



www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk



Winning the Epic Award by Marilyn Baker

When we heard that the Braemar Creative Arts Festival had been short listed for the EPIC Award Scotland, that was encouragement enough, but the news that we had actually won left us speechless... but not for long! An all expenses paid trip to Glasgow for two members of the committee to collect the prize at the Voluntary Arts Organisation's annual conference (25th Feb), was a very welcome reward.

The awards ceremony was a grand affair, with Fiona Hyslop, MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture presenting the prizes (pictured above far right). We received a unique trophy, a framed certificate, £200, plus free membership of Arts Development UK. But best of all were the words spoken by Fiona Hyslop when she said "*The Epic Award Winner for Scotland, **Braemar Creative Arts Festival**, represents everything that is positive about voluntary arts activity in Scotland - bringing people together, showcasing new and traditional crafts, and celebrating our rural communities. The Epic Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of people who participate in cultural activities and help others to do so purely for the love of it*".

I guess it is time to start work on Festival 2014, the dates for which are **Wednesday 22nd - Sunday 26th October**. Please email the Festival committee on braemarartsfestival@gmail.com with your comments, ideas or offers of help and involvement. Let us know what you would like to see in the programme and we'll try and make it happen.

Your opinion is sought...

Inside this Buzzard you will find a questionnaire which relates to two separate issues raised by the village in the Community Action Plan (CAP).

1. Adult Learning - what sort of classes/ workshops would you be interested in attending in Braemar?
2. Green Waste - would you support a scheme to collect and compost garden waste?

Please give us your views by filling in the questionnaire and returning it to the Braemar 'Speciality Shop' by Monday April 7th.

You may also like to make a note in your diary of an **open meeting** on **Thursday March 27th** in the village hall from 5.00 - 6.30pm - this meeting is to provide an update on progress for all the different strands of CAP and you will have the opportunity to ask questions, input suggestions and (should you wish) volunteer to get involved!



INSIDE

Page 2 Editorial; Community Update **page 3** Invercauld Estate; Easter church services; Paws for thought **page 4** Paddler & angler guidance **page 5** Memories of Braemar **page 6** Braemar Castle; Braemar Local History Group **page 7** Winterwatch; St Margaret's project **page 8** Councillor's Corner **page 9** CNPA visit to Invercauld House **page 10** Braemar Youth Club **page 11** Junior Buzzard: Burns Night, Skiing **page 12** Events

Editorial

Braemar News Group

www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk

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For advertising: contact Maggie MacAlpine
 ☎ 013397 41245. Adverts cost £15 per eighth of page.

Past and current editions of the Buzzard together with the 'live' events calendar (updated between issues) can be viewed online on our website: www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk Extra copies of the Buzzard can be obtained from the garage, the art gallery and also the newsagent/pharmacy. Donation tins are at all these outlets for any very welcome contribution towards costs.

It is that time of year for the AGM of the Braemar News Group (BNG) and this will be held on Friday **April 4th at 7.00 pm in Taste** (thank you Taste for hosting.) There will be a report on the year's activities, presentation of the financial statement and election of committee. To vote at the election you need to be a member of the BNG - membership is free and open to all local residents. Please contact the secretary (details above) to join, new members are very welcome.

Prior to each edition of the Buzzard we hold an editorial meeting which is open to anyone with an interest in contributing content to the Buzzard. We hope that the Buzzard does what it claims on its strap-line - 'Informs the community' - and makes for an interesting read at the same time. However new contributors with fresh ideas are always needed to keep the Buzzard vibrant. If you have got a different idea for a column or a suggestion to improve our newsletter - then let us know. Please come along to the AGM and give us your support (whether a member or not). The newsletter has been running now for some seven years thanks to the combined effort of the whole team - collecting copy, organising printing and distribution, looking after finances. We like to think that it's a well oiled machine - but why not get involved and help us keep the Buzzard flying...

Liz Robertson - Editor

Community Update:

SWRI Newsflash The monthly meetings of the SWRI have been well attended this season with an all time high of 33 at the February meeting for a fun Art lesson from Andy and Kirsty. January's 'Scottish Night' was very entertaining with the Blaeberrys, the Choir, and the cast of the Steamie in attendance. But the BIG news is we just signed up the 40th member this month!

