

# BLAIRLOGIE BUGLE

Your Window on the Village and the Logie Community March 2017  
Blairlogie, Cotkerse, Gogar, Manor, Powis and Witches Craig

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## **Can't See the Wood for the Trees**

A gang of great people turned out on the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> March to clear shrubbery that was gradually taking over the village burn and much more besides. What a difference this makes!



Alastair takes a break from heavy work.

## **Far Eastern adventures – Neighbour Night**

An illustrated talk on his wanderings in China by neighbour Mike Allen in the Reading Room at 7.00pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March. BYOB, Nibbles provided.

## **Film Night**

A lovely classic film, "An American in Paris" will be shown on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April in the Reading Room. All welcome, BYOB.

## **The Burns Supper - From Una**

Thank you to the community members who helped to make the 'Alternative Burns Supper' a great success. There was tangible energy throughout the evening. Michael Moore's catering provided a delicious supper. Doug Lee and the MC Paula provided lively ceilidh music and disco.

Thank you to George Sutherland for his interesting presentation; Alastair Maxwell-Irving for his personal perspective on Tam O'Shanter and Gordon Turner for his thought-provoking views of Burns' timelessness and contemporary relevance.

The event raised £318 for the Blairlogie Community and Heritage Trust funds.

## **New to the Logie Area?**

Table Tennis - Why not make friends, catch up on village gossip and enjoy some light exercise. Try Table Tennis on Wednesday evenings in the Reading Room at 8.00pm.

Yoga - Fulfilling and relaxing, Yoga takes place in the hall on Monday evenings with two sessions, 6pm to 7pm and 7.15pm to 8.15pm. Contact Paula Ribiero T: 7811237514, Hatha Yoga, or email paularuteriberiero@hotmail.com for details or just show up.

Logie Community Council - Representing the Logie community on matters of local interest including road safety, police and planning. The chair of the CC is Mr Gordon Adam email garadam@outlook.com and the minute secretary is Mary Maxwell-Irving. The next meeting will be held in the Reading Room at 19:30 on Tuesday 28th March.

Blairlogie Website - For information about the character of the village, the houses and the people who reside there see the website at : [www.blairlogie-scotland.org](http://www.blairlogie-scotland.org).

The website is maintained by Craig Bryce and he answers queries from all over the world about the history of Logie.

## **Futures**

Community Trust - The process of transferring the assets of the Reading Room including the building to the Trust is now complete. Thanks are due to Mary Maxwell-Irving for managing this process. Reading Room events are now run by a subgroup of Una Bryce, Kate Doyle, Paula Gardener and Katanya Hamilton.

Logie Fast Broadband - The broadband enterprise will move from the Community Trust to be managed by a new Community Interest Company (CIC). This change will make no practical difference to users of the services but it simplifies the management. For enquires contact [angus.annan01@btinternet.com](mailto:angus.annan01@btinternet.com)

Foster Care Appeal - Stirling Council is conducting a recruitment drive for foster carers. If you know anyone who would be interested the carer team will be running information sessions at Sainsbury's Stirling Branch daily during the week beginning Monday 27th March, 12:00 until 14:00.

## **Enterprise Zone**

Past editions of the Bugle have featured the wonderful job the Stevens family have done in creating the Witches Craig Caravan Park as an award winning rural site. Nearby there is the achievement of Gwen and her family in developing Logie Villa Cattery. Now we focus with John Logan and Margaret Filshie on the great business they have built up at Blairmains Farm Shop and Coffee Bothy, employing twenty-eight people on family friendly hours. The following page contains a profile of the Blairmains Farm Shop.

The next issue of the Bugle will feature Manor Farm Business Park.



# Business profile

## Blairmains Farm Shop & Coffee Bothy

### The business

Blairmains Farm Shop & Coffee Bothy is owned by John and Elma Logan and is located in the stunning rural setting of Blairlogie near Stirling.

### Diversification

John and Elma originally ran a dairy business with a Holstein Friesian herd at Manorpowis.

Finding it increasingly tough to make dairy farming viable, they diversified the business in 2001, establishing the farm shop and coffee bothy. John and Elma run the farm shop and Elma's sister Margaret Filshie runs the coffee bothy.

Stirling Eye caught up with Margaret Filshie, who said: "I had been running a travel agents for 20 years when John asked if I would like to run the Coffee Bothy. I jumped at the chance having always loved good coffee and home baking."

"Although the foot and mouth outbreak postponed the opening for a couple of months, it became clear from the first week in business that it was going to be a great success. I have since sold my travel business to concentrate on the Coffee Bothy full time."

### Transition

The transition from farming to shop keeper has been easy for John Logan. Margaret said: "John is so passionate about people and the business we call him the PR man."

### Model for success

Margaret said: "We all emphasise that the key to success is good quality food and fresh Scottish produce. We source as much from Scotland as possible, even down to our pakora. We source a lot of our fruit locally from Briarlands farm in Blairdrummond and a berry producer from Kippen. All of our beef is Scottish Farm Assured."

### DID YOU KNOW?

John Logan, friends and family walked the West Highland Way in September raising more than £15,000 for Cancer Research and Breast Awareness Scotland, to add to the £32,000 already raised.



[www.justgiving.com/blairmains](http://www.justgiving.com/blairmains)



**BLAIRMAINS**  
FARM SHOP & COFFEE BOTHY



John Logan and Margaret Filshie

### Development of the business

The business has been extended over the years and now employs around 38. The number of tables in the coffee bothy has increased from seven to 24 and the retail of arts, crafts and

quality furniture has been added to compliment the existing business.

Margaret said that a fantastic development has been the Coffee Bothy Express run by John and Elma's son Graeme. This additional facility has increased their capacity to accommodate more visitors, which has enabled them to get brown tourist signage put up.

### Advice on diversification

Margaret's advice to other farm business thinking about diversifying is to never stint on quality. She said: "We ensure that every plate of food served is of the same high standard to keep our good reputation."

"It is important to note that diversification is not an easy option - it is a lot of hard work and needs to be started with a passion to succeed."

### The future

Margaret said: "We constantly innovate, source new products and bring new ideas to our menu. We are passionate about using local produce and would like people to realise that the loss of farming from the countryside will change the environment as we know it."

"We are also engaged in the huge campaign against the construction of the new electricity pylons for the Beaulay to Denny line, backed by the Stirling Observer. If the line is required and can't be put offshore we want it to be buried underground. If constructed, these pylons will scar Stirling's landscape forever."

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

