



The Grapevine Summer 2012

A GREAT SUCCESS! Blair Drummond Ladies Lunch

An amazing £5,600 was raised for the Scottish Paediatric Orthopaedic Club at the Ladies Lunch that was held at the end of April. The lunch was organised by the ladies on the committee of the Blair Drummond Community Hall Association.

130 ladies attended the lunch and it was a fantastic day, a great excuse to meet new and old friends, to have good food and wine too! A few husbands have commented since saying that they never knew a lunch was meant to last that long! Needless to say, a great time was had by all! The guest speaker, Sue Roberts, certainly made us laugh and see the funny side of life.

Grace Stirling who lives in our local community presented the cheque on the day to Heather Read, an Orthopaedic Consultant from Yorkhill Hospital in Glasgow. Heather attended the lunch on behalf of SPOC to inform us of their work and how young people like Grace benefit from such work.

Grace's family were overwhelmed by the support that was received from the local community in supporting the event and would like to thank everyone that helped make it happen.

The money raised will help children with congenital hip problems and also help to set up a system for children with cerebral palsy in Scotland that is based on the very successful Swedish system.



Blair Drummond Grapevine gratefully acknowledges Untied Auctions generosity in printing this and the previous edition of the newsletter.

Community Issues – Local Democracy

Do we use or should we be using more our Community Council for Blair Drummond's benefit?

While Scotland is contemplating material constitutional change at the national level, it is worth a quick look at the lowliest tier of our democratic governance – the Community Council (CC). Created in 1973, as a vehicle to express the views and needs of communities to Local Authorities and other public bodies and organisations, they are intended to be a means whereby the people of an area can voice their opinions on any matters affecting their lives and their environment. CCs are only advisory bodies with no powers to implement but they have the right to information (as indeed do we all).

Blair Drummond is constitutionally part of the Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council under Stirling Council. Our CC has 12 members but only 2 of these are from Blair Drummond. We could have up to 6 members. Our local man - Jimmy Maxwell is the Chairman, and until his recent retirement Campbell Hannah was the Vice Chairman. Jimmy Maxwell and our community would welcome not only a replacement but other persons willing to represent Blair Drummond.

Has our CC made a difference and been a helpful vehicle for us? Three instances are worth mentioning.

The first is the issue of the proposed construction of wind turbines, initially at the Braes of Boquhapple and then generally to the North and East of Thornhill. The CC arranged a series of public meetings to ascertain opinion. Initially Thornhill was in favour of the Boquhapple development, for the financial benefit that it would gain from the ownership of one of the turbines (see Grapevine Spring 2011) but began to move against wind turbines when it realised the environmental impact on Thornhill if it was surrounded by turbines to the North and East. In the outcome Stirling Council refused planning permission, arguably because studies showed there was insufficient wind to justify their creation. But the CC played a significant role by providing an authoritative mechanism for local opinion to be aired.

Secondly the CC was instrumental in securing for Thornhill the North Common at Thornhill, as a natural amenity and recreational area for the community, instead of for development.

Thirdly, at the moment the CC is ascertaining opinions on local social housing needs, which everyone agrees is needed but nobody wants in his/her backyard!

All of these examples concern Thornhill. Is Blair Drummond fortunate in having no material issues that we would like to see implemented, or conversely prevent happening? Perhaps a pragmatic vehicle like the Blair Drummond Community Hall Committee enables us to air and deal with local issues affecting our lives? If so, we are fortunate, or are we perhaps a little lazy and should be making more use of our Community Council?

Editorial. R Graham

The Farmer's Den Tearoom at Briarlands Farm



Briarlands Farm are pleased to announce that we will now be open all year round.

New for 2012 : Enjoy our fabulous new family friendly tearoom "The Farmer's Den", serving delicious hot and cold food, using our own strawberries and jam in our home baking, as well as ingredients from other local suppliers. There is also a Little Tikes frame and Activity Area, where on very wet days we will run Arts and Crafts to keep children active, whatever the weather.

Our outdoor activities including jumping pillows, go karts, tyre maze, mini diggers, pick your own fruit and animal paddocks.

Briarlands offer a fantastic venue to host a birthday party, which can also be animal themed.

We hope to see you all soon 10am - 5.30pm every day.

Website : www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk

Phone : 01786 841309

Email : info@briarlandsfarm.co.uk

Farming Perspectives

After relatively benign conditions up to the end of March, the weather turned nasty in April and continued so until mid May. The cold ground conditions then suddenly changing to hot rock hard soil in the course of ten days or so.

Ground conditions are still not good but are at least improving. The most violent temperatures caused serious ground damage in a few places, which may take a year or two to recover.

Markets for crop fodder and stock are reasonable, though lamb and cattle prices have fallen and may well do so further in consequence of continuing austerity.