Crathie Opportunity Holidays would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in becoming a Friend of COH. This could involve helping out at some of our events, or joining the team who host our coffee mornings for guests, or just a bit of gardening. These are not onerous tasks and Friends come along when they can. If you would like to join us, please phone Maggie MacAlpine ☎ 013397 42100. Preparations are underway for welcoming our guests in 2014 and we hope for another busy season. Our major fundraisers will be our Golf Day in October and we hope to host a lunch at Balmoral in November - (further details to follow). As always, thank you to all our local friends and supporters.

Braemar Golf Club - time to look out your clubs and clean your golf shoes and get in the mood for a fun filled 2014 golf season. Opening day in Braemar is planned for Saturday 5 April but it could be earlier or later depending on the weather. Website and emails will keep you informed. 2014 is a big year for golf in the North East and throughout Scotland with the Scottish Open in Aberdeen and the Ryder Cup in Gleneagles. Not to be outdone Braemar will be hosting the world famous kilted open as well as being the host club for the Deeside Classic plus lots more for gents, ladies, seniors and juniors of all abilities! There is also a bit of excitement around the new tee at the 16th - no longer an easy birdie opportunity for you experts. Lots to look forward to so we hope to see all members and lots of visitors making great use of the course and the clubhouse throughout the season. For more information on membership and visitor arrangements call the club ☎ 013397 41618 or visit www.braemargolfclub.co.uk



Braemar Mother & Toddlers now meets Wednesdays, Castleton Hall, upstairs. All babies & toddlers welcome with an adult. £2 for tea and kids snack. Just turn up or contact Chloe ☎ 013397 41560 with questions.

Invercauld Estate Simon Blackett

As we leave behind one of the mildest winters for a very long time, there has been a positive side to the weather. No burst pipes and no struggling through snow to get to cancelled meetings. At this time of year the gamekeepers should be heather burning, but it has been just too wet. You would think the salmon in the river would appreciate all the water after last summer's drought, but it is still too early to expect to see fresh running salmon above Ballater.

Glenshee has been busy over the February holidays but it would be nice to see the sun on the ski slopes for a change. The webcam on the snowgates has been a huge help when planning journeys.

The Estate took over the running of the Braemar Caravan Site before Christmas and we welcome Chris and Jayne to the community. They hosted a very popular party in the site recreation room at New Year and have been very busy with caravans and campervans coming and going over the February holidays. There has even been the occasional camper. We are investigating camping pods to provide a more robust camping experience and plan to extend the camping area. This might tempt some of the Clunieside campers, but most are there because they enjoy the freedom and lack of any rules or having to pay. I just wish they would take their litter home afterwards.

The red deer stalking season is now over and we are now hoping for suitable conditions to carry out the annual deer count. This needs complete snow cover (a white count) or no snow (a black ground count), but the 'dalmation effect' ground conditions make counting impossible.

Easter Church Services**Good Friday April 19th**

Joint service starting at 3.00 pm at St Andrew's RC church followed by a 'Walk of Witness' through the village and finishing with a short service at Braemar parish church.

Easter Day April 20th

Braemar & Crathie Parish: service in Braemar Castle grounds at 8.00 am. Service at Crathie at 11.30 am

St Andrew's RC: 5.00 pm service

**Braemar and Crathie Church**

The **Monday morning café** held in Crathie Kirk hall will be re-opening again on 14 April, from 10.00am to 12.30pm. A warm welcome awaits everyone to come and enjoy tea/coffee and delicious home baking in a friendly relaxed atmosphere. Until the opening of the Crathie café in April, tea/coffee and pancakes will be available at Kindrochit Court, Braemar, on Monday mornings at 10.30 am.



The **Braemar and Crathie Parish Guild** has had a busy winter programme - the Guild AGM on 26 March at 2.15pm in Crathie Kirk Hall will round off meetings until the autumn. New members are always welcome if you would like to join us.

The Church Sale will be held in Braemar Village Hall on Saturday 2 August and any craft donations would be very gratefully received.

A badminton club has been set up and it meets on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm in Crathie Kirk Hall. Anyone who is interested in joining can just come along, no experience necessary, or contact Karen Garioch ☎ 013397 42344 or Allan Harrison ☎ 013397 55061.

