

Issue 25

The Grapevine

August 2017

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

Congratulations Eilidh Graham on achieving your Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award



Eilidh receiving her award from Catriona Shearer

I was invited to the Palace of Holyrood gardens in Edinburgh, on the 6th of July 2017, to receive my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Recipients from all over Scotland were there and a number of famous faces had the role of presenting us with our award.

A lot of work goes into obtaining the Gold Award - it took me well over a year to complete my various activities. There are five parts to the Award: Volunteering, Physical, Skill, Residential and Expedition.

For my Volunteering section, I helped at Gargunnock Guides for a year, I learned to drive as my Skill and attended regular hockey training sessions for my Physical part. In October last year, I took a week out of school and headed up to Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore to spend a week doing a leadership course. For the Residential part to count, you must go alone, not knowing anyone, which was very daunting, but by the end of the week I had met lots of new people and to this day we still keep in touch! My Expedition took place last summer on the River Spey. This was by far my favourite part of the Award, out in the wilderness for three nights, where some of the funniest memories were made!

Since so much work goes into achieving the Award, only myself and another girl from our school group (Finn Manders) made it to Holyrood this year. On the day at Holyrood, we were put into groups to receive our Awards. Our group had our Awards presented to us by the familiar face of Catriona Shearer, from BBC News. She chatted to each of us individually, asking what we'd done for each section of our Award and what fond memories we had from completing it.

After presenting each of us with our certificates, we made way for the Duke of Edinburgh himself to pass through the group. He asked some of us where we had been on our expeditions, if we had any funny stories and how many midgie bites we had suffered! He then spent time talking to the guests of Award recipients and asked if they had achieved their Gold Awards in years gone by. The day was made extra special as it was announced it was the final ever Gold Award Ceremony the Duke would be carrying out.

It was a lovely day (especially since the rain stayed away!) and one I will remember for years to come.

Eilidh Graham.

Vintage Market and Cafe Save the Date!

On Sunday 22 October in Kippen Village Hall

12 noon until 4pm Entry by donation.

Antiques/Vintage/Preloved/Upcycled/
Treasures from the attic

To book a stall contact Sue Bryans: sue.bryans@btinternet.com

Our Adventures Continue in Canada.....



Gordon Gentles with his beloved 135!

It has now been 2yrs and 9months since we took over our wee farm in the Shuswap area of British Columbia, Canada. It has been busy, eventful and with lots of new experiences for me and my husband Gordon. For the most part enjoyable, but we have had a few hiccups and a few stressful moments along the way!

The winter of 2016/2017 was the coldest here for years, however we cannot compare it to Manitoba winters, where we lived for 13 years! The lowest temperature we saw here was -29C and we had around 5 feet of accumulated snowfall. It was a long winter and the snow seemed to be around well into March. We then had the wettest spring on record. The city of Kelowna and surrounding areas are still recovering with the lakes at a record high as it rained solid until the end of May. We are now into mid-July and the province of BC is alight with wildfires! As I sit here at my kitchen table the air is heavy with smoke but we are fortunate not to have any of the fires too close to our area. There are 160 fires burning within the Province. Thousands have been evacuated from their homes and there is a state of emergency across the Province.

Due to the wet spring my husband Gordon was a month late with sowing, although now it is too dry and we are looking for rain! He sowed a grass alfalfa mix, in one of our larger fields. The day after it was sown we had a wind storm blow through. It took down trees, our stick shed and our machinery shed. Quite the mess! It also took the top soil off the newly sown field, so it is not quite the crop Gordon was hoping for. Over the next week we (yes, just the two of us!) moved the demolished buildings, cut up the fallen trees and piled up the tin off the roofs. Lots of hard work but we were planning to replace the stick shed anyway!

We have not long finished the hay which is great! We have decided that this is to be our last year of doing small bales. To collect small bales we use a machine called a bale wagon. Now this machine would work on flat fields and also if the hayshed had a flat concrete floor. We have neither, so for us it has not been the easiest or most efficient machine. Given the heat of the summer, this machine and the fact Gordon and I are not 25 anymore, we have decided to go to big bales next year. Thank goodness....! For those in Blair Drummond and surrounding area who know Gordon and I, it may be of interest for you to know that Gordon's Massey Ferguson 135 tractor is alive and well and working hard in BC! The tractor is now 52 years old and has been in Gordon's family for 50 years! It was bought 2nd hand in 1967 and is still in great working order and is used regularly on the farm since we moved to BC. I have always said that Gordon has three prize possessions in his life - his daughter, son and his 135 tractor!

