

The Grapevine

September 2010

BLAIRDRUMMOND ENTERPRISE - NATIONAL SCOTSHEEP 2010

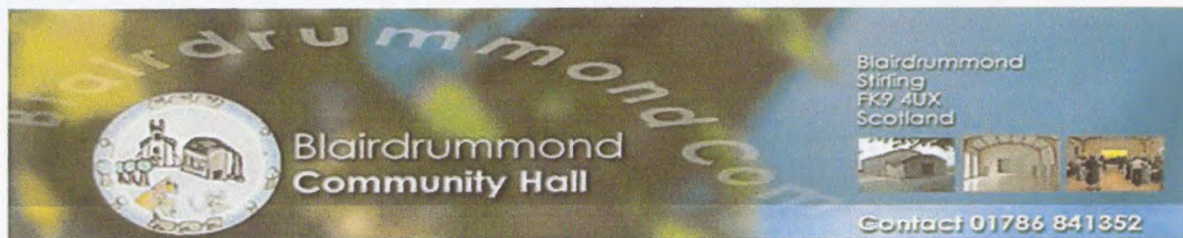
Enterprise is a distinctive part of the Blairdrummond scene. It is apparent in many of the activities on the farms and of course at the Safari Park and Briarlands. On this theme it was stimulating that National Scotsheep 2010 was held at Douglas and Lynda Graham's Mains of Burnbank Farm at the beginning of June.

National Scotsheep provides an opportunity for farmers and the general public to see and assess the various breeds and their development and, especially for farmers, an occasion to share thoughts and skills. There were over 7,000 visitors to the farm from all over Scotland and the North of England. Adam Henson, Gloucestershire farmer and presenter of BBC 1 Country File opened the event. There were children in attendance from Kincardine in Menteith, Doune, Dunblane and Thomhill and there were over 170 trade stands and craft stalls ranging from sheep equipment and handling systems to strawberries. Other attractions were Stock judging, Shepherd of the year and Sheepdog trials. Mains of Burnbank enjoyed the honour of showing visitors their breeding stock. Pedigree Limousin bulls and heifers, Mule ewe lambs, Blue Face Leicester and Black Face tups in which they deal.

Congratulations to all at Mains of Burnbank, their neighbours, family and friends who made this event a great success

May enterprise in Blairdrummond continue to flourish.





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Help Keep Blairdrummond Free From Hare Coursing

There has been a worrying decline in the number of hares over the last 20 years or so. Hare coursing has been a material contributor to this decline. It has been illegal since 2002 but some rural communities have been hit by this anti social behaviour not only threatening the hare but causing damage to crops, fences and buildings by those illegally pursuing it. The National Wildlife Crime Unit based in Livingston is the umbrella organisation now responsible for counteracting this through "Operation Lepus" aimed at targeting those involved in hare coursing and associated crime. Lepus has three components. "First the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. Second disrupting the activity by an active and visible police presence and third engaging with the rural community to raise awareness of what can be done to reduce this crime." Farmers, gamekeepers and others living in the country are encouraged to report incidents and alert the police to suspicious activity giving descriptions of persons, dogs and registration numbers to help the investigating officers.

Anyone witnessing hare coursing or suspecting that people are involved in it should contact their local police on 01786 456000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Safari Park News

Rhino Updates

A lot has happenend in the Rhino House this year. In April Blairdrummond said farewell to Mazumba, the young Southern White Rhino as she moved to Beekse Bergen Safari Park in the Netherlands as part of the European wide breeding programme. Dorothy the mother of Mazumba gave birth to her second calf, Ailsa, at the end of last year. Ailsa is still lving with Mum, Dorothy and Dad, Graham in the Rhino House.

At the beginning of July Dickie, a male Southern White Rhino sadly died at the age of 41 having lived happily at the park since 1996.

Further up to date news on the Southern White Rhinos and other information on the park can be found at www.blairdrummond.com

The Safari Park is open until 31st October 2010.



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Autumn Talk

On Friday 15th October 2010 at 7.30pm there will be an illustrated talk given by Dr Elspeth King, Director of Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum.

Dr King is well known, locally and nationally for her work and fascinating talks. For this occasion her title for the evening is "Big Beasts and other Stirlingshire Stories", which will deal with agricultural matters and relates to the Smith's current exhibition.

Cheese and wine will be served at the completion of the talk. Come early for what will be an interesting evening! Entry is by donation, for a charity chosen by the Hall Committee.

Christmas Fayre

The Hall Committee are organising a Christmas Fayre in the hall on Friday 26th November from 7pm to 9pm.

If you would like to have a stall at this event or know of someone who might be interested then please contact Catherine on 01786 860246 or email Catherine@grasslands.plus.com for further details.

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 you are new to the area. Below is a list of events for this year

Sept - Ten Pin Bowling or cinema

Nov - Gayle's Beauty Night

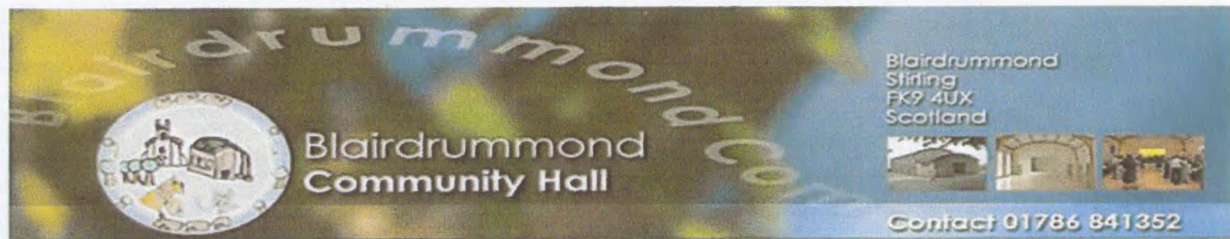
Dec - Christmas Night Out

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 19th October till the Easter holidays in Blairdrummond Community Hall. Age range is from Primary 7 to 6th Year at high school. 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