Paws for thought...

by Richard Baker

Name: Donnie**Breed:** Retriever/
Spinone**Colour:** Black **Age:** 10
months **Owners:** Kirsty
& Andrew Braidwood**Friends:** Shackleton and
Jess**Favourite things:** Chew-
ing Hats and Shoes – I

try to be selective and will only wreck Andrew's very favorite hats. I love doggie walks doon the Quoich, where I can really furtle about and locate as many rotten things as possible. I like to get sticks out of the river for Kirsty; she thinks I am very clever when I do that and gives me a wee dry biscuit. I love to find rabbits and ducks and basically show them who's boss. I am essentially a free spirit - no matter how they try to condition me.

Least favourite things: My tweed cloak. They make me wear it sometimes when its really cold - it makes me look really stupid. I'm not very fond of the car - every since I was a pup it has made my shiver with fear.



New Paddler and Angler Guidance for the River Dee

The Dee District Salmon Fishery Board (Dee DSFB), the Scottish Canoe Association and Aberdeenshire Council have created new guidance for anglers and paddlers to help both enjoy their sport while sharing the river.

The Paddler and Angler Guidance encourages the use of hand signals to enable paddlers and fishermen to communicate with each other and introduces a voluntary notification system that encourages groups to inform the Dee DSFB when they are planning to use the River Dee.

Groups of paddlers are encouraged to send their plans to the Dee DSFB so they can inform Ghillies who will inform anglers. This allows anglers to plan to take a break, if they wish, and allows paddlers to pass without delay. The voluntary notification system is operational Monday to Saturday during the months of February to October. Paddlers can email info@riverdee.org or ☎ 01339 880411 with the date, time, location of put-in and take-out points and the number of paddlers.

As this is new guidance for the river, we are trialling it this year and welcome feedback on how it can be improved. If you would like to give feedback contact Joanna Dick, Dee Catchment Outreach Officer, by emailing Joanna@riverdee.org or ☎ 01339 880 411.



Demonstration of correct hand-signalling as canoeist passes fisherman

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Memories of Braemar by Alan Thomson

It was a recent conversation with friends who are regular visitors to Braemar and who had just returned from this year's Gathering that set me thinking of my early days in the Union Bank in Aberdeen. It goes back to 1952 when, as a young man, I found myself designated as the Braemar Relief. This meant that when either Mr Robertson, the manager, or Mr Murdoch, the Accountant, was on holiday or away for any reason from the Braemar branch, then I proceeded to Braemar to carry out relief duty in order to maintain the staff complement of two. In a year I would spend around eight weeks at Braemar with an extra week to cover 'The Games' when the staff at the branch could rise to four. This increase stretched the office accommodation somewhat and I remember on one occasion having to work in an overspill situation upstairs in the Bank House.



I would travel up to Braemar on a Sunday evening by Strachan's red bus by way of the South Deeside Road. In those days in the early fifties the rather restrictive licensing laws required drinkers on Sundays to establish themselves as bona fide travellers. This made the journey quite interesting as locals joined the bus in order to move from village to village and Inn to Inn. As the journey proceeded, the atmosphere on board became more and more jolly and the faces of those joining us, redder and redder! On arrival in Braemar I would walk to my lodging in Chapel Brae with Miss Stewart. She was a gem, an extremely kind person who looked after me wonderfully.

In the dark nights of October, I can remember the feeling of anticipation around the village when the mobile cinema was expected. The equipment was set up in the village hall and we sat on wooden forms. There would be intervals to change the reels or sometimes a plain old simple breakdown. These breaks gave the opportunists in the audience the chance to retire to the Fife Arms for a quick one. There seemed to be a system whereby they were alerted in the bar when projecting was ready to start again.

The Games Week was a highlight - there was quite a buzz about the Branch and indeed throughout the Village. At the Bank extra remittances of notes and coin arrived from our chief office in Aberdeen. These all had to be checked and made ready for issue as change etc. We also had to prepare rotas for manning the gates. My usual duty and one which I enjoyed was in charge of the gate for coaches. My job was to board the bus (trying to look important) and check the head count of passengers against the number of tickets requested by the driver. Once all the coaches were through we balanced the cash with tickets issued and returned to the Branch, usually around lunch time. Another highlight for me was being included in the Dinner party which Mr and Mrs Robertson hosted at the Invercauld on the night before the Games. The dining room would be packed with people of importance in the area - plus me!

