

# THE BLAIRDRUMMOND GRAPEVINE

ISSUE FIVE

AUTUMN 2000

FREE

## HEAD BOY

Well Done to Greg Burnett of Anvilside Bungalow, Blairdrummond. He has been appointed McLaren High School head boy for 2000/1.

## LOCAL BOY REPRESENTS SCOTLAND

Congratulations are due to Andrew Darby. On his recent visit to the Scottish Gymnastics NDP Scottish Finals he exceeded all expectation and bagged a bronze medal, missing the silver by only 0.7 of a mark. Considering Andrew has only been seriously training for just over 18 months, he has done very well. Andrew's endeavours have won him the right to represent Scotland at the UK finals towards the end of November in the British National Stadium, Lilleshall. Good luck Andrew!

## BUS SERVICE CHANGES

Several local bus service contracts in the Callander area are due to expire at the end of March 2001. Stirling Council's Transport Co-ordination Centre are carrying out a review of these services before putting new contracts out to tender in November. The council want to hear your opinion on how well the bus services meet your needs as well as any suggestions you have for improvements. You can help by filling in the questionnaire inside your *Grapevine* and sending it in to the council. If you would like further information, please contact David Brown on 01786 442703 or by email on [brownd@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:brownd@stirling.gov.uk)

## HOGMANAY AT THE HALL

Following the success of last year's Millennium party, the Hall Committee are organising a similar event for this year. The family hogmanay party will start at 9pm and go on to the wee small hours of the new year. It'll be bring your own drink and crisps, snacks etc (unlike last year) but if last year was anything to go by it will be a real community event.

Music has still to be arranged and any suggestions (polite please!) are welcomed by the committee. Prices will be a very reasonable £3 for adults and £1 for children. At those prices tickets are likely to go fast so seek out a committee member quickly!

## BEETLE DRIVE

Another Hall event in the new year will be a Beetle Drive - details to follow in the next *Grapevine*.

## HALL FOR HIRE

*Remember the Community Hall is available for hire. Costs are remarkably 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*

## FAMILY CEILIDH

Kincardine-In-Menteith Primary School Board are holding their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual family ceilidh.

This year's ceilidh is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 7pm to 10pm in Thornhill Community Hall. Tommy Duncan will provide the music and the children will provide some entertainment. If the previous years are anything to go by this will be a super evening enjoyed by young and old. Consider yourself invited. Tickets and details are available from parents.

## AEROBICS

The sports council are starting an aerobics class in the hall. They will be every Monday night starting 16<sup>th</sup> October until Christmas. If there is enough interest it is hoped they will become a permanent feature. Classes cost £1.50 per night payable on the night. No need to prebook just come along at 7.30pm for an hour of keep fit and fun. Classes are suitable for all abilities with the first night, 16<sup>th</sup>

October, free so come along and try it out. For more details contact Eleanor Graham 472523 or Nick Rennie (Sports Council) 432267.

### SPONSOR REQUIRED PLEASE!

Following the schools recent sporting successes, the children at Kincardine-in-Menteith would like new sports tops to wear when they represent the school and Blair Drummond in various sporting competitions. What they would like is 12 tops of various sizes with the school name on (and your advert - a great marketing opportunity!). These tops would be used for football, cricket, table tennis and other sporting events. Anyone wishing to donate or help with these please contact head teacher Frances Berry.

