

Issue 34

## The Grapevine

November 2019

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

### Births



Aileen and Greg Burnett, Anvilside, Blair Drummond are delighted to announce the birth of Annie Joyce Burnett, born 9th of May weighing 9lbs. Mum and baby are doing very well and Calum is delighted to be a big brother.

Congratulations to Bruce and Nathalie Smith, Mill Lodge, Rossburn Lane on the birth of Grayson Joseph Jack Smith on 8<sup>th</sup> August weighing 7lb 9oz.



## Rocktalk – the Talk of the Town!

Where do you find the latest chat? How can you catch up on the local news? An obvious place would be the newspaper, and the Stirling Observer just fits the bill for our area. But hang on, supposing you have lost your sight, or it has become so bad that newspapers just don't work for you any more?

This is where Rocktalk is the answer- a talking newspaper!

It was in 1983 that a group of journalists from the Stirling Observer decided to read selected articles on to audio cassettes, for folks who couldn't see, and about 20 of these were copied and distributed each week. Since then, the service has grown in numbers, in volunteers and transformed in technology.

Around 2005, the audio tapes were replaced by CDs and in 2016, these were succeeded by memory sticks. Very fast copying is now possible and well over 100 copies have been sent out each week over the years. Each recipient is given a robust player which is simple to use in their own home and receive a weekly memory stick in a re-usable padded envelope, delivered free by the Post Office. These are then returnable in the same envelope, simply by turning over the address label. Listeners can then enjoy around 80 minutes of news and reports, these days read by a team of over 20 readers, working in groups of 4 on a rota basis. Several of this number undertake to be 'editor' for the week and dissect 2 copies of the paper, choosing which items to include. This actually leads to an interesting selection of articles, according to the editor's taste!

In total, there are 40 volunteers to keep this service running, technicians, copiers, admin folks, readers and editors.

And there is more! Each month a group of folks gather together interesting articles from various magazines and record about an hour of fun, fact and fiction, which goes out with each newspaper, so listeners don't have to read it all in one week.

Rocktalk has come a long way in over 30 years, and has been a real blessing to hundreds of people in that time. It is a completely free service to its users and as a charity depends on the generosity of the public. Although throughout the UK there are dozens of local talking newspapers, they can often be relatively unknown and under publicised. So...

**SPREAD the WORD!**

For more information, or if you, or anyone you know might benefit from this service, please contact us by e-mail: [enquiries@rocktalk.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@rocktalk.org.uk) or call: 01786 816673 **Marilyn and Steve Willett**

## Weddings



Ailsa Cullens from 'Orchardhead', Cuthill Brae, Blair Drummond married Alastair Stevenson (from Kinross and Coll) on 18th May, 2019.

The ceremony and reception were at home 'Orchardhead', Cuthill Brae. "It was a great day, the weather the week before had been glorious, the actual day was rainy but it certainly didn't dampen the occasion!" said Sheila Cullens, mother of the bride.



Kirsten Buchanan, Spittalton Cottage, Coldoch, Blair Drummond and Colin Woods were married on 21st September 2019 at Pratis Barn, Leven, with a ceremony, followed by a party and ceilidh with plenty of dancing. *(Photo courtesy of The Gibsons Photography)*

## THE STIRLING MEMBERS CENTRE – NTS

The Stirling Members' Centre numbers about 200 people and membership is £5 per annum for individuals, or £8 per annum for a complete household at one address. When joining you will enjoy membership rates immediately but there will be no membership charge until the start of the financial year in October 2020 and you only pay for the talks.

We welcome new members who are also members of the National Trust for Scotland, but anyone who is not a member of the NTS will be welcome to any of our talks, subject to places being available. The current rates for winter talks are £6pp for members or £7pp for guests.

Please come along – we are a friendly bunch!! Our programme of talks held in the St Ninian's church hall from October 2019 to March 2020 is as under:-

**Thursday 21st November, 2019, at 2.30 pm**

"Surveying St Kilda" – illustrated talk by James Hephher

**Thursday 12th December, 2019, at 2.30 pm**

"The Story of Dr John Roebuck and James Watt at Kinneil House" – illustrated talk by Ian Shearer, Chairman of Friends of Kinneil House

**Thursday 16th January, 2020, at 2.30 pm**

"Recent discoveries in Stirling's Archaeology" - illustrated talk by Murray Cook, Archaeologist

**Thursday 13th February, 2020, at 2.30 pm**

"Gardens and Designed Landscapes" - illustrated talk by Colin Wren NTS Gardens Manager

**Thursday 12th March, 2020, at 2.30 pm**

"Glass & Light" – illustrated talk by Alison Kinnaird, Glass Artist & Clarsach Musician

Contact details: **Sandy & Margaret Moreland**, Joint Secretaries

Tel:- 01259 761700

E-mail:- [stirlingnts@gmail.com](mailto:stirlingnts@gmail.com) or see website:-

[www.spanglefish.com/ntsstirling](http://www.spanglefish.com/ntsstirling)

### 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**



## Blair Drummond Blethers



*Goodbye to Mirren Graham*

With lots of folks away in August, we had a reasonably quiet Chat Afternoon in terms of numbers but there was plenty of chat!