During my walkabout in the fields it did go through my mind that there could be bears around. This happened when Gordon went over the hill on the tractor and out of my sight! I never had these thoughts when we farmed Rosburn Lane at Blair Drummond! However, none appeared but I did see the occasional coyote! We also have a couple of Marmots running around. They are members of the squirrel family and about the size of a house cat. Where there are two you can be sure we will have lots more just shortly! They have to be controlled and are looked on as pests.

We seem to have prolific wildlife here, which is amazing but at times it can be pretty annoying. Only recently we planted out our vegetable garden only to have a moose dig up and eat some of the seed potatoes. We did not see the moose but it left its huge footprints in the middle of the garden! We are lucky enough to have painted turtles in our ponds, of which we have three. The turtles come up to the house and buildings to lay eggs and it is lovely to see them close up. No bear sightings here

yet this year but it is usually after the fruit appears on the trees that they come out of the woods! However, driving down to work most days I saw two black bears and a cinnamon coloured one in the same field. Quite a sight! I was delighted to see them as they were on someone else's property, far enough away from our place and I was in the car! Not too keen on them walking around in our fields!

I have enjoyed getting back to working in the local schools. I am on a casual basis so only work when they call me, which is most days! One very different thing about the school system here, compared to back home, is the school supply list. Every child has to bring in their own supplies to last for the school year. This includes jotters (scribblers in Canada), pencils, pens and anything else needed for the classroom. I can only imagine how expensive it is if you have two or three kids at primary or secondary schools!

It is the middle of July here and as I said the heatwave continues. Our vegetable patch is suffering as it is difficult to water the growing veg enough. Most things are looking well but my rasps are the size of peas and not plump and juicy as they should be. Hopefully the potatoes will be reasonable. As an 'experiment' I decided to try growing squash and also melons! My melon plants are flowering and looking great, as are the squash plants. Whether they bear fruit is another matter. Over here they use a system called a soaker hose which is like drip irrigation. We will be investing in this for next year, as it can take over an hour every night to water the veg!

It has been a busy, eventful and fun year with lots of friends visiting from home and Manitoba. We are enjoying our life in BC and each day has its challenges and new experiences! Just the way we like it! Our renovations, improvements and challenges continue to grow and I will keep you all posted over the coming year.

Lesley Gentles.

Youth Club

The Blair Drummond Youth Club meets every Tuesday, from 3rd October until Easter, from 7pm to 9pm and is open to anyone aged 10 and over.

If you would like more information on the Youth Club, please contact :

Mary on 07443455978, or Lorna on 07851364227 or see the Youth Club page on the Blair Drummond Community Hall website.

www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk

The Rev's rant – Watch out !



My grandfather, Rev Andrew Campbell, grew up round about this area and went to school in Balfron in the 1880s. His father was a weaver there and a man who valued education and so sent his son off to Glasgow University, after which Andrew became a Church of Scotland parish minister.

When the First World War broke out, he, like many others, volunteered for the forces as a Chaplain and went off to France for much of the next four years. During that time he carried and used his silver pocket watch, which had been given to him on his twenty-first birthday by his family. It served him well throughout the rest of his life, and when he died in 1937, it was passed down to my Dad (a wristwatch man), who put the pocket-watch safely in a drawer, in it's original box, for the next fifty years; untouched, unused but safe!

My Dad died in the 1980s and the watch then came to me, and so I put it in my drawer! Then, ten years later I took it to a watch-maker who cleaned it, wound it and returned to me a perfectly serviceable watch which I enjoy using these days. I attached to it a silver chain that my wife gave to me – it seemed appropriate and then added a slim, silver Millennium ingot to the other end, given as a gift from friends. It's something once again valued and used after the years of neglect.

Y'know Christian faith can be a bit like Granddad's watch. Something that is valued and useful in earlier years, but then either taken for granted or damaged by the harder knocks of life, put it away and all but forgotten. If you want, though, you can go back to the Maker, have it restored (it's usually less work than you think!) and begin using it again to your own and others benefit, re-discovering its true value. If you don't believe me, come and have a conversation to find out more - either about the watch or your Christian faith.

Yours aye

Andy – your minister.

