



Issue 12

## **The Grapevine**

Summer 2014

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

### **Come Celebrate with us!**

You may recall that in the last newsletter we ran a small article highlighting our hopes to celebrate locally the 2014 Commonwealth Games by holding a day of sport? Well, the good news is that thanks to a successful joint application to Celebrate Lottery Funding, this afternoon of fun will happen!

**From 2.00pm – 4.00pm on Saturday 14th June**, in the school grounds, 8 teams from 8 local organisations, will represent 8 chosen countries for a super afternoon of sports and activities, to suit all ages, abilities and disabilities.

These are:

Camphill (Jamaica), the Church (India), the Hall Committee (Canada), 2 groups from the Primary School pupils (Malawi & Fiji), the School Parents Council (Gibraltar), the Social Group for over 50's (Malaysia), and the Youth Club (New Zealand).



The teams, wearing T-shirts representing the flags of the appropriate countries, will have a minimum of 6 participants and a maximum of 12. As they move round the range of activities they'll gain points for successful participation and at the end of the afternoon we will have a medal awarding 'ceremony' for the winners of events.

The games are badminton, lawn bowls, hockey, table tennis, athletics, netball, touch rugby and gymnastics. Remember they are pitched at being achievable by all participants.

Along with the fun of the afternoon, midway there will be a break in activities, to enjoy a picnic, which has been arranged by the steering group.

We look forward to having you join us, either as someone taking part, or providing encouragement from the sidelines! See you there.

And remember, in the evening you can finish the day off by joining in the Blair Drummond family BBQ, at the Safari Park.

### **Blair Drummond Family BBQ**

To coincide with our own Commonwealth Games Day this year's BBQ is slightly later than usual. It's on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June from 6.30pm at Blair Drummond Safari Park (by kind permission of Mr Jamie Muir). Tickets £5 (under 5s free).BYOB.  
**Admission by ticket only.** Contact Louise on 841352 or Catherine 860246 or Helen 860578

### **Kincardine in Menteith School News**

Kincardine in Menteith Primary School has been awarded a grant of £3,000 from the British Council to support our Malawi work.

The grant will fund reciprocal visits between our school and Kapalamula Primary in Malawi. Mrs McAllister and Mrs Reid will be going to Kapalamula Primary in Malawi in June and their

Head teacher, Daytoney Malefula and his deputy head teacher from Malawi will come here in September.

### **How could you be involved?**

Here are some examples:

Showing our visitors round the local area in September.

Inviting them to your home/church/group meeting.

Hand knitted baby clothes would be very welcome to take out.

Do you have any other ideas to share?

Everyone from our community is invited to a meeting in the school on Thursday 15th of May at 3.30pm

Please share this information with everyone from the local nurseries, community, church, parents and families.



*P2 – P4 with Blessing and Olive*

### **Rotary Hill Walk**

We would like to invite everyone to join us in keeping fit and raising money!

The school have registered to take part in the Alloa Rotary Hill Walk, which is on Sunday the 1st of June. It is organised by Alloa Rotary Club. The school will keep all the sponsor money raised and the Rotary Club keep Gift Aid. The money we raise

will be used for a range of projects within school....watch this space!

This is a fun, well organised and well established event that the Rotary are keen for us to join. There is lots to see and do, as there is usually a band playing to meet you when you return - as well as a BBQ at the finish, so bring some money for your burgers!

It is suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. A sponsor form will be available from school at the beginning of May....please call the office or email if you would like to join this event.

**Mary McAllister**

## **Blair Drummond Community Hall**

The Hall has had another great year. But it could not function without a group of volunteers, who are enthusiastic, hard working and dedicated to the successful running of the Hall. We are always looking for people to join the Committee. If you think you would like to be involved in the running of your community hall, why not come along to our **Annual General Meeting in the Hall, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, at 7.30pm.** We only look to take up a small amount of your time, to attend a few meetings throughout the year.

The AGM will be followed by a Cheese and Wine Social. The Committee will extend a warm welcome to you on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Tom Gilliland**, Chairman

## **Surfing Ducks!!**

Michele, the daughter of one of our local knitters, Sue Thornley of Cassafuir, has just launched a new website [www.surfingducks.com](http://www.surfingducks.com). The site aims to offer good quality yarns at reasonable prices, starting with a beautiful range of Norwegian DROPS yarns. And for the entire month of May there is 35% off all their wool based yarn, including Alpaca at £1.90 a ball.



