

The Grapevine Spring 2010

2009/10 - Winter of discontent or Glorious Winter?

Whichever your view the weather this winter has been exceptional. Some hard facts (figures in brackets are for 2008/09):-

	Lowest	Highest	Mean	Total	Average wind	Main wind
		Temp (C)		Rain(mm)	speed(mph)	Direction
December	-13.5(-7.8)	10.4(11.7)	0.7(4.1)	49.4(65.6)	1.3 (1.8)	E or NE (W or SW)
January	-14 (-6.9)	11.4(12.4)	0.4(3.5)	54 (98)	2 (2.1)	----- do -----
February	-8.7 (-5.8)	8.9 (12.6)	0.7(4.1)	52 (14.8)	1.5 (2.3)	----- do -----

In December subzero temperatures were recorded on 23 days (17 days in 08): in January 17 days (11 in 09) and in February 20 days (14 in 09). Barometric pressure has been higher.

In fact this last winter the mean temperature has only been approximately 3 1/2 degrees Centigrade lower than in the previous one but sub zero temperatures have been recorded on 44 per cent more days. Rainfall in the 2 winters has been similar but this winter the wind has mainly been from the East rather than the West and barometric pressure has been higher so we have had more sun and clearer conditions. While those travelling may have been discontent on occasions the predominant view is that the winter has been glorious.



Photographs

The exceptional winter has meant that there has been more outside curling and skating than for many years. The photographs show the frozen Lake of Menteith and our curlers and supporters getting ready for action.

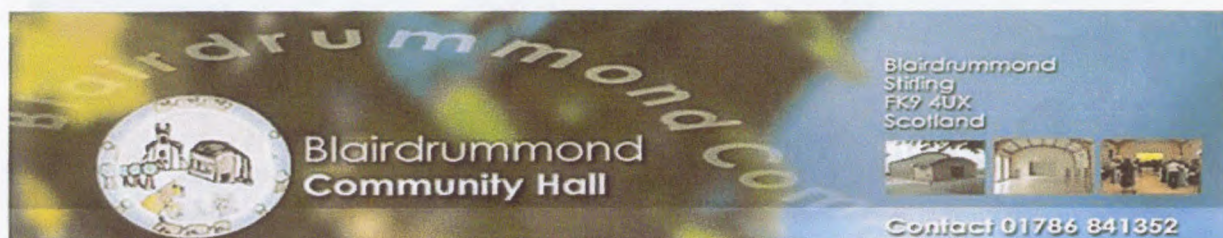


Congratulations to Blairdrummond Curlers.

Members of the Club won the Doune Shield bonspiel winning both the team points competition and the individual points competition. The Moss Cup was won by beating Thornhill. In the Stirling Ice Rink league (run at the new rink at Stirling's Sports Village - The Peak)

Blairdrummond reached the semi finals. In the internal competitions Alyn Youni, Rory Duff, Mark Sherriff and Fred Bauer won the bonspiel. Alan Brisbane John Sands, Gordon Birnie and Wendy Jack the knockout and the pairs competition was won by Alan and Jack Brisbane.

If anyone - young or old is interested in trying curling or would like to join the Club please call Ian Brisbane on 01786 841722.



The Grapevine Blair Drummond Mystery Walk

Blair Drummond Community Hall, in partnership with Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary School, is organising a Mystery Walk for **Saturday 15th May 2010.**

Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary school children, with their parents and family, are invited to come to the school at 12 noon on the 15th and to bring a picnic lunch, for the opening re-launch of the school grounds.

At 1.00pm, after the picnic, the Mystery Walk will start from Burnbank over the old drove lane to Kilmadoc Cemetery Car Park. Along the way there will be questions for each family team to complete, some about the history of the area, some about the geography, others on nature aspects around about and there will be a few items, which are to be collected, as you walk along.

A leaflet, giving more information on the event, will be distributed to the children in the near future, look out for it in school bags!

Badminton Court

Blair Drummond Community Hall now has a badminton court. If you are interested in forming a Club, or just want to have a game, please let us know. Contact us on: 01786 842421, or audrey.stirling@btinternet.com

Kirk News from Kincardine in Menteith

The Reverend Richard Campbell retired on 14 March. Over 150 attended a farewell party for him and his wife Anne in our Community Hall on 11 March. The triple parish linkage of Kincardine in Menteith, Kilmadoc and Gargunnoch are now seeking a new minister under the guidance of the Reverend Calum Jack of Stirling North Church. The "locum" in the interim is the Reverend Ray Gaston of Dollar,. Services continue at 9.30 am each Sunday.

Useful Contacts

Stirling Royal Infirmary	01786 434000	Womens Aid	01786470897
Doune Health Centre	01786841213	Stirling Council	08452777000
Samaritans	08457909090	NHS 24	08454242424

For Hall bookings contact Audrey Stirling on 01786 842421

Please let us know what information you would like to see published in the Grapevine and feel free to forward any articles for submission. It would be helpful if people could opt to receive the Grapevine via email. If you would prefer this please forward your email address to Joanne at joanne@briarlandsfarm.co.uk please put Grapevine in the subject box.