Tel: 07523420079 Email: Acampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk

Kincardine in Menteith Church of Scotland



“Some things never change!” But we do!

So if you haven't been for a while, then take a look into the kirk sometime soon and see what is going on.

Just before Christmas '16, some pews were removed from the back of our church, to provide a useful meeting and mingling area where often you can find coffee being enjoyed, and people talking. Then we turned round the back pew to provide seating for that meeting area and removed a couple of book boards to make access easier down the sides of the church. And this week new carpeting is going in, because we believe this Christian church has a good future as well as a great past. A new exterior noticeboard was installed too.

Now we are looking to upgrade the way we serve the parish too. At the moment we are investigating possibilities of 'Parish nursing', alongside the NHS, a scheme whereby the physical, mental and spiritual health of folk in the area can be improved. We are also part of a project that the Church of Scotland is involved in, where we help folk become 'dementia friendly', at a time when that particular health issue is on the rise.

Fiona Campbell has been organising and running a discussion group about Christian faith through the spring and summer, where up to fifteen folk come together to say – “but what about....”, as they wrestle with God-matters together.

Our church isn't a building used once a week – We are pleased to say it's a community of folk, who live real lives and address real life situations with real faith and positivity, and who, rather than looking back, journey forward.

If you are wondering what the next development could be, then email us your suggestion. This is after all your church!

www.blairdrummondchurches.org.uk



DOUNE AND DUNBLANE AGRICULTURAL SHOW SATURDAY 1st JULY 2017

Where do I start...? Well, show preparation goes on all year for the committee but Monday 26th June saw the start of the new layout for show day taking shape, Sharon McRobert and John Cullens took charge and had us all working. Wednesday and Friday it was all hands on deck as Marquees, Trade Stands etc all starting arriving. The show kicked off with the Super Shear night on the Friday which was a great success, thanks to Dougie Steel and his team.

Well, the sun shone for us... This was a year of many changes where we condensed everything into the one field. The show looked really busy and full. Great feedback from the public etc but we have a few things to change to make it even better for next year. Katie Brisbane did a fantastic job on her **RHET stand** and was crowned the best Charity Stand. Sholto Duff, P6 from Kincardine in Menteith was the winner of our ART completion. His winning artwork will be the cover of our catalogue in 2018.

Our **VIP guests** this year, George and Sybil McPherson, had a great time judging and going around the showfield.

Main ring entertainment came in many guises... thanks to David Turner for keeping it going at all times, and for our commentators who kept everyone informed as to everything that was happening....Rev Andy Campbell, Fiona Campbell and Raymond Kennedy.

The committee would like to thank all Trade, Craft, Agricultural, Charity, Food Stands, Volunteers, Advertisers, Sponsors and Exhibitors and last but not least **YOU** the public for coming along to support us and help making the day successful. Here's to a bigger and better 2018 show.

Thanks also goes to the Blair Drummond Adventure and Safari Park for again being our Main Sponsor.



Some of this years competitors

If you are interested in Advertising, Sponsoring or Exhibiting at our Show in 2018 or indeed joining the committee, then get in touch using any of the methods below. Also check out our Facebook and Website for updates as they happen.

Check out our website www.douneanddunblaneshow.co.uk or Facebook page.

Email: info@douneanddunblaneshow.co.uk , Tel No: 07769336861

Back in Blair Drummond!

The Buchanans are excited to be moving home to Blair Drummond this Autumn. We've had a wonderful seven years in Switzerland, where I've been teaching in the International School of Berne.

As of September, I'll continue following my real passion - teaching and performing music.

If you want to try your hand at piano playing or have a budding mini Mozart, please get in touch at cgrantb@icloud.com

Everyone has their own melody - I can tailor a programme to suit you.

