

# THE BLAIRDRUMMOND GRAPEVINE

ISSUE SIX

SPRING 2001

FREE

## HOGMANAY AT THE HALL

Whether you thought 1 January 2000 or 1 January 2001 was the start of the new Millennium, there was no argument that Blairdrummond know how to celebrate the new year. It was a great advert for making your own entertainment.

As with every true family occasion it was a time for embarrassing the kids with Mum & Dads dancing away to those 60s, 70s, 80s & 90s classics up to the bells. From then on it was Ceilidh time, with Stripping the Willow, Dashing White Sergeants & Gay Gordons.

The kids who couldn't stand the embarrassment any longer decided a snowball fight in the quite heavy fall outside. The very same snow that caused Stirling Council to cancel their spectacular on the esplanade - if you wanted a good Hogmanay night, you could have done much worse than be at the Community Hall.

Thanks to everyone involved in organising the event - see you there next year?

## AEROBICS

Remember that every Monday evening - 7.30pm to 8.30pm - there is an aerobics class in the hall on Monday evenings. The class is run by Stirling Sports Council and costs £2 per class. Classes are suitable for all abilities, why don't you come along and give it a

## 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*

try. Everyone is welcome.

Anyone wishing more details please contact Eleanor Graham tel: 472523.

## HALL IMPROVEMENTS

The Village Hall was built in the 1960's and has served the Community well since then. However, as we pass the Millennium, it is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. Some work needs to be considered to prolong its useful life and ensure that it is a facility that people will still want to use and enjoy for some time to come.

It has been suggested that the old roofing material, containing some asbestos, could be replaced with a better-insulated, modern material. Also new double-glazed window units and better insulation to the walls would greatly increase the warmth and comfort of the hall. Unfortunately, the kitchen and toilets are also in desperate need of renovation and renewal. However, the committee feels that with some investment, more people would use the hall, and that this in turn would maintain and promote the sense of community in and around Blairdrummond.

It is a condition of the Deed setting up the Hall that if it should fall into disrepair or cease to be viable, the land should return to the original owner or his successor and the Community facility would be lost. To avoid this possibility the Committee is looking at various Grants available to help undertake the above works and would like to have advice and comment from the entire Community to ensure that this asset can be retained and improved.

Please examine and complete the enclosed questionnaire **NOW** to express your views and return it to any Hall Committee member or send it to Joanne Inglis, Briarlands Farm, Blairdrummond. Questionnaires should be returned by 10 April 2001..

A Public Meeting will be held in the Hall on Tuesday 24th April, 7.30pm at which time the result of the

questionnaire will be presented and proposed plans will be displayed.

Please give us your thoughts and effort on this matter.

### **KILL YOUR SPEED**

Connie Hamlyn provided a copy of a letter written by Isobel MacAlpine to the Stirling Observer back in 1994 - its just as relevant today:

*"The country lanes around here are used by slow moving tractors going about their daily work, elderly residents walking their dogs, children on bicycles, mums out walking with prams, children coming off school buses, young soldiers out from the Army Camp at the Drip Bridge, marching and sometimes jogging. It is a recognised and mapped cycle route. Children and adults riding their ponies and horses. My own family have had cars passing them at 50 mph whilst out on horseback, sometimes with as little as 12 inches to spare. Livestock, whether it be sheep, horses, cattle, etc., cannot be passed at speed, they are unpredictable and are not inanimate objects.*

*Chalmerston Road, Robertson Lane, Rossburn Lane, etc are regularly being driven like a speedtrack. These roads are single track with no passing places. One should always drive slowly (allow extra time) and safely in the country and always assume that there might be a herd of cattle or a stationary tractor round the next bend."*

Attached to this issue is a leaflet advising drivers on how to approach horses on the road - please practice what it preaches.

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

End of term activities at Christmas were enjoyed by all reports **Frances Berry**. Charity collections last year amounted to £150 raised for Children in Need at the Bring and Buy Sale and £50 for Rachel House Hospice collected at the School Christmas entertainment.

Thanks to parents who organised a disco and Christmas Fair - the school hope to be able to order two computer trolleys with the £414 raised.

Senior pupils are busy learning Burns poems and music in the hope of gaining certificates. Mr Bond

will be back this term to coach the table tennis team before the Trossachs Tournament in March.

New P.1. pupils will be enrolled this week. The school is hoping for a good number as there are six moving to High School this year.

