



This summer's Logie Life is packed with articles and news to interest everyone: from the recent biblical deluge to Blairlogie of Old; from new neighbours to our bi-annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. There is an entertaining contribution from Robin Kelsall and an article steeped in history from Alastair Maxwell-Irving. Remember: It's **YOUR** newsletter. If you have news you wish to share, contact me:

[una t bryce@msn.com](mailto:una_t_bryce@msn.com) or mob: 07517510131

Without **your** contributions, there will be no Logie Life.

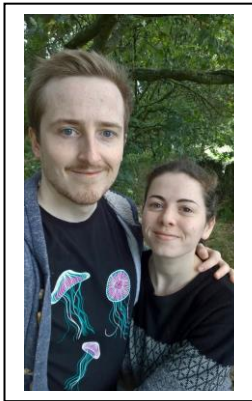
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday Group meet 24th August 2019 10 am

Annual Barbeque 24th August 2019 6pm

Saturday 28th September Macmillan Coffee Morning 10:30 am Village Hall

Welcome new neighbours and community members!



Hello Blairlogie Community,

We are Seán and Clem Flanagan, a married couple who have recently purchased The Croft. We are very excited to join the Blairlogie community and wanted to let you know a little bit about who we are.

It is our intention to split our time between London (where we currently work) and Blairlogie while we do important structural work in the house, and until we can both find work locally. We will be making frequent trips up north to renovate the house in the meantime.

We will be moving permanently in 2020 – at which point we hope to become involved members of the community.

We look forward to getting to know all neighbours soon

Best wishes,

The Flanagans

Welcome to Amber and Jamie who have recently moved into Cotkerse.

Also, a warm welcome to Helen and Cameron Campbell who have taken up residence in Ochilneuk.

100 Club

Following the issue of the minutes of the BCHT Annual General Meeting and before commencing the resurrection of the Club, it is important to know how many will be participating. The example given in the minutes would be ideal but in reality, this will probably not be the case and therefore, as you can appreciate, the number of draws each year and the amount given in prizes would need to be adjusted. For example, should only 50 take part, there would be just 4 quarterly draws of £100 during the year, netting £600 for the Trust.

To get the ball rolling, please let me know by e-mail by the end of July, the number of entries you require.

John Randall

E-MAILS to RANDHURST1940@GMAIL.COM

The village of Blairlogie fell victim to a summer deluge on a biblical scale.

On Monday 24th June, at around 9.30 pm, many villagers would have been aware of the thunderous roar of the burn as its deluge brought detritus down, causing a blockage and flood between Medrox, Nethercraig and Ochilneuk.

Fire fighters arrived to help unblock the torrent, but not before villagers had managed to fashion sandbags and a barrier at Medrox.

Thankfully, as the sun shone the next day, there was a quick drying period so village life returned to normal.



Archaeology Presentation

Community member, Rod McCulloch, presented to a packed house on 'Passing Time in Bannockburn.' It was a thought-provoking talk, going back seven thousand years over the area that we now recognise as Greenyards.

If you were inspired to look further into archaeology in the area, there is the Society of Antiquaries at www.socantsscot.org

Also, the audience enjoyed a little excitement when the sound system started to smoke then quietly combust.



Macmillan Coffee Morning (Bi-annual event) Saturday 28th September 2019 Starts 10:30-12:30 in the Village Hall

Heaven forbid that we should be like any ordinary coffee morning!

The 'Liltin' Lassies', from Dunblane, have agreed to provide some entertainment from around 11am.

Set your alarms to ensure you are here early to secure a front seat.

There will be a stall where you can purchase Neal's Yard remedies; also an artist, Kate Langley, who creates pet portraits and paintings of houses in the area.

If you have anything you might wish to showcase, do get in touch: 07517510131.

There will be the usual posters scattered hither and thither so that you don't forget.

This is your opportunity to show off your baking skills; all donations will be gratefully received. The Logie Community has proved itself in the past to be most generous.

Let me know before the event if you would like to donate to the Coffee Morning so that I have an idea of quantity available to sell to the hungry hordes. 07517510131

Get baking!