My Music Programme includes:

- Piano lessons at all levels for all ages
- Music theory tutoring
- An accompanist for exams or other occasions
- Pianist or harpist for events

Christine Buchanan

Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

Weekly Classes

Tuesday: Youth Club 7pm – 9pm (October to Easter)
Wednesday: Ballroom Dancing – 7.30 – 9.30pm

Events

Tuesday 15th August: Community Council. 7.30pm. All welcome.
Friday 25th August: Solasta & Moyenda Concert . 7.00pm (See page 22 for full advert)
Monday 28th August: Blair Drummond Blethers. 2-4pm. Afternoon Tea. Chat afternoon.
Tuesday 5th September: Blair Drummond Hall Committee AGM. 7.30pm. All welcome.
Monday 25th September: Blair Drummond Blethers. 12-2pm. Afternoon Tea. Bulb Planting. ***Please note change of time.***
Saturday 30th September: Blair Drummond Curling Club Quiz night 7.30pm – 11pm. Tickets £5. (See *Curling Club* article for further info.)
Tuesday 3rd October: Blair Drummond Youth Club 7pm – 9pm
Monday 30th October: Blair Drummond Blethers. 12–2pm. Soup & Sandwiches. Bring a Pal luncheon.
Friday 24th November: Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre. 7pm – 9pm. (For further information see Page 21).

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 or contact Louise (Booking Secretary) on 01786 841352.

Councillors for our area

Martin Earl

Tel: 01786 233114 / 07881 310922

earlm@stirling.gov.uk

Jeremy McDonald

Tel: 01786 233113

mcdonaldj@stirling.gov.uk

Evelyn Tweed

Tel: 01786 233121

tweede@stirling.gov.uk



Blair Drummond Curling Club

It gives me great pleasure to take on the position of Chair of Blair Drummond Curling Club, following on from Fred Bauer, who has done a sterling job.

Dates for your diary!

Friday 29th September at 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm: Come along to our **Try Curling Experience** for friends and family at the Peak, Stirling Sports Village, Forthside, Stirling FK8 1QZ, where there will be a Royal Curling

Club Coach in attendance. This will give you the opportunity to fling a few stones and get the feel of curling, under the watchful eye of an experienced coach. You can also meet members of the Club who will make you most welcome.

All equipment is supplied, including brushes and sliders. All you need is warm, loose-fitting clothing and clean, flat, rubber soled shoes (trainers are ideal).

Please contact our Club Secretary Stephen Walker, bdccsec@aol.com or on 07971616135.

Social Night! Saturday 30th September at 7.30pm – 11 pm: We have organised a **Quiz Night, with a few twists**, with entertainment from the Stevie Buchanan Experience at Blair Drummond Community Hall. Tickets at £5 are available, with tea/coffee sandwiches and cakes. Bring Your Own Booze. This evening will help to contribute to our Club development and coaching sessions for new members.

Please contact myself, on 07977441108 or email our Club Secretary, as above.

We offer free Club membership in your first year.

Ice fees per session : Full membership £9

Reduced fees for junior members £5.50

I look forward to meeting you at our forthcoming events.

Anne Christie, Chair BDCC

<u>BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE</u>	
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: Bob	
Tel: 01786 841580	
Mob: 07732 563106	

Graduations

Congratulations to Ashleigh Hamlyn who has recently graduated from The University Of Highlands & Islands with a BA (Honours) in Sociology & Politics. Ashleigh is going to start her Masters degree in International Relations at Glasgow University in September.



Congratulations to Lindsay Duff (*left*) who graduated on 4th July 2017 from The University of Edinburgh with a BA (Honours) degree in Interior Architectural Design. Lindsay is hoping to do some travelling prior to starting full time employment.

Births

Proud parents Alex and Gabi Ingle and big brother Leo, East Coldoch, Blair Drummond, are delighted to announce baby Lana Gabriela's safe arrival on 29th June 2017, weighing 7lbs 9 ounces. Mother and baby are both doing well.



Leo with his baby sister Lana

Police Scotland

Antisocial Behaviour

On 5th June 2017 a person was issued with a recorded police warning, for being in possession of a small quantity of a controlled drug, near to Blair Drummond Safari Park.

Road Safety

On 9th June 2017 a road traffic collision occurred near to Blair Drummond Safari Park.

On 23rd June 2017 a road collision occurred on the A84, near to Carrat Farm, where a van collided with a school bus. The road was closed for a short time. Thankfully there were no serious injuries.

Theft

On 4th June 2017 about 22.35 hours, a theft occurred at Agricar, Stirling Agricultural Centre. A white Ford Transit van and a black and orange Polaris buggy type vehicle were taken. If anyone has any information in relation to this incident, please contact Police Scotland on 101, quoting ref no: CF0077720617.

If anyone has any policing issues that they wish to discuss, please contact either PD Deans or PC McKerracher, at Callander police office, on 101, or email TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. Please note, this email should not be used to report an ongoing incident. These should be reported via 101 (non-emergency) or 999 in an emergency.

