

Issue 10 The Grapevine

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



Assistant minister Mike Goodison with Rev Andy

Kincardine in Menteith Church

On Sunday 22nd September we said goodbye to our Assistant Minister Mike Goodison. A great number from the congregations of the 3 churches came along to Blair Drummond Hall to bid him a fond farewell, to enjoy a light lunch in his company and make some speeches about his time with the communities.

He leaves us to take up a post in the Chaplaincy Department of the Royal Army. We wish Mike well in his new challenge and thank him for his work in our parish in the last 15 months. Some dates for your diary -

6th October Harvest Thanksgiving

3rd November Holy Communion

10th November Remembrance Day Service
 21st December Family Christmas Service

24th December Children's' Christmas Eve Service. Kilmadock

Doune, time tbc

24th December Room at the Inn. Venue and time tbc.

25th December Christmas Day Service. Kilmadock Doune

Gargunnock Church, times tbc.

29th December Joint Service. Kincardine in Menteith at

10.30am

All services in Kincardine in Menteith at 9.30am, unless otherwise stated.

In Gargunnock Church on Sunday 15th December, at 7.00pm, there is **Carols in the Kirk**, when you will have the chance to sing some favourite carols, hear Gargunnock Songsters, The Gargoyles, Hamish Whiteford and readings from Fiona Campbell. Rev Andy will also be taking part. It was a lovely evening last year and this time will be even better. To finish off the evening there is a glass of wine!

Kirklane Fellowship

The Fellowship meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the Ross Anderson Room at Gargunnock Church. We have a varied programme of speakers and all are welcome.

The Speakers for the next 2 meetings are -

5th November 'A Cycling Trip in South Island New Zealand'.

Stewart Wilson, formerly of Stewart Wilson

Cycles, will give and illustrated talk on his latest

challenge.

3rd December 'A Trip to Oberammergau' by Annette Gray of

Balfron.

If you would like any further information on any of the above please get in touch.

Janette Gilliland



Can **YOU** find a humorous applicable caption to add to this photo? All suggestions to Janette Gilliland at: nyaddfarm@hotmail.co.uk

Time to move on

When I was asked to write a short article for the Grapevine, summing up my 15 months working in the parish of Kincardine-in-Menteith, I have to admit wanting to say 'no'. I am not enjoying saying goodbye to all the people and events that have made the time so enjoyable. Much laughter has been had, many stories shared, special events came and went and are now a mixture of memories and photographs.

I did feel a fair mount of guilt early on in the placement, and kept asking Andy Campbell, my boss, "am I allowed to have this much fun at work?" For that was how it felt. People wanted to enjoy what they did, people around Blair Drummond are proud of what they do – for their families, at work, for relaxation. They don't mind sharing, they even want you to know that they work, rest and play - hard, well and together.

So it came as a bit of a surprise to find out how lonely life can be in a rural parish, such as this. I don't think I had understood the loneliness of the farmer, up before dawn to milk; into the tractor cab with only the radio for company, for a long day's toil behind the wheel.

The farmer's wife or partner, alone in the house, caring for the children, probably off to work themselves, returning tired, maybe not receptive to a downloading of worries from the farmer - built up during a conversation-less day at work.

And yet the strength and resilience of those I have met, the pride in living and working with nature, not against, is evident in everyone, from the youngest in the school to the retired social meeting in the community hall.

So I am sad to leave, having learned a tremendous amount about many things, yet feeling really supported and affirmed in this strange business of being called by God to work in the community, but also feeling quite excited about moving on, to answer the question that many people have asked me over the past months – 'how do we get the young people to know about God?' I am going to be a chaplain to several hundred young folk, taking the love of God to them, rather than expecting them to find God all on their own. But I go with the knowledge that God is at work in the world, and the people of the parishes of Gargunnock, Kilmadock and Kincardine—in—Menteith have helped me understand better what that means.

