

THE BLAIRDRUMMOND GRAPEVINE

ISSUE SEVEN

SUMMER 2001

FREE

BLAIRDRUMMOND BOY WINS SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Scottish Gymnastics Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships were held at the Bells Sports Centre in Perth over the weekend. This was a two-day competition with sets on the first day, and voluntaries on the second. The aggregate score determined the overall winners.

Andrew Darby, from Hillview Cottage, Kirk Lane was the Under 11 Scottish Champion. Leading his group



overnight, He increased this on day two. Andrew trains with Alloa Amateur Gymnastics Club at the Spiers Centre in Alloa,

Any boys interested in taking up gymnastics should go along to the Spiers Centre on a Tuesday or Thursday at 6pm.

MILLENNIUM PLAQUE

Unfortunately the Hall Committee did not receive funding from the Millennium Lottery Fund to erect a plaque at Blairdrummond to mark the names of the people living in the community on 1st January 2000. Because of this it has been suggested that we use some of the money already raised (e.g through the Car Treasure Hunt and Hogmanay Parties), to commission a list of all the names we have already gathered. The idea is that a calligrapher will design a scroll marking names and addresses of people living in Blairdrummond on 1st January 2000. This will then be framed and displayed either in the Hall itself or the Church. If you did not respond to the earlier request for details please send information to Joanne Inglis, Briarlands Farm, Blairdrummond, FK9 4UP. Information must be received by 21st July 2001. This is your last chance so please make sure you're

HALL FOR HIRE

Remember the Community Hall is available for hire. Costs are remarkably reasonable - one wonders how they keep the costs so low!

£4 per hour for Blairdrummond residents

*£8 per hour for non-residents
£50 for an evening hire*

on the list as soon as possible.

AEROBICS

Monday night in the hall is still ladies night, where are all you men who want to get fit?

The summer term of the aerobics has seen us have a go at aerobics, bums and tums and also step aerobics. The classes are held every Monday evening - 7.30pm to 8.30pm, and are run by Stirling

Sports Council. Classes cost £2 and are suitable for all abilities. Everyone is welcome.

There will be no classes for the duration of the school holidays. Classes start again 27 August with a special invitation to the mature women of the parish to come along and try it out on 27th. Hunky men will not be turned away either!

Anyone wishing more details contact Eleanor Graham Tel: 472523.

HALL IMPROVEMENTS - PUBLIC MEETING

Held on Tuesday 24th April 2001- 22 people attended

Analysis of survey

100% of those surveyed said that a hall in Blairdrummond was needed. 37.5% indicated a desire for further activities. 69% of these said they would be willing to assist with these activities.

After the replacement of the roof the two most important areas requiring attention, according to the results are the toilets and the kitchen facilities.

Use of Hall

The current main users of the hall are the Cyclists , Youth Club, Aerobics, B.A.G.s , Church, School and the Pony Club. With the exception of the toilet and kitchen facilities most of these groups found the hall to be adequate for their current needs, although at times the aerobics class felt that the hall was a bit too small. However there is a demand for a Toddler group in the hall and lack of storage space would be a draw back although the Committee thought that they would be able to free up some space under the stage for storage. Though there seems to be a demand for sports activities in the hall these would be restricted due to the lack of ceiling height. If the demand is there then in any future plans for the hall this factor should also be considered along with storage needs. Stirling Council might be willing to start up new classes in the hall if numbers attending could be guaranteed.

Is a replacement necessary and how much will it cost?

The roof of the hall is made of asbestos and is now brittle and holed causing water damage in parts of the hall especially the toilets and roof space where fungus is growing. There is also no doubt that the toilet facilities are requiring modernisation and

that there are no disabled toilets or access available.

The Committee has visited Port of Menteith Hall, which is of a similar size and construction to our own Hall, in order to find out how their committee received Lottery Funding for an upgrade of their hall. They received a 100% grant from the National Lottery Grants to cover the cost of upgrading the existing hall and also to cover the cost of all new internal fittings. In total they applied for a grant of approx. £145,600 and the Committee offered to pay £2,000 towards this figure as a gesture of goodwill. Upgrading of their hall included putting on a new roof, building an outer skin, insulation, double glazing, disabled toilets, toilets and a kitchen. The cost of this was £98,000 + VAT + £10,000 for contingencies. The remainder of the grant was to cover all internal fittings including furniture, crockery & cutlery, office equipment, curtains, lighting, etc. professional fees were also included. A 100% grant was received. It is unlikely that the running costs of the upgraded hall are any higher than the old hall due to improved insulation, etc. Port of Menteith was also fortunate in having an architect and an accountant living in the area. If the bid for Lottery funding had been unsuccessful then the architect would waive his fee. The accountant was required to keep control of the funding during the upgrade. They also had one very dedicated individual who was willing to give up a lot of her time to oversee the building works.