PC048 Deans and PC237 McKerracher, Trossachs & Teith Community Ward Officers, Callander Police Office.

Request from Doune Health Centre.

Patient Samples: Information Required

When handing in a sample that has been requested by a doctor, patients will be asked to complete a short sample Request Form, if no details are available on the sample bottle.

This is to ensure that the sample is processed correctly, either by the practice and/or at the laboratory at FVRH. Sample bottles without patient details cannot be processed.

The practice would appreciate our patients' help in providing this information if requested.

Linda Keay, Practice Nurse

Blair Drummond Blethers

The Blair Drummond Blethers in June were visited by a fabulous Ukulele Group called the Mondalays. This group of Ukulele playing ladies came from the nearby villages of Kippen and Drymen.

After a delicious afternoon of tea, coffee and, of course, home baked treats, everyone settled back to listen to the Mondalays. The Blethers were treated to a variety of music from the Beatles to the Beach Boys, Scottish favourites to the American Blue Ridge Mountains.

Toes were tapping, Blethers were singing and with the occasional (risqué) joke, it made for a wonderful afternoon of tea, cake, music and laughter.



In July the Blethers were fascinated to hear of the great work done by Guide Dogs, and of course, the trainers who train the dogs. Two volunteer trainers Alan and Tony, spoke passionately of the work achieved by the organisation to ensure quality of life and independence for those who are allocated a dog.

They brought along 3 of their dogs - Isaac, Kinta & Odelle, who certainly stole the show! A donation of £100 from Blair Drummond Blethers was sent to Guide Dogs.



August will be a Chat afternoon, alongside tea/coffee and cakes! Then in September we will be bulb planting! September will also see us changing the time of meeting to 12 – 2pm. The membership have decided that this meeting time will suit best for the entire year, so this should help cut out any confusion for folks joining us at future meetings. We look forward to seeing you there, if you are 50 years plus and live in the Blair Drummond Community or surrounding areas.

Pam Sandy.

What's happening at the Community Hall?

Over 100 people gathered at the Safari Park on Saturday 3rd June for the annual Barbecue organised by the Hall Committee. It was a great night enjoyed by all. Thanks go to the Muir Family for the use of their excellent facilities.

The Hall now has a Loop System fitted to benefit people with poorer hearing and improvements have also been made to the Sound System.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held in the hall on **Tuesday 5th September starting at 7.30p.m.** The evening will conclude with Cheese and Wine. All are welcome to this meeting.

We will be holding our annual Christmas Fayre on Friday 24th November from 7pm till 9pm. For further details see page 21.

Hopefully we will be organising another Beetle Drive in the autumn and will advertise it on our website www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk and on our Facebook page **Blair Drummond Community Hall**

Janette Gilliland, Chairperson



MOT's SERVICING TYRES EXHAUSTS

EXHAUSTS TYRES SERVICING MOT's

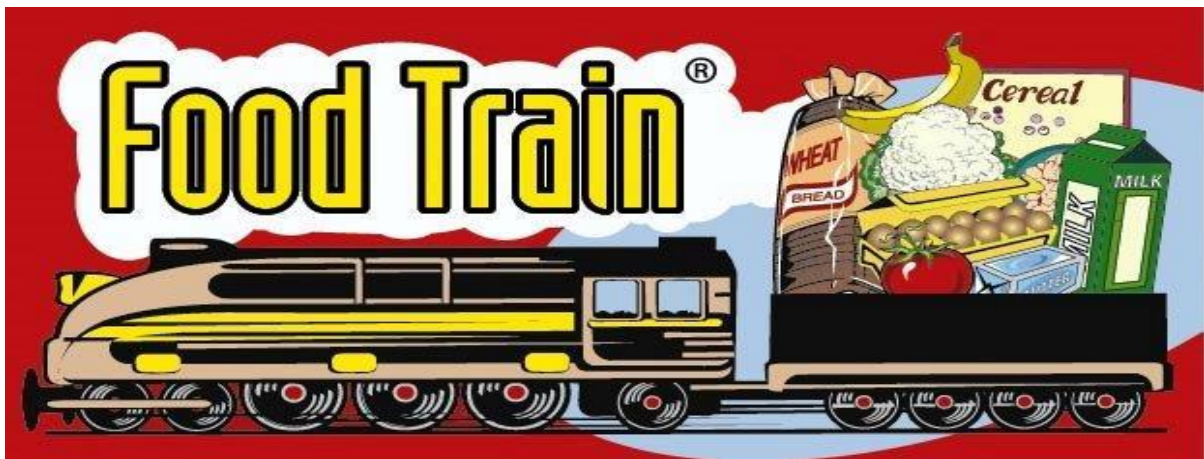
DVO specialise in the servicing and repair of cars and light commercials. We can deal with any make or model and offer a courtesy car or free uplift/drop off service.