So thank you for your stories and conversations, thank you for letting me into your lives for a short period and may I wish God's Blessings on you and yours,

Rev Mike Goodison (ex Assistant Minister, now Chaplain to HM Forces)

Matter of Opinion Panel Night

Come along to Blair Drummond Community Hall on Friday 25th October at 7.30pm to hear

Joanne Inglis, Briarlands Katy Rodgers, Courtyard Café & Artisan Dairy Andrew Burnett, A&R Burnett Haulage & Upper Spittalton Limousins

Dr Robert Graham, Graham's The Farm Dairy John Logan, Blairmains Farm Shop & Coffee Bothy

These Panel members are all well known folks in the Stirling area.

Come and join us to hear the views of the Panel on rural Scotland, looking forward, opportunities for young people in the area etc. And you can bring along your own questions to put to the Panel too. This will be a night to remember!

Entry is free and there will be tea/coffee and home baking to finish off the evening.

For tickets get in touch with:

Catherine - 01786 860246 Louise - 01786 841352 Fred - 01786 841191



Autumn Fair returns to Camphill Blair Drummond

After the success of last year's Autumn Fair which attracted hundreds of local people and raised over £7,000 for Camphill Blair Drummond, the charity's Autumn Fair is back and promises to be even bigger and better this year.

The fair will feature over 30 different exhibitors, selling a wide range of unique and high quality gifts and presents which you won't see in the shops.

The Fair will be held over two days on the evening of 29th October from 5.00pm and on the 30th October from 10am-3.30pm. There is a £6 donation for entrance on 29th October and £5 on the 30th October. The evening of the 29th October includes a complimentary glass of wine and canapés, and there will be teas, coffees and light lunches available to buy from the Camphill Bakery on the 30th October.

Camphill Blair Drummond is a local charity that provides a wonderful safe home with meaningful work opportunities for adults with a learning disability. The charities aim and approach is one of realising the potential of everyone involved in the community, and they do this by recognising that everyone belongs, everyone is equal and everyone has something special to offer.

All the proceeds from the Fair go towards Camphill Blair Drummond's vital appeal to build new houses and workshops, so that the charity can secure their future, improve the quality of life for existing residents as well as welcome more people.

Elsie Riley, Regional Fundraising Manager at Camphill Blair Drummond, says: "We expect the Fair to be a really lovely day out and we encourage everyone to come along and see what is on offer, you won't go away disappointed! The funds raised



from the Autumn Fair will make a really big difference to our charity. Thanks to the support we have received so far we have already been able to open four new workshops and two new houses, but there is still a long way to go. The Autumn Fair is a great opportunity to have a superb day out and help raise funds for a really worthwhile cause at the same time."

Elsie Riley

Kincardine in Menteith Primary School Have you heard of the mystery of Flannan Isle?

Our class, P5-7 at Kincardine in Menteith Primary have been investigating the mystery of Flannan Isle.

Flannan Isle is a small island 20 miles west off the Island of Lewis.

One night on the 15th of December 1900 three light house keepers went missing from Flannan Isle. No bodies were ever found at the scene. Here are some of the clues:

A chair was toppled over
The clocks had stopped
The railings were bent
Their dinner was left on the table
Only one pair of waterproofs was left.

We have found lots of interesting theories about what may have happened. We have been learning about lighthouses in and around Scotland. If you know anything interesting about lighthouses or are interested in finding out more about Flannan Isle then please contact the school on 01786 841369.

By Archie and Max, P7

BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE

Hardwood Logs £160/ load
Hardwood Logs £85/ half load
Softwood Logs £110/ load
Softwood Logs £60/ half load
Small bags £3.80 for hardwood
Small bags £3.00 for softwood

Contact: **Bob**

Tel: 01786 841580 Mob: 07732 563106

FROM ONE EXTREME TO THE OTHER

Rainy and boggy to sunny and dry! But will the auld enemy return?