Strathyre has recently built a new hall and we are awaiting information on the cost of this. Balquidder has also erected a new hall with Lottery funding. Thornhills' new hall is much bigger than we would require and also has high running costs.

Funding

It was felt that we should try to apply for funding from the National Lottery to build a new hall as while the new hall was being built we could still use the old hall. However this would depend on the local Planning Department having no objections to our plans. One major cost in this application will be architects' fees and it was felt that we cannot afford the cost of fees for an unsuccessful bid. We would hope to be able to approach someone who could offer their skills on a similar basis to those of the Port of Menteith architect. Although it has been agreed that we should apply for this grant it should be noted that we might not be successful as more halls are now looking for funding through this scheme due to Port of Menteiths' award.

Alternative funding

Other funding is available by raising a sum which will then be matched by Central region and then this total would be further matched by the Scottish Office. There are also various other methods of funding available which will be looked into if the Lottery bid fails e.g. Stirling Volunteers Association; fundraising; Stirling Council grants. We would also have to prioritise any improvements if funding is not forthcoming.

Other suggestions

Storage problems could be solved by erecting a container at the side of the hall, though doubts were expressed over its' security. Another suggestion was to build an all weather surface with floodlighting on part of the car park which would allow various groups and individuals from the area to have some sports facilities.

Future

Now that a proportion of the local community has expressed an interest in the future of the hall we hope that we can encourage even more community involvement in the future.

CARSE BIRTHDAYS

Happy first birthday to Rachel Darby.....born 18 June 2000

And a cryptic one...DML - still a thirty something girl!!

SCHOOL BOARD

The school board held its annual baking stall at Cuthil Brae caravan park on Sunday 27th May. £127.50 was raised for school funds and we think this year beats the record for the fastest "sold out time" - 15 minutes! Well done to all involved especially the Primary 7's who helped on the day.

SPORTS NIGHT & BBQ

On June 2nd the Hall Committee held a very enjoyable Sports night and BBQ at Blairdrummond Safari Park. Despite the fact it was a chilly night there was a good turnout - at least it kept dry. Jon & Jimmy presided over the BBQ and Mandy & George organised the sports. A hidden talent was discovered that night as Mandy McLeod swept to victory in the sack race and is rumoured to be part of the next British Olympic team. Thanks to

everyone who contributed to the success of the evening. The Hall Committee are happy to hear from anyone with similar ideas for community events

FUTURE FUNDRAISING

The school family ceilidh has been booked for Saturday 20th October at Thornhill Community Hall from 7pm till 10pm. Tickets will be available nearer the time from any parent.

RUBY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Tom & Marilyn Miller of Woodside Cottages who are celebrating their Ruby Wedding Anniversary this year. They were married by Reverend Turner in Kincardine-In-Menteith Church on 3rd June 1961.

TEN WAYS TO PREPARE FOR YOUR SKIING HOLIDAY

OK it's the summer but what better time to prepare for your skiing holiday:

- For ski boot simulation, squeeze your feet into a new pair of army boots 2 sizes too small - take a 10 mile hike
- Prepare a mile-long stretch of banana skins and practice walking up and down in your ski boots carrying skis, rucksack and poles
- Buy the most expensive gloves on offer and immediately throw one away
- Get a bunch of strangers together (preferably those who have consumed vast quantities of garlic, beans & alcohol). Pack yourselves into a small lift and stay in, with doors closed for at least 40 minutes.
- Visit your local supermarket and sit in the walk in freezer for an hour, don't forget your high powered fan
- To prepare for the cost of the mountain food, whenever you eat insist on paying the bill at least twice
- Toughen up your face by wearing all your old lift passes around your neck and hanging out of the car window while your friend drives at high speed on the motorway
- Drink a few gallons of coffee or tea, put on as many layers as possible, head for the busiest public loos you can find and wait in line
- Get used to the alpine system of queuing by letting every other shopper barge in front of you. Remind them to stamp on your feet as they go by

- Head down to your local, drink vast quantities of every type of alcohol possible. Pay for everyone else to do the same.

KINCARDINE-IN-MENTEITH SCHOOL

Head teacher Frances Berry reports ... We are having a very busy summer term. The recent spell of lovely weather pleased us all. P.E. classes have been outside and Mr Bond is giving his weekly cricket coaching sessions. We hope to pick a team for the cricket tournament in Doune. P.4-7 are going swimming weekly.

