

Issue 9

The Grapevine

Summer 2013

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



Briarlands Farm boosting the rural economy

Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Affairs visited Briarlands Farm on 29th May, to highlight the impact that diversified farm businesses can make to the rural economy.

Briarlands Farm is one of Scotland's leading farm parks, welcoming over 40,000 visitors each year and providing an educational, safe, fun experience for children and their families. The stock and arable farm diversified into soft fruit in 2001, then

diversified further in 2008 into the tourism and leisure market, tying in the soft fruit picking as an experience for families to enjoy together. Major investment in 2012 in a purpose built indoor facility with tearoom, indoor craft area and shop, has awarded Briarlands a 4 star visitor attraction grading from Visit Scotland, alongside runner up in the Stirling Business Panel 'Best Tourism Attraction' award, and highly commended in the best building award from the Scottish Architects' Association.

Mr Lochhead used this business as an example of a farm business that has diversified while maintaining the original farm business, and maintaining its role as a food producer for agriculture. Briarlands is also bringing significant numbers of visitors to rural Scotland, boosting the economy.

Richard Lochhead said 'Farmers are the backbone of Scotland's rural economy and to see them succeed in business is a welcome sight. It's important that they maximise the potential they have to continue to grow and strengthen the industry.

Briarlands is an example of how farms can not only continue to work in the traditional manner but also adapt to include other areas to boost growth and value. The introduction of a children's play area is just one example of how Briarlands has diversified to make the farm open to all.'

Briarlands Farm is a member of Go Rural, a rural tourism initiative, showcasing Scotland's vibrant rural tourism, leisure and local food businesses based in the countryside.

Blair Drummond Hall Whisky Tasting Evening

Around 70 whisky fans enjoyed a tasting on 8th March, organised by Blair Drummond Community Hall Association, in conjunction with Deanston Distillery. The evening commenced with a welcome dram followed by an excellent meal, produced by the Coffee Bothy, incorporating the whisky tasting.



The three tasters were 12-year-old Deanston single malt, an Ardbeg single malt and a Tobermory single malt. Peter Semple, Visitor and Retail Facilities Manager and his colleague Scott Martin, part-time Brand Ambassador, gave the audience an amusing and informative talk

on Deanston Distillery and the three whiskies. By an overwhelming consensus the evening was a great success and from the evening's collection a financial contribution was added to the Hall's chosen charity for 2013, Camphill Blair Drummond.

Blair Drummond Community Hall Association

The Hall Committee recently said a sad farewell to one of its Directors - Audrey Stirling. Audrey joined the Committee 5 years ago and shortly afterwards took on the role of Booking Secretary, a role she successfully undertook



for 3 years. Audrey was a hard working, enthusiastic team member and we are grateful to her for giving so much of her time to the Blair Drummond Hall and Committee.

As Audrey, John, Grace and Charlie move to Fife, we wish them well in their new home and thank them all for their contribution to the Blair Drummond community.

Tom Gilliland
Chairman

Blair Drummond Safari & Adventure Park

All the staff at Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park, Scotland, are extremely proud to have welcomed Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, to officially open their brand new Elephant Habitat that they have been developing for the last 5 years. The new habitat will be home to their 3 elderly female African elephants that have been resident at the Safari Park since 1997. Blair Drummond Safari Park is considered as one of the best facilities in Europe for housing problematic female elephants that have had difficulty socialising and integrating with other elephants at their previous homes. Blair Drummond is dedicated to their essential role as a retirement facility for dysfunctional elephants and they strive to offer the highest standard of care and welfare for these high maintenance individuals. In order for them to fulfil this role they have undertaken the largest ever construction project in their 43-year history.

The concept for the design has involved international expert consultants and elephant managers from several different BIAZA collections. The design has been developed and evolved over the past 5 years, with construction taking in excess of 18 months, to make sure that it meets all the highly demanding needs of Estrella (49), Mondula (42) and Toto (43). All work was undertaken by local businesses and trades people, with the living area for the elephants being developed and built in-house by the park's own highly skilled engineer.

The habitat has been designed to encourage the elephants a far greater range of decision making in their daily lives, while keeping them in the best possible physical and mental health. Everything within the habitat has been carefully designed and developed to allow all natural behaviours to be displayed by each elephant.

