On Friday evening five lucky Scouts from Macduff had their neckies signed by Sandi Thom after she opened the Blair Fest event with the early release of her fourth album. After her set she came off the stage and headed for her car to catch a flight back to LA, but took time to stop for the frantic five. They were extremely excited fans screaming, “we come from Macduff“, which is Sandi’s home town. After signing the neckies she even posed for a few photographs before racing off to catch her flight. Sandi has left at least five happy campers at Blair Atholl.
BLAIR FEST!!!

Blair Fest was opened by a very special guest, Ms Sandi Thom who released her new album live on stage. Sandi had everyone clapping along and waving their neckies to her new songs. The second band was the energetic and foot stomping Tonkerers. Everyone were dancing and the crowd were even introduced to a new dance style, by the band called the Armadillo.

A leader from 2ND Elgin said: Sandi was an impressive singer but the Tonkerers were fantastic and really stole the show. They managed to get all the Scouts up on their feet dancing and singing, they were great”.

Lynne said “ Sandi put on a good show and I loved it when everyone was waving their neckies in the air, it was very cool”.

Uncle Brucey said, Sandi was the best at Blair Fest because she played and sung phenomenal music. Uncle Brucey later gave us all show of his dancing skills when he just couldn’t stop himself when the Tonkerers were playing.

BY DARRELL AND JOHN
A Tasty Interview with the Haddock!

We have many visitors to camp including the UK Chief Commissioner and the Scotland Chief Commissioner for Scouting. We caught up with Graham Haddock to hear what he had to say. Graham has attended the Blair Atholl Jamboree 4 times previously, from 1990 – 1996 as a staff member and camp doctor. There have been various experiences in the ward for Graham Haddock, but perhaps his most notable experience as a camp doctor was a malaria outbreak amongst four African scouts in 1990. When four African Scouts entered the ward all with 41°C temperatures; he was soon made aware of the seriousness of the situation after telephoning Perthshire Royal Infirmary. Blood samples were analysed and Graham Haddock was soon made aware that they were suffering from malaria and they were then transferred to Dundee Contagious Diseases ward where they were cured of the disease. “That event made it a very memorable year for me, although perhaps not for the right reasons” he concluded.

When asked what the best part of scouting was, he replied with enthusiasm. “There’s no doubt for me, as Chief Commissioner, the best thing about Scouting is seeing young people have fun whether it is a Beaver colony, a Cub pack, a Scout troop or an Explorer unit.” It would be difficult for any leader or participant in the Scout Movement to disagree with this statement.

As a scout, the movement has offered Graham Haddock the experiences of a lifetime such as 5 World Scout Jamborees, from Korea in 1991 to Sweden in 2011 and a number of international Scout camps around the world.

When asked whether he had tried the Atholl Experience or if he would in the future, the Chief Commissioner was rather blunt and said “No” (wimp!).

Graham Haddock will occupy the position as Chief Commissioner for Scotland for another 4 years, after being handed the responsibility in Sweden 2011, succeeding Eleanor Lyle. The Scouting Organisation has been increasing in size annually for 6 years, and he intends for this growth to continue and for scouting to be cool!

For Graham Haddock and those who have been involved in the Scouting movement for many years, Scouting in general has changed. “It is cooler, more credible, more open and more modern.” Blair Atholl has subtly changed since its first Jamborette in 1946. It still has its traditions but its activities have become more modern; for example the introduction of Radio Blair as an activity in 2012. The basic concepts of Blair Atholl, such as making friends, meeting new people, and challenging yourself have never changed, and perhaps never will.

Written by Finn Haworth and Daniel Rees, MacDonald
Dear Aunti Freeze,

There are so many activities, I’m having trouble deciding what to do. Can you give me any suggestions?

Confused in Robertson

Dear Confused,

Oh, activities, I love activities. Aunti Freeze is the activities champion. I have done them all and here are some suggestions:

Atholl Experience – you must do that. Mud, mud and more mud. When you are done you can stay muddy, lie down hidden in the paths around camp and suddenly leap up and scare people walking by. Just make sure you watch out so no one steps on you.

iBuild – here you can make a speaker system to play music from your iPod. Take it back to your subcamp and, in the middle of the night, play music very loud. By morning you will have many new friends, especially your tentmates and the Sub-camp Uncle or Auntie.