In September 45 people planted their bowls of bulbs which, hopefully, will flower in time for the festive season or the New Year. We also said our farewells to Mirren Graham, who has been a stalwart volunteer since the very early days of the Blethers. We have enjoyed her support and good humour and take this opportunity to wish Ronald and Mirren well in their new home at Drymen.



At the end of October, we held our annual fundraiser Bring A Pal lunch, which 48 people enjoyed. Stuart Brown from the Safari Park gave an excellent illustrated talk on the work of the Safari Park and their plans for the future.

We raised £300 for the charity

chosen for this year, which is RSABI (Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution) and donated a further £20 to Link to the Wild which is the charity which the Safari Park is supporting.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November will be a Chat Afternoon, and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December will be our Christmas Lunch when we'll enjoy the company of the local schoolchildren, singing their Christmas songs. Then, come the New Year, we will have our Burns Lunch on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

Come and join us, if you live in the community of Blair Drummond or surrounding areas and are over 50 years. We will be at the Community Hall in Blair Drummond, from 12 – 2pm.

**Christine Bauer**

## Thornhill and Blair Drummond Community Council

Here is a summary of the salient points from the meeting held on 2nd October 2019. The full minutes are on the Blair Drummond notice board.

**Safari Park entry/road safety:** Kenny Aiken of Scottish Roads Department has sent a map showing the proposed alterations to the junction of the A873 with the A84. Chair Ronald Graham met with Chris Corden (Chair) and David Shearer of Callander Community Council regarding the ongoing request for a roundabout to improve the traffic flow and safety on the A84 and alleviate the traffic queues at the Safari Park. The situation will further deteriorate if Heart 200 proves popular. Callander Community Council is willing to lend support to the drive for action on this issue, as residents in Callander believe tourists are becoming disinclined to access Callander by the A84 north from Stirling due to this bottleneck, information on which is readily available on social media and traffic news. This support from Callander CC will encourage momentum, and it was agreed to keep up political pressure, with Ronald also approaching Kilmadock, Doune, Aberfoyle and Gartmore Community Councils to seek support.

**Police Scotland:** PC Deans reported that activity has been quiet since last meeting but there have been bogus invoices received resulting from hacking and bogus phone calls have been reported.

PC Deans suggested residents sign up to the online Neighbourhood Watch Scotland scheme ([www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)) to receive free crime alerts and information about where you live. Your response to these alerts can help the police catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to your community.

**Thornhill Conservation Status:** Chair Ronald had written to Councillor McDonald, who agreed to investigate the process to reverse Conservation status. This resulted in an email dated 1st October from Catherine Malley, Stirling Council Planning Officer (Conservation). She is happy to meet representatives to answer any questions about the "Process of de-designation of the Conservation Area".

Councillor Tweed (in attendance) advised that the discrepancy between the Scottish Government's push for action on climate change/energy efficiency and the constraints applied to listed buildings, requiring them to utilise antiquated forms of insulation, should be highlighted in discussion on this topic.

**Blair Drummond School Bus from Callander:** The bus is unable to pull in to the small off-road area at Rossburn Lane/Kirk Lane due to parents

parking to uplift children. This is causing traffic congestion and raising safety issues. It was agreed that the council will write to McLaren High School.

**Residents Forum** (opportunity for residents to raise any issues)

**Timeslot:** A request was made to have this item moved to the start of the meeting, but this was considered unrealistic as there would be no way of knowing how long scheduled business would be held back. It was recommended that if residents did not have time to wait while the Community Council addressed on going local issues, they have the option of asking a Community Councillor to raise issues on their behalf.

**Chair:** Ronald Graham gave notice of his imminent move from the area, which will leave the position of Chair vacant after the November meeting. It was clarified that to maintain our numbers at nine, the Community Council can co-opt members if there are vacancies.

If you are interested in joining the Community Council, please email the secretary on [gabriela.ingle@yahoo.com](mailto:gabriela.ingle@yahoo.com) or [thornhillblairdrummondcc@gmail.com](mailto:thornhillblairdrummondcc@gmail.com)

The last meeting of the year takes place on Wednesday, 13th November at Blair Drummond Community Hall. There is no meeting in December.

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

## Camphill Blair Drummond



We recently nominated our Board of Trustees for the SVE (Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise) “Inspire Volunteering Awards 2019”.

And they won!!!

The event took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and accepting the award for the category “Volunteering for Strong Organisations” were Robert and Sue from our Board of Trustees.

This is a great achievement and one that rightly acknowledges the contribution and support our Board of Trustees have made (and continue to do so) to our community here at Camphill Blair Drummond.

Thank you also to our colleague Sue (*pictured far left*) for putting together and submitting the application.

