

Issue 17

## **The Grapevine**

August 2015

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



*John Graham with The Stockman of the Year trophy*

### **Down our Way**

**(An occasional series of interviews with local people)**

The Royal Highland Show (RHS) brings together people from all over the world to enjoy a unique experience, and many take part in a range of competitions at a high level. Blair Drummond has the pleasure of having 2 brothers achieving top prizes at this prestigious event.

John Graham (18 years) won the Stockman of the Year plus (alongside Scott Duncan), Best Junior Team for Beef, Sheep & Dairy. His brother James (17 years) won Highest Individual Sheep Section plus (alongside David McKerrow), Winners of the Sheep Pairs. What a success story for the sons of Lynda and Douglas Graham of Mains of Burnbank Farm!

John kindly provided us with an insight into what's involved for them.

**Q: How did you get involved?**

**A:** We got a message from the Young Farmers Club (YF) about a stock judging event and we went along with our pals. We got on quite well in our provision of reasons for our decisions and it just went on from there. I began at around 15 years and James at 13 years old.

**Q: What does it involve?**

**A:** There are various classes of animals, with 4 in each, labelled ABXY. We must put them in the order of which we think are best (and the master judge has already made his choices too). Provision of the differing aspects of the animals must also be given. At the RHS Senior Section we've also to provide verbal reasoning for our choices. If our valid points differ from the judge, they could be upheld and we may still achieve a good score.

**Q: How did you lead up to the RHS?**

**A:** We began training in February and practiced every week. Each year there are 4 breeds selected from each sector, which change from year to year. There are 4 beef, 4 sheep and 4 dairy classes to judge at each practice. Our trainers, who know the quality required, provide us with feedback on our decisions. 20 of the district YF trained for the RHS this year, the teams of 2 are reached through the amalgamated scores and trainers' opinions, and they decide which teams are to enter. We train as a district not a club.

**Q: What did the Day at the RHS involve for you?**

**A:** In the morning 225 stock judges met at the YF centre at the RHS to take part and were given a briefing. We were split into groups and into breed teams. The top 6 from each who went through to qualify in the afternoon then had to judge beef, sheep and dairy and give a set of reasons for each. Thereafter, we had to give a verbal stock demonstration to the judges, on lineage and comparison to an 'ideal' animal. There was an exam paper to complete, which was marked out of 100, with questions on the beef, sheep and dairy industry, medication, rules and regulations etc.

**Q: Do you get nervous beforehand?**

**A:** Yes, I get horrendously nervous but on the other hand James is more relaxed about it all!

**Q: Are the same skills required for each competition?**

**A:** Yes.

### **Q: And what now?**

**A:** Well, though I was the second youngest ever to win Stockman of the Year, I can't re-enter at the RHS again, so I've 'retired'! I can in future be a trainer or judge. I've already judged this summer at Neilston and am judging soon at Dalmally. I'm still keen on all the YF events too.

James on the other hand can compete in all the different areas at the RHS and intends to do so in future.



It was a pleasure to interview John and we wish him and his brother James well in their future, which will no doubt be successful, given their hard work and dedication.

(Photos Courtesy of The Scottish Farmer)

*James Graham- Highest Individual in the Sheep Section*

## **Blair Drummond Community Hall**

How could we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the community hall wondered the hall Committee?

And after a lot of thought we decided the best way to celebrate the success of the hall would be to share it with the folks who have helped to make that success.

**So... we would like to invite all the community of Blair Drummond and all the groups who use the hall, to a Birthday Party! On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, any time between 2.00pm – 4.00pm, please come along to the Blair Drummond Community Hall and join us for afternoon tea. Your refreshments are free and there will be a raffle, the theme being '10',**

We know there are local people who come along regularly to the hall to groups and classes (the Youth Club, Blair Drummond Blethers, the Church, the Primary School, Metafit, the Young Farmers, Carriage Drivers, 3F, Zumba to name but a few of the groups who are regular hall users) and one-off events but there are also people from out with the Blair Drummond community accessing activities. So we are relying on everyone to pass on the message – ***please do come and join us!***

