

Issue 7

The Grapevine

Autumn 2012

Blair Drummond Grapevine gratefully acknowledges United Auctions generosity in printing this and previous editions of this newsletter.



Safari Park News

The 2012 season is coming to an end at Blair Drummond Safari & Adventure Park. The Park will close for the winter on Sunday 28th October. This season has seen many births in our on-going baby boom! We have had Angus, a southern white rhino calf; Libby, a lion cub; Luki, a bear cub, as well as a baby donkey, baby marmosets and numerous baby monkeys.

In addition to the births, the Park has also undertaken some big building projects. We are near completion of a new elephant habitat; our three African elephants will move house this winter and the public will be able to access the indoor viewing area from next season. It is also our aim to start work on a new tiger house this winter.

This year we have increased our conservation efforts. As well as our on-going fundraising for this year's European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) Southeast Asia Campaign. We are also big supporters of Save the Rhino, and we have held Rhino Fun days to raise funds for critically endangered species of rhino. Our rhino breeding project is in full swing and we are hopeful that we will have more good news in the spring. We are in the process of designing a new habitat for native insects, and think the area will be a hit with all keen bug-hunters. On the estate

we are continuing to support our expanding population of wild red squirrels and have just released 100 of the vulnerable grey partridge in the hope they will establish and breed in the spring. Bird monitoring and ringing is still in full swing and we have also recently started moth trapping too. Making the Park more insect friendly was just one of the activities we started doing since National Insect Week, we are planning to make areas in the Park rich in wild flowers in a bid to help the insects and bees.

There are still a few weeks left before we close, so make sure you come and see us one more time, before the cold sets in, 'child free' vouchers are still available on the website! Remember we will be selling Christmas trees, wreaths and logs again this winter. Please keep an eye on our website www.blairdrummond.com or like us on Facebook, to keep up to date with behind the scenes news, stories and events.

D Warren
Education Officer

Editorial

“PLANS are USELESS but PLANNING is INDISPENSABLE”- Dwight D Eisenhower.

As the latest proposed Stirling Local Development Plan will be considered by Stirling Council on 26th September and, if approved, published about 15th October it was thought to be worth seeing if there are any proposals which affect Blair Drummond and on which some members of our community might wish to make written representations to the Council. If you are someone for whom change is worrying then you can relax as it appears there are no meaningful proposals for development/change of use of land in Blair Drummond. Conversely if you wish to seek possible developments in areas of Blair Drummond then you have eight weeks, up to 10th December, to make your representations. Any unresolved objections to the proposed development Plan will be considered by a Scottish Government reporter in the Spring of next year and the Plan then finalised – till the next one in five years time!

For Doune, Gargunnoch and Thornhill there are some housing developments either under way or contemplated, especially in Doune where up to 152 units could be built in the School Wynd area. Doune residents have made their largely 'anti' views known on this, with particular reference to the detrimental pressures this would have on the existing Health Centre and Primary School. Much of Doune, Gargunnoch and Thornhill are within conservation areas and the Council is considering some alterations to the boundaries in all three places.

Planning applications in the Blair Drummond area relate almost entirely to individual housing and building alterations and new house building, almost all of which are granted. Indeed under the recent Supplementary Guidance – Housing in the Countryside, issued by the Scottish Government, Planning Authorities throughout Scotland are directed (subject inevitably to some conditions) to permit new single or small numbers of houses in situations such as in-fill sites, conversion of farm steadings and other non-domestic buildings and single houses for specific sites and purposes.

On the more controversial subject of Wind Farms and single or small groups of Turbines, which can range in height from very large (over 110m) to small (under 25m), it is unlikely any will be erected in Blair Drummond itself, as to avoid detrimental effects to residential areas wind farms and turbines are very unlikely to be granted permission if they are within 2 km of a city town or village, or even within 500m of individual rural residential properties. This approach rules out most of Blair Drummond: But obviously Blair Drummond could be affected indirectly by wind farms or turbines being erected on our surrounding hills, as we already know from the wind farm on the Braes of Doune.

