

Issue 21

## **The Grapevine**

August 2016

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

### **Jenny Holl. A Busy Year for Cycling. From British Champion to World Championships.**



*Jenny in centre of photo wearing blue*

Last summer Jenny won the British Road Crit Championships and also a British Track Championship.

Since then Jenny has been selected to be part of British Cycling's ODP (Olympic Development Programme) of Junior Endurance riders.

This has included training camps both on the track and on the road in England, Wales, one in Scotland and racing earlier this year in Belgium and the Netherlands as part of Team GB.

Alongside this Jenny has competed with the senior women in the Pearl Izumi Tour Series which had road races throughout the UK.

Earlier in June British Cycling announced that Jenny was to be part of their team of 6 girls that they would send to the Junior European Track Championships in Italy and Junior World Track Championships in Switzerland, both held in July. It was going to be a busy summer!

**Emily Holl**

### Update:

The Great Britain Cycling Team finished just outside of the medals in two events at The Junior World Track Championships but took an historic second place in the inaugural women's Madison. No medals were on offer for the event but riders Jenny Holl and Lauren Dolan were happy with their second placing. Jenny was also 5<sup>th</sup> as part of the Team Trial. Jenny was also placed in the Kieran at the European Championship.



*Jenny Holl(2<sup>nd</sup> from the left) and Lauren Dolan made up Great Britain team one and finished in second place, having taken two laps and won 13 points*

## **Blair Drummond Community Hall**

Dear Friends

The Hall Committee invite you to the **Annual General Meeting** to be held on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.**

The hall is run by a committee of volunteers and we are looking for new members to join us. A warm welcome awaits you and after the meeting we are having cheese and wine! If you would like to know more about the hall/committee, please come along or contact any committee member.

We look forward to seeing you on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Kind regards

**Janette Gilliland, Chairperson**

## Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition

McLaren High School's Gold Duke of Edinburgh canoeing expedition group recently completed their qualifying expedition on the River Spey. The group was made up of 7 x Senior 5s; Finn Manders, Meghan McAra, Maria Whyte, Alan Chodynieski, Andrew Murphy, Luke Hibbert and myself - Eilidh Graham.



We left Callander on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July headed for Kingussie, where we were spent the night in a bunkhouse. The following morning, we put the boats in at Loch Insh and began our four days expedition.

**Day 1** was quite easy, no rapids to consider – perfect to get us used to being on the river. Meghan and Maria still managed to capsize, by

‘not noticing’ a fallen tree obstructing their path. They only got soaked up to their waists. By Day 3 we recognised that they had got off lightly in this case. We passed Aviemore and camped at “Boat of Balliefurth”. This camping spot we learned was luxurious compared to Camp 2, as the landowners had kindly installed a toilet and running hot water for canoeists. Sunday evening’s meal was burgers with cheese and onion, kindly made by Maria and Meghan.

**Day 2** promised to be a bit more fun and exciting, as we would be encountering the so-called ‘washing machine’ rapid! The washing machine was a massive drop in the river and when the canoes went over it they absolutely filled with water! After bailing the canoes out, we were ahead of time and so decided we may as well go past the Knockando rapids since we were already wet. These had initially been timetabled for the following morning, which would have meant we would have been wet for the whole day and nobody was particularly keen on that idea! These rapids required a lot of concentration, as a lapse could result in a capsize and being swept away! There were lots of fallen trees and rocks to skirt around, which made it rather hard as a canoe is not the easiest thing to manoeuvre. We reached Camp 2 just past the rapids and discovered if we were up for it, we could cross the river in the boats where we would find a composting toilet. Strangely enough not many people were bowled over by this, so we quickly set up our wet tents, stripped off our wet



clothes and got changed into slightly drier clothes. It was the boys turn to make dinner and they served up a chicken curry with rice and had even brought a pudding of chocolate chip brioches! Safe to say, we were all impressed.

**Day 3** was calm compared to the previous day, with only the occasional rapid. We were all beginning to tire a little by this point and this was shown when Meghan and Maria capsized (again!). They had been leading the group when they realised too late that a bit of white water was hiding a massive rock. The situation was made worse by them trying desperately to avoid it, by steering to the left of it, resulting in them hitting it side-on and tipping the boat right over and flinging them from it. Maria came up under the canoe first and managed to swim against the current to the shore. Meanwhile, Meghan had managed to retrieve the throwline from the canoe and was getting swept down the river with the boat until she managed to latch on to a rock. Andrew and Finn were first on the scene and they caught the canoe from Meghan and took it to shore. Luke and I went to Maria's rescue from the opposite shore, while Alan prised Meghan off the rock into his canoe! We reunited them on the shore where we gave them our dry layers of clothes and made them hot chocolate to get their blood

flowing again. Before long we were back on the river desperate to get to camp as soon as possible to get some warm food. We stopped to camp sooner than planned, as the capsize had wiped out any energy we had left. Our chosen camping spot was under a road



bridge, and once the tents were up it looked like an illegal squatter camp! Finn and I were the chefs for the final night and we dished up pasta with a Bolognese sauce and smoked sausage.

