

Issue 33

The Grapevine

August 2019

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

Fun Run a great success for RHET Forth Valley



Douglas Stewart, this year's winner

The Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) organised a family fun run through Blair Drummond Safari Park on the 15th of June 2019. This was the third year that the fun run has taken place and saw over 120 runners take part. The first competitor home was 10yo Douglas Stewart who completed the 5k, in a time of 20mins 29secs.

Participants chose either a 3km or 5km run starting at Briarlands Farm and following the route around the Safari Park. RHET Forth Valley would like to express huge thanks to Briarlands Farm and Blair Drummond Safari Park for allowing us to use their amazing facilities.

The event volunteers were treated to burgers, courtesy of Falleninch Farm Butchers and ice cream from Grahams Dairies. At the end of the course each runner received a completion medal and enjoyed a carton of milk provided by Graham's Family Dairy.

Over £1,300 was raised for RHET Forth Valley. The money will go towards taking 13 schools from the area out to real, working farms to learn more about where their food comes from and how it is produced.

Following the event, Lynne Reid, RHET Forth Valley Chairperson, said "RHET Run 2019 was again a fantastic, fun evening. The weather was kind to us once again and the route is truly special, several competitors were spotted having a rest at the giraffe's enclosure. Huge thanks must go to our volunteers who guide everyone round, to Briarlands and the Safari Park for allowing us to use this great route. The funds raised will ensure that we can continue to subsidise transport to farms and farm events for the children of Forth Valley. RHET visits give young people a chance to see how their food is produced and meet the farmers who have the ever-increasing challenge of meeting the demand".

The Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) was established in 1999. It provides free resources, farm visits and classroom speakers which allow children to learn more about Scottish farming, food and countryside. RHET currently interfaces with around one in eight of Scottish schoolchildren through 12 local Countryside Initiatives. RHET takes over 16,000 children out to farms each academic year and provides more than 28,000 children with a classroom speaker talk.

It is run as a charity and receives its core funding from the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS). Other operating costs are covered by grants and funds from a number of trusts, companies and funding organisations, including the Scottish Government.

RHET Forth Valley Countryside Initiative is run by a committee of volunteers and activities organised by Katie Brisbane Project Coordinator. The Event was organised by the RHET Forth Valley committee.

Contact Information:

Katie Brisbane

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www.rhet.co.uk

Obituary

Joan Fotheringham



Joan Minty Cameron was born in 1933 in Stirling.

In 1961 she married David Muir Fotheringham and moved to the farm at Blair Drummond. Their first son Robert was born in 1963, followed by David in 1969.

She worked in The Green Lounge in Stirling, running the kitchen, before opening up Bridal Style in Stirling, where she made many brides-to-be dreams come true, for their special day.

For many years Joan was an Elder and Flower Convener at Kincardine in Menteith parish church. The church was a big part of her life and she also enjoyed meeting up with other families there each Sunday.

From primary school onwards, over the years Joan kept in touch with her lifelong friends, enjoying many trips away with them. Along with her local friends Jacqueline Mitchell, Marjorie Bryce, Betty Bryce and Margaret McBeath, she enjoyed outings, birthday meals out and trips to the cinema to see Andre Rieu and his orchestra perform.

A huge highlight was the filming on the farm of part of 'What we did on our

holidays', starring Billy Connolly. Boy was she chuffed, telling everyone her stories of what he said and did!

Joan loved her grandchildren more than anything. Kris, Lee, Callum, Euan and finally a girl, Kirsty, were her pride and joy. Then her great grandson Flynn came along, keeping her busy with all his activities, playing with magnets, cards and reading books to him.

She loved going on holiday, which started off with Bob, Lorraine and David, all heading off to Spain. When Kris came along that started her many adventures to Tenerife and Legoland, plus other exciting new destinations with her cousins Christine and Jillian.

Joan led a full life, being a farmer's wife, business woman, mother, mother in law and latterly gran and great gran. And with the exception of a hip operation last year which slowed her down, she lived life to the full. Sadly Joan died on 9th April 2019.