**Kristi Ferguson**

## **Blair Drummond Hall Diary Dates**

### **Weekly Classes**

<b>Tuesday:</b>	Blair Drummond Youth Club 7pm -9pm.
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Fitness Classes 10 am – 12.30pm
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Co Step Dance class 7pm <a href="mailto:alldance@costep.co">alldance@costep.co</a>
<b>Thursday:</b>	Co Step Dance class 7pm

### **Events**

<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>	Thornhill & Blair Drummond Community Council meeting. 7.30pm. All welcome.
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>	Blair Drummond Blethers. 12-2pm. Soup & sandwiches. Chat afternoon.
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>	Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre 7pm – 9pm.
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	General Election voting 7am- 10pm.
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	Blair Drummond Blethers. 12 – 2pm. Christmas Lunch. Visit from the local primary school.
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>	Yoga class from 10am – 11am. <i>See page 23.</i>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>	Yoga class as above.
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan .</b>	Blair Drummond Hall Committee meeting. 7.30pm. All welcome.
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>	Blair Drummond Blethers.12 – 2pm. Burns lunch.
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	Beetle Drive 7pm. Entry £1. Children must be accompanied.
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	Blair Drummond Blethers. 12 – 2pm. Soup & sandwiches.
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	Whisky tasting by The Grail, Doune. Tickets £25 <i>Further details in next edition.</i>

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 [bdhallinfo@gmail.com](mailto:bdhallinfo@gmail.com)



## Callander & District Young Farmers Club

It has been a busy few weeks for the club! At the beginning of September we had a tour of The Alpaca Trekking Centre, just outside Thornhill. We then had a “Day at the Clays” at the Gray’s – big thanks to them for hosting. There was then a day away to Millport, starting off in the rain it thankfully brightened up and we were able to cycle round the island and sample some of the pubs!



Some of you may have seen our bale art when passing Meldrum Farm – we came first in our district and made it into the top 6 nationally!!! This year’s theme was to promote a local cancer charity, ours was Strathcarron Hospice.

Clyde and Central Mr and Miss competition was next in the calendar – with Hannah Brisbane, Jan Duncan, Angus McMillan and John Telfer competing for Callander. A bus load of supporters from the club went along and saw our own Hannah Brisbane crowned Miss Clyde and Central Young Farmer! (See picture)

Next we held a dairy stockjudging at Norrieston Farm by kind permission of the Black family. This was a well-attended event with support from within and also outwith the district. We have also had Clyde and Central Mini Competitions weekend (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov) and Bonfire night at the Black’s (2<sup>nd</sup> Nov). Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance is now SOLD OUT! A night to look forward to with past and present members. We are also practising for our concert in January on Monday and Wednesday nights at Briarlands Farm. If you are interested in joining the club or attending any events, search for us on Facebook or contact our secretary Jan on 07557509475.



**Eilidh Graham**

## Ae fond farewell

As many of you may already know we are having to bid farewell to Ronald and Mirren Graham who will be enjoying pastures new by the time you read this article.

Ronald served on the Blair Drummond Community Hall Committee for 15 years both as a director and as company secretary. He was also a member of the Blair Drummond and Thornhill Community Council for the past 5 years where he took on the role of Planning Representative, and in the last 12 months served as CC Chairman.

On their arrival in Blair Drummond, Ronald and Mirren joined the congregation at Kincardine-in-Menteith Church. Ronald had been an elder in their previous parish and on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2000 he was duly admitted to the eldership at K-i-M also taking on the role of church treasurer – a job he has done with great enthusiasm and commitment over the past 18 years, and which he will finally relinquish at the end of this year.

It is not just Ronald who has been a mainstay of our local community, Mirren, has also played a huge part in community and church life; church cleaning, providing refreshments at our joint services, church welcome duty, delivering the Grapevine, Blethers – the list is endless. Whenever there was work to be done Ronald and Mirren would be there to lend a helping hand. We shall miss them very much but look forward to welcoming them back from time to time, and we wish them both God's blessing in their new home.

### Janette Gilliland Session Clerk & Kate Ingle Chair BD Hall

<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>Michael McKinstry</b>	
<b>Tel: 01786 841728</b>	<b>Mob: 07955 124057</b>

## Youth Club



Youth Club has started again for this season and runs every Tuesday night in Blair Drummond Hall from 7-9pm. There are currently 11 members attending every week, but room for more! Anyone who is P6 upwards can join. There's always a lot to do and friends to catch up with. There is an annual fee of £10, which covers insurance etc., and a weekly charge of £1, which is for hall hire. There is a reasonably priced tuck shop, selling juice, crisps and sweets which is always a hit with the members.

This year at the Christmas Fayre (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November), the Youth Club are holding a bottle stall again to raise funds for equipment and outings.....so we are looking for donations of bottles of any type, from food and drink to alcohol and even toiletries. They just need to be unopened and within date, so clear out your kitchen cupboards and lets raise some funds! Donations can be handed in to Youth Club....Thank you.

If you would like more information about the Youth Club, or would like to donate a bottle or two, contact Lorna on 07851364227 see the Youth Club page on the Blair Drummond Community Hall website.

