



Issue 8

The Grapevine

Winter/Spring 2013

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



Camphill Blair Drummond – A 3rd Phase - Can we help its completion?

Camphill is one of the largest support networks for people with learning disabilities and mental health issues. The central belief is that everyone deserves respect, no matter what their ability. Internationally there are more than 100 Camphill communities in over 20 countries. In the UK, 43 communities support 1,450 individuals who live, learn and work alongside 1,750 employees and volunteers.

Camphill Blair Drummond was founded as a training college for adults with learning disabilities in 1976. Over the years the demand for daily learning workshops and residential care grew significantly. Sections of the impressive Blair Drummond House were turned into residential accommodation in response to the demand. Today Camphill Blair Drummond (CBD) supports 33 individuals from all

over Scotland. A further 33 day students attend each week from the surrounding areas. This number has increased from just 8 a few years ago, showing the continuing demand for the unique provision on offer.

Currently the third phase of Capital Development is underway. 4 purpose built workshops are already complete and in use and the first 2 residential houses are under construction. The third phase aims to build, fit-out and furnish a further 2 residential houses. By the time these are complete CBD will be able to support 42 residents.

Camphill aims to achieve social renewal through community living for people with complex learning disabilities. This approach is based on the work of Rudolph Steiner (1861-1925), a believer in cooperation and harmonization in the spheres of culture, politics and economics and respect for each individual.

Specifically CBD aims to provide a supportive and welcoming community life providing homes and meaningful daily activities for adults with learning disabilities. This innovative approach enables each individual to realize their full potential. A core element of this is providing activities that allow them to use and develop their skills and abilities.

The aim for the new Development is to achieve a layout where residential and workshop areas are separate. The new homes will be similar to a rural village setting, with the workshops close by.

The four workshops, already complete, are used by residents and day students at CBD. They are Craft, Estate work (logging, maintenance, mowing etc.), Woodwork and In Touch. The latter supports individuals with more severe and complex needs. Residents and day students are supported by staff and volunteers, in a ratio of around 1:1.

CBD has an Appeal to raise the £8.2m needed to complete their Development and are currently fundraising towards the final two residential houses. There are lots of ways that you can get involved and help them achieve this milestone. You can read about some of them in this issue of the Grapevine. But if you would like to know more about other ways to get involved please contact Elsie on 01786 843047 or e-mail elsie@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk.