**Janette Gilliland, Chairperson**

## Youth Club

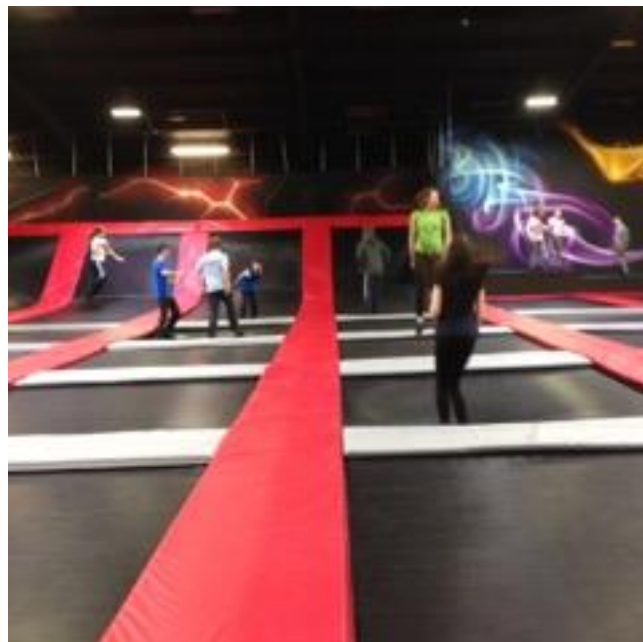
Well, it's getting near that time of year again, when Tuesday nights in Blair Drummond hall are filled with the sounds of teenagers....that's right its youth club time again!!

Youth club runs every Tuesday night during Term time, from September until Easter, from 7 – 9pm. Children from P7 upwards are welcome to come along, make friends and enjoy a variety of activities including badminton, hockey and table tennis.

Last year there were 18 members came along on a regular basis, to catch up with friends and play the odd game or two. We enjoyed the usual chaos of Halloween and Pancake Tuesdays, which involved a great deal of mess, eating and fun.

This past season we also enjoyed a trip to a trampoline park “Ryze” in Edinburgh(see photo) and all the young people had a great time bouncing on trampolines and jumping into foam pits, sometimes throwing in a wee flip or two as well. Suggestions for outings are always welcome and we try to fit at least one in during the year and everyone enjoys them.

Membership to Youth Club costs £10 per year and £1 weekly to cover costs. Tuck shop prices are very reasonable.



**Starting date for this year is the 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm**

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

**Mary Inglis, Leader**

### PIANO

Free, for uplift from Blair Drummond. Would suit beginner.

Contact Joanne Inglis: 01786 841110



## Blair Drummond Curling Club

### **David (Davie) Arnott.**

Blair Drummond Curling Club and Davie were inextricably linked over many years, with Davie serving as Club President, up until he passed away on 23 May 2015, aged 85.

Davie started his curling as a young man. His curling colleagues included John McBeath, John Sands and Jim Brisbane. He was noted for his encouragement of new curlers of any age. When the Falkirk Ice Rink closed in 1979 and club members had to travel to Kinross, it was Davie that kept the Club going and canvassed for the construction of a new ice rink at Williamfield, which opened in 1981/82. Davie represented Scotland in several curling competitions in Switzerland.



Davie and daughter Jean

In 1979, Davie worked tirelessly to prepare the ice for the Grand Match at the Lake of Menteith, as can be seen from the following article –

“By February the 4th and in freezing cold weather (one of the most severe winters since WWII, remember!), Mr. Hamilton had transported the marking equipment from Loch Leven to the Lake of Menteith (not a quick journey even in good weather, but in those days with so few motorway links between the two venues, even less so), and on Monday the 5th he commenced marking ‘with two squads (25 in each) led by Willie Wilson

and Dave Arnott.'

Mr. Hamilton records in his final report in the 1979–80 Royal Club Annual: 'We required a minimum of 50 workers and I made only six telephone calls that evening. On Monday morning, at 9am 60 workers turned up, many of them well known curlers who I am sure do little manual labour at home, but who were prepared to take off their jackets and work all day for the Grand Match.'

The work involved becomes very clear when you look at the many aerial photos of the Match – the area covered is truly huge."

As well as his curling skills, Davie also possessed a great tenor voice and along with his daughter Jean, he sang the "Crookit Bawbee" on many occasions at the old Blair Drummond Hall. He enjoyed singing and reciting at Burns Suppers over the years. He also attended the 'Youth Club' as he called it, which was a weekly meeting of retired farmers at The Lion and Unicorn, in Thornhill. His hearty laugh could be heard amidst the banter over lunch and drinks.