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



## Maggie's Culture Crawl

I work for the Antique and Arts Centre at Doune and this year our chosen charity is Maggie's Cancer Care Centre at Forth Valley Royal Hospital. I took part in Maggie's Culture Crawl on Friday 4th October in Edinburgh, in memory of my friends Lucia, Frances, Donna and Robert.



We started the 10k with a talk by Stephen Jardine from the BBC, and an inspirational message from a service user who used the facilities at the Maggie's Centre at the Western General.

We travelled from Doune to Edinburgh for the start time of 6.30pm starting at -

1. The Dean Church at Stewart Melville School.
2. Greyfriars Kirk for a welcome stop with a local choir to entertain us.
3. The next stop was the Tron Kirk.
4. Then Edinburgh World Heritage
5. Lyon and Turnbull, where we were treated to a silent disco, with flashing head phones.
6. The Georgian House in the New Town where we were given an insight into the Georgian way of life.
7. The Grange had a live band playing, giving us another welcome stop.
8. Maggie's Centre at the Western General with a welcome glass of prosecco and a burger, with a medal presentation ceremony for all who had completed the 10k course.

Thank you to all who sponsored me. I raised £300 which will go towards the collective amount for Maggie's Forth Valley.

Many thanks.

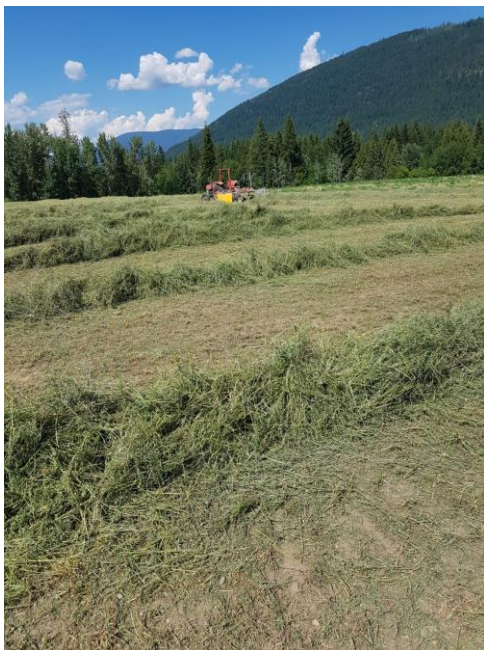
**Anne Christie**



## Our Adventures in Canada

At the end of October, my husband Gordon and I will have been living on our small hay farm in BC, Canada for five years. We moved in the autumn of 2014 after living in Manitoba for 14 years. Our time here has been busy with renovations and our ongoing projects. For the past two years we have been making things easier for ourselves given the fact we are not in our twenties!

One of the most successful changes we have made is the switch to round bales. It worked out very well and all our hay has been sold. Being more mechanised simplified the hay time for Gordon. Gone are the days of farming small bales at Rossburn Lane, Blair Drummond and building them all into the hayshed! This year hay time started off well at the end of May with a good first cut. The weather changed and became more



unsettled for the second cut at the end of August. We could have taken a third cut but decided against it due to the shorter day and changeable weather. However, the yield was good, and the price is reasonable at £170-£200 per tonne.

In our fields we have an ongoing problem with pocket gophers. Dictionary definition is a 'burrowing rodent' and they make gopher mounds, which are exactly like mole hills. Just for his interest Gordon keeps a tally and he has caught 280 so far this year!

I plan to make another change next year and cut our vegetable garden by at least one third.

Gordon seems to think he is supplying our local town of Salmon Arm with veg! This summer saw an infestation of Colorado beetle on our potatoes. We could not get rid of them so ended up picking beetles off by hand every day. The shaws looked sad but the potatoes turned out to be a fantastic crop, something which I did not expect. Due to lots of visitors I 'missed' the beetroot at the nice small stage and come September a lot of them were the size of turnips! Too big and coarse for pickling or chutney. I gave lots of them away to people that 'juice'!

One evening I decided to take my book and coffee out to the garden as it was a lovely evening. While walking past my flower bed I was surprised to see a turtle, from one of our three ponds, laying eggs! I sat way back

from her and watched in awe; my book forgotten! I weeded extremely carefully after that experience so as not to disturb the eggs!

As I mentioned we have three ponds on our farm. This year we were contacted by a local 'outdoor school' wondering if they could bring their students to view and do lessons at the ponds. After the necessary paperwork and details were organised, we said they would be welcome to use the ponds for their lessons. The Outdoor School is new, and the students are predominantly taught all lessons outdoors, even in bad weather. An interesting concept given the Canadian winters! The school are very good at letting us know when they are bringing students as we told them it is a working farm and Gordon, at this time of year, cuts wood and fells dead trees. So far it has worked well so we hope it continues to be a benefit for the school.

