

Wemyss Bay Village News

207th Edition

March 2007

Ken and Eila Roberts Tel: 529375 eila@wemyssbay.plus.com
Community Centre Tel: 521955 <http://wemyssbay.net/>

Nursery Children Dog Foul Blues - Alison McKay

I write this letter to the person who allowed their dog (you know who you are!) to foul on the footpath to Wemyss Bay Community Centre. This path is frequently used by the nursery children and on Thursday 1 February some of the children had the misfortune of stepping in the mess. As you can imagine this caused the children some distress and, instead of having their physical play time, they spent the time getting cleaned up.

I urge all in the community to report irresponsible dog owners to the Local Authority. Full contact details of who to contact are provided in the January 2007 issue of the Village News.

Alison McKay

Jan 2007 Village News: It is an offence not to clean up after your dog in all public open spaces including parks, footpaths, beaches woodland and even common backcourts. Legislation has been in place for the last two years giving local authorities powers to fine those responsible for dogs leaving mess. Up until now owners have paid little attention because the law was rarely enforced – a situation which has now changed in Inverclyde where an increasing number of fines have now been issued. Assistant enforcement officers, usually working in pairs in case they need to give evidence, are on patrol in problem areas – such as Battery Park and Murdieston Park – but they also respond to specific complaints from residents.

The enforcement crackdown has encouraged people to approach dog owners themselves and point out that they could be fined for not cleaning up after their dog.

"We are also getting more reports from members of the public," said one of the officers. "Anyone reporting a dog-owner doesn't have to give their name. We are prepared to sit and wait, even if it takes a few mornings, to catch whoever has been reported."

If you want to report an irresponsible dog owner call 01475 714200

The Attic Players – Richard Laing

The Third Week in August performed in the last week in March. Confused? The Attic Players Spring Production 2007 is Peter Gordon's hilarious play "Third Week in August" to be performed in Skelmorlie Community Centre on Friday 30th & Saturday 31st March 2007. The story is based around Sue who tries to get away from it all on a solo caravan holiday, little does she realise that she's booked into the caravan site from hell! She is soon taken under the wing of expert but inadequate caravanner Neville....when he is not engaged in battle with his wife or trying to cope with his recently separated sister-in-law.

Matters become complicated with the arrival of the enthusiastic Tony and his sceptical girlfriend Jenny, who has joined him against her better judgement. In an effort to boost "camp spirit", Neville decides that a communal barbecue is the order of the day....then things really start to hot up! With a script that is sure to raise a chuckle and a cast of oddball characters there is only one question still to be answered - how will the backstage crew manage to create a caravan park scene on Skelmorlie Community Centre's 22 foot wide stage?

With consecutive sell out performances for the last 3 years please purchase your tickets ASAP to avoid disappointment. Tickets priced £6.00 including refreshments are available from Wemyss Bay Pharmacy, Medical Hall, Skelmorlie, Skelmorlie Spar or phone Richard 522793 or e-mail tickets@attic-players.co.uk

For information on this article or the Attic Players please contact Richard Laing on tel 522793 or e-mail info@attic-players.co.uk

Thank You – Courtney & Dillon Kane

Courtney and Dillon Kane would like to thank all their friends for making their leaving party a night to remember. Special thanks go to the proprietors of Funworld. Thanks for all the gifts we received and we will be thinking of you all when we are on the beach in Australia. We will miss you!

Courtney & Dillon

New Beaver Scout Colony – David McCallum (District Commissioner)

Greenock District Scout Council started a Beaver Scout Colony for boys and girls aged 5yrs 9months – 8yrs on Thursday 22nd February. It will run each week on a Thursday evening at the halls of St Patrick and St Joseph, and has been set up with the assistance of Eric Forbes and Father Boyle. The times are 6.30 to 7.30pm. We are recruiting now. Enrolling will continue throughout March. If you would like your child to become involved, or would like more information, come along on Thursday evening or telephone Shirley Cairney on 529068.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church – Rev W Armstrong

REGULAR PROGRAMME

SUNDAY WORSHIP, every Sunday at 11.00am
SUNDAY CLUB (*for children*), every Sunday at 11.00am
OUT OF THE ARK (*for primary school children*) the last Monday of the month
BIBLE STUDY, every Monday, 7.30pm
BALLROOM DANCING, every Tuesday, 7.00pm
COUNTRY DANCING, every Wednesday, 7.30pm
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, 8 February, 7.30pm
FRIDAY LUNCHESES, every Friday, 12.15-1.30pm

You are welcome to attend any of the events that may be of interest to you.