The Tesco Voucher Scheme is again underway. Any vouchers can be passed to the school via parents/pupils.

The primary school would like to thank A&R Burnett, Blairdrummond for sponsoring their new sports tops.

### **COMMUNITY HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

What are you doing on Thursday 29 March at 7.30pm? Drop all your engagements and prepare for the event of the year! Yes it's the Hall Committee Annual General Meeting - if you have ideas, thoughts or concerns regarding the running of your Community Hall then we want to hear from you. Your best opportunity is to come along to the AGM - issues which could be discussed include possible uses of the hall, improvements / refurbishment as well as the election of the committee and executive officers.

. . . and we've check the TV schedules - there's nothing on!!

### **CHILDREN'S 2000 POEM**

In recent Grapevines we've been featuring some of Jimmy Reid's poetry. This has prompted the idea of a poetry competition. Children of school age living in Blair Drummond are invited to write a poem about life in Blair Drummond in the new millennium. The length, style and content is up to the writer. Prizes will be awarded to the winners and the best poems will be featured in future grapevines. Please send entries to Dave Simpson, No.2 Cottage, West Drip Farm by end May 2001. We hope to find some impartial locals to judge. So all you budding Rabbie Burns get writing.

### **THE STORY OF THE CARSE (Part 4)**

The direct line of the Muschets of Burnbank died out in 1670, and the property passed to the Drummonds, Earls of Perth. A relative, George Drummond (1638 -1717), whose lands were at Blair in the Stormont (near Blairgowrie), negotiated an

exchange whereby, in 1684, he acquired the 'Ten Pound Land' around the east margin of the Moss of Drip. This included a string of settlements, some of whose names are recognisable today - Westwood, Camsdrainy, Miln of Camsdrainy, The Four Farms of the Baad, Gray Bonnocks, Cowden, Greenrigg, Hill of Drip, Ballgreen, Stanners, Lochtavell, and Easter and Wester Blackdub.

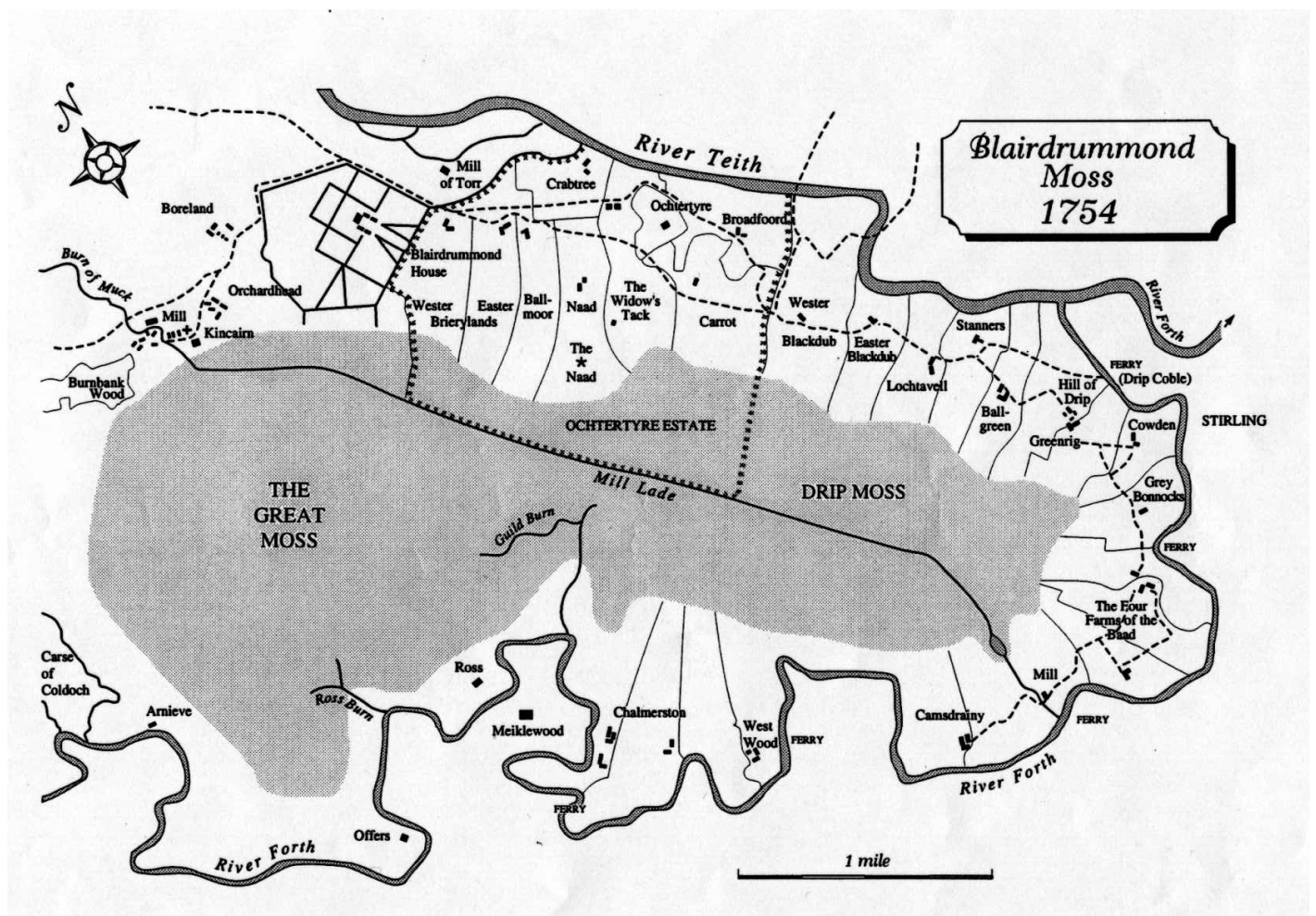
Tracks wandered rather aimlessly between the farms, much closer to the River Forth than the present Chalmerston Road which, as it happens, traces the edge of the Moss of Drip at that time. The King's Highway from Stirling to Doune was little better than a crooked series of farm tracks. Access from the east involved the use of a ferry, the Drip Coble. Across the Teith were two fords, the Broad ford and the Cadger's ford. The Forth had more ferries - there were cobsles at Westwood, the Miln of Camsdrainy and the Baad.