Another first for us this year is the appearance of giant puffball mushrooms. We haven't seen them here before and Google was a great help in identifying them! We have lots of varieties of mushrooms in the woods. Our neighbour, who we have dubbed 'the mushroom man' comes around and forages for mushrooms in the woods. Last year he gave us bags of very different looking fungi and said he 'thought' they were perfectly safe to eat. Given the fact he had only just finished his mushroom identifying course a few days before we decided to discreetly get rid of the gift! It was very kind of him, but we felt he needed a bit more experience before we would feel comfortable eating the mushrooms.

Our summer here was busy with friends from both Manitoba and back home visiting us. We always enjoy guests as it makes us stop and take time to go exploring what the area has to offer. We enjoyed boating on the lakes, visiting cideries, wineries and micro-breweries. There are beautiful walks in the area and numerous trails up the local mountains. When we have visitors, I love to make a point of using the BBQ lots. Our local butchers can supply meats and sausages made from various animals and local fruits. Bison burgers, elk sausages, cranberry, maple and bison sausages are available. All very delicious.

With the arrival of Autumn (Fall in Canadian speak) I am hoping the bears are now thinking of going into hibernation. Our wildlife camera which is strategically placed on a path has caught numerous bears, deer and coyotes over the summer months. Fortunately, we have never actually encountered a bear on our walks, but we always carry bear spray 'just in case'! Our local town has just implemented a programme for collecting food waste which works well where we are. However, in some areas they

are bothered with bears tipping over the bins and going after the food waste. Being a binman here does not come without risks! We are heading into our sixth winter here in BC. Hopefully this lovely weather will continue for a while yet. When it snows here the scenery can look beautiful. Gordon snowshoes a bit but that's not for me as short legs and deep snow don't work well! However we really enjoy seeing our children and grandchildren embrace the winter activities and weather. Our four oldest grandchildren all ski and love it. We go sledging (tobogganing here), often light a fire to toast marshmallows or BBQ. All these activities help pass the winter and make it seem slightly shorter. Till the next time.

**Lesley Gentles**



**BLAIR DRUMMOND  
CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November

From 7pm till 9pm

In Blair Drummond Community Hall

**Over 20 stalls including:**

Usborne Books  
The Wee Cake Stop  
Psst Jewellery  
Glass Daisy  
Flamingo Paperie  
Kincardine In Menteith Primary School  
Neals Yard Remedies  
Blair Drummond Youth Club

Proceeds from the raffle will be donated  
to charity

**Admission: Adults £1  
Children 50p**

**Includes tea & mince pie**

## Doune Health Centre

The move into the new health centre went as smoothly as it could have. All the staff along with various health board departments worked amicably and tirelessly together to ensure it was all systems go.

We are all delighted with the final result although there are some finishing touches yet to be put in place.

First impressions are that the building blends in well with the existing houses. It is bright and airy with lots of natural light and incorporates improved facilities for patients and additionally for the staff, a canteen/lounge and even our own shower room!

Outdoors, there is a south facing garden which has been sensitively designed with two modern benches.

Located at the main entrance you will see a splendid solid teak remembrance bench positioned, in memory of Dr Rose. We are pleased with the tribute and trust everyone in the community agrees.

Parking: Always a hot topic. Includes staff parking, general, disabled and parent/ child friendly spaces. There is also a covered bike rack.

A walkway has been created from the clinic to Balkerach Street.

On entering the spacious waiting area you will be struck by the eye catching mural painted by local artist Peter Yates. It is a reflective piece which captures many images of the locality and is a contrast to the otherwise clinical atmosphere.

We trust that when you visit the clinic you will be of the opinion that it has been worth the wait!

### Opening Ceremony of the Rose Room at Doune Health Centre

Many of you will already know that the group room at our lovely new Health Centre will be named the Rose Room in memory of Dr Rose, who was the driving force behind the plans for the new Health Centre for many years. Without his hard work and enthusiasm, we would probably still be working away in our portacabins!

There was no official Opening Ceremony for Doune Health Centre for many reasons and so the Practice has planned an official Opening Ceremony for the Rose Room instead. It will be on **Friday 8th November from 5pm to 7pm** and we wish to invite along any patients that wish to attend and help us commemorate the occasion.

### Clinic closures

Doune Health Centre will be closed on Thursday 14th Nov from noon.

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.



## Childhood Vaccinations

In October, Forth Valley NHS changed the way we organise childhood immunisations for babies and pre-school children (0-5 yrs).

Doune Health Centre will now be classed as a 'Hub Centre'. This means very little change apart from that the GPs and nurses who previously delivered this service will no longer be involved. Instead a team of two nurses will visit Doune Health Centre every Thursday afternoon. The new team are responsible for all enquiries, appointment system, vaccinations and any after care advice. The new vaccination team will invite children to attend as and when they require specific vaccines.

The new contact number for all clinic enquiries and cancellations/reappointments should be directed to this number: **01786 454599** (Immunisation Admin)

## Shingles vaccine

The shingles vaccine will be available to anyone that turned 70 years old by 01/09/19. We will be offering opportunistic vaccination for those aged 71-79 who have never previously been vaccinated.