Agriculture was Davie's other passion, farming pigs, beef cattle and sheep, at South Kirklane Farm, all his married life for over 50 years. He was actively involved in the Scottish Timothy Seed Growers Association, being Secretary for over 10 years. Neighbours and friends recollect his dedication to his family, the community and his good sense of humour.

The Blair Drummond Curling Club owe Davie a debt of gratitude, for all his input and commitment to the Club and will long be remembered by club members.

**Fred Bauer, Chairman**

## **Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre**

This year's Christmas Fayre will be held in the hall on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November, from 7pm till 9pm.**

The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards the purchase of a defibrillator for Blair Drummond.

Many regular stallholders will be returning but we are also hoping to add some new stalls this year, so if you or anyone you know might like to take a stall please contact me.

For further information contact Catherine on - Tel: 01786 860246 or

Email: [Catherine@grasslands.plus.com](mailto:Catherine@grasslands.plus.com)

## Our Local Champion!



On the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, I travelled along with many of the best youth cyclists from all over Britain to Paisley, to race in the biggest event in the British youth cycling calendar. It was the National Youth Circuit Championships, coming to Scotland for the very first time. It was set to be a great day of racing, on an amazing circuit that had a hill, a fast descent and dozens of fast, tight corners, all in the 3 minutes lap.

The younger riders raced early in the day in the sun but as the under 14s were racing it began to pour with rain. There had been a number of crashes already but there were many more in the rain.

My race was at 2:30pm, and although it had stopped raining, the course was still soaking and potentially very dodgy. So dodgy in fact that the first half lap of my race was neutralised behind a motorbike, to make sure everyone knew the course and weren't going to go crashing into barriers straight off the start line. Nice idea, but about 400 metres after the motorbike had pulled off; we had the first crash, going around what was being called "crash corner". One of the girls next to me slid out, took out one of my fellow Scots and I had to do a quick jump over wheels to stay upright and at the front of the race. With another crash just over a lap later, it was going to be an interesting race!

As it was the British champs, the strongest girls weren't going to let anyone away on an attack, they just weren't going to take the risk and any attacks were quickly snuffed out. It did seem like it was going to come down to a bunch sprint, with Welsh rider Jess Roberts looking likely to take the win.

Except it was my home champs, or as near as it was going to get, and I didn't fancy just rolling in to finish somewhere not really worth mentioning. The whole race was 60 minutes plus 3 laps, and with just over 5 laps to go, as we went up the hill, I attacked. I smashed it up the hill, away from everyone and just didn't look back. I was away for a lap before the group caught me at the bottom of the hill. When we hit crash corner, just half a lap later, I attacked again. This time I was caught on the ramp that rose up to the finish line. With just 4 laps to go, it looked more than ever like it would come down to a sprint.

So going up the hill on the penultimate lap, I took what was very generously called "not only the move of the race, but also perhaps the bravest decision of the whole day" by the Scottish Cycling report, and attacked for the third time. I didn't look back but the entire time I was convinced that I would be caught any second. This was the British champs, I was going to put all my effort in here and if I was caught, there was nothing more I could have done. Except I didn't get caught! The atmosphere was electric as I came across the line with a lap to go, everyone, whether they were a cyclist or just someone who was out and came to watch the race, was shouting and cheering for the Scot who was leading the race.

I kept going and as I came up the final straight I looked behind me for the first time, the bunch were very close and they were sprinting faster than I was riding. But they weren't close or fast enough and I was able to lift both my hands off the bars to celebrate as I crossed the finish line. The crowd, full of Scots, absolutely exploded into the loudest cheer of the day. I couldn't believe it, I was the British National Criterium Champion! I got so many hugs after that race I was concerned I would be disqualified because it was taking me so long to get back to the start line to have my gears checked. Then we had the podium presentation. When I was presented with my red, white and blue striped jersey of the British Champion and my gold medal, everyone watching was cheering really loudly.

It was a great moment, one I will never forget, as I crossed the finish line. Results like that don't come along all that often but every so often they do.

**Jenny Holl**



## Doune and Dunblane Show 2015

Well, what can we say.... WET but not beaten?!