While dinner was cooking it had begun to sound like the cars overhead were getting closer but we realised it was people strimming! We had to help move the leaders tents as they were in the strimmers way but thankfully we, the group, did not have to rearrange our set-up. Finn and I also provided a pudding of warm pancakes with maple syrup or Nutella, which perked everyone up!

**Day 4** was straightforward – head for the sea! We decided to absolutely tank on because we knew we had a long drive home. This meant we

reached Spey Bay at lunchtime and the sun was shining! We polished off the last of our food sitting on the grass in the sunlight, laughing and chatting about the trip as whole, but mainly recalling Meghan and Maria's capsize! Although the weather was nothing special during our days away, we still had a great time and made some lifelong memories.

None of it would have been possible though without the help of Les Berrow, our Group Leader, Matt Brooke, Assessor from Active Stirling and Elaine Berrow, Les's wife, for driving the minibus. A big thanks also goes out to Bob Bawden who helped so much with all the arranging and organising of the trip and to Jacquie Fingland, without whom, we would never have reached Gold. **THANK YOU!**

**Eilidh Graham**

## **Briarlands**

We have had a busy summer, despite the odd rainy day and have had great fun and even managed to make some hay! It has been lovely to see so many visitors on the challenging High Ropes, which have proved popular for both adults and children. The High Ropes will be here until 21<sup>st</sup> August, so don't miss out!

We have added a new activity this season ..... Archery! Why not have a go next time you visit us?

We had a lovely surprise this week, with the arrival of our kid goats, who are very cheeky and full of fun! Pick Your Own (PYO) strawberries have been doing well and a popular activity for our visitors. Our homemade Strawberry jams and chutneys have also proved popular.



We are open until 30<sup>th</sup> October, so make sure you keep up to date with all the news by checking our website

[www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk](http://www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk) or check our Facebook page

[www.facebook/briarlandsfarm](https://www.facebook.com/briarlandsfarm).

## Obituaries

### Annie Miller



Born August 1924 to Tom & Helen Miller, the thirteenth child of fourteen, at Chalmerston Farm, Annie attended the Back o Moss school and then went on to work at West Cambusdrennie Farm.

Her father by then was working Craigniven Farm on the Touch Estate and when the youngest child Mary went off to marry, Annie moved to Craigniven to work for her father and brother, as was the custom then. Her sister Margaret joined them in 1953.

Annie played the accordion at local dances and childrens' Christmas parties. Her brother Hugh bought her first accordion and she bought the second with money earned playing in Fletchers Dance Band. She was a member of the Women's Rural and Church Guild and a keen competitor at Doune & Dunblane Show. Easter at Craigniven meant it was awash with daffodils, planted by Annie, Margaret and Joan, after the local Bulb Show competitions!

In summer the 3 sisters worked the fields with their brother Sandy, building stacks of hay, corn and wheat, using Clydesdale horses before the days of tractors, balers and combines! Her many nieces and nephews were on hand to help at busy times.

As a member of Kincardine in Menteith Church Annie took pride in decorating the church with her sisters, at Christmas and Harvest. They were always at hand, catering for events in the church and Annie organised the Flower Rota for many years.

Annie moved to Gargunnock after the death of her brother and sister and settled very well in her flat there. She enjoyed listening to Scottish Dance music and phoning others afterwards to give her opinion of the programme.

Annie died peacefully, with her nieces Anne and Jean by her side.

### Anne Muirhead



## **Robert Mark Sherriff CBE**

Mark Sherriff's sad and sudden death on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, at the age of 80 years, is a great loss to the Blair Drummond community of which he was a stalwart supporter and contributor. Mark and his wife Maggie, have lived in the Old Manse, Blair Drummond for 54 years. Their children Robert, Nicola, Kate and Andrew were brought up there and attended Kincardine in Menteith Primary school.

Mark was a much respected stockbroker in Glasgow, a partner and then Vice Chairman of Greig Middleton Ltd (now part of Barclay's Wealth).

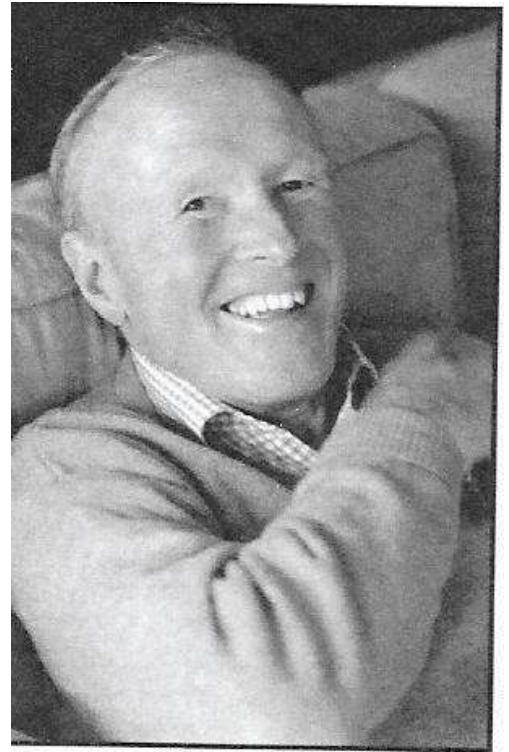
He was a Major in the Territorial Army, in the regiment of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and knew Stirling castle well.