Some of the innovations range from a £20,000 bespoke state-of-the-art computer controlled feeding system, that provides the elephants with access to food over a 24 hour period but with rations being delivered at random intervals, to encourage them to mimic natural foraging behaviours. This system is already

being adopted by other elephant collections, due to its groundbreaking design. There are nearly 500 tons of specialist silica sand substrate, with each grain selected to be no more than 0.5mm in diameter to prevent it compacting and to allow the elephant a soft, natural floor to interact with and mould to the shape of their bodies to allow a more comfortable night's sleep. The indoor habitat has 3 low-light behaviour recording cameras, so the park's research staff can carefully monitor the night time activity. The £40,000 remote control gate system allows the keepers to safely move the elephants about the habitat without having to be put at any potential risk, with the hydraulic oil being vegetable based to prevent any health issues if it is accidentally ingested by any of the 3 residents. The keeping staff and head vet are able to gain full and safe access to each elephant in the protected contact husbandry area, in which the elephants can cooperate with the team on a voluntary basis. The elephants even have their own shower room and set of scales within the premises!



To help reduce environmental impact a majority of the required steel work has been recycled from the old elephant accommodation and all timber used has been grown on Blair Drummond Estate. The whole building is insulated from foundation level right up to the roof and a climate controlled under floor heating system will keep the building at a minimum of 16 degrees Celsius all year round, regardless of the weather outside. A huge emphasis has been placed on having used

natural materials as much as possible for the elephants within the building, with a majority of the internal walls having been constructed from native Scottish trees.

The new habitat allows the elephants 24 hours access to their two and a half acre outdoor area all year round, which includes mud wallows, fresh grazing, earth mounds to climb on and various natural objects for them to interact with and increase the amount of exercise that they get each day.

The public have been provided with an indoor viewing area, overlooking the whole of the indoor habitat that is now open to all visitors to the park. Regardless of the weather visitors are invited to come and spend time observing three of the park's most loved individuals as they go about their daily lives.

As part of our Native Species Monitoring programme, we were delighted to welcome back some migratory birds from their travels. There was much excitement at 05.30 on Friday morning, as 3 Willow Warblers fluttered gently into our nets. We rang these birds back in 2012 and against all the odds; they managed to safely return from Africa on their annual migration. They will stay here for the summer. In which time they will moult and hopefully breed, before returning to Africa. The record for an annual re-trap Willow Warbler is 11 times! It's amazing to think that a bird that weighs just over 9 grams (equivalent to just over half a digestive biscuit!) had flown 11 times to Africa. The Willow Warblers are amongst some of the many different bird species we have caught, including: Yellow Hammer, Black Caps, Kingfishers, Bramblings, Treecreepers, Common Crossbill Reed Bunting, Bullfinch, Song Thrush and Greenfinch.

We were further pleased to run our first Moth Trap in the newly developed *Bugland* (an area we are developing specifically to demonstrate how easy and beneficial it is to attract insects and wildlife). Despite the fact the exhibit is not yet finished, it is important to monitor throughout its development. Our 2 traps revealed a total of 50 captures of 4 different species of moths:

Hebrew Character, Small Quaker, Common Quaker and Clouded Crab.



Blair Drummond Safari & Adventure Park has **WON** the 2013 Scottish Entertainment Award for Scotland's Favourite Family Day Out!!

Over 5,000 businesses across Scotland took part in the Awards and over 30,000 members of the public voted.

The award was presented at a very glitzy gala evening, hosted by rising TV star Des Clarke. All nominated businesses were well represented, with over 600 guests there on

the night. Entertainment was in the form of live music by GAMTA, a very lively percussion and horn ensemble, a Mexican band and the extremely talented ventriloquist Paul Zerdin.

More importantly, the evening raised over £10,000, by means of a raffle and auction, for the very worthwhile charity CLIC Sargent Scotland – for children with cancer.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Safari & Adventure Park were heads of section Ben Houston and Dave Warren, who commented 'We are extremely proud to accept this award on behalf of all members of staff, who work incredibly hard at the Park. We would sincerely like to thank all of you who voted and would like to impress that the Park is improving its services all of the time. We aim to make it ever increasingly attractive and best value for families'. More information is available at: entertainmentguideawards.co.uk

Dave Warren

Education Officer, Blair Drummond Safari & Adventure Park

Doune and Dunblane Show 2013

Preparations for the 2013 Doune and Dunblane Show on Saturday 6th July are well underway. The Committee are busy planning what is shaping up to be a very exciting show. The theme for this year's Show is "Local Farming". The whole Show is dedicated to the public experiencing and learning about Local Farming, where their food comes from and how it is produced. This year's entertainment is also based on the Show's theme of "Local Farming". An "It's a Farming Knockout" competition has been organised, with teams from various Farming Industries, the local Young Farmers club, Show Directors and Exhibitors competing in heats. They must complete a course made up from everyday (past and present) farming activities; culminating with the final in the main ring of the Show. This is promising to be fast, fun and mucky. Not one to be missed, with some "well kent" faces participating!

