

Issue 26

## **The Grapevine**

November 2017

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



*Marjorie Bryce, Betty Mitchell, Janet Graham & Muriel Inglis*

### **Blair Drummond Ladies**

In August we had the pleasure of interviewing 4 local farmers' wives, whilst we all enjoyed having morning coffee and cakes! Marjorie Bryce, Janet Graham, Muriel Inglis & Betty Mitchell, share much in common, have a wealth of local knowledge and all have a great sense of humour.

**Question.** We asked – Were they brought up in this area, how they met their husband, what was their role on the farm and would they have preferred another role?

## **Answers.**

**Marjorie** was born at Powbridge, Airth but her school friend stayed at Cambusdrennie Farm, so she was often in this area. Bill Bryce took Marjorie and her friend to Young Farmers dances as they couldn't drive and he picked up Tommy Bryce too. Marjorie (age 27years), after 5 years engagement, married Tommy in 1962 and moved into Chalmerston, where they still are today.

As there were a lot more workmen on farms then, Marjorie fed the men and looked after the children as they came along. Her father in law did the bookwork and Marjorie kept hens for pocket money. She enjoyed her role in the business very much.

**Janet** was born at West Drip Farm, the eldest of 5 girls. She has never stayed more than 2.5 miles from where she was born, with the exception of 4 years when she lived at Causewayhead! She came to live at Rossburn Lane Farm after she married (aged 22years) George in 1957 and all her children were born there, before moving back to West Drip when her parents retired.

As both were from Blair Drummond it had originally been a gradual getting to know one another with George, as Janet was friendly with his sister. George was the 3<sup>rd</sup> son in the family and because he was shy he asked his oldest brother, on his behalf, to ask Janet to go out on a date with him!

On the farm she was part of the team and even after her son John was born one June, she was out helping in the fields that summer. She also tended to the hens. Her role was much a continuation of her pre-marriage life. In later years she took in caravans for storage over the winter and then did B & B (in caravans) for 40 years.

**Muriel** was born in the Callander area and the family moved around several farms when the children were young. They moved to Norrieston Farm, Thornhill in 1953 from Kinloch Rannoch. Muriel wonders if perhaps her father thought there were more opportunities in this area for his family of 7 to meet their future wives/husbands! The previous owners of Norrieston were the Jamiesons, who were aunt and uncle of John Inglis her future husband.

Engaged for just under a year, Muriel (aged 28 years) and John moved to Briarlands Farm after they married in 1961. In fact four of the family were married within 6 months!

Muriel raised the family and helped with the farming at first but later on had a job working for the Muir family at Blair Drummond House, for a few

hours a week, which she thoroughly enjoyed and felt that it enhanced her life. She also did B & B in the farmhouse for 25 years.

**Betty** was born at West Carse Farm, and moved to the Offers Farm in 1953 when she married (20years old) her husband Archie, following a short engagement. Her husband had previously worked on another farm but left, under doctors orders, as he had been ill with pleurisy and pneumonia. He moved into the town and got a job as a grain merchant, meeting Betty whilst trying to sell grain to her father.

Archie did not enjoy selling and when the previous tenants at Offers Farm left, he took over the tenancy in 1950. Betty enjoyed her life working alongside her Best Friend and wouldn't have changed anything! She was often called on to help on the farm, as well as feeding the men and taking care of the family. There were 3 men to feed every day, with up to 20 men on mill days!

When she first moved to Offers there was no electricity and the water was pumped from the Forth into a tank but there was a toilet in the house! One of Betty's happy memories was the family taking walks around their fields on Sunday evenings.

**Question.** We then asked the ladies if, for their children, they had any anxieties?

**Answers.**

They all agreed that things had worked out well for their families. None had been pressured into farming and, as there were plenty of workers still employed on farms then, they didn't need the family to stay at home and work. Each of the women were happy to have their family make their own choices. And all thought there were more opportunities and choices for their family than for the parent generation.

The ladies commented that nowadays, thanks to mechanisation, one man can do the work of six.