*Some of the members trying out their new circus skills*

## **Youth Club**

The members of Youth Club finished the year off with a very enjoyable evening of juggling and pizza! Allen “the Tartan Juggler” came to the hall and demonstrated some circus tricks. Then they all had a go, there were diabolos and juggling balls flying everywhere! Everyone had a go with varying degrees of success.

After a while they stopped and demolished 4 huge pizzas, before finishing off with some more circus fun!

Youth Club has finished for now but will resume from 7pm till 9pm every Tuesday in October, when the new P7’s will be invited to join.

As joint leaders Lorna and Mary have enjoyed (survived) their first season of youth club and look forward to seeing some old and new faces in October.

If you know anyone aged P7 and above who would like to join the Youth Club please contact the leaders: Lorna Fotheringham on 01786 860585 or Mary Inglis on 01786 841472 for more information.

**Mary Inglis**



## **Editorial. Objective – reliable, affordable and carbon free Energy. Is the answer “blowing in the wind?”**

Seeing the other day another of Scotland's fine views and wild places become visually dominated by a new wind farm, I have been asking myself are wind farms really helping us achieve the above objective, so that the visual price is worth paying?

The importance of electricity being as cheap as reasonably possible is crucial to our welfare and the cost of our goods and services as a trading nation. As regards visual/physical impact I have read that the output of Cockenzie Power Station could only be matched by the average output of 2000 wind turbines, which would occupy about 70 square miles compared to Cockenzie's 1/5th of a square mile.

On the test of reliability, wind turbines seem most vulnerable. The evidence points to wind farms working at only 25% to 30% of their capacity because wind is uncertain and intermittent. Furthermore that capacity declines over the 25 year working life of a wind turbine – after 15 years there is evidence that capacity drops to around 15%. Accordingly unless giant storage batteries can be invented, then to the extent that our national energy need is produced by wind, we need up to 100% back up from a reliable energy source such as coal, gas, nuclear and arguably hydro. “Wind energy is fundamentally insecure and the more wind energy we have in the system the greater the back up problem.” This necessary back up means that the back up capacity to meet wind insecurity is lying idle when the wind is blowing and therefore not being used efficiently. Idle machinery adds to costs. “With wind you have to maintain two generating systems instead of one.”

On the criterion of greenness and carbon free, wind turbines score highly. On this aspect apparently Scotland produces about 0.03% of the world's greenhouse gasses. Even if we produce none we are not going to save the planet on our own. This will require international co-operation and effort or scientific break-through on, for example, carbon capture and storage.

On the test of cost, the full picture is not clear. Thanks to subsidies from the tax pool a 10 turbine wind farm will, over 25 years, earn £3m for the land owner and £150m for the generating company. Households currently pay £72 a year for our renewable obligation and by 2020 this will apparently be about £700 and rising further and proportionally higher thereafter the more renewables we have.

Jobs - Originally it was estimated that wind energy would generate and support 50,000 jobs but now estimates have come down to 11,000 and some sceptics say probably only 2000 direct jobs would be created. Others argue that the visual despoliation of our scenery will mean our tourist industry, which employs some 200,000, will suffer and in consequence the number of people employed in it.

In conclusion wind farms do not seem to me a significant meaningful answer to the quest for reliable, affordable carbon free energy but am delighted to be corrected.

**Ronald Graham**

**BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE**

Hardwood Logs	£170/ load
Hardwood Logs	£85/ half load
Softwood Logs	£120/ load
Softwood Logs	£60/ half load
Small bags	£4.40 for hardwood
Small bags	£3.40 for softwood

Contact: **Bob**  
**Tel: 01786 841580**  
**Mob: 07732 563106**

## **Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council Update**

Recently there have been changes to the Thornhill & Blair Drummond Community Council (TBCC) membership, with Anne Petrie retiring after many years of service. Anne was an active member who had great knowledge of life in the village and ably represented the TBCC at Forth Valley Board meetings.

Also retired from TBCC is Isobel MacAlpine. Isobel was a member for a few years and played an active part in the TBCC, taking on many local issues that she thought needed our attention. And she will always be remembered for providing tea/coffee, cakes and biscuits for our refreshment!

Peter Rickard has retired from the role of Secretary after many years of unstinting hard work and we owe him a great deal of thanks, as this is by far the most time consuming position on the Committee. A replacement has still to be appointed. Peter will continue as the TBCC Planning contact with Stirling Council.

