

Wemyss Bay Village News

204th Edition

December 2006

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

The Community Association would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Christmas tree lights switch on will take place this year on **Friday 1st December at 7.00pm. We will gather round the tree at the school at 6.30pm** for Christmas carols prior to the lights being switched on at 7.00pm. To help us all get into the Christmas spirit, the Community Association will be holding a community get together in the Community Centre after the switch-on. Come along and enjoy the carol singers and Christmas music, mulled wine and mince pies, tea and coffee. This 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. Weather permitting and following the success of last year's Christmas Market, the stalls will all be in the Community Centre car park. Santa will be taking time out from his very busy schedule to come along and meet the boys and girls in his grotto and, if the elves have finished making them in time and everyone has been very good, there will even be small gifts for the pre-5s and primary school-age children. If you have not yet written your letter to him this may your last chance to put in your requests before the big day. While you are waiting to see Santa, we hope that you will enjoy our magician who will be entertaining everyone in the queue. Unfortunately Rudolph will not be able to make it along as he and the other reindeer are busy training for their mammoth journey to visit children all over the world on Christmas Eve.

Community Association AGM

The Wemyss Bay Community Association is responsible for running the Community Centre, the Annual Gala and Christmas Lights switch-on evening. The Community Association held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 19th November in the Community Centre. At the meeting the existing office-bearers were elected, unopposed, to serve for a further year. They are: Chairperson – Kirsty Donnelly; Vice-Chairperson – Iain Buchan; Secretary – Elaine Blue; Treasurer – Stephen McFeeley; Assistant-Treasurer – Pamela Noble. 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. 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.

Wemyss Bay Pharmacy Opening Hours

On Saturday 23rd December the pharmacy will be open from 9am – 5pm. It will be closed Christmas Day, will be open from 10am – 12noon on Tuesday 26th December and will return to normal hours on Wednesday 27th. Over the New Year period the pharmacy will be open as normal from 9am – 1pm on Saturday 30th December. It will be closed on New Year's Day, open from 10am – 12 noon on Tuesday 2nd January and resume normal opening hours from Wednesday 3rd January. If you require regular medication remember to order and collect your prescription in advance and, while you are in the pharmacy, why not check out some of the lovely Christmas gifts.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Ambulance, Fire, Police, Coast Guard, Mountain Rescue	999
NHS 24	0845 4647
Strathclyde Police	01475 492500
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Domestic Abuse Helpline	0800 027 1234
Strathclyde Police Family Protection Unit	0141 532 6121
Inverclyde Women's Aid Helpline	01475 888505
Inverclyde Homeless Centre	01475 715880
Scottish Power	0845 272 7999
Scotland Gas Networks	0800 111 999
Scottish Water	0845 600 8855
Samaritans	08457 90 90 90

Inverclyde Council Emergency Telephone Numbers

Inverclyde Council main switchboard	01475 717171
Out of hours switchboard	01475 719999
Roads and Lighting faults	0800 373 635
M8, A8, A78 - contact Amey	0800 028 1414
All other roads (office hours)	01475 714800
Education	01475 712850
Social Work Headquarters	01475 714000
Social Work out of hours	0800 811 505
Grounds, Transport & Cleansing	01475 714750
Environmental & Consumer Services, Food Safety,	01475 714200
Trading Standards and Consumer Protection	01475 714200

Surgery Opening Hours

Over the Christmas, Wemyss Bay Surgery will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. It will be reopen as normal on Wednesday 27th December. Over the New Year period it will be closed on New Year's Day and Tuesday 2nd January and

resume with normal opening hours from Wednesday 3rd January. If you require a doctor at these times, or at any other time outwith normal opening hours then you should telephone 0845 424 2424. If you require regular medication remember to order and collect your prescription in advance.

Santa's Air-Worthiness Check!

Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Authority, and it was shortly before Christmas when the FAA examiner arrived. In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbook out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and Rudolf's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for sled's enormous payload. Finally, they were ready for the check-ride. Santa got in and fastened his seatbelt and shoulder harness and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun.

"What's that for?" asked Santa incredulously.

The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this, but you're going to lose an engine on takeoff!"

Waste collection

Your blue and brown recycling bins should be collected on Tuesdays 5th & 19th December. This means that your black bin should be emptied on Tuesdays 12th December and 26th December (note that there is no change to this collection day). In January your blue and brown bins will be collected on Wednesday 3rd January (instead of Tue 2nd) and Tuesdays 16th & 30th. Your black bin will be emptied on Tuesdays 9th & 23rd January.

Wemyss Bay Primary PTA

Another successful Gifts Galore evening was held on the 9th of November. This was really well attended and we raised over £400 for the school. A big thank you to all who had a stall and helped make this a really good night.

We also launched our 2007 WEMYSS BAY PRIMARY CALENDAR. This calendar is on sale from the school at a cost of £7.50 each, or two for £13 or three for £20. This is an ideal gift for grandparents and friends and is made up of photographs of every child and member of staff in the school who has a birthday on any given month. A big thank-you to Paul Wilson Photography for the photos and to Tiro Ltd for the printing. Also a huge thank-you to all our kind sponsors without whom this would not have been possible. Therefore, please support us in this worthwhile cause and get your orders in - they are selling fast. Our next fundraising event will be another Bingo night - probably in early February - date to be announced.

SBM Bible Club and Youth Group

The Bible Club and Youth Group, run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM), will hold their Christmas parties on Monday 18th December, 2006 in the Community Centre. Both clubs have had a really good year, with highlights including a trip to Funworld with Bible Club and a bowling outing to Largs with Youth Group. Thank you to all of the parents for their support and of course to all the children and young people who have come along on a Monday night and made the clubs what they are! We hope you all have a great Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Both of the clubs will resume in the new year on Monday, 8th January, 2007. 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 and a tuck shop. There are no fees for either club. Contact Stephen Renton for more information on 01505 355994.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church

Material Girl, Madonna, is to give a young Malawian boy called David the biggest Christmas present he could ever have hoped for. Some have said that wanting to adopt the boy is just another publicity stunt pulled by the American pop star; let's hope it is not. Wouldn't it be wonderful if those in similar positions followed Madonna's example giving hope to millions of children across the world, those who don't know where their next meal is coming from let alone any expectation of Christmas presents. Young David Banda, who is little more than a year old, has been given the prospect of a life of luxury when all he could expect in Malawi is a meagre existence and the likelihood of a premature death. We must assume that Madonna will give him the nurturing he needs for his development; no doubt he will live in the glare of publicity and his every move will be monitored. In that sense, some might say, it would have been better for him had he been left where he was, even in desperate circumstances. Few of us could every hope to be as wealthy or as influential as Madonna, but effectiveness in life does not always come with fame or fortune. The Christmas Story begins with an economically poor couple, Mary and Joseph, finding shelter in a stable in Bethlehem where Jesus was born, yet the influence of that Child still affects the life of millions in our world today and will continue to do so long after the *Material Girl* has been forgotten.

We are reminded every Christmas of the great gift God has given us in the birth of his Son. Leave a space in your celebrations to welcome him for he in turn will bring to you the prospect of richer, fuller life not only for one day in the year but for the rest of your life.

May you know God's Blessing throughout the Festive Season and beyond.

Rev W Armstrong

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 17, at 11.00am	Sunday Club Nativity Play and Gift Service
December 24, at 11.00am	Nine Lessons and Carols, led by the Choir.
December 24, at 11.30pm	Watchnight Service (<i>Christmas pies and punch from 10.30pm</i>)
December 31, at 11.00am	<i>The Voices of Christmas</i>

Recycling at Christmas

Remember that most of your packaging at Christmas can be recycled. Please use your blue bin to recycle large pieces of wrapping paper, Christmas cards (placed in a tied carrier bag), cardboard packaging, including empty selection boxes, old Christmas catalogues and any unwanted biscuit or chocolate tins.