The main emphasis of the day is the showing of Livestock. It's not that simple to turn out and dress cows, sheep, goats and horses. Many an eyebrow is raised when the public finds out exactly what goes into getting these "Beauty Queens" ready, and some of the "tricks" of the trade. Showing starts at 9.30 am, but the livestock start arriving very early.

Ever been asked the question "Where does milk come from?" Local dairy farmer Tom Gilliland, will be putting on a Milking Demonstration, and he will talk through the milking process while his cows are in the milking unit, being milked. Always a big hit with the children!

Returning this year is the Heavy Horse Turnouts, these majestic Clydesdale Horses in full harness and dray are always an impressive sight. Ewan McRobert, Chief Clydesdale Steward, was keen to reintroduce this section, as it fully complements our Clydesdale section, having the In-hand Showing section and then the Turnouts, shows these traditional working horses in their full glory.

The Vintage Machinery Section has been growing rapidly in the last few years, every little (and grown up) boys' dream; with tractors and machinery from Granddad's time all restored to their full glory. Quite amazing when you look down the trade stands and see the new modern tractors.

Also in the main ring we are having the Pets Parade again. Why not bring along your family pet, but please remember all dogs must be kept under control and on a lead at all times?

Arnhall Nursery is sponsoring the Children's races, and will be attending with an Information stand.

Over in the Light Horse Field, all 8 rings are to be on the go all day, with classes for all. There are Sections for all ages, stages and types of horse, pony or rider.

Doune and Dunblane Light Horse Committee have worked very hard to build up the Light Horse Show's reputation. The show has qualifiers for P(UK), NPS, BSPS, Equifest, Highland Show and Blair Castle, to name a few.

To complete your day with us, we have a variety of Catering Venues, Trades Stands and the ever-popular Craft Tent.

Doune and Dunblane Show are indebted to its sponsors, without them the show simply could not happen. Once again our main Sponsor is Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park.

Finally, a Show like this cannot happen without a dedicated team to organise and run it. If you would like to be involved please contact the Secretary for more information at: info@douneanddunblaneshow.co.uk

Entry: Adults £8.00 Children/Concessions £4.00 Families £20.00 (2 Adults 2 Children)

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£2 PER DAY. DEPOSIT REQUIRED

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Stirling Council Library Service is delighted to offer you a **new** and **free** service. We are always looking to improve our service to you and this is the most **exciting** development in years.

Families living in an area served by the Mobile Library Service can now order books on line (internet connection required) from our extensive catalogues. The requested items will be available for pickup on the mobile library as soon as the item is available. We will advise you when the item is ready to be collected. Families can now order up to twenty books at a time and it's free. We also have some great internet sites to help you choose books for all the family i.e. www.fantasticfiction.co.uk

All we require is for you to complete a membership form and we will issue you with a library card and a booklet on how to order books from our online catalogue.

The library service has a varied selection of books from old favourites through to the most up to date best sellers in all formats. We stock hardbacks, paperbacks, oversize, large print and talking books. Why not order a book you enjoyed in your youth for your child? We also have a large selection of information books that can be used for your child's school project. Access is now available to adult and junior encyclopaedias on our website.

It is now possible to download a selection of audio books from our website and this is also free. The books are available to download to your computer, MP3 player or iPod.

Other features

- There are 80 online languages with a variety of interactive exercises to help users learn.
- Access to Encyclopaedia Britannica (junior, student and adult)
- Go Citizen is for people preparing for the UK Test or British Citizenship Test.
- [KnowUK](http://www.knowuk.co.uk) is an online service developed to provide UK reference information.

- [UK Newsstand](#) (previously NewsUK) is an online service, which gives access to around 100 national and regional newspapers.
- [Theory Test Pro](#) is a highly realistic online simulation of the UK's driving theory test.

