

Issue 41

The Grapevine

August 2021

Blair Drummond Grapevine gratefully acknowledges [UnitedAuctions](#) generosity in printing this and previous editions of this newsletter.

Kincardine In Menteith Primary School Photography Competition

A big thank you to everyone who entered our Photography Competition. We received lots of amazing entries. I can confirm that the following winners have been chosen and prizes are on their way to you.



Overall Winner
"Busy Bee" by **Alastair MacDonald**



P1 – P3 Winner
“Hugs through time” by **Leo Ingle P3**



P4 – P7 Winner
“Beagle Picnic” by **Alfie Johnston Smith**



Parent Winner

“At home in nature” by **Valentine Morgan**



No matter how long
or lonely your road
is he will be by your
side

Community Winner

“No matter how long or lonely your road is he will be by your side” by
Wilma Wray

Well done everyone!
Louise Harrower, Administrator

Blair Drummond Community Hall

The next committee meeting will be held in the hall (we hope!) on **Monday 20th September**, at 7.30pm. If you would like further information contact bdgrapevine@gmail.com or feel free to come along on the night.

Kincardine in Menteith Church

As we begin to ease out of lock down I hope you and your family have been well and survived the crisis. Covid19 has been a very hard time for us all and that includes the Church, with having to close its doors in March 2020. We opened them on Easter Sunday this year, and at present we are only having a service on the first Sunday of the month at 10.00a.m. Although in August we have 2 special services - Sunday 15th is Summer Evening Reflection with Val Rose at 6.30p.m and on Sunday 26th at 10.00a.m there is a joint service with Gargunnock and Kilmadock Doune, which will be taken by Ian Roy. We will be able to sing but still must wear a mask.

On 4th July we welcomed the family of Freya Christina Gillian Drummond, who was baptised by Rev Lynne Mack. Over the past 3 years we have been guided and supported by our Interim Moderator Val Rose and we are very grateful for all she has done in that time.

Service Dates

5th September Service 10.00a.m Val Rose/Rory Duff

3rd October Harvest Thanksgiving 10.00a.m Rev Lynne Mack

7th November Communion 10.00a.m Rev Lynne Mack

WE ARE OPEN

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

PLEASE COME IN

If you would like any further information please get in touch.

**Janette Gilliland,
Session Clerk**



KINCARDINE IN MENTEITH CHURCH
BLAIRDRUMMOND
'Evensong'

Invites you to a

SUMMERS EVENING REFLECTION

On

Sunday 15th August 2021

At

6.30pm in Church

Our interim Moderator Val Rose
will conduct the service

We look forward to singing again (with masks)

Coffee and Cake will be served outside
after the service (weather permitting)

ALL WELCOME



Life at Briarlands



After reopening on 26th of April we have had a busy few months, helped massively by the terrific weather we have been having, and the fact that everyone is holidaying in Britain this year!

Booking is still essential as numbers are still restricted but every day in the summer holidays has been fully booked!

Our new outside catering facilities have been very popular, as parents can grab a coffee and snack while the kids are playing. Lucy's Lollies ice cream emporium is now up and running too and is open daily, at the moment from 11.30am. As you can imagine a popular destination on a sunny day!



There have been some changes in the management too, with John leaving and Mhairi stepping up to replace him as Kitchen Manager. This left a space for an Assistant Kitchen Manager and the role has been filled by Catherine and Lucy who are now the Assistant Kitchen co-Managers! The new additions made during lockdown have proved very popular. With the new goat feeding tower being a particular favourite with the kids, of both the human and goat variety!

The charity Wishing Well has so far raised a massive £661.37 with its pennies for wishes! The Inglis family have topped this up to £1000 and this has been split between Scottish Autism, Scottish Association for Mental Health and Home Start Stirling. Many thanks to all who made a wish.

Strawberry picking continues on an intermittent basis with Pick Your Own being open when fruit supplies allow.



On a sad note..... we lost our lovely big pony Nelson last month, due to a colic type illness. This came on really suddenly and we are all devastated he has gone, especially Shetland pony Hamish who is missing his pal.

We are on the lookout for a replacement, so if any neighbours in the horse world know of anyone who is looking to rehome/sell a big friendly pony or even a donkey, can you send them our way please?