You can use your brown bin to recycle natural Christmas trees. If the tree is large, please chop it or place it beside your bin. You may find that you have additional bottles or jars at this time of year. Please recycle all glass using your Neighbourhood Recycling Point (at Wemyss Bay Community Centre or at Londis in Inverkip).

The following two articles were provided by local residents, both of whom provided their names. We have chosen not to print their identities to try and prevent them being further targeted by the young hooligans involved. It seems that incidents such as these are becoming more common throughout Inverclyde and here, in Wemyss Bay, is no exception. Make sure that you know what your children are up to or you could get a nasty surprise when the police come knocking!

Wemyss Bay Kiddie Hooligans

As many people know, the terraced gardens, which the Woodland Association are working on, are situated on the cliff top above Undercliff Road. A number of years ago there was a spate of vandalism which culminated in a large rock being thrown over the cliff and landing on top of a car, causing almost two thousand of damage. The teenagers involved at that time have now grown up and moved on however the problem has started to surface all over again.

This time those responsible are considerably younger, around 10 – 12 years old. For some time now these youngsters have regularly taken to throwing rocks, pieces of masonry, logs and branches over the cliff wall. To date there has been damage to cars, windows and a greenhouse. It is a matter of time before someone is injured or killed either directly, as a result of being hit by one of these missiles, or indirectly, as a passenger in a car which is damaged or when clearing up the debris. The matter has now been referred to Strathclyde Police who are making efforts to identify and pursue those responsible. In addition, if local residents recognise anyone, their names will be passed to the police to deal with. If you're children are out playing tonight, do you know what they are up to – they could be involved and they could end up with a police record.

Where Are Your Kids Tonight?

My family and I recently moved to the Hill Farm estate. I have just left the armed forces and this is our first 'real' home together after many years of travelling for queen and country as it were.

This was to be our dream home, in a secluded and quite spot with nice neighbours - a place to put down some roots and let our children enjoy a stable, static home.

Our dreams were shattered at the start of the October school holidays. We were confronted by a roving gang of adolescents, mostly boys between the ages of 10 and 14 who decided, for whatever reason, to target our house. Since then we have been subjected to an almost nightly barrage of eggs, oranges, stones and clumps of dirt thrown at our windows and doors and playing 'ding dong schoosh'. The children responsible have no shame and seem to have set up some kind of challenge to see how many times they can get away with it in one night before we will eventually chase them off, only to return later and start again. 'Its just kids having fun', I thought. 'They'll get bored and move on,' But no, it continues and gets worse every day.

I tend to work away from home a lot and my wife, who suffers from MS, is at home alone with the kids. She cannot and will not respond, out of fear and because her disability can make it painful for her to do so. She is not fit enough to wash our windows and door on a daily basis, and indeed, she should not have to. In this quite little suburban neighbourhood, where people have told us it is idyllic and peaceful, a wonderful place to live, she is scared to go out at night. A prisoner in her own home. All because some selfish children seem to think it is great fun to bombard our home with muck. Make no mistake. The children responsible live on the Hill Farm estate themselves. I have seen them and know where at least one of them lives. The matter is now out of our hands and in that of the Local Community Police Officer. Because of this, if caught, they face criminal proceedings, ASBO's and potentially having criminal records. Is it worth it for a 'bit of a laugh'? We feel victimised and isolated and genuinely disappointed and confused. Why us? On that note is it just us or are these kids at up to same tricks elsewhere on the estate?

We don't wish any harm to anyone, even to these kids, quite the opposite, we want to be part of the community, to fit in and have a 'normal' life. We just want it to stop, to get to know our neighbours and maybe make some friends. At the moment however, we don't feel inclined to do so and we are even considering moving again and that's just not right.