Wednesday saw the start of set up, leading to the actual Show day, gates were delivered and everyone started to get to work. Thursday saw the main ring pegged and grass being mowed. Lots of volunteers turned up to get things moving. Friday we were getting excited, the sun was shining, the marquees were now up and trade stands started to arrive setting up machinery etc. for the morning. Well, off to bed we went eagerly awaiting Saturday... 'ALERT, SEVERE WEATHER TO HIT SCOTLAND IN THE EARLY MORNING', heard that before, did it happen? OMG sitting in the car at the brow of the hill on Keir Mains at 6.45 am with fork lightning and torrential rain, yes, I think you can say it happened.

Did the Show go on I hear you say? YES IT DID. We started to put things in motion, judging was delayed an hour or so, Facebook was red hot with people messaging and getting the latest updates out there, and yet the people came. Livestock and animals were checked in, judging started and away we went.



Turnout was low, as expected with the weather but the mood was jolly and everyone seemed content. SWRI tent was in full swing. A selection of trade, craft, amusements, charity, simulators, food and agricultural were set up and out there, I just hope you all had some trade?

Everyone made the most of the day, with the Doune Pipe Band playing, our VIP guest for the day Windy Wilson presenting the Trophies at the Grand Parade, with his son Declan helping to judge the Pet Parade. Our resident Commentator Raymond Kennedy kept us well informed throughout the day.



Then it was time to go home and the fun really started, with cars being pulled from the muddy fields, including the Red Cross Ambulance! Hats off to the Car Park Stewards who multi-tasked the whole day.

The Committee from the Doune and Dunblane Agricultural Society would like to say a huge big

Thank You to everyone involved in setting up, helping out, taking part,

coming along as exhibitors, judging and the list goes on. The Show would never be so successful if we didn't have the loyalty and support of those around us.

We can't predict the Scottish weather but we can predict a fine Show again for next year and we hope we can count on your support. See you on **Saturday 2nd July 2016!**

**Debbie Farquhar, Secretary**

## **Feeling creative?**

Have you looked around the walls of Kincardine-in-Menteith Church recently? No, not the outside which we all see from our cars; I mean come in and walk around inside. It's a lovely space with its white vaulted ceiling ribbed with blue and stained glass windows. And at Easter time the large expanses of stone wall were decorated with seasonal pictures, by our youngest generation from the school next door. Quite a few folk commented on how the artwork added to the atmosphere and beauty of the place, so we're thinking it might be a nice idea to create some colourful banners to be hung in the church to suit the changing seasons of the year.

Now a parish church is not for the exclusive use of its members, it belongs to - and serves - the whole community, so if **you** have a talent for creative ideas, or drawing, sewing; even messing about with glue, would you like to come and share your talents on a Thursday afternoon? Just as important are friends who like cutting out, climbing ladders to hang things up and making the essential cuppa to go along with the chat and the creative work!

### **In other words, how about a Banner Group?**

Now don't worry if you're thinking – "I know how chilly Kincardine in Menteith Church can get on a winter day!" – we're not going to work in the Kirk, at least not that one! The "church" in Doune – at 43 Balkerrach Street has bright lighting, warm surroundings, plenty of tables and tea making facilities, so is ideal for the job. One or two folk have started to meet already to create changing window displays for the Doune church, so if you would like to come along any Thursday afternoon at 2.30pm you'll receive a warm welcome, and together we can think about what would be right for the walls of Kincardine in Menteith Church.

More info? Ring: Fiona Campbell Tel 01786 860678, or speak to Rev Lynne Mack at church on a Sunday at 9.30am.

**Fiona Campbell**

## The Community of Blair Drummond

John Sands, formerly from Nyadd Farm, Blair Drummond, kindly provided this 1939 Kincardine in Menteith Primary school photo and could recall the majority of pupils.



**Back Row:** Mills Davidson, Mr Meikle, Alan Graham, Peggy McGregor, John Millar, Mary McGowan, ? McGlauglin, Annie Welsh, Ian Edmond, Tom McArthur, Jenny Arnott, John Coubrough, Mary Kenny, John Burnett, Angus Glasgow.

**Middle Row:** David Coull, Patsy Glasgow, ? ?, ? ?, ? ?, Betty Rattray, ? ?, ? Collan, May Blennie, Mary Shaw, ? McGlauglin, David Arnott.