It was the proprietor's responsibility to provide a grain mill for his tenants, and they in turn were *thirled* to that mill. George Drummond solved that problem in 1690 by having a 3-mile-long 'Miln Led' cut across the Great Moss of Kincairn and the Moss

of Drip to lead the water outflow from the 'Mill of Muck' at Kincairn to a mill-dam off the present Chalmerston Road, from where it descended to the Miln of Camsdrainy.

George planned to build himself a house on his estate, and initially chose a site at the Fir Park between Easter and Wester Blackdub. I wonder if he realised it would be prone to flooding in bad weather? However, he was able in 1714 to purchase the Barony of Kincairn, on the west of Ochertyre estate. His new property included a farm called 'The Tore', possibly referring to the motte-mound on which Lord Kames's obelisk stands today. Here he had constructed a fine house of classical design. The year was 1715, and the architect was to be the Earl of Mar - only *he* got involved in leading the Jacobite Rising of that year. The Drummonds, sitting on the fence, are supposed to have covered the initial foundations with branches and pretended they hadn't begun!

The design was taken over by Alexander McGill, and finished in 1719 ... by which time George Drummond had passed away, leaving his son James (1673-1739) to occupy the house and to improve the policies.



The foundation stone has been built into the rear wall of the existing Blairdrummond House.

The grounds around the House were laid out with great symmetry with avenues and parkland. The principal avenue pointed across Ochertyre land towards Gillies Hill and terminated in a little arc of ground specially purchased from Ochertyre, which can still be identified halfway up the Safari Park road to Mill of Torr.

In 1739, James Drummond died, and the property passed to his son, George (1705-65). He enlarged the estate in 1752 by purchasing the Barony of Burnbank, the original Muschet land. We owe him a special debt, because in 1754 he (and his neighbouring proprietors on Ochertyre and Cardross) employed members of the noted surveying family, the Winters, to produce the large-scale plans of their property which give us such insight into the local landscape before the arrival of Lord Kames. *[by Dr Ken Mackay]*

### SCHOOL BOARD

The School Board is planning a series of fundraising events:

May 27th - The annual baking/home produce/plants stall at Cuthill Brae Caravan Park. From 11am until sold out. This is always a very popular event so anyone wishing to visit the stall is advised to be there sharp. Anyone wishing to donate to the stall can hand in their produce to any parent.

October 20th - The Annual Family Ceilidh. Still to be confirmed, but it is hoped to hold the ceilidh on the 20th from 7 - 10pm. Everyone is welcome. Tickets and details available nearer the date from parents.