So where are your kids tonight people? Are they playing innocently or terrorising others in the name of fun? Do you know? Do you care? Well you might be forced to if the Police come knocking on your door or if these kids choose to switch their target. Who will be next or are there others out there already in the same boat? Making this community a safe and trouble free place to live is the responsibility of us all. So act now to preserve this 'idyllic' community, it's within your power to stop the situation getting worse.

David Cairns MP - 2006: A Year of Progress

I would like to wish everyone in Wemyss Bay a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. As 2006 draws to a close, I think this is a good time to take stock of what has been happening

in Inverclyde over the last twelve months and reflect on some of the progress that we have made. Sometimes, when you read the local paper, it is easy to focus on the bad news and forget about the good, but **we should not forget about the progress that's been made throughout Inverclyde during 2006**, particularly the development of our Waterfront which will benefit everyone in Inverclyde from Wemyss Bay to Kilmacolm.

We can already see several regeneration projects along the Riverfront beginning to take shape. People are now living in the flats at the James Watt Dock, with other blocks on the opposite side of the A78 road due to be finished soon. And in November prospective home owners camped out for two days to buy houses which are being built at the Kingston Dock in Port Glasgow. Meanwhile, it also looks like the long delayed redevelopment of Gourrock will begin in 2007 bringing with it new houses, shops and improved transport facilities. Developments like these mean that there will be less pressure to build new homes in Wemyss Bay, and this will help preserve the unique character and community spirit of the village.

For Inverclyde to prosper and to reverse our area's population decline, we need new housing developments, and waterfront living is an ideal way to attract people back into the area. Places as diverse as London's Dockland, Liverpool and Leith have all kick started their regeneration by developing their waterfronts and there is no reason why we can't do the same here. The new housing will bring more council tax payers to the area and give people a wider choice about where to live in Inverclyde. **All of which should help to slow down the pace of development in Wemyss Bay.**

But the regeneration of Inverclyde is about more than new houses. The Waterfront will be a fully integrated development with commercial, retail and leisure outlets. And with these will come a variety of new jobs. There will be employment opportunities in shops, small business units, recreational facilities, the hospitality industry and caring professions to name but a few. And I want to see local people from all over Inverclyde get their fair share of these new jobs, particularly our young.

Our Waterfront is a wonderful resource which belongs to the entire community, and I am keen to see the public walkways at the James Watt Dock and the new Port Glasgow Road expanded right along the banks of the Clyde, so that you and your family can enjoy access to the river and the new facilities it will provide. And it's important that the benefits don't stop there, the

developments should also lead to improvements in existing Inverclyde facilities to drive the upgrading of our present town centres.

Regeneration is a once in a lifetime chance to bring about massive improvements in the whole of Inverclyde, in which people in Wemyss Bay and elsewhere will be able to share. It's not just about the Waterfront – it's about renewing our entire community from top to bottom. I've always felt that the river is our future as well as our past and, although we have made a great deal of progress this year, there is still much to be done.

God bless and have a happy Christmas and a good New Year.

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

Councillor Eric Forbes

It's amazing how quickly a year flies by and now we are at the last article of 2006. During the year I have dealt with many village issue from road repairs, street lighting repairs, dog fouling, litter, incidents of anti-social behaviour and of course planning matters and that is just to name but a few and it is just a few. Some have been resolved to people's satisfaction and others have not, however good reason has always been offered and my best attention given.

It is not the time for looking back but forward to Christmas and possibly by the time this article is printed our Xmas switch-on will have taken place and I know it will have been a resounding success, supported by the people in the village and their families and a good night will have taken place at the school and the Community centre. We do of course look beyond Christmas and probably the main talking point will be the refurbishment of the school. The plans look exciting and we will have a 21st century building fit for our children's educational needs.

I have to thank all those organisations and individuals who have helped me in my role as Councillor and I will look forward to that continuing.

