee for determination.

This is where the heading for the article is appropriate and not a flippant remark. No one, not even I as Planning Convener, can forecast or pre-empt any decision that could come out of the Committee's deliberations as they do not take place until that day. In relation to the planning application for the "Aravaar" - "Fresh Creek" site to be turned into flats. It has been suggested that the decision is a foregone conclusion and permission will be granted. Reference has been made to the developments along the front at Skelmorlie. Skelmorlie falls within the remit of North Ayrshire Council and they determine planning applications as they interpret them. Inverclyde Council will determine this application based on sound interpretation and advice.

Protocol does not allow me to have an open discussion with my constituents prior to an application being discussed at the planning committee, but I can assure you that I do hear all the concerns.

SCHOOL UPDATE: Parents will now have received the letter from the School Board and Mrs. Ritchie regarding the latest opinion i.e. decant to King's Glen Primary School. No final decision has been taken and a report will be presented at the Education Committee in January 2007. It is still projected that work will start in April 2007.

JUNCTION of A78/ ARDGOWAN ROAD: I approached Transport Scotland to request that a safety audit be carried out on the junction and they have agreed to do so.

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.

Barnardos Inverclyde Family Support Team.

Barnardos Inverclyde Family Support Team offers a service called short break care. The short break care service supports disabled children and young people aged between 0-19 years and their families in the Inverclyde area.

The service aims to provide regular breaks for disabled children and young people in the short break carer's home. This enables the child/young person to benefit from new friendships, experiences and opportunities, whilst their parents/carers have time for themselves.

Unfortunately, there has been a lack in volunteers coming forward to become short break carers. Therefore, Barnardos have decided to re-launch the service. They have new posters and leaflets being printed and they are really going to be promoting the service extensively in and around Inverclyde.

The launch/information day took place in the Oak Mall, Greenock on Wednesday 25th October and, although the event has passed, if you are interested in volunteering to take part as short break carers please email Donna: donna.gibson@barnardos.org.uk

Duncan McNeil MSP

Not only did the recent Operation Triplicate raids seize nearly £55,000 worth of drugs from 30 suspected local drug dealers, they also netted more than £33,000 in cash.

Those arrested, though, stand to lose more than a few thousand pounds and their liberty.

Under the Proceeds of Crime Act, their houses, cars, jewellery, bank accounts, investments, in fact every penny of their ill-gotten gains, can now be seized. And, even if suspected criminals aren't convicted, the courts can still strip them of any assets they can't show were earned legitimately. In other words, those who turn up to sign on in a brand-new BMW and hand-stitched tracksuit will have some serious explaining to do.

It is my understanding that special investigators are freezing bank accounts and confiscating homes and cars. And, to make sure they get the lot, bank and mortgage statements are also being trawled through.

Once seized, incidentally, this cash doesn't just languish in the government's coffers. Instead it is ploughed into rebuilding and regenerating the communities the dealers tried to bleed dry.

No matter how determined they are, though, the police can't use these new powers if they don't know who to hit. The success of Operation Triplicate owes much to members of the public, sick and tired of drug dealers living the high life off the backs of everyone else, taking a stand and passing on the intelligence the police need. Calling Crimestoppers free and in total confidence on **0800 555 111** can make the difference.

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

Over 60 or Disabled and a Home Owner?

Do you require help with carrying out small repairs in your home? Do you find it difficult or too costly to get contractors to carry out such works? If you answered "yes" to either of the above questions then Inverclyde Council's Small Repairs Service may be the answer.

The service is available to owner occupiers who are over 60 or have disabilities, within Inverclyde. The Small repairs Officer, who is a skilled tradesperson, can carry out small repairs within your home. There is no charge for labour and you only pay for any materials used.