Lorna Fotheringham

Farming News

It is official, we are experiencing the hottest summer on record following on from the warmest winter recorded. At the moment, we are on for a drier than average year too. This has meant everything is growing fast, huge hay yields and heavy crops to harvest. You may also have noticed hedges are really bushy too, unfortunately due to government regulations farmers are unable to cut hedges until the 1st of September. Please all take extra care, especially along Chalmerston Road, this becoming ever popular with cyclists and dog walkers, as shortly there will be harvest traffic coupled with lorries, cranes, etc. on the road with the building of the new houses.

RHET News

The RHET Factor choir hopes to start practices again in September. This is a fun weekly singing group which raises funds for The Royal Highland Educational Trust, a Charity whose aim is to "take the classroom to the countryside" by funding buses to take pupils out onto farms to learn where their food comes from.

If you would like to find out more please email Katie.forthvalley@rhet.org.uk - we are always looking for volunteers and singers.

Katie Brisbane

Obituary

Dr Philip Rose, MBChB (Dundee) MRCP



Dr Rose, sadly, died following a fatal fall at his home on Monday 22 April. He was 59.

Philip Francis Rose, known as Phil, was born on 19 April 1960 in Liverpool. As a middle child he remained very close to his two siblings, Aidan and Elizabeth.

Educated at St Mary's College in Crosby he went on to study medicine at the University of Dundee, graduating in 1984. Phil decided to become a GP and commenced training in Tayside. There, in 1987, he met Deryn Malcolm, a nurse, whilst they were both working in obstetrics at Ninewells Hospital. Love blossomed and, a year later, they were married in St Leonard's Church, St Andrews. They were a devoted couple whose relationship was based on mutual support and a deep love for each other. His legacy lives on in their three successful children: Tom (b.1989), a project manager with the Royal Bank of Scotland; Sarah (b.1991), who has a PhD in Clinical Psychology; and Sophie (b. 1999), who is currently at Edinburgh University, studying Ecological and Environmental Science. Their family life together was a happy and fulfilling one. The lifestyle of a rural GP ideally suited Phil; it was a role which enabled him to focus on family values and provided the opportunity to raise his children in the village of Doune.

In 1989 he joined Doune Health Centre, entering partnership with Dr Tom Burnet and Dr Patricia Henderson. Dr Charles Jardine joined the team two years later. Along with Dr Jardine and Dr Henderson, Dr Rose aimed to make Doune Health Centre a GP training practice. More recently he worked with Dr Margaret Aitken and Dr Julie Reid. He proved over the years to be a superb diagnostician with a safe pair of hands.

1996 proved to be a significant year for two reasons. Firstly, the Practice achieved GP training status. Many of the 27 trainees who have passed through its doors have affirmed how inspirational Dr Rose was as a role model.

Secondly, the Dunblane shooting tragedy, which touched so many lives, happened on 13 March. Dr Rose went to assist, along with other local GPs. Such was his dedication that, despite this terrible experience, he held a regular clinic later that evening. He was however understandably affected by these events, but his stoicism hid the ongoing trauma that remained with him throughout his life. Dr Rose was later introduced to the Queen at the memorial service following the tragedy.

Dr Rose played an influential role over the decades it took to successfully negotiate a new Health Centre. Opening later this year, it will be forever associated with him and some form of fitting memorial is planned in his honour.

His hobbies were varied and included sailing, golf (he was a member at Dunblane), skiing, training in the gym and playing indoor football weekly in Callander. He followed Everton FC from childhood and regularly travelled south to see them play. Always so immaculate and professional at work, he watched his team on TV while sporting his Everton top!

He was a genuinely caring person, a man of integrity, a friend to many, a devoted family man and an excellent doctor who was highly regarded by his patients and his colleagues, both past and present.

His final act of generosity was to give the gift of life to others through organ donation.

Funeral of Dr Philip Rose

Dr Rose's funeral took place on Friday 3rd May. The sun shone and the community of Doune gathered en-masse to say farewell to this honourable man who meant so much to the village where he had lived and worked. On the previous evening a Reception of Remains was well attended by family and friends. A Requiem Mass was held in Saints Fillan and Alphonsus Church where Father Michael Freyne conducted a moving and personal service. Close family members were involved throughout the ceremony and Dr Rose's children each spoke from the heart about

their father. Dr Jardine delivered a touching eulogy for an excellent doctor, partner and friend. Thereafter there was a short service at Falkirk Crematorium where his wife Deryn recited a poignantly beautiful, reflective piece which she had composed about their journey through life together. The day to celebrate Phil's life concluded at Dunblane Hydro.