**Question.** Do you think life is harder for farming families nowadays?

**Answers.**

It's definitely harder for farming families today and a very different life. As a result many people are not as content as in years gone by, when overall it was a hard but happy life in farming.

Because there were more farm workers, full time as well as seasonal, more jobs around the farm got done. The hedges were always cut and tapered, weeds got rid of and ditches cleared. The countryside was better cared for and everyone had more 'respect' for it.

Today there is so much paperwork to be completed and too many rules – such as farmers can't cut hedges until September etc. so their hands are often tied.

Computer communication has hugely changed farming too.

Marjory Bryce's father said that there couldn't be as many changes in his second 50 years as there had been in the first. But things *have* changed and sometimes not for the better!

**Question.** What are the biggest changes?

**Answers**

More houses. Lots of holiday lets. Changes to planning regulations have had a major impact. More cyclists on roads. The right to roam almost anywhere. People not always considerate when they come out to the country, they could give more thought to what they are doing and where they are.

**Question.** And finally, we asked are there changes you would like to see in the wider community?

**Answers.**

Common courtesy. Respect for others than themselves. Less reliance on TV and internet.

In conclusion everyone was very content with the life they have had farming in Blair Drummond and wouldn't have changed a thing.

It was a pleasure to talk with the ladies and we would like to thank them for their time and insights.

| <b><u>BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE</u></b> |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hardwood Logs                       | £190/ load               |
| Hardwood Logs                       | £95/ half load           |
| Hardwood Limbs                      | £100/load                |
| Softwood Logs                       | £140/ load               |
| Softwood Logs                       | £70 half load            |
| Softwood Limbs                      | £80/load                 |
| Small bags                          | £6 for hardwood          |
| Small bags                          | £5 for softwood          |
| Contact: <b>Bob</b>                 |                          |
| <b>Tel: 01786 841580</b>            | <b>Mob: 07732 563106</b> |



## **Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre**

This year's Christmas Fayre takes place on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**, from **7pm till 9pm**, in the Blair Drummond Community Hall.

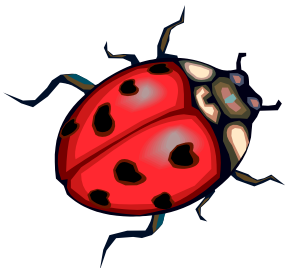
We have over 20 stalls coming along, including -

The Wee Cake Shop; Neals Yard Remedies; Handbag Parties; Partylite Candles; Flamingo Paperie; Glass Daisy; Riverside Reflexology; Whitehill Preserves; Kincardine in Menteith Primary School & Parent Council as well as many of the regular stallholders who have been coming along every year.

Again we will have a Charity Raffle which will be drawn on the night – the prizes being donated by the stallholders. The money raised from the raffle this year will be donated to the BD Hall, which recently installed a Hearing Loop System.

We hope you will be able to come along and support us, as well as buying some unique Christmas gifts.

**Admission is - £1 for adults; Children 50p; this includes tea/juice and mince pie/shortbread.**



## **Beetle Drive**

In Blair Drummond Hall on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. Admission £1. Raffle 50p/strip. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## **Blair Drummond Blethers**

The Blethers have enjoyed the change of meeting times, which is now set at 12 – 2pm, on the last Monday of the month, at the BD Hall. And the range of soups and sarnies are certainly being enjoyed by everyone.

In November we look forward to hearing the Primary school children do their Christmas songs and in December we will have a Chat afternoon. Then before we know it we are into another year which, come the Spring, will be the 5<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Blethers, when there may be a cake to celebrate!



# The Great British Beach Clean 2017

By Fraser McBeath

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 the whole school went to North Berwick to take part in the Great British Beach Clean. The school have adopted a bit of the beach in North Berwick so we go every year, to do a beach clean to help the environment and sea creatures.

When we arrived at North Berwick, Andrew from the Sea Bird Centre met us outside. Then he took us inside and we had our snack then he talked to us about rock pooling. Next Andrew took us down to the rocky part of the beach and we all walked around lifting up small rocks looking for sea creatures. We all had to walk because if you ran you could have slipped and been hurt on the rocks. All I could find was sea snails and some tiny fast swimming fish in the rock pools.