Guiding Influence:

At a time when many despair of the younger generation it is reassuring to discover that there are still exceptionally talented and committed young people in all walks of life. When the Guides and their sister organisations were welcomed to our Church last month for their World Thinking Day service, Alison Carmichael, a university student from Wemyss Bay, told of her visit to Malawi during her summer vacation last year. She had taught English in a local school and had taken with her a considerable supply of pencil cases, which were highly treasured by the children there.

It emerged during the service that Alison had been chosen to carry the colours of the Chief Guide at a World Thinking Day service in Westminster Abbey the following Sunday, but this self-effacing young lady thought it was "no big deal". In days when youngsters are often influenced and misguided by the so-called great and glamorous it is good to see in Alison an outstanding role model. Our local Guiding Association and our community must be very proud of her.

Toch – Maurice Dawson

Toch Burns Supper was held recently at the Skelmorlie Community Centre by the local branch, to pay tribute to the many loyal residents who have acted as helpers in the past.

After Grace, Chairman Neil Nicolson asked Jimmy Law to address the haggis and he also proposed the immortal Memory. Bill Armstrong tasted "the Lassies" and Laura replied with a witty rejoinder. Mary Law recalled events as far back as 1965 after the branch was formed.

Nearly everyone, it seemed, made their contribution with songs and recitations, some with great aplomb as with Neil Nicolson Jnr with a rendition of Tam O'Shanter. Moira Gallagher, Peter & Frank McCamley and Bill Armstrong sang with heartfelt sincerity. Others improvised with memorable but sometimes hesitant contributions which were well applauded. Neil Nicolson wound up the entertainment with Gaelic songs, followed by a vote of thanks from Iona Doull.

This may well have been the last Burns Supper, as some of the members are beginning to feel their age and the movement, as a whole, is in a somewhat hazy state. But some encouraging signs are in the offing and perhaps these may bear fruit – we shall have to see.

Country People's Club

The March / April meetings of the above club will be held at 2.30pm in the Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip. Speakers are as follows:

Wed 7th March: Mrs Elsie Hinshelwood on the subject of "The Story of St. Kilda".

Wed 21st March: Mr Alex Johnstone on the subject of "Prison Life".

Wed 4th April: Mr Ian Quinn on the subject of "The Waverly's Diamond Jubilee".

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.

David Cairns MP: Managing Wemyss Bay's growth – A challenge for us all

In the last twenty years Wemyss Bay has been transformed from a quiet sleepy village, to one of the most popular and fastest growing communities in Inverclyde. The village is one of the area's great success stories and has attracted people from all over Inverclyde and beyond. But with the new houses and the influx of families comes another challenge – the challenge of managing growth. Local man, John Reid, raised many good points in his letter published in last month's edition, and I know from the many people I have spoken to in the village that he is voicing concerns that are widespread throughout the community.

People in Wemyss Bay are law abiding; you pay your income tax, council tax and take your obligations as citizens seriously. You are entitled to expect that your local elected politicians listen to your concerns and fight to ensure that the village gets its fair share of resources from the Council, the Scottish Executive and the Westminster Government. And this is exactly what I have tried to do since I first became your MP in 2001.

During the last six years many people in Wemyss Bay have contacted me, and the most striking thing is that the majority of them raised issues, not relating to their own personal situation, but to their community, questions which affected village life as a whole. I have been approached by people concerned about playing fields, sports facilities, traffic calming, ramps for the disabled, the community centre, the woodland trust and many others too numerous to mention. Every single request has been responded to and, although I have not been able to secure everything that each group wanted, I like to think that I have done my best to help each and every section of the community who approached me. Some organisations I have helped with funding requests, while for others I have raised their concerns with both local and national government.

