



Issue 16

The Grapevine

May 2015

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

Across the Pond

Let me begin by quoting American screenwriter Ben Hecht "Time is a circus, always packing up and moving away." Kind of sums up our life for the past 14 years!

I grew up just outside Thornhill, Stirling, at Chapel Farm. My husband Gordon Gentles farmed at West Rossburn Lane, Blair Drummond for many years. We have two married children and we are now enjoying two lovely little grandsons. To leave family, friends and such a beautiful area of Scotland, was a daunting prospect and not something we did without a lot of thought and soul searching.



Lesley & Gordon Gentles

The year was 2001 when our family relocated to Manitoba, Canada. The land of wonderful sunsets, wide-open prairie fields, mosquitoes and freezing cold temperatures! A land of contrasts and diversity. Where they speak the same language, but it's different, they eat the same food but it's different. Just recently our son offered me a taste of a dark brown dried meat. I declined as he refused to tell me what it was..... Turned out to be beaver jerky!

We had a farm in Manitoba but decided to rent out the land, to let Gordon pursue a different career. He sat all relevant exams and became a Real Estate Agent, something which he has enjoyed doing for the past thirteen years. I worked in the schools in Brandon as an Educational Assistant. A job that I found very rewarding as I enjoyed both the students and staff that I worked with.

Life in Canada has been a learning curve, learning to adjust and adapt to different ways. In the town of Brandon, Manitoba there were fourteen different nationalities in one school alone! I know this because for the past number of years I have worked with various students ranging from Columbian, Mexican, Ukrainian, Chinese and Puerto Rican

We experienced the hot temperatures of a Manitoba summer along with the bugs that came out in droves. Bug screens on windows are a wonderful invention! Some mosquitoes now carry a disease called West Nile, which can be fatal. So here we have the dilemma. How many creams should one apply when going out in the sun? Sunscreen - a must, bug screen - a must! Takes ten minutes to apply protection before venturing out!

We were fortunate to make many friends in Manitoba and enjoyed our time there. However we decided for various reasons to make another move, to the province of British Columbia. Our adult children now have children, which is a great incentive for moving closer. Our daughter Nicola and her husband Peter live in the beautiful city of Vancouver and our son Colin and his wife Ryan live in Northern Alberta. Gordon decided he wanted a change of lifestyle and we both felt the winters were long and hard with the lowest temperature we saw being -40 which became worse with the wind chill. Just ridiculous!

Last summer saw us packing up our place in Manitoba and in August we moved all our possessions into storage in Vernon BC. It was a two-day drive across three provinces and through mountain passes. Not quite pioneer days but at stages it felt like it..... At this point I should thank our wonderful son-in-law Peter who helped us pack at one end and unpack at the other! We then returned to Manitoba until October, when we took

possession of our new small farm in British Columbia. This time the drive over was a little more trying. My hubby had the truck with a trailer, on which was the beloved Massey Ferguson 135 tractor. A family heirloom, which had come all the way from Scotland! Meanwhile I followed along behind in the car. We then arrived at the Rogers Pass, which is a twisty; narrow in parts, mountain road and at that time of night it contained nothing but huge lorries (trucks in Canadian speak). I was gripping the steering wheel, cursing my pioneer husband for most of the journey but we made it to BC without mishap!

BC is a beautiful province and the area we have moved to is in the interior of BC. We are very near to the beautiful Shuswap Lake, which has a shoreline of 1000 kilometres and covers 309 square kilometres. We have mountains close by, with lots of walks. Our local town is Salmon Arm, which has a population of approx. 18,000.

Our first winter here has been spent fully renovating our new house and getting to know the area. Not too sure about the wildlife! Within three days of arriving we found bear poop (scat in Canadian speak) in the yard, way too close to the house for my liking. On our recent walks we have discovered lots of moose poop and a few strange tracks. I think my next purchase will be a very large dog to come on my walks with me.....