Please note that the vaccine is not available for anyone aged 80 years and over. This is a 'One-off live vaccine' that can be given at any time of year. Please enquire for suitability.

## Annual Flu vaccination

Adult Drop-in flu clinics are now finished but if you are entitled to a flu vaccine please ask for an appointment with one of our Practice nurses.

## Pre school. Child Nasal Flu Clinics

There are separate nasal flu clinics for our pre school children.

To be eligible children must have reached the age of 2 years by 1st September 2019. Please ask for an appointment with one of our Practice nurses. Primary school children will receive their nasal flu vaccine at school from school nurses.

## Wednesday evening clinic.

Following all the recent changes in the practice, Dr Reid has now increased her hours during the week and is now no longer consulting on Wednesday evenings. Dr Hanlon has taken over this for now. He will consult every Wednesday evening from 6-8pm and this is by appointment only. There is NO Walk-in service available. If you require urgent or emergency care then this will be at MIU, NHS24 or A&E.

This service has been very popular and fully booked most weeks, so if you do not have an appointment then please do not turn up at the surgery expecting to be seen as you will be (politely!) turned away.

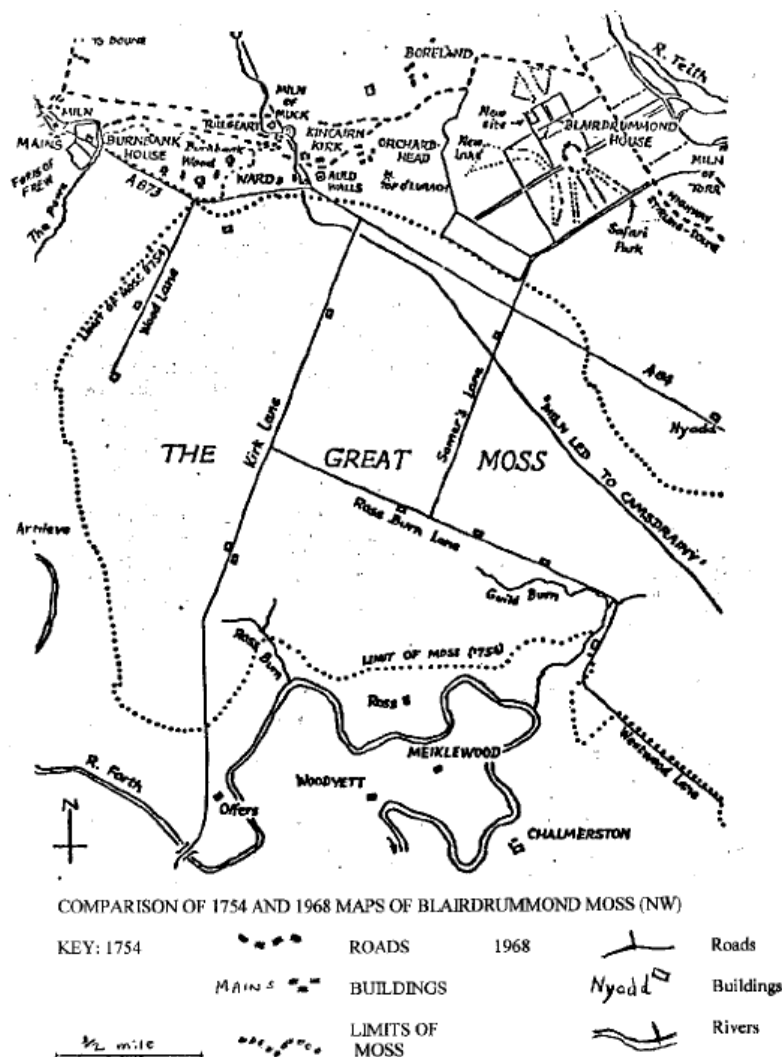
**Linda Keay, Practice Nurse**

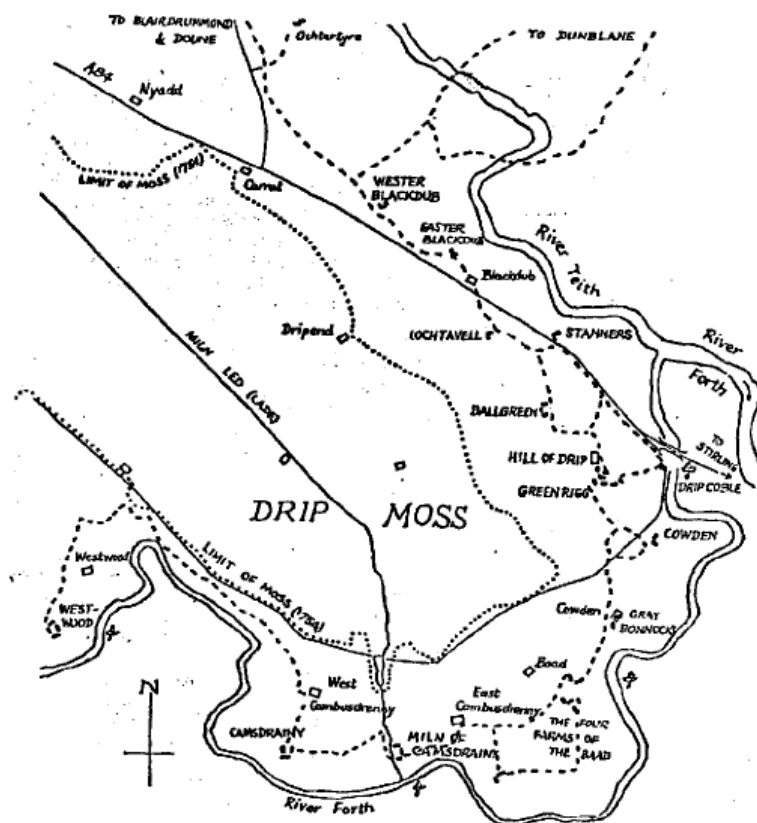
# The Reclamation of Blair Drummond Moss – Part 1