Thank You from Doune Health Centre Colleagues

The staff at Doune Health Centre would like to thank all our patients and the community for their cards, flowers, kind words and support at this difficult time. As you know, we are a small team and work closely together so Dr Rose's death has affected us all deeply. Many people have attended the surgery to fill out messages of support in our book of condolences and we hope to pass this on to the Rose family soon.

The Rose family is generously donating the monies received in Phil's memory to the Health Centre. We are extremely grateful for this kind act. There is overwhelming support for a fitting memorial to Dr Rose and the many suggestions made will be forwarded to the Health Board who have indicated support for the concept.

Linda Keay
Practice Nurse

<u>BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE</u>	
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: Michael McKinstry	
Tel: 01786 841728	Mob: 07955 124057

Doune Health Centre

The new Health Centre is scheduled to open in September.

The phone number will remain the same: **01786 841213**.

The Address will be: **Doune Health Centre , Springbank Road, Doune FK16 6DU.**

Doune Health Centre Community Open Day will be held on **THURSDAY 29th AUGUST between 2pm – 4pm and 6pm – 8pm**. No booking required and staff will be there to meet you at the entrance to the new Health Centre.



Clinic closures

Doune Health Centre will be closed on Monday 9th September.

NHS 24 will be dealing with emergencies during the above closure.

Tel: 111 if you are unwell or need to talk to someone before the clinic reopens.

Remember to order your prescriptions before the holiday weekend.

Primary Care Pharmacists.

We are pleased to welcome Joanne Cole and Jennifer Allardyce to the team. Primary care pharmacists work in the local community supporting GPs, nurses and other health care professionals.

They are responsible for dealing with:

- Acute prescription requests.
- Queries about your regular medicines.
- Organising changes to your medication if you have been in hospital or seen at an out patient department.
- Monitoring repeat prescriptions.

In the future you may be able to have a telephone consultation with the pharmacist or a face to face review about your medications.

Linda Keay, Practice Nurse

Briarlands Farm

The summer holidays are whizzing past and it won't be long til the kids are back at school, but there is still time to squeeze in a visit to Briarlands Farm for some 'Family Fun in the fresh air'. There have been a few animal additions this year, with 'Blossom' our new highland cow with her baby boy 'Rannoch', as well as good old 'Jess' the sow and her 12 piglets! Animal handling sessions run 3 times a day where you can meet our 2 new Guinea pigs 'Brownie' and 'Muffin', along with all the usual Briarlands 'furries'. Our ever popular tractor and trailer rides continue to be a big hit with visitors young and old.



Blossom & Rannoch

Earlier this summer we hosted the annual RHET run which saw many runners taking on either the 3km or 5km race round the Safari Park. The evening was a great success and helped raise valuable funds for this great cause. Later this summer we will be having our first Emergency Services Display Day. Tractor Day will return again this year but for a weekend this time, so more opportunity for climbing on tractors of all sizes! We are busy planning our Halloween activities and our annual bonfire night will be at the beginning of November.

Briarlands Farm is hosting its very own Emergency Services Display Day. Come along on Sunday the 11th of August between 10am and 3pm, to learn more about the work of our local emergency services. There will be fire engines, ambulances, the Royal Life Saving Society, face-painting, food and much more! Admission also includes entry to the fun yard, so come along and enjoy some family fun in the fresh air!

Mary Inglis

Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates

Weekly Classes

Tuesday: Blair Drummond Youth Club 7pm -9pm.
Wednesday: Fitness Classes 10 am – 12.30pm
Thursday: Co Step Dance class 7pm alldance@costep.co

Events

Monday 26th Aug. Blair Drummond Blethers. 12-2pm. Soup & sandwiches. Chat afternoon.
Tuesday 17th Sept. Blair Drummond Hall committee meeting. 7.30pm. All welcome
Monday 30th Sept. Blair Drummond Blethers. 12 – 2pm. Soup & sandwiches. Bulb planting.
Friday 4th Oct. Beetle Drive 7pm. Entry £1. Children must be accompanied.
Tuesday 22nd Oct. Blair Drummond Youth Club. 7pm – 9pm
Monday 28th Oct. Blair Drummond Blethers. 12- 2pm. Soup & sandwiches. Bring A Pal Lunch and talk by Blair Drummond Safari Park.
Saturday 2nd Nov. Gin Tasting (see Page 23)
Wednesday 13th Nov. Thornhill & Blair Drummond Community Council meeting. 7.30pm. All welcome.
Friday 29th Nov. Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre. 7pm -9pm