WE NOW OFFER A FULL BODYWORK REPAIR SERVICE – IF YOU HAVE AN ACCIDENT GIVE US A CALL

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WE CAN SERVICE IT
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Call Keni or Sheena on 01786 850500 / directvehicleopt@aol.com

We are open Mon to Sat 8:00 – 20:00, Sun by appointment
Janefield, Ruskie, Stirling FK8 3LG - All major cards accepted, Vat registered



Stirling Charity Food Train are excited to announce they have launched a new partnership with Waitrose. The Food Train is a charity that provides a vital grocery delivery service for older people who struggle to do their own shopping, which may be due to frailty, ill health or disability. In Stirling alone there are 51 volunteers who put in 15,000 volunteering hours each year. Food Train currently offer customers the shopping service at Morrisons and Sainsbury's, but are pleased to be able to give customers more choice by extending this service to Waitrose. Volunteers call at a client's home to collect the shopping list or its taken by phone/email. Shopping is delivered on either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. On receipt of the shopping the client pays the cost of the shopping, plus a small delivery charge which covers costs as Food Train is not-for-profit.

Speaking on behalf of Food Train, regional Manager Fran Thow said how grateful they were to Waitrose for supporting the work of the charity. *"We are delighted that Waitrose is now a partner and some of our customers are excited to be able to shop at Waitrose again. Our service is vital in helping older customers to live independently and to access the food they need".*

If you are an older person living in Stirling or the surrounding area and need help with your shopping, call the Food Train on (01786) 450536. If you would like to find out more about volunteering with Food Train, check www.thefoodtrain.co.uk, email: stirling@thefoodtrain.co.uk find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/foodtrainstirling

Can you help? Have you got an hour or two to spare on a weekday? We are looking for Buggy Walk Leaders to help parents with their new arrivals and getting them to enjoy the health benefits of walking and talking. No experience required as full support and training in your role will be given. Walking is great and you too, as a volunteer, can enjoy the lovely walks across Stirling. If interested or want to find out more please get in touch by sending an email, even if you can only spare an hour a month. Thank you.

Post of: Buggy Walk Assistant (Volunteer)

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 10.30 - 11.30am and after for refreshments
Thursday 2.00 - 3.00pm and after for refreshments

Email: claytonb@activestirling.org.uk



Forth Valley Vets have moved!

We have recently moved from the Springkerse Industrial Estate to our new premises at **Falleninch Farm, Dumbarton Road, Stirling FK8 3AB** (on the M9 side of Stirling Castle). This will allow us to expand the practice and eventually add equine facilities. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more updates. Our phone number will stay the same and we will be providing out of hours service as normal.

Tel: 01786430387

www.forthvalleyvets.co.uk

Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre

This year's Christmas Fayre will be held in the hall on **Friday 24th November, from 7pm till 9pm.**

The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards the purchase of the loop system which has been installed in the hall.

Many regular stallholders will be returning but we are also hoping to add some new stalls this year, so if you or anyone you know might like to take a stall please contact me.

For further information contact Catherine on - Tel: 01786 860246 or Email: grasslands@hotmail.co.uk

Dreamnight at the Safari Park 2017

Blair Drummond Safari Park was proud to host a “Dreamnight at the zoo” on the evening of Friday 2nd June. The sun was shining, staff were on great form, and the atmosphere was electric.

“Dreamnight” is a global event in which zoos and aquariums open their doors for one night only, to terminally ill or disabled children and their families, as well as those facing life-long conditions. The evening is completely free of charge with the intention of giving families a more personal and friendly evening at the zoo – a VIP evening, just for them! The idea started in 1996 with just one zoo - to date 281 partners in 29 countries join in the event every year.