The next step on the journey back to normality is to get the indoor play area back up and running, which we hope to do in September, after the schools are back, and then onto our Christmas plans from there!

Tickets must be pre-booked online before visiting and this can be done by visiting our website at www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk. Daily numbers are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Mary Inglis

BLAIR DRUMMOND ESTATE

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	£6.50 for hardwood
Small bags	£5.50 for softwood

Contact: **Michael McKinstry**

Tel: 01786 841728 Mob: 07955 124057

Farming News & Weather

You have all hopefully enjoyed seeing happy farmers and the wonderful smell of new hay. This year, thanks to the weather, the hay has been super easy to make, we cut the grass, dry it by fluffing in up with the tedder and then bale it. The yield is slightly back on last year, but with high demand we should all be happy.

Harvest has also now started, so please be patient and careful with all the huge machines on the roads. Please, can I remind cyclists that if you can't see the vehicle mirrors then the driver cannot see you, and also pull over when passing on the single-track roads. We start now with winter barley, this mainly used for animal feed, this will be followed with winter wheat used for distilling (the by product is also fed to animals) and feeding animals. Spring Barley which we hope will go for malting will be combined mid-August onwards, this will be followed by Oats (for porridge) then Spring Wheat. The fields that were yellow in the spring, will be combined any time now. It is oil seed rape, producing a multi-use oil and great protein by-product for animal feed.

The weather recently has been truly fantastic 14 consecutive dry, warm, sunny days, but we are still looking at a wet year, April and June so far the only dry months. April was one of the coldest on record, July will be one of the hottest, this could explain why your garden might be doing unusual things this year.

Katie Brisbane

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.

Down our Way

(An occasional series of interviews with local people)

Last year, in the midst of Covid lockdown, the Blair Drummond Community Hall committee held their annual general meeting on line, via Zoom. We were delighted to have some 'new faces' take part and even more so, that they wanted to join the committee!

One of those folks is Jennifer Ure who, with her husband Barry, son Fraser (15) and daughter Rebecca (9), came in 2017 to live at the Old Inn Cottage, at the old bridge. So, from the community of Blair Drummond, welcome to the Ure family!



Focusing on Jennifer, whose career is in computing, she is presently working from home and is a Project Manager for a software development company. Before Covid she travelled every day to work in Glasgow and, like everyone else now home based for work, finds it has advantages and disadvantages. She enjoys having lunch with her husband (also home based for work), being available to take Fraser to Dunblane to his football training and Rebecca to her dancing class with Stageworks. Though she also finds that she works well beyond usual working hours as it's so easy to carry on!

When not working Jennifer is very sports orientated, enjoying badminton, running, outdoor gym workouts and hill walking. Alongside these hobbies, Jennifer enjoys working in their garden, and caring for their 8 chickens, 1 cockerel, 1 quail and 2 rabbits! An extra interest Jennifer has developed is her wish to know more about the history of the family home and the surrounding area. So if anyone has any information of relevance, please do get in touch, on the Grapevine email address and we will pass your information on.

The family love living in here and we are delighted to have them within our community and to have Jennifer join the hall committee, with her fresh ideas and energy.

Jenny Holl – World Champion



World Champions Sophie and Jenny



That moment when you realise what you've achieved



Top spot on the podium of the Para World Road Race Championships in Portugal in July.

After many years and much dedication, the hard work has paid off for Jenny Holl.

After leaving school Jenny moved to Manchester to train with the GB Senior Academy Cycling squad both on the road and velodrome (track).

Throughout this time, she has competed in the UK and many countries throughout the world. She has also been British Champion in different events.

However, in 2020 as we all know sport was seriously disrupted along with everything else and this meant no racing for the GB team, unless it was by means of a turbo trainer, a computer and the internet.

This was massively disruptive, to the point that we as a world are only now watching the Olympics in 2021. But it did allow Jenny to make the transition from the Olympic squad to a sighted pilot on the front of a tandem in the Paralympic squad.

In February 2021 Jenny made that move and in March she was paired with her partner Sophie Unwin.

After a couple of weekends training together they went to Belgium for the World Cup where they competed in both the 'Road Race' and 'Time Trial (TT)', coming 3rd in both.

A grand result for the newcomers, so GB then sent them a month later to the World Championships in Portugal for the same 2 events.

In the 'TT' they came 4th and after an exciting Road Race they took the win, title of World Champions and they donned the coveted Rainbow Jersey.