### THE STORY OF THE CARSE (Part 3)

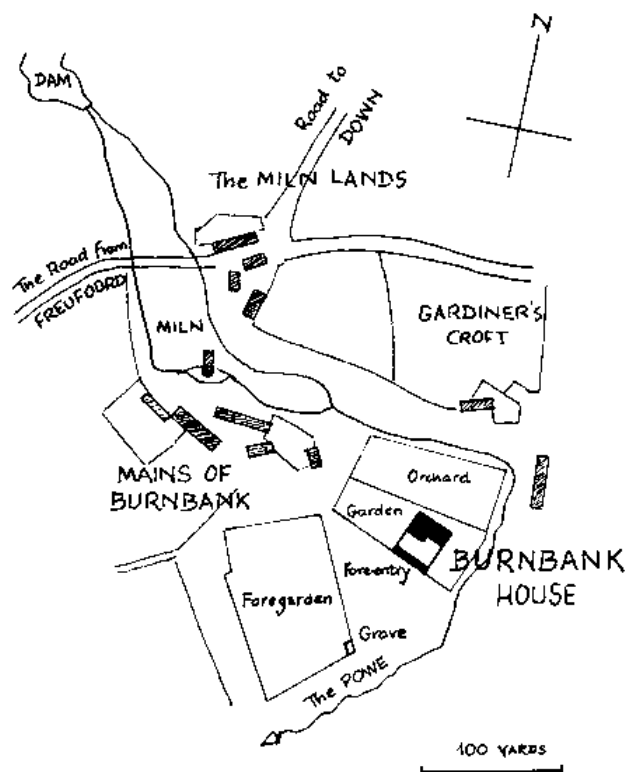
Family trees are quite popular these days. For most folk it is quite an achievement to trace your family back two hundred years. It can be different if your family have owned land for centuries, and ownership and succession are legally recorded.

Take the Muschets, for example. They owned the Barony of Burnbank between 1179 and 1670, and their connections spread far and wide. One of these, Dr J.S.Muschet, MD, (1805-86), lived at Birkhill House, Cambusbarron, and took a great interest in the Muschet monuments in the locality, believing himself to be the last of the line.

The oldest form of their name, in Norman-French, seems to have been de Montfort, and they were related to the Earls of Brittany. One of them came over to Hastings in 1066, and took the motto, 'I thank my God'. He was given the lands of Stansted to which he added Mountfitchet, another form of their name. A century later, another member of the family came north to the court of William the Lion (1165-1214) and was granted the lands of Burnbank, 4 miles west of Stirling. He would probably have built a wooden castle in the form of a motte (and there is a local candidate in the woods east of the old kirkyard). When stone castles came into fashion, the Muschets seem to have built one - the ruins known in the 18th century as 'the Auld Walls' - in the field just south of the old kirkyard. This may have been the home of Sir William de Montfichet, one of Bruce's commanders at the Battle of Bannockburn; he was one of the signatories of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, and served as Justiciar of Scotland.

In 1598, the current Muschet baron left the Castle for a more comfortable residence when Sir James and his wife Giles, daughter of Sir Walter Seton of Touch, built a mansion half a mile to the west, at Burnbank. Old estate plans show a modest house with a forecourt and gatehouse (sadly now only a heap of rubble). Near the house were an orchard, a garden and a fore-garden (below).

In the latter, in 1647, the then lady of Burnbank, Margaret Drummond, was buried along with her three children; they were victims of the 'visitation' - the plague. The original gravestone, a ground-level slab, is still in situ within an iron railing. A Victorian upright stone repeats the inscription more legibly, and adds its donor's name - Dr J.S.Muschet, MD.



The gatehouse, incidentally, was also the location of a Muschet memorial, commemorating the 1598 move to the new mansion. It carried the Muschet-Seton coat-of-arms, the motto, the date, and their monogram. For a while it found refuge at the Mill of Torr, then at Birkhill House. It now lies, in poor condition and indecipherable, within the Muschet aisle at the back of the old kirkyard of Kincardine in Menteith. Fortunately I was able to photograph it back in 1972 (and who is that famous local resident with the stone - Ed)



The death of the last male heir to the Muschet lands in 1670 led to their sale to Sir John Drummond. Muschets continued to occupy other nearby properties, including Tollgeart, Mill of Torr and Craighead. One

more stone slab is worth mentioning, and you will find it above the door of the Muschet aisle aforementioned. Fortunately, it is well-preserved. It too carries a Muschet coat-of-arms, and the family motto; the stone is dated 1686. A skeleton carries a verse from the Book of Job, and a Latin inscription honours the progenitor of the Muschet line in Scotland. It likewise records the fact that it was renewed by Dr Muschet. Where was it originally ? The initials on the stone are AMM. (The upper M means 'Magister' = Rev.) The minister of Larbert Parish in 1686 was Rev, Archibald Muschet. Is this another example of a timely rescue by our friend Dr Muschet ? *[by Dr Ken Mackay]*

### **CAMPHILL ADVENT SALE**

Camphill are holding their Advent Sale on Saturday, 2nd December from 2pm - 5pm when everyone will be made very welcome.