The CBE awarded to him was related to his successful tenure as Chairman of the Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association, Highland Division.

His many leisure activities included golf, tennis, curling, fishing and shooting, at all of which he was an accomplished performer. He curled with Blair Drummond Curling Club for many seasons, including the immediate past season.

Mark did a considerable amount of charitable work. This included being Chair of Erskine Hospital, former Chair of the MacRobert Charitable Trust and a Trustee of the Smith Art Gallery & Museum in Stirling. Appropriately for someone living in the Old Manse, he was a pillar of Kincardine in Menteith Church, of which he was Session Clerk for many years. Blair Drummond Community Hall Committee also received the benefit of his wisdom right up to his death.

Our thoughts are with Maggie and all the family at this sad time.



**Ronald Graham**

## Safari Park News



*Brave Bella is a model patient during an eye operation.*

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, one of our older California sea lions underwent surgery on her left eye. Bella had developed a cataract, but unfortunately the eye's lens went on to dislocate, causing discomfort and impairing her vision. This is known to occur in sea lions over the age of 15 years, and Bella is the ripe old age of 22 years. Specialist veterinary ophthalmologist, Claudia Hartley, came to assess Bella's condition and conducted surgery to relieve Bella of what was quite a painful predicament!



*Bella the California sea lion on operating table.*



Under general anaesthetic, the cloudy lens was removed from Bella's eye and a clear gel inserted into its place. This will allow Bella to retain some of her vision in that eye and will relieve the pain that she had been experiencing. Before the operation our dedicated keepers Alex, Nikki and Erin had been taking turns to come in early in the morning and staying late at night to ensure Bella was as comfortable as possible, in the run-up to her treatment.



*Bella the California sea lion waking up from her operation.*

Bella will be treated with some ointment and medicine to help her recover following her surgery and Park Manager Gary Gilmour says "She has been doing extremely well." While her vision won't be as acute as it was when she was a pup, Bella will hopefully be fighting fit and back splashing around in view of the public in the near future.

**Dave Warren. Education Officer**

## **Thornhill & Blair Drummond Community Council News Buses, Bins and Broadband!**

The last meeting of the Community Council took place on 5th July in Blair Drummond Community Hall.

We were advised that as of 1st August First Bus intend to change the route of service C11 (Balfron–Stirling). It will continue through Thornhill along the A873, as at present, but will turn right at Kirk Lane rather than continuing along the A84. It will then visit Cambusbarron, en route to Stirling bus station. Passengers travelling to or from the Safari Park, Auction Mart, Prudential and Forth Valley College will have to find an alternative service.

This Autumn the arrangements for refuse collection in the local area are set to be revised. The Council will be carrying out assessments of bins, which are permanently located at lane ends, to determine exactly the type and number of bins required. New bins will be delivered before the new service commences. There is as yet no confirmed date for this.

The Community Council continues to seek ways in which to put pressure on the relevant bodies in order to improve broadband reception in our rural area which is currently still receiving poor service.

In Thornhill ‘The Nib’ opposite the Lion and Unicorn is reportedly not achieving its aim of preventing motorists from parking on the pavement. This is now being dealt with as a police matter.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Tuesday 16th August in Blair Drummond Community Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Ken Ingle, Community Councillor**

### **Stirling Council**

The council are updating their Local Transport Strategy and want to know your views on key transport issues to help them shape the strategy. Come along to Blair Drummond Hall on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August** from 2pm till 7pm. More information is available at [www.stirling.gov.uk/lts](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/lts). If you would prefer a paper copy or have any questions please email: [transportplanning@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@stirling.gov.uk)



## Something new and exciting is happening in Blair Drummond!

Café, farm shop, butchery and deli coming Autumn 2016.

Get in touch with Daisy Peach on 07896 971 583 or [hello@blairdrummond.co.uk](mailto:hello@blairdrummond.co.uk) for more information, if you're interested in working with us, or if you make or produce something.



As most regular users of the A84 will have noticed, our new farm shop, called Blair Drummond Smiddy, is fast taking shape! It is now coming on in leaps and bounds and every week another stage is completed. Internally, the layout is finalised. The windows are now in, making the most of the amazing views of the surrounding countryside. The wooden beams for the café roof are nearly all secured. The wood being used is Douglas Fir from Blair Drummond. We are doing our best to use local products and suppliers where we can! The old part of The Smiddy is where you will come in, with the shop and café to your left and the toilets to your right. Our aim is make the building as warm and as welcoming as possible so that our customers come back again and again. As you can see from above, we have decided on our logo. We are currently completing stock lists, looking for staff and thinking up delicious menus for you all to enjoy. We look forward to welcoming you when we open!