Total membership now numbers 7, with 5 vacant places, leaving an opportunity for people interested to come along as associate members and take part in the meetings with a view to being co-opted as full members at a later stage.

For further information please email the Secretary at ;  
[secretary@thandbdcc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@thandbdcc.org.uk)

**James Maxwell**, Chair, Thornhill & Blair Drummond Community Council

## **Thistle Threads**

Thistle Threads Creative Textile Arts and Crafts Studio are holding their annual Thistle Threads Charity Quilt Show in aid of CHAS on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, from 10.00am until 4.00pm, at the Kirk Hall in Callander.

There will be lots of lovely quilts on show, teas/coffees with home baking, a raffle of a group quilt and lots more.

For more information contact Clare Workman on 01877 382924.



## Briarlands Farm

After a great Easter we are still busy at Briarlands Farm, here are just some of our new attractions and offers:

### **“New” Summer School Holiday Pass!**

Visit as many times as you like during the School Summer holidays for £55 for a family of 4.

Early Bird offer, if purchased before June 22<sup>nd</sup> Cost is £50 for a family of 4.

### **“New” After School Rate!**

Half price admission Monday-Friday after 3.30pm during term time only .

### **“New” Tractor & Trailer rides**

A great opportunity to see around the farm. Cost £1, starts at 11.30, every hour weather permitting.



### **“New” Animal Feeding**

We now sell “Animal Food” for 50p, this gives you the opportunity to feed the animals outside, up close, using our feeding tubes.



The Tearoom is still proving popular, with all types of visitor who enjoy the freshly prepared lunches and delicious cakes!!

We are also busy planting our strawberry plants in preparation for “Pick your Own”, opening again in the

summer. For more info please visit [www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk](http://www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk) or call 01786841309

## **Sponsored Bike Safari- Come and join the fun!**

The residents of Camphill Blair Drummond, a community for adults with learning disabilities, invite you to the return of their successful Bike Safari around Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park.

**The Sponsored Bike Safari will take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June, with registration opening at 6pm and the event starting at 7pm prompt. 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.**

Last year over 50 people took part, on all sorts of cycles, from unicycles, to tricycles, mountain bikes and road bikes and everyone had a great day out and really enjoyed it.

This year we are offering four different animal inspired challenges. Participants can choose from 4 challenges; Cheeky Monkey, Iguana, Zebra or Ostrich challenges, which are a short loop of 1 lap, 5 laps and 10 laps of the Safari Park.

There will also be refreshments for all participants, including a refreshment stall half way round the loop, 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.

Everyone is welcome, come and join us for a unique opportunity to cycle round Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park!

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](mailto:elsie@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk) or visit our website [www.camphillblairdrummond.org.uk](http://www.camphillblairdrummond.org.uk).



*From the minister's desk >> Tis the season to be??*

Ploughing



Done!

Sowing



Done!



Lambing



Done !

## **Now is the season of *growing*!**

What we water, with our attention, grows. We all know that!

...and we also know that what we ignore withers.

It doesn't really matter whether agriculture is your profession or gardening is your hobby, we know the obvious fact that growth takes effort, while lack of it results in withering failure.

The same applies to education (as some of our students could soon discover when the exams start); and the same is true for family relationships and friendships - so go and make that phone-call tonight! As with most aspects of life, it's what you do in the good seasons that sets you up for when a hard one comes along

This isn't rocket science; though I daresay the same principle applies there too.

So what makes us believe that it will be any different when it comes to our own personal spiritual development and our relationship with God.

What we water, with our attention, grows. So if you want to grow into a full size adult spiritual being, you've got to do something about it, not just assume that improvement happens by accident. If you want to learn to play a musical instrument, you need to practise. When you need to know about new

techniques in farm accounting, you buy a book, attend a seminar or seek out an expert.

Do you not think that your Christian life would benefit from a wee bit of training and teaching? Some encouragement from others or shared practice might help. You might even try praying. Your involvement in Sunday morning worship might strengthen not only your soul but the souls of others that are there, so come along: and be a spiritual grown-up.

Church services at Kincardine in Menteith start at 9.30am these sunny Sunday mornings.

A great way to start the week and learn more about yourself as well as the way God works, and to build that relationship

Rev Valerie Allen and I will be delighted to see you.