One of my duties first thing in the morning at the Branch was to assist Mr Robertson in recording various readings at the small weather station across the road from the office. These then had to be telephoned to Dyce - readings for rainfall and hours of sunshine. I recall with some amusement one morning after the Games our surprise that the rainfall was registering many inches after which had been a dry night - this was a level of rainfall hitherto unheard of in Braemar. We guessed that a local lad had found himself caught short after a heavy night in the Invercauld and had relieved himself into the Meteorological Department's rainfall pot.

The branch at Braemar in the early fifties was a friendly place. A visit from a customer always involved a blether and often an exchange of local gossip. I remember when Captain A Farquharson of Invercauld entered the Branch, it was very much a case of hands out of pockets and coats buttoned up - indeed I think I stood to attention! On Saturdays we were open until 11.30 a.m. and it always involved a hectic rush for me. My singular aim was to catch the bus for Aberdeen at around 12.30 - this was a challenge as cash and ledgers had to be balanced before I left. No adding machine in those days - just plain summing up of columns of ledger balances in a book. Mark you, nothing improves one's accuracy and speed in adding more than the thought of missing the Aberdeen bus and the unthinkable consequences of failing to make the Saturday night dance at the Douglas Hotel.

My career following national service would take me to Paisley (where I met my wife), Glasgow, and finally to the Head Office in Edinburgh where I remained until my retirement in 1995. I have particularly fond memories of my early and indeed formative days in Braemar.

Braemar Castle **Doreen Wood**

We have now embarked on the final phase of repairs to the roof. It was hoped it would be completed before we open but, as always with building work, it looks as though it'll take a little longer! This phase will also involve restoring pipe work to the Victorian toilets and to the sink in the upstairs kitchen. We're also optimistic that we may be able to have the dining room and drawing room fires functional once again.

We were fortunate to secure funding from Aberdeenshire Council's 'Be Part of the Picture' programme to pay for new portable signs for the courtyard and also for the printing of this year's brochure. This has allowed us to spend money elsewhere this season in marketing the Castle and, of course, the village.

The Castle has been nominated in the first ever Aberdeenshire Tourism Awards in the Community category. The finals will take place at Ardoe House Hotel on March 28th, so fingers crossed. We reopen on Saturday 19th April. Jacobite Day is being rested this year and will be replaced with a Treasure Island Day on Sunday 27th July with a theatrical performance in the grounds from the Walking Theatre Company. Jacobite Day will return on Sunday 26th July 2015 as part of the celebrations for 300th anniversary of the raising of the Jacobite standard in Braemar by the Earl of Mar.

If you are a member of Braemar Community Ltd (forms available in the Pharmacy) **you are entitled to free entry to the Castle**. Use it to see Michel Brat's incredible new miniature display of the Battle of Bannockburn in this, the 700th anniversary. 2,400 tiny soldiers, hand-painted by Michel, as well as a faithful replica of Robert the Bruce's helmet - not to be missed. Also on show this season, for the Year of Homecoming, we'll have six (three at a time) of the late Mrs Frances Farquharson's flamboyant outfits, courtesy of Aberdeen Art Gallery.



Replica of Robert the Bruce's helmet, made by Michel Brat, and on view in the Castle this season

Braemar Local History Group

The winter programme of talks has been well supported with over 80 attending the 'A History of Mountaineering in Scotland' by Greg Strange, this being followed with a very informative talk about the restoration work on at Kindrochit Castle by Stewart Urquhart. The subject for March is 'Land Management at Mar Lodge Estate' to be presented by Peter Holden on March 16th.

The Group has purchased display boards, (helped by a grant from Aberdeenshire Council) which will hopefully soon be on display - firstly within the Church then within the refurbished St Margaret's - with information about local Braemar history.

At the group's AGM Neil Bain, chairperson for the last four years, retired and Douglas Anderson was elected in his place. After the meeting, in recognition of his service as chairperson for the group, Neil Bain was presented with an engraved Quaich (*see photo above*).