**Daisy Peach**

**KI**



## **MPS Big day out !**



Kincardine in Menteith Primary School had a great day out at the 2016 Royal Highland Show back in June, when as well as visiting their friends from the Royal Highland Educational Trust, they also held their end-of-term service in the Churches Marquee there, with special guests, Dougie Vipond of BBC Landward, and the Rev Dr Russell Barr, the Church of Scotland Moderator.

The children told the story of their own agricultural poultry project at the school, looking after their egg-laying hens, having first worked with Camphill Blair Drummond on the building of the hen run; and also of their international link to Kapalamula in Malawi and the joint venture with the KiM church, to establish a chicken farm out there! The Moderator and his wife then talked with the young people about the project.

The whole service was relayed back to Blair Drummond on the internet, and can still be seen on:

<https://www.facebook.com/churchesatrhs/videos/1716149171984933/>

Songs were sung, parents and grandparents involved, and prayers written by the young people made, before Dougie Vipond presented some of the children who are moving on to other schools with books that should help them. Pupils then roamed the RHS with their teachers, exploring a variety of tractor stands, livestock and other interesting exhibits.

## **Blair Drummond Blethers**

Our May meeting saw us enjoying chair exercise to music and everyone commented on what fun it all was. A huge 'Thank You' goes to Tricia Chillas, for managing to rearrange her busy schedule, and ensuring that we all thought exercise was 'doable' whilst enjoyable!

June was certainly a Chat afternoon! After discussion the decision was made by everyone that our annual Bring A Pal Luncheon, in October, should be a fundraiser for Trossachs Search & Rescue and the local Maggie Centre.



*Gordon Foster sharing his knowledge of antiques*

In July we had the company of Gordon Foster from Antiques Road Show, who ensured that everyone who brought along their chosen antique was given an overview of its history and merits. Gordon was a fascinating speaker and the afternoon flew by!

In August and September we will still enjoy our summer meeting time of 2 - 4pm when tea, coffee and home-baking are served. Our next get-together will be on Monday 29th August, which is a Chat Afternoon. September 26th will be bulb planting, so please bring along a suitable bowl/bowls in which the bulbs can be planted. In October we revert to meeting 12 – 2 pm, for the Bring a Pal luncheon.

Thank you once again to all who make this group possible through their efforts and attendance.

**Christine Bauer**

## Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

### Weekly Classes

**Wednesday:** Ballroom dancing – 7.30pm to 9.30pm

**Thursday:** Fitness Class – 7.15pm to 8.15pm

### Other Events

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August:** Bruce Crawford Constituency Surgery.  
10am - 11am

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August:** Thornhill & Blair Drummond Community  
Council meeting 7.30pm

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August:** Blair Drummond Blethers. 2 – 4pm. Afternoon  
Tea and Chat.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August:** Stirling Council Local Transport Strategy  
roadshow 2pm – 7pm

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September:** Blair Drummond Blethers. 2 – 4pm.  
Afternoon Tea and bulb planting.

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October:** Blair Drummond Blethers. 12- 2pm. Bring A Pal  
Luncheon Fundraiser for Trossachs Search & Rescue  
and Maggie Centre.

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

As always, the Hall is regularly used for meetings, kids parties, ceilidhs,  
and wedding receptions, to name but a few. For more information visit  
our website: [www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk](http://www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk) or contact Louise  
(Booking Secretary) on 01786 841352 or [info@blairdrummondhall.co.uk](mailto:info@blairdrummondhall.co.uk).

#### **Councillors for our area**

**Martin Earl**

Tel: 01786 4433497 / 07881 310922

[earlm@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:earlm@stirling.gov.uk)

**Alycia Hayes**

Tel: 01786 443497 / 07881 310924

[hayesa@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:hayesa@stirling.gov.uk)

**Fergus Wood**

Tel: 01786 443497 / 07824 496019

[woodf@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:woodf@stirling.gov.uk)



## Weddings



Lisanne Henderson and Gareth Killen, The Old Barn, Kirk Lane, Blair Drummond were married on 30<sup>th</sup> June, at Kippen Parish Church, with their wedding reception afterwards held at Glenskirrie House, Banknock.

Lisanne and Gareth would like to thank everyone who helped to make their day so precious.

Nicola Mitchell and Andrew Drummond, Ashentree Farm, Coldoch, Blair Drummond, were married on 8<sup>th</sup> July, at Kincardine in Menteith Parish Church and on to Ashentree Farm to celebrate afterwards.

Nicola and Andrew said they were so thankful to have all their family and friends with them to share their special day, and will treasure the memories forever.



## **Across the Pond cont.....**

It has now been a year and a half since my husband Gordon Gentles and myself, Lesley, relocated to the beautiful western province of British Columbia in Canada. We purchased a small farm near the town of Salmon Arm and have slowly been getting used to the area and climate. The area is beautiful and the climate - well, it is much better than Manitoba, where we lived for thirteen years! However having long, hot, dry summers does have its disadvantages. Crops and gardens desperate for rain and no campfires or 'open burning' for months on end. Wildfires are a major issue in the interior of BC where we live. Fires or outdoor burning of any kind is banned during a dry spell. One becomes paranoid if there is smoke or even the smell of smoke in the air!