We decided to purchase a wildlife camera, which we now have attached to a tree. I am not sure I want to see what comes of that! The list is endless for animals passing through our property - moose, deer, elk, cougar, bear and coyotes. I may never leave the garden!

Ahead of us we have lots of changes to contend with. We are just not ready to retire yet so our options are wide open. However once the house is 'done' my husband wants to start on the outside and to quote "get it tidied up" We have met quite a few folks already, apart from electricians, plumbers and joiners! All very nice and very friendly. We look forward to sharing our new place with both family and friends and making it feel our own.

Till the next time.....

Lesley Gentles (nee Matthew).

If you know of anyone who used to live in Blair Drummond and has now moved further afield we would love to hear and share their story. Please get in touch with us – details on the back page or contact any committee member.

Callander & District Young Farmers

Since our last write-up in the Blair Drummond Grapevine, Callander & District Young Farmers have been keeping just as busy, and have even been awarded a few certificates and prizes!



As we came to the end of our club year (our A.G.M on 25th March, signalled the end of one club year and

moved into the next) we had just recently taken part in our District Talent Spot Competition! Our sketch had us dressed up as sheep, singing and dancing on the big stage in Stirling Albert Halls on the 6th March. It was great fun for everyone involved! We had been practising hard at Briarlands Farm in the run up to Talent Spot (thanks to Joanne Inglis for letting the young farmers use Briarlands and its facilities) and we came out on the stage enthusiastic and raring to go, eager to impress the crowds! Rosalind Bennie received Reserve Best Act in the competition, and the club was praised for having been able to contribute both a concert and a talent spot this year, which was the first time in 4 years!

At the end of our club year, we all went out for dinner to the Lion and Unicorn for a club treat. It was a good fun night, time to blether and have some laughs with each other! At our recent District A.G.M, the club received what has to be our biggest achievement of late, which is - we were awarded Clyde & Central District Club of The Year. We were commended on raising our number of members in the club, our contributions to charity this year, our support to other clubs in the district and having contributed both a concert & talent spot this year. A great achievement for the club! The following week, the club also received West Regional Recruitment 1st Prize Certificate for having gained around 15 new members, which was a 50% addition to the club this year!

We have started our 2015/16 Club Year, led by Club Secretary Rosalind Bennie and Club Chairman David Bennie, and we have got a fun and exciting summer syllabus lined up. We will also be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the club – and will be looking to put on extra events across the year and have a 70th Anniversary Dinner Dance in November. To mark this special occasion both past and present members will help us to celebrate all this club has achieved in its time.

Also, as ever, we would love to welcome new members in to the club, and we will be holding a New Members Fun Night on Friday 15th May. If anyone is interested to hear more about Callander Young Farmers or would like to get involved, then please don't hesitate to either get in touch with Club Chairman David Bennie (07557991784), Club Secretary Rosalind Bennie (07759268824), or Club Treasurer Laura Graham (07970041605) – or “like” our Callander & District Young Farmers New Page on Facebook!

Blair Drummond Community Hall Association

Annual Family BBQ

On Saturday 6th June from 6.30pm

In Blair Drummond Safari Park

Tickets £5 (under 5s free)

BYOB & Snacks

Ticket by admission only

**Contact Louise on 01786 841352 or any
committee member**



Blair Drummond Community Hall

It is nearly 10 years since Blair Drummond Community Hall opened. On Saturday 19th November 2005, the then Provost Colin O'Brian officially opened the hall.

Over the years it has been the venue for many special events, from weddings to birthday parties, from Dinner Dances to Silver wedding celebrations. We have regular users such as the school, Youth Club, Young Farmers, church and weekly fitness classes. Other clubs and groups return each year for their annual meetings.

The hall could not run without a Management Committee, who also have arranged a wide variety of events, from Burns Suppers, to Murder Mystery Evenings, from Ladies Luncheon to Ceilidhs, as well as the annual BBQ at the Safari Park. All of these are very well supported. There is also the hall's own website, which can be checked out at any time for the diary of events.

