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# LOGIE LIFE NOVEMBER 2020

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## **Christmas lights will be switched on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

For obvious reasons, there will be no gatherings around the tree or in the hall.

## **Who's Who 2020**

**If you are new to Blairlogie who might find the following useful:**

### **Logie Community Council are:**

Mary Maxwell-Irving (Chair)  
Robin Kelsall (Vice Chair)  
Ida Bailey (Treasurer)  
Ken Todd (Secretary)  
Cameron Campbell  
Katanya Hamilton (Minutes Secretary)

### **The Directors of the Blairlogie Community and Heritage Trust, which owns the Reading Room and the village's private roads are:**

Robin Kelsall (Chair)  
Angus Annan (Secretary)  
Gordon Adam (Director)  
Mike Allen (Director)  
Rory Bailey (Treasurer)  
Jan McAndrew (Director)  
John Randall (Director)

### **The village broadband is the responsibility of the Logie Fast Broadband Community Interest Company (CIC)**

#### **Directors:**

Angus Annan (Secretary)  
Tom Cox (Finance Director)  
Brian Paget (Technical Director)  
Richard Morrell (Advisor)

Apologies if I have missed anyone; let me know who you are and what you do.

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## Halloween Competition Blairlogie 2020

An enormous thanks to all who took part in the event. From the feedback received I think it's safe to say that we were cheered up by this creative activity and the judges have asked me to pass on their congratulations to all who participated and brought light and a sense of community to such a dark time. Wandering round the village after dark and peering in neighbours' windows and gardens at the spooky offerings was a welcome change from drawing the curtains and switching the TV on. The lanterns and displays were great and I'm sure they managed to keep Blairlogie safe from any evil spirits about on the night.

It was a shame that it was not the best year for robust, long lasting pumpkins, meaning that some potential winning creations didn't survive through to Halloween. Two from the Ferguson family at Redcar and the entry from Vicki and Tobias at Cotkerse Cottage met premature demises, as did Katelyn Todd's pumpkin, which sadly decomposed before the judging took place. Such a shame but one upside was that this allowed Caitlin to lend her support to the very grateful judges on their tour around the rough, dark lanes and pavements.

Sadly, some villagers were keen to join in but were unable to track down a pumpkin in time. Not to be defeated though, they managed to come up with alternative offerings. The Logans at Blairmains improvised with "willing" animal support and Mary and Alastair at Telford House demonstrated technological prowess with a GIF. The Jennings at Blairlogie Park created a lamp lit spectre to guard their front entrance and Mike, in his new workshop at The Manse, got his power tools out and hollowed out two fantastic traditional turnip lanterns.

Lastly two members of our community gave up their time and employed their artistic expertise to take on the role of judges. For those of you familiar with Blairlogie, I'm sure their absence from the winning list is a giveaway as to their identities. Needless to say it was a struggle for them to decide on the winner. Although only one could win, they decided to award second and third placings too and to highly commend several others.

Well done everyone for making the event such a success.

Susan Allen



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** Beckie and family at Nethercraig. This pumpkin lantern was considered to have the scariest expression and was placed strategically by the main entrance to the home to achieve the desired effect of guarding against evil spirits.



2<sup>nd</sup> Doug and Paula at Blair House. Excellent placement at gate over water with the added bonus of edible treats.



3<sup>rd</sup> Clem and Sean at The Croft. Great pumpkins with the added theme of the “Adams family” being played on the piano.

Highly commended was awarded to:

Sheila and John at Morven for their pumpkin carving and display.



Georgina and Graham at Cotkerse House for window display of a couple of pumpkin characters accessorised with hats.

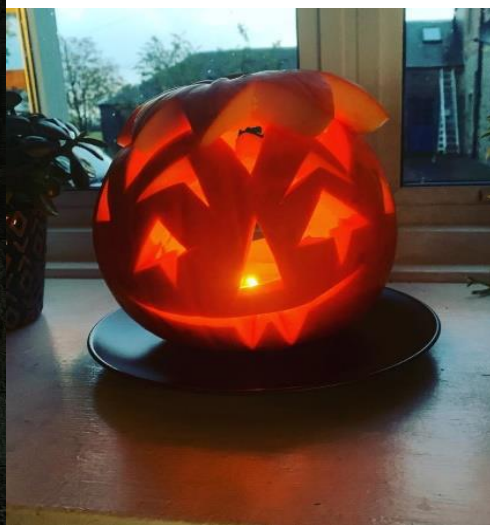


Jennifer and Peter at Blairlogie Park for a brilliant last minute improvisation when Jennifer's carved pumpkin did not survive to Halloween.



Katanya and Paul at Huntly for a beautiful outdoor table display guaranteed to welcome rather than scare.

And for those who didn't manage to get out on the night here's the rest of them...







### **Alastair Maxwell-Irving - PhD at 85**

Alastair Maxwell-Irving has recently been awarded a PhD from Published Work by Glasgow Caledonian University. At 85, he is understood to be the oldest person in Scotland to become a Doctor of Philosophy. In his case, the award covers a lifetime's research, since, as well as his two major volumes on the history and architecture of Tower Houses of the Scottish Borders, Alastair has written numerous specialist papers on a variety of related subjects over the past 50 years, together with several lesser works. He worked closely as an Honorary Assistant with the former Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) for some 40 years.

The doctorate was awarded on the basis of an assessment of all of his published and archaeological work, as well as a required additional written submission and a final viva examination by an internal and external examiner.

Mary Maxwell Irving

## **The Kindness of Strangers**

While walking through the village I learned from Robin that a complete stranger had very kindly gone out of his way to ask him for help to return an important personal possession to the owner. George Sutherland had inadvertently left his backpack perched on the roof of his car (it can happen to anyone, I once left a pair of curtains, fresh from the dry cleaners, on top of my car, before jumping in and running them over!) George was busily distracted before leaping into his car and headed off onto the A91. The backpack flew off somewhere along the road and was picked up by a stranger who checked inside for the whereabouts of the owner. The kind stranger stopped at Robin's to ask for directions before returning the backpack to George, who was delighted and most grateful.

A huge thanks to that kind stranger!

Una Bryce

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