Fencing – Pick up a fencing foil and learn how to parry, thrust, hack and slash. Aunti Freeze loves to hack and slash. I have a large collection of ears that I have collected over the years from many camps. They look so good hanging on my Christmas tree.

Blair Roots – this is a new activity. Put in a blender a variety of edible plants, including nettles, bananas, honey, dandelion leaves, and orange juice. Mix well and make a delicious smoothie to drink. Aunti Freeze recommends adding worms, slugs, and spider legs. It gives the smoothie an earth-like taste and it will wiggle all the way down.

My favorite activity is gorge walking. Oh, the feel of ice cold water splashing on me, the rush of water on my face, the feel of the rocks under my feet. It positively makes me quiver. One word of advice, rumor has it that the Loch Ness Monster has moved into this area. Make sure that you look out for his tail. If you see it, do not walk under it. Whatever Nessie eats at one end will come out the other.

Hope this helps. Your activities Queen,

Edinburgh Festival

One of the Scouts attending this camp (Matthew Parks) from 7th Sterling Scout group has performed in the Edinburgh Festival last year performing various circus toys like devil sticks, juggling, Diablo. He performed in front of 300 plus people and met the Sharp brothers, they are famous diabolists.

WANTED; DEAD OR ALIVE

A brown camp blanket
Original rope neckie: front and middle
Original patrol badges: characters, colors
Scout badges: front
Brownie badges: back
Poncho like

Please return to Donald Currie on watersports

Circus Skills

Scott Sinclair (12) has been enjoying circus skills for a few years. His favorite circus toy is the Rolla Bolla a plank of wood on top of a green cylinder, the way to perform this trick is: stand on top of the plank and try and balances yourself for as long as you can hold it for.
Tell me a joke

I asked Uncle James from Stewart Subcamp did he know any jokes, he replied, “McLean sub camp!”

Two aerials get married, the wedding was rubbish but the reception was great. – Uncle Reff, Stewart sub camp.

What happens if you put a cigarette in a toilet?
A flash in the pan. Uncle George, MacDonald sub camp.

What is red and smells of blue paint?
Red paint – Darragh, cousin of MacDonald.

What is orange and sounds like parrot?
Carrot. – Cousin Ryan from Morrison, DJ at the disco.

What is brown and sticky?
A stick. – Cousin Ryan from Morrison, DJ at the disco.

By Niamh O’Boyle, MacDonald.

For today’s silly survey, we (Tim and Ffion from MacLean) went around the campsite to ask different people the question: Do you think anyone would ever call Carly Rae Jepsen (maybe)? Not only did we survey participants to the camp, but Camp Chief Sharkey, Auntie Ami from MacLean and the Chief Commissioner of Scotland as well. Here were the answers we got.

Lola, a Dutch girl from Stewart, answered with a simple yes. However, she was the only person who answered with a yes. Gregor, Lachlan, Ian and Hannah from MacDonald agreed on the answer “Probably, if they had her number”. Ross from Morrison said that he himself probably wouldn’t, but he knew someone who would. Auntie Amy and Sharkey both think no one would actually call her, and the Chief Commissioner of Scotland even said that the song irritates him.

It’s funny to see how most of the participants think someone would call her, but the adults are a lot less optimistic about her chances.

Maybe taking another approach than just giving people your number would give her a higher chance of being called. Maybe flirting a bit more would help. Carly, If you ever read this, maybe you should change tactics.
Sometimes, people eat strange things. Even though most things taste like chicken, it is still a strange thought that someone ate an alligator (Grant and Callum, Murray Subcamp.)

Lauren, a cousin who was helping at the Ready Steady Cook activity, said that when she was a scout at Blair-Atholl, they got coupled with Canadians who made chocolate bacon for them.

It has also come to our attention that China can be called the land of strange foods. For example, Thomas from Murray and a Cousin from MacLean both ate their strangest food in China. Adam ate a chicken’s head and kneecaps, and the cousin had snake, of which he didn’t even know it was snake.

But even stranger things like a frog’s legs in garlic are edible, according to Adam from Murray Subcamp.

If birds were afraid of heights how would they travel? That is a good question; I don’t know the correct answer. But another people do: they sad that the birds can use a pogo stick.