Some people were lucky enough to find crabs. I couldn't find any but I wish I had. Also we found some sea anemones. We collected all the sea creatures that we found in a plastic tray filled with sea water, so that everyone could have a look at them. At the end of the morning we released all the creatures back into the sea. After that Andrew took us back up to the Sea Bird Centre and we had our lunch.

After lunch we went down to the part of the beach that we had adopted to do the beach clean. Andrew took us down and we met up with Catherine from the Marine Conservation Society and she took some pictures of us holding our litter pickers.

Finally we started our beach clean. We had to measure out 100 metres along the beach. Then we separated into 2 groups and we started cleaning the beach. Eventually the two groups met in the middle. We

collected all sorts of stuff, for example: plastic bottles, bottle caps, metal, cigarette butts, rope, glass, cotton buds, plastic bags, pottery, nets, paper and sweetie wrappers.

A list of all the items that we found goes to the Scottish Government, which in turn helps the government enforce new laws. Recent laws include charging 5p for plastic bags in shops and the new proposal of having money refunded for plastic bottle returns. After we had collected the rubbish and logged



what we had found on our record sheets, it was time to jump back on the bus and return to school.

### **3F (Friends, Faith & Fun)**

This friendly, informal group for ladies living around the West Carse, meets on the last Tuesday of the month in Kilmadock Church, on the Main Street in Doune.

Now in our fourth season, the group is growing but there's still room and a warm welcome for new faces. Our November meeting (Tues 28<sup>th</sup>) is a St Andrew's Night, with a traditional menu of stovies followed by dumpling and ice cream, coffee and entertainment. There are still a few places left, so give Fiona a ring on Tel 01786 860678.

Knowing how busy everyone is over Christmas, we don't meet in December but we gather again on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, when Mary Young will encourage us to try our hands at cake decorating. If you're thinking of entering the next Bake-off, this could increase your skills!

Kilmadock Church is at 43 Balkerach Street (beside the bus shelter); parking on-street.

**Fiona Campbell**

## **Forth Valley Countryside Initiative**

Forth Valley Countryside Initiative (FVCI) is the local branch of RHET (Royal Highland Educational Trust), a charity which aims to bring the classroom to the countryside by offering free resources, farm visits and classroom speakers to schools across Stirling, Clackmannan and Falkirk areas.

Our main fundraiser was the RHET Run, a 5 k family fun run, from Briarlands Farm round the Safari Park. We had 136 runners and raised £1,122, which in RHET terms means we will be able to offer subsidised bus transport to 11 classes, to enjoy a learning experience on a farm. Huge thanks must go to Trossachs Search & Rescue, Callander Young Farmers and West Perthshire Pony Club, for all their volunteers and to Briarlands and the Safari Park for the use of their facilities.

FVCI is pleased to announce that there will be a 2018 RHET Run, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June, so dust off your trainers and get jogging!

Another great fundraiser is the newly formed RHET Factor Choir. If you fancy joining this jolly posse, we meet once a week at Briarlands, for 90mins of singing. We hope to secure a couple of carol singing/fundraising dates pre Christmas. Please contact Katie at [forthvalley@rhet.org.uk](mailto:forthvalley@rhet.org.uk) or 07738470208.

**Katie Brisbane**

## **Weather Facts**

So, here are the weather stats from local farmer Alan Brisbane. Now before you all choke on your coffee, I'd like to point out that under average conditions we would expect 40 dry days during July, August and September, this year we have had only 16!! We are on course though for a drier than average year, as January, April, May, July, August and September recorded below average rainfall.... April was one of the lowest ever with a mere 7.6mm

Hay and harvest on the Carse has been incredibly tricky this year, as we have had so few dry days together. This is evident when you notice fields with straw still lying. Many farmers have also got their cattle back in the sheds earlier than normal, as the fields are now too wet to support them.

So, looking ahead, we hope the experts are proved wrong, and we move away from the warm damp conditions we have experienced recently!