The popular Village Historical Walks are to resume in April, more information via village notice boards. The group are still looking for old photos, news paper items etc, relevant to the Braemar Area, for the display boards and for the archives. Big thanks to Derek Littlejohn, Ed Martin, John Torrance, Bill Bain, Doreen Wood, Robbie and Bunty Mitchell, for their archive contributions **and a plea for images of the original Braemar Golf Club, Bowling Club and Tennis Courts**. If you can help - contact Roger Sudworth.





Winterwatch comes to Mar Lodge



Great excitement in January when the BBC Winterwatch team based themselves at Mar Lodge to record four episodes of live TV. Cameras were set up recording wildlife on the estate 24 hours a day. At its peak, some 90 cameramen and crew were based at Mar Lodge - many of whom had to find beds in the village as the lodge was full to capacity.

Above: Presenters Martin Hughes-Games, Michaela Strachan and Chris Packham outside Mar Lodge. Right: Michaela on the terrace of the log cabin which was temporarily erected for Winterwatch in the Mar Lodge grounds.

The BBC team were a little disappointed not to find Mar Lodge deep in snow! - but it did at least mean it was easy to get out and about to explore the wildlife. During the course of the filming, many folk in the village were lucky enough to be invited up to Mar Lodge - to view the set up or to be part of the background crowd for 'Winterwatch unsprung'.

The location proved a big success and there are hopes that Winterwatch may return to Braemar another year.



St Margaret's Project Pete Mulvey

Work behind the scenes to progress the project is continuing, and most recently an Edinburgh firm of Architects has been appointed to specify the restoration works and to design an extension to adapt the building for its future use. Such was the interest in the building that over fifty Architectural practices expressed interest in the commission from which four firms were eventually asked to make a presentation at interview here in the village. The successful firm, Simpson and Brown, have an international reputation in this specialised field of Architecture and already have a long association with the building - as it was they who were involved in the recent Options Appraisal study which finally persuaded the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust to take ownership of the building and to undertake the development project. Once preliminary designs have been prepared by the Architects they will be presented to the community for comment before a final scheme is developed for implementation.



The local project team has now been expanded to five members with the recent addition of STV's Colin Wight. Colin brings great enthusiasm and new professional skills to the group - as well as a large number of valuable contacts who he can call upon to help with future events. The next concert in St Margaret's is planned for the 24th May this year and, by popular demand, will again feature the beautiful voice and personality of Jamie MacDougal - this time supported by members of The Old Blind Dogs traditional music group and a variety of more local talent.

Councillor's Corner

Katrina Farquhar

Email: cllr.k.farquhar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
 ☎013398 80836 ☎(mobile) 0787 647 5403



As we enter into Spring time it is nearly two years since the election and it has passed so quickly. I have to admit the entire role of councillor has been a huge learning curve and I do appreciate much more what Aber-

deenshire Council does for the area and we are extremely lucky in our area with the quality, commitment and service provided by council employees. As we are continually told of bad news stories and loss of services we must thank all the employees who provide us with a service in these difficult times. However we wouldn't be normal if we didn't have something to complain about! Remember if you have any road faults the free phone number is 0845 081205 or text 07624 820722 or go online at <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads/faults.asp>

Trading Standards are a very important part of Aberdeenshire Council services and if you have any consumer problems please get in touch with them ☎01467 628323 they have also a new twitter page publicising their services <http://www.twitter.com/AberdeenshireTS>

Did you know that there is funding to help young drivers to complete their 'pass plus'? For more information Email south-marr@aberdeenshirecommunitiesafety.org.uk

Citizen's Advice Bureau has now opened an outreach office in Aboyne on Thursday's ☎01224 747714 or Email AdminAssist@westhillcab.casonline.org.uk for an appointment.