The Small Repairs Service is managed by Inverclyde Care & Repair which aims to help older and disabled owner occupiers remain in their own homes by providing advice and assistance to help them repair and adapt their homes. The sort of work they do includes: repairing window cords; sealing baths and sinks; lowering cupboards; adjusting internal doors; fitting curtain poles; repairing skirting boards and boxing in pipe work.

If you need more information or would like to make use of the Small repairs Service then phone 01475 788274

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.

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council by Chairman Innes Nelson

It's hard to believe it is autumn yet again - hopefully the mild weather will continue so we can get out and enjoy the turning of the leaves before the winter is upon us.

Planning applications for inappropriate development is the thorn in the side for our villages. We have highlighted the Leapmoor Forest Windfarm proposal to many politicians and were pleased to hear that the Environment minister, MSP Ross Finnie, has objected to this proposal along with Scottish Natural Heritage, Dunoon and Cowal Marketing Group, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and the majority of Community Councils around Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. If you want to object on line then www.saveyourregionalpark.com has an easy to fill in form that goes directly to the council email for objections at devcont@inverclyde.gov.uk

Objections can also be sent to David Ashman at Inverclyde Council's planning department. A non-technical summary can be downloaded from the developer's web site at <http://www.cwp.notcon.co.uk/>

At our last Community Council meeting residents asked that we consider an application to demolish two houses in order to erect 36 flats at Ardvaar and Fresh Creek in Wemyss Bay. After detailed consideration we objected on the grounds that this proposal would damage the setting of the listed buildings on Wemyss Bay Road, as well as adding yet more traffic to the A78 which is already over capacity at peak travelling times.

Another application which will affect us is a 19 turbine windfarm located on the top of Black Craig hill on the Cowal hills opposite Inverkip and Wemyss Bay, submitted to Argyll and Bute planning department in September. The proposal is by an independent company Argyll Windfarms Ltd, set up by Peter Blacker the owner of Glenstriven Estate. The turbines will have a huge visual impact on Inverkip, Wemyss Bay, Skelmorlie, Port Bannatyne and Rothesay on Bute. The visual impact will compromise our valuable tourist industry, and travelling by boat to Bute or Tighnabruaich via the Kyles of Bute will certainly not have the same scenic value. The proposal is outside the preferred area of search for windfarms in the finalised draft of the Argyll and Bute Local Plan. The planners have identified areas where windfarms should be sited and the Cowal Peninsula is not one of them. If you want to learn more about this application and the Corlarach Hill and Bishop Seat proposals visit the South Cowal Community Council website at <http://www.southcowal.org/> and www.argyllwindfarms.co.uk/

Anyone who wishes to lodge an objection can send it to Brian Close, Planning Services, Milton House, DUNOON PA23 7DU quoting Ref 06/02000/DET.

Strathclyde Police want to hear the public's view of the services delivered by the force in Inverclyde. Public consultation meetings have been arranged when senior officers will listen to any concerns you might have. I have been asked to chair the meeting for Inverkip and Wemyss Bay to be held on Thursday 23rd of November at 7pm in Inverkip Primary school.

The Community Council is actively seeking new members. If you are interested please contact Lynne Chambers on 522603 or Innes Nelson on 520092. If you have any concerns that we can help with please contact us or we would be pleased to see you at our monthly meetings, which are normally held at 7:30 on the first Thursday of each month in The Rogues Room at Inverkip Hotel.

Anonymous Articles

While we are happy to print articles and withhold the sender's name, if requested, we must have a note of the person's name and contact details before we can print anything. This is to protect us, should someone later complain about an article. You will find that any publication will take the same position

Waste collection

Your blue and brown recycling bins should be collected on Tuesday 7th & 21st November and 5th & 19th December. This means that your black bin should be emptied on Tuesday 14th & 28th November and 12th December. We hope to be able to tell you of any proposed changes to waste collection over the holiday period in the next edition of the village News.

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**.