**Front Row:** ? ?, Bill Stevenson, David Shaw, Hamish Maxwell, John Kenny, John McLean, Ian Edmond.

Can anyone complete the gaps? Many thanks John for this photo and we look forward to further Blair Drummond memories.



## Births



Gillian (nee Tough) and Euan Reilly, The Orchard, Blair Drummond, are delighted to announce the arrival of Ellen Caroline, on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015, weighing 8 lbs. Mother and baby are both doing very well

Nicola Mitchell and Andrew Drummond, Ashentree Farm, Coldoch, Blair Drummond are delighted to announce the birth of Gracie Isabella Drummond, on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015, weighing 7lbs 15 oz. Mother and baby are both doing well.



Proud parents Carol and Mikel Richter and handsome brother Coll, of Tigh Allan, Kirk Lane, Blair Drummond, are chuffed to bits at the arrival of Murray Douglas on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, weighing 10lbs 11oz.



Michelle Kibaris and Kris Fotheringham are delighted to announce the birth of their baby boy on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015, weighing 7lbs 7 oz. Mother and baby doing really well. First great grandchild for Joan Fotheringham, Robertson Lane, Blair Drummond.



## Graduation



Congratulations to Madeleine Darby, Hillview, Kirk Lane, Blair Drummond, who recently graduated from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, with a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours degree in Fashion Management. This is only one of two universities in Scotland that offer this specialised course. She is now applying for jobs, which are likely to take her down to London, where most of the fashion companies have their head offices.

Her father Jon said *'For those who know me, it will be obvious that Madeleine must have inherited my finely tuned sense of fashion!'*

## Blair Drummond Social Group

As the group is now fully into its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of meeting on a monthly basis, it seemed a good time to take stock and review what works and what could be better? And at the May meeting folks replied to that invite and provided valuable feedback for future programmes.

One of the questions asked was 'should the group have a name?' The great idea put forward was – **The Blair Drummond Blethers**, which everyone agreed suited the membership! So from now on that's the name we will use.

Our Monday programme for the next 6 months has also been made as follows

**31<sup>st</sup> August:** 2 - 4 pm. Tea & Chat Afternoon.

**28<sup>th</sup> September:** 2 - 4 pm. MacMillan Cancer Fundraiser Coffee Afternoon.

**26<sup>th</sup> October:** 12 – 2pm. Bring-a-Pal Lunch and Loch Lomond National Park Talk.

**30<sup>th</sup> November:** 12 – 2pm. Soup Lunch. Primary School Carol Singing & Christmas Craft Activity. (*To be confirmed*).

**28<sup>th</sup> December:** 12 – 2pm. Soup Lunch and Mary Inglis's mince pies. Chat afternoon.

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2016:** 12 – 2pm. Burns Lunch.

If you live in the local communities and are over the age of 50 years, please do come and join us, for all or any of these meetings. For more information please contact -

Christine Bauer (Tel: 01786 841191) or Fiona Campbell (Tel: 01786 860678).

### **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](mailto:catherine@grasslands.plus.com) or  
[christinebauer@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:christinebauer@tiscali.co.uk)

## **What is the ‘Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council’?**

Some of us may know people who are members of the Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council, but perhaps not many of us know what our local Community Council (CC) is all about. Community Councils have existed in Scotland since 1973 and, under legislation, every local community has the right to petition for the establishment of its own CC. Our CC represents roughly 1200 people in an area covering 57 square kilometres.

Section 51(2) of The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 states that “....the general purpose of a community council shall be to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities...and public authorities...the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for which those authorities are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable.”

CCs have a statutory right to be consulted on planning applications. The CC is the voice of its local area, which means it is charged with articulating the views of local residents to their local authority, in regard to issues of public concern. The CC may bring to the attention of other public and private bodies matters within its sphere of interest, and it is essential that these views should be an accurate representation of the community’s views. CCs may carry out other activities that are in the general interest of their local communities, providing they fall within the objects of their own constitution. A model constitution used nationally, forms the basis of this, and it then has to be approved by the local authority for the area.