After the three glorious months of June, July and August when we averaged only 1.9 inches of rain per month and had average day temperatures of around 20C, with a high of 29.2C on 7 July, one tends to forget that over the last 10 years the average annual rainfall in Blair Drummond has increased by just over 2 inches per annum (The 100 year average annual rainfall in Blair Drummond is about 38.5 inches, with the average annual rainfall for the last 10 years being 40.7. The lowest was in 2003 when only 30 inches fell – the highest in 2012 when we suffered 52 inches.)

Is this summer the return of a welcome norm or a freak one off? Will the Carse now have at least 2 to 3 months each year when it is completely dry and firm, enabling today's heavier farm machinery onto the land without bogging? Let us hope this dry period will become a norm but if not it is worth thinking about how to ameliorate the flooding problems which have occurred over the last few years.

Historically the solution to flooding problems was to dig deeper and straighter ditches and drains, or to build flood embankments to protect specific areas of land. Embankments can of course simply transfer the problem elsewhere or if they are breached cause even more serious problems, as occurred with the Tay above Dunkeld a few years ago. Also where land is nearly at sea level, and seas may be rising thus reducing runoff, this approach cannot be a complete answer.

Flooding can also be reduced by a "rain catchment area approach". For example areas of upland peat and heather moor land can be left undrained (or existing drains blocked), so that run-off to lower productive ground is reduced. Obviously this could be to the detriment of upland grazing and game. Trees

catch rain, increase evaporation and slow the remaining water entering burns and rivers. Also if possible clear felling should be avoided and trees planted on higher ground and alongside burns and rivers. As a principle, if necessary, better productive land should be protected at the expense of poorer land. Really poor unproductive ground may be able to be turned into catchment ponds or wetlands, preventing or slowing water build up on good land or land on which there is housing and building. Maintaining ground cover during winter months also helps absorb water, encourage evaporation and avoid or reduce the risks of fast run off and flooding. Studies indicate how a combination of the foregoing measures might be used to manage the possibility or probability of increasing rain fall and higher seas affecting the water situation on the Carse. Solutions may require co-operation and understanding from all concerned.

R Graham

FARM PEST CONTROL

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Briarlands Farm

Briarlands Farm offers a great day out whatever the weather, with special events and an indoor craft area.

Briarlands Farm Diary for Autumn/Winter 2013:

12th – 31st Oct Halloween Happenings.

Indoor crafts and outdoor adventure

18th Oct Archery Workshop

26th & 27th Oct Halloween Weekend. Special activities this

weekend, including face painting.

2nd & 3rd Nov Bonfire Bash. With our own special Bonfire

Party on 3rd November (no Fireworks)

8th Dec Christmas Country Craft Fayre. With various

stalls selling great gift ideas for Christmas.

22nd Dec Family Carol Sing-a-long. An afternoon of

joyful festive tunes.

28th Dec Family Walk. A traffic free walk around country

lanes, leaving from the farm.

29th Dec Film day. Family films screened in the

Farmers Den

5th Jan Family Walk. A traffic free walk around

country lanes, leaving from the farm.

For more information on the above events please call 01786 841309, or visit www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk or www.facebook.com/briarlandsfarm

Briarlands Farm and Farmers Den Tearoom is open 10-5.30pm every day until 31st October, then Fri, Sat and Sun 10 - 4.30pm until 31st January. Homebaking and local produce our speciality. Briarlands Farm offers a great venue for meeting up with family & friends, with good food and activities to keep kids entertained. We have special Decopatch Christmas ornaments and Christmas Sand Art pictures ideal for such occasions.

Briarlands is offering Meal deals to groups through Nov, Dec and Jan.:

Soup, sandwich, tea/coffee and selection of traybakes. £7.95 per adult

Kids sandwich, crisps and juice + a Sandart Picture or Decopatch item. £4.00 per child

(This option is available to a minimum of 8 adults and would include free admission to the Funyard. Available Nov, Dec and Jan only.)