And, of course, let's not forget the problem villagers have receiving the ordinary terrestrial TV signal that most people in Inverclyde take for granted. I am now campaigning to make sure that Wemyss Bay isn't left behind in the new digital age, and that when the digital switchover occurs, you will have access to public service broadcasting on the same terms as everyone else.

To me, the most important thing for the people of Wemyss Bay, and their political representatives, is where do we go from here? I, for one, believe that we need to work in tandem with the community, take your views on board to see how the village can progress and move forward on a whole variety of fronts. Our job as politicians is not to tell you what is good for you, but to listen to what you want and work out how best to help you. Villagers, rightly, demand more for their community and that's why I will continue to fight for Wemyss Bay on both the local and national front and I will be happy to take up any issue that the local community brings to me.

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

Wemyss Bay Primary School PTA – Gillian Pollock

Thursday 26th April 2007 - Ladies Pamper Evening. Once again we will be joined by the beauty therapists from James Watt College who will be offering a variety of treatments on the night. With this and a Cheese and Wine this should prove to be a good night out. Further details will be available in next month's News. Please note that this event will be held in the Community Centre.

Skelmorlie Golf Club – Donald McDiarmid (Captain)

Skelmorlie Golf Club welcomes new members and, at present, we have no joining fee. We are very much a friendly local club, with some of the most spectacular views in the area.

We have a very active junior section so why not join as a family?

We are supportive of the Executive's sport initiative, and would confirm that golf can be good for your health (and your figure!).

The golf course is playable all the year round, and only very occasionally are winter greens used.

For further information phone 520152, or pay a visit and have a look round.

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays 6th & 20th March and 3rd & 17th April. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 13th & 27th March and 10th & 24th April.

Duncan McNeil MSP

If we are serious about tackling global warming, we need to be more successful at changing people's behaviour.

This, of course, means spelling out the dire consequences of doing nothing and making our environmentally damaging decisions hit our pocket. A persistently negative message, though, turns us off. It makes us resent change and cynically see it as just another way to prize us apart from our hard-earned cash. And if Ministers don't get us on their side and bring us with them, we won't change our long-established patterns of behaviour until the Clyde's lapping round our necks.

A bit of positive encouragement, then, wouldn't go amiss. And I was pleased to see that plans are in the pipeline to reward householders who become more environmentally friendly, rather than simply penalise those whose behaviour is unsustainable.

The plan, currently being considered by the First Minister, will provide incentives to make your home greener. Recycling your household waste, for example, could see your council tax bill cut. Recycling, though, isn't even half the battle. We need to stop using as many natural resources in the first place, so, again, householders who insulate their home so they use less energy for heating will also see a cut in their bills.

These plans, of course, are still at an early stage and many of the fine details remain to be worked out – especially as this is the first time such a scheme would have been run in the UK.

The idea, though, is a strong one. And the combination of carrot and stick might just be what makes us change our ways before it's too late.

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

Girlguiding Wemyss Bay – Marilyn McLaughlin (Brown Owl)

We've all had a busy time since we started back after Christmas.

The Rainbows had a pretend slumber party, brought their teddies and had hot chocolate. There were lots of happy parents afterwards as they were all ready for their real beds. Several of them went to the Rainbow Roadshow and had a super time trying out lots of activities. The Rainbows are full and have a waiting list, so if your daughter is nearly 5 and you want her to join please leave a message on our e-mail (below).

The Brownies Country Dancing team once again won the Rob Roy trophy at the Inverclyde Festival and are dancing in the Glasgow Festival in a few weeks – they won that last year, so watch this space. They had a "loving" time on 14th February making the most beautifully sticky biscuits, cards and trying out origami hearts. The Thinking Day meeting was great as they all went to China to celebrate the year of the pig.

The Guides celebrated Shrove Tuesday by having a Pancake competition where they designed their own fillings which was judged by Kirsty Carmichael (Brown Owl sends her sympathy as she judged the porridge competition last year). This was followed by a pancake race. Congratulations to Seonaidh for gaining her Baden Powell Trefoil award.