P.1.2.&3. have been studying plants & seeds. They have a lovely display of bedding plants. Unfortunately we cannot plant these outside due to the ever-increasing rabbit population. Parents - get a plot ready in the garden.

We have school trips to look forward to - Vane Farm for P.1.2.&3. and "Sensation" Science Labs. in Dundee for P4-7.

Senior pupils are busy rehearsing music to take part in the R.S.N.O. proms in Glasgow on 25th June.

Final dates for our sports, entertainment, parents' morning and fundraising have yet to be set. Will be soon. Come along and join us.

BLAIRDRUMMOND CURLING CLUB

Chairman Rory Duff reports With regard to the past year I hope I can speak for all of our members when I say how enjoyable the curling has been. The standard, as always, has varied from game to game but it was not always the 'good' curlers who won their matches which gives us all hope that we are actually improving!! Blairdrummond came second in the Central Province League.

Our secretary, Isabel Sands, and myself attended a seminar at the rink on March 13 regarding curling and use of the ice in general. The main issues discussed I can summarise as follows :

1. If members would like more curling, there are a number of competitions available. If anybody is interested then contact Rory Duff or Isabel Sands for details.
2. Becoming a shareholder at a cost of £50 for one entitles you to ice discounts and also entry to extra competitions, events etc. I would

personally recommend this as a worthwhile option.

3. Some clubs are experiencing difficulty in attracting new members.

We are very fortunate as a club to have such a good facility as Stirling on our doorstep and with particular attention to point 3, I would welcome any suggestion as to possible future members of the club. A successful club must have new faces to ensure that all our competitions and leagues are worthwhile, as well as enjoying the social aspect of curling.

If you're interested in joining the Curling Club contact Rory on 841654

A PRAYER FOR THE STRESSED

Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change

The courage to change the things I cannot accept

And the wisdom to hide the bodies of those I had to kill today because they got on my nerves

And also help me to be careful of the toes I step on today as they may be connected to the feet I may have to kiss tomorrow

Help me to always give 100% at work ...

12% on Monday

23% on Tuesday

40% on Wednesday

20% on Thursday

and 5% on Friday



And help me to remember

When I'm having a bad day

and it seems that people are trying to wind me up, it takes 42 muscles to frown, 28 to smile and only 4 to extend my arm and smack them in the mouth!!

MRS BEATON'S FISH DISHS

A couple of great fish recipes from Amy Beaton:

Smoked Mackerel Pate/Dip (serves 4)

225g (8oz) hot smoked mackerel fillets, skinned

140ml (¼ pint) fromage frais

2/3 tsp horseradish sauce

1 tbs chopped parsley

squeeze of lemon juice

- In a large bowl flake the fish with a fork
- Add the remaining ingredients and mix well. If you wish to use as a dip add extra fromage frais

- Serve with oatcakes, melba toast, strips of carrot/peppers or tortilla chips
Amy says ... mackerel is high in Omega 3 fatty acids which have a lowering effect on blood fats, helping to reduce risk of heart disease.
"Hot" refers to the temperature used during smoking process which means the fish is already cooked.

Italian Smoked Fish

450g (1lb) smoked cod or haddock fillets, skinned & cubed

10ml (1 dsp) sunflower oil

1 small onion, chopped

1 red pepper, deseeded & chopped

75g (3oz) button mushrooms, halved

125g (4oz) low fat soft cheese with garlic & herbs

100ml (4 fl oz) milk

125g (4oz) pasta, cooked

fresh chopped parsley, to garnish

- Heat the oil in a shallow non stick pan. Cook the onion, pepper and mushrooms for 3-4 minutes
- Add the cheese, milk and fish. Cover and simmer for 8-10 minutes, stirring occasionally
- Stir in the cooked pasta, heat through for 1-2 minutes
- Garnish with parsley and serve

We're going to feature a couple of poems in each of the next few Grapevines. So here are a couple sent in:

I love to be in the countryside.
To see the animals the rabbit, deer and sheep.
Unlike the city which is noisy and busy.
I love the peace and the farmyard smells
It makes me feel so calm.
Blairdrummond is full of all kinds of smells,
Animals and all the farms.

by Kirsteen Duff (aged 9)

In Blairdrummond we don't get a lot of sun
But the farmers still manage to get the work done

In Blairdrummond we have a Safari Park
I think they have every animal there except for a
great big shark

At Blairdrummond Primary I share a big desk
I have to do a lot of work it is a pest

By Fraser Graham (aged 7)



BAGs GET ACTIVE

The group was set up last year as a monthly get together for females in the area to catch up on any news and to get to know their neighbours. The meetings have taken various forms including face painting, reflexology, feng shui, wine tasting, xmas meal and games night. The next meeting is on Thursday 28th June at 7.30pm in Blairdrummond Community Hall and will be a cheese and wine evening. New members are always welcome. For further information contact Catherine on 860246.