Charlotte Bray & Ronald Graham

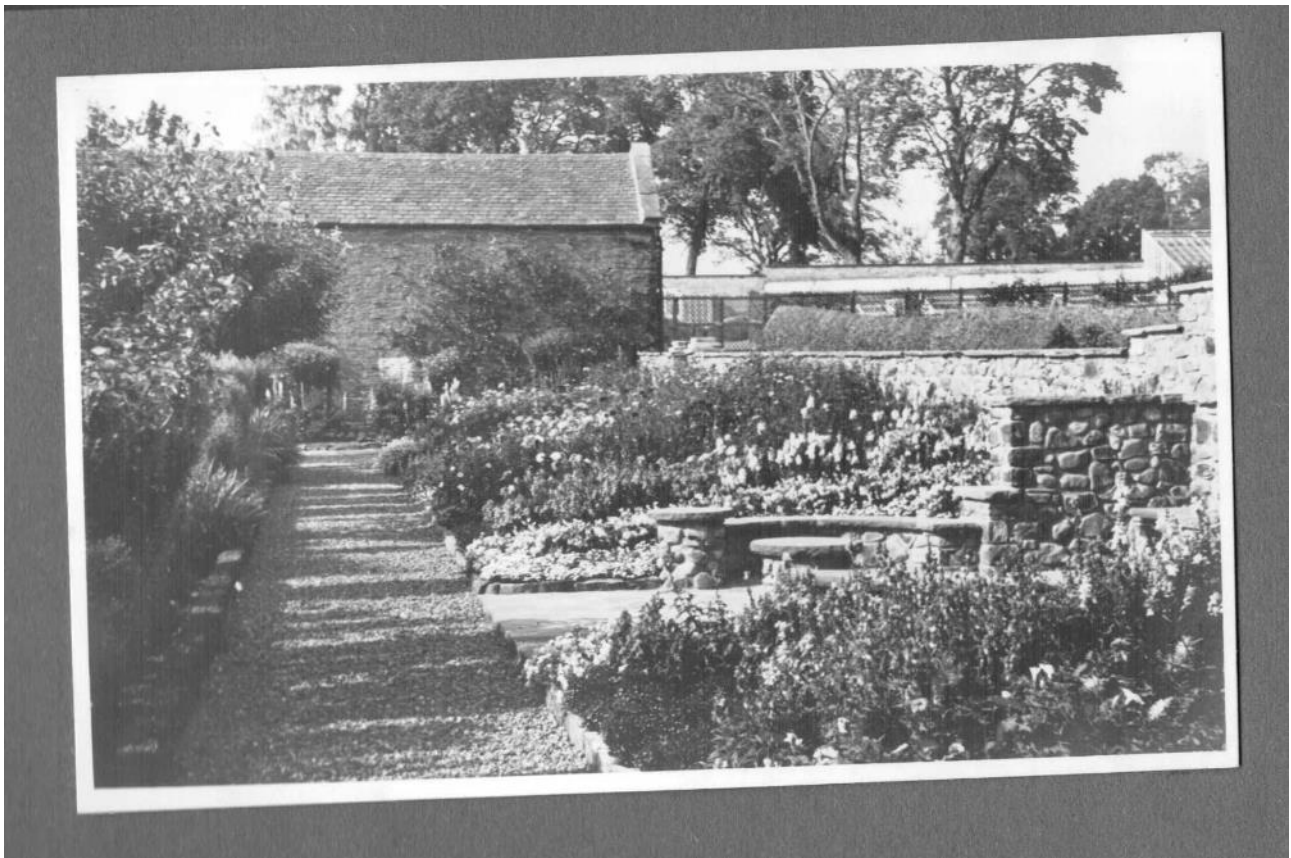
Whisky Tasting

On Friday 8th March the Hall Association, in conjunction with Deanston Distillery, will hold a Whisky Tasting evening in Blair Drummond Hall. The evening will include a two course meal, whisky tasting, a talk on Deanston Distillery and of course the whisky. Tickets are £20.00 each.

A Prize Raffle to raise funds for Camphill Blair Drummond will also be drawn, and if anyone wishes to donate a prize please contact us. Contacts for tickets, and to donate a raffle prize are: Fred on 07500 354 004 and Jimmy on 01786 841 352.

Fred Bauer

Coldoch Request



WANTED:

Stories and memories of the garden at Coldoch (*shown above*), for a research project by Jane Armstrong, current gardener.

Please contact -

Tel: 01786 842875

Email: jarmy_55@yahoo.co.uk

Editorial

Carse of Stirling Project –

The Project arose in response to the Scottish Government's Land Use Strategy. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) are leading the Project whose purpose is to demonstrate the value and benefits of taking a holistic approach to land use planning. The Project aims "to identify local priorities for land management".

In fact the area covered is bigger than just the Carse as we know it. The area covered takes in the land South of Hill of Row, Braes of Doune, Bridge of Allan, East of Port of Menteith, West of Bannockburn, North of Gargunnock, Kippen and Ballat Crossroads. Key elements of the aims, purpose and approach of the Project are – to identify priorities taking account the local environment, funding and climate change; involve land managers and stake holders; focus on the benefits derived from the land and support those who are delivering these benefits.

The intended outcome is an "Action Plan, used to deliver projects in keeping with local priorities and to raise awareness of the benefits that derive from the land".

There was, and possibly still is, some concern about the Project, namely, was it about creating new status for the area (e.g. a new National Park); about telling farmers what to do, or really part of a land reform review. We are assured by SNH and SEPA that it is not about any of these things. The result or findings from the Project should be an "Action Plan that sums up the benefits stemming from the land and the way that it is managed, having taken stock of the policies and influences that effect land use, landscape, and nature and the ability of deliver benefit". It should "involve and support those that manage and benefit from the land by identifying local priorities designed to maximise these benefits". The resulting Action Plan is to be "used to deliver projects in keeping with local priorities and to influence or make representations to partners, funders and policy makers".

On one view, the Project is a very positive step providing useful knowledge for the sensible managing and evolution of the Carse

and surrounding area. Another view is that it is all a bit general and may be used by faceless people in government or government agencies to impose their views on how the area should be developed. Are you an optimist or a pessimist? It will be interesting to see how matters develop.