Una Bryce

Speed calming success

Stirling Counsellors are set to back the petition organised by the Community Council concerning traffic calming on the A91. Through the petition, it is hoped that there will be a reduction of the speed limit from Logie roundabout to Huntly from 60mph to 40 mph; from there to Blairlogie House it will drop from 40mph to 30mph. The 40mph limit between Blairlogie House and the Stirling/Clackmannanshire border will remain at 40mph.

One particular Community member, who does not wish to be mentioned, posed a strong argument at the meeting with Stirling Council's Environment and Housing Committee on behalf of the village and road users. Well done!

If you wish to read more on this please refer online to The Stirling Observer article 12th June 2019.

Thank you to Alastair Maxwell-Irving for his erudite contribution:

BLAIRLOGIE OF OLD



The recent removal of the harling from the west gable of Hillside Cottage has added another historically important detail to our knowledge of Blairlogie's fascinating history. This gable has revealed that the cottage comprises two distinct periods of construction, a ground floor crudely built of random-rubble boulders with Mud-Mortar bonding, and an upper floor of modern brick, supported by a beam of reinforced concrete. Moreover, the rubble boulders lack any attempt at incorporating 'dressed' quoins (corner stones) at each end, indicating that the house originated as a simple stone cottage, almost certainly with a thatched roof, of much earlier date than the group of houses and cottages that were built in the middle of the 18th century when Blairlogie became famous as a "Goat's Milk Spa". To understand this, one has to go back in time and look at the village's earlier history.

The earliest mention of Blairlogie appears in 1451, when King James II granted to his consort, Marie (of Gueldres), Queen of Scotland, many lands, including the "villam [township] de Logy and Blarlogy". Logie and Blairlogie thus became, in effect, Crown lands, and remained so until 1516, when the Duke of Albany, as Regent of Scotland, resigned the lands in favour of Henry Spittal, [merchant] burgess of Edinburgh. The Spittals, who are reputed to have been tailors to the Court in Stirling Castle, also acquired other lands in the area around this time. Only two years later, in 1518, for example, we find James Spittal of Blarelogy (sic) receiving a grant of various lands, including the 20/- lands which Patrick Spittal has; the 10/- lands which John Spittal has; and the 20/-lands rented by Robert Spittal, all in the Lordship of Menteith.

But it was not Henry Spittal, nor indeed James Spittal, who built the oldest part of the present castle: that came later. So where did the people in the 'township of Logie' and Blairlogie live? Even the retainers and tenants must have had dwellings of some sort, and in those early days these usually took the form of simple stone cottages with mud-mortar and thatched roofs. The remains of cottages of this sort may still be seen on the hillside above Logie, and it is not so far away in time as one might think that such dwellings were still inhabited in the area. We take so much for granted today.

It has been said that the two single-storey cottages that make up the old village hall are built using local boulders and mud-mortar (though this has yet to be confirmed). One of these cottages is believed to have become the original 'Reading Room', for which Blairlogie became well known. Public libraries were not common in Scotland 200 years ago, but Langholm established one in 1800, to which Thomas Telford bequeathed £1000, and the famous one at Innerpeffray, near Crieff, was founded even earlier, in 1691.

Cottages that were definitely built in the village using mud-mortar were the three that were lying in ruins at the west end of Victoria Place in 1940. When the late Moultrie Kelsall, Robin's father, acquired that property, he restored the 2-storey house at the east end of the row, now known as "Kirklea Cottage", and cleared away the ruinous ones, leaving just the base of the walls in the garden. He confirmed their use of mud-mortar in his book "A Future for the Past" (1961). I happened to be in the garden in 1985, during a village 'Garden Opening', when an old lady, pointing proudly to a small square 'room' of stone, said: "That was my bedroom, when I was a little girl".

Another two, single-storey cottages with thatched roofs in the same style were at Rowanbank. These had a second storey and slate roof added after they were purchased by the Coal Board, along with Ivydean, as accommodation for staff working at Manor Powis colliery, after it was opened in 1912. Ivydean had previously been a 2-storey house (of unknown date), and when the wallpaper was removed from the north wall of its ground floor in 1995, prior to Mary Maxwell-Irving's parents moving in, the line of the original stair was clearly revealed. I have also seen an old map, which shows a "school" immediately to the south of Ivydean. Such a school was only to have been expected, as in those days every village, however small, had its own school for the local children, and many of these schools were still in use within living memory.