Many of the Committee members from 2005 are still taking an active part in the hall's management. Each year, in June, we hold our Annual General Meeting. We welcome any members of the community who would like to join us and afterwards we hold a Cheese and Wine social.

Suggestions for a special event to celebrate 10 years of the hall would be most welcome. They can be given to any Committee member, can be brought to the AGM, or can be sent to the email addresses on the back page of this edition of the Grapevine.

We look forward to welcoming you on Tuesday 9th June at 7.30pm at our AGM in the hall.

Tom Gilliland, Chairman

Blair Drummond Grapevine Volunteers

For a good number of years now the Grapevine has been brought to you in either electronic format, or hard copy hand delivered, by a group of volunteers.

We thought it was time to identify the folks who, in rain and shine, have hand delivered the local newsletter to your door –

Mary Inglis, Catherine Killen, Alison Coates, Mirren Graham, Maggie Sherriff, Helen Graham, Louise Maxwell & Christine Bauer

and to say a big thank you to them!

Blair Drummond Social Group

You know the expression – ‘the best laid plans of mice and men....’, well it has to be said that that applied to us for the visit to Gargunnock House garden!

We arrived at the gates, where we were warmly greeted by Willie Campbell Head Gardener, his wife Fiona and his colleague Wendy and went on to enjoy a lovely guided walk along the driveway, with lots to see and plenty of questions. We visited the enclosed garden by the house, enthusing on the unusual and beautiful plantings and their colours, and then the heavens opened!! So our outdoor viewing had to be cut short and we retreated to the Gardeners tearoom to enjoy delicious home baking, plenty of questions and chat.



‘It’s such a lovely and peaceful place.’

‘Loved the rhoddies, what colours!’

‘Now I know more about the different trees, I want to meet someone who doesn’t and share what I’ve learned!’

Another visit, either in groups or individually is certainly to be recommended, there is so much to see and the expert information given so willingly.

From the donations made on the day there is to be a tree planted in the grounds, with the group’s name attached, acknowledging our donation.

A huge ‘thank you’ to Willie, Fiona and Wendy, from the BD Social Group for a lovely afternoon.

Dates for your diary

May 25th, from 2 – 4pm, the British Red Cross are coming to join us and provide a workshop on ‘Everyday First Aid in the Home’.

June 29th, 2 – 4pm, Rev Andy Campbell, who this year is Chaplain to the Highland Show, will join us for an informal chat on his experiences in this

role and we hope to have Fiona provide some photos of the year. It will also be a Tea & Chat afternoon.

July 27th, from 2 – 4 pm, will be a Tea & Chat afternoon.

We hope that if you live in the local communities, you'll come along and join us, for all or any of these meetings. If you would like more information please contact Christine Bauer (Tel: 01786 841191) or Fiona Campbell (Tel: 01786 860678).

Ryder Cup 2014, Gleneagles, Scotland

I was one of the lucky 1700 chosen to work at the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles last autumn, when Europe played the USA. I say lucky because 17,000 applied and only 1,700 were selected. However, I have to admit, my chances of selection were greatly enhanced by my volunteering as a Marshall at the European Tour Johnnie Walker tournament at Gleneagles for the last 3 years.

My role this time was a Marshall on the 8th hole and I had to commit to 5 days out of the possible 6 – 3 practice days and 3 match days. Our shift started at 6 am and went through to one hour after players had gone through – approx 4 pm. The main duties were crowd control/safety, monitoring 'crossing points' and ensuring players/officials safe passage between greens and tees. These tasks usually presented no problems but were challenging when the players came through, as the crowds were large, especially for Rory McIlroy. On a few occasions the crowd 'ignored' the boundary ropes and 'stampeded' across the fairway to get to a vantage point more quickly!

We had our major incident when on a particular steep bit of the viewing area one of the spectators slipped and ended up with a compound fracture of his lower leg. Luckily First Aiders were close at hand on that occasion.

Interesting facts/stats

Both the clubhouse and hotel were completely divided in two, so that players, caddies, officials etc were never in contact with the opposition. This was applied to staff as well, in case they overheard tactics or whatever!