I really don’t now why they sad that but it’s really funny. Someone sad that the birds can use ice-skates. But it have to be winter for ice-skates

Some people sad that birds have to travel with a train or bus. I think that it’s a better solution than a Pogo stick or something like that. And one person sad that the birds need a plain but when they afraid for heights they can’t use an aeroplane. But the simplest solution is walking to your destination it’s a hard way. But it we can survive they can also do that. This was the store about the birds with afraid for heights

Maarten Scholten from the Netherlands

Survey

~What would you have for your last ever meal?

Uncle Gorge from MacDonald Subcamp would have “Bacon and scrabbled eggs”.

Uncle Reff from Stewart Subcamp said he would have to say that he ‘would like to have mushroom quiche and tomatoes”

Uncle Jamie from Stewart Subcamp went all out in explaining his last meal and what he hopes it will be… and this meal is a “chicken breast stuffed with haggis followed by sticky toffee pudding and cream, washed down with a bottle of something rather special.

Reception staff replied to this question quite quickly with one of them saying a big fillet stake and the other roast beef along with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and gravy.

Hamish Lang from MacDonald said that he would really enjoy fajitas for a main course and deep fried mars bars for desert.

A deep-fried Mars bar is an ordinary Mars bar normally fried in a type of batter commonly used for deep-frying fish, sausages, and other battered products. The chocolate bar is typically chilled before battering to prevent it from melting into the frying fat, though a cold Mars can fracture when heated.

Studies show that out of the %100 of those surveyed, %70 preferred normal Coke, 20% preferred Vanilla Coke, and 10% did not know or preferred not to answer.

The alarming increase in those preferring normal Coke is probably due to the unfortunate obscurity of Vanilla Coke and its equally tasty relatives Cherry and Lime Coke.

Such ignorance is dangerous and a testament to the failure of both the Coca-Cola Company and the market to offer the public tasty alternatives to the all-too-familiar and rather boring normal Coke.

The dish originated at chip shops in Scotland as a novelty item, but was never mainstream. Since various mass media have reported on the practice since the mid 1990s, in part as a commentary on urban Scotland's notoriously unhealthy diet, the popularity of the dish has spread.
Sticks and strings
By
Eleanor Brownlie and Justin Addicoat (1st Fochabers)

One of the actives offered to the satellite campers was ‘sticks and strings’ which are working as the name suggests with sticks and string to complete pioneering tasks. The campers were first given a demonstration by activity leader anonymous of basic knots and lashings and then set to work to try it for themselves. What is the aim of all of this I hear you ask?? Well the scouts have eventually constructed giant tripods which if they have done their knots right will become rope swings which they will test and compete to see who’s is the best. Felix from 4th & 6th Stirling said “I love Blair Atholl, Sticks and strings is surprisingly fun”. Glenn from 7th Stirling also quoted “Surprisingly fun and that I can’t wait to try it out”, Kain from 1st Mosstodloch said “It has been funner than I thought it would be”. Unfortunately the rope swings have been dismantled by the scouts so there will be no chance for a go L for those not in the groups. From what we heard the Sticks and strings experience for the scouts has been a fun and interesting one!!!

What’s cooking at backwoods cooking?

Questions with leaders and scouts
First I spoke to Zoe Donaldson and Gastov pessin
-What foods do you cook with at backwoods cooking?
Here we’ve cooked fish, beef, bread and butter pudding, apples with marshmallows, banana and today we are making stew.
-is it easy to do? An anyone do it?
Yes i think so. We haven’t had any accidents yet so i think every one can do it.
-why is it called Backwoods cooking
Activity leader Arthur martin told me that “backeoods cooking is basically mean cookinf using minimum

KARS Amature Radio
Eunice who is one of the people who is in charge of the radio station.
We asked her why was it set up?
“The reason we set up the radio station was to provide an activity that was exciting also unusual and different at the same time just like it was in the 1990’s when the original radio station was set up”
We then asked one of our fellow satalite camp members Andrew wells from south Ayrshire.
“I find the radio station okay but by the end of my experience I will enjoy it right now we are studying morse code as this is this only an introduction I feel I have not grasped it yet but I hope I do so in the next few hours”
As we toured the radio tent we felt a sense of enjoyment and excitement from both leaders/scouts.
To top it all off we are glad they brought Kars back because they look extremely fun.
By Andrew Sloan and Lewis Gray (77th Ayrshire Dailly Scouts)
A snail can sleep for three years.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

The first International football game was played in Partick,

It was Scotland vs England in 1872 and was played at the West of Scotland Cricket ground in Partick.