Your minister

Rev Andy

## **Blair Drummond Rocks!**

There promises to be a great evening for modern music lovers on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, here in Blair Drummond Hall.**

Sponsored by Torwood Fencing Co. Ltd. and hosted by Roy

Paget who lives locally, the rock band, **Lift Shaft Incident**

(LSI), describe themselves a '*an energetic rock covers band, playing dynamic rock, from AC/CD to Led Zep, Bon Jovi to the Rolling Stones*'.

LSI will also provide the lighting for the evening and Gargunnock Inn will provide the buffet and bar.

The free evening is an 'Invitation Only' event and monies raised from a collection, which will be taken on the evening, will go to Camphill, another local organisation.

If you would like to get a flavour of LSI's work, catch them on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pok2LOazNnY>

Or contact them on:

[www.FACEBOOK.COM/THELIFTSHAFTINCIDENT](http://www.FACEBOOK.COM/THELIFTSHAFTINCIDENT)



## Thornhill Playgroup

The Playgroup runs every Tuesday and Friday during school term time and welcomes any local children from Thornhill and Blair Drummond, between the ages of 2 ½ and 5 years. We meet in the Community Hall in Thornhill from 9.45am – 11.45am. Children can attend one or both days, each session costs £5.50 and fees are paid on a per term basis. There are 2 Play Leaders, Michelle and Sarah-Jane and a Duty Parent at every session. Duties are usually once or twice a term, depending on numbers of children attending. Each session is partly structured and partly free-play, giving children lots of options and activities, with a healthy snack provided about half way through the session. If the weather is good, we often pop over to the play park opposite the hall, for half an hour at the end of the session. We are also connected with a Ranger from Stirling Council, who comes out once a term and leads a walk for us, which the children always love! For more information contact : [michellefordyce@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michellefordyce@yahoo.co.uk)



*Painting time!*

## **Blair Drummond Social Group**

The BD Social Group celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday in April by having a Quiz, with much laughter and a few debates on the accuracy of the answers!

In the year past the Group have had 2 visits from the Kincardine in Menteith school children, 1 garden visit, 3 speakers, 2 Quizzes, 1 Burns Supper, 2 lunches and plenty of chat. And now everyone's considering what might be included in the forthcoming months.

On May 26th we have Alistair Durie coming to speak on '*Lockharton, Lisbon and London. One man's war 1939 – 1945*'. Alistair is an expert on a wide range of Scottish social historical subjects, who never fails to amuse, educate and inform.

So please do come and join us at the Blair Drummond Hall at 2.00pm on the 26<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you.

**Christine Bauer**

## **Blair Drummond Curling Club**

The 2013/14 season has come to an end and the Club AGM will have been held at the Peak by the time the Grapevine is published. Highlights of the 2013/14 season include a very successful Burns night, which included a Bonspiel prior to the meal. The event was well attended and many thanks to all who were there and those involved in organising the event. The Points night was a great event, despite the disappointing turnout.

As we prepare for the 2014/15 season, if you are interested in taking up the sport, Active Stirling organise Come and Try Sessions, so look out for the dates or contact the Club on 07500 354 004 or [fredbauer@outlook.com](mailto:fredbauer@outlook.com)

Finally this year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scottish Central Province and various events will be held to celebrate this momentous occasion, details to follow.

**Fred Bauer**, Chairman



## Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

### Weekly Classes

**Monday:** Metafit – 6.30pm to 7.30pm

**Thursday:** Metafit – 7.00pm to 8.00pm

### Other Events

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May:** Blair Drummond Hall Committee Meeting. 7.30pm

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May:** European Election Voting. 7.00am – 10.00pm

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May:** Rugby Club Dance

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May:** Blair Drummond Social Group. 2.00pm – 4.00pm      Tea & cakes. Drop in any time.

Speaker : Dr Alistair Durie.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June:** Blair Drummond Hall AGM. 7.30pm. Cheese & Wine Social to follow.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June:** Commonwealth Celebration Event. Blair Drummond Primary School. 2.00pm – 4.00pm

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June:** Family BBQ at Blair Drummond Safari Park. From 6.30pm. Tickets £5.00. BYOB. **Admission by ticket only.** Contact Louise 841352 or Catherine 860246 or Helen 860578.

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

As always, the Hall is regularly used for meetings, kids parties, ceilidhs, and wedding receptions, to name but a few. For more information visit our website: [www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk](http://www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk) or contact Louise (Booking Secretary) on 01786 841352.