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Blairdrummond Mystery Walk

It was a bright and sunny afternoon when a group of intrepid adventurers started out on the first ever Blairdrummond Mystery Walk. We all set out in groups to start the walk from Bumbank up to the old cemetery. Along the way we were challenged to identify various trees, hills, flora and fauna. Some of us were better at it than others! The walk itself was lovely, as we followed the old drove road, imagining the thousands of animals that had gone before us. We all learned new things, for example, that there is a cairn symbolising the centre of Scotland right on our doorstep, and lots more. More importantly, it was a wonderful way to spend quality time with family and friends.

We would like to offer a huge thanks to the Hall Committee for all their efforts to organise such a safe, interesting and healthy adventure and only hope that there might be another walk again next year!

Fiona Anderson, Headteacher.



The winning team, Audrey, Grace and Charlie Stirling.

Blairdrummond Hall

The Hall built in recent years, is an excellent focus for community activities in Blairdrummond. The voluntary committee, which support the running of this facility welcome new ideas for events.

The building is located near to the school and church has superb facilities and ample parking space. It can be hired for a very reasonable sum, for family events, meetings etc. Recently it was decided to add badminton facilities, for use by the community.

Should you wish any further details, please get in touch with the Booking Secretary, Audrey on 01786 842421.



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Kirk News from Kincardine in Menteith

The Church and the Hall together with their good adjacent parking areas make excellent venues for weddings, christenings and funerals. The Church is available to all, not just its own members, for such purposes.

The vacancy committee to find a new minister for the joint charge of Kincardine, Gargunnoch and Kilmadock is now in action. With the fall in the number of Ministers in the Church of Scotland it may take a little time to achieve this.

Dates for your Diary

Tae Kwondo on a Monday 7pm to 8pm, contact Jaclyn Craig 07935 101791

Yoga Wed 5.45pm to 7pm contact Maya Savati, www.mindyouryoga.com or 07799 736611

Youth Club runs every Tuesday night from 7pm-9pm from 19th October till Easter in the hall and is open to all young people aged 11- 18. Contact Catherine 01786 860246 for more information.

Zumba Classes 8.15pm to 9.15pm on a Thursday evening.

Hall Committee Meeting 27th September, (new members welcome to attend).

Friday 15th October - Elspeth King, Curator Stirling Smith Museum and Art Gallery, will give a Talk, at the Community Hall entitled "Big Beasts and other Stirlingshire Stories".

Sat 30th October - Harvest Ceilidh 8.30pm to 12.30am Tickets £7.50 BYOB contact Audrey 01786 842421, Louise 01786 841352 or Catherine 01786 860246 for tickets, a raffle will be held in aid of Hall Funds - donations welcome.

Friday 26th November - Christmas Fayre

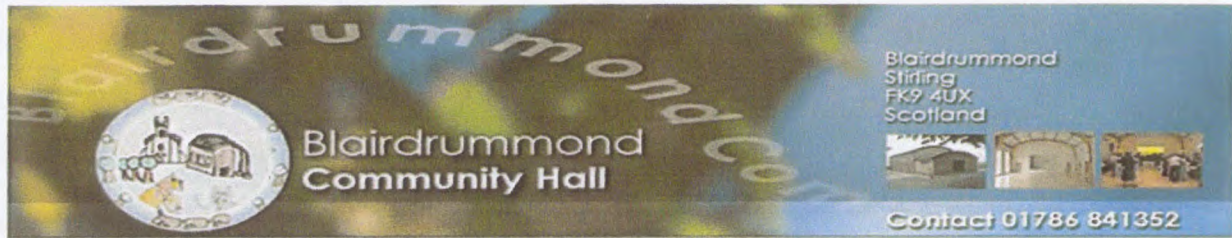
December 31st - Hogmanay Ceilidh.

Useful Contacts

Stirling Royal Infirmary	01786 434000	Womens Aid	01786 470897
Doune Health Centre	01786 841213	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.



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Caring for Tiny Toes

All babies are born with flat feet. Initially the bones are formed mainly of cartilage which makes them soft and flexible and extremely vulnerable to abnormal pressures.

To prevent any issues developing later baby's feet should be loosely covered and avoid tight babygros, sleep suits, socks and booties which may result in deformities.

A baby will walk between the ages of 10-18 months. Baby walkers should be avoided as they encourage abnormal loading of the joints before they are ready.

Allowing your baby the opportunity to kick freely will prepare the legs and feet for weight bearing.

Shoes are not a necessity for babies learning to walk. Going barefoot or in socks helps the feet grow normally and develop their musculature and strength.

When the child is walking independently outdoors, they are ready for shoes.

Choosing First Shoes:

- Children's feet should be measured by a trained shoe fitter.
- The toe area should fit the shape of the foot and be deep enough to allow the toes to move freely.
- The heel should be broad and made of a shock-absorbing material.
- The shoe should be held on the foot by a Velcro strap, buckle strap or laces.
- Shoes should fit and be comfortable in the shop. NO SHOES should require a "break-in" period.

All these points help the foot stabilise and function appropriately. Please avoid fashion shoes for babies as although they look cute they may have a deforming effect on the development of their feet.

If you have any concerns about your child's feet speak to a podiatrist.

Emma Bryce
A1 Feet 4 Life
07828 742569

If any businesses would like to submit articles for publication in the grapevine please email joanne@briarlands.plus.com