VSA, the organisation commissioned to provide adult carers support in Aberdeenshire, has been awarded funding for short breaks / respite care that unpaid carers can apply for. The funding is now called Creative Breaks (previously Time to Live.) Carers can get further information on the Creative Breaks Fund by either:

- visiting the VSA website
- contacting their local Carers Support and Development Worker
- phoning the VSA Aberdeenshire Carers Service ☎01779 490894, or
- Email aberdeenshire.carers@vsa.org.uk

Geva Blackett

Email: Cllr.G.Blackett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
 ☎013397 41541 ☎(mobile) 0787 647 5269

Tri-weekly on Wednesdays there is a thud on the floor by the letterbox as the papers for the follow-



ing week's Marr Area Committee meeting hit the floor and the postie's van disappears down the drive visibly lighter! Normally there is a mix of rather dry service updates and planning applications but on 12th February I could hardly be-

lieve my eyes, amongst the papers was a recommendation for the committee to agree to a further £90,000 to finish the work renovating Kindrochit Castle. The following Tuesday, the recommendation was approved! and by this time next year we should have a visitor attraction worthy of this wonderful village. Aberdeenshire Council's Stephen Archer (who has been subjected to almost two year's of ear bending from me) and Brian Watt both deserve a huge vote of thanks.

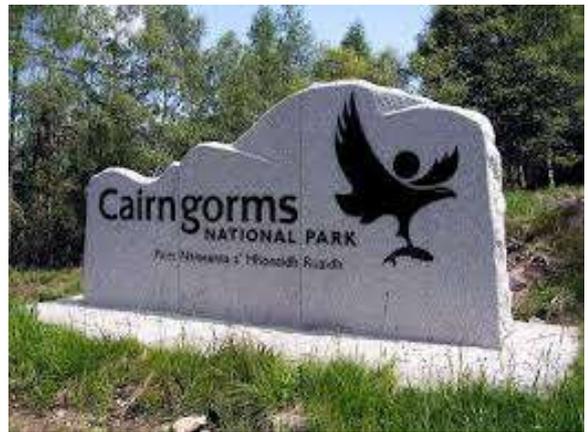
Whilst smartening up the village and adding reasons for tourists to stay here and spend money is very important, **housing** is really key to our future. I have been working to find a solution to the almost total lack of affordable rented accommodation for local people. I hope there will soon be the opportunity for the community to sign up to an initiative which although won't solve the problem, will ease it. Discussions are also taking place about community ownership of accommodation which is supported by the government. One 'problem' we face is that not enough people are actually on the Braemar housing list - this is for a number of reasons including: no point because there aren't any houses and also because businesses who want to take on staff, can't put people on the list - a chicken and egg situation which threatens the sustainability of many rural communities. The officials are aware of all this but I urge anyone wanting affordable rented housing in Braemar to put themselves on the housing list as soon as possible - it may not result in a house immediately but it does help me build the case for more! I am attending the Rural Housing conference in Dunkeld and am looking forward to exchanging ideas with and learning from communities with similar problems and maybe solutions too!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any council related problem.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

by Katrina A Farquhar

I would like to share a gardens and policies visit at Invercauld House with readers. The Garden History Society in Scotland invited local groups to the Gardens on Saturday 20th October to see the works in progress by the new tenants of Invercauld House. As we went up the main drive we admired all the huge trees in changing colours. Some modern art sculptures have been introduced at the side of the house which certainly provided some discussion. On arrival at the front of the house we congregated in the ballroom where Rebecca Kimber



Danger, land agent, introduced herself and the staff that have contributed to reinstating and recording the gardens surrounding Invercauld House. Simon Blackett provided an insight to the history of Invercauld and the Farquharson's that had developed various parts of the grounds and shaped them into what we see today. Vanessa Stephen followed by providing a detailed design landscape of the grounds including a pond, Victorian Garden and Produce Garden. Finally Donald Rodger Arboriculturist gave us a real insight to the trees that have been planted over the last 140 years and where they came from.