R Graham

Tourist Award for Local Business



We are pleased to announce that Briarlands Farm has been awarded 4 stars by Visit Scotland, after a recent assessment. Joanne Inglis, the owner of Briarlands Farm is delighted at this news. "We have worked very hard in building the Farmer's Den Tearoom to a high level of quality and are very proud this hard work is recognised in our new 4 star rating. As it's our first year staying open throughout the winter, we have been delighted with the feedback from customers and the popularity of our events, from the Gingerbread Workshop to the Craft Fair"

For the whole month of January we asked for a donation only for entry to the Funyard outside, as we are raising funds for a local girl: Skye's American Dream (<http://www.skyesamericandream.com/#tab=SkyesStory>). So far we have raised over £400.

Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council

Entry to and exit from Kincardine in Menteith school and church –

Probably because Blair Drummond has no village, with streets, shops and the like, it features little in the Minutes of our Community Council. Many in our community would argue this is a very good thing. Others possibly feel belittled and ignored. Certainly on the plus side we have virtually no reported crime such as theft, drug offences, breach of the peace, or knife possession, which all do feature occasionally at Thornhill. Nor do we have problems with car parking and going over on pavements, which regularly upset the citizens of Thornhill. Nor problems over where the 30mph and 40mph zones should begin and end. Even poaching and hare coursing (mercifully rare) seem to occur nearer Doune and Thornhill, than Blair Drummond. On the Planning front our applications are for occasional new dwellings, storage sheds, hard standings and the like, which do not appear to raise significant visual or other environmental issues.

However, there is one matter which perhaps we should be pressing for, that is a one way system for people and cars to enter and exit from our school and church. The present single, narrow and quite steep road serving both entry and exit onto the increasingly busy A84, is arguably an accident waiting to happen, especially when roads are icy.

Should we not ensure the matter features in the Community Council Minutes until the matter is solved, by the present road being extended round the North side of the Church and a one-way system introduced? There is plenty of space to do so.

R Graham

Next meeting – Tuesday 26th February 2013, 7.30pm at Thornhill Primary School.

The Commonwealth Games in Scotland

So Glasgow 2014, and our home Commonwealth Games, is now next year. It's already at the point where in sport we call it a "short-term" target - athletes who expect to be there competing and winning medals should be, or need to be, very close to the required standard already - if they aren't, they won't make it in time.....

We at Scottish Athletics - the National Governing Body of athletics, start the selection process for the team in April this year. We have a selection window until June 2014, where athletes have to prove themselves against set performance standards - so that means they have to run quicker than a set time, throw further than a set distance, or jump higher or longer than an agreed distance.

We set those standards looking at what performance it should take to get, in theory, to the final of that event in Glasgow - the statisticians have a field day! The athletes have to perform to that standard at least twice (we let the marathon runners off with just one run - generous aren't we?!), and of course they need to prove then that they are injury free and fit, in the run up to the Games itself.

At the last Commonwealth Games in Delhi 2010, we had 19 Scottish track and field athletes selected. In Glasgow, because we are "on the up" and have some young talent coming through, I hope to have over 30 Scottish athletes competing in Hampden Park, benefiting from the "Hampden Roar" athletics style!!! Will you be contributing to that Roar with a Blair Drummond element? I hope so! See you there!

Or what about volunteering? We have also heard so much about the London Games Makers..... 15,000 are needed for the Commonwealth in Glasgow. You need to move now though - apply on line on the glasgow2014 website (www.glasgow2014/volunteer) and you have until February 28th 2013 to do so. It will be hard work, and won't be suitable for everyone, but it is perhaps a once in a lifetime opportunity!

I'm always asked about medals of course ... how many will we win etc.? The reality is that Athletics is really competitive across the globe – you don't need a fancy velodrome, wind tunnels, or carbon fibre bikes (the money for which rules so many countries out of the

elite end of many sports) – you need a pair of shoes! And good lungs of course oh!, and most important actually – the right mentality! So, I'm avoiding the medal question here – with my neck in the noose of the media if I'm not careful We expect and predict that Scottish athletes in athletics will win **more than 2** medals. Two is what we have had at the last 3 Commonwealth Games – we will do better than that, or I'm looking for different gainful employment!

