

# Blairdrummond Grapevine

Issue 14

Spring 2004

## HALLOWEEN

### Primary Party

There were ghostly goings on in the Community Hall on October 31<sup>st</sup> when the school board hosted its annual Halloween party. A great time was had by all and many thanks to Connie, Katie and their band of helpers for all their hard work. The worthy winners were : best pumpkin, Amanda Killen; fancy dress P1-3 winner Jane Brisbane; runner-up Stuart Hamlyn; P4-7 winner Andrew McLeod; runner-up Ann Skifjell. Thanks also to Jimmy and Louise who had the unenviable job of judging.

### Youth Club Party

The youth club also celebrated Halloween in style with a party in the Hall. They played all the traditional games plus a few extra, one game in particular which I think must be unique to our club **Chubby Bunnies**. This is extremely popular with the youth club and also extremely Yuk! Perhaps next time you are hosting a small gathering you may wish to ask a youth club member to explain the finer points - it will certainly add a talking point to your evening!!!!



## **SPRING IS COMING! ...**

... **writes** Jane McDonald, Headteacher.

Anyone who travels along the A84 towards the school from Doune cannot help but notice the wonderful display of snowdrops in the wood next to the School, a real sign that Spring is on its way. What a wonderful resource the woodland is to have on our doorstep, one Primary 4 to 7 will explore further next term.

A lot has happened here in school since my last contribution to the Grapevine: everyone enjoyed a very successful Christmas Fair, the children's first real experience of enterprise; our Christmas performance of "It's a Baby " was a great success ; the Pupil Council organised an Unhealthy Tuck Shop which raised £87 for Children in Need and more recently £42 for UNICEF. Thank you to everyone who helped with these events.

We have welcomed lots of visitors to the school including some of our parents who were volunteered by their offspring to share their experiences about Enterprise!

All the children enjoyed a recent visit from Mrs Morrison and her wormery! (I'm not so sure I did!). The children decided they would like an indoor wormery, which will be placed in the Primary 1 to 3 classroom, not in my classroom!

I now feel I am getting to know the community associated with our school. I am delighted with the links we have established with Camphill and am indebted to Hazel Brown for her support in taking this forward. We have thoroughly enjoyed their attendance at Assemblies, having David on our Eco Committee and visits from Midori which have added an extra special dimension to the P4-7 topic on Japan.

I am enjoying being able to attend the Village Hall and Community Futures meetings and getting to know people like Jimmy Maxwell. I am just amazed at the feeling of community spirit and generosity that exists here in Blair Drummond. The fund raising efforts of some of our parents are superb. The school is very fortunate to have a community and parents who are so supportive, generous, and give their time for the benefit of our school - thank you.

## **BLAIRDRUMMOND** **HEALTH AND FITNESS CLASS**

**VENUE:** Blairdrummond Village Hall

**DAY:** *Monday*

**TIME:** 7.30 to 8.30 pm

**COST:** £2 per class

**LEVEL:** Beginner/Intermediate



The class continues on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2004 with a new instructor. Please come along and join in.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Andrea Pellici

**For more information on this class or other available classes please contact Stirling Sports Development Team on 01786 43232**

## KINCARDINE-IN-MENTEITH SCHOOL BOARD

**Nigel Hall writes** ... Having recently taken over as Chairman of the School Board, there are a number of issues and projects that Blairdrummond community as a whole should be aware of, and potentially get involved in! So here goes ...

**A84 Road speed** - at the last Board meeting, Sylvia Jackson MSP attended to discuss the speed of the road as it passes the school. It is positive to report that she was very well prepared on the issue, and extended an invitation to the Board for representatives to attend a meeting with the Scottish Executive and BEAR Scotland to discuss the issues further. This issue has been discussed with the pupils through the Pupil Council, and a sub-group of the Board, who will present some constructive ideas and approaches to Mrs Jackson.

**ECO School** - the school has secured some grant funding towards achieving "Eco-school" status. This excellent initiative will see improvements to the school grounds and gardens, and a very positive approach being taken with regards to composting, nature and the environment. The pupils are likely to need some help, so anyone willing to volunteer some time once the weather warms up with digging,

making raised flower-beds, improving the grass areas, please get your wellies out!!

**After-school clubs** - the Board is intending to start a programme of activity after school, led by some of the talented individuals in the Blairdrummond community. We are seeking willing volunteers who could give up some time (not an ongoing commitment, but maybe a few successive weeks), to lead some activities - in almost any area - sport, art, dance, crafts, music, hobbies etc. If you could volunteer to get involved just a bit, the school would be very grateful. Please see any Board member for further information.