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, or bdhallinfo@gmail.com

Councillors for our area

Martin Earl

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Jeremy McDonald

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Evelyn Tweed

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EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPLAY DAY



Sunday 11th August

10am-3pm



At



Scottish
Ambulance
Service
Taking Care to the Patient

Briarlands Farm



Would you like to learn about
ambulances, police cars, fire engines,
rescue boats and more? Come and meet
our local first responders!



Normal Briarlands Farm admission charges apply.

Kincardine In Menteith Primary School

Kincardine in Menteith Primary School are delighted to announce their hat trick of awards for the session 2018-2019. The year started with the school being awarded the Sports Scotland Gold Sports award for the second time, a particular mention to our Sports Ambassadors Penny and Izzy and Mrs MacNish for their work towards this award. We were then awarded our green ECO flag - a big thank you to our Green Beans and Mrs McAllister for all their hard work. We finished the year with our Digital Schools award which we successfully achieved after a validation visit in June, again a big thank you to our Digital Drivers and Mrs MacNish.

We celebrated the end of the year as we took a trip down memory lane with our successful performance of Blast from the Past. We also said goodbye to our Primary 7s - Izzy and Dylan.

Finally we bid a fond farewell to Mrs McAllister who retired after 23 years at the school. In August we welcome Mr Lyle Davidson who will be teaching P1-2. Thank you to our families and the local community for their continued support of the school. We are looking forward to the new term and welcoming our new and returning pupils.

Kate MacNish

3F (Faith Fun and Friends)

As we look forward to the next session of 3F the organisers have been busy putting together the programme of speakers starting in September with Lynda Ferguson from Camphill Blair Drummond. Other guests include Rev Janet Foggie Pioneer Minister at University of Stirling, Rebecca Miller on Massage, Stuart Mccara from the Leprosy Mission, Peter Rowell The Bothy Association and Sandy Leven Scottish Rock Garden Club. Meetings are held in Kilmadock Church, Doune (opposite Red Lion Hotel) on the last Tuesday of the month.

All are welcome.

Janette Gilliland

Graduations

Angus Bryce from West Cambusdrennie Farm, Chalmerston Road graduated from SRUC (Edinburgh Campus) with an HND in Agriculture.

Callum Fotheringham, Barloch, Rossburn Lane received his HNC in Agriculture from Oatridge College SRUC on 5th July 2019.



Callum Fotheringham



Dr Harriet Ingle

Congratulations to Dr Harriet Ingle

Congratulations to Harriet Ingle of Kirk Lane Lodge, Blair Drummond on the award of a PhD from Edinburgh University.

Having gained a first class honours degree in psychology from Glasgow University, Harriet then went on to Edinburgh University to study for her Masters in human cognitive neuropsychology in which she gained a distinction. This was followed by her Doctorate in the field of clinical neuropsychology for which she was awarded the John C. Marshall PhD scholarship by the University of Edinburgh for her thesis: 'Vision, Attention and Action in Posterior Cortical Atrophy and other Dementias'. Harriet is now a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Climate Justice at Glasgow Caledonian University where she is leading their pioneering research into the effects of climate change on mental health.

Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council Meeting

Here is a summary of the salient points from the meeting held on 5th June 2019. The full minutes are on the village noticeboard in Thornhill (the AGM was also held the same evening, and the minutes from that meeting are also on the Thornhill noticeboard).

Safari Park entry/road safety: A meeting was held with Bruce Crawford MSP, which was also attended by Carlene Fraser, Head of Stirling Council Roads Dept. It was noted that Blair Drummond Safari Park has generously laid aside land to accommodate a slip road. This is unlikely to expedite matters, as Transport Scotland is constrained to allocate resources only within a matrix of dangerous locations. It was agreed that as a new council, it would be appropriate to approach all stakeholders again, appeal anew for something to be done, and keep pressure up.