Nigel Holl

CEO Scottish Athletics (in my spare time!)

Kirklane Fellowship

The Kirklane Fellowship is a group from both Kincardine in Menteith Church and Gargunnock Church, and meets on the first Tuesday of each month between September and April. There is generally a wide variety of speakers or occasionally demonstrations.

The speaker in February will be Mr Dennis Canavan, who will give a talk on his autobiography 'Let the People Decide'. The March meeting will host a talk by Mrs Maureen Birrell on the Jersey Flower Festival and in April our speaker will be Mrs Heather Bovill from Dunblane, giving a talk on her trip to the Holy Land.

All meetings commence at 7.30pm and are held in the Ross Anderson Room, which is adjacent to Gargunnock Church.

Members from both churches (both male and female) are very welcome to come along to any of the meetings. A warm welcome and a good 'cuppa' are guaranteed!

Further information can be obtained from either Marion Fitzpatrick, Secretary (01786841656), or Audrey Birrell (01786 860321)

Marion Fitzpatrick

Who's there ?

Knock, Knock !

"Who's there ?"

"The Minister !"

"Oh God !"

"No, just a representative – God's busy elsewhere today. He sent me instead!"

This may well be the opening lines of conversations at your door over the next few weeks as Andy and Mike, the two ministers working with Kincardine in Menteith Church, are planning to visit every home in the area between now and Easter. Don't say you haven't been warned, but you may be asking *"Why?"*, to which the answer is "because we care about you and your family, whether you are church member or not...whether you come to worship or not.. whether you believe in God or not. *"Why ?"*... Because whether or not you believe in God, God believes in you! ... Which is why you were able to celebrate Christmas 2 months ago and will be buying up Easter eggs fairly soon.

The Christian Church has always been proactive, valuing people of all ages and being ready to be with them in times of celebration and crisis, offering what we hope is appropriate response. It's fairly easy to find fault with faith communities, but give us credit for continuing to try to improve, or better still, tell us what would make church better for you, and then join us to make it happen.

If you don't happen to be in when we visit, we'll leave a card with our contact details.

Meantime, if you have a moment, try to answer this: "If you got the chance to ask God just one question, face to face – what would you ask ?"



God Bless,

Rev Andy.

Tel 01786 860 678 or email andycampbell53@btinternet.com

Scottish Crook Makers Workshop

Scottish Crook makers are holding a one day crook making demonstration on **Saturday, 2nd March**, starting at 10 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. Demonstrations will be held throughout the day, on the art of bending buffalo and rams horn, carving animal and birds heads and wood handles, also straightening shanks and pyrography. Five Demonstrators will be on hand to answer any questions. Highland Horn Company will have a stand where stick making materials can be purchased. Finished sticks up to show standard will be on view, consisting of horn and wood, plain and fancy, including thistles, collie dogs and brown trout. A stick show will also be held for anyone who wishes to participate. The cost for the day is £25, which includes breakfast roll and tea/coffee and lunch of soup and sandwiches etc. Demand for the Workshop has been good.

If anyone wishes to attend please book in advance by contacting Mrs Dent on: 01786 841306, for an application form and availability.

Blair Drummond Curling Club

At the time of writing the curling season is more than halfway through, heading towards the climax of many of the competitions, both club and province. The club Bonspiel was well attended and once again there was a good turnout of younger members. Steve Walker's team were the winners on the night.

One of the aims within the club's charter status is the development of younger players. The club also offers reduced ice fees and on Tuesday 19th March at 4pm the club is holding a Young Curlers Bonspiel followed by a meal. The Bonspiel and the meal will be free to all young curlers both existing members and potential new curlers.

New members are always welcome. For further information about the club, the Young Curlers Bonspiel and how to join, contact Fred Bauer on 07500 354 004.

Fred Bauer
Chairman

Briarlands Farm

As part of the BBC Stargazing series we held a family Stargazing night at Briarlands on Saturday 8th February. Stirling Astronomy Club brought along telescopes, pictures and star maps... and although the sky was cloudy, we still had over 150 people attend, to learn a bit more about the Sky at Night. The whole evening was a great success and we hope to run future events. Maybe we will even get a clear night sky next time! More details can be found from the website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo/activity/stargazing-live-down-on-the-farm/occurrence/223944>



We are open every day 10 - 4.30pm, with normal outside activities and the ever popular Decopatch Bouncy Bees craft area.