**School Board Clerk** - after many years excellent voluntary service, Vanda Duff has tendered her resignation as School Board Clerk. We are grateful to her for all her time, but now face the task of replacing her. If anyone would like to volunteer to take on this role, and to get (more) involved with the Board and all the exciting issues it deals with, please get in touch with a Board member.

If you would like any further information on any of these issues, please don't hesitate to contact any Board member, the Head Teacher or me.

Nigel Holl, Chairman, Kincardine-in-Menteith School Board. Email: [Nigel@mosslaird.com](mailto:Nigel@mosslaird.com)  
Tel: 01786 860635

### COOKS CORNER

Many thanks to Mrs Kay Stevenson – school cook who kindly gave us this recipe. These **Oat Biscuits** are tried, tested and highly recommended – 32 primary children can't be wrong!

#### Ingredients

8oz S.R. flour	8oz Porridge oats
8oz Castor sugar	8oz Margarine
2oz Syrup	2 Tablespoons of Vanilla essence
2 level teaspoons baking soda	

Melt margarine, syrup and vanilla essence in pan.  
Mix all dry ingredients together, then add liquid to dry ingredients.  
Roll into small balls.  
Bake in moderate oven 180C/375F, gas mark 4 for approx 15 mins.

## COMMUNITY HALL

The hall committee are continuing fund raising work to raise the balance of funding required before construction work can start on the new community hall.

Since October a further £80,279 has been received either by cheque or a pledge that will be implemented when the rebuilding work starts, along with £200,000 lottery funding this leaves £49,825 still to be raised to reach £330,104 total project costs.

Local fundraising work is continuing at a greater pace with several events being held at the hall including a **Race Night** on the **20<sup>th</sup> March 2004**, the 'Buy A Brick' campaign is still ongoing and is a good way to support the project having raised over £14,000 so far. Several applications are current at the moment and with a bit of luck we hope to

start building work later this year.

Closer links are being formed with Kincardine-in-Menteith primary school - this will be of great benefit to pupils and parents, with both in-school and after-school activities planned to take place at the community hall.

## COMMUNITY FUTURES

Recent work on the Community Futures Action Plan has seen plans for a safe path to link the school, the church and community hall start to take shape. Stirling council have agreed to lay the path and erect the fence, along with installing a new water trough in the field, they are prepared to meet 50% of the costs, an application has been sent to 'Awards for All' to fund the balance. If these proposals are successful more opportunities will be available for the young people in the community to meet and take part in local activities.

### MORE RECIPES

This recipe for **Clottie Dumplin** is a little late for New Year, but then it did come all the way from Canada from former Blairdrummond resident Lesley Gentles.

#### Ingredients

Pun o'self-raising floer

Quartera pun o'suet

Fower wee teaspsinsfu' o'mixed spice

Some milk

Pun o'currents an a haunfu 0'raisins

Haufa pun o'granulatit sugar

A big pinch o'saut

#### Method

Rummle up the hale jing-jang in the boul, addin' a wee tate mulkso's ye get a dough that an' no' runny. Tim some bilin watter oot the kettle intae the fit o' o' the basin an' spread the cloath [or cloat] on tap o' the watter. Cowp the hale o' yuir dough oot the boul an' on tae the cloat in the basin. Draw the corners o' the clot the gather an' tie wi the string. Dinna tie the string ower tight or the dumpling nicht burst efter swelling' up an' ye'll be in a hanguva mess. Noo ye've a big bag o' dough aboot the size o' a fitba. Nixt ye pit a plate in the fit o' the big poat. Then gently ye lower the dumplin' on tae the plate. Efter that poor as much bilin' water in tae the poat as will cover yur dumplin'.

Efter a' this cairry-oan ye'll mibbe want a cuppa tea an'a fag or even a wee lie-doon. Onyway, whitivur ye dae, dinna let he dumpling simmer fur mair than three-an'-ahauf oors. Efter that time wheech it oot the poat an' on tae a plate. Peel aff the cloat an therr ye hav a dish fit tae set afore a dizzen Egon Thingamay's.

## COMPETITION TIME

**Calling all budding artists** – we're looking for pictures that sum up life in Blairdrummond.

Your pictures could be drawn, painted or even sculptured (though I'm not sure how we'll put sculptures in the Grapevine!). Perhaps if we get enough we could have an exhibition in the Community Hall?