Blair Drummond Church of Scotland: Kincardine-in-Menteith

Tradition is passing on the flame not worshipping the ashes !

One thing most of us enjoy about Blair Drummond is a traditional way of rural life – if there's a dance in the hall, youngsters are there with their grannies; life is shaped by the seasons, weather and farming practice; our school and church sit side by side, and sometimes a school-day is shaped by a wedding or funeral in the kirk next door. Here I see traditional values, respect for people and a working with nature, lived out in reality.

However I also enjoy the ease of car travel, e-mails and Goretex when it's necessary! Recognising what works well doesn't mean avoiding new technology, or not learning to do things differently. If you only do what you've always done - you can only get what you always got, which is why it's great to see Blair Drummond Castle being developed by the Camphill movement to make life richer for residents and students; why its good to both celebrate what Fiona Anderson has brought to the school over the years and celebrate too when a new 'Heidie', is appointed with different skill sets.

This year when Olympic athletes will set new records, Queen Elizabeth's 60 years reign and commitment is marked, and politicians need to create new economic models that work for all and not just for some, it may be that new practices require to be built on old-fashioned values – like respect, honesty and long term commitment over “me”, quick-gain and today.

At the heart of your community – on its main artery – stands a church that is here for you. We hold traditional faith values yet try to do things differently, so that we are relevant for our time, our generation...and hopefully the next. We don't always have the answers to problems, but we'll explore the questions with you till together we find one.

Rev Andy Campbell

Kincardine in Menteith Church of Scotland

There is an act of Christian worship every Sunday at 9.30am and you are welcome to join in.

Blair Drummond Barbeque

Blair Drummond Hall Committee held their annual Barbeque in the Safari Park on the first Saturday in June. Fortunately it was a dry evening, maybe not the warmest but with over 250 people attending, this did not dampen their spirits. The children and adults had a fantastic evening, using the excellent facilities in the Park. Our thanks to the Safari Park staff for their input, ensuring the evening went smoothly.

We are very much indebted to Jamie Muir for the use of the Park and who, in honour of the Diamond Jubilee, very kindly donated the food.



Safari Park News

Spring is always a joyful time at the park, the winter blues are behind us and the new influx of animals being born always puts a smile on everyone's face. This year we were delighted to welcome Libby, a beautiful lion cub, born here at the park to mum Teekay and dad Dudley. Loki, our European brown bear cub, also born here at the park, made his public debut on 18th May. He is the first brown bear cub born at the park. He is still very playful keeping our visitors entertained; with mum Nellie keeping a watchful eye. Other new births this year include: wallabies, marmosets, meerkats, Somali lambs, a lechwe, an adorable donkey and Angus our Southern white rhino calf. Most recently we have been celebrating the birth of our new Humboldt penguin chick, aptly named Jubilee! Come see us soon!



Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary School

Our Headteacher, Mrs Fiona Anderson is leaving us on Friday 1st June to take up a new role in Falkirk Council. She put the following paragraph in our School Newsletter

'I would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents, staff, the community and of course the pupils for their amazing support, hard work and encouragement over the last 4 years. Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary School is a great place to learn, work, grow and share and I will miss it dearly. Over the last four years, there have been a lot of changes to the curriculum, which the staff have worked hard to implement. We are well placed on the Journey to Excellence due to this hard work. Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary School is also a nurturing environment where all pupils are supported to thrive and this is supported by all adults in the school, particularly our support and office staff. The 'back room team' keep the school running and we would be lost without all the plasters, newsletters, smiles and support that our pupils are given. Finally, it has been my pleasure to see the pupils grow into confident young individuals and indeed successful learners whilst developing responsible citizenship. I am proud to have led Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary School since August 2008 and I wish everyone all the best for the future. Thank you!'

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th June at 7.30pm in the school.

Sports Day

Sports Day this year will be held on the morning of Friday 1st June and will be followed by a picnic.

We are also holding an Olympic Festival on 12th June. We will be joined by pupils from three other schools for a day of "Olympic Sports". Here's hoping for fine weather.

On 13th June we have been invited by Beaconsfield School to go along and watch the Olympic Flag pass through Bridge of Allan. It will be fun to be part of such an International event even if we are only waving flags!!

P7 Residential Week to Ardmay

Our Primary 7 pupils are off next week for a four-day Activity holiday to Ardmay House, Arrochar. We wish them all a fantastic time.

New Entrants Transition Programme

Our new Primary 1s are coming in to join us on a couple of occasions before the summer holidays, to familiarise themselves and their families with the school and the people in it. It has proved to be invaluable in the past to help the children settle in quickly in August.