The Planning process is used to make decisions about the future development and use of land in our cities, towns and countryside. The system regulates the use of land and buildings by granting

or refusing permissions on a balance of competing demands, to ensure that land is used and developed in the public's long term interest and to help increase sustainable economic growth. It is important for us all to keep an eye open on what is happening so that our collective community views are known. The Planning Scotland Act 2007 makes it clear that planning is meant to be inclusive involving local people in decisions that shape the development of their communities.

R Graham

PS The heading quotation by Eisenhower was made about preparing for battle but it also has relevance to development planning!



Briarlands Farm

Well, that's the end of the summer season already at Briarlands Farm! And we are delighted to say our new Farmer's Den indoor tearoom has been a huge success, especially given the rainy summer we have had this year.

With our new Farmer's Den it also means we won't be closing at the end of this season but will be staying open all year round! Outdoor activities include the jumping pillows, go karts, tyre maze, mini diggers and the animal paddocks.

A NEW indoor activity corner will also open, from October. The 'Busy Bees' corner will be a staffed area, where children can create popular decopatch crafts. Please Google decopatch for more info on this activity.

This year we will be holding a family Halloween party, on Sunday 28th October; and a Bonfire night on Sunday 4th November. Please email for further information – info@briairlandsfarm.co.uk or phone – 01786 841309.

Please also like us on Facebook, for up to date news from the farm.

Mandy Beer

Admissions Supervisor

Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council

Next meeting- Tuesday 30th October 2012, 7.30pm at Thornhill Primary School.

Camphill Blair Drummond Drums up Local Support

Join us, and support Camphill Blair Drummond, as we launch our public appeal to build new houses and workshops and help secure the future of our community.

Camphill Blair Drummond is a residential community, which provides homes and daily activities for adults with complex learning disabilities who need extra care and support. Residents and day students live together, learn new skills through daily workshops and enjoy making friends.

The appeal has so far focused on achieving major contributions from trusts, companies and statutory sources and we have already built four fantastic new workshops and began work on two of our new houses. The appeal has been successful so far but we now really need the public's help to complete the transformation. These improvements are vital to secure the future of our community, improve the quality of life for residents and allow us to welcome more people who would benefit enormously from our way of life.

There are lots of ways to get involved and support our appeal, and there are already a number of events planned both on site at Camphill Blair Drummond and throughout the surrounding area. We are so pleased by all the offers of help and support that have come in so far, but it would be fantastic for the local community to really get behind our appeal.

New Regional Fundraising Manager Elsie Riley says "I think Camphill Blair Drummond is a really inspiring place, a very warm and welcoming community, it is so nice to see everyone working together to make it a really positive place. Everyone has been so helpful and welcoming and I really look forward to the public phase of the appeal really taking off"

There are lots of events for Camphill coming up locally including:

Wednesday 17th October, 10am-5pm - Duntreath Castle Fair, Duntreath Castle, Blanefield

Tuesday 30th October 5.30pm-8pm and **Wednesday 31st October**, 10.30am- 4pm - Autumn Fair, Camphill Blair Drummond

Sunday 4th November, 7pm - Opening More Doors Concert, Church of the Holy Rood, Stirling

Sunday 24th November, 11am, Sponsored Bike Safari, Camphill Blair Drummond

Saturday 1st December, 2pm-4pm - Advent Sale, Camphill Blair Drummond

You are all very welcome at our events, if you would like more information, would like to attend or if you would like to support the appeal in any other way, please get in touch.

Elsie Riley

01786 843047

elsie@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk

www.camphillblairdrummond.org.uk

Camphill Blair Drummond launches brand new bike safari!

Residents at Camphill Blair Drummond, a community for adults with a learning disability, along with new Regional Fundraising Manager Elsie Riley, have launched an exciting brand new event!

The Sponsored Bike Safari will take place on 24th November at 11am and everyone is welcome to bring their bikes and come along. The registration fee is just £10 for adults, £5 for children, or £15 for a family and participants are encouraged to raise additional sponsorship as well if they can, but there is no minimum.