All divot marks on the course had been painted over in green to give the spectators the 'carpet effect'!!

One of the volunteers had a badge 'AAA.' and when I asked him what it meant he replied 'admit all areas', except inside the ropes where we

were. The number of people following each game 'inside the ropes' was formidable. The 2 or 4 players plus girlfriends, wives and family, caddies with the same, European officials, US officials, mobile managers, press, police and rules officials. There were usually about 40 followers but with Rory McIlroy we counted 83!!

The 1st Tee was a stand that held 4000 spectators but should have been for 24000. Unlike other golf tournaments, where the best stands are around the 18th green, with the Ryder Cup the action happens at the 1st tee which turns into a theatre when the players arrive to tee off.

The gates to the course normally opened at 6.30 am but due to the huge crowds trying to get to the first tee a decision was made to open at 6 am to ease congestion.

All in all it was an unforgettable experience!

Rory Duff

The Carse of Stirling Partnership



“Learning from community led flood risk management”

CREW project study by Heriot-Watt University and the James Hutton Institute.

Meeting at Briarlands on 18 May at 7pm

Flooding and water logging were recurring issues which emerged from the stake-holder panels and discussions instigated by The Carse of Stirling Project (now The Carse of Stirling Partnership). These issues are the concerns not just of farmers but all who work and live on the Carse and indeed in Stirling.

Historically solutions to flooding and water logging were understandably mainly undertaken by individual proprietors to eliminate or alleviate the problems on their properties. Rivers were sometimes straightened, ditches dug and embankments created in order to get the water off their ground or prevent it getting there in the first place. While this may have helped some properties it may also have accentuated problems for down stream properties. Recent studies, for example the Pontbren Project in Wales

(<http://www.coedcymru.org.uk/images/user/5472PontbrenCSv121pdf>), have shown that a farmer led approach can be very effective in the management of flooding. Measures such as appropriate tree planting, reducing soil compaction and letting water gather in poor/unproductive property rather than good /valuable farmland all help in this area.

In order to assess what flood management measures are appropriate for the Carse, the Flood Management Group of The Carse of Stirling Partnership has been fortunate to have got Heriot-Watt University and the James Hutton Institute through CREW (Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters), to carry out an assessment of what measures are appropriate for the Carse and its rain catchment area..

The report by the project team will include:-

- *recommendations on flood risk management (FRM) measures and opportunities to mitigate flooding problems in the study area (based on 4 case study farms and the wider Goodie Water catchment) and how these could be applied to similar land areas throughout the Carse and indeed across Scotland.

- *an indication of the financial and other benefits that could result from investing in flood management measures.

- *sources of any grants to assist in carrying out the recommended FRM measures.

There will be a public meeting and workshop on 18th May at 7pm at Briarlands Farm, Blair Drummond (off A84 at Safari Park turn-off), to enable all interested but particularly farmers and land managers, to discuss the initial findings of the study and to contribute their views.

Meantime if you have any thoughts or questions please contact Mark Wilkinson of the James Hutton Institute (mark.wilkinson@hutton.ac.uk) or Ronald Graham the Chair of The Flood management Group of The Carse of Stirling Partnership (ronaldggsc@aol.com).

Kincardine in Menteith Primary School Spring Ceilidh



A fun time was had by all at the school ceilidh on Saturday 25th April. Families and friends of the school danced the night away to the fabulous local Carse Ceilidh Band. There was some twirling and spinning, some whooping and clapping and even a Chocolate Tombola for those that needed a rest!

This annual ceilidh is run by the Parent Council, which helps raise additional funds for the school.

Nicole Minter, Chairperson School Council

PS If you need a ceilidh band for a gig, The Carse Ceilidh Band come highly recommended and can be contacted at info@thecarse.uk Or contact Karen on 07912 021703, or Fiona on 07816 383467.

Can you take your next edition of The Grapevine by Email?

