



Issue 13

The Grapevine

August 2014

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

Come Celebrate with us!



The winning team from the Parent Council

Well, thanks to 'Celebrate Lottery' funding, what a fun day was had!! On Saturday 14th June the sun shone, there was a little breeze which was grand for showing off the chosen Commonwealth flags fluttering on the poles along the roadway (thanks to Mr McKinstry and the helpers), and everyone turned out at the Primary School, to give of their best in the spirit of the

Commonwealth and to ensure a medal. Family and friends throughout the afternoon provided support and encouragement. The 8 Commonwealth teams, chosen by the children at the school, were

2 teams from the Primary School - Malawi and Fiji

Camphill – Jamaica

The Church - India

The Community Hall Committee – Canada

The School Parents Council – Gibraltar

The Social Group for over 50's – Malaysia

The Youth Club – New Zealand

The teams were kitted up in their country's T-shirts, with the flag of the country clearly demonstrating their allegiance. Tom Gilliland, Chairman of the Community Hall, welcomed everyone and reminded all that representatives from the Youth Club would be stewards for the afternoon and their word would be final in any decision-making situation, should that be necessary! Under Tom's guidance, the Commonwealth Oath (prepared by the school) was taken by everyone, and the fun began.

It would be fair to say that the mood was one of competitive jollity. All ages and abilities gave it their best shot, had great fun and kept to the timetable arranged. Who could say if there was a little bending of the rules or not, but given that one of the aims of the Commonwealth is to engender co-operation, occasional help was given and perhaps the rules were slightly ignored?!

When the badminton, lawn bowls, hockey, table tennis, athletics, netball, touch rugby and gymnastics had all been completed it was time for the scores to be tallied up by the adjudicators (Headmistress Ann Maitland, the stewards and a few other interested parties). The picnic that followed was enjoyed by everyone, particularly the exhausted competitors, and was rounded off by delicious Briarlands strawberries!

And then the medal ceremony took place. All team scores were given and Ann Maitland awarded the medals. The winning team was the Parents Council Team but it was agreed that every team were winners in their own way and there were medals for everyone.



One group admiring their medals & T-shirts!

The ages spanned from 4 to 80+ years, the abilities were equally as wide, but the wish to be a team player, to give it a good try and to enjoy the event was the mood of the afternoon.

A big 'THANK YOU' to all those involved in the planning, to the competitors, and to all those who helped on the day.

Blair Drummond Community Hall

The Annual General Meeting of the Hall was held on Tuesday 10th June. Chairman Tom Gilliland, reported that the Hall has had another very successful year. It continues to be used by local groups and the school, with bookings for parties, weddings etc. Treasurer Jimmy Maxwell, reported on the finances, which at present are very healthy.

The Business Meeting followed the AGM. The Office Bearers for the year 2014 – 15 were appointed as follows –

Chairman	Tom Gilliland
Secretary	Catherine Killen
Booking Secretary	Louise Maxwell
Treasurer	Jimmy Maxwell

The evening finished with cheese and wine.

Tom Gilliland, Chairman

Wine Tasting

A Wine Tasting Evening will be held in the Hall on **Friday 24th October 2014**, starting at 7.30pm.

Ian Forteath of Woodwinters Wines and Whiskies, Bridge of Allan, will bring along 8 different wines for the audience to taste.

Ticket price is £15, which will include wine, cheese and biscuits. Tickets will be available soon from Louise Maxwell (Tel:01786 841352) and Catherine Killen (Tel: 01786 860246).

Burns Supper

The Hall Committee are organising a Burns Supper on Friday 30th January 2015. The Rev Alex Shuttleworth will give the Immortal Memory. Gargunnock Inn will cater for the meal. BYOB.

Tickets will be available later in this year. Please watch future editions of the Grapevine for information.

Births

Lauren and Neil Gilliland, The Nyadd, Blair Drummond, are delighted to announce the arrival of Fearne Myra Gilliland on 2nd June 2014. Mother and baby are both well.



Correction

In Issue 12 of The Grapevine it was wrongly stated that Ann Petrie retired from the Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council (page 8), when in fact Ann resigned from the Community Council.

Obituary

The Community was saddened recently by the passing of John Inglis, local farmer, family man and friend to all who knew him. John was brought up at Briarlands Farm where he lived and worked all of his 50 years.

He had a passion for life and farming, starting his career early by taking over the family farm at the age of 16 years, after his father's health deteriorated. He was educated at the local Primary School and then McLaren High School in Callander, where he made many good friends with like-minded farmers' sons, many of whom remained friends throughout his life.