We look forward to welcoming you to our fast, free and friendly service.

Contact mobilelibrary@stirling.gov.uk or telephone 01786 432396

Nelson Busby

Stirling Council Mobile Library Service

Timetable for 2013

THORNHILL

Playgroup 9.45 - 10.15

BLAIR HOYLE

10.30 - 10.45

PORT OF MENTEITH

Menteith Road 10.50 - 11.05

Village 11.10 - 11.35

School 11.40 - 12.15

Inchie Farm 1.20 - 1.35

Lochend House 1.40 - 2.00

DYKEHEAD

2.05 - 2.30

BLAIR DRUMMOND

Upper Spittalton Farm 2.55 - 3.05

Woodside Cottages 3.10 - 3.20

DUNBLANE

Drumcastle Court 3.40 - 4.10

This service is fortnightly on the following **Fridays**

<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>
11, 25	8, 22	8, 22	5, 19	3, 17, 31	14, 28
<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>
12, 26	9, 23	6, 20	4, 18	1, 15, 29	13, 27

Kincardine-in-Menteith 100 Club

January

1st Mrs S Hunt; 2nd Catherine McAlpine; 3rd Mr D Robertson

February

1st Hannah Brisbane; 2nd Karen Kealey; 3rd Jane MacDonald

March

1st Sandra MacDonald; 2nd Mrs A Cumming; 3rd P MacBeath

April

1st Karen Kealey; 2nd Heather Inglis; 3rd Catriona Turner

We still have 5 numbers available if anyone is interested in joining: 68, 83, 90, 91, 95.

Please contact:

Jillian Reynolds, 1 Woodside, Blair Drummond, Stirling FK9 4XF. Tel 01786 842832

Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

Weekly Classes

Monday: Lou Mac Fitness Class – 6.30pm to 7.30pm
(Contact Louise MacLaren on 07974 445774)

Last Monday of the month – Afternoon Tea Social Group -
2.00pm to 4.00pm. Drop in any time.

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

(Contact Doug McMillan on 07835 923227)

Thursday: Lou Mac Fitness Class – 7.00pm to 8.00pm
Zumba Class – 8.30pm to 9.30pm

Badminton: Anyone wishing to hire the Hall please contact the Booking Secretary.

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 or contact **Louise** (Booking Secretary) on 01786 841352.



Rostrum reports from United Auctions at Stirling Agricultural Centre

Stirling Agricultural Centre has enjoyed its busiest ever spring, with record numbers of store cattle and prime sheep forward at our special sales. The February Stirling Bull Sales were particularly successful, with record averages achieved for some breeds and a world record price for a Simmental bull secured. The event attracted around 12,000 visitors to the area over the two weeks, including a good number of visitors from abroad.

Highlight of the sales was undoubtedly the sale of Simmental bull Bel Dhu Capercaillie. Owned by the MacPherson family from Blackford, Croy, Inverness. The bull was judged to be one of the best ever examples ever at our sales. After a frenzied bidding session he was knocked down at 45,000gns, twice the previous breed record. The buyers were Mr Ian Green from Corskie, who had acted as show judge before the sale, and Smallburn Farms.

Charolais bulls had a great sale also selling to 28,000gns and achieving an average of £6,948.

Aberdeen Angus bulls achieved a record average of £5,182. The champion was exhibited from the Newmarket Stud of Shadwell, owned by Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Beef shorthorns sold to 8,500gns.

The Burnett family, who run the Spittalton herd at Blair Drummond, scooped the Senior Championship in the Limousin section, with Spittalton Gavin, which made 6,500gns. Reserve supreme champion in the Limousin section was won by a local bull called Ronick Golfer, from the Dicks at Mains of Throsk, he was sold for 7,000gns.

Robert & Maimie Paterson of Upper Auchanlay, Dunblane, topped the British Blue section at 7,000gns, with a bull called Auchenlay Glenisla.

One of the features of the February Stirling Bull sales was the appearance of many of the participants in the sale (both people and bulls!) on youtube. The clip was set to a recent hit, Gangnam Style. This fantastic production was put together by leading (local) photographer Catherine MacGregor, who titled the clip 'Bull Sale Style'. Within 12 hours the clip was viewed 20,000 times and now has over 100,000 hits!