The paper copies of The Grapevine are delivered by a small group of volunteers. We understand that not everyone has access to a computer so we are very happy to hand deliver a paper copy to them. However if you could receive your copy by email please help us by sending us your contact details and a note of your address (so we know where to stop delivering a paper copy to). Thank you.

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

Blair Drummond Curling Club

The 2014/15 curling season has come to an end. Following a difficult start to the season, caused by the discovery of structural faults in a wall at the Peak, an enjoyable season was had by curlers. The season ended with the AGM at which the following Office Bearers were elected:

Fred Bauer, Chairman,
Graeme Giles, Vice Chairman
Steve Walker, Secretary
Rory Duff, Treasurer
Nigel Holl, Development Officer

The Club took great pleasure in highlighting that club member Derek Sloan won a bronze medal at the World Junior Curling Championship in Estonia.

Our congratulations also went to Marjorie McCulloch, who qualified to represent Stirling Ladies in the Henderson Bishop, which was held at Kelso in late February and she was also part of the winning team for Peak division 3 and part of the winning team in the Peak Mixed League.

The 150th anniversary of the Scottish Central Province was marked by a Bonspiel and a Dinner held at the Management Centre, Stirling University. An enjoyable evening was had by all!

If you would like to take up curling, please contact **Fred Bauer on 07500 354 004**

BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE

Hardwood Logs	£170/ load
Hardwood Logs	£85/ half load
Softwood Logs	£120/ load
Softwood Logs	£60/ half load
Small bags	£4.50 for hardwood
Small bags	£3.50 for softwood

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

Briarlands Farm

We had a fantastic Easter here at Briarlands Farm, it was lovely to see the sun shining and so many visitors having great fun on our giant inflatable slide "Spider Mountain", adults and children alike!

During the Summer Holidays Spider Mountain and other "pop up" equipment will return, visit our website for the dates of all our special events! We will also have additional indoor soft play, Monday to Friday during the month of June, the perfect opportunity for the adults to blether with a nice coffee and cake, while the wee ones play nearby.



There are lots of exciting things happening on the farm over the next few weeks... The strawberries have been planted and we welcome Dave and Sarah (Stewart) to the Briarlands Team. Many of you may remember Sarah from her many years at Dunaverig Farm. With the addition of Dave and Sarah to the team we will be able to take any orders you may have for special events, or for making jam. You can call us on 01786 841309 or visit the website where we will pass on any orders.

We are also offering local nursing homes the opportunity to visit Briarlands for a "wee trip out". We will provide them with a cup of tea and a wee scone as a treat, there will be no charge for this, just transport. If you have any contacts, or know of anyone who would like to take up this offer please ask them to contact us direct on

info@briarlandsfarm.co.uk

There are lots of exciting events and plans in place for this season, so make sure you keep up to date with all the news by checking our website

www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk , or on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/briarlandsfarm

Tel: 01786 841309. Please like us on Facebook for up to date news.

DOUNE & DUNBLANE AGRICULTURAL SHOW

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2015

KEIR MAINS, DUNBLANE, Junction 11, off the M9 north

Doune and Dunblane Show is one of the most popular annual events in the area. The show is organised and hosted by Doune & Dunblane Agricultural Society in order to showcase the best of local livestock, agricultural products and rural crafts to the public. This is our 68th Annual Show and we hope it will be bigger and better than last year.

Our Show is the perfect mix of the traditional agricultural show where it's all about the livestock, the competition and showmanship as well as having a huge variety of trade, craft and food stands and live entertainment to ensure a great day out for all the family. But don't take our word for it, come and see for yourself! This year we have made a few changes, we have a new Show Secretary in place, Debbie Farquhar, as well as a Pony Secretary Jennifer Leslie and Treasurer Paul McFarlane, who have all brought some fresh ideas and we are sure they will settle in very quickly to their roles. We have an updated website where we plan to have all entry forms etc. available to download and in easy to use formats.

Our biggest thing we want to shout about is that this year **entry for under 16s is FREE**,

I know I hear you gasp!!! This combined with **FREE parking** makes for a great family day out.