## **Lamb and Broccoli Stir Fry**

350g Scotch Lamb leg or fillet cut into thin strips  
3 tbsp olive oil  
2 red onions sliced  
1 clove of garlic crushed  
200g broccoli cut into small pieces  
100g sugar snap peas or mange tout, sliced  
3tbsp sweet chilli sauce  
1 tbsp soy sauce  
1tsp finely grated root ginger

Heat 1tbsp of the oil in a wok or large frying pan and stir fry the lamb to brown. Remove meat to a plate.

Reheat wok with remaining oil and fry the onions gently until softened, then increase heat and add broccoli, peas and garlic, stir frying until nearly tender but still crisp.

Return the meat and juices and add the chilli sauce, soy sauce and ginger and a splash of water and continue cooking until meat is hot and everything is coated with sauce.

Serve with Rice or noodles. Works well with chicken or beef too!

**Mary Inglis** *(Recipe courtesy of Quality Meat Scotland)*

## **Doune and Dunblane Show - 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

This year's Doune and Dunblane Show is fast approaching, the Directors have spent the last 8 months planning and now the countdown is on.

This year's Show will prove to be bigger and better than ever, with an expanded Cattle section, introduction of more classes in the Heavy Horse Turnouts and, new for 2014, is the Shepherds Crooks and Walking Stick section.

A day at Doune and Dunblane Show takes you right to the heart of local agriculture! These farmers are the very same people who provide the food you eat every day. This year's

show will have Dairy Cow milking, Sheep Shearing, Crook Making, Horse Shoeing and Chainsaw Carving demonstrations. The Light Horse section has classes for all interests and abilities, with both In-hand and Ridden classes.

As well as all the Showing classes, there is the Craft tent with a vast array of Crafters selling their products. The many and various Trade stands have something for everyone. With Trade stands selling everything from tractors and Agricultural machinery to sweets, clothing and soap, truly something for everyone.

Gates open at 9am, with the first livestock classes starting at 9.30. A family ticket costs £20, an adult ticket costs £8, and children/concession £4.

### **Many Thanks**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the agricultural crime survey for my dissertation. Your help was much appreciated.

**Laura Killen**

### **Tartan Ties**

Clan Hay are to host ***Tartan Ties***, a traditional ceilidh dance with supper, in Blair Drummond Hall on the evening of **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June**. Doors will be open at 7.30pm and the cost is £25.00 per person. This event, generously supported by Event Scotland's Scottish Clan Event Fund, is conceived to bring together Clan Hay Society members with members of the local community.

Music will be provided by Jack Delaney Band and catering by Regis Banqueting.

As this is being held to coincide with the Bannockburn Commemorations, it is expected to be a very popular event and early booking is recommended.

For further details of this and other events contact :

[pam.rotheroe-hay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pam.rotheroe-hay@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07777 672059.

Transport will be available from and returning to Stirling Castle but advance booking is required

# TARTAN TIES

## CLAN CEILIDH

BANNOCKBURN



**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Blair Drummond Hall

Stirling

FK9 4UX

Dancing to **The Jack Delaney Band** 19:30 – 23:30

**Entrance by ticket only.**

Tickets £25 including supper.

For further details and to buy tickets contact Pam Rotheroe-Hay:

[pam.rotheroe-hay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pam.rotheroe-hay@hotmail.co.uk).

07777672059

# SPONSORED SAFARI

## BIKE RIDE



**COME AND JOIN THE FUN!**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 7pm**

Camphill Blair Drummond invites you to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual bike safari around Blair Drummond Safari & Adventure Park to help raise funds for our vital appeal to secure our future.

Camphill Blair Drummond is a unique community that provides a wonderful safe home and meaningful work opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.

Choose from 3 bike challenges - Ostrich, Zebra & Cheeky Monkey or our Tortoise walking challenge

Please contact Lynda Ferguson on 01786 843047 or

e-mail [lynda@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk](mailto:lynda@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk)

[www.camphillblairdrummond.org.uk](http://www.camphillblairdrummond.org.uk)



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](mailto:christinebauer@tiscali.co.uk)

or

[catherine@grasslands.plus.com](mailto:catherine@grasslands.plus.com)

Items for Issue No 13 should be submitted by **31<sup>st</sup> July 2014**, sent by email, in Word, and as a separate attachment.

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 if 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](http://www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk)

Facebook: **Blair Drummond Community Hall**