Planning: An application within Thornhill for replacement windows and doors in PVC was refused on grounds of it not being in keeping with the conservation area. Many properties in the Main Street and elsewhere already have PVC windows, so it was queried what exactly the local authority is trying to preserve. It was felt that sufficient years have passed since the formation of the conservation area to merit a re-assessment. Given that 94 people voted against the conservation area at its inception, and only 11 for it, it was unanimously agreed to carry out a public consultation to ascertain if residents were of the opinion that it had brought them any benefit, and consequently should continue, or if the status had brought no benefit, and should be laid aside. It was agreed to approach Stirling Council for a map of the conservation area and a list of all details relevant to it.

Thornhill Community Trust: The Community Trust's bid under Your Stirling You Decide for a dry path on the South Common has been selected to go forward to the voting process. Request was made that Stirling Council improve their communication of these events to the public.

Slow down sign/flashing light on A873 after B8031 (Coldoch Road) towards Stirling: Cllr Martin Earl (who was in attendance for AGM and meeting) reported that these have been inspected, and are scheduled for repair.

Cameras: Cllr Earl reported that Stirling Council had purchased 10 deployable, wired and wi-fi enabled surveillance cameras, but have installed them all in underpasses in Stirling, until such time as they can

afford other cameras for these locations. The cameras had been destined for use in outlying communities, Cllr Earl is working to have this rectified.

The rest of year's meetings will be 21st August (Thornhill Primary), 2nd October (Thornhill Primary) and 13th November (Blair Drummond Community Hall).

There are no meetings in September or December.

Local residents are welcome to attend all meetings, which begin at 7.30pm

Blair Drummond Blethers

In May we had the pleasure of having local girl Heather Inglis joining us as a volunteer for three months, whilst she undertook community volunteering as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. May was also the month for our Quiz and 38 people all took part in good spirit, with plenty of laughs and a few debates as to the accuracy of some of the answers!



Heather with some of the volunteers

June saw us enjoying an excellent illustrated talk from Willie Campbell, retired Head Gardener at Gargunnock House. He not only shared his knowledge in an easy-to-understand way but also gave us courage to try some new skills.

And July was a Chat Afternoon, when 44 people certainly did just that! We also said goodbye to Heather. She was a great asset and we wish her well in her undertaking.

For the next three months we have -

26th August will be another Chat Afternoon.

30th September will be Planting Bulbs in your own container.

28th October will be the annual Bring a Pal Lunch, when the monies raised that day will, this year, go to the Royal Scottish Agricultural

Benevolent Fund. We will also have an illustrated talk from staff at the Safari Park about their work and Park's plans for the future. Come and join us, if you're over 50 years, live in Blair Drummond or surrounding areas. We meet at the Blair Drummond Hall, between 12 – 2pm. You will be very welcome.

Christine Bauer

Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre

This year's Christmas Fayre will be held in the hall on **Friday 29th November, from 7pm till 9pm.**

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

Youth Club

Blair Drummond Youth Club meets every Tuesday, from 22nd 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 :

Lorna on 07851364227 or Karen on 07540301272 or see the Youth Club page on the Blair Drummond Community Hall website.
www.blairdrummondhall.co.uk

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). See back page for details. Thank you.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

FAITH IN FARMING 5

Where: Brairlands Farm Blair Drummond

When: Sunday 29th September 2019

Time: Refreshments from 6.00p.m

THEME LOCAL PRODUCED PRODUCE

Speakers Alison Younger Old Leckie

John Stirling W N Lindsay (Grain)

Host Rev Lynne Mack

With local RHET Choir & Produce Quiz

ALL WELCOME

SC000802

Glass & clothing recycling

If using the recycling bins at the hall and you find they are full, please take your glass/clothes away with you to recycle elsewhere. **Thank you**

Driving Test centre to stay in Callander



Martin Earl, Mark Griffiths, Brogan Hardacre (currently taking driving lessons) and Grant Wallace at Callander Youth Project

Budding drivers will still be able to pass their tests in Callander, thanks to an agreement between the Callander Youth Project and the DVSA.