The annual ceilidh was its usual wonderful success. Around 60 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides danced and sang, and ate and drank the night away. Amanda and Sarah made their Promise during it. The "haggis" was piped in by Wilma Carroll (our District Commissioner) and addressed by Jane Morris. The children's faces had to be seen when it burst open and was full of sweets.

All the units from Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay joined together at the local church for their Thinking Day service and the girls were stars. The congregation voted it the best one yet. Our thanks to Mr Armstrong. Kirsty and Allison Carmichael were presented with bouquets as a thank you for their work with the dancing team.

We are very proud of Allison as she has been chosen to be in the colour party carrying the Chief Guide's Colours at the huge international Thinking Day service in Westminster Abbey. Between that and her trip to Africa she is a Guider for the girls to really look up to. Well done.

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

Councillor Eric Forbes: My Response to "An Open Letter by John Reid"

I refer to the letter in the February edition of the Village News and here is my open and honest response to the questions posed and issues raised.

I would like to point that there is an agreement with the Editor that none of the politicians would use the Village News as a political platform and definitely not for any form of electioneering purposes. To date I have observed this arrangement. I will let the others speak for themselves.

I respond to the issues wearing three (3) hats as follows, as a resident for 10 years, as a willing volunteer and as the elected member for Ward 20 since 2003.

The question of volunteers running the Community Centre: There are almost 300 volunteer groups who manage or run different organisations throughout Inverclyde. Some are supported by the Council through in-kind support or direct finance. There are many reasons why it is better for that to be the case as volunteer groups can link into funding streams not open to the Council to do so and probably in a large number of cases the volunteers do a better job through their direct link to the community they represent. Is that me being detrimental to Council employees - certainly not we have many energetic, willing and professional Officers out working in the Community and doing a very good job. It is being realistic and accepting that the Council cannot do everything. Partnership working is always to be encouraged and supported and with some organisations it is the best way to operate. Wemyss Bay is rich in community spirit and wealthy in its very willing volunteers who have to be applauded. I would be interested to hear from the management of the Community Centre as to my involvement with them which is when called upon to assist be it with some issue about finance or just general Council assistance. I also believe that our Officers are readily available to assist at all times and have done so in the past and will continue to do so.

Does the building need attention? Yes. Are we going to get it? Yes. How do I know that? Well. As a result of the Budget setting on 15 February, 2007 a Community Investment Fund has been set up by the Liberal administration to the tune of £1,000,000 and this has to be used for investment in "well used Council facilities" and in the Budget papers one of the examples used to demonstrate "a well used community facility" is Wemyss Bay Community Centre." I will now be able to bid straight to that fund and not have to go through the process of bidding into the "general pot" and I will do so. Everyone has aspirations but sometimes they have to be tempered as to what can be achieved.

There will be a new set up within the school once it has been re-built to "21st century requirements" there will be availability for community use. Two halls will become available for use therefore creating more space. We have to look sensibly at the availability of space before we commit sums of money.

Re. the Gala weekend - it is a community volunteer well run event that allows the community to express what it wants for Wemyss Bay over that weekend. Is that a bad thing and I am sure various organisations made some funds as a result. I as well as my wife were very willing volunteers at the Gala weekend - ask the management please - and also attended the social events. Any praise for the success must go down to the volunteers and those residents who supported the weekend there is absolutely no denying that. Why change something that is working well - be supportive.

The Woodland Group: Both myself and my wife have been members of this group since it started and have spent many a happy and socially conducive weekend not forgetting the very physical work we all carried out. The Woodland Group falls into the very category of being able to access funding streams that the Council could not and consequently with the financial support of the Council the very hard working members of the Committee were able to put together a "cocktail of funding" that has resulted in the woods that we have now, better access and more user friendly together with other benefits that a properly managed wood offers in the way of social enjoyment and education. I was also able to obtain an extra £10,000 funding to go towards further work needing to be done over and above the original investment by the Council. The Committee which very much includes the Editor of this Newsletter and the other totally committed members of the committee have worked very hard with Lower Clyde Greenspace Officers to achieve what we now have something which in all honesty would probably not have happened had the "push" not come from the community and a willingness. The woods are covered by a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) and will hopefully in the very near future be designated a Local Nature Reserve so I am at a loss to understand Mr. Reid's suggestion that further house would have resulted had the Group not been set up. In the process of the new Local Plan this administration made sure that the TPO was extended to a part not covered and by doing this it now means that the area is well and truly designated - not for housing.