### **JUNIOR WORLD HIGHLAND GAMES**

Andrew Darby and his sister Madeleine entered the Junior World Highland Games at Callander this year. There were over 100 children, all taking part in seven separate events, from long jump to tyre pulling.

Madeleine thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and Andrew won the gold medal for his age group.

Thanks to the Callander Round Table for organising such a great event for local children. Hope to see more Blairdrummond names in the list of winners next year.

### **CLEANER REQUIRED**

Camphill Blair Drummond, Blair Drummond House, require a cleaner, 8 hours per week either one day or two half days. Cleaning public areas of the house only. No heavy or dirty work. For further details please telephone Ena Wood on 01786 841573.

### **BAGs GET ACTIVE**

The Carse Womens Group now has a new name - Blairdrummond Active Group (the BAGs for short). The new committee has been formed and the next 3 meetings have been arranged as follows :

Wednesday 25th October at 7.30pm in Blairdrummond Community Hall:

**Face Painting Funs Night** - Come along bare faced and learn how to face paint in time for Halloween . Be prepared to go home with a new look!!!

Thursday 23rd November at 7.30pm in Blairdrummond Community Hall:

**Christmas Gift Night** - Come along and choose your Christmas gifts from a wide selection of stalls including books and dried flowers or order your Christmas tree which can be delivered to you door. If you know someone who would be interested in taking a stall then please contact a committee member. This event is open to the whole community. Admission: Adults - £1 including lucky draw; Children - Free

December:

**Christmas Night Out** - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the Birds & Bees. Please let the current committee know if you are interested.

If anyone would like any more information then please contact the current committee :

Laura Campbell 842278

Joanne Inglis 841309

Catherine Killen 860246

### **FUND-RAISING DISCO**

A disco is organised for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 9 - 1pm in the Blairdrummond Hall. Tickets are priced at £3 and are available from Catherine Killen (860246) and Mandy McLeod (841825). Everyone is welcome.

### **COMMUNITY CLASSES**

Attached to this issue is Stirling Council's programme of community classes for September 2000 to June 2001. So if you fancy learning Spanish or Organic Garden Theory or Yoga then have a look. Interested contact Fiona McLean or Shona Keenan - details on the programme.

### **COMMUNITY HALL REFURBISHMENT**

The Hall Committee are continuing to look at options for extending/refurbishing the Community Hall. Any suggestions or comments are welcome. See any committee member for details.

### **KIRK NEWS**

During the six years of being linked to Gargunnoch, the Rev. Catherine Hepburn was our minister - she has now received a call to West Mearns in Angus and has moved to Fettercairn.

A joint farewell party for Catherine was held in Gargunnoch Church Hall on Friday, 15th September, when many moving tributes were made to thank her for her Christian Ministry and hard work in the community. Entertainment was provided by local members of Gargunnoch, as well as the school. A collection at Kincardine-in-Menteith had been made and Catherine was presented with a cheque for help in the furnishing of her new Manse, as well as a painting of our Kirk.

Catherine's final service was on Sunday, 17th September when a full church heard her farewell sermon. Janet Gilliland of the Nyadd, and Ronald Graham of Carse of South Coldoch were elected as new elders. Isabel Sands, who has been our Treasurer for over 40 years, was thanked by Catherine Hepburn for her loyal and dedicated service to the Kirk. She was presented with a painting of the Kirk in recognition of all she had done. Ronald Graham has taken over as the new

that she would be delighted to see anyone who is up in those parts.