Earlier this year the DVSA announced that the current testing facility based at the McLaren Leisure Centre was going to close on May 23rd. Despite calls from Local Cllr Martin Earl and Stirling MP Stephen Kerr that the decision be reversed and a petition launched by local Driving Instructor Grant Wallace, the closure went ahead.

Concerns were raised about the distances candidates taking lessons and driving tests would have to cover when the nearest facility was in Stirling. This would seriously affect people in rural areas and could mean a three hour round trip to take a lesson in the area where the test would take place.

After the original announcement and initial correspondence there was a series of meetings and correspondence between the MPs Office, Cllr Earl, and the DVSA to identify a way testing could remain available in Callander. Cllr Earl approached the Callander Youth Project and arranged for discussions to take place between them and DVSA.

This resulted in a visit to assess the location and premises and a subsequent agreement that an initial three month trial period would be run before a longer term arrangement is established.

Martin Earl, Cllr for Trossachs and Teith said:-

“I am absolutely delighted that we have managed to retain a test centre in Callander. You can get a positive result sometimes by making sure everyone keeps talking and there is a will to find a way. The Youth project were very happy to help and everyone involved has worked hard to make this possible. I know many people, including my son and daughter, who have learnt to drive and passed their tests in Callander and I wanted that choice to stay available for everyone in the area.”

Stephen Kerr MP said:

“Grant contacted myself and Martin to raise the problem and organise a petition and we kept working together to achieve this positive outcome. The original decision would have led to a real gap in service for people in the rural areas, precisely where being able to drive is often an essential requirement. A solution had to be found.”

Mark Griffiths from Callander Youth Project said:

"I believe the closure of the Callander Test Centre disproportionately disadvantaged young people in the wider area which Callander Youth Project Trust (CYP) serves by increasing social isolation and placing further barriers to employment. CYP are therefore delighted to be able to help retain the Driving Test Centre in Callander"

Driving Instructor Grant Wallace said:

“When I first heard of the closure of the test centre I felt I had to fight for what I believed in and for existing and future pupils. Councillor Martin Earl and MP Stephen Kerr have worked tirelessly so people can take their driving test locally and not have to travel long distances. I'm really proud of what we have achieved. A huge thanks to the Callander Youth Project for having the vision as well to see this is a huge asset for our local community. We have had so much support from everyone especially the youth who this directly affects. Hopefully this will show them that fighting for what we believe in can sometimes get a result.”

MP LAUNCHES BANKING SURVEY

Stirling MP Stephen Kerr has this week launched a banking survey, aimed at gauging perceived and real access to banking services in rural areas.

The survey focuses on questions about banking in your area, personal banking habits, and banking experiences. It follows the recent closure of bank branches in Bannockburn, Bridge of Allan, and Dunblane which have further reduced the bank branch coverage across the constituency. The survey also tries to find out what services people are using and how the Post Office banking services are being used.

Link to the survey: <https://www.stephenkerr.org/banking>

Stephen Kerr MP said:

“I’m encouraging everyone living in Stirling to take part in my survey, which will allow my team and I to identify the areas where banking coverage is poorest, and where the most attention is needed to improve availability. The banking world has drastically changed over the last ten years and we must make sure the system works for everyone and that there is access to the services needed on a day to day basis.”

John Bennett

Comms Officer to Stephen Kerr MP (Stirling)

Blair Drummond Curling Club Closing Bonspiel

The closing bonspiel was held at the Peak, Stirling. Fun and frolics were had by all, followed by a social evening. Two new club members were welcomed - Alaina and Graeme Fletcher - who will join us in the forthcoming season, which starts at the end of September.

If you would like details of "try curling" and joining our friendly club, please contact Anne Christie on 07977441108 or Secretary Stephen Walker on bdccsec@aol.com or 07971616135.

Blair Drummond Curling Club welcomes players of all levels and abilities and beginners are most welcome.



Closing Bonspiel which was held at Easter

Anne Christie, Chair



Road Safety

On 12/06/19 Road Policing officers along with Driver Vehicle Standards Agency carried out checks on public service vehicles at Blair Drummond Safari Park. One driver has been reported to the procurator Fiscal for road traffic offences.

The Police Scotland Summer Drink / Drug Drive Campaign 2019 commenced on Monday 24 June, and ran for a period of two weeks. This was with a view to increasing awareness of the risks associated with drink / drug driving and identifying offenders.