Re. the "no brainer 21st Century school." This where it is difficult not to get political, and I will try not to do so. The school is 25 years old and one must ask oneself if it had had the proper investment over the years, moving with the times why are we now spending £3.5m, in other words re-building the school.

Councillor Forbes (contd)

We are doing it because it is the right thing to do and the right time to do it. With regard to timing: The School Estates Strategy is being run out over the next ten years and therefore Wemyss Bay and also Inverkip Primaries could have been towards the end of the strategy but I was able to lobby and make sure that both schools were on the early part of the programme. I cannot do any better than that and if that is a "no brainer" then I have to plead guilty.

In relation to money streams: We do not have SIP areas - now, we have SIMDs (areas that fall under the Social Indices of Multiple Deprivation) and I am sorry we do not qualify. If Mr. Reid knows differently then I am prepared to be educated.

Scottish Executive monies very often come with prescriptive spending tags and not one of them mentions Wemyss Bay. I have explored European funding from a rural perspective but even that has been unsuccessful. I am always asking Officers to try and identify monies for our area but other areas have a head start on us. I will continue to press our case at all times. Ask anyone who has spoken to me about the lights and they will tell you that it is a "hobby-horse" of mine and that includes the Officers and I am aware that there will now be a review of the lights referred to by Mr. Reid. Mr. Reid has not raised any of these matters prior to now asking for my take on it.

Ardgowan Football Development - I have been approached by several members over the past years in relation to help and assistance for what is now a very successful and growing organisation with members both from within and outwith the village. I have explained that we would need to at least wait to see what facilities will be produced as a result of the school set-up and that would help determine what would in actual fact be available for use. The existing school pitch will be replaced with an AstroTurf pitch that will be floodlit for 7 a-side matches as recommended by SportsScotland who have been consulted throughout the process. This will be available for Community use as will be the accommodation in the school. I am also in the process of negotiating a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) for Wemyss Bay and if that comes to fruition, depending on an Insurance Company's determination of a bond, then I would say we are becoming healthy in the area of new facilities in the village and allowing our children to enjoy the full worth and range of physical activities. I am always open to be contacted and I have helped the organisation through liaising with the relevant Officers of the then Grounds, Transport and Cleansing Department whom I am aware in some small ways have helped them. If the organisation is now serving a much wider area of youngsters than the village namely, from further afield within Inverclyde and outwith then a new look has to be taken as to where the financial or other support should come from.

If I have missed answering any of the points raised by Mr. Reid then I can be contacted for clarification. I set out to be open and honest in my reply and I feel I have done so.

Mr. Reid asked you to consider what has been done by the politicians. Well I have set out my stall and I will be judged on that together with all the many other issues I have dealt with over the years as your Councillor.

If Mr. Reid is asking you to look at the Liberal and Labour politicians then I ask you - Is he in fact electioneering on behalf of any other party? I do not know whether he is, by posing such a question and using the columns of the Village News 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.

Editor's Note

We generally take the position that the Village News should not be used as a political vehicle. Last month however we printed "An Open Letter to Our Politicians" by John Reid. In view of that we felt that it was only fair to give each of our elected members the right to respond and, with that in mind, forwarded them each a copy of the letter and invited their comments. We do not however intend to print an ongoing debate between individuals and therefore any future discussions should take place directly between those involved. In particular, in the lead up to the local authority and Scottish Parliamentary elections, it would be inappropriate to take on an electioneering role for any candidate. We appreciate the elected members co-operation with this but do accept that, in this particular case, it is impossible for them to address the issues raised without a party political bias.

Wemyss Bay Tiny Tots – Fiona Mangan

Wemyss Bay Tiny Tots meet every Tuesday and Thursday in the Community Centre from 9.30 – 11.30am. We are looking for some more toys for children aged 0 – 3 years of age. Maybe you have some useful toys in reasonable condition which you no longer require and which we could make use of. Why not pop down to the Community Centre on Tuesday or Thursday mornings or phone Fiona Mangan on 522092 to make arrangements for collection.