### **Who is eligible to stand for election to the CC?**

Elections to the CC are held every 4 years, and candidates must be at least 16 years old live in the local area and be included on The Electoral Register for that area. A proposer and seconder are required, both of whom must be named on the local Electoral Register.

Although the next election of officers to the CC will not take place until 2017, meetings are held regularly and anyone is welcome to attend. In fact anyone interested in what is happening locally is encouraged to do so and perhaps to consider joining the council themselves in the future.

### **What local issues are of concern to our Community Council?**

Recent matters under consideration are: the proposed development of Drip Farm into an industrial-scale dairy and bottle processing plant which

it is estimated will offer 500 extra jobs to the area and apprenticeships to students at Forth Valley College in Stirling. The proposed development will cover an area roughly 3 times the size of the Auction Market and presents questions regarding traffic into and out of the site on the A84 near the Chalmerston Road roundabout. As with any proposed development there are arguments for and against, and the Community Council will endeavour to represent the opinions of all residents in the area.

The narrow entrance to Kincardine-in-Menteith School, which made it difficult for minibuses to turn in, was another matter that was resolved by widening the access on the A84. Stirling Council following petitioning by the Community Council recently carried out this work.

Blair Drummond residents, unlike their neighbours in surrounding areas such as Doune and Gargunnock, are affected by very poor Internet connection. This is perhaps an issue that the Community Council might be able to address in the future. Maybe you have concerns about other matters too? Why not bring them along to a meeting or contact your local CC Chairman (James Maxwell at [secretary@thandbdcc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@thandbdcc.org.uk)) or one of the local representatives. The more of us who express our views the more likely we are to effect positive change in our local community. Next CC meeting - 11th August at 7.30pm in Blair Drummond Community Hall.

ALL WELCOME!

**Ken Ingle**

<b><u>BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE</u></b>	
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: <b>Bob</b>	
<b>Tel: 01786 841580</b>	
<b>Mob: 07732 563106</b>	





## **3F : We're back for Season 2 !**

**The group for younger women which aims to share friendship, faith and fun..**

When life is full of work or family commitments some things get squeezed out, like time for yourself, the chance to reflect, or to have fun with friends. 3F is a monthly get-together for all these things, and after a successful first year, we're on to Season 2. Our meetings this year will be in Gargunnock Community Centre at 7.30pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month (except December which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday to avoid Christmas!), with a speaker or activity followed by a tea/coffee. Why not give yourself 2 hours once a month to enjoy friends, faith and fun?

We're still finalizing one or two things on the syllabus, but here is some information to let you put the dates in your diary ~

### **Tuesday 25 August**

Going to the Dogs ! A talk on Guide Dogs by John and Hazel Anderson (3 dogs at the meeting).

### **Tuesday 22 September**

Pot Luck Supper Bring a contribution (savoury or sweet) so we can share supper together.

### **Tuesday 27 October**

Activity evening – Fused Glass Workshop by Ann Maitland (Likely cost for materials £2).

### **Tuesday 24 November**

"The phone rang, and . . . " A talk by Rev Andy Campbell about his life, through a series of phone-calls.

### **Tuesday 8 December (note earlier date)**

Activity evening - Christmas floral arrangement (*to be confirmed*). Bring your own flowers/greenery/container.

Donation of £3 per meeting, to cover costs.

If you would like more information contact -

Fiona Campbell Tel 01786 860678, or Janette Gilliland Tel 01786 470637

## Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

### Weekly Classes

**Monday:** Metafit – 6.00pm to 7.00pm  
**Tuesday:** Youth Club – 7.00pm – 9.00pm  
**Thursday:** Zumba – 6.00pm – 6.50pm  
Metafit – 7.00pm to 8.00pm

### Other Events

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Aug:** Blair Drummond Blethers. 2 - 4pm.  
Chat Afternoon.  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Hall 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tea Party. 2 - 4 pm  
**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Blair Drummond Blethers. 2 - 4pm.  
MacMillan Cancer Fundraiser  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October:** Church Quiz Night. 7.30pm  
**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Blair Drummond Blethers. 12 – 2pm.  
Bring a Pal Lunch. Loch Lomond National Park Talk.  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov :** Christmas Fayre 7pm – 9pm.

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.