Tesco, Nestle Box Tops and Sainsbury's Vouchers

We are still collecting vouchers from Tesco, Nestle Cereal and Sainsbury's. We would be delighted to accept any vouchers you may have lying around at home. It's amazing how the total mounts up even in a small school.



Sue Roberts
Scotland's Premiere Comedienne

Following the success of the recent Ladies Lunch, we are hoping to have Sue Roberts return to the hall in November this year, for a 'Ladies Comedy Night'. Proposed date is Friday 2nd November. Sue was so good that many of us would like to hear more from her! For further details on this event in the coming months, please email Audrey at audrey.stirling@btinternet.com.

Whisky Tasting Evening

Following the overwhelming success of the Ladies Lunch, organised by a group from the Blair Drummond Community Hall Committee, a Whisky Tasting evening is being planned for this coming autumn, open to gentlemen or ladies. The plan is to also have a speaker, as well as the whisky tasting.

If anyone in the Blair Drummond community has any expertise or interest in assisting with this event, please get in touch with Fred at fredbauer@tiscali.co.uk

Blair Drummond Youth Club

The Youth Club meets weekly, on a Tuesday, in the Blair Drummond Hall, between 7pm and 9pm. The Club runs from October until the end of March and young people from Primary 7 and upwards are most welcome.

Membership costs £10 per year, with a nightly fee of £1. There is a Tuck Shop where juice and sweets can be purchased.

We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions for things to do and places to go!

Youth Club this year starts back on the 2nd October 2012 – looking forward to seeing some new faces.

For further information please contact the Youth Club Leader – Doug McMillan, 0783 592 3227.

Kincardine-in-Menteith 100 Club

The 100 Club is an affordable, hassle free and effective way to support the school. We raise enough funds to pay for the Christmas party, Halloween party, school books, trips and treats throughout the year, roughly £600 per annum!!

How it works and how you can get involved.

You are allocated a number, which is put into a draw at school. The p7 children draw 3 numbers per month, which win cash prizes of 1st, 2nd 3rd (£25, £10 and £5). Each number costs £1 per month and this is collected twice yearly by direct debit, or annually by cash, or cheque. Pupils, parents, grandparents, colleagues and friends are all welcome to join. We currently have only 15 numbers left in the 100 club so hurry if you are interested.

So if you want to be “in it to win it” please get in touch with Catriona Turner 01786 470702 (catriona@carrat.plus.com).

Fundraiser Demo at Charlie Taylor Hairdressing

Charlie Taylor Hairdressing at Bridge of Allan have offered the ladies of Blair Drummond community the opportunity to fundraise for charity, by inviting –

12 people to visit their salon on **10th September 2012**, at 7.00 pm, where everyone can get something done, such as a wash and blow dry, hair up, curls; ensuring that all have a taster of something! There will be drinks and nibbles provided, along with a prize draw.

The price per ticket has still to be determined and will be put to a good local cause.

For further information please contact: Audrey Stirling, on audrey.stirling@btinternet.com

Christmas Fayre

This year's Christmas Fayre will be held in the hall on Friday 30th November from 7pm till 9pm. Once again there will be approx 20 stalls, including many regulars such as Briarlands Farm, Mac Books, Mary's Kitchen, Judes Jewels, Partylite Candles, Virgin Vie, Phoenix Cards and Kincardine in Menteith Primary School.

Entry is £1 for adults and 50p for children, which includes tea/coffee/ juice and mince pies/shortbread. There will also be a raffle on the evening, with proceeds being donated to a local charity. Last year's raffle raised £300 for the Scottish Paediatric Orthopaedic Club.

For further information contact Catherine on 01786 860246 or email Catherine@grasslands.plus.com.

Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

Weekly Classes

Monday: Lou Mac Fitness Classes - 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

(Contact Louise MacLaren on 07974 445774)

Tuesday: Youth Club – From October to April – 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

(Contact Doug McMillan on 07835 923227)

Wednesday: Yoga – 9.00 am to 10.15 am

(Contact Maya Savati on 07799 736611)

Thursday: Zumba - 8.15 pm to 9.15 pm, due to start again on 23rd August

(Contact Janice Klemer on 01786 860244)

Other Dates for the diary

Tuesday 26th June 2012: Community council Meeting @ 7.30 pm

Saturday 20th October 2012: Scottish Limousin Club AGM & Dinner

Friday 2nd November 2012: Ladies Comedy Night (**Date to be confirmed**)

Friday 30th November 2012: Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre

As always the Hall is regularly used for meetings, kinds parties, ceilidhs, discos, wedding receptions and race nights, to name but a few.

For more information visit our website: www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk

MacGregor

PHOTOGRAPHY



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AUTUMN ISSUE: *If you have an article or ad for the next issue please contact Christine Bauer by 30th September. Email: christinebauer@tiscali.co.uk.*

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