Adult: coffee/tea and traybake £2.95

Child: diluting juice, biscuit and Sandart Picture or Decopatch

item £2.95

Or just a Sandart or Decopatch object £2.00

For more information on our Meal Deals, or to book tables Tel 01786 841309 or Email info@briarlandsfarm.co.uk.

Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre

This year's Christmas Fayre will be held in the hall on **Friday** 29th November from 7pm till 9pm.

Many regular stallholders will be returning such as Briarlands Farm, Purple Herb Soap, Avon, Castle Rednock, Phoenix Card, Kincardine in Menteith Primary School and Ailsa Cullens Illustrations.

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 Camphill Blair Drummond.

There are a few stalls available this year so if you or anyone you know might like to take a stall please contact me.

For further information contact Catherine on: 01786 860246 or

Email: Catherine@grasslands.plus.com

Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

Weekly Classes

Monday: Metafit – 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Last Monday of the month: Afternoon Tea Social Group -

2.00pm to 4.00pm. Drop in any time.

Tuesday: Youth Club – from October to April – 7.00pm to

9.00pm. See article for more details. **Thursday:** Metafit – 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Zumba – 8.30pm to 9.30pm

Other Events

Wednesday 9th October 7.30pm Blair Drummond Community Hall Committee Meeting

Friday 25th October 7.30pm - Matter of Opinion Panel Night

Saturday 16th November 7.00pm –Ceilidh and Buffet Supper in aid of RHET. Band: Tommy Duncan. Tickets: £10, children under 12 free. Tickets-From Christine Struthers 07894728872. email forthvalley@rhet.org.

Friday 29th November 7.00pm to 9.00pm - Christmas Fayre

Saturday 30th November 8.00pm –Ceilidh in aid of Cystic Fibrosis. Band: Tommy Duncan. Tickets: £5. BYOB & snacks. Contact Mandy on 01259 761595

Badminton: Anyone wishing to hire the Hall please contact the Booking Secretary.

As always, the Hall is regularly used for meetings, kids' parties, ceilidhs, wedding receptions, to name but a few. For more information visit our website:

www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk or contact Louise (Booking Secretary) on 01786 841352.

Friends Add Value to Life!

You can never have too many friends. They listen when you're fed up, make soup when you're ill, and give you advice when you can't think what to do...even if you'd rather they didn't! Without our friends we feel lonely, cut off from the community, and can get stuck in a rut. New friends encourage us, tempt us to try something, make us laugh at things we'd forgotten about. New friends are worth making.

At the Blair Drummond afternoon tea group we gather between 2pm and 4pm, on the last Monday of the month to enjoy the company, the 'crack' and a varied programme of activities/speakers – something for everyone!

Our next meeting is in Blair Drummond Hall on 30th September, when we'll stretch our minds with a Quiz. On 28th October, Willie Campbell of Gargunnock House Garden will transport us to China to learn about plant-hunting there; and on 25th November we look forward to welcoming Catriona MacBeath, daughter of Margaret and John, to give us an insight into the dangers and rewards of her challenging job in Afghanistan. With a talented team of home-bakers, a cosy hall and good company, we would like to invite you to come along – a warm welcome and some new friends await.

Like more info, or need transport? Contact Christine Bauer Tel 841191, or Fiona Campbell Tel 860678

Fiona Campbell



Neil & Lauren Gilliland's wedding day in 2012

CALLANDER YOUNG FARMERS WINTER SYLLABUS 2013

October

4th - Club Trip to the Bingo Carlton, at Stirling.

12th - Clyde and Central 'Mr and Miss' Competition

20th – Club Trip to ESCAPE, Braehead.

26th – West 'Mr and Miss' Competition, at McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart.

Dairy Stock judging TBC!

November

2nd – National Beef Cattle dressing, at Ayr Market.

10th – White water rafting, at Aberfeldy. £35 per person.

15th - Ghost walk, in Edinburgh at 8pm. £10 per person.

19th - Race Night, at Thornhill Hall at 7.30pm.

24th – Clyde & Central Ten pin bowling, at Stirling.