We are now running JogScotland groups on a Monday morning, 10 – 10.45 for beginners, and 11 – 11.45 for improvers, leaving from the Tearoom. These running sessions are £1.50 each and anyone can join in at any stage. Please email: info@briarlandsfarm.co.uk for more information.

For more information on any of the above, please email or see our website: [www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk\[briarlands\]](http://www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk[briarlands])

Please like us on facebook.

Mandy Beer
Duty Manager

Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

Weekly Classes

Monday: Lou Mac Fitness Class - 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm
(Contact Louise MacLaren on 07974 445774)

Tuesday: Youth Club – From October to April – 7pm to 9pm
(Contact Doug McMillan on 07835 923227)

Thursday: Lou Mac Fitness Class - 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Other Dates for the diary

Saturday 2nd March 2013: Doune & Dunblane Show Committee
Race Night. From 7.30pm. BYOB. Tickets £5.
Contact: Catriona 07748448158

Friday 8th March 2013: Blair Drummond Community Hall
Association Whisky Tasting evening, in conjunction with Deanston
Distillery. Tickets £20, including 2 course meal, tea/coffee and of
course, whisky. Raffle in aid of Camphill Blair Drummond.

Saturday 16th March 2013 : Ceilidh in aid of RSABl.
Band: 'Reel Thing'. Stovies. Bar. Raffle. Tickets £10.00. 7.30pm –
12.30am Contact: Isabel Ripley 01786 842805

Saturday 1st June 2013 : Family BBQ at Blair Drummond Safari
Park. From 6.30pm. Tickets £5. BYOB. **Admission by ticket only.**
Contact Louise 841352 or Catherine 860246

Tuesday 11th June 2013: Blair Drummond Community Hall
Association AGM at 7.30pm. ***Please come and join us.***

Badminton Anyone wishing to hire the hall for badminton please
contact Louise(Booking Secretary) on 01786 841352.

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

For more information visit our website:

www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk

Kincardine in Menteith Primary School Parent Council

Since the summer Kincardine in Menteith Primary School has been operating under an Acting Head Teacher. I am very pleased to report that Ann Maitland has recently been appointed, as the new Head Teacher for both Kincardine in Menteith and Thornhill Primary schools.

Forthcoming Events –

Family Ceilidh

Now that 'Strictly' has been and gone, if you feel you are missing out on a bit of dancing, then Kincardine in Menteith Primary will be holding a Family Ceilidh in Blair Drummond Community Hall on Saturday 27th April from 7pm till 11pm. Music will be provided by The Jack Delaney Band. BYOB & snacks. Raffle.

Tickets: Adults £7.50 Children £4 Family £25

Tickets available from the school.

Of course the get together, the chat, the odd game or two and the raffle, will be as entertaining as the evening's dancing!

Emily Holl

Chair, Parent Council

FOUND

Stray female cat found in Blair Drummond area.

Tortoise shell & white

Contact 01786 451639 for further details

Spotlight on:

Kincardine-in-Menteith School link with Kapalamula Primary School, Malawi

Pupils at Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary are continuing their partnership with Kapalamula Primary, Malawi, by texting each other with the school mobiles. They are recording rainfall and average temperatures at the end of each month.

So far the results have been quite an eye opener for pupils! Here's what we have found out so far.

	Rain	Temperature
November	Malawi 40mm Kincardine 68mm	Malawi 39°C Kincardine 7°C
December	Malawi 70mm Kincardine 87mm	Malawi 28°C Kincardine 3.5°C

Any information about planting crops locally will be included in our monthly newsletter to Kapalamula Primary, Malawi. We would be grateful for this information, which can be sent to the school either via pupils or email.

Below we have included the newsletter sent to us from Kapalamula School:

IMPACT OF SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME BY MARY'S MEALS AT KAPALAMULA SCHOOL

This feeding program started at Kapalamula School on 30th June 2009, after the training on how to prepare the porridge was conducted on 17th June 2009, which was attended by almost one hundred and fifteen parents.



OUTCOMES OF THE FEEDING PROGRAMMES

By June 2009, the enrolment of the school was 783 learners and changed to 1031 in the 2009 – 2010 school calendar year. The school enrolled many standard one learners as compared to the previous years

before the feeding program commenced.