Briarlands is a traditional Carse farm and hay time was a particular favourite time for John when he loved building bales on the back of the sledge, in a cloud of dust. Over the years he built up a herd of commercial suckler cows and recently purchased a Charolais bull, which he was fortunate enough to see producing lovely strong calves in the spring.



Outwith farming John was a keen curler, playing for the local Blair Drummond club and was an active member of the NFU, serving as Chairman of the local branch.

He married local girl Joanne Killen in February 1999 and the couple were blessed with daughter Heather in 2003, and son Archie in 2005. John enjoyed spending time with his children,

often taking Heather to fiddle practice and Archie to rugby training at Stirling County and he was proud of their achievements. The family enjoyed many holidays together, but no matter where they went it would always have to include a trip to a Cattle Market or better still a Farm Sale!

In 2006 John and Joanne opened up a part of the farm to the public, as a children's play area and over the years the business grew and grew. In 2012 they built a purpose built building to accommodate the growing demand for children's entertainment. John enjoyed the interaction with the customers and was often seen helping out in the funyard.

Unfortunately, in the summer of 2012 his health began to deteriorate, and in February 2013 he received a liver transplant in Edinburgh. The operation was a success, and he would have been discharged from hospital in the record time of 5 days if not for paperwork. John continued to do many things during his illness, attending Chelsea Flower Show this year and taking part in the Killin Vintage Tractor Run. He never wanted anyone to feel sorry for him and always looked on the positive side of life.

The family were comforted by the great attendance at his funeral and are very grateful for all the support they have received over the last 2 months, from family, friends and the local community. The collection taken at the funeral service amounted to £3000, which was donated to Cancer Research.

The Rev's Rant

IT'S JUST HUMAN NATURE!



If the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Kincardine-in-Menteith Church isn't well attended this summer; I give you fair warning - there's going to be trouble! Weatherwise, this must have been the best year, never mind best summer, that we've

had for a long time.

The winter was open with little snow and ice, the spring was wet enough, but not what you'd call bad, and the summer....well, the summer's been brilliant (so far). Even Jimmy Maxwell has had a smile on his face, especially the day I asked about the hay back in June. Mind you the smile disappeared pretty speedily as he reminded me that the real problem was that there was now too much hay all across the country and his price was dropping. (He must have got me confused with the tax man.) Meantime, Mrs Minister is already telling me that we should expect a hard, cold, snowy winter after a summer like this....and we're only just into August. I sometimes think she's more Presbyterian than I am.

Now, I was thinking, if the scientists could just come up with a way of controlling our weather, then surely all our troubles would all be over, wouldn't they?

Well, maybe not. Our financiers said they had control of our economy. Did that work for you? The politicians are the ones in charge of international relations. How would you rate their success at present as you view Gaza and Ukraine, or commemorate the start of WWI.

I'm a positive sort of guy who is all for encouraging humanity to be better, but if we can't yet manage our money, control our combatants and their military hardware or govern our people in the ways of peace, then thank God that s/he's still in charge of the weather. I'd rather have the sometimes disappointing, unpredictable but sustainable climate that we can moan about year after year, and which ruins our farming hopes, than weather being influenced by politicians, scientists and economists. How about you? Mother Nature is lot more unpredictable than human nature, but I think we can all predict where the latter would take us.

God bless you.

Rev Andy

First Public Exhibition for Local Photographer

Filmmaker and photographer Alex Ingle, from Blair Drummond, is to launch his first solo exhibition in Edinburgh's Central Library this September. This new body of work entitled 'City Lights' is supported by both Edinburgh and Krakow City Councils and was created to celebrate the renewal of the partnership between these two vibrant cities. The project evolved from a suggestion by the Scottish Polish Cultural Association in Edinburgh that the city partnership was an historic event that merited wider public recognition.

This dynamic series of images was created entirely in-camera, using a custom-made 'light painting' tool. Through a combination of LEDs, battery packs, metres of cable and plenty of Sellotape to hold things in place, Alex's unique images are brought to life by an eye-catching stream of light which links the individual photographs together. The tool, which looks like a cross between a windscreen wiper and a 'light sabre', is moved through the air during a long exposure which leaves a glowing rainbow of light wherever it passes.

The images had to be taken in complete darkness, which was no mean feat in Scotland during July. Wielding something straight out of 'Star Wars' at 1am in Edinburgh's streets certainly attracted some attention, not all of it welcome! Alex's work is gaining the same recognition in Krakow, where part of the 'City Lights' project was also shot and where the exhibition will be seen in October.