December

14th – Callander's Dinner Dance, Royal Ivy Hotel, Bridge of Allan.

19th – Pantomime (Beauty and the Beast), at the MacRobert Centre, 7.30pm.

22nd – Club Christmas Dinner, at the Western Arms, Bridge of Allan.

There will also be on-going winter activities e.g. Club meetings and Concert practices.

Thanks to everyone who helped us raise £200 for club funds at our recent bottle stall in Callander. We also raised £200 for MS earlier in the year.

Young Farmers Clubs are open to anyone aged 14 to 30. There are a wide range of activities from sports such as Tug of War and curling, to stock judging and sheep shearing.

If you would like to come along and join in the fun at Callander Young Farmers please contact Laura MacKenzie on 0782 6848 704 or email laura-ehm00@hotmail.co.uk

Blair Drummond & Thornhill Community Council

Brown Bin Collection – While sympathetic to industrial relations problems, the Community Council does not think that Stirling Council has taken the correct decision in stopping early the uplift of garden waste. This time of year is when a large amount of waste garden material is created, as gardens are cleared of plants and hedges and trees are trimmed. We are aware of other problems with the wastes collection service, with bins not being collected, even before the current problems and have raised these matters with Councillor Martin Earl.

Speeding Traffic – Drivers will have noted the extra 40mph speed limits that are now installed on the A873, at the entrances to Thornhill from the east and west. The intention is that this will slow traffic before they reach the build up area and stop vehicles rushing through the village, endangering loves and shaking house foundations.

Ryder Cup 2014 – It is a year before the Ryder Cup comes to Gleneagles but planning is well advanced for the event (we've been told all 3 competitions days are already sold out). We have been informed that the Castleview Park & Ride in Stirling will be closed during the event, as it will be one of three hubs for all vehicles travelling to the golf. No one will be allowed to drive directly to Gleneagles but will have to park in Stirling, Perth or Kinross and be bussed in. We expect to receive more information in March 2014 and in particular how this will affect the motorway junction at Craigforth.

Community Council Elections – The existing Community Council is coming to the end of its period of office. A new Council will b elected in October. Application forms are now available and can be obtained form Peter Rickard, or from Stirling Council. Nomination forms must be received by 4pm on 25th October. Note that all current councillors lose their positions at this time and have to seek re-election if they wish to continue. Applications from anyone wishing to become a

councillor are welcome. There may be up to 12 members and a minimum of 7 nominations must be received. There will be a postal ballot if more than 12 nominations are received. This is your chance to make sure that local and national bodies hear Blair Drummond and Thornhill's voices.

Next Meetings- The remaining meetings scheduled for this year are 5th November, and 17th December, both in Thornhill Primary School, at 7.30pm. These are subject to a new Community Council being formed.

Peter Rickard, Secretary

The Bigger Picture!



You get a very different view of the world from the cab of Claas combine -harvester in a barley field than you do from my seat at the manse desk...not necessarily better or worse, but it was different, as we swept up the harvest.

You see the bigger picture from that high position in the cab, and folk probably think that sitting with a Bible in front of you is a pretty narrow tame scene in comparison. Not as much as you imagine! The Bible isn't a set of rules that tells you what to do, and condemns you when you don't. Instead it tells of folk's experience of life with (and sometimes without) God; how they coped and what they learned. Family feuds, jealousy, poverty and wealth betrayal, sex and beauty are all there. Believe me, there are more life situations outlined on the pages of the Bible than in ten years of Eastenders!

It was Willie Drummond from Nether Spittalton's idea to get me out on the Combine, as I was putting together the idea for the **Faith in Farming** event at Briarlands on **29**th **September**. (It's OK - he was driving!) He said a minister should have experience of the lives of the people he ministered to. I agree,

although it means that Tom Gilliland may now want me to do the 4.00am milking with him, and Catriona Turner suggested some lambing!