In 1754 a survey was carried out by W Winter, for George Drummond of Blair, the brother in law of Lord Kames. The standard of care in surveying and of draughtsmanship is up to Ordnance Survey standards.

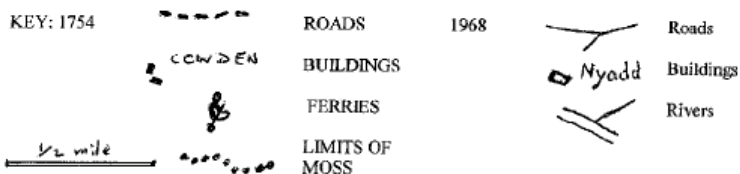
## ***What does the Estate Plan tell us?***

To begin with Blair Drummond itself, we are back in the days of the first house of the name, built in 1715 to 1717 by George Drummond, grandfather of the chap who commissioned the Estate Plan. The house was modest enough, 75 feet by 50 feet in plan, situated in the centre of the giraffe paddock of the Safari Park, unless I am mistaken! Designed in the highest classical tradition, the House was the focal point of vistas, defined by long avenues of trees and presided over its own courtyard, which was somewhat larger than a football field. Benjamin Franklin visited Lord Kames in 1771 and four memorial elms mark that significant visit but not, of course, on our map.





COMPARISON OF 1754 AND 1968 MAPS OF BLAIRDRUMMOND MOSS (SE)



Three quarters of a mile to the west stood old Kincairn (sic) Church, with the Manse and Glebe adjacent, less than 100 yards to the north of the 'Auld Wall', a seventy yard square being all that remained of the 1170 Castle of the Muschets. The later Muschet residence, Burnbank House (1598), is also shown three quarters of a mile further west still. It was an L-shaped building, with a forecourt and a building of some kind defining the entry. The 'Foregarden' of Burnbank is where the 1647 plague tombstone lies but there is no reference to this on the 1754 Plan. The shape of Burnbank Wood has, mercifully, been preserved intact and provides a welcome point of reference in the strangely altered landscape. When one examines the distribution of farms and villages and so on, it is soon brought home to one that we are in the time of the 'farm-toun' with most of the tenants working the infield and outfield, on the run rig system. The village of Tollgeart, for example, comprises a scattered group of sixteen dwellings and a waterwheel, the Mill of Muck (reference to 'pigs'). Mains of Burnbank contains ten buildings, plus a mill, while both Orchardhead and Boreland muster at least seven, possibly with a kiln for drying corn. Fields are classified according to soil type, carse, dry-field, muir etc., along with some comment on expected performance and

perhaps its aspect. Acreages are given to three decimal points which gives us an idea of just how confident our Mr Winter was. Around Drip Moss few of the present farms appear to occupy the sites of those shown. Most have migrated inland. Names of farms are intriguing – Camsdrainy is recognisable as Cambusdrenny but how did Grey Bannocks get its name? A cooking tragedy? Stanners could have referred to the gravel shore of the nearby Teith.

The four mills delineated are – Burnbank, Muck, Torr and Cambusdrenny. To my knowledge Mill of Torr is the only one with four walls standing and these are actually post 1837, the Mill having been rebuilt after the Great Wheel had finished its mammoth task. Weirs on the Teith diverted the water for this mill. The others had Miln-dams or mill-ponds fed by descending streams, the Burn of Muck operating both the Mill of that name and, by an unsung piece of hydraulic engineering dating from 1690, that at Cambusdrenny, three miles away! This lade was to have considerable importance when the drainage of the Moss got under way.

The communication pattern has changed radically. Apart from about half a mile from the 'Drip Coble' to Stanners and the B8031 from Burnbank to Fords of Frew, the modern road network has nothing in common with the old tracery of footpaths and bridleways. Access from east and south was either by ford or ferry, five of the latter being marked. The roads, hardly likely to be able to cope with wheeled traffic, took travellers by each 'farmtoun' en route, frequently circuitously to avoid marsh or similar hazard. The effect of the enclosure of the Blair Drummond Policies is seen in the diversion of the old line, passing somewhere near the House, to a straight 'Highway' along each of the three sides of the Policies at a distance from the House, nowhere less than 300 yards. An early example of a by-pass!