Though currently based in Blair Drummond, Alex's filmmaking and photography has taken him as far afield as Greenland. He has strong ties with Krakow, where his wife Gabriela was born, and now spends a lot of time there particularly since the birth of their son Leo in November. Entirely self-taught, and having only been a professional photographer for just over a year, Alex's unique style is already earning him significant recognition as an artist.

If you would like to see the full collection of images, 'City Lights' will be on display at:

The Central Library, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh (mezzanine floor).

12th September – 5th October 2014.

The Tourist Service Center, 11 Powisle Street, Krakow (at the foot of Wawel Castle). **October 2014** (dates TBC).

Entrance is free.

[Further images available on request, and Alex would welcome any feedback or questions]

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Facebook.com/alexinglephoto,

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<u>BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE</u>	
Hardwood Logs	£170/ load
Hardwood Logs	£85/ half load
Softwood Logs	£120/ load
Softwood Logs	£60/ half load
Small bags	£4.40 for hardwood
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Contact: Bob	
Tel: 01786 841580	
Mob: 07732 563106	

DOWN OUR WAY

(An occasional series of interviews with local people)

Alex Ingle – photographer and film maker.

Q: How did you begin your photography and filmmaking?

A: Well, I've always been a passionate amateur photographer – probably since I was about 4 years old and I first had a disposable camera. As I got more proficient I began experimenting with my dad's Olympus OM1. Filmmaking also began to interest me while I was in secondary school and really took off while I was an undergrad at Glasgow University studying Geography. It wasn't until fairly recently that I decided to turn a hobby into a career, in fact it was a chance encounter with a photographer in Greenland that sparked the idea...

Q: How did you come to be in Greenland?

A: After graduating from Glasgow, I moved to Edinburgh where I later studied for an MSc by research in Glaciology. This took me to a remote south-western part of Greenland on two occasions, and it was during the latter that I met an American photographer named Chris Linder. He visited our base camp, just off the Greenland Ice Sheet where the team stayed for several months carrying out scientific experiments. At this point in time, I was wondering whether there was any chance of making a career in photography/filmmaking and after spending a few days talking to Chris about his career path I realised that it was indeed possible.

Q: So you weren't in Greenland as a photographer on that occasion?

A: Not exactly. I was there primarily to measure glacial changes on the Greenland Ice Sheet as part of a climate change investigation, but at the same time I was experimenting with an idea to use photography and filmmaking to bridge the wide gap that exists between science and the general public. I thought it might be interesting to present the human face of

science; the things that people would really connect with, so I produced a short pilot film and was quite surprised by the positive response.

Q: What happened after Greenland?

A: The film generated a huge amount of interest despite being produced with an old GoPro. It was used in lectures at the Universities of Sheffield and Bristol, and screened at the Polar Film Festival in Loughborough, where I was also invited to give a talk. Perhaps the biggest surprise came when the BBC contacted me, sadly not to offer me a job but asking if they could use my work for an internal pilot for a forthcoming science series. On top of that, some of the photos I took were published in an international calendar, which was rather good.

Q: So what are you doing now?

A: Since that Greenland trip, I made the decision to pursue a career in filmmaking and photography and have been fortunate enough to have a few exciting commissions already. I started around a year and a half ago, setting up a small production company, which produces creative content for university research outreach. This is moving along nicely, with a few really exciting projects in the pipeline – one this August which is taking me onboard RSS James Cook off the west coast of Ireland and a second which will see me back in Greenland next year.

I'm also finding more and more opportunities on the artistic side of things, with my photography earning me three solo exhibitions this year – which is extremely exciting. It's surprising what can happen when you buy a four year old a disposable camera...!

Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

Weekly Classes

Monday: Metafit – 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Thursday: Metafit – 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Other Events

Monday 26th August: Blair Drummond Social Group. Visit to Drummond Castle Gardens. Leave from Blair Drummond Hall at 2.00pm

Wednesday 3rd September: Blair Drummond Hall Committee Meeting. 7.30pm

Monday 15th September: Pot Luck Supper – see *page 14*

Thursday 18th September: Scottish Independence Referendum Voting. From 7am to 10pm

Monday 29th September: BD Social Group. Quiz. 2.00pm

Monday 13th October: “Save A Life” – see *page 14*

Friday 24th October: Wine Tasting Evening. 7.30pm – see *page 4*

Friday 28th November: Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre from 7pm till 9pm. For further info contact Catherine 01786 860246

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 or contact Louise (Booking Secretary) on 01786 841352.