David Cairns MP: Labour Listens to Wemyss Bay

Thanks to everyone from Wemyss Bay who took the time to come along to our recent Labour Listens event or sent back their survey forms. As a politician, it is sometimes easy to lull yourself into a false sense of security and believe that you know what people think and what they want for their area. That's why events like our Labour Listens tea and coffee morning are so useful, they give local people a chance to come along and talk to their elected representatives in a relaxed atmosphere and tell us exactly what you think our priorities should be.

Many of you raised issues about community facilities, more road bumps and worries about the numbers of new houses being built. These are all legitimate concerns for you and **I am keen to ensure that the village of Wemyss Bay retains its community spirit and sense of identity, and is not destroyed by over development and lack of care.**

A number of you think that being on the periphery of Inverclyde leads to your village being ignored, and feel that council resources are disproportionately allocated to your larger neighbours in Greenock and Port Glasgow. I am of the opinion that everyone in Inverclyde deserves their fair share of public expenditure, regardless of where they live, and it's not acceptable to starve Wemyss Bay of resources and just regard it as one big commuter estate. You pay taxes to local and central government and, in return, are entitled to see some investment in your community.

One of the things which came over very strongly in the survey is how committed you are to our local hospital, with most of you believing that this is the single most important issue facing us. This is something which is important to everyone throughout the area, but it takes on a special significance when you are at the very edge of Inverclyde as it takes far longer to reach the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley from the outskirts of Wemyss Bay, than from say Kilmacolm or Port Glasgow. I am cautiously optimistic about the future of IRH now that we are part of the new Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, but we are not out of the woods yet, and **I will continue to defend our hospital and highlight the unreasonable distances that people from outlying areas have to travel for treatment.**

Anti-social behaviour was another problem which you mentioned frequently. It is sometimes tempting for people who live in other parts of Inverclyde to view Wemyss Bay as a quiet village with no real problems. But a quarter of people who responded to our survey thought this was the most important issue facing the village, and if you are having these sorts of problems then clearly a stronger police presence is needed.

So thank you for taking the time to tell us your views. We value your opinions and they will help to guide us whether we are making decisions on Wemyss Bay, Inverclyde or UK wide basis.

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

Woodland Association

The Association's summer walk programme has, once again, proved very popular with a number of new topics, including a Bat Walk, Bird Box Manufacture and Bird Feeder Days, attracting many new faces. The programme has now finished for this season but, it is hoped, will return in spring. Thanks to everyone who came along and supported these events.

The Association has increased the frequency of its rhodi-bashing sessions to fortnightly at present, in a bid to complete the rhododendron clearance of the lower wood prior to the winter months. During November we will be working on Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th and Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th. We will be taking a break in December and will restart on Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th January giving everyone a chance to work off the excesses of the Christmas festivities.

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. Membership of the Association runs from January till December, although anyone joining at this time of year does get the extra month free. Contact Eila on 529375 to find out more about any aspect of the Association's work or for a membership application form.

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.

<u>Advert Size</u>	<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>Price</u>
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.

Tenemental Inspection Service

Inverclyde Council's tenemental inspection Service has now expanded to cover all private housing in Inverclyde. The role of the service is to assist owners in identifying repairs at an early stage, as well as encouraging owners to be proactive in maintaining their properties and raising awareness of their rights and responsibilities.

The service, which has been funded from Inverclyde council's Private Sector Housing Grant, can provide owners with advice and information about general repair / maintenance responsibilities and also offers the option of commissioning an independent inspection of the property to identify repair issues.

An inspection of your property, whether you live in a tenement, terraced, semi-detached, detached, 4-in-a-block, or any other type of property, will be carried out by an experienced and qualified member of staff, with a highly detailed report produced which outlines the condition of the property, highlights and prioritises necessary repairs and recommends steps to be taken to ensure the building remains in a good state of repair. An inspection costs £40 plus VAT.