Next we braved the rain to view the gardens and grounds. Paul Booth has put a huge amount of work into restoring the gardens. The gardens are very informal which adds to their beauty. From the front of the house there is a large grassed lawn and if you look across the Dee you are looking straight into the Lion's Face which has had a trim, the trees covering it have been taken down so you can actually see the large rocky face. We then headed round the side of the house and into a shady wooded path with huge Douglas Firs and Giant Sequoia better known as the Punchy Tree. As you went along the area opened up and we arrived at a lovely secluded spot and this is the Victorian Garden, it has a little stream meandering down and a huge variety of trees and with them all in vibrant autumn colours it was stunning. There is a small terraced part which has been constructed from local materials making it fit well within the site and the renovation works have just tidied up around here so you can see the stonework and a number of the lower limbs have been taken off the trees to provide a canopy and it gives the area a very private feeling. After having a look around studying the labels on the trees which have been done as part of the project we then headed along another path, arrived at a small gate which led us into the Produce Garden. This area had been neglected up until this year and the transformation is amazing considering there was still snow lying on it in May. It is enclosed by a beech hedge and there has been some new hedging planting to split the area up in future years. Although this is still very much a work in progress there were some annual flower beds which were still vibrant with colour even in October. The plans are to have a fully working vegetable and flower garden and retired Balmoral gardener John Young has been helping out with information as to what plants will do well in our climate. When we left this garden we then walked along a grassy tree lined road which also leads up to the Farquharson monument but led us back to the house and into the ballroom which the gamekeepers had transformed into the tearoom for our afternoon tea. The spread was fabulous, washed down with tea from china teapots! As we prepared to leave, the rain of course went off! All in all it was super afternoon and really encouraging to see the gardens and policies being brought back into use, using what was already there and enhancing it. It is hoped in the future there may be more invitations for local groups to visit Invercauld House. For more information why not go online at www.cairngorms.co.uk click visit, choose Braemar and you can then access lots of information about the area. Walking routes in and around Braemar are also at www.braemarscotland.co.uk

Want to get more proficient at gardening? Morag Wood, Balmoral Gardener, will be running a short course on growing organic salad in May which is open to all. Registration is essential and the sign up sheet will be available at the Community Action Plan (CAP) meeting on March 27th in the village hall @5.00-6.30 pm. Other courses are being organised as part of CAP - come along to the meeting to find out what else is in train. Meantime, please return your questionnaires to help us gauge interest and support.



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Braemar Youth Club

Volunteers – Our young people Need YOU!

During the consultations which took place as part of the 2012 Braemar Community Action Plan, it was identified by the majority of young people in Braemar that they would really like some sort of informal youth provision which gave them somewhere to meet friends, have fun and be part of something local.

Community Learning and Development staff listened to these views and worked with the local community to make this happen. After recruiting seven local adult volunteers, CLD ran an 8 hour training programme over four weeks to prepare volunteers for what to expect running a youth club. This included registering them with the PVG scheme and covering topics

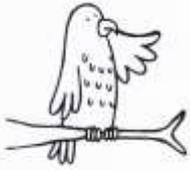
such as Child Protection.

The group was then ready to launch the club which they did early in 2013. The group meet once per fortnight in The Sheiling and is for young people aged 12yrs+. The club secured some funding and so have resources so that young people can take part in fun activities at the club. The club has gone from strength to strength over the past year with numbers expected to soon reach 19 young people.

Unfortunately some of our volunteers have moved on and sadly this therefore means that the club is in very real danger of not being able to continue. The young people of Braemar would urge people to get in touch if they feel this is something they would like to get involved with. The time commitment for each volunteers is expected to be 2 hrs on a Wednesday evening every four to six weeks (dependant on numbers of volunteers on the rota – with more volunteers there would be a smaller time commitment). Training and registration with the PVG scheme will be given to all volunteers.

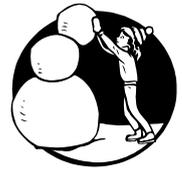
If you have an interest in young people, would like to support community led projects and ultimately would like to make a difference in Braemar then please do get in touch with:

Debbie Mackay ,Community Learning and Development Worker .Deeside Community Centre
☎013398 86222 or Email: d.mackay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Junior buzzard

Did you know? The world's largest snowman was actually a snowwoman. Residents of Bethel, Maine built the 122 foot giant in 2008 with 30 foot spruce trees for arms and skis for eyelashes.



Braemar Primary teams A and B

Burns Night by Dave Sherrard

On 24 January over 100 high spirited folk celebrated Burn's Night in the Village Hall. For the fourth year in a row the event was put on by the Braemar Scout Group. The haggis was good and the evening was packed with entertainment from start to finish. Visiting Danish Scout Leader Nils Angus said grace, Explorer Scout William Marsden addressed the haggis, and from then on a succession of local talent gave great speeches interspersed with poetry, song and music. The whole event was kept moving by Scout volunteers who served, cleared tables, and washed up.

The £1000 raised will support the Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts July summer camp at Badaguish in Glenmore.