The Sponsored Bike Safari was the idea of the residents, many of whom really enjoy cycling. But we decided to make it even more interesting by offering a cycle challenge round the Safari Park with three different animal inspired challenges. Participants can choose from an Iguana, Zebra or Cheetah challenges, which are 1 lap, 5 laps or a really challenging 10 laps of the Safari Park.

As well as helping to organise the challenge, three of the residents have also decided that they would like to take part, and have already been training for the challenge.

There will also be refreshments for all participants, so hopefully it will be a really nice family day out.

We hope the Sponsored Bike Safari will be one of the most fun and rewarding ways that you can support Camphill Blair Drummond, and take part alongside residents, staff and volunteers.

If you would like to take part in the Sponsored Bike Safari please call Elsie on 01786 843047, or e-mail elsie@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk or visit our website www.camphillblairdrummond.org.uk.

E Riley

Regional Fundraiser Manager



A Blair Drummond perspective on London 2012 and beyond!

OK. So I work in sport, and those of you who know our family, know that sport does feature pretty highly on the Holl family agenda. Sometime too highly I suspect, but that's another discussion topic. So, views that I have about London 2012 and the experiences that we have had, are inevitably tainted and influenced by that sporting involvement!

Even with that taken into consideration though what a stunning summer! Own up if you didn't spend more time sitting in front of the television than was probably good for you – a bit of a irony given the strap line of - “inspire a generation” into activity! The danger is the legacy of the summer in the first instance is an extra few pounds (or grams/kilograms) on the waist-line!

The Olympics and Paralympics are slightly strange for me in a working context – a key objective for us at work (the Governing Body of Athletics in Scotland) is to support, assist, and prepare our top Scottish athletes qualify for the Olympics (and world championships etc. as well). We do that through employing elite coaches, working with science and medical staff (mainly from the sportscotland Institute of Sport – based at Stirling University), acting as a race agent at times (getting athletes into key races), paying for warm weather training trips, and a whole host of other ways of supporting the athletes. Once they qualify for the Olympics however, our responsibility changes and it is “Team GB” who take over. That means, come the event we are looking on from the side a wee it – very involved and running every stride with the athlete, but not in the village or team.

That changes totally when it gets to a Commonwealth Games – there we compete as “Team Scotland”, and especially given the next Commonwealth games in Glasgow in 2014 are being hosted by us (as a nation!), we are especially involved. So come late July 2014, key members of my staff will be running the Scottish athletics team – working very closely with our partners Commonwealth Games Scotland (based at Stirling University as it happens). At the same time, volunteers, and “technical Officials” from across Scotland will be the lifeblood of the event – really bringing it to life and making it happen – very much as we saw the Games Makers do in London. The Technical Officials are the referees, umpires, and in athletics case, time-keepers, photo-finish team, sand-pit rakers – a very long list of key people!

Come 2014 the athletics will happen at Hampden Park – a world first (Scottish ingenuity again), as a football stadium gets converted temporarily to fit in an athletics track. Remember – an athletics track is bigger than a football pitch, so the level needs to be raised about 9ft in order for it to fit in. That's one reason the marathon won't finish in the stadium in 2014 – that last hill just before the finish would not be fair! Can you imagine the “Hampden Roar” for athletics?

Now then, did you try and get tickets for London – any event? Did you miss out? Do you now regret not experiencing the events live? I will say the Olympics and Paralympics on TV were fantastic. Live they were even better! Start planning now to get your Glasgow 2014 Tickets – a hot property I hope, but easier to get than London 2012 tickets I'm sure. The Glasgow athletics programme is fully “integrated” – so events for elite athletes with a disability will be taking place integrated with other events. Better that way.