Blair Drummond Curling Club

It doesn't seem long ago since the 2013/14 curling season came to an end with the AGM and presentation of trophies, yet here we are with the new season about to start in just over a month!

Congratulations to two Club members for their successes during the last season.

Marjory McCulloch, as member of Stirling Ladies, won the Anna

Smith and the Henderson Bishop trophies and also was in the winning team of the Stirling Mixed League.

Derek Sloan won silver, as a member of the GB Team, in the World University Under 21 Championship and was in the winning team in the Asham Under 21 Scottish National Championship.

Congratulations also to winners of the Club competitions, some of whom are in the photo below.

This coming season will see the 150th anniversary of the Central Province, which will be marked by a Dinner and Bonspiel in October. Central Province is the oldest province in Scotland.

Are you interested in taking up this great winter sport? Blair Drummond Curling Club welcomes and encourages new members, please contact Fred Bauer on 07500 354 004 if you are interested.

Fred Bauer, Chairman



This year's prize winners

New for Autumn 2014

The life of your average woman these days is pretty hectic. Is that fair to say? The demands of work or fulfilling voluntary work, the family's needs, the farm or the garden, that commitment to a hobby or organisation that seems to have grown into another job! So, what about you . . .? I mean, the 'you' inside, the one who thinks about life, the universe and all that! The one who would love to sit down for an evening without any demands being made on you, except a good chat with friends, a bit of a laugh, and some thoughtful reflection on life?

Have you just laughed, and said 'Aye, right!' Well, here's your chance, to give yourself that kind of evening every month. A new group for the The Carse area (Blair Drummond Gargunnock, Kippen, Thornhill, Doune and Cambusbarron) is starting in September and I'd like to give you a warm invitation to come along and share your company. It's for younger women (don't press me on the definition of 'younger'!) and the purpose of the group is to share three things – friendship, faith and fun, so that together we can make new friends, enjoy a mixture of activities and speakers and reflect a little on what faith might mean and what it adds to life.

The first evening is a Pot Luck Supper on Monday 15 September in Blair Drummond Hall, and we'll continue to gather there on the second Monday evening of the month at 7.30pm, through the winter months till April, with either a speaker or an activity demonstration to try your hand at, followed by tea/coffee and short informal worship. We're currently putting the programme together, so here are the early dates to get you started –

Monday 15 September: 'Getting to Know You' Pot-Luck Supper - Bring yourself and a food or drink contribution (sweet or savoury) to share.

Monday 13 October: 'Save a Life' - Penny Dixon of The Sandpiper Trust will speak on their work to supply defibrillators in rural areas, and demonstrate their use.

Monday 10 November: 'Fly with the Wild Goose' - Jo and Graham of The Iona Community's Wild Goose Worship Group, will speak/sing and talk on their work on Iona, Scotland and around the world.

Monday 8 December: 'Deck the Halls' - A watch + make evening with Jennifer Innes, using Christmas flowers and greenery.

If you'd like more information contact **Fiona Campbell**, The Manse, Gargunnock. **Tel: 01786 860 678** or **e-mail: artistatwork@btinternet.com**

Gargunnock to Cambusbarron Cycle Path

The story so far

A resident's survey completed last year in Gargunnock voted the development of this path as the number one priority for villagers. The Gargunnock Trust then set up a project group to investigate how best to take forward this long discussed project. Meanwhile, the Carse of Stirling Project had identified that linking the Touch Road with Gargunnock is a priority for the whole of the area, as without this vital link to Cambusbarron, and therefore Stirling, investing in recreational cycle and footpaths further west would be less worthwhile. With both these community groups targeting the path construction, it was felt that the right level of impetuosity existed to get the appropriate funding and make it a reality.

Some good progress has been made in recent months. The Forestry Commission have added their support to the project and agreed that following the felling of the Garshellach Wood, due to start during 2014, they would assist in creating the part of the proposed path that runs alongside forestry land (see below). This leaves the challenge of then linking this to the Old Military Road, currently classified as a Core Path, and the upgrade of the military road itself (shown below in orange).



How can you help?

Although some progress has been made, some challenges remain in getting the right level of support from all stakeholders and potential funding partners. To help overcome this the combined project group would particularly like to hear from locals in Gargunnock, surrounding villages and communities, as to how they would use the proposed pathway and why they see it as a priority for them.