BLUE PETER BIKETHON

Alice O'Donnell writes ... I went on the Blue Peter Bikeathon in Glasgow with my brother Ruaridh. Simon Thomas (Blue Peter presenter) and Heather (Live and Kicking presenter) were there. All the bikes got in a big queue and shouted out some false starts for the camera. Then it came to the real start that we were all waiting for. So the start of the queue set off and slowly the rest followed. We were near the back of the queue so we went slowly off. At the beginning we had to go quite slow because there were a lot of people.

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CHILDREN'S 2000 POEM

In recent Grapevines we've been featuring some of Jimmy Reid's poetry. This has prompted the idea of a poetry competition. Children of school age living in Blairdrummond were invited to write a poem about life in Blairdrummond in the new millennium. The length, style and content was up to the writer.

We decided that since all the poems were excellent, all entries would receive a book token for £5.

There were two steep slopes going downwards and some people went down them too fast and fell over. There was also a smaller steep slope going up. Most people walked but I only walked up it once and that was on my last lap. We had twenty laps to do and at the end of each lap we got a stamp on our number. I only managed to do 18 laps because we carried on after it was supposed to finish - like others. Ruaridh got 17.

At the end we got two stickers and autographs by Simon and Heather. We were asked if we could stay for some filming at the end so we did. We spent over an hour filming and on television it only lasted about a minute! But we got a Blue Peter badge at the end of it and it was a really good day.

SCHOOL 100 CLUB

One of the fund-raising activities run by the school is the '100' club. We welcome membership from anyone with an interest in the school - and you might win a prize!

Half the money is paid out each month as prizes; the rest goes towards school funds. Each member pays a monthly subscription of £1, which buys a numbered ticket. All these numbers are entered into the monthly draw - which is done by Mrs Berry's P7 class. The three winning numbers receive prizes, currently £25 for first, £10 for second, and £5 for third.

If you would like to join please contact Mairi Osborne on 01786 860625, or email mairi.osborne@xansa.com. This year's prize winners to date are:

January

1st Eleanor Graham
2nd Gill Drummond
3rd J & H Graham

February

1st Vicki Ross
2nd Eleanor Graham
3rd Rhona Morrison

March

1st Mrs J Fotheringham
2nd Mandy McLeod
3rd W Drummond

April

1st Andy Beattie
2nd Carolyn Beattie
3rd Gillian Bell

May

1st Mrs May Killen
2nd Mairi Osborne
3rd Iain Berry (Jnr)

KIRK NEWS

The search for a Minister progresses and so far there have been 12 requests for application forms. A meeting will be held by the vacancy committee early in July to review any replies. In the interval we have had some very good preachers and the Rev. Vicky Weir has visited certain people in our area who have been in hospital etc. If you know of anyone who would like a visit, please contact Mark Sherriff (01786 841236) who can arrange a suitable time with the Rev. Vicky Weir.

The church is currently being recorded by the local branch of NADFAS. They will give a detailed written report on the building, the stained glass windows, the furniture, etc. and already they have found some interesting facts. Did you know that there are four Queens of various countries mentioned in the church?

YOUTH CLUB

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

... will be in the autumn - so if you have events planned (Halloween, Bonfire Night, Christmas, let us know the dates. Any articles on any subject welcome. Don't worry about typing - we'll do it if you can't. Articles to:

Dave Simpson, 2 West Drip Cottages or 471455 or dave@westdrip.freemove.co.uk
Eleanor Graham 472523 or eleanor@westdrip.fsnet.co.uk
Maggie Sherriff 841236 or msherriff1@aol.com
Catherine Killen 860246 or markkillen2@farmersweekly.net

or anyone on the Hall Committee. Deadline for the next edition is **15 September 2001**.

Your Hall Committee is ...

Allison Coates (860531), Annette Paget (841709), Catherine Killen (860246), Dave Simpson (471455), Eleanor Graham (472523), James & Louise Maxwell (841352), John & Joanne Inglis (841309), Diane & Jon Darby (841679), Lesley McKenzie (470894), Mark & Maggie Sherriff (841236), Robert Muir (841207), Susan McMillan (447664), Tom Gilliland (460637), Mandy McLeod (841825), Ian Brisbane (841722), David Turner (463810)