Adult entry is £10.00

OAPs entry is £5.00

New entry in the Vintage section: **CLASSIC FARM VEHICLE**

Our **VIP guest** this year is the one and only **WINDY WILSON**, amateur weatherman with almost 100,000 followers on Facebook and Twitter. Windy also raises money for Charity through his annual golf day - raising over £10,000 last year

Just Google Windy Wilson and you'll find his Facebook and Twitter pages. Apart from that he is family man in real life with a girlfriend and one son, a local businessman owning his own company in Perth employing 12 locals.

Classes this year will be in Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Clydesdale Horses, Light Horse & Ponies, Vintage Tractors & Working Machinery as well as Sheep Shearing, Wood Carving, Crook Making, and the ever-so-popular Pets Parade.

Main ring entertainment will come in many guises.

West Perthshire Pony Club will run a friendly games competition against other local branches. Mounted games consists of 5 riders working as a team, racing their ponies up lanes of obstacles, the children are all 15 and under and will carry and pass equipment, as well as vault on and off their ponies. Information about what the competition involves can be found on the Pony Club website www.pcuk.org. **Callander and District Young Farmers** will run a very amusing assault course with the Challenge being: “**Are you fitter than a Young Farmer?**”, so they will be looking for audience participation on this one 😊.

Doune Pipe Band will also be performing for us. We are hoping for a few more acts but they haven't been finalised yet.

If you are interested in Advertising, Sponsoring or Exhibiting at our Show, then get in touch using any of the methods below.

Check out our website www.douneanddunblaneshow.co.uk or Facebook page.

Email: info@douneanddunblaneshow.co.uk , Tel No: 07769336861



A few pictures from last year's show...so come along and enjoy the day with us

The Community of Blair Drummond

Tom Gilliland highlighted in his article that the Blair Drummond hall will celebrate its 10th birthday this autumn. To tie in with that, we'd love to have a range of photos and comments about 'your' event at the hall in the past 10 years, to be included in the autumn edition of the Grapevine. Whether it was you, your family or friends having a grand time in the hall, we would like to hear about it.

We're also planning to run within the next 4 editions, a series of old (no matter how old!) photographic memories from the Blair Drummond community, be it school photos, views of the area, houses that are no longer around, people who are no longer living in the area, whatever you decide to contribute, we will endeavour to include them. The Blair Drummond community has such diversity of landscape, skills and interesting people past and present we would like to make this series reflect that.

And we promise to return safely all old photos lent to us for publication.

Please contact us on either of the contact numbers on the back page of this edition.



The 3F Group (Friends, faith and fun)

The first season of our 3F Group closed with a jolly supper in the Gargunnock Inn. From a strong start the numbers at meetings have averaged 20 and a big 'thank you' to you all, for your continuing support, especially given work and family commitments.

We've had a lot of fun on the demonstration nights, when we all joined in with the activity. Our speakers have challenged us to think about today's moral dilemmas, the way we express our faith and how we care for each other. All the meetings have built new friendships and sustained old ones!

On Thursday 14th May our planning group (3 members each from Doune, Blair Drummond and Gargunnock) will meet to start organising next session's meetings. We would be pleased to hear from those who came along and also those who are interested, with ideas for activities and speakers for next year. Feedback is always appreciated.

Contact **Fiona Campbell** on artistatwork@btinternet.com or text **07799 743 657**.

Camphill Blair Drummond

Saturday 6th June, 6pm – 9pm – Bike Safari

Our 4th annual Bike Safari - Will you take on the Ostrich Challenge of 10 laps around the Safari Park or will you be a Cheeky Monkey and do one lap? See our website for more details.

Saturday 20th June, 2pm – 4.30pm - Big Coffee Afternoon

It's Camphill Blair Drummond's birthday! Come and help us celebrate with cake and a cuppa. There'll be music, stalls selling work produced in the community and the chance to have a guided tour to see all we have achieved so far – don't miss it! If you can't make it here, get involved and hold a Coffee and Cake Afternoon with your family and friends to raise funds for our next project!