It is late April and we have had beautiful weather for quite a few weeks. Gordon has finished seeding oats and has put fertilizer onto the remaining hay ground. It has been quite the challenge for him, ploughing fields that have not seen a plough, or been worked for years! The soil here is like sand, which is the complete opposite of working on the Carse at Rossburn Lane, where he farmed for many years. Last year's hay time was also a challenge. For the first time we used a machine called a Bale Wagon to collect the bales. For the most part it worked quite well but we did have a few 'trying moments' when things did not go according to plan! It did not help that it was 35 degrees when we were 'fighting' with this machine. However we got through it and the hay sold very easily, mostly for horses in the surrounding area.

We also decided to demolish the old corral system that was on the farm, take down all internal fences and get rid of falling down sheds. A huge task for the two of us. One day while working at the fences, we became aware that we had company sauntering down the fence line towards me. Gordon was on the tractor at this point. It was a large black bear! I very quickly made a bee line for the tractor and luckily the bear lost interest and moved on. That was only one of the bear encounters that we had! We have a lovely old pear tree in our garden and needless to say it was a great attraction to hungry bears. We now keep bear spray and bear bangers handy for going walks - never a relaxing experience..... Now apart from bears my main concern is the large cougar that we caught on our wildlife camera. Gordon was very excited to get such an amazing picture on our camera. Me - not so much! It is even a thought going out to hang out the washing! My basket of washing, clutching my pegs and my eyes roaming the fields and horizons for anything that moves....! So

there you have it. On our camera over the past year we have photos of bears, cougars, coyotes, racoons and deer. No one told me we had bought a zoo!



It has certainly been a year of 'firsts' and new experiences for me. I have never before picked plums, cherries, pears and apples in such copious amounts! Stoning pounds of cherries is not for the fainthearted! I ended up making cherry compote, cherry pie filling and cherry brandy - all delicious but I did feel it was very finicky and a lot of work.

Another new experience for me was white water rafting! We had friends from Manitoba staying and they had decided to book the rafting. Gordon declined saying he was too busy at hay, so we just left him to it! The experience was tremendous! I was extremely nervous as I 'squeezed' myself into a wet suit but it was well worth all the huffing and puffing! The scenery was stunning and the rapids were amazing. For those interested it was 1-4 rapids and I think that was quite enough for me. I would certainly do it again in the future.

We also had fun on Shuswap Lake with another two couples - again friends from Manitoba. We decided to rent a boat and two sea doos. Now, for a man who is not a strong swimmer, Gordon certainly did not hold back while on the sea doo in the middle of the lake! The three 'boys' had a great time racing and speeding up the lake on the sea doos at 56 mph! It was my first time on a speed-boat and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Shuswap Lake is beautiful and is 55miles in length and 3.1 miles wide. It is said to have its very own 'monster' called 'Shuswaggi'! Much like



Nessie, it is quite the attraction in the area. House boats are another great attraction for holidaying on the lake. It seems to be a relaxing way to get around the lake and is very popular.

Water sports and local wineries are part of 'life' here in the Okanagan. While most of the wineries are further south than Salmon Arm we do have a few local wineries that are lovely to visit. At Christmas time wineries have Open Days and are all decked out for the Festive Season. They serve mulled wine and Christmas eats which are delicious. Last summer we took friends to a local winery one Sunday and ended up sitting on their deck listening to a small group of musicians. Turned out one of the musicians was from Aberdeen! It was lovely chatting to him and I believe he is still working at the winery this year. Must go visit him! Overall we have enjoyed our first year here in BC and although we still have plans to do more renovating outside on the farm and yard, we feel quite settled here and love the area. We enjoy being closer to our family and seeing more of our children and four grandchildren. We have met quite a few neighbours and are slowly making friends. However it is nice when familiar faces turn up from Manitoba wanting to stay!

Till the next time -when I will fill you in on our projects, wildlife encounters and what we have been up to!

**Lesley Gentles ( nee Matthew)**

### **Blair Drummond Grapevine Newsletter HELP WANTED**

Over the past 6 years the Grapevine has been prepared by Christine Bauer and Catherine Killen, and they have to be thanked for giving their time to produce such a good local newsletter, letting all know what is happening in the community.

Catherine and Christine are looking for people to help them collate the news and set it out for printing. There are 4 issues per year, so it would translate to only a few hours every 3 months. If you could help, or would like to find out more, please contact Catherine or Christine, their details are on the back page. They would be delighted to have your help and you do not have to be on the Hall Committee.

**Janette Gilliland, BD Hall Committee Chairperson**

## Callander & District Young Farmers

Since taking over the role of Secretary from Rosalind Bennie at the end of March, I have had a busy time getting to grips with my new role and at the same time the Club has also had a busy agenda. We have been taking part in Sunday Fundays in Thornhill Park, where we got together when the weather was nice, to compete against each other in rounders, touch rugby and the rest! We then held a Jersey Cattle Stock Judging event at Boquhan, where Club members put their skills to the test! We also ran a Charity Pub Quiz in aid of Diabetes UK, at the Woodside in Doune, when we raised £60 and everyone racked their brains against my dodgy questions!