In the meantime, the Kirk faces a challenging period until we know who will be our next minister. The Interim Moderator is the Rev. Gordon MacRae of the Manse, Kippen, FK8 3DN - Tel: 01786 870 229. Services are at the normal time of 10am. We expect other services to be confirmed in due course but Communion will be on Sunday, 5th November, and Remembrance Sunday is 12th November. Christmas services this year will be: Christmas Eve at Gargunnoch Church and Christmas Day at Kincardine-in-Menteith.

### YOUTH CLUB

This summer the Youth Club were invited to sell catalogues at Doune & Dunblane Show. Competition to sell the most catalogues was very fierce. The following day saw everyone back at the field to pick up the litter and what a job that was! The Club received a letter of thanks from the committee. A special Thank You to everyone who helped. With the money we received from the Show we had a day at the Funfair which everyone enjoyed.

Youth Club restarts on Tuesday evening 17th Oct from 7pm till 9pm. 50p per night.

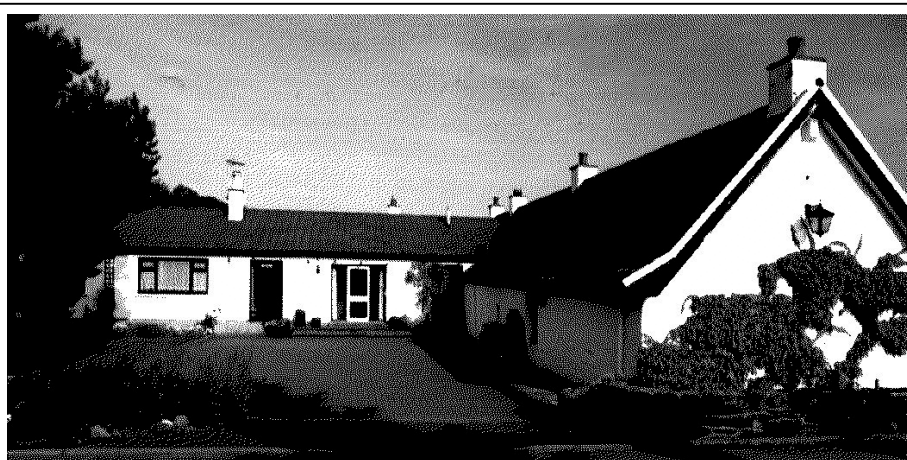
Anyone of high school age welcome. We still have Lottery money to spend on equipment so give Louise a phone if you have any ideas as soon as possible. We desperately need parental help or another Leader for youth club to continue please phone Louise Maxwell (841352) if you're interested.

### BIRTHS

Darby - Jon and Diane would like to announce the birth of Rachel on the 18th June 2000. Thanks to all well-wishers and for the presents

### PRIMARY SCHOOL "100" CLUB

The winners of the recent club draws are:



**Computers Built to Order/Upgraded  
Advice/Help at Reasonable Rates  
Hillview Cottage, Kirk Lane**

**01786-842473 Email: info@comp-u-build.co.uk**

**Place your Christmas orders now, only 50% deposit.  
Delivery mid December or before.**

Treasurer.

Representatives of the Kirk Session, Board and congregation went to Fettercairn for Catherine's induction on Thursday, 28th September. Catherine now lives at the Manse in Fettercairn and has said

July 2000

1st Mr John Sinclair (£25)

2nd J. & H. Graham (£10)

3rd Louise Maxwell (£5)

August

1st Mrs S MacMillan (£25)

2nd Mrs Anna Burnett (£10)

3rd Willie Drummond (£5)

If you're interested in being included in the "100" club, and thereby helping raise money for the school, contact Mhairi Osborne (860625)

### **MORE JIMMY REID**

Jimmy Reid was the local roadman in Gargunnoch for many years and enjoyed a long retirement. Over the years he composed many poems, all of which reflected, in his unique way, his life experiences working in this area.