School dropout especially in the infant and junior selections has been reduced. This is so because learners do come to school having known that there is something to eat here.

Frequent absenteeism by learners has also been reduced as observed from our monthly averages.

Malnutrition level amongst our learners has been reduced because the porridge is very nutritious indeed.

Learners are very active in class when they have eaten this porridge because they don't learn with hunger.

From 2009 number of learners who are selected to secondary school are increasing.

CHALLENGES OF THIS FEEDING PROGRAMME

Since this program run under Community Volunteer system, sometimes there is poor turn of people who come to cook the porridge for our learners. When this happens the whole school system is disturbed indeed. We are looking for other sources of funds, so that in the future the school may employ its own cooks to cook the porridge for our learners.

STAFF IMPROVEMENTS STATUS

In the 2011 – 2012 school year, there were only 15 members of staff, that is 4 Male teachers and eleven Female teachers. There has been a big improvement in that we are twenty three members of staff. We have 8 student teachers who are doing their teaching practices here. These student teachers are playing a great role at our school. In due course their teaching practice, they do also assist in teaching the learners in some classes.

2012 FORM ONE SELECTION

Our school enrolled 23 candidates who sat the 2012 primary school leaving certificate of Education. All of them passed and 8 were selected to various secondary schools. We are working very hard this year so that there can be more learners who may have access to secondary school selection.

Kincardine in Menteith Primary School

We start with the news of the appointment of Mrs Ann Maitland as Head Teacher. Mrs Maitland (who was Principal Teacher and class teacher of our P4-7 class) had been Acting Head Teacher while the selection process was ongoing for our new Head Teacher, following Mrs Anderson's move to another post. Miss Alison MacDougall has been teaching the P4-7 class and has been Acting Principal Teacher.

On Friday 25th January we held a Burns Celebration in school. Children and staff were dressed in tartan and danced to traditional Scottish music. This was followed by a Burns Supper of Leek and Potato Soup, scones and shortbread, all made by the children in school. We had an amendment to our school lunch menu with the addition of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, which was enjoyed by quite a number of children. Certificates were awarded to the winners of the Burns Poetry competition. All the pupils took part in the preparation of the food, the dancing and the poetry competition and

we had a wonderful morning. The talent shone! Well done everyone!!

Next month the pupils are taking part in Micro-Tyco. This is a charity fund raising enterprise event in which the children are given a Seed Fund of £1. They have to come up with ideas to turn their pound into as much money as they can. The money raised will then be sent to the WildHearts Charity where it is invested in Micro-Finance in twenty-four countries around the world, taking Micro-Tyco participants on a journey that transforms them into dynamic wealth creators and global ethical investors. If anyone has any fundraising ideas for the pupils please feel free to get in touch.

Kincardine in Menteith School 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. Pupils, parents, grandparents, colleagues and friends are all welcome to join.

We currently have only **5** numbers left in the 100 Club
68, 83, 90, 91 & 95

If one of these is your lucky number please get in touch!

JILLIAN REYNOLDS

01786 842832 (jillian.reynolds@btopenworld.com).

Challenge yourself for Camphill Blair Drummond in 2013

As the Fundraisers at Camphill Blair Drummond Charlotte Bray and myself wanted to set ourselves a big challenge for 2013 to test ourselves, help us get fitter and raise vital funds for the Appeal at Camphill Blair Drummond.

My colleague Charlotte Bray suggested the Mighty Deerstalker a running race with a fearsome reputation, which takes place near Peebles on the 16th March. I knew it would be a massive challenge, but also lots of fun. It sounded like the ideal challenge, so not really knowing what I was letting myself in for, I signed up!

Apparently the race which starts at dusk and is completed during the night, includes regular 'wettings'(!) and obstacles like the rack, the scree and the tunnel which will push us to our limits and maybe even beyond... To add even more interest all the participants are encouraged to take part in fancy dress. It promises to be a really memorable night and for us, all the more worthwhile because we are raising money for the amazing charity which we both work for and which has become really close to our hearts.