The Grapevine

Safari Park News

The Safari Park managed through the cold, dry spell pretty well; with little damage other than a large heating bill and the inevitable burst pipes! The freeze delayed a number of projects, in particular the Chimp bridge, from the winter quarters to the island where they spend the summer. The idea is that the chimps will be able to come and go as they please and their island environment will be enriched by hiding food etc., so that they will take longer foraging and displaying natural behaviours. It is hoped that the scaffolding will be down and the boats running round the island by Easter.

Aisla, the baby rhino, born before Christmas, is doing fine and is a firm favourite with visitors. She is growing so quickly and gambles about like a mad puppy! There is a pair of brown bears coming from Romania. Hopefully the first will arrive in May and her mate in the Autumn. The bear enclosure had to be adapted to comply with quarantine restrictions and because of the big freeze the schedule for that is running late.

There are endless improvements that have been, or are being, made and with it being the 40th Anniversary of the Safari Park opening, it is hoped this will be a bumper year. The 'Birthday Party Weekend' is 29th and 30th May 2010. Come along and enjoy the Safari Park, there is plenty to do and see!

BAGs Group(Blairdrummond Active Group)

We are a group of ladies who get together several times a year for a chat and a meal / outing. There is no longer a membership fee and new members are always welcome - its a great way to meet the locals if your new to the area . Below is a list of events for this year

May - McRobert Centre/ Vue

18th June - BBQ & quiz

Sept - Ten Pin Bowling

Nov - Gayle's Beauty Night

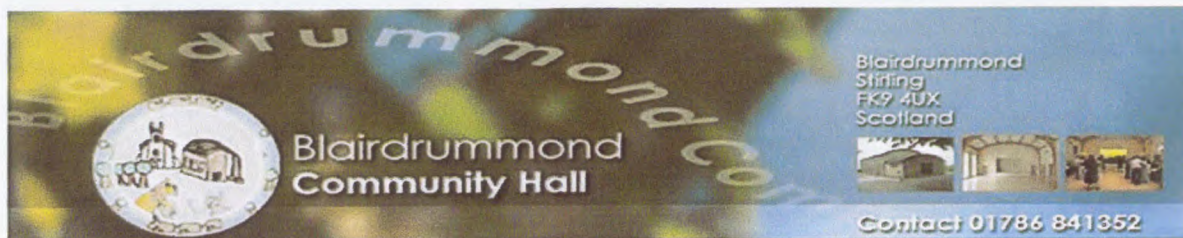
Dec - Christmas Night Out

If you wish to be added to our emailing list then send your contact details to

Catherine@grasslands.plus.com and we'll contact you with details of our next evening out.

Blairdrummond Youth Club

The Youth Club meets most Tuesday evenings (7pm-9pm) from October till the Easter holidays in Blairdrummond Community Hall. We currently have 13 members. Age range is from Primary 7 to 6th Year at high school. Cost per night is £1 and there is an annual membership fee of £10. There are a variety of games played at the youth club as well as being a place to meet and play music. There is a tuck shop and we also go on some outings. If you need any more information please contact Catherine by email at Catherine@grasslands.plus.com



School Info



The school now has a new logo, done by one of the Primary 6 pupils, Eilidh Graham. As you can see it is a very good reproduction of the school.

A big thanks to all who attended the end of term service and the Daffi Café, in aid of Malawi. Proceeds from donations at the café along with Raffle tickets and Competitions raised £167.94, which was a fantastic amount. The pupils did a great job baking and serving all the items that were in the cafe. Once again, Thank You.

On the 19th April, the first day back after the Easter Break Tempest Photographers will once again visit the school to take some group photographs. Hopefully it will be a lovely spring day with some sunshine, which will help with this.

In the afternoon of the 19th ECO Challenge starts, which involves some major work in the field behind the school. Fiona Owens who used to work within the school will be helping with this project. Please ensure that children bring a change of clothing and shoes to school that day as there will be a lot of outdoor messy work. Earlier in the year there were offers from some adult helpers, to assist with the ECO Wishlist, please if you are able to help or have already offered to help, call Mrs. Connolly in the office who will give some further information on this.

The new menus have arrived from Catering Services and will take effect from the 19th April. As well as some new meal choices the rota has changed to a 3-week rotation. The price of a meal has also increased to £1.80.

Fiona Anderson
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Tae Kwondo on a Wed 6.30pm to 7.30pm, contact Jaclyn Craig 07935 101791

Yoga Wed 7.45pm to 9pm or Fri 9.30am to 10.45am, contact Maya Savati, www.mindyouryoga.com or 07799 736611

Youth Club runs every Tuesday night from 7pm-9pm from October till Easter in the hall and is open to all young people aged 11- 18. Contact Catherine 01786 860246 for more information.

Saturday 15th May - Blairdrummond Community Hall & Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary School, Mystery Walk. School pupils and their families only.

Tuesday 15th June - Blairdrummond Community Hall AGM, in the Hall at 7.30pm. Please come along and join us.

Saturday 19th June - Blairdrummond Community Hall BBQ. Tickets only, to be bought in advance from Catherine Killen - 860 246 and Louise Maxwell - 841 352

Friday 15th October - Elspeth King, Curator Stirling Smith Museum and Art Gallery, will give a Talk, at the Community Hall. More details in the next edition of the Grapevine.