Our athletics clubs are currently “inundated” with people (mainly young people) wanting to join. Wonderful, and what we had hoped/prepared for. The challenges are – enough adult volunteers to coach, assist and run the clubs. That is one of the biggest problems sport as a whole faces. I work in sport, I volunteer in sport. It takes time as well as training and expertise. Not everyone has the time to give for fair reasons, but if we are to “inspire a generation of Scots” during Glasgow 2014, we will need more parents willing to volunteer to help and not just drop children off at a club and head to Tesco's (other supermarket brands do exist!).

Back to our family experience in London. - Watching a world record in the men's 800m was pretty special. More special for me than the queue for the 2012 shop – absolute murder in there – lost the family repeatedly, but actually escaped without too much rubbish being bought. It reminds you though that the Olympics is a very commercial event. I'm pleased to say the games makers and volunteers reminded you it is also about people having a great time, whilst the athletes reminded us its all about performing on the day when it matters. Didn't they!

Nigel Holl

In my spare time, CEO scottishathletics

Spotlight on Ailsa Cullens

After moving back home to Blair Drummond a year ago, I thought it was about time to introduce my artwork to the community. To tell you a little about my background, I graduated in June 2011 from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Dundee, with an honours degree in illustration. I soon learned that life after graduation wasn't what I expected. I was not flooded with creative job offers and struggled somewhat with what to do next. So instead of thinking, I started drawing more and more. The wonderful world of the internet then proved beneficial when trying to get people to look at my art, and I soon received some interesting commission requests.

I draw with traditional methods using pen and ink and pencils to create colourful and playful images, that I hope make people smile. My commissions have varied, from illustrated cake toppers to wedding invitations to one-off personal cards. Although the majority have been requests to draw people's beloved pets. I like to think my drawings are a little different, I try to capture the almost human expressions and characteristics that animals convey in an honest and fun style. I love being given the privilege to draw people's pets, my own cat however is growing increasingly jealous...

I am currently creating a small stock of illustrated goods, including canvas tote bags, cards and prints and am delighted to be selling them at the Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre this year. Very soon I hope to have an online shop... so watch this space!

If you would like to have a look at my work, you will find lots and lots of drawings on my websites.

www.ailsacullensillustration.blogspot.com

and

<http://www.facebook.com/AilsaCullensIllustration>

Please do not hesitate to contact me at ailsacullens@hotmail.com for any commission queries or pop in and say hello to me at the Christmas Fayre.

Ailsa Cullens



Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre

This year's Christmas Fayre will be held in the hall on Friday 30th November from 7pm till 9pm. Once again there will be approx 20 stalls, including many regulars such as Briarlands Farm, Purple Herb Soap, Mary's Kitchen, Castle Rednock, Partylite Candles, Phoenix Cards and Kincardine in Menteith Primary School, as well as some new stalls including Silpada Designs (silver jewellery) and Ailsa Cullens Illustration.

Entry is £1 for adults and 50p for children, which includes tea/coffee/ juice and mince pies/shortbread. There will also be a raffle on the evening, with proceeds being donated to the Scottish Paediatric Orthopaedic Club (SPOC).

For further information contact Catherine on: 01786 860246 or
Email: Catherine@grasslands.plus.com

Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

Weekly Classes

Monday: Lou Mac Fitness Class - 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

(Contact Louise MacLaren on 07974 445774)

Tuesday: Youth Club – From October to April – 7pm to 9pm

(Contact Doug McMillan on 07835 923227)

Wednesday: Yoga – 9.00 am to 10.15 am

(Contact Maya Savati on 07799 736611)

Thursday: Lou Mac Fitness Class - 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Other Dates for the diary

Saturday 20th October 2012: Scottish Limousin Club AGM & Dinner

Tuesday 30th October 2012: Community Council Meeting, Thornhill Primary School @ 7.30 pm

Friday 16th November 2012 – Kincardine in Menteith Church Silent Auction @ 7.30pm

Friday 23rd November 2012 – Family Race Night @ 7.30pm. (Tickets £10. Under 12s free. In aid of RHET Forth Valley Countryside Initiative. More Info contact Christine Struthers. Mob : 07894 28872. Email : forthvalley@rhet.org)

Friday 30th November 2012: Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre @ 7.00pm

As always the Hall is regularly used for meetings, kids parties, ceilidhs, discos, wedding receptions and race nights, to name but a few.