While we do not auction horses at Stirling Agricultural Centre, we do host the Glasgow Stallion Show, which was well supported by entries from all over the UK.

Angling Active. a 'Mecca' for fishermen, is based at Stirling Agricultural Centre and staged a major fishing event at the centre one weekend in April. A huge range of fishing tackles was on show and could be tried out, either on the rivers Teith & Forth, or on the lawn at the market.

The last vacant office space at the Stirling Agricultural Centre was filled in January, by insurance specialists Hendricks, who are long established, specialising in rural and residential insurance. They add a further dimension to our centre, which provides an important cluster of rural businesses, which greatly complement our own auction business at Stirling Agricultural Centre.



Blair Drummond Curling Club

The 2012 –13 curling season year started with the Curling Club BBQ, and a very sociable evening it was, and the season ended with the AGM on Monday 29th April.

The Young Curlers Bonspiel in March, part of the Club's Charter status Development Plan, was a great success, with 2 rinks competing.

The results of the competitions were announced at the AGM and the trophies presented.

As part of the Club's Development Programme for the coming year there will be a focus on the recruitment of new members. If you are interested in giving curling a try, please contact Fred Bauer on 07500 354 004.

On Saturday 24 August a pre-season BBQ will be held at Blair Drummond from 6pm till 9pm.(Contact Fred for more information and tickets.)

On 24 January 2014 a Burns Bonspiel will be held at the Peak, look out for more details in the Grapevine and other publications.

Fred Bauer

Chairman

Summer Offer

Take time out and treat your body to a massage

at

Helen's Therapeutics

45 minute massage for £16

To book your appointment

Phone 01786 860533 or 07729 490764

Based in Gargunnock. Home visits available.

Offer ends end August 2013

Blair Drummond Social Group

‘Oh hello, I don’t think I’ve seen you since we were at school together!’

‘Hello, how are you? I haven’t seen you for ages!’

These were typical greetings exchanged by people who enjoyed the 2 recent very sociable afternoons in the Community Hall. These were get togethers of a new group, aimed at keeping the community in touch with each other.

A group of volunteers extended an invitation through posters, flyers and word of mouth, to **everyone over the age of 50, in the Blair Drummond community and surrounding areas, to come to the Hall, any time between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, on the last Monday of the month.** At the first meeting we canvassed opinions and suggestions, so that we are sure that firstly the community want this, and secondly that any programme (offered in addition to afternoon tea) is of the community’s choosing. We now have a long ‘to do’ list and have made a commitment to meet monthly, for the foreseeable future!

We feel it is important to not function in isolation but to work closely with, and in consideration of, existing community groups and so have been in touch with the school, community hall and local churches. We are open to joint ventures and shared events with other key groups Blair Drummond community.

So may we extend to you a warm invitation to our Monday gatherings? We **next meet on Monday 24th June.** We look forward to seeing you there.

For further information please contact:

Fiona Campbell
Tel 01786 860678

Christine Bauer
Tel 01786 841191



Argentine Tango, 6 week beginners class

Learn tango, a fun, passionate, elegant and creative dance like no other.

Friendly, expert tuition. Complete beginners welcome.
You don't need to come with a partner, and there's no need to remember lots of steps. Two left feet? No problem, many people start off feeling the same way, and soon find they get the knack.

When: starts Friday 21st June for 6 weeks

Time: 7pm to 8pm followed by optional free practice 8pm to 9pm

Where: Gargunnock Community Center, FK8 3BJ

10 minutes west of Stirling, 20 minutes south of Dunblane.

Cost is £10 per class or £50 if paid in full at the beginning.

If you have any questions or to book please call
Michael on 07411 822023 or email dancetango@oaklodge.com

Camphill Blair Drummond

I'm a fundraiser, get me out of here!

On Saturday 16th March Fundraisers from Camphill Blair Drummond - Elsie Riley and myself (Charlotte Bray) found ourselves half way up a mountain, in the dark, freezing cold and covered in mud.

There are a few phrases that fill me with dread. 'Barrel full of spiders'. 'Deadline looming'. 'No teabags left'. 'The Mighty Deerstalker' is one such phrase.

I'll admit that the last time I ran it I could have been better prepared. Much of my suffering was therefore my own fault. I actually quite enjoyed the first hour. I whooped with the crowds as we scrambled over the first hurdle: a bale of hay. I even had a smile on my face, albeit a muddy one, when I fell over in the

first bog. It was at this point that I lost my running buddy. Not her fault; it's hard to spot someone in a crowd of thousands, especially when they're face down in the mud.