## Blair Drummond Tigers

We are the Blair Drummond Tigers Football Club, and this is an open letter of thanks to Jamie and Hector Muir and their families for their support and sponsorship, and a particular note of thanks to John Edgar for kindly donating his own time and effort to maintaining the pitch for us.



We started in Easter of 2017 with only one child – our son Seb. We went to see Jamie Muir to enquire about the possibility of using some land to practice on, and he very kindly suggested that we use the field next to the school. We have since nicknamed the pitch ‘Tiger Hart Lane’ (a nod to Tottenham Hotspur’s home ground, Coach Chris’s favourite team!). We were delighted that Hector Muir agreed to the Safari Park sponsoring us, which helped us to cover most of the initial costs of starting up the team. When we first started to practice the field had quite a few humps and bumps, but we were so happy to have a place for our team to grow that we certainly didn’t mind. What we didn’t expect to happen was the transformation of the surface that John Edgar was able to bring about. It is a wonderful playing surface for children to learn on and the kids now often comment on how it looks just like the pitches the pros play on – “with all the lines on it!”

Next year we plan to re-establish the Friday night football which so many locals remember: and we hope to host this fortnightly. We are looking to get an idea of the local interest first, and if there are enough people we will get the ball rolling (excuse the pun!). The format will be ‘walking football’, where kids under 8 can run as they play – but anyone older has to walk! We hope that this will encourage people of all ages to come down and join in. For more information, or to register your interest, please keep an eye on our Facebook page: ([www.facebook.com/BDTigersFC](https://www.facebook.com/BDTigersFC)), or we can be emailed on: [blairdrummondigers@gmail.com](mailto:blairdrummondigers@gmail.com).

We are having a community-wide kick-about on the afternoon of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December (from 12pm) at the playing field by Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary School, so please feel free to come down and join the Tigers – all ages and levels of expertise are welcome!

We are very grateful to all of the support we’ve had so far. The children absolutely adore the team and are creating lasting friendships already.

Give us a honk if you see us practising on Wednesday evening, you'll all be able to see the floodlights!

**ChrisThompson, Coach**

## **Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council**

A meeting of the Community Council was held on 26th September in Thornhill Primary School. A range of local issues were discussed.

### **Roads**

Traffic flow through Thornhill continues to be an issue of local concern. The 'nib' has not proved very effective in regulating the traffic and preventing vehicles from mounting the pavement to allow them to pass each other. Although the Community Council had suggested a solution (a part-time parking restriction on one side of the road), this has not proved acceptable to the residents, and we are having to think again.

Potential improvements on the A84, to ease both the traffic and congestion problems by the Safari Park/Briarlands junction, are once again under discussion by Stirling Council.

### **Police Matters**

Local concerns were raised that the 101 telephone service is not proving to be a reliable means of contacting the police on no-critical matters.

Car crime has been noted, especially for vehicles which are left unattended in secluded car parks. Extra attention and patrols are being arranged by the police as a deterrent.

### **Stirling Council**

A full review is being called to address the 'Services Allocation Model'. A Working Group is being called in the meantime to assist in getting things going.

The waste collection policy for rural, road-end collections is similarly being reviewed. At present, the policy is for housing groups of less than 15 to be road-end serviced.

### **Other Matters**

The lack of routine nursing attendance at the Thornhill Health Centre is causing concerns in the village. Residents have to travel to Doune to see the nurse. A public meeting is being held to discuss the matter.

Discussions are underway to see if the DRT (i.e. Demand Responsive Transport) system can be extended to better service the needs of local community residents.

**Ken Ingle, Community Councillor**

## Blair Drummond Curling Club

The start to another new curling season.

On the playing front, the various competitions are well underway, with club and interclub fixtures. And we had the opening Province Bonspiel for the Doune Rose bowl in September.



Thank you for all your support and donations for the raffle for the very successful Quiz Night on 30<sup>th</sup> September. The event raised the sum of £647 which will be used for club development and attracting new members. We also had the first winners of the magnificent Blair Drummond Curling Club Quiz Trophy with the “Conkers” from

Gargunnock – Jessie Wyllie, Grace Smellie, Anne Muirhead, Julia Hay and Claire McDonald. Special thanks to the “Headmaster” aka Maitland Clark, who was the Quizmaster for the evening and nearly managed to keep everyone in order!! I would like to thank the committee, club members and friends who contributed to make the evening such a success.