'Blairlogie of Old' by Alastair Maxwell-Irving part two will be in September's edition of Logie Life.

Restorative Yoga with Katie White

7:15-8:30pm every Thursday at Blairlogie Village Hall

Restorative Yoga is a practice that emphasises slowing down, mentally and physically. Restorative yoga has a calming effect on the nervous system that comforts the mind and body on a cellular level. We'll practice with bolsters, blocks and blankets to find the most comfort while we hold long (mainly floor based) postures. The benefits come from releasing and surrendering into poses that can be adjusted for each body type, rather than forcing a pose that isn't suitable. Great for those who want to enjoy a mindful slow and relaxing yoga style as well as those looking to gain overall flexibility and mobility.

This class is suitable for all levels, abilities and ages and can easily be adjusted for those with injuries.

Blocks, blankets and bolsters will be provided to make this a truly relaxing and comfortable class. A warm room and candles (in the Autumn) will make this an extra special 75 minutes. First class FREE, then £8 drop in - Only 10 spots available for now so that each person has enough props, therefore booking is required by:

Phone 07375563286

Email katiwhiteyoga@gmail.com

Facebook @katiwhiteyoga

First class starts Thursday July 18th, book now to secure your spot!

‘Blairlogie Boyhood’ by Robin Kelsall part 2 ‘Big Bella’

Between school-day-end and bus-journey-start, there was an interval of about quarter of an hour. Pop's method of ensuring we made it in time was to take Charlie by the hand and more or less pull him along with me trotting by his side. Even though responsibility for getting us safely to Bella's Hillfoots bus had been placed on my narrow shoulders, there was no way I was going to hold Charlie's hand. Children didn't have watches in those days, but experience told me that we had to keep moving. Charlie didn't and wouldn't; he got slower and slower until I had visions of the bus leaving without us. I started to shout at him which proved manifestly counterproductive. His lower lip trembled then collapsed; the ensuing wail contained the information ... "Ma wee leggies winna go ony faster." I considered this statement grimly and then pointed out, quite reasonably I thought, that if he wished to miss the bus, I didn't and, further, if he was not prepared to get his 'wee leggies' pumping, I was going to leave him. And so this wailing, shouting vision of childish intransigence made a slow, unsteady progress towards Bella and safe-home.

My last pretence at patience evaporated when we were actually quite close to our goal -just a corner away in fact. Charlie sat down, still wailing, and refused to go any further; deciding on action rather than threat, I informed him that that was it and I was off; the wail reached an alarming pitch. As much to escape the racket as anything, I hared round the corner just in time to see our vehicle slowly leaving its stance. Bella's three-bell emergency signal brought this movement to an immediate halt.

"Hurry up, Robin. You're late;" she shouted and then, inevitably, "where's wee Charlie?"

By this time, *my* lower lip was trembling and it, too, collapsed. Between sobs, I blurted out that he wouldn't hurry and that I'd left him round the corner.

"Get in there and sit down." Bella's voice was rising ominously; wretchedly and hurriedly I obeyed.

Through my tears I watched the small figure of Charlie appear round the corner, shirt-tail out, socks down to shoe level, wee baggie dragging behind him.¹

Robin's lively imagination is borne out in his adult years

To those of you who go up and down Kirk Green Road regularly, this will have become a weel-kent sight. Like my neighbour and me, you've probably tried to make sense of it: our own attempts at 'adding-two-and-two' have come up with several answers – not all of them generous – but we've finally worked it out.

The kind-hearted young man presently 'doing-up' the auld kirk has left it there as a receptacle to be filled with the gentle Scottish rain which, more often than not, falls from the gentle Scottish sky enabling the sma' fowk, with whom we share the village, to slake their tiny thirsts thus ensuring that they will think well of us and cause us no mischief!

Seems perfectly reasonable. On the other hand, judging by recent events . .



End

¹ Footnote: Not all that long after this episode, but quite unrelated to it I assure you, the Allans moved back to the family farm in Aberdeenshire. Charles Allan, as many of you will know, grew up to be a real lad o' pairts -farmer, lecturer on things agricultural, journalist, writer, folk-singer, wit, raconteur and world-champion caber-tosser. Quite!