Sunday 12th July, 2pm – 5pm – 'Scotland's Open Gardens'

Visit Moon Cottage and enjoy an afternoon in the sunshine, exploring Jeanie Ashton's wonderful gardens. Admission £4, children free. All proceeds come to our Appeal.

For more information about any of our events, or to sign up to receive updates about our events, please contact Andrea on 01786 841573, email andrea.khan@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk or check our website at www.camphillblairdrummond.org.uk

Remember, you can also follow Camphill Blair Drummond on Facebook & Twitter for all our latest news, events and announcements.

ROBERT DYKES Jnr.



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Kincardine in Menteith Primary School

Lockerbie Manor



On the 30th of March all of Primary 7 from the McLaren cluster: Doune, Deanston, Thornhill and Kincardine in Menteith all got on the bus at Doune. When we got to Lockerbie Manor we had to collect our bags and go to the Games Room and wait until one of the people came back to tell us what the sleeping arrangements were. Then we got to see what rooms and pods we were going to sleep in. After that we got into our day groups and went on our tour of the manor. Afterwards we all went to

our pods/rooms to get ready for our first activities. There were lots of activities such as: Obstacle course, Blind trail, Scavenger hunt, Climbing, Orienteering, Abseiling, Zip Wire, Archery, Survival skills, Fencing and I&Es (initiative exercises).



All the activities were great fun. The meal times were great and the food was delicious. We had loads of fun and met lots of new people!

Glencoe Skiing

On the 13th of March, Primary 6&7 went to Glencoe mountain resort for a whole day of skiing! The journey took about 2 hours and we went with Thornhill Primary School.

When we got there we met our instructors and were put into our groups. We then got started! We got to go up tows and ski down hills it was great fun. We did some full-on skiing until lunch, then we got to have a little rest to enjoy our lunch. After lunch we all got to do even more skiing and a bit of freestyle (whatever you want!!!).

It was very fun and enjoyable. We would all want to go again.

Think Dance

On Tuesday 28th April Primary 4 -7 took part in 'Think Dance' at the MacRobert Centre. We created our own dance called "Around the world". We had lots of fun and enjoyed performing in front of a large audience.



Kincardine in Menteith Primary school now has its own live website. Please visit us at www.kincardineinmenteith.co.uk

Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

Weekly Classes

Monday:	Metafit – 6.00pm to 7.00pm
Tuesday:	Youth Club – 7.00pm – 9.00pm(Sept – April)
Wednesday:	All Dance – 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Thursday:	Zumba – 6.00pm – 6.50pm Metafit – 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Other Events

Thursday 7th May:	Election voting. 7.00am – 10.00pm
Monday 25th May:	Blair Drummond Social Group 2.00pm – 4.00pm Tea & cakes. Red Cross “Everyday First Aid”
Saturday 6th June:	Family BBQ at Blair Drummond Safari Park from 6.30pm. Tickets £5. BYOB. Admission by ticket only.
Tuesday 9th June:	Blair Drummond Hall AGM.7.30pm. Cheese & wine social to follow. All welcome.
Monday 29th June:	Blair Drummond Social Group 2.00pm – 4.00pm Tea & cakes. Rev A Campbell “My Highland Show Experiences!”
Monday 27th July:	Blair Drummond Social Group 2.00pm – 4.00pm Tea & cakes. Chat afternoon.

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.

Councillors for our area

Martin Earl

Tel: 01786 4433497 / 07881 310922

earlm@stirling.gov.uk

Alycia Hayes

Tel: 01786 443497 / 07881 310924

hayesa@stirling.gov.uk

Fergus Wood

Tel: 01786 443497 / 07824 496019

woodf@stirling.gov.uk



The Rev's Rant- Rejoicing !

To be honest folks, I was stunned at the news.