Our “Try Curling” event on 29<sup>th</sup> September at the Peak had an excellent turnout with expert coaching from experienced coach Derek Young. We are looking to hold another one on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30 at the Peak. Please contact myself, Anne Christie on 07977441108, or Secretary Steve Walker on 07971616135 if you would like to give it a go. The previous participants had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, with some showing an interest in taking up the sport.

Have a happy and healthy new year!

**Anne Christie, Chair, Blair Drummond Curling Club**

## Births



Proud parents Daisy and Chris Peach, Ramoth, Blair Drummond, are delighted to introduce twins Matilda Jane (left) and Felix James, born on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017. At birth Matilda was 5lbs 9ozs and Felix 6lbs. All are doing well.



Gillian and Euan Reilly, The Orchard, Blair Drummond, are delighted to announce the birth of their son Aaron James on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2017, weighing in at 8lbs 1oz. He is doing really well and is adored by his sister Ellen.





Nicola and Andrew Drummond, Ashentree Farm, Blair Drummond, are very happy to introduce Flora Belle, born 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017, weighing 8lbs. Mother and baby are both doing well and Gracie is very much enjoying being big sister.

## Marriages

Congratulations to Elaine Montgomerie, Coylton, Ayrshire and Ross Drummond, Nether Spittalton, Blair Drummond who were married on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at Fisherton Church, Dunure, Ayrshire. The happy couple are now living at Cambusbarron.



## Obituary - Alistair Durie



Our community and many others suffered a sad loss on the death of Alistair Durie on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Just before his death Alistair was asked how he would like to be remembered. He replied 'a life in which as much as possible was done'. This, for sure, is how we will remember him. His activities and commitments were numerous and his enthusiasm boundless.

Dr Durie was a popular lecturer on Economic History, firstly at the University of Aberdeen, then Glasgow and finally Stirling, where he was also on the academic staff of the Open University. He was an exceptional Lay Preacher, regularly conducting services at our own Kincardine in Menteith Church, where he was a much loved Elder. But Alistair took services all over this area – Buchlyvie, Fintry, and Kippen to name but three, and was popular wherever he went, as evidenced by the number of friends from numerous churches at his funeral service. The service was also packed with friends from his University connections and those with whom he shot. Shooting was a great passion of Alistair's – almost an obsession – as were his dogs and knowledgeable love of the countryside. Sport too was another passion, whether participating at cricket or on the squash court, or watching rugby or other sports on TV. Appropriately for a Senior Lecturer Alistair was the author of several books and papers, on banking, medicine, travel and tourism. To the foregoing impressive list of activities one should also add his playing bridge, singing in two choirs and being a lay assessor with the Law Society of Scotland, participating in their committees on Client Care, Guarantee Fund and Professional Conduct.

Alistair's characteristics included an element of mischievousness. He enjoyed poking fun at any pomposity or pretentiousness in persons or institutions and his restless intelligence could very occasionally make him difficult but when all is weighted on the scales, they came down heavily and massively on the side of a person intelligent, gifted and always fun to be with. Every time one met Alistair there was laughter and one came away feeling invigorated.

Along with Kate his wife, and his children Alex and Ruth, together with all who knew him, we will miss a person who certainly did in his life as much as possible and helped make the world a better place.

**Ronald Graham**

## Blair Drummond Youth Club

The Youth Club meets every Tuesday between October and Easter, from 7 to 9pm in the Community Hall and is open to anyone, aged 10 years and over.

The Club is a great way for youngsters to catch up with friends in a relaxed environment, while taking part in group activities. Sometimes visiting guests come along to teach new skills or there are trips and outings organised.



Youth Club membership is £10 per year, with a £1 charge per night. The Tuck Shop is reasonably priced. Numbers are low this year, so if anyone aged 10 or over would like to join us, please come along.