I'm very proud and excited to announce now that they are now prepping to go to Tokyo for the Paralympics later this month. They will compete in the 'TT' and Road Race but also on the velodrome in the Kilo and Pursuit events.

Hopefully there will be some good TV coverage on Channel 4 for all of us keen to watch and we wish them all the very best.



Race pace

Emily Holl

Photographs by Rebecca Ure



My name is Rebecca and I'm 9 years old. I live at Drip Bridge with my mum, dad and my big brother. My grandad bought me a camera for my birthday as I kept taking pictures using his camera! I love taking pictures when I am out and about with my family.

Here are a few of my favourite ones from home.

My swans and their babies

These swans live just up the river from us, and return every year to have their babies. They always swim past our garden to show them off.



Stirling Castle in the spring

I took this picture when I visited the castle with my Grandad and Grandma. It was published in the Stirling Observer!



Sunset over Hill o Drip Farm

I love this pretty sunset with the farmhouse in the front and the hills in the background.



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BAXI

RHET News



RHET factor returns, our fun fundraising choir looks set to regroup in September. We secured funding from the Arnold Clark Community Fund and hope to begin face to face weekly sessions as soon as restrictions allow. If there are any singers in Blair Drummond area who would like to join, please get in touch. forthvalley@rhet.org.uk.

Volunteers needed – RHET are always on the lookout for volunteers to help us achieve our aim of taking the classroom to the countryside. Do you fancy joining us as a committee member, speaker, or farm host? We are finding that we need all sorts of skills from event organising, applying for grants, creating digital material, making learning resources and teaching school age children where their food comes from. To find out more and register, please visit our website www.rhet.org.uk

Katie Brisbane

Glass & clothing recycling



Sadly once again someone has decided to dump their rubbish outside our local recycling bins. This time it was tiles. There isn't a bin for this type of waste so it had to be removed by one of the hall Committee members and put in the grey bin, which the person responsible for leaving the tiles could have done at their own home!

The recycling bins at the hall are for glass, clothes and paper only.

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***

Safari Park

Baby lemurs at the Safari Park

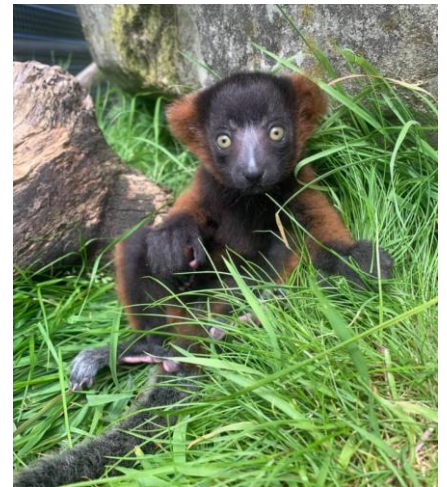


We have FOUR adorable black-and-white lemurs born at the Safari Park in April this year.

The playful little bundles have been named Eleven, Dustin, Hopper and Alexei and are delighting visitors to Lemur Land with their antics.

Black-and-white lemurs usually only give birth to two offspring in a litter, so the birth of quads is a fantastic boost to the conservation of this critically endangered species.

We've also had a new addition to our red ruffed lemur family, with a very confident and friendly little boy born in mid-May. His name, Reagan, means 'little king' and his arrival is big news for the conservation of this species, which is also critically endangered.



Sea lion habitat

Work on the new sea lion habitat at the Safari Park is progressing nicely, and this new state-of-the-art facility is on track to be opened later this year.

The excavation work is now complete and the outdoor pool is taking shape, with work started on the rocks and ledges, designed to give our sea lions plenty of space to climb and sunbathe. Once complete, the new layout will also provide much better viewing opportunities for visitors.

Meerkats

We're spending the final weeks of July putting the finishing touches to our new meerkat house. The indoor rooms were completed first, allowing the meerkats to move in and get used to their new surroundings before the paths and visitor areas are completed for opening.

What summers were made for...

Who doesn't love a long, lazy weekend? So, to make the most of the beautiful summer evenings, we've extended our opening hours for August 2021.

We're open, as usual, until 5.30pm from Monday to Thursday. And we're staying open until 7pm on Fridays, 9pm on Saturdays and 7pm on Sundays.