Delighted ! – but stunned. I never realised what influence I had, but the figures were there to prove it. Within months of my arrival in Kincardine in Menteith, church membership had grown by more than 250% ! Now in this day and age, some would call that miraculous, but you can check it for yourself. The Church roll-book told me we had 82 members, but the National Census results says 199 Blair Drummond folk count themselves Church of Scotland people...and I am very glad to hear that. This is revival on a grand scale.

Now if you'd all just like to turn out to church on Sunday morning at 9.30am, my joy will be complete, and we'll sign you up for lots of things that you'll want to be involved in.

...and what a time to begin this new pattern of Christian commitment. Easter is just behind us and Pentecost straight ahead. Both great festivals, which celebrate God doing new things and the growth of the early church.

So what do you think: Either God is real and that guy Jesus of Nazareth was right, is the Son of God and did rise from the dead ...and that changes everything and it's time we took Him seriously, or all of life is just an accident waiting to happen.

Let's have the conversation. It matters, cos your answer must shape the rest of your life.

I agree with C.S. Lewis who I think puts it well.

"You are not a human being here to have a spiritual experience – you are a spiritual being; here having a human experience."

So ... see you on Sunday? (The singing should be brilliant!)

God Bless

Rev Andy

Royal Highland Showtime !

If you are going to be at the Royal Highland Show this year (18-21st June), then make a point of looking in at the **Churches in Rural Scotland** tent, on the way from the East gate to the main ring, where you'll get a warm welcome and a hot cup of tea!

This year's theme is "Hear to Listen" and our ten-minute talks include Gate-post, Care Farming and SRABI reps.. Premier Radio will be there on Saturday and Scripture Union are running family events on the Sunday.

The Churches have had a stand at the RHS since the early 70s, declaring their support for rural areas of Scotland and the farming life, for in some parts of Scotland the church is one of the few remaining organisations left to support rural life, when the local school and shop have closed.

This year the RHS is hosted by the Stirling & Forth Valley area of RHASS who selected Lord Forsyth of Drumlean as their President, and chose “Communication” as their Presidential focus.

Our parish minister was invited to be the Chaplain to the 2015 Royal Highland Show and will be there throughout, with Fiona, meeting folk from all over Scotland and sharing faith with them, being on hand in the case of tragedy and celebrating country living.

He told Grapevine *“This is an unexpected pleasure and a great opportunity for someone who has only been in the area a couple of years, and Fiona and I are both looking forward to it immensely. I’ve often thought that Blair Drummond was God’s own country – now I have the chance to tell other folk that!”*

There is a Sunday morning worship event on the final day of the Show in the President’s tent, which is open to all members of the public and as Chaplain to the Royal Highland Show Rev Andy will be leading that worship.

Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council

A84 white lines – after the recent resurfacing work carried out from Blair Drummond to Cuthill Brae the road markings were changed to a broken six metre/ three metre warning line indicating a hazard. Previously this section of road had double white lines to discourage overtaking. Following complaints from residents, the local Community Councils and Trossachs & Teith Councillor Martin Earl, BEAR and Transport Scotland are going to reinstate the original double white lines.

Dairy related development plans for Hill of Drip Farm- Graham’s Dairy of Bridge of Allan have submitted a Proposal of Application Notice to Stirling Council for a proposed dairy at this site. This is at a very early stage and will only proceed as a planning application if the company are granted planning consent for the proposed housing development of their existing site at Airthrey Kerse. If an application is submitted then a Public Meeting will be held in Blair Drummond Hall. Please watch local press for details or check the halls website or facebook page – see back page.

The next meeting of the Community Council is on Tuesday 19th May in Thornhill Primary School at 7.30pm.

SPONSORED SAFARI BIKE RIDE



COME AND JOIN THE FUN ON SATURDAY 6th JUNE 2015!

Registration from 6pm for a 7pm start

Camphill Blair Drummond invites you to the 4th annual Bike safari around Blair Drummond Safari & Adventure Park to help raise funds for our vital Appeal to secure our future.

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

Please contact Andrea Khan on 01786 8431573 or e-mail andrea.khan@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk

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

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 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 17 should be submitted **by 31st July 2015**, 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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