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council News – Innes Nelson

We were recently contacted by John Yellowlees, external relations manager at Network Rail. John has arranged to meet with the Community at Wemyss Bay Station on Tuesday the 6th of March at 12:40 for a walk about and discussion of current issues affecting the station. John has also asked if community volunteers would be interested in adopting the station. Help might include feedback on issues such as vandalism or litter to tending to floral displays. The station is registered with Historic Scotland as a list A building so any changes requested would have to be in keeping with the original features. If you are interested or have any ideas you would like to put to John then please come along and join us.

Many members of the community have been asking, what is the status of the application to build a Windfarm at Leapmoor behind Wemyss Bay and Inverkip. Inverclyde Council planning department have advised us that the developer, Community Windpower Ltd, has asked for a continuation of the application until April so that they can provide additional information to Scottish Natural Heritage. One of the objectors to the proposal was Scottish Natural Heritage who have major concerns regarding protected birds in and around Leapmoor. The area immediately south of Leapmoor Forrest has now been designated as Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) to protect the endangered Hen Harriers which breed there. On the 6th of February Scottish Natural Heritage announced that they have received funding of £346,000 to support positive management of these moorlands on which the Hen Harriers live.

Another application for 36 flats at Ardvaar and Fresh Creek on Wemyss Bay Road is still ongoing. However we have been told that the trunk roads authority has raised concerns regarding the exit onto the A78.

At our last Community Council meeting Turley Associates acting on behalf of Scottish Power presented their proposals for the Inverkip Power Station site which has been endorsed by Inverclyde Councillors for mixed use in the 2005 Local Plan policy SA 5.

Robin Holder and Michael McAuley gave a power point presentation of what they proposed for the site including 400 to 600 new houses.

Afterwards it was pointed out that there were already too many cars on the A78 and that the site would not be well served by public transport. Innes Nelson asked why if the site had to be developed would they not consider high quality small business units and waterfront offices which would allow local people to run businesses locally and traffic to flow in the opposite direction at peak travelling times thereby helping to alleviate congestion rather than add to it with cars from hundreds of new houses. The presenters stated that the site had to be for mixed use not all industrial and that a large portion of housing was their preferred option.

The proposed method of demolition is to take away the power station buildings and storage tanks before collapsing the 760 foot high chimney on to the cleared site.

If you have any concerns we can help with please contact us, or we would be pleased to see you at our monthly meetings which are normally held at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of each month in The Rogues Room at Inverkip Hotel. Our next meeting is on the 1st of March 2007. The Community Council is actively seeking new members. If you are interested please contact Lynne Chambers on 522603 or Innes Nelson on 520092.

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**.

Fly the friendly skies

All too rarely, airline attendants make an effort to make the in flight announcements and "safety lecture" a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

1. On a Southwest flight (SW has no assigned seating, you just sit where you want) passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!"
 2. On a Continental Flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."
 3. On landing, the stewardess said, "Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."
 4. "There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane"
 5. "Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."
 6. As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Ronald Reagan Airport, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"
 7. After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."
 8. From a Southwest Airlines employee: "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight 245 to Tampa . To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seatbelt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."
 9. "In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favourite."
 10. "Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."
- More examples in next month's Village News.

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.

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
1/4 page	128mm x 45mm or 64mm x 90mm	£24/issue
1/2 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.

2007 Gala

This year the Gala weekend will take place on Friday 15th – Sunday 17th June. The weekend kicks off on Friday evening with a "Beach Party" and everyone is encouraged to get into the spirit of the night by wearing appropriate clothing – just remember the midges!! Saturday is Gala Day, with the usual range of stalls, entertainment and fairground attractions, while on Sunday, Ardgowan Football Development will hold their Open Day, showcasing the talent and achievements of our local youngsters. As usual the success of the Gala depends entirely on having enough volunteers to help out with the preparations and to ensure that everything runs smoothly over the weekend and this year is no exception. As each year the Gala gets bigger and better, it is even more vital that this year we have more volunteers. We require bar staff, face-painters, people to run the Association's stall, helpers at the bouncy castle, people to sell tokens for rides, staff for the soup kitchen, raffle ticket and balloon race sellers, furniture removers, tent erectors, cleaners, dish-washers, litter-collectors. We need volunteers from 8.30am till 11pm on Friday, 8.30am till 10.30pm on Saturday and again on Sunday until around 5pm. In order to give everyone the chance to enjoy the weekend we are trying to draw up a rota so that everyone just has to do an hour or two's work over the course of the weekend – are you available? There is something that everyone could do, so if you want to be involved in helping your community enjoy a great Gala weekend and are available over the course of the event, even for an hour or two, then please phone Kirsty on 520738. Believe it or not, it is fun!