It's not just your minister who should see another person's point of view however. What about you? Do you take the time to see another's point of view before diving in with advice, or worse, your criticism.

Try sitting in someone else's seat occasionally. It can be a worthwhile if uncomfortable experience.

Aye yours.

Rev Andy

Blair Drummond Youth Club

Blair Drummond Youth Club starts its new year of activities for existing members on **Tuesday 8th October.** Annual membership is £10 with subs of £1 per night. There is a tuck shop with any profits going back into youth club funds.

The Youth Club is held every Tuesday evening from 7-9 pm, in the Community Hall, from October until Easter. Any High School and Primary 7 pupils wishing to join us can come along from Tuesday 22^{nd} October.

The Youth Club has been running at Blair Drummond for over 40 years and is run by parents and local community volunteers. This year, after the previous leader left the Club, it was in danger of folding, so we are very grateful to Lorna Fotheringham and Mary Inglis, who have kindly volunteered to take up the positions of joint leaders.

We wish all youth members and our new leaders a successful and fun filled year at Youth Club.

Halloween Party 29th October AGM 12th November

We would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the members and parents to thank Doug McMillan for being Youth Club Leader over the last 3 years.

Eleanor Graham, Secretary

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RLF Recycling Robertson Lane Farm Blair Drummond By Stirling FK9 4AQ

For 16 months now, David and Lorna Fotheringham (and kids) have been running a small recycling business from their farm at Robertson Lane. They collect every week from a number of small businesses in the central area, and have also been recycling the Safari Park materials this summer.

With Christmas coming up, David wanted to let everyone in the Blair Drummond area know that if you want an uplift of your Christmas paper / cardboard / cans / plastic or bottles – and don't want it lying about waiting for the Council, give him a call for an uplift to be arranged! This uplift service is free over the Xmas period. People are also welcome to bring along their recycling to the farm free of charge just give us a ring beforehand to let us know you're coming and for directions.

All materials need to be separated for ease of collection, however pop everything into bin bags (and tie them) – no problems.

In addition to this, regular business collections are available, and with the new waste regulations coming into effect in 2014 – give David or Lorna a call for advice.

Contact David on: 0775 3428 755, or e-mail Roblanefarm@aol.com

Merry Christmas.



Thursday 28 November 2013

1600 - 2000 Callander Youth Project Bridgend Youth Hub, Callander, FK17 8AH

Join STEP, the regions business support agency for this **FREE business** event and discover the support available for your business including.....

- 2014 how to make the most of the opportunities available
- Grant funding for innovative business development projects
- Help to overcome the barriers to your business development
- Real, practical advice on your IT challenges such as how to make money from your website!

Exhibitors include: Business Gateway, VisitScotland, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

TO FIND OUT MORE OR REGISTER:

Contact STEP on 01786 463416 (Option 0) or e-mail:

events@stepstirling.co.uk

Useful Contacts

01786 841352
01786 841346
01877 330156
01786 456000
01786 443322
01786 841213
01786 841216
08454 242424
01324 566000

There is a Minor Injury Unit based in the former Accident & Emergency Department at Stirling Royal Infirmary, which is open from 9.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week. Children under the age of one should be taken direct to the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital at Larbert.

Minor injuries include:

- Sprains and strains
- Suspected broken bones
- Minor eye injuries
- Minor burns and scalds
- Cuts and grazes
- Minor head and neck injuries
- Infected wounds



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

1/4 page £7.50 1/2 page £10 Full page £20

Do you have any pictures, stories or letters you would like included, if so please email them to:

<u>christinebauer@tiscali.co.uk</u> or <u>catherine@grasslands.plus.com</u>

Items for Issue No 11 should be submitted by 31st January 2014.

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.

Contributions will only be published is accompanied by a valid contact name and address; these will be withheld at the author's request. Articles and adverts are accepted and printed in good faith.

The Blair Drummond Grapevine is published by the Blair Drummond Community Hall Committee.

Website: www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk

Facebook: Blair Drummond Community Hall