

Braemar Buzzard



www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk



Braemar's Got

Talent (April 29th)

In terms of numbers of performers, this year's BGT was the biggest yet with approximately 70 participants aged from 5 to 75. Master of Ceremonies was Pete Mulvey, stage manager, Fraser Wood, sound and trouble shooting (!), John Macpherson. The photo left (taken by Dale Johnson) shows Oliver, Angus, Fraser, Fergus on pipes and Josh on drums - the young bagpipe quintet that opened the

second half. Plenty of musical talent on display, everything from singing, accordion playing, mouth organ, ukuleles, fiddles, bodhran, pipes to keyboards. In between musical items, Braemar cubs had everybody in fits of laughter with their clever comedy sketches. Check out 'Braemar's Got Talent' on YouTube and you can re-live some of the action!

Great work Charlie!

Earlier this year Charlie Denny set off on his trip to Banjul in the Gambia to install solar power into Sabba School, one of four schools supported by the charity Shine Africa.

Unfortunately Charlie's Landrover broke down two miles from the ferry at Portsmouth and it looked like the trip might be over...the courtesy Smart car he was given not being quite up to the job! The ever resourceful Charlie managed to find a supplier for the necessary car parts over the Easter break and then headed back to Braemar to unpack. Undaunted Charlie then booked a flight to the Gambia with excess baggage for the solar panels.

The Sabba School Charlie was helping is the most remote of the four schools, involving a long drive, an unreliable ferry service and temperatures reaching 40 degrees in the shade. There are around 50 children aged between four and nine in the school at any one time with four teachers; they walk around 15k to get to school and attend for just a few hours as they have other duties or work within their family. Whilst in Banjul Charlie also gave knitted baby clothes and teddies to Fatou who looks after orphans and children whose families cannot care for them. She cares for around 30-40 children aged between six months and ten years and the teddies were gratefully received - thank you to the ladies of Braemar who knitted them!



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Please pick up a copy but do leave a donation in the box

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.

At the Braemar News Group AGM (22nd April) the committee was all re-elected with the following changes: Selena Hill stepped down (and was thanked for all her past contributions to the Buzzard) and Aimi Blueman was elected to the Editorial Group.

Past and current editions of the Buzzard together with the 'live' events calendar (updated between issues) can be viewed online (in FULL COLOUR!) on our website:

www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk Copies are delivered free of charge within the locality of Braemar. Extra copies of the Buzzard can be obtained from the garage, the art gallery, the 'speciality shop' and at the newsagent/pharmacy. The Buzzard is funded by advertising and donation - donation tins are at all these outlets for any very welcome contribution towards costs.



This newsletter has been part funded by a grant from the ASDA Carrier Bag Community Grants scheme.

Community Update:

The New Community Council Committee following the AGM (18th April) is as follows: Carole Paterson, Alasdair Colquhoun, Selena Hill, Joanne Morris, John Torrance, Michael Holley, Caroline Hadley Smith, Sue Sherrard and Kim Neilson.

Dog mess A polite