The Moss is shown in two parts, The Great Moss and Drip Moss, together amounting to 20,976 Scottish acres on the Blair Drummond estates alone. The presence of this vast block of unproductive land in the very heart of the estate must have constituted a continual reproach to the successive proprietors. It was left to an outstanding incomer to the Drummond family, Lord Kames, to initiate the steps which eliminated the reproach. His motto, in this respect is recorded on an unseen obelisk above the A84 (the knoll marked TOP O' LURACH in the map) and might well be adopted with benefit in this day and age....

'Graft benevolence on self-love. The fruit will be delicious'.

**Written by the late Dr Ken Mackay, in October 1972, for Stirling Field & Archaeological Society**



## Gin Tasting



The Hall committee held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Gin Tasting evening on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November where we sampled 5 gins from the Scottish Islands. Alison McAlpine talked us through the gins, discussing their origins, aroma & taste as well as indicating what fruits or herbs to add to enhance the flavours. The gins tasted this year were Tobermory from Mull; Wild Island Botanic from Colonsay; Lussa from Jura; Blackwoods from Shetland and finally Arran from Arran! After they had all been tasted we had a vote on our favourite which was Wild Island Botanic from Colonsay. Alison then organised a game of Duck Gingo with the winners being Helen Graham and Amanda Killen. The raffle added to the fun and then of course there was the finger buffet laid on by the committee! A great time was had by all while raising funds for hall improvements and a special Thank You to Alison McAlpine for all her hard work.

## Blair Drummond Curling Club

We opened the curling season on 2<sup>nd</sup> September with the Blair Drummond team taking part in the Doune Shield.

The Blair Drummond opening bonspiel was on 4th September for club members. We welcome Alaina and Graeme Walker, new members to BD CC who embraced curling following a Try Curling session last year.

If anyone is interested in having a go at curling, we will be having another Try Curling session later in November, date to be arranged. If you are struggling with bending down or having problems with your knees or hips, then have a go at stick curling. Fred Bauer and myself have taken up stick curling last season, so it's "work in progress"!

We will be having a social night on Saturday 18th January 2020 so put this date in your diary - more details to follow. Please contact myself, Anne Christie, on 07977441108 or Secretary Stephen Walker on 0797161635 if you wish more detail on any aspect of BDCC.

**Anne Christie, Chair**



## SAVE THE PLANET!

This, the local Grapevine newsletter, needs your help to reduce our paper footprint!

Please would you consider taking the Grapevine by email? It's so easy, just email us at [bdgrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:bdgrapevine@gmail.com). We will not pass on your details to anyone else.

We appreciate some of our community cannot access email but lots can, so please, do your bit and email us now along with a note of your address so that we stop delivering you a paper copy!

Also, we rely on volunteers to deliver the paper copies, just four times per year. We need more volunteers to help us and would be very happy to hear from you if you can help. THANK YOU.



VINYASA & ASHTANGA

# YOGA

WITH MARY-ANN PT

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CLASSES COMMENCING JANUARY 2020  
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£8/CLASS- BLOCK BOOKINGS & GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: [MARYANNPTYOGA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MARYANNPTYOGA@GMAIL.COM)

[www.maryannpt.com/yoga](http://www.maryannpt.com/yoga)

## Stephen Kerr MP

### New Multiple Sclerosis Group Launched in Stirling

Stephen Kerr, MP for Stirling, was invited to visit the newly established Multiple Sclerosis group in Stirling. The MS Society has established this group to provide support and a social network for those suffering from this debilitating illness and their families who often find themselves isolated.

The group will hold regular meetings and events and provide a much needed opportunity for people affected by MS from across Stirling and Clackmannanshire to come together. It is being officially relaunched as the previous group lapsed some time ago but it is clear there is a need for one. Stephen heard that a particular problem is the amount of time it takes for those diagnosed with the disease to get their disabled drivers –



Blue Badges- renewed. Stephen has previously been contacted by people experiencing very similar problems and who have long term illnesses. Not only is there the problem of the amount of time taken by the Council to get a badge renewed but it raises the question of why those dealing with a long term prognosis need to re-apply at all. Stephen has raised this with the DVLA.

### **Keith Graham**

Stephen Kerr MP presented local naturalist and Stirling Observer columnist, Keith Graham, a copy of the Early Day Motion Stephen presented to Parliament recognising the incredible achievement of writing a weekly column for the local paper for 45 years without missing a deadline.

### **Mobile Networks**

Stephen Kerr MP has welcomed the announcement of the partnership between the UK Government and the four Mobile Network Providers which will deliver a comprehensive UK wide 4G network.

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](mailto:bdgrapevine@gmail.com)

Items for Edition 35 should be submitted by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**, 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.*

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