#### **Councillors for our area**

##### **Martin Earl**

Tel: 01786 4433497 / 07881 310922

[earlm@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:earlm@stirling.gov.uk)

##### **Alycia Hayes**

Tel: 01786 443497 / 07881 310924

[hayesa@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:hayesa@stirling.gov.uk)

##### **Fergus Wood**

Tel: 01786 443497 / 07824 496019

[woodf@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:woodf@stirling.gov.uk)

# ***McLaren High School Former Pupils***



## ***McLaren Five 0: 50 years at Mollands Road***

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the move from the old School building in Bridgend (now Callander Primary School) to the current School building we are planning the following events on

### ***Saturday 5 September***

#### **Sports Matches: FPs v Current Pupils**

Rugby: 10am, Callander Primary School Pitch

Football & Hockey: 12pm, Sports Pitches at McLaren Leisure Centre

#### **Tour of School/Exhibition**

McLaren High School, 12pm – 3pm

#### **Ceilidh**

McLaren High School, 7pm – 11pm

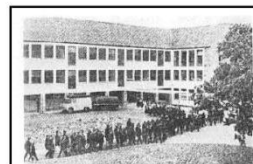
£5 per person or £15 per family (2 adults and 2 children)

FPs who play a musical instrument are welcome to bring it along and join in!

To take part in the sports matches or to purchase tickets for the Ceilidh please e-mail us at

[mclarenhighfp@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:mclarenhighfp@stirling.gov.uk) or phone 01877 330156.

Tickets can also be purchased at the School reception.



**Follow us on Facebook for regular updates**

## Kincardine in Menteith Church News

The Church are organising a Quiz Night, in the Community Hall, on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 7.30pm. Dr Alistair Durie will be setting the questions. There will be refreshments after the Quiz. All are welcome. Further details from Mary Inglis.

### Baptisms

1 <sup>st</sup> March	Elsie Moira Baillie, Blackdub Cottage, Blair Drummond
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Patrick Daniel Grant Gilmartin, Main Street, Doune
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Angus Hugh Baird Dinwoodie, Watson Farmhouse, Doune

### Marriages

26 <sup>th</sup> June	Scott Drummond, The Byre, Nether Spittalton, Blair Drummond, to Becky Rutherford, from Stanley.
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### Deaths

23 <sup>rd</sup> May	David Arnott, Deanston Gardens, Deanston (Retired farmer, formerly of South Kirklane Farm)
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### Dates to remember

9 <sup>th</sup> October	Quiz Night, Community Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Communion, 9.30am
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service, 9.30am

A warm welcome awaits you, any Sunday at 9.30am, at the Church.

**J Gilliland, Session Clerk**

## Kincardine in Menteith Parish Church of Scotland

What happened to our summer?

Many of us may be a bit glum about the lack of summer sunshine over these last few months. For most this was disappointing, but for our farming community it has been disastrous.

This year, Rev Andy was the Chaplain to the Royal Highland Show and so he and





Fiona have been spending quite a bit of time with the people whose livelihood depends on agriculture ... and the news is dire. He lost count of the number of times he was asked *"Can you not speak to your boss about this weather?"* at both Gargunnock Show and the Doune & Dunblane Show, whose organisers deserve gold medals for their determination in storm conditions.

Hay still wasn't cut by the end of July. Barley crops will need drying when they are eventually harvested. Grass for both dairy herds and beef cattle just didn't grow and even the hill sheep lambing was poor. Milk prices for farms presently are so low that bottled water is more expensive than milk! So our Scottish farmers are really struggling and it would be unrealistic and inconsiderate for the kirk to roll out the usual Harvest Thanksgiving service, encouraging everyone to come along to celebrate and sing *"Come ye thankful people come!"* The shops may still have food on the shelves, but farmers need our support. We can always praise God for his goodness and faithfulness to us while being concerned and taking account of reality.

So our churches are going to host **"FAITH IN FARMING 2"**, building on the success of that event in 2013 at Briarlands Farm. That time we had Jim Brisbane, Tom Gilliland, Christa Dunn and Willie Drummond sharing their experiences. Who will it be this year? Any volunteers?

**Look out for information and come along!**



### **The Rev's Rural rant** ***'Who is my neighbour?'***

Into the local shop came one of the new residents to the community, asking, "What are people around here like?" The shopkeeper in return asked, *"What were folk like where you've come from?"* "Oh! they were a really friendly bunch of folk - always willing to help; polite and cheery."