A new members night was held in the Thornhill Community Hall this year, where we welcomed along new, past and present members for a brilliant night of games and information on life as a Callander Young Farmer. The night was a huge success with plenty people keen to join in the fun and help our Club grow. The Club then hosted an outing to Forrest Hills Whacky Water Sports, which was well attended and the members participating braved the cold and had a smashing day on Loch Ard, making their way over numerous obstacles.



Our Tug of War team has been gaining in strength over the months and with hard work and dedication at training we got two teams to Neilston Show for our first pull of the season. We didn't come away with any prizes but more experience was gained and a good laugh was had all

round! The boys Rugby Sevens team then headed to Kinross to take part in the National Sevens competitions, where they showed off their skills on the rugby field.

At Doune & Dunblane Show (a jam packed day!) the YF tent and main ring were kept going with our fun and games. Following the Show we had our Show Dance, which was well attended by young farmers and locals, dancing the night away!

This summer we have plenty planned, in between all the shows. As well as the usual sports tournaments and outings to shows, we will be running a Welding Course for members to learn skills they can use on and off the farm, our annual Car Treasure Hunt, starting at the Lion & Unicorn in Thornhill, a BBQ at Landrick estate and a Games Night. If anyone is interested in joining the club don't hesitate to get in touch via the Facebook page, or phone our Chairman Drew Steel, on 0781 017 4663.

**Gavin McCrae, Secretary**

### **The Rev's summer rant ! Mapping out your future ?**



Many of us hold to a life view that the summer ought to be the time when things are quieter, more relaxed and when we can take time to recharge the batteries in summer sunshine or on golden beaches, but it certainly hasn't worked out that way this year, has it? The E.U. referendum caused massive upheavals on our own U.K. political scene, while terrorist attacks in Iraq and France, failed military coups in Turkey and the escapades of Donald Trump dominate overseas news.

The foundations of our living have been well shaken with all of this – and the weather hasn't helped one little bit. Our farming families tell me that most growing things are very late, (along with government payments!) and the future seems uncertain too! It's in times like this that I find walking with God exceptionally useful. It may not change the circumstances or the scenery through which we journey, but gives me a different perspective on what I see at this particular moment in time,



returning a sense of both direction and stability to my living, crudely shaken by current events. At the moment it really feels like someone has redrawn all my carefully penned life-maps, or at least scribbled on them with a big black felt-tip!

But then God reminds me that my map isn't the same as the actual terrain – it's only a representation - a sketch to help me navigate, not the ground itself that you have to walk on and through. Some of you may recall some poetry used in similar times once before. It goes:

**I said to the man who stood at the gate of the future:  
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”**

**And he replied:**

**“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”**

**So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the  
night.**

**And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day.**

Some might say “Ach that's old hat – hackneyed – like Christianity itself!”

Personally, I reply “It's truth - tried and tested which has stood the test of time!”

Wherever you are going, I pray God is walking with you.

Your minister & travelling companion.

**Rev Andy**

<b><u>BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE</u></b>	
Hardwood Logs	£180/ load
Hardwood Logs	£90/ half load
Softwood Logs	£130/ load
Softwood Logs	£65/ half load
Small bags	£5 for hardwood
Small bags	£4 for softwood
Contact: <b>Bob</b>	
<b>Tel: 01786 841580</b>	
<b>Mob: 07732 563106</b>	

## **Doune Health Centre Update**

### **Important Staff Changes:**

**Trainee GPs** - Dr Rosiland Holland has left and we welcome back Dr Farah Gilani and Dr Peter Hanlon, who worked with us a few years ago. We are very fortunate to have doctors who are advanced in their training and have varied medical special interests.

**Practice Nursing** – Catherine Macdonald who worked with us for 12 years and had special interests in diabetes and childhood immunisations resigned some months ago. She would like to give all her patients her good wishes for the future. Her post has been filled by Silvy Deuchar, whom many of you may have met already.

**Health Visiting** – Penny Scott retired at the end of July after working in the practice for 19 years. She was a great source of knowledge and wisdom for patients and colleagues alike. Anne Wallace will cover Health visiting until November, working 10 – 2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She can be contacted at Doune HC only during the days and times stated, otherwise please contact Dunblane HC. A new Health visitor has been appointed and will cover 3 days per week, starting in the near future.

**Community Nursing** - Over the years the nursing service offered to the community was a source of pride to the HC. As nurses have left /retired they have not been replaced, though an unaltered service continued to be provided by the remaining staff. Recently further changes have occurred, outwith our control. Catherine Douglas, who covered Doune for 31 years, now works in St Ninians and Lynne Bryce, who worked in Thornhill and Doune for 14 years, has been transferred to Dunblane. We are sorry to lose these skilled nurses who have diligently cared for so many patients over the years. We have been promised by the Community District Nursing Team that the transition to new provisions will go smoothly and we should expect to enjoy the same high standard of care previously provided.