While on Scouting matters our youngest section, the Beavers, need an additional leader from Easter when we lose one of our long serving members. Anyone with an interest in the Scout movement should let us know (contact any of the group leaders or ☎ Dave Torrance 41549), especially parents who have children just starting out. This is a great opportunity to get involved at the beginning.



For a second year in a row the Braemar Primary School children have reached the final of the Scottish Schools Snowsport Association Alpine Series. They sent two teams to the Glenshee qualifier on Thursday 30th January. The A team consisted of Sam Hubbard, Craig Murphy, Lee McGibbon and Amy Hall. The B team were Ben McGibbon, River Hall, Rebecca Davidson and Ella Daniels. Both teams went off to the qualifier not expecting to do as well as last year as the children were all a lot younger than last year's team. Only 2 children from primary 7 and the rest from primaries 4 and 5. The result was amazing and the A team came in first and the B team in third place. Unfortunately only the team in first place gets to go and compete in the final at Cairngorm on March 12th. This time they will be taking Ben McGibbon from the B team as a reserve. Here's hoping they can bring the trophy back again this year.



Amy Hall with her medal

Whats on in and around your village?

Mobile Library Service

Tuesdays

Calls monthly.
More information from
Aberdeenshire
Library &
Information
Service ☎01651
87270



Village Bin Collections - Thursdays

Wheelie Bins:
March 20th
April 3rd 17th
May 1st, 15th 29th

Recycling:
March 13th, 27th
April 10th 24th
May 8th, 22nd



Keep Fit

6.30 - 7.30 pm
Braemar Primary
School Hall
(enter via back door)
Exercise along with
Davina McCall on the big
screen
£1

Bring your own mat, bot-
tle of water and weights.
(No weights? Then im-
provise with a couple of
cans of beans!)



Date	Event
Mar 21 Fri	Village Orchard Planting St Andrew's Church grounds. Watch out for posters with more information.
Mar 27 Thur	Community Action Plan - update on what's happening. Village Hall 5 - 6.30 p.m. All welcome, in fact attendance essential!
April 4 Fri	BRAEMAR NEWS GROUP AGM
Apr 19 Sat	Braemar Castle re-opens
Apr 20 Sun	EASTER DAY - details church services page 3
Apr 20 Sun	Family Easter Treasure Hunt Braemar Castle Grounds (free) and 10% off entry to Castle
Apr 20 Sun	Mar Lodge Open Day, 10.0 am - 4.0 pm., non member £3. Cadbury Easter Egg Trail, £2/child. For further information ☎0844 4932172
Apr 24 Thur	Dawnwatch - Black Grouse Viewing, Mar Estate Ranger Service, 5 - 9 am, £25pp (includes breakfast). Other dates also available. Booking/info ☎013397 20164
Apr 25 Fri	Evening launch of Bannockburn exhibition Braemar Castle
Apr 26/27	Run Balmoral www.runbalmoral.com
May 2 & 3	Murder Mystery Dinners Braemar Castle - booking essential
May 5 Mon	Birds B4 Breakfast - Watch the courtship rituals of the black grouse, Spittal of Glen Muick, 6.00 - 8.30 a.m., Balmoral Ranger Service, £20pp. Booking ☎013397 55059
May 15 Thu	Fabulous Fungi - talk by Liz Holden. Braemar SWRI, 7.30pm Invercauld Hotel, Colonels Bed. More info ☎ Marilyn 41225
May 24 Sat	Concert St Margaret's church - Jamie MacDougal returns to entertain supported by the group 'Old Blind Dogs'
June 6-8	Castleton Dancers - dance weekend. Info ☎41225
June 16 Mon	Braemar Bowling Club hosts the finals of the Barclay Harvey Cup. Watch the bowlers in action at the bowling green.
June 13 Fri	Concert with voices, village hall 7.0 pm - watch for details
July 12 Sat	Braemar Junior Highland Games www.braemarjuniorgames.com
July 27 Sun	Treasure Island Day at Braemar Castle
Apr 21/May 19/June 16	Braemar Community Council (third Monday of the month), 7.30pm Braemar Primary School. Observers welcome.

Please send news/articles for the Buzzard to:
info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk

Deadline for next edition: May 31st 2014

Website: www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk

Adverts: Cost £15.00 per eighth of page
Contact Maggie MacAlpine ☎ 41245