*"Well,"* said the shopkeeper, smiling, *"You'll find people here are very much the same."*

That afternoon, another of the newcomers came into the shop asking the same question – and again the shopkeeper responded by asking, *"What were people like where you've come from?"* This time the reply was quite different; "Oh! they were a bad tempered, grumpy complaining lot who didn't make you feel at all welcome."

The shopkeeper's response with a smile however was just the same. *"Ah well, you'll probably find folk here very much the same!"*

The shopkeeper wasn't lying in either case. We perceive the world and its people not as they are, but as we are, interpreting all we see and hear through our personality, our experience and our faith.

Our Bible tells us that *the eyes are the windows of the soul*, but as we look out, what do we see? People who are potentially new friends to be welcomed into school, church and community, or unfriendly strangers who won't care and aren't like us, and who want to change things! The Jesus that I meet in the Gospel always sees the possibilities and opportunities not problems or obstacles.....and so should his disciples.

God Bless.

**Rev Andy**

You can always get in touch with the local ministers and church through:

Tel. nos.: 01786 860678 and 0752 342 0079

Email: [andycampbell53@btinternet.com](mailto:andycampbell53@btinternet.com)

Our website: [www.blairdrummondchurches.org.uk](http://www.blairdrummondchurches.org.uk)

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/BDChurches](https://www.facebook.com/BDChurches)

## **The Carse of Stirling Partnership**

Following the public meeting at Briarlands on 18 May about Flood Risk Management, organised by the Partnership in conjunction with Heriot Watt University and the James Hutton Institute, several of you have asked 'what is the Partnership?'

The Partnership arose from work commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency – names that raise a variety of differing emotions in differing people! Panel meetings of all interested people living in the area (which in essence comprises the catchment areas of the Forth and that part of the Teith from Callander to the M9) were asked to list the benefits provided by the area, from the very nature of its land and topography, with the aim of maintaining and enhancing those benefits in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way.

The main benefits of the Carse area, which came out of these panel sessions, were:

**Food Production** – no surprise that this was the most important:

**Scenic qualities and sense of peace** – again no surprise for those of us living in the Blair Drummond community – the Carse is a great place to live:

**Wildlife and habitat** – the Carse is the natural home for a rich bird life and variety of habitats naturally produced by its farms, rivers, wetlands, woods, hedges and moors:

**Pollination** – importance of the relationship between bees and other pollinating insects and the fertilisation of arable and other crops:

**Recreation and tourism** – in addition to the more formal visitor attractions at the Safari Park, Briarlands, Inchmahome Priory and the like, the area provides opportunities for core paths and other walking, cycling and riding routes:

**Carbon storage** – in relation to global warming the increasing importance of peat, trees, permanent grassland and rotation crops (very much including Timothy Hay), in storing or converting carbon, is being increasingly realised.

**Flooding and water logging** – not a benefit but a recurring issue and problem, which was examined and explored at the Briarlands meeting. We await the Heriot Watt report from which it is hoped on-going individual and collective alleviation measures may emerge.

The Partnership is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It comprises a body of volunteers who live and work in the Carse and care about its future. Currently there are 4 action or focus groups endeavouring to take steps to maintain and enhance the foregoing benefits or issues.

These groups are:-

**Flood Management and Carbon** contact Ronald Graham  
[ronaldggsc@aol.com](mailto:ronaldggsc@aol.com)

**Farming and Wildlife** contact Sandra Stewart  
[sandra@farmingandconservation.co.uk](mailto:sandra@farmingandconservation.co.uk)

**Landscape and Sense of Place** contact Keith Graham  
[jkeithgraham@hotmail.com](mailto:jkeithgraham@hotmail.com)

**Communities Recreation and Tourism** contact Bob Sparkes  
[bobsparkes@fsmail.net](mailto:bobsparkes@fsmail.net)

John Armstrong ([john@specialfx.co.uk](mailto:john@specialfx.co.uk)) is the Chair and Stuart Ogg  
[stuart@stuartogg.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:stuart@stuartogg.wanadoo.co.uk) the Secretary.

**Ronald Graham**

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

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

or

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

Items for Issue No 18 should be submitted **by 31<sup>st</sup> October 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.

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