Book token prizes for the best entries (courtesy of the Hall Committee). Entries should be sent to Dave Simpson, 2 West Drip Cottages, Stirling

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Recent concerns expressed by the school board of Kincardine primary about road safety on the A84 particularly at the school entrance and Blairdrummond corner has led to the community council writing to the Scottish Executive in support of their case for further road safety measures to be implemented.

### HALL FOR HIRE

Remember the Community Hall is available for hire. Costs are remarkable reasonable - one wonders how they keep the costs so low!

*£4 per hour for Blairdrummond residents  
£8 per hour for non-residents  
£50 for an evening hire*

## YOUTH CLUB NEWS

As Mandy has resigned from Youth Club we need another leader. Until one is appointed we require parental help on Tuesday evenings from 7pm till 9pm. Please get in touch with me if you are interested. We would like to thank Mandy for all her help and wish her well. Would anyone who hasn't paid their yearly membership fee of £8.00 please do so asap. Info on the trip to the indoor bowling available from Louise. Tel:- 841352

### B.A.G.'s

Blairdrummond Active Group is an informal club for local women, which meets once a month for a girls night out. New members

and visitors are always welcome - contact Catherine on 01786 860246.

**Cocktails and Questions** - On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Enjoy a cocktail while you ponder over the quiz questions.

**Ten Pin Bowling** - On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

**Cambio Bar** - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm. Come along for a drink and a chat.

## SILENT AUCTION

A big thank-you to everyone who helped contribute to the success of this event which was held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February. It was a good fun afternoon with a total of £232 raised. This was divided between youth club and school who I am sure will both put it to good use.

## SCHOOL '100' CLUB

Kincardine In Menteith Primary School have for a number of years been successfully running a "100" club. The school "100" club is a valuable way to raise funds. £12 gives you a lucky number which is entered in our monthly draw and you can have as many numbers as you like!! First prize winner wins £25, second prize £10 and third £5. If you are interested in joining our "100" club please send a cheque for £12 payable to "Kincardine In Menteith "100" Club" together with your name and address to: K Brisbane, Westwood Lane, Chalmerston Rd, Stirling, FK9 4AG.

PS All members who pay annually, not by direct debit, this year's entries are now due.

## EASTER PROGRAMME

### **Informal Lent Meetings 2004 – Ross Anderson Room, Gargunock Church at 7.30pm**

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Everyone very welcome: enjoy fellowship, friendship and tea & coffee

### **April 4<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday: United Family Service held in Kincardine-in-Menteith Church, Blairdrummond at 10.30am**

#### **Holy Week**

Maundy Thursday      Kilmadock Parish Church, Doune. Communion at 7.30pm

Good Friday              Gargunock Parish Church at 7.30pm

### **April 11<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday: Kincardine-in-Menteith Church. 9.30am Morning Worship for Easter Day led by Richard Campbell.**

#### **FROM THE MANSE ...**

As the days begin to lengthen everyone is looking forward to Spring. I know that for the people in our community that can mean a variety of different things. For the farmer of course it is clearly a very busy time, with lambs, livestock, sowing and so much more. For the retired it might be time for the garden again and for the young a few weeks holiday from school. A sure sign that winter has past is when the Safari Park opens its doors again to welcome hordes of children and tourists, and we hope that another good summer lies in store for us all.

Spring also means Easter and at Kincardine-in-Menteith Church we will holding some special services to celebrate this very important time in the Church year. Why not join us at any of our services where you will be guaranteed a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you, trusting you will support our beautiful and historic Church so

we can continue the work our forefathers started so long ago.

Regards from the Manse, Richard Campbell

#### **TESCO COMPUTER VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOLS**

Once again it is nearly time for Tesco computer vouchers. The Grapevine asks if everyone shopping in Tesco could pick up these vouchers and please send/hand them into the primary school. **THANK YOU.**

#### **SPRING CONCERT**

There will be a concert by the **Grangemouth Choral Society** in Kincardine-in-Menteith Church on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.** The proceeds to be shared between Church Funds and CHAS appeal. Tickets are £5 (can be paid at the door). Please support this important fundraising event and enjoy an evening of splendid choral music.

**THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ...** will be in the summer - so if you have events planned (right through to late summer) let us know the dates. Any articles on any subject welcome. Don't worry about typing - we'll do it if you can't. Articles to:

Dave Simpson, 2 West Drip Cottages or 471455 or dave@westdrip.idps.co.uk

Eleanor Graham, West Drip Farm or 472523 or eleanor@westdrip.fsnet.co.uk

Remember the Grapevine depends on your contributions!

Deadline for the next edition is **31 May 2004.**