For more information visit our website: www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk

NANNY/MOTHERS HELP

Live out Nanny/Mothers help required three to four days per week for two little girls aged 18 months and 5 months in the Blair Drummond area. Driving license and previous childcare experience essential.

Please contact Catherine on 07703533605 for further information

Kincardine in Menteith Church

Dear friends

I've thoroughly enjoyed watching the city-dwellers trying desperately to overtake hay trailers and combine-harvesters on the A84 and Kirk Lane over the past weeks, in an effort to gain three minutes before their important meeting at the office! They really don't seem to appreciate agricultural vehicles on "their" road, nor the strong air as you pass the Meldrum, failing to realise this is food and drink on their tables. Many in modern society seem to think the beautiful countryside they race through is all "natural" and that the farming community just live there, rather than make it the stunning and productive way it is. So here's to the farmers...those eternal optimists who sow and never know how things will grow over a season. Now such sentiments may strike you as strange coming from the pen of the meenister who's supposed to be giving all the glory to God.

Once, I heard of a vicar who leant on a garden gate and commented to the occupier that they should thank the Lord for the beautiful garden she had. "Aye", said the green-fingered one, "I do ... but you should have seen it when God took care of it on His own!", and I learned that Earth is at its best when humanity and God strive together to make this world beautiful, peaceful and productive.

I don't hold with those who would wipe away religion of all kinds – for they forget that in this country alone schools, universities, social welfare science and the arts all grew out of faithful church concern and activity. So when you sit down to a meal next, give thanks for the work of the farmers of the world and to God...and for all the other benefits you enjoy of heaven and earth working in harmony.



God bless.
Your minister,
Rev Andy.
PS. Harvest Thanksgiving is at
Kincardine in Menteith Church
on Sunday 21st October at 9.30am

Kincardine-in-Menteith Church Silent Auction Friday 16th November 2012, at 7pm in the Community Hall

1. Doors open at 7.00pm
2. Bidding closes at 8.30pm
3. Payment made and items removed by 9pm.

Please bring any items you would like us to sell along to the Hall between 2.30pm and 4pm on the 16th, or hand them to a Board Member. We can also collect items.

WHAT SELLS? – Anything that might be of value to other members of the community. For example

- Toys or games which are outgrown by your children.
- 'Unwanted' or 'Unneeded' presents.
- Bric a brac.

HOW DOES IT WORK? - Entry is £2, which gets you a number, which you can then write on the paper beside the item you want to buy, the amount you are prepared to pay. 'Bidding' goes on until the bell rings at 8.30pm, when the last and highest bid on each item secures the purchase. Great fun for all the family! **Refreshments will be available.**

Kincardine in Menteith Primary School

We welcomed 3 new pupils into Primary 1 this year and they have settled in well. This makes our school roll stand at 42. Mrs Ann Maitland is our Acting Headteacher and covering her class work we are delighted to welcome Miss Jenny Campbell.

The Parents Council organised a Barbeque at the Safari Park, on Saturday 8th September. It was a great evening and thoroughly enjoyed by all! We held a Planting and Pizza event on Friday 14th September here at the school. Parents and pupils came along to help weed, sweep, trim and paint. By the end of the evening the school grounds were looking spick and span. All were rewarded for their hard work with pizzas! It was a real school community effort. Thanks goes to everyone who came along.

The senior class have been taking part in Athletics Tasters, organised by Active Stirling; and both classes have had a visit from a representative from the SSPCA.

It is no long until our October holiday, after which we will be starting the countdown to Christmas! Surely it can't be that time of year again?

Kincardine-in-Menteith 100 Club

The 100 Club is an affordable, hassle free and effective way to support the school. We raise enough funds to pay for the Exams Party, Halloween party, school books, trips and treats throughout the year, roughly £600 per annum!!