If you require any further information, or wish to commission an inspection of your home, then telephone 01475 712945 or email: ian.munro@inverclyde.gov.uk

Adopt a Station Scheme Celebrates First Anniversary

First ScotRail is celebrating the first anniversary of its 'Adopt a Station' scheme and looking at what has been achieved within the first year. The scheme, which was launched a year ago at the opening of the Rannoch Heritage Centre, has been heralded a great success by the train operating company and has seen many strong partnerships forged with local community groups and individuals across Scotland. The idea behind the scheme is to encourage locals to put forward ideas of how to improve the overall environment of a station or a means for utilising an unused building within a station, with the results often producing significant benefits to rail customers as well as residents.

Over the course of the last 12 months, accommodation has been utilised at five stations and includes a coffee shop, a refreshment kiosk, a professional ironing service, a charity bookshop and a reminiscence centre at stations in Uddingston, Kilmarnock, Dunblane, Pitlochry and Renton respectively.

In conjunction with 'in Bloom' community groups and coupled with support funding from First ScotRail, flower tubs, hanging baskets and planters have gone in at over 20 stations across the country, helping to make the environment more attractive as well as encourage wildlife to the area.

John Yellowlees, external relations manager at First ScotRail, said, "We are delighted with the number of stations that have been 'adopted' within the first year of the scheme launching and hope that we will be seeing many more proposals and partnerships come to fruition as it continues. "We have seen some worthwhile facilities arise out of the scheme such as the coffee shop at Uddingston and charity bookshop at Pitlochry and a great number of stations now look far more appealing thanks to the introduction of flowers and plants. We couldn't have asked for more within the first year."

Tubs, planters or hanging baskets planted or maintained in partnership with an outside body. Enquiries: Lally Cowell, Press and Communications Executive on 0141 335 4788 lally.cowell@firstgroup.com Out of hours – 07738 141 198 www.firstscotrail.com

Signs of our times....

At a Proctologist's door: "To expedite your visit please back in."

On a Plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

On a Plumber's truck: "Don't sleep with a drip - call your plumber."

Pizza Shop Slogan: "7 days without pizza makes one weak."

At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee: "Invite us to your next blowout."

On a Plastic Surgeon's Office door: "Hello. Can we pick your nose?"

At a Towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg - we want tows."

On an Electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts."

In a Non-smoking Area: "If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

On a Maternity Room door: "Push. Push. Push."

At an Optician's Office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a Taxidermist's window: "We really know our stuff."

In a Podiatrist's office: "Time wounds all heels."

On a Fence: "Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive."

At a Car Dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

Outside an Exhaust Repair Garage: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a Vet's waiting room: "Back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a Restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry, Come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."

And don't forget the sign at a Chicago Radiator Shop: "Best place in town to take a leak."

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 December edition of the Village News is the 20th November at 6.00 pm. It is helpful if you send in any articles as soon as you have them rather than leave them to the very last minute – this means that we would have a little more time to put things together before having to get them to the printer. 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**.

Early Warning: The closing date for the January edition of the village News will be Friday 15th December at 6pm. This is earlier than normal due to the Christmas holidays.

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	ANDREW
U	T	N	I	A	S	R	G	C	P	L	A	BANGERS
N	D	E	R	I	F	N	O	B	A	D	T	BONFIRE
P	B	S	E	T	E	K	C	O	R	E	H	FIFTH
O	A	W	W	P	M	V	T	E	K	G	E	FIREWORKS
W	N	E	O	L	Q	O	B	F	L	N	R	FUN
D	G	R	R	T	L	M	W	I	E	O	I	GUNPOWDER
E	E	D	K	P	E	X	H	F	R	R	N	GUY FAWKES
R	R	N	S	V	Y	M	E	T	S	T	E	NOVEMBER
N	S	A	O	Y	V	S	E	H	C	A	B	PARLIAMENT
J	T	N	E	M	A	I	L	R	A	P	G	PATRON
D	N	A	L	T	O	C	S	H	F	U	N	ROCKET

- 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