### MILLENNIUM PLAQUE

Many of you may be wondering what happened regarding the proposed Millennium plaque. Unfortunately the cost of the plaque was considered too expensive. However the names submitted will not be going to waste - Annette Paget will be creating a calligraphic display of the names as a memento of those living in Blairdrummond at the turn of the Millennium

### MIRACLE BIRTH AT WEST DRIP

There was great surprise at West Drip Farm when the two **same sex** rabbits produced a litter of baby bunnies!!! Interest from local dogs Paris & Meg has been intense.

### ADVERT

Bunnies free to a good home. Please contact Laura or Fraser Graham tel: 472523

### BAGs GET ACTIVE

A fun night was had by the members who attended the face painting evening. Thanks to Joanne Killen for the demonstration and well done to the models and artists!

The Christmas Fair was also a great success with the sum of £54 being raised. This money was donated to Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary School to purchase equipment for the school. Thanks to all who attended as well as the stallholders who donated the raffle prizes.

The Christmas Night Out was held at the Birds & Bees - good food, good company, a great night.

A new committee was chosen to organise the next 3 meetings. They are Helen Graham, Fiona Haig and Phyllis Hannah.

The first meeting of the year was a Dried Flower Arrangements demonstration by Carol Seymour. On 28 February there was a Virgin "V" facial and make-up demonstration.

A "night out" will be at the Lion & Unicorn at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome. Contact Catherine on 860246.

### SCHOOL FUNDRAISING DISCO

Mandy & Catherine would like to thank everyone who supported this event. £370.34 was raised for school funds and has been used to purchase computer desks for the school.

### KIRK NEWS

Since the Rev. Catherine Hepburn left, we have had a series of interesting preachers at the Kirk, which included retired Ministers and lay preachers, one of

whom, Dr. Drurie, who lives in Stirling, is a lecturer in History at Glasgow University.

So what is happening about a new Minister? The Stirling Presbytery visited us and Gargunnoch and suggested that we should also link in a triple linkage, with Kilmadock in Doune. Although this would be a very large area for one Minister to look after, the current shortage of Ministers and the ever-rising cost of maintaining a church make such a proposition necessary. The congregation agreed with this; it has now been approved by the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh and the Presbytery in Stirling and, shortly, we should commence a programme to call a Minister to this triple linkage. The Manse to be used is going to be the one at Gargunnoch. We shall receive services assistance, if required, subject to the approval of the Presbytery, as a service will be held at Kincardine-in-Menteith every Sunday.

Amongst activities that have taken place recently, a most successful Dance was held in the Community Hall on Friday, 23rd February with Alex Fitzsimmons from Fintry Style playing reels etc. About 70 people were present, from 2 years upwards, and a great time was had by all. The total raised for Church Funds was about £220 - many thanks to all those who helped.

The Church AGM is being (was) held in the Community Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 21st

March, 2001.

Easter Sunday is the 15th April; a note about Church Services over Easter will be intimated nearer the time.

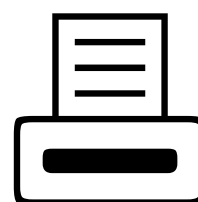
### YOUTH CLUB

We have 14 members in the club and for the first time in several years 3 girls. It has been quite a busy year so far.

Community Support offered us some workshops. The first was 'Get Musical' with Paul Docherty. Everyone was invited to try out Electric Guitars, a fantastic Keyboard that could do just about anything you wanted it to, microphone [we had some fine singers?] and other equipment to try.

The next workshop was 'Circus Skills' with Isla Clark. What a talented group! Juggling, Balancing, Plate Spinning and Spinning tops. A good time was had by all. The next event is a First Aid course which is great fun and a good thing for everyone to be able to do. An evening at APS Indoor Bowling has been arranged for 20th March. We might be asked to sell catalogues at Doune and Dunblane Show again this year and pick up litter on the Sunday. Louise needs to know if the Youth Club want to do this, it really has to be a TEAM EFFORT. Remember we do get paid for this and it allows us to have a day out. Last year we went to

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the Fun Fair. We still urgently need help on club nights. Parents or anyone interested please give me a call. We need 2 adults each night YC is on if we are to continue. If you're interested contact Louise on 841352.

#### **THE NEXT NEWSLETTER**

... will be in the summer - 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.freemove.co.uk](mailto:dave@westdrip.freemove.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 May 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)