Woodland Association

The Association will be holding working weekends on Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th and Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th March. 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 and soup at lunchtime. We have a qualified first aider present at all times (although thankfully, so far, the worst we have had to deal with is the odd scratch, minor cut or midge bites). 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. It is our aim to try and complete the major part of the remaining rhododendron clearance in the terraced gardens and its approaches, in the run-up to Easter, leaving us only a limited amount of re-growth to tackle thereafter. If you have been along at any time in the last 4 years, why not join us for a last push. If you have not helped out before but use the wood in any way, then this is your opportunity to join in and contribute to the improvement of a much used local amenity.

Recently, additional funding has been secured for extra planting along the boundaries of the woodland and also some additional drainage work within the main wood, along with some essential tree surgery and treatment of rhododendron re-growth in the terrace area. Thanks go to Lower Clyde Greenspace for this funding and, in particular, to Councillor Forbes for his assistance and lobbying to secure it. The work is being carried out by BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) trainees and you can expect to see them, and their van, in the vicinity of the wood on a regular basis over the coming weeks. If you're passing why not thank them for their efforts – as with our local volunteers, they don't get paid and only materials, tools, insurance and other vital overheads cost anything.

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.

Although we are now passed the bulb planting season, the Bulb Fund is still open for donations. Money donated, in addition to bulbs, is also used for the purchase of wildflowers and seeds and this is carried out at the appropriate times throughout the year.

Membership fees and/or donations to the Bulb Fund can be sent to Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay or left in a sealed envelope in the Village News folder in Spar. Please include your name and address in order that we can send you a receipt. Cheques should be made payable to Wemyss Bay Community Woodland Association.

For more information about any aspect of the Association's work please contact Eila on 529375 or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

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.

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

The Bible Club and Youth Group, run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM), meets every Monday evening 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 7.45pm 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.

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. If you are interested in becoming involved in the work of the Association, or even if you simply would like to find out a bit more about what is going on, you will be most welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

Village News - Can You Help?

We have a dedicated band of distributors who help out each month by delivering the Village News to homes in their area however we still require more help. In particular, we need more distributors to cover parts of Greenock Road and the Lighthouses. If you can spare an hour once a month please phone Eila on 529375. Similarly if you are aware of any other areas in the village which do not receive regular copies of the Village News, please get in touch in order that we can rectify this.

Do you have some local news and are desperate to share it? Telephone Eila on 529375 or send your articles to eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

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/>

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 the April edition of the Village News will be Tuesday 20th March at 6pm. 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**

Wordsearch

How well do you know your country? This month's wordsearch contains the names of some of the cities, town and villages to be found in Scotland. See if you can find your way around the country.

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

- ABERDEEN
- DUNFERMLINE
- INVERKIP
- NAIRN
- STEWARTON
- ABERFELDY
- EDINBURGH
- IRVINE
- OBAN
- THURSO
- AUCHTERARDER
- ELGIN
- JEDBURGH
- PAISLEY
- ULVA
- AYR
- GLASGOW
- KILMACOLM
- PERTH
- WEMYSS BAY
- BANFF
- GOUROCK
- MOFFAT
- PORT GLASGOW
- WICK
- BARRHEAD

GREENOCK MOSCOW RHU DUNDEE
 HAWICK NEWTON STEWART ROTHESAY

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 are over 160 possible words and at least one 9-letter word. As a clue: They do this to milk.

P	R	A
S	E	I
T	U	S

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

SUDOKU

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

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