Then it got dark. I should mention that, along with spiders and no tea, the dark is one of my biggest fears. Paranoia started to kick in. I convinced myself I would fall, roll under a bush and be found two weeks later frozen solid and covered in mud. Coupled with this, the combination of mud, unsuitable trainers and a failing head torch made each step precarious. My descent started to resemble Bambi on ice.

There was a second positive interlude as I neared the bottom of the first mountain. Emerging from the trees, I saw the headlights of the speedier runners trailing up and down the second mountain. It was quite beautiful. My brief delight at the spectacle was dampened, literally, five minutes later when the course veered into an icy river. Having waded upstream for several metres and fallen over four times I scrambled up the bank to be greeted by a cheery volunteer proffering a bottle of water.

'Halfway!' She declared, happily. I didn't punch her in the face. Or push her in the river.

I won't bore you with details of the second half. Suffice to say it involved scrambling up a scree slope on all fours, more wettings, yet more mud, several bruises, some tears and the final death of my head torch. I finally crossed the finish line at 4.5 hours with just enough strength to wolf down the complimentary chocolate bar. It was with all these details still imprinted vividly in my mind that I agreed to run the Mighty Deerstalker one LAST time for my charity, this time with my fellow fundraiser Elsie Riley. Imagine my delight, therefore, when I opened the curtains on race day to see snow had settled. Arriving at Innerleithen I parked my trusty steed, Harris the Yaris, in a quagmire. Walking to the main race site I experienced flash backs crossing the river. It was like being in Apocalypse Now.

This time, however, there were improvements. Elsie and the rest of my team were all in hi-viz jackets, so much harder to

lose sight of, even when face down in mud. Having a decent head torch also made it easier to see where my bambi feet were skittering. There was still a lot of being cold, wet, tired and bruised, but I didn't feel I was going through it alone. There's something encouraging about hearing a cheery voice call your name when you're on all fours, up to your elbows in mud under a scramble net. We finished the race in three hours fifty minutes, running joyfully over the line to the sound of Bon Jovi's 'Living on a prayer'. A chocolate bar never tasted so well-earned.

When Monday morning came it's true my legs did feel like marble pillars. I was far from delighted when the fire alarm went off twice and I had to climb several flights of stairs. But the main thing is that we finished. We survived. We raised vital funds for the Appeal at Camphill Blair Drummond. I didn't cry.

So, the moral of this story? Perhaps preparation and planning prevent poor performance? More likely - with friends anything is possible. Especially when you are supporting each other to complete a challenge that you know will make a real difference to lives of the adults with learning disabilities that we support at Camphill Blair Drummond.

Charlotte Bray

We are excited to announce that the Camphill Blair Drummond Appeal had now joined Facebook and Twitter. Our new Facebook and Twitter accounts will keep you updated with our Appeal and the many different ways that you can get involved and support us, as well as share our amazing community life and work. You can also find all the information about our exciting new programme of events on Facebook.

We would like to include as much information about Camphill life as possible, as well as telling everyone about everything our supporters are doing to help. So if you are running a marathon, holding a bake sale or if you have any ideas or anything else that you would like to share, please let us know.

We encourage everyone to use their personal Facebook and Twitter pages, if you have them, to follow us, so we can spread the word about Camphill Blair Drummond.

Elsie Riley

Regional Fundraising Manager, Camphill Blair Drummond

Kincardine in Menteith Church

Since the beginning of July 2012 our Minister Rev Andy has been ably assisted by Rev Mike Goodison. Mike is also involved with Camphill Blair Drummond and Chaplin to the school for the summer term. Mike, a probationer with the Church of Scotland, is in the last part of his ministry training. The next step will be taking charge of his own parish. He has been a great asset to our church and community.

Mike's time with us finishes at the end of September and so we have arranged a farewell Soup and Sandwiches lunch on Sunday 22nd September, in the Community Hall, after the church service. Our sister churches Gargunnock and Kilmadock Doune will be joining us. The church service that day will be at 10.30am and will be a joint service with the other churches and Camphill will also be attending.