These extra hours will give you plenty of time to explore the Park, enjoy a BBQ or one of our made-to-order wood-fired pizzas. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to see all our animals as they soak up the summer vibes too.

All the usual areas of the Safari Park will remain open, including our drive-thru reserves, pedal boats, adventure play area, dinosaurs and take away food outlets, and at the weekend we'll have an extra Bird of Prey show at 5:30pm.

Our daytime visitors are welcome to stay until closing time, and we're also offering 'Summer Evening' tickets for late afternoon entry at a special discounted price.

Blair Drummond Safari Park is such a special place to enjoy in the summer, so if you're missing that holiday feeling, please come down and share this relaxing space with us.

Liz Gunn, Head of Sales and Marketing

Doune Library

Visit Doune Library as the doors re-open, in time for the children's Summer Reading Challenge. Read six books, collect six rewards, and a free Safari Park ticket for each entrant.

We have 15 mins visits available inside the library, to peruse the stock and use public PCs. Bring your Library card. Face covering MUST be worn. Government regulations are being observed.

To Select and Collect - inform staff of your library card number and preferred likes, genres, authors etc., and a selection will be made on your behalf. Selections can be made on behalf of children too - again library card number and reading preferences are required.

To collect food waste bags - your name and home address details MUST be given at time of arranging time slot. This information will be shared with Waste Services database.

To collect hearing aid batteries - your name and battery type should be given when arranging time slot.

To collect dog bags - your name is all we need!

Looking forward to hearing from you, and seeing you inside the Library.

Please call 01786 841732 to arrange a time slot. Slots are available every 15 minutes; on the hour, quarter past, half past and quarter to.

Monday 2-6

Wednesday 2-6

Thursday 9-1

Saturday 10-12

Alison McAlpine,
Librarian

Doune Health Centre

B12 INJECTIONS

From May community nursing took over the delivery of Vit B12 injections. A benefit of introducing this new service is the release of more Medical and Practice Nurse appointments for other issues. There will be a few exceptions but for the vast majority of patients the following now applies.

Dedicated B12 only clinics are being scheduled for every second Wednesday between 2-3 pm.

For many patients this will mean a change. From now on, the Community Nurse is only able to administer your B12 injection if you have collected your prescription from the pharmacy.

There is an option for some patients to learn to self-administer instead of coming into the clinic and if so teaching will be made available.

Covid vaccinations

By the time you receive this copy we will have fully vaccinated all our patients > 50 years and those at risk.

Our < 50 yrs will be vaccinated in a local hub.

Our team were keen to vaccinate all age groups but the decision was made at Health Board level.

Thank you for all the tremendous support and thanks we have had in delivering the vaccine roll out to you. It has been a challenging and rewarding journey which we have enjoyed putting together and most of all, it's been great seeing friendly faces back in the clinics.

Face to face appointments

The big question is: When will the doctors be able to see patients in the clinic again?

Hopefully as we move back towards some normality we will phase in more and more face to face appointments.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding during this time.

GP trainees

We were sorry to see our trainees leaving us at the end of July.

We were fortunate to have had two doctors who were both very experienced, capable and enthusiastic. Dr Alex Fullbrook and Dr Gillian Mallagh have been with us for over a year now.

They have completed their training and are both ready to look for a GP partnership.

Many of you may have had the opportunity of meeting them when you attended for your covid injections. We are very grateful to them for helping us administer the vaccines with the rest of the team and for their work during the pandemic crisis.

We wish them well in their future medical careers.

Holidays 🌞☐🏠🌲

We hope you all enjoy the holiday season. Wherever you go or whatever you do, we wish you well.

From all the staff at the Health Centre.

**Linda Keay,
Practice Nurse**

Text Messaging Service

We have had our text messaging system now for almost 2 years. We feel it is working well and we are doing most of our chronic disease recalls now by text message.

During the pandemic this service has been instrumental to the practice in allowing us to send out texts to whole age groups and sometimes to the whole practice population at once.

We have had a number of patients try to contact us by text or try to phone this number. This number does not receive calls, and while you can cancel appointments by replying CANCEL to the appointment reminder text, we cannot reply to individual messages.

Please keep us updated if you have a new number.

Mairi McGrandles, Practice manager.

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 42 should be submitted by **31st October 2021**, 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

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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