A new Leader is also required, if you know of anyone who would like to help out on a Tuesday evening, please contact us.

If you would like more information about the Youth Club, please contact Mary on: 07443455978 or Lorna on: 07851364227.

**Mary Inglis Youth Leader**

### **HANDYMAIN**

- General household repairs
- Garden maintenance
- Decorating
- Flat pack furniture building

***No job too small***

Contact: **Clinton Main**

**Tel: 01786 842927**

**Mob: 07909967819**

**Email: [Clinton.main@btinternet.com](mailto:Clinton.main@btinternet.com)**

## Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

### Weekly Classes

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

### Events

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November:** Beetle Drive 7pm (*See page 5 for details*)  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November:** Christmas Fayre 7pm – 9pm (*See page 5 for further details*)  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November:** Blair Drummond Blethers. 12-2pm.  
Soup & sandwiches. School children singing.  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December:** Blair Drummond Hall Committee meeting.  
7.30pm. All welcome.  
**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December:** Youth Club AGM at 7pm.  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** Blair Drummond Blethers. 12-2pm.  
Soup & sandwiches. Chat afternoon.  
**January/February 2018:** Defibrillator training. Date to be confirmed.

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 233114 / 07881 310922

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

**Jeremy McDonald**

Tel: 01786 233113

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

**Evelyn Tweed**

Tel: 01786 233121

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



## Briarlands Farm - Season extended!!

YAY!

This year we have decided to keep part of the outside Fun Yard open!!! So until 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018, we will have the Jumping Pillows (weather permitting), Go-Karts, Diggers, Soft Archery and our new Straw Box open every day 10.00 – 4.30pm for you to enjoy (closed Christmas and Boxing Day plus 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> January).



As always, entrance to the Café and Soft Play area will be free, so you can come along and enjoy a coffee and some home-baking, while your little ones have a play.

Craft activities for those feeling creative, include Ceramic Painting and Sand Art for small additional charges and mean you will have treasures to take away with you!

If you have a season ticket, we are extending these, as a gesture of goodwill, at no additional charge.

**Winter admission** price for the outside area during this time will be £5 per Child; £2.75 per Adult; £2.00 Concession with a Family ticket at £14.00.

**2018/19 Season Passes** will go on sale 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 and will be valid from 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – buy online or from Admissions at the Early Bird rate .. take advantage of this offer for exceptional value for money.

**If you have a Birthday in November or December you can now enjoy a Briarlands Birthday Party!**

2 options are available -

**Option 1 - Outside/animal party**.....this will include an Animal Handling session with the little furries, a Tractor & Trailer ride and a play in the Straw Box followed by the usual food and cake in the designated party area within the Tearoom.

**Option 2 - Craft party**..... Try your hand at Decopatch, or make a Sandart picture, or try our new Ceramic Painting experience and paint a little memento to take away with you, followed by the food and cake.



## Christmas at Kincardine in Menteith Kirk.

This year around Christmas time you will be welcome to come and celebrate the birth of the King of kings, with carols and neighbours, as we recall the story of star and Bethlehem shepherds; of Mary, Joseph and the child named Jesus who was born in a stable and called Saviour of the World.

We worship every Sunday morning at 9.30am in Kincardine in Menteith Church so during Advent there will be morning worship on Sundays, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> December ....and also the 31<sup>st</sup>!

On 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. - **Christmas Eve, come to our special carol service at 8.00pm**, which will enable folk to celebrate and get a good night's sleep! And **"Yes!"** we will have the spiced apple juice and mince pies from 7.15pm.

If you really want the midnight experience, there is a carol service in Gargunnoch Kirk beginning at 11.30pm.

**Christmas Day** family worship will be at 10.00am in both Doune Church and Gargunnoch Church.

## The Rev's Remembrance: Saved !



I was brought up in North Berwick on the east coast and one stormy Saturday back in the '60s, at the age of 12, I was playing with friends down at the harbour. There were some great waves battering the shore that day. Running along the sea-wall between the waves, trying not to get wet was one way local boys displayed their bravado (or was it stupidity?). It was great fun...that was until I faltered, slipped on the seaweed, fell and ended up on the wrong side of the wall in amongst the waves and water. Unable to swim at that time, I was in deep trouble. It was a young soldier, home on leave, who dived in and dragged me out, cold and shaken onto the rocks. It did nothing for his dedicated-follower-of-fashion civvy-outfit.