May I, on behalf of my wife Fiona and myself, wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year that fulfils all hopes and aspirations.

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.

All I want for Christmas is...

Once upon a time there was a little girl who wanted a kitten for Christmas. Now, her mother couldn't buy a kitten and parcel it up for Christmas Day, so she bought it a week before Christmas and gave it to the little girl.

'You're getting your Christmas present a week early this year,' her mother explained and handed over the fluffy little tabby kitten. 'Is that what you want?'

The little girl, whose name was Katy, said, 'It's wonderful, mother...just what I wanted. There's just one thing wrong!'

'What's that?' her mother asked.

'Well, it has a cute little claw on the outside of every paw and a cute little claw on the inside of every paw - but the poor little thing has no claws at all in the middle of its paws!'

Her mother smiled. 'Don't worry, Katy...when you wake up on Christmas morning you'll find the claws are there.'

Now Katy loved her kitten dearly, but she worried about the claws in the middle of its paws. The days passed and there wasn't even a hint, a clue or an inkling of claws in the middle of its paws!

When Christmas Eve arrived and there was still no sign, Katy went to her mother and asked again, 'Are you absolutely sure that the kitten will have its middle claws tomorrow? There are only a few hours to go and there's not a hint or clue or an inkling as to claws as far as I can see!'

'Wait till you wake up on Christmas morning,' her mother smiled and went on stuffing the turkey.

So Katy went to sleep a worried girl. And when she woke up on Christmas morning she ignored the presents in her stocking and rushed downstairs to look at her little kitten. She was astounded, amazed and just a little surprised to see that her kitten had four claws on every paw! The middle ones had appeared as if by magic.

Katy rushed to her parent's bedroom. 'Mummy, Mummy! The kitten has grown its middle claws!'

'Of course it has,' her mother grinned.

'But how did you know?' Katy demanded.

Her father rolled over sleepily and sighed, 'Oh, Katy, everybody knows....that Centre-claws always comes at Christmas!'

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/>

Woodland Association

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 meet at the Ardgowan Road of Cliff Terrace Road. 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 and we welcome new members. It costs £3 for a family membership or £2 for individuals. Membership money helps towards our insurance and day to day running costs.

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.

Contact Eila on 529375 to find out more about any aspect of the Association's work or for a membership application form.

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**.

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.

Duncan McNeil MSP

As we open another box of mince pies, throw the calorie counter out of the window for a few weeks and pretend we understand all these perfume adverts which look like they were dreamt up after drinking the product rather than smelling it, it's traditional to reflect on the year just past and the year to come.

Perhaps the most significant change brought about by the Scottish Parliament in 2006 was the smoking ban. I confess to having doubts about how it would work in practice, but so far it seems to be going fairly smoothly.

Not only is the ban acting as a spur to encourage more smokers to quit, it makes it less likely that they will give in to temptation when out for a drink or a meal. And, more importantly, bar staff and other workers in the hospitality industry now have the same rights to work in a safe atmosphere which the rest of us have taken for granted for years.

Sadly, however, my bid to stop children taking up the deadly habit in the first place by raising the minimum legal age for buying tobacco to 18 has, at the time of writing at least, been delayed due to some frankly disgraceful political wrangling. I hope, though, that common sense will prevail and that the necessary regulations will be laid before parliament in the New Year.

2006 also saw the free bus travel scheme for pensioners and the disabled extended nationwide, giving holders of the National Entitlement Card the opportunity to explore every corner of the country. Indeed, all of us are now able to see more of Scotland - or certainly see it clearer - thanks to the introduction of free eye tests.

Here in Inverclyde, meanwhile, we welcomed a number of high-profile visitors over the past 12 months.

Patricia Ferguson, the Scottish Executive's Minister in charge of international development, came to set out the Executive's partnership with Malawi. In what was described by many who took part as a "humbling" experience, she described what she discovered during her visit to what is one of the world's poorest countries and explained how we can help the country enjoy the basics which we don't think twice about.