Education Officer, Katie Macfarlane, who organised the event said:

“Hosting an event such as this was our absolute pleasure. We are aware that having a child or family member facing a life-long condition can make it a bit harder to visit busy attractions, such as the Safari Park. Daily activities that a lot of us take for granted can present more of a challenge. The aim of this evening was to give guests a more relaxed, personal experience – we all need a bit of fun once in a while, and we were happy to provide it!”



The ticketed event ran after hours, with a host of amazing special guests and animal related fun. Free toys were handed out and everyone had their face painted, and enjoyed a free ice cream, all courtesy of the Safari Park. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service brought their fire engine and Ochil Scottish Mountain Rescue brought along

their rescue vehicles. The families loved getting the chance to see inside these vehicles and to try on the relevant uniforms. Forth Valley Police Division & Wildlife Crime Unit had fun with all the children, “arresting” naughty parents (and staff!) and teaching them all about the illegal wildlife trade. Scott Lovat, Children’s Entertainer, wowed crowds with his magic throughout the evening and Jojo’s Little Party People were on hand with Queen Elsa – she helped announce winners of the raffle at the Sea Lion show and enjoyed meeting fans all evening!

Staff and keepers at Blair Drummond were on hand to chat to visitors about the animals in all sections – families marvelled at the tigers at their feeding time, the birds of prey during a show, and the cheeky sea lions managed to entertain the crowd as usual! A personal boat tour round Chimp Island was running all evening, with our chimpanzee



keepers, as well as feeds in Lemurland. A highlight of the evening had to be baby Bonnie the 9months old white rhino and her mum getting a mud bath from keepers. It was well past Bonnie's bed time, so she was a wee bit lazy, much to the amusement of the audience! Visitors had a great time learning about life behind the scenes from all our keepers, and volunteers were on hand with loads of animal biofacts to examine.

Katie continued *“The evening was truly fantastic – we could have not have asked for a better night! The weather was on our side, but even if it was raining I’m sure we all would have had fun! Having representatives from the attending charities at stalls in the restaurant was a brilliant addition. Families could chat to the charities they had received the tickets from and it gave Blair Drummond staff the opportunity to learn about some of Scotland’s charities working with children facing life-long conditions.”*



The Safari Park distributed tickets to twelve different charities working throughout Scotland, focusing on the Stirlingshire area. The charities are then responsible for giving out the tickets to their chosen families.

“This year was a bit of a trial run” says Katie, “we didn’t advertise it whilst organising. We hope to continue to host Dreamnights every year in June, and for them to get bigger and better!”

Miss Macfarlane would like to thank all the Safari Park suppliers, who donated hundreds of free toys and refreshments, and for the special guests who all helped make the night as enjoyable as possible for families. The Safari Park staff went above and beyond, giving up their free time to make sure everyone enjoyed their night. Most of all, she would like to extend her thanks to the children and families who attended. The night could not have been such a success were it not for the cheery, smiley faces of all those who trekked up to the Safari Park from far and wide.

Thank you from all the staff and beasties at Blair Drummond Safari Park – we hope to see you again soon!

Blair Drummond Grapevine Volunteers

For a good number of years now the Grapevine has been brought to you in either electronic format, or hard copy hand delivered, by a group of volunteers.

We thought it was time to identify the folks who, in rain and shine, have hand delivered the local newsletter to your door –

Mary Inglis, Catherine Killen, Alison Coates, Mirren Graham, Gail Robb, Helen Graham, Louise Maxwell & Christine Bauer
and to say a big thank you to them!

We would also like to say thank you to Maggie Sherriff for all the years she delivered The Grapevine.

Can you take your next edition of The Grapevine by Email?

The paper copies of The Grapevine are delivered by a small group of volunteers. We understand that not everyone has access to a computer so we are very happy to hand deliver a paper copy to them. However if you could receive your copy by email please help us by sending us your contact details and a note of your address(so we know where to stop delivering a paper copy to). Thank you.

grasslands@hotmail.co.uk or christinemcbauer@gmail.com



Solasta & Moyenda

Friday 25th Aug 19.00 Blairdrummond Hall FK9 4UX

Saturday 26th Aug 19.00 Church of the Holy Rude
Stirling FK8 1ED

Ticket price £12 (£10 concession)
Proceeds to Iona Community Capital Appeal

Tickets from Eventbrite or Jenni at 01786 462366

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:

christinemcbauer@gmail.com

or

grasslands@hotmail.co.uk

Items for **Issue No 26** should be submitted by **31st October 2017**, 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.

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