How it works and how you can get involved.

You are allocated a number, which is put into a draw at school. The p7 children draw 3 numbers per month, which win cash prizes of 1st, 2nd 3rd (£25, £10 and £5). Each number costs £1 per month and this is collected twice yearly by direct debit, or annually by cash, or cheque. Pupils, parents, grandparents, colleagues and friends are all welcome to join. We currently have only 8 numbers left in the 100 Club, so hurry if you are interested.

So if you want to be "in it to win it" please get in touch with Catriona Turner 01786 470702
Or Email catriona@carrat.plus.com .

The 3 last months winners were –

June 1st Louisa Jenkins; 2nd William Ferguson; 3rd Mrs S Hunt

July 1st Mrs A Cumming; 2nd Emma Bryce; 3rd A & C Burnett

August 1st Kirsty Graham; 2nd Heather Inglis; 3rd Eilidh Graham

Blair Drummond Youth Club

The Youth Club meets weekly, on a Tuesday, in the Blair Drummond Hall, between 7pm and 9pm. The Club runs from October until the end of March and young people from Primary 7 and upwards are most welcome.

Membership costs £10 per year, with a nightly fee of £1. There is a Tuck Shop where juice and sweets can be purchased.

We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions for things to do and places to go!

Youth Club this year starts back on Tuesday 2nd October 2012 – looking forward to seeing some new faces.

For further information please contact the Youth Club Leader – Doug McMillan, 0783 592 3227.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Despite being a rural community, with several small villages, we are fortunate to have Rainbows, Brownies and Guides being held in the Gargunnoch, Thornhill and Doune areas.

Rainbows

Rainbows are the youngest section of Girl Guiding UK for age 5 – 7 years. We follow a programme called the Rainbow Jigsaw, which is all about making friends, building confidence and having fun! We have recently reopened the 1st Kilmadock Rainbow unit for girls aged from 5 to 7. If your daughter would like to join us then please contact Sue Gardner, Unit Guider, on 01786 842447 or by email susan.gardner1166@btinternet.com.

For Gargunnoch and Thornhill, please contact Eliz on 01786 860608

We look forward to meeting you.

Brownies

Are for girls aged 7 – 10 years and we follow the Brownie Adventure programme, packed with badges to earn and challenges to complete

Guides

For girls aged 10 – 14 years, when they do everything from exciting trips and adventure sports, to community action projects and learning skills for life.

Senior Section

14 - 25 years. They may have their own meetings, following the Look Wider programme, which challenges them to try new things but can also be valuable Young Leaders in the other units. If you wish additional information regarding getting a girl into any of the groups, or how you could help please call Eliz on 01786 860608. These groups only function with the commitment of the Guide Leaders.

Blair Drummond Curling Club

The curling season for 2012 – 2013 has begun. A total of 4 teams will take part in the Club League Competition; the first match took place on 14 September.

The Club achieved Charter status this year, thanks in particular to Club Treasurer Rory Duff. Charter status gives members the advantage of reduced ice charges but also means the Club has to develop curling by encouraging young curlers and attracting new entrants to the sport. Blair Drummond has decided to encourage existing young curlers by reducing ice charges for the current season. Currently the club have 8 junior curlers (aged under 21) who play on a regular basis.

If you are interested in taking up curling please contact Club Secretary: Ian Brisbane on 01786 841 722, or Club Treasurer: Rory Duff on 01786 841 654

If you wish to "Come & Try" the Peak run courses, please contact them on 01786 448 308 for more information.

F Bauer
Chairman

Farming in Blair Drummond

The talking point amongst most farmers this summer has been the weather. One of the wettest summers on record has meant the late sowing of arable crops, in some cases initial sowings failed and the crop had to be sown again. Following the wet spring, haymaking has been protracted, so some fields have yet to be harvested. Grain crops benefited from a window of dry weather and to date most crops have been harvested although farmers with oilseed rape will need a dry October for the harvest.