If you would like to come along to the lunch and wish Mike and Fiona well in their new charge (wherever that may be), please contact Janette Gilliland (Tel 01786 470637), or Mary Inglis (Tel 01786 841472) before Monday 15th September, to book a place.

During July and August the church service will be at the usual time of 9.30am, with the exception of 14th July, when the service will be held in Gargunnock at 10.30am, and on the 11th August it will be held at 10.30am in Kilmadock Doune. Both services will be joint services.

Janette Gilliland

Session Clerk

The Rev's Ramble !

Mind the Gap !

One of the best things about Blair Drummond is our intergenerationality (what a great word for a game of Scrabble.) Wherever you go; you find people of all ages, together. Whether it's the Community Barbecue, a dance in Blair Drummond Hall, the Kirk or down on the farm; bairns, teenagers, parents, their grannies and a nonagenarian or two are all spending time together.

Now, if you've always lived here that won't surprise you, but for city-folk it can be a new experience. You see in towns, probably because there are crowded, people tend to clump in groups of commonality. There's a youth-zone where folk of one particular year-group hang out, and wouldn't be seen dead with kids two years younger – it wouldn't be cool! At the same time those who are 65+, appear to be collected together in clubs for “super-adults”, while young-Mums all seem to gather for café-latte.

I'm not sure that God ever intended people to be separated out by years, so that they begin to think that anyone outside their own age-group is strange or scary, yet that can and does happen. Far healthier the Blair Drummond way where thirteen year olds look after six year-olds, twelve year olds learn to drive a tractor from their granddad, and the kitchen table becomes the sharing place for whole families.

Generation gaps only exist when people create them; when individuals become self-orientated. Mums demand “me-time”, so children go to their own room to watch their personal screens, and then we complain that we don't understand each other. Groups of teenagers walking down the pavement together can look threatening if you haven't spent time with your own awkward six-foot fourteen year-old grandson, and know that he still wants to give his Gran a cuddle when things go wrong !

So let's keep folk together, encourage all-age engagements, that value different ages and stages, and enables a two year



old to join in the dance, and teens to teach us how to use a mobile phone!

Your Minister
Rev Andy

Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council

Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council represent the community on a wide range of groups and committees, covering subjects such as planning, roads, and rural matters. We meet every 6 weeks and vary our meetings between Thornhill Primary School and Blair Drummond Community Hall. All our meetings are open to the public and are usually attended by one of our local authority Councillors and the police. We are non-political but have a statutory responsibility to be consulted on all planning issues, so planning is always on our agenda. Our minutes are available for view by any member of the public, by request to the secretary, but can also be seen on Stirling Council's website: www.stirling.gov.uk

Between meetings we also attend other meetings and have daily telephone calls, letters and emails to deal with. Representing the community, rather than expressing personal interest, is one of the challenges of the role and we can only do this if we have good lines of communication with the communities. If individuals or groups bring an issue to us we aim to deal with it at our meetings and agree a way in which we can help to resolve the issue. In some cases if it is a major issue we may decide to call a public meeting, in order to gather more information, look at the options and understand what the feeling of the community is. For example, we have recently held public meetings on conservation status in Thornhill and the planning application of the new Auction Mart at Drip Bridge. We are all volunteers and receive no remuneration but we all live in the community and attempt to talk to our neighbours to understand how people feel about subjects such as the speed of traffic through Thornhill, flooding issues of the Teith and Forth, wind turbines, low flying aircraft etc.. All levels of

government often consult us. At the moment we are considering a consultation on the Scotland Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 and another on Scotland's Third National Planning Framework.

How do you become a Community Councillor? We are subject to an election process, very similar to Stirling Council. We serve a 4 years term and this coming October anyone living in the community wanting to be a Councillor must submit a nomination to Stirling Council and there will then be a postal ballot, using a form of proportional representation for the 12 places. If fewer the 12 nominations are received then no ballot will be necessary, but if fewer than 7 nominations are made Community Council cannot be formed and elections will take place again in February/March 2014.

If you would like to know any more or wish to raise any issue, please contact the Community Council Secretary, who is currently Peter Rickard, on 850209, or at the secretary@thandbdcc.org.uk. You can also talk to any Councillor; the list is on Stirling Council's website. The current Chairman is Jimmy Maxwell.

Peter Rickard

Secretary, Thornhill & Blair Drummond Community Council

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

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 Autumn Issue No 10 should be submitted by **30th September 2013**, 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.

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**