There will be a Contributions book in the Gargunnock village shop until the end of July, for those who wish to declare their support and leave a few words in support of the project. Alternatively you can email gavfleming@hotmail.com.

Blair Drummond Social Group

Where have the past 3 months gone? So say the folks who come along to the Social Group, who though they are over 50 years, certainly do not believe in letting the grass grow under their feet, as they keep busy and interested in life and all around them.

Over the past 3 months the Group members have enjoyed Alistair Durie's fascinating talk on his familys' experiences of the Second World War, a visit to Maggie and Mark Sherriff's beautiful garden here in Blair Drummond, and an afternoon of chat and laughter.

In the hope that this wonderful summer weather will continue for a while longer, next month, on Monday 25th August, there is

a visit to Drummond Castle Gardens at Crieff. These spectacular formal gardens are well worth a visit!

For those interested in joining us, transport is provided, the entry fee is £5.00, £4.00 for people over 60 years, and disabled access is arranged. We are leaving the Community Hall at 2.00pm and hope to have a cuppa somewhere on the return journey.

Please contact Christine Bauer on 01786 841191, or Fiona Campbell on 01786 860678, if you would like to come along.

The following meeting on Monday 29th September at 2.00pm will include an Quiz; and the October meeting on Monday 27th is to be a Bring-a- Pal lunch, when folks can enjoy a light lunch and chat, having brought along their friend to enjoy the afternoon.

We look forward to seeing you.

Christine Bauer

LEARN TO DANCE

Classes For All Levels

WWW.COSTEP.CO

ArgentineTango

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BLAIR DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HALL

New Classes Starting 17th September

Wednesday from **7pm**

For more info contact:-
alldance@costep.co

07513 046 016



Two practices become one, to form Forth Valley Vets

Two major vet practices in Stirlingshire and Perthshire have merged their farm and equine expertise to form Forth Valley Vets Ltd. The new business, based at new premises in Stirling, will provide the highest standards of large animal and equine veterinary care at realistic, competitive prices.

Struthers & Scott Veterinary Practice, based in Doune and Grahams Road Veterinary Clinic based in Falkirk have joined forces and moved their large animal and equine care to new premises in Stirling, where they can provide state-of-the-art diagnostics, treatment and care for horses and large animals.

Colin Scott said: “By sharing expertise and buying power, Forth Valley Vets has been able to invest in the best specialist equipment and software and to access better deals on medicines and vaccines. This means even better value and service for our clients.”

Ian Rodger said: “Through this joint venture we hope to continue to develop our businesses and provide the best possible service for our clients. We care deeply about the animals under our care, and the people we work for. Both practices have been serving the local farm and equine community for over sixty years and we plan to be at the forefront of veterinary provision over the next sixty as well.”

Please note that Forth Valley Vets’ small animal practice will remain at Doune. Tel: 01786 841304

For further information on Forth Valley Vets visit www.forthvalleyvets.co.uk or Email forthvallyvets@outlook.com or ring 0845 1771956, or drop in for a cup of coffee if you are passing the new practice.

New address for Farm & Equine: Unit 7, 20 Munro Road, Stirling FK7 7UU

Police Scotland

The Policing of the Callander and Balfron areas has undergone a review and has changed slightly from the service that you have become used to.

There is now a Community Team of 14 officers, based at Callander, who provide 24hour cover for the Trossachs and Teith Community Areas. Each community area has a group of named officers who have responsibility for them. Thornhill and Blair Drummond are covered by Constables Donald King; Kenny Thomson; Robert Shearer; Alistair MacKay and Linzi Meek.

The Community Inspector is Gerry McMenemy and the Community Sergeant is Adrian Robertson, both based at Callander and available most days.

There has been an increase in rural crime to the West of Thornhill and Blair Drummond and we are working hard to prevent it happening, prevent it spreading and identify those involved.

We would ask that any suspicious persons or vehicles be reported at the time. You can contact the Police by telephone, using '999' for urgent matters and '101' for non-urgent matters or advice. We are also on Facebook as Police Scotland or Forth Valley Police, and for those who use Twitter, we have been tweeting regularly @StirlingPolice.

Sergeant Adrian Robertson

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 photos, ads, articles or letters you would like to contribute, if so please email them to:

christinebauer@tiscali.co.uk or
catherine@grasslands.plus.com

Items for Issue No 14 should be submitted **by Tuesday 30th September 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 Editorial Team, who also reserve the right to shorten, edit or refuse the insertion of any contribution.

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**
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