The adults with complex learning disabilities who we share our community with, inspire us every day with what they can achieve. So we will be spurred on during the race when the going gets tough and when we get cold and tired. We know how vital every penny that we raise in sponsorship to help fund the new houses and workshops is. The improvements will make a big difference and enable our students and residents to achieve so much more, as well as allowing us to open up our community to more residents and day students who will benefit greatly.

So why not set yourself a challenge for 2013? Test yourself with a new activity or challenge that you haven't tried before, get fit and support a really worthwhile charity right on your doorstep at the same time. If you want a really formidable challenge why not join us for the deerstalker, but there are lots of other ways you can

challenge yourself without throwing yourself right in the deep end like the Women's 10K in Glasgow in May, or walking the West Highland Way or even a local cycle challenge.

If you are interested to find more out about all the different ways you can challenge yourself for Camphill Blair Drummond in 2013 please contact me at elsie@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk or phone 01786 843047.

Elsie Riley

Regional Fundraising Manager, Camphill Blair Drummond.



Elsie & friend getting in character for the Mighty Deerstalker!

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!

The Youth Club started back in October 2012 – and we always look forward to seeing some new faces.

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

On 25th November 2012 the Youth Club went to the dry ski slope at Tillicoultry, for a tubing session. Some of us weren't sure what tubing was and we found out that it was going down the ski slope in a large inflatable 'doughnut'!

There were 9 of us: Hannah, Angus, Alistair, Eilidh, Rebecca, Conor, Lewis, Jane and Lucy. We were kindly transported to and from the activity and supervised by parent helpers Alan and Nicki. An extremely fun and enjoyable time was had by everyone who attended.

Looking forward to Pancake Night, when we will be sampling pancakes made with our own fair hands and topped with many delicious/different combinations.

Eilidh

Youth Club Member

Fantastic Fundraising Efforts!

We would like to thank the Blair Drummond Community Hall Association for everything they have done in the last 12 months to raise money for the Scottish Paediatric Orthopaedic Club (SPOC). A grand total of £6,320 was raised over the year from events such as the Ladies Lunch, the raffle at the Christmas Fayre and a Ladies Night, which was held at the Charlie Taylor Hair Salon in Bridge of Allan.

We would also like to thank you, the Blair Drummond community for supporting the events and helping to raise such a fantastic amount of money. Also to everyone who donated to the cause, which we are sure many of you will know is very close to our hearts. The support and generosity of everyone involved made this happen, which will make a great difference to other children, like Grace, with hip dysplasia.

Many thanks.

John and Audrey Stirling



Grace receiving a cheque for SPOC at last year's Christmas Fayre raffle

Blair Drummond Community Hall Association

As Chairman of the Hall Association I would like to take this chance to give you an insight into how the Hall has been used, since opening. We now have regular users, with the Fitness classes, Yoga, Youth Club and Primary School. We have various organisations returning annually to use the Hall for their meetings and increasing number of people hiring the Hall for weddings, private parties and dinners. The Hall is also available for private hire for badminton.

All of this could not be done successfully without the dedicated team of Committee volunteers, who look after the bookings, show prospective users around the Hall, and look after the finances and maintenance of the Hall.

The Committee organise various events throughout the year, including a BBQ at the Safari Park, the Christmas Fayre, Ceilidhs and Ladies Lunch; all of which have been very successful. We also produce this local newsletter, The Grapevine.

Our website is at present being updated, again voluntarily, so check it out for future events.

Our next AGM is to be held in June (see *the Diary Dates*). If you would like to get involved, bring along new ideas and a small amount of your time to attend Committee meetings and support events, you will be more than welcome to join us.

If you would like to find out more, please contact either the Secretary Fred Bauer fredbauer@tiscali.co.uk or the Treasurer/Booking Secretary Jimmy/Louise Maxwell jim@nk1f.fsnet.co.uk

Tom Gilliland, Chairman

nyaddfarm@hotmail.co.uk

Seasonal Recipes

Easter Simnel Cake

Ingredients:

- 175g/6oz light muscavado sugar
- 175g/6oz butter, softened
- 175g/6oz self raising flour
- 3 large eggs
- 25g/1oz ground almonds
- 2 tbsp milk
- 100g/4oz sultanas
- 100g/4oz cherries, quartered, washed, and dried
- 100g/4oz dried apricots, snipped into small pieces
- 100g/4oz stem ginger, finely chopped
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 450g/1lb golden marzipan
- 3 tbsp apricot jam
- 1 egg, beaten