Due to the wet conditions some livestock have been brought inside to prevent poaching. This will mean a long and expensive winter for livestock farmers. Prices at the UA suckle calf sales have been strong. Prices for milk have seen a significant rise, good news for dairy farmers.

Fundraiser Demo at Charlie Taylor Hairdressing

Charlie Taylor Hairdressing at Bridge of Allan offered the ladies of Blair Drummond community the opportunity to fundraise for charity, by inviting 10 people to visit their salon on 10th September 2012, where everyone had a wash and blow dry, hair up, curls etc., ensuring that all had a taster of something!

There were drinks and nibbles provided, goody bags were generously given to all, along with a prize draw of a free Cut, Wash & Blow Dry, won by Christine Bauer. The price for the evening was £10 per person and the money raised will go to the Scottish Paediatric Orthopaedic Club (SPOC), the Blair Drummond Community Hall charity of the year.

A big 'Thank You' to Charlie Taylor and her staff, for a very pleasant and fun evening, enjoyed by all!

Seasonal Recipes

Home-made Mincemeat

Once you have tried mince pies made with home-made mincemeat you will never go back to shop-bought again! It is really easy to make and the slow gentle cooking helps to melt the suet, which coats the fruit and keeps the juices in.

500g Bramley apples, cored and grated (skin on)
225g Shredded suet (vegetarian suet or grated butter can be used instead)
225g Raisins
225g Sultanas
225g Currants
125g Mixed peel
350g Soft dark brown sugar
Grated zest and juice of 2 oranges
Grated zest and juice of 2 lemons
50g whole almonds cut into slivers
4 tsp mixed spice
½ tsp ground cinnamon
Pinch of ground nutmeg
6 tblsp brandy

Method :

Mix all of the above ingredients, except for the brandy in a large ovenproof bowl, stirring thoroughly.

Cover bowl and leave mixture in a cool place overnight. Preheat oven to 120°C gas mark ½, cover the bowl loosely with foil and place in the oven for 3 hours.

Remove from oven and allow it to cool stirring occasionally. The suet will have melted and it will look a bit odd but don't worry as it will solidify again and coat the fruit. Stir in the brandy and pack into sterilized jars. Makes: approx 5 x ½ litre jars.

It is best to make it a month or two before hand to allow the flavours to develop.

Use as you would any shop bought mincemeat.

Root vegetable soup

2 Onions
2 Carrots
2 Parsnips
¼ Turnip
2 Potatoes
3 Vegetable or chicken stock cubes (or 1 ½ litres fresh stock)
25g Butter
100ml Milk

Method :

Peel and chop the vegetables and place in a large saucepan with the butter and gently cook until slightly softened. Add the vegetable or chicken stock cubes and about 1½ litres of boiling water and simmer gently for about 45 minutes. Blend using a liquidiser or hand blender and return to the pot, add the milk and heat through. A small dash of cream can be added just before serving if you like.

Mary Inglis

Mary's Kitchen

Mary's Kitchen

Home Baking and Outside Catering

Catering available for any occasion
Christmas home baking available on request:
Christmas Cakes, Mince pies, Shortbread,
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PHOTOGRAPHY



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West Rossburnlane Farm, Blairdrummond, Stirling, FK9 4AH

If you know someone who would be interested in advertising in the Blair Drummond Grapevine, our rates are listed below

¼ page £7.50

½ page £10

Full page £20

Do you have any pictures, stories or letters you would like included, if so please email them to: christinebauer@tiscali.co.uk or catherine@grasslands.plus.com

Items for Issue No 8 should be submitted by **31st January 2013**. If you wish your copy to be sent via email please get in touch, with your email address and we will add you to the developing mailing list.

Thank you.

The Blair Drummond Grapevine is a community newsletter produced and distributed by volunteers, free of charge to approximately 250 households within the Blair Drummond area. Letters and articles published in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views, beliefs or opinions of the Grapevine Team, who also reserve the right to shorten, edit or refuse the insertion of any particular letter or article.

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