We also welcomed First Minister, Jack McConnell, who wanted to hear what more needs to be done to tackle antisocial behaviour and ensure that the powers the parliament has passed into law are used properly.

With the remainder of the Scottish Executive's legislative programme to be debated in the parliament and elections to both the Scottish Parliament and Inverclyde Council, 2007 is set to be just as busy.

But, before all that excitement, we have the festive season to enjoy and, if I don't see you before it, Merry Christmas when it comes.

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

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 45mm	£12/issue
¼ page	128mm x 45mm <u>or</u> 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.

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 recently 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.

Corlarach Wind Farm

The plans for the Corlarach Wind Farm proposal have now been finalised and the planning application for the 14 turbine development near Dunoon is due to be submitted to Argyll & Bute Council in 2007.

West Coast Energy is holding two public exhibitions to provide local residents and other interested parties with information about the proposal. We hope that you will come along to find out the details and discuss the plans.

The exhibitions will be held at:

Wednesday 6 December, 4.00pm-8.00pm at Wemyss Bay Hotel, Wemyss Bay, Inverclyde

Thursday 7 December, 4.00pm-8.00pm at Queens Hall, Dunoon, Argyll & Bute

On show will be the results of the environmental assessments that have been undertaken and computer generated images to show how the wind farm would look from different viewpoints.

For further information, please contact West Coast Energy Ltd on 01352 70 6177

Ardgowan Football Development

AFD Christmas Fun Day: AFD bring their 2006 session to a close with their annual Christmas Fun Day at Greenock Sports Centre on Sunday 3rd December. This is a Family Day and parents & grandparents are encouraged to come along and join in!

The timetable for the day is:

11:30am - 1:00pm	P1 - P3 and Girls
1.00pm	Special Guest and Gifts
1:15pm	Annual Club Photograph (Full Club Kit should be worn)
2:00pm - 3:30pm	P4 - P7
3:45	Special Guest and Gifts

AFD would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

AGM: The AFD AGM will be held at 4:30pm on Sunday 10th December in Wemyss Bay Community Centre. All Parents & Friends are welcome to attend.

AFD 2007: AFD will start back on Sunday 7th January with ATFC sessions commencing on Thursday 11th January 2007.

Finally

We would like to thank readers, advertisers and regular contributors for their input over the last year. We are always grateful to receive your comments, information or ideas for articles. We also would like to thank Rhona Martin for printing the Village News every month and especially for putting up with all the last minute alterations. Finally we have to thank Liz Canning and her army of volunteer distributors who ensure that you receive your copy of the Village News every month. We hope that everyone has a lovely time over the festive period and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Ken & Eila

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. 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**.

Kids' Stuff

Have you ever wondered why no-one sees Santa when he visits their house on Christmas Eve? Even if he only had to visit every child in Britain he would spend less than 0.003 seconds in each house! At that rate he could win every Olympic and World record for running. No wonder he needs all the biscuits we leave out for him – he needs the energy to keep going. Now that's magic!

I hope that you've all been good and Santa brings you lots of lovely presents. This month's wordsearch is all about Christmas. See how many words you can find.

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

- BAUBLES
- BRANDY BUTTER
- CARD
- CAROLS
- CHRISTMAS
- CRACKERS
- DECORATIONS
- HOLLY
- IVY
- PRESENTS
- PUDDING
- RUDOLPH
- SANTA CLAUS
- SNOW
- SNOWBALLS
- SNOWMAN
- STAR
- STOCKING
- TINSEL
- TREE
- TOYS
- TURKEY

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.

D	A	C
R	E	O
D	T	E

20 words – at least you're trying!

40 words – shows promise

30 words – good

50+ words – brain-box!!

Here is a clue to the 9-letter word: Your tree should be ??? by Christmas Eve.

SUDOKU

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

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