**Receptionist** - Elaine Cameron, who worked in the afternoons at reception is relocating to another area. Her post is being advertised.

### **Flu Clinics for 2016/17**

**Drop-in Clinics for Adults Flu Injections** – will be held in Doune HC on the following Wednesday afternoons – 5<sup>th</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 19<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November, from 1.30 – 4pm. There is no need to book

an appointment, just drop in on any of the listed dates and times. (*NB Please note there is no Flu Clinic on 26<sup>th</sup> October.*) We will make separate appointments for those who cannot manage the selected dates. This service is for Doune HC patients, who are aged 65 years and over, or who are in an 'at risk' group. It is also available to pregnant women and carers. Do not expect to have any other problems dealt with at the same time. This invitation does not apply to child flu vaccines. Do not attend if you are suffering from a fever/high temperature.

**Children's Nasal flu Vaccinations** - These will be continuing this year for ALL pre-school children, aged 2 – 5 years. To be eligible children must have reached the age of 2 years by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016. This includes any child over 6 months in an 'at risk' group. Children in an 'at risk' group aged from 6 months – 2 years will receive a traditional flu injection.

Children should not attend if they have a fever.

Please make an appointment for a nasal flu vaccination. The pre-school group are not invited to the Drop-in Adult clinics, due to the high numbers expected and staff availability. Primary school children will be invited to receive their nasal flu vaccination at school, during school hours, from school nurses.

**Doune Health Centre.**

## **Stirling Snaps**

Hi there,

I work for Stirling Council and we are currently looking for Stirling photos to feature in a publication. They can be of anything or anyone in the Stirling area, not just photos of the castle or the Wallace monument.

I am contacting various Photography Clubs, Community Magazines and photographers, to let them know that if they would like to share an image, to get in touch with myself on [lewism@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:lewism@stirling.gov.uk) , or phone 01786 233037.

**Melanie Lewis, Digital Communication Officer**





## **Shelter Service – Free housing advice for Private Tenants**

If you are a private tenant in the Stirling Council area, Shelter Scotland can offer free confidential, independent help and advice on a range of housing issues, including rent queries, rent arrears, eviction, tenancy rights, unlawful fees, deposits, repairs and shared accommodation.

If you need to know your rights, if you need some help to resolve a housing issue, or you just need some information, you can speak to our dedicated adviser on –

0344 515 2483, or email us at [stirlingprsproject@shelter.org.uk](mailto:stirlingprsproject@shelter.org.uk) quoting the name of this publication. Further advice and information can be accessed at our website [www.shelterscotland.org](http://www.shelterscotland.org).

This Service is a partnership between Stirling Council and Shelter Scotland.

**Amanda Collins**



Registered Scottish Charity: SC011337

## **Gardens in Stirlingshire opening for Scotland's Gardens on set days August to October**

**KILBRYDE CASTLE** Dunblane FK15 9NF

**Opening Times:** Sunday 18 September 2:00pm - 5:00pm. By arrangement 1 April - 30 September

**Disabled Access:** Partial. **Admission:** £4.00, children free. **Charities:** Leighton Library 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries.

The Kilbryde Castle gardens cover some 12 acres and are situated above the Ardoch Burn and below the castle. The gardens are split into 3 parts: formal, woodland and wild. Natural planting (azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias) is found in the woodland garden. There are glorious spring bulbs and autumn colour provided by clematis and acers.

**Other Details:** Cream teas are available on 18 September only. Plant stall. Dogs on leads. **Directions:** Three miles from Dunblane and Doune, off the A820 between Dunblane and Doune. On Scotland's Gardens' day the garden is signposted from A820.

**LITTLE BROICH** Kippen FK8 3DT

**Opening Times:** Sunday 2 October 2:00pm - 5:00pm

**Disabled Access:** Partial. **Admission:** £4.00, children free. **Charities:** Strathcarron Hospice receives 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries.

A tree lover's heaven! A hidden arboretum of about eight acres, planted over the last twenty years, with an extensive collection of native and non-native conifers and broad-leaf specimens. Fern leaf oaks, Hungarian oaks, Cercidiphyllum and Glyptostrobus amongst many others around wide, slightly sloping grass paths (can be slippery when wet). Stunning views across the Carse of Stirling and the autumn colours should be outstanding. The garden featured in an October 2014 issue of Scotland on Sunday and on The Beechgrove Garden.

**Other Details:** No dogs except guide dogs. Cream teas. **Directions:** Will be signposted off the B8037. Parking on the road, disabled badge holders can park at the bottom of the lane.

**NEW HARVEST LUNCH AT EASTER CULMORE** Kippen Stirlingshire FK8 8BQ

**Opening Times:** Sunday 9 October 12:30pm

**Disabled Access:** Partial. **Admission:** £20.00 to include lunch and a glass of wine. **Charities:** SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity, 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries.

Neil and Mary Kenyon are very kindly hosting this event in their Barn. There will be a short talk, music, a raffle and autumn floral displays by Fiona Wallace.