In this poem he reflects on an unhappy period spent working for a tight-fisted employer ... no holiday pay in these days, but Jimmy had the perfect remedy

I'll ne'er forget the Briarlands Farm,  
Whaur weary dragged the time,  
Serving under Jock Muirhead,  
For Auld Lang Syne.

I worked a pair of his auld horse,  
I worked wi' plough and line,  
For mony a long and weary hour,  
For Auld Lang Syne.

I ploughed his moss and redland fields,  
In stormy days and fine,  
For eighteen bloomin' bob a week  
For Auld Lang Syne.

When I did take a day aff him.  
At the jolly New Year's time,  
He kept five shillin' aff my pay,  
For Auld Lang Syne.

Tonight I'm goin' to pack my kist,  
And drink a pint o' wine,  
And say farewell to Jock Muirhead,  
For Auld Lang Syne.

And when I reach the bottom gate,  
The sun on me will shine,  
For I'm going back to Amulree  
For Auld Lang Syne.

### **VACANCY**

Stirling Council is looking for a volunteer to be the local Rural Stirling Outreach Network Volunteer for Blairdrummond area.

If you're interested please contact Eric Thomson at Stirling Council for more details.

### **CHARITY CEILIDH**

A ceilidh has been organised in memory of Gary Walker who sadly died in July of this year. The money raised at the ceilidh will go to a charity



**"Billy" and "Charlie" harrowing a field on Dasherhead farm (background) with John McCallum**

chosen by Gary's family. The ceilidh is to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December in the Muir Hall, Doune. More details and tickets are available from Peter Stewart or at W C F, Kildean.

### **GARDENING SUCCESS**

Congratulations to Tom Miller of Woodside Blairdrummond. Tom won this years garden competition at Thornhill Flower Show.

### **SCHOOL NEWS**

The School started this new session with a school role of 33. Mrs Sinclair has P.1-3 and Mrs Berry has P.4-7. We welcome Lindsay, Becky and Phil to P.1 and Danica to P.5.

Congratulations to the senior boys who started the session on a high note winning the 5-aside football trophy at Thornhill gala. Well done to Scott, Jack, Stuart, Mark and Ross.

Thanks to parents fund raising, the school took delivery of a new video and a water tray.

### **SECURITY DURING HOURS OF DARKNESS**

As the dark nights are now approaching, Can we take this opportunity to remind you that house break-ins may increase during this time and you should be more vigilant during these hours. Local Neighbourhood Watch are particularly interested to hear from you in relation to strangers who are not residents of your area hanging about the vicinity, and any vehicles that you know not to be local to your area acting in a manner that may be suspicious you. Please also make attempts to note the colour, make and registration number of the vehicle in order that enquiries may be made.

It is imperative that you contact Dunblane Police Office, Tele:01786 822222 or Stirling Tele: 456000 with any relevant information which may assist in either the disruption or detection of offenders as soon as possible after the sightings.

### **THE NEXT NEWSLETTER**

... will be in the new year - so if you have events planned, 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 471455 or [dave@westdrip.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:dave@westdrip.freeserve.co.uk)  
Eleanor Graham 472523 or [eleanor@westdrip.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:eleanor@westdrip.fsnet.co.uk)  
Maggie Sherriff 841236 or [msherriff1@aol.com](mailto:msherriff1@aol.com)

Catherine Killen 860246 or  
[markkillen2@farmersweekly.net](mailto:markkillen2@farmersweekly.net)

or anyone on the Hall Committee. Deadline for the next edition is **31 January 2001**.

### **Your Hall Committee is ...**

Robert Muir (842065)  
James & Louise Maxwell (841352)  
Joanne & John Inglis (841309)  
Maggie & Mark Sherriff (841236)  
Jon Darby (841679)  
Lesley MacKenzie (470894)  
May Killen (860280)  
Alison Coates (860531)  
Annette Paget (841709)  
Eleanor Graham (472523)  
Dave Simpson (471455)  
Susan McMillan (447664)  
Tom Gilliland (470637)  
Catherine Killen (860246)