



*Brent Gray*

Congratulations to Andrew Oram and the Methven A & P Committee on their 100th show over the last weekend. Like any event, the planning and preparation begins long before an event occurs and just because it has been done 99 times before, it doesn't mean it will be just the same as last time.

As a school, we value these events as it gives our pupils the chance to take part in many of the activities on offer, such as the Top Team competition run by the Methven Lions. As a wider community it gives us the opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances, discuss the farming practices that see our district thrive and learn of the new technologies that might help everyone do it better.

But what is really positive about the day is the atmosphere such an event creates. A very large crowd and a very positive environment, obviously helped by the great weather.

In a time when we hear a lot about poor attitudes among our youth, it would be good if more people could spend time at an event like the show and see youth participating and enjoying themselves. I had a number of conversations with young people on the day and they were positive experiences, with children and young people obviously happy with their day and eager to inform me of their progress at school and what they were doing out of school. Many of them had roles on show day that they were proud to be involved with and enjoyed doing.

For me, events like the Methven Show are about catching up with people. As a youngster I attended the show and marvelled at the large machinery and the amazing array of art works, baking, sculpture and much more in the produce sheds. From 15 years of age I was part of the Methven Pipe Band who were invited to lead the Grand Parade each year, and it was for this purpose I was there again this year. As you can imagine, there is always a fair amount of story-telling from years gone by when a group such as the pipe band gets together, and it is because of events such as these, that many of those memories are created.

I am sure the reminiscing went on well after the formalities of the 100th A & P Show in Methven were over, and I am sure many more memories will be created in the years ahead. All the best for the future to the people involved in running such a valued community event.