



Meeting Centre

# Farming Memories Newsletter



Hello everyone!

Let us know if there is anything you would like us to put in, or why not send in some of your own stories and pictures for us to share.

Email: [gail@kirrieconnections.com](mailto:gail@kirrieconnections.com)

As the farming year unfolds, did you keep an eye out for what wildlife appeared on the farm?

What flower or bird brought you joy as the seasons changed? What did you look forward to appearing this month? What wildlife might have been on the land? What more could you have done to have encouraged and enhanced it?

Here are some ways farmers are now encouraging wildlife and farming to go hand in hand.

Want to help pollinators? Now's the time to sow pollinator friendly flowers in the garden. Some farmers are also sowing large patches (the colour of it!) alongside their drives.

Why not sow a few pollinator friendly flowers along with your vegetables? Borage and calendula work well. For larger volumes ask your seed merchant.

Consider leaving an area: a margin, field corner or a plot within the crop to let native wildflowers grow. Select areas carefully to ensure they encourage less competitive arable plants and do not become infested with grass weeds.

Swallows will be back soon.

Allow swallows to nest freely in the building eaves of farm buildings, leaving spaces for them to fly in and out.



# Mair Fae The Orraman!

Here is a wee tale of the building of the Cairn at Aucharroch Farm.

On the highest point of the 700 acre farm of Aucharroch at Kingoldrum, at 1,220 feet above sea level, stands a huge cairn built with about 400 tons of stones. This is truly a monument to the hard work put in by Jim Findlay and his workers when he took over the farm in 1966.

The cairn represents only a fraction of the stones that were removed from the farm's arable fields of around 30 acres. In total Jim reckoned around 1,200 tons of stones were removed. Jim said "you only get moss growing on stones" and his object was to grow grass. After clearing his 300 acres of arable ground the rest was hill ground for his prize flock of sheep, which Jim and his crew reseeded and improved around 300 acres.

The views from the top of the cairn are indeed impressive and I'm just glad I didn't have to carry any of these stones to the top!

Yours aye,

The Orraman



The following poem was given to us by a weel kent face at our Farming Memories Groups in the hub on Friday mornings

**Mr Bob Dunn!**

Thanks so much Bob for handing this in

### **The Kirriemuir Pipe Band**

We've a' come tae the Ceilidh, to hae a bit o' fun  
Let doon oor hair & listen to the variety that's spun

In verse, in song or music I've a dance to keep us gay  
And on this occasion I've been asked to join the fray

In aid o' the pipe band we're gathered here the nicht  
I'm shair ye've a' heard them as they play wi' a' their micht

At shows, at games & functions ower numerous to mention  
Ye will see the Pipe Band there a' standin tae attention

They have had a struggle just to get their ends tae meet  
Dependin on your loyal support to get them on their feet

Doggat & determined Balfour made his intentions plain  
To get a band the gather here in Kirrie toon again

He got the young ones yoket together for to play  
And so emerged the Pipe Band we have wi us today

Let's no forget the drummers as they use their sticks wi flair  
As they beat oot the rhythm for ilka Scottish air

I'm shair I'd blow my brains oot if the bagpipes I did try  
Yet they mak it look so simple as they go marchin by

Their bonny kilts aswingin & liltin in the breeze  
But on a frosty mornin it maun be cauld about the knees

Yet ye ne'er hear them complainin & oor kilties aye look grand  
Aye! Kirrie fowk are gie prood o' their local band

As ither young fowk attend discos that blare oot frae ilka ha'  
They're still busy practisin for to entertain us a'

This dedication we appreciate & gladly gie a hand  
To the successful future o' the Kirriemuir Pipe Band