Theft

Although there have been no reported thefts in the Blair Drummond area recently, unfortunately there have been properties broken in to and items stolen in other areas within Trossachs and Teith Ward. As such I have included a guide on securing your property.

Secure your Garden & Outbuildings

Keep your Garden and Outbuildings Secure

If you have a garden, it's the first thing an intruder will have to deal with if they want to try and break into your house. There are also items in your garden or which you may keep in a garden shed or garage which a thief will find attractive. Take some simple steps to secure your garden, shed and garage.

What can I do to stop thieves entering and stealing from my garden?

Keep hedges, walls and fences low at the front of the property – to a maximum of 1.2 metres high and in a good state of repair to allow natural surveillance and make it hard for an intruder to work unseen. Prevent easy access to the back and sides by installing locked gates. Rear fences and walls should be a minimum 1.8 to 2 metres in height. Trellis topping or an intruder deterrent strip should also be considered to make climbing difficult.

Consider nature's own defences - growing aggressive shrubbery which is harder for intruders to climb through. Ideal plants include berberis, blue spruce, common holly, giant rhubarb, golden bamboo, firethorn, shrub rose, pencil Christmas tree, juniper and rubus (bramble).

Security lighting around your property will act as a deterrent. Dusk to dawn low voltage LED lighting is cost effective to both install and run.

Make sure bins are located in an area which doesn't allow them to be easily used as a step to climb over fences / walls or access windows. Lock away any garden implements, furniture or tools in a secure shed, garage or outside store. They may not only be an attractive target for theft, but also items such as ladders which are useful for breaking into your home.

What can I do to protect property in my shed and garage?

Photograph valuable items of garden furniture and / or garden tools. Note and keep a record of make, model, colour and serial numbers and use a UV pen or similar to security mark them with your house number and postcode.

You may wish to use a chain or other device to lock garden tools and furniture together to the structure which will make them harder to remove. Fit a good quality hasp and padlock to the door, fitted with dome headed or non-returnable screws to prevent tampering. Appropriate products that are approved as 'Sold Secure' or 'Secured by Design' should be considered. For more information visit www.securedbydesign.com

Secure windows and don't give intruders the opportunity to see inside.

Depending on the type of window, you could consider fitting internal window grills, heavy wire mesh or reinforced glass. You could also use curtains or opaque film. If the window opens, a window lock should be fitted. If you have an intruder alarm, consider extending it to cover sheds, garages and outbuildings and ensure that there is a visible external sounder box.

If you do not have a secure shed then bring items inside – don't leave them lying out.

If your garage adjoins your home and there is a through door, keep it locked.

For more information about protecting your home and any communal areas, visit our advice on how to [Keep your Home Secure](#) and [Keep Closes & Stairwells Secure](#).

Other

On 25th June 2019 PC Colin McKerracher retired from Police Scotland after 30 years. PC Donald King has taken his place and is working alongside me as Community officer for the Trossachs and Teith Ward area.

Should anyone have any policing issues they wish to discuss or raise, please contact us at Callander Police office on 101 or via email at TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

PC Lorna Deans, Trossachs and Teith Community Officer

Blair Drummond Community Hall Association

GIN TASTING EVENING

With Alison McAlpine

In Blair Drummond Community Hall

On Saturday 2nd November

At 7pm



**Tickets £20 for Gin tasters
£5 for non tasters
(Includes finger buffet)**

For tickets please contact:

Email: bdgrapevine@gmail.com

**Louise – 01786 841352
Christine – 01786 841191
Catherine – 01786 860246
Or any committee member**

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:

bdgrapevine@gmail.com

Items for Edition 34 should be submitted by **31st October 2019**, sent by email, in **Word or Open Office**, 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

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018

Reflecting the change in legislation, the Blair Drummond Community Hall Committee Grapevine newsletter editorial team wish to highlight the following to its readers –

The information we hold, regarding email addresses, is held in a secure setting and not shared with other organisations, companies or individuals. The information is used to send out copies of the Grapevine to our readers electronically.

The Blair Drummond Grapevine is a community newsletter produced and distributed by volunteers, free of charge, to approximately 400 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

Facebook: **Blair Drummond Community Hall**