Method:

1. Preheat oven 160C/320F/Gas 3.
2. Grease and line the base and sides of an 20cm/8in deep, round cake tin with baking parchment
3. Measure all the cake ingredients into a large mixing bowl and beat well until thoroughly blended. Place half the mixture into the prepared tin and level the surface.
4. Take one third of the marzipan and roll into a circle the same size as the cake tin, place the circle on top of the cake mixture. Spoon the remaining mixture on top of the marzipan and level the surface.
5. Bake for about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 hours or until golden brown and firm in the middle. If the cake is getting too brown you can loosely cover with foil. Allow the cake to cool in the tin before turning onto a cooling rack.

6. When the cake is cool brush the top with a little warmed apricot jam. Roll out half the remaining marzipan to the size of the cake and sit it on the top. Crimp the edges of the marzipan and make a lattice pattern in the centre of the marzipan using a sharp knife. Make 11 even sized balls from the remaining marzipan and arrange around the edge.

7. Brush with beaten egg and glaze under a hot grill for about five minutes, turning the cake round so it browns evenly, so the marzipan is tinged brown all over. (You can also do this with a blow torch if preferred)

8. You can decorate with some crystalized flowers, to do this brush some flowers such as narcissi or violets with lightly beaten egg white then sprinkle with caster sugar and allow to dry before placing in the middle of the cake.

Spiced Parsnip and Celeriac Soup

A lovely warming winter soup using the season's best vegetables

Ingredients:

25g butter	1 onion chopped
2 stalks of celery	1 carrot, chopped
1 small celeriac, diced	2 parsnips, diced
2 tsp medium curry powder	
2 litres vegetable or chicken stock	

Method:

Melt butter in pot and gently fry onion, celery and carrot for 3-4 minutes. Add parsnips and celeriac and fry, covered for 5 mins. Add the curry powder and cook for a minute, then add the stock. Simmer for about 15 mins until tender. Blend soup and add a splash of milk or cream if desired.

Mary Inglis

Mary's Kitchen

Anyone wishing to submit their favourite recipes is welcome to do so, please send them to the email addresses on the back of this publication, for consideration in future editions

Christmas Fayre

The Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who came along and supported our Christmas Fayre.

£300 was raised from the raffle for the Scottish Paediatric Orthopaedic Club (SPOC). We would also like to thank all the stallholders who attended and kindly donated the prizes for the raffle. We hope you all enjoyed this event and that you will come along again to this year's Christmas Fayre, which will be held in the hall on Friday 29th November from 7pm.

If you or anyone you know would like to take a stall please email me at: Catherine@grasslands.plus.com.

The proceeds from this year's raffle will be donated to Camphill, Blair Drummond.

BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE

Hardwood Logs	£160/ load
Hardwood Logs	£85/ half load
Softwood Logs	£110/ load
Softwood Logs	£60/ half load
Small bags	£3.80 for hardwood
Small bags	£3.00 for softwood

Contact: **Bob**

Tel: 01786 841580

Mob: 07732 563106



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APPROVED INSTALLER



Useful Contacts

Hall Bookings(Louise)	01786 841352
Kincardine In Menteith Primary School	01786 841346
McLaren High School	01877 330156
Stirling Police	01786 456000
Stirling Council	01786 443322
Doune Health Centre	01786 841213
Woodside Pharmacy, Doune	01786 841216
NHS 24	08454 242424
Forth Valley Royal Hospital Stirling Road, Larbert FK5 4WR www.nhsforthvalley.com	01324 566000

There is a Minor Injury Unit based in the former Accident & Emergency Department at Stirling Royal Infirmary, which is open from 9.00am to 9.00pm seven days a week. Children under the age of one should be taken direct to the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital at Larbert.

Minor injuries include:

- Sprains and strains
- Suspected broken bones
- Minor eye injuries
- Minor burns and scalds
- Cuts and grazes
- Minor head and neck injuries
- Infected wounds

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 pictures, stories or letters you would like included, if so please email them to: christinebauer@tiscali.co.uk or catherine@grasslands.plus.com

Items for Summer Issue No 9 should be submitted by **1st June 2013**. 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 Team, who also reserve the right to shorten, edit or refuse the insertion of any particular letter or article.

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**