**Other Details:** Tickets available from Iain Morrison T: 01786 841007 E: [mor990@aol.com](mailto:mor990@aol.com). **Directions:** Easter Culmore is on the Dumbarton road at Kippen. At the sign for Glinns Road turn left. SG signs will be displayed.

If you would be interested in opening your garden next year or being a member of the Stirlingshire Branch of Scotland's Gardens and the benefits it would bring please contact Gillie: [drapper@kilewnan.org.uk](mailto:drapper@kilewnan.org.uk)

**For more information on the gardens visit our website:**

[WWW.SCOTLANDSGARDENS.ORG](http://WWW.SCOTLANDSGARDENS.ORG)



## **Scottish Water Campaign to Help Keep Scotland's Beaches Beautiful**

People's thoughts often turn to days out at the seaside and the outdoors over the summer months, so it's the perfect time for Scottish Water to launch a new phase of the Keep the Cycle Running campaign to remind customers about the potential impact of flushing inappropriate items like wipes and cotton buds and what they can do to help keep the cycle running smoothly.

The famous Scottish coastline – and how we can all play our part to help keep it clean – is a specific focus of the next phase of this nationwide Scottish Water campaign.

The campaign will include a mix of nationwide TV, radio and digital/social advertising, and will address how what we flush down toilets or pour down kitchen sinks can create blockages in drains and sewers, and can also affect the cleanliness of the nation's beaches.

Scott Fraser, Campaign Manager at Scottish Water, said: "Our national Keep the Cycle Running campaign will continue to build on the positive impact we have already seen from our customers responding to our campaign advice on how to reduce blockages.

Our advertising campaign combined with educational visits to primary schools and other work in local communities, have already contributed to a reduction in the number of reported blocked drains and sewers to Scottish Water, however we can't be complacent as there is still a big problem."

"We believe the best way to tackle blocked drains and sewer flooding is to work together with our customers across the country and do simple things which can help ensure we can all enjoy our beautiful coastline to its full potential."

On average, Scottish Water attends over 100 blocked drains each day – with over per cent entirely avoidable – as they are caused by inappropriate items flushed down toilets and poured down sinks.



Scott added: “In some circumstances this issue can affect Scotland’s beaches and coastal environment. We at Scottish Water are determined to do all we can to protect and enhance Scotland’s natural environment.” Calum Duncan, MCS (Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Head of Conservation Scotland, said: “Flushed wet wipes are a real nightmare. They can block sewers causing everything that has been flushed down the loo to either back up into people’s homes, or overflow into rivers and seas. We’ve created wet wipe monsters to help us highlight the problem – find out more at [www.wetwipesturnnasty.com](http://www.wetwipesturnnasty.com)”.

Over 2000 wet wipes were found on Scotland’s beaches during the Great British Beach Clean week in 2015\*, with some surveys reporting as many as 100 wipes found in a 100m stretch of beach! The campaign aims to help make people stop and think about their actions and help prevent the issues occurring in the first place. Flushing bathroom waste items such as personal cleansing and baby wipes, cotton buds and nappies down toilets, coupled with pouring cooking fat, oils and grease down the kitchen sink, can collect and create a blockage of material and solidified fat that can’t break down easily. This collects in large clumps in our sewers and can lead to the misery of sewer flooding of homes, businesses and streets in local communities, and can also result in the pollution of local rivers, burns, coastal waters and beaches.

Scottish Water works in local communities across Scotland every day of the year, and part of this campaign will also call on customers to check our photo ID and follow our **Three C’s rule: Card-Check-Call**, to help reduce the instances of doorstep crime committed by bogus callers.

There will be additional messages which will promote simple but effective tips to use water wisely in and around the home that save water and energy and help protect the natural environment..

Customers can learn more about what they can do to keep the cycle running by visiting [www.scottishwater.co.uk/cycle](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/cycle).

To see Scottish Water’s campaign TV adverts, visit Scottish Water’s YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/scottishwaterfilm](http://www.youtube.com/scottishwaterfilm).

Scottish Water’s website has dedicated pages, modules and activities to download at [www.scottishwater.co.uk/education](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/education) which support learning and teaching for the school curriculum in Scotland.

If you know someone who would be interested in advertising in the Blair Drummond Grapevine, our rates are listed below -

¼ page £10

½ page £15

Full page £20

Do you have any photos, ads, articles or letters you would like to contribute, if so please email them to:

[christinebauer@outlook.com](mailto:christinebauer@outlook.com)

or

[catherine@grasslands.plus.com](mailto:catherine@grasslands.plus.com)

Items for Issue No 22 should be submitted by **30th October 2016**, 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 our ever developing mailing list.

Thank you.

*The Blair Drummond Grapevine is a community newsletter produced and distributed by volunteers, free of charge, to approximately 300 households within the Blair Drummond area and beyond. Letters and articles published in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views, beliefs or opinions of the Grapevine Editorial Team, who also reserve the right to shorten, edit or refuse the insertion of any contribution.*

*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. All contributions should permit publication in both print and digital format.*

*The Blair Drummond Grapevine is published by the Blair Drummond Community Hall Committee.*

Website: **[www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk](http://www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk)**

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