My father showed his huge sense of relief at his son's rescue, in an unexpected and what would now be called, unacceptable way: and with my ear still ringing the following day, I was marched along to the home of the soldier to deliver a well-rehearsed fulsome apology and a thank-you card with two £10 notes tucked inside. His response too was a bit unexpected. He looked at me, then the ruined winkle-picker shoes, then back at me and grunted, "Just make sure you were worth saving!"

Each year around this time as I stand beside a war memorial and survey the names of those who never returned home from war, I remember these words: "Just make sure you were worth saving." These words also come sharply into focus each time I hear or read the gospel story of Jesus of Nazareth. "Make sure you were worth saving!"

Remembering what has been done for us by others isn't about living in the past; it can be what enables us to be our best today and tomorrow, ..... and it's never too late to be better!

Your minister

**Andy Campbell**

## **Blair Drummond Smiddy Farm Shop News**

By the time this goes to print, we will have been open a year! Where has the time gone?

Since the last Smiddy news that went into The Grapevine, lots of things have been happening at The Smiddy. The most important one being all the staff babies that have been born! In May, our Head Chef, Dave, welcomed his baby daughter into the world, followed by a baby boy for Stewart, the Butchery Manager. Most recently, Daisy, our Manager, gave birth to twins! A pink one and a blue one, as Daisy herself said! Colin, the Assistant Manager and his partner are expecting their first baby at Christmas. A very fecund place to work!

As the year progressed, a rhythm developed and we have all settled in well and have become part of local, daily life. Our shelves are fully stocked now and have every day essentials as well as new and different products to try! In the shop, you will always receive a warm welcome from the 'front of house' ladies, who are there to help you find the products you need and also the ones you didn't know you needed until you saw them! The alcohol shelves are groaning under the weight of all the new Scottish gins we now have, that need to be tried! If you need a gift, the shop just about has something for everyone.

Our Deli is going from strength to strength, under the watchful eye of Sally-Ann, our Cheesemonger and her assistants! Sally-Ann can slice cheese and meats freshly for our customers and we also do our own prepacks for speedy shoppers! The chiller has delicious, fish products from Murray



Smoked Products, as well as other exciting foodstuffs.

The Smiddy Butchery is our major success story thanks to Stewart and his hard-working team. We are now, officially, an 'Award Winning Butcher'! The boys have won several competitions so far this year and are finalists in the U.K. New Butchery Business of the Year. There's a trip to London in November for the award ceremony. The butchery department have also had to increase their staff to four, in order to keep up with demand. Robbie is our 'new' boy and has completed the team nicely. The Butchery has a large, regular customer base and always has new and fresh ideas for all their customers. The team can take orders for special requirements, prepare your meat on site as you wait and they also have pre-prepared meals in the chillers for those of us in a hurry!

In our Café, our youthful team are always pleased to welcome you in for a quick tea or coffee, or even something more substantial. Our breakfasts are a great way to start your day! The 'Specials' board always has something new and Carrie, our Baker is kept very busy producing all the cakes and scones for the café and the shop. The kitchen has even started producing our own ready meals, chutneys, dressings and jams, for our customers to buy and take home.

The Smiddy looks forward to seeing you soon!

## **A new Sports Centre at Camphill Blair Drummond**

At Camphill Blair Drummond we propose to build a small multi-purpose Sports Hall within our grounds. Whilst its primary purpose is to meet the needs of our current residents, day students and volunteers, we feel there is scope to offer the building to external groups looking for the following facilities:

Gym with a suite of cardio-vascular equipment and weights; Multi-use games area; a venue for Club training; a venue for sports competitions a smaller room for 1:1 therapy facilities; massage, reflexology, Reiki etc.

Prior to agreeing the scope of the building with the architect, we would be interested in gauging the demand from local groups within the area, in order to take account of the needs of the wider community.

If you belong to a Sports Group or Club or operate as an individual Therapist, please contact Sandra Sabiston, for an informal discussion in the first instance:

[sandra@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk](mailto:sandra@camphillblairdrummond.org.uk)

01786 841573 ext 115



## Doune Health Centre

### Vaccines Update

#### Flu Vaccine

Available for patients who are 65 years and over, or in an 'At Risk' group. If you missed our Drop-in Clinics please make an appointment with one of the nurses, at a time that suits you.

If you would like to have flu injection and are not in an 'At Risk' group, or 65 years old, then you should obtain one privately from one of our local pharmacies. Ask at the Woodside Pharmacy. A vaccine costs approximately £10 – 12.

#### Child Nasal Flu Vaccine

Please make an appointment with Nurse Lynne Bryce, if your child requires a nasal flu vaccine. This is for children aged 2 – 5 years. It applies to children who reached 2 years of age by 01/09/2017.

#### Pneumococcal Vaccine

Patients are entitled to a one-off pneumococcal vaccine from the age of 65 years, or if you are in an 'At Risk' group. If you wish more information, or are unsure if you have received it previously, please phone the Health Centre.

#### Shingles Vaccine

We have been offering the Shingles vaccine for several years now. Patients who reached the age of 70 years by 01/09/2017 are entitled to one. If you think you missed the opportunity to have this vaccine, then we can check if you are still eligible. This is a one-off vaccine. Please phone the Health Centre to enquire.

There is a useful web site with information about shingles on 'Immunisation Scotland Shingles 2017'. Look for the easy-to-use eligibility calculator tool which can tell you immediately, when you insert your date of birth, whether you can have the vaccine or not.

**There is currently a global shortage of Hep A vaccine, which is causing problems for anyone travelling abroad.**

#### Telephone Consultations

Please note that as from 1<sup>st</sup> November there is a change to the time you can telephone to speak to a doctor on a Friday afternoon. All other days and times are unchanged.

*Monday – Thursday: 10.30 – 11am and 3.30 - 4pm*

*Friday: 10.30 – 11am and 3.00 – 3.30pm*

**Linda Keay, Practice Nurse**

## **Police Scotland**

### **Antisocial Behaviour**

On 20/09/17 Police were carrying out a stop check on a vehicle on the A84, Blair Drummond, when the occupant of the vehicle was found to be in possession of a controlled drug.

### **Road Safety**

On 02/09/17 on the A84 at Blair Drummond a report of dangerous driving was received. An enquiry is ongoing into this incident, with a view to tracing the driver of the vehicle.

On 29/10/17 a person was arrested for driving a vehicle whilst under the influence, on the A84 near to Blair Drummond. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

### **Theft**

On 21/08/17 on Kirk Lane, Blair Drummond, an unattended vehicle was broken into and property stolen from within. A window was smashed and property which was in open view was taken. This crime is linked to a spate of similar crimes throughout the Trossachs and Teith area, whereby unattended vehicles parked in secluded car parks have been targeted. Extra attention and patrols are being carried out and enquiries are being made into these crimes. Any information can be passed to the local Community Officers on 101.

Police Constables Colin McKerracher and Lorna Deans will be in the mobile police office at the car park at the Thornhill Community Centre, the forthcoming dates being

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – 12.30 to 1.30pm

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – 12.30 to 1.30pm

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – 12.30 to 1.30pm

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – 12.30 to 1.30pm.

### **PCs C McKerracher & L Deans**

## **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](mailto:grasslands@hotmail.co.uk) or [christinemcbauer@gmail.com](mailto:christinemcbauer@gmail.com)



### **WINTER MAINTENANCE**

Gritting and snow ploughing of carparks and access roads.

Small bags of gritting salt for sale.

For further information contact Mark on

07801703140 or email [grasslands@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grasslands@hotmail.co.uk)

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](mailto:christinemcbauer@gmail.com)

or

[grasslands@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grasslands@hotmail.co.uk)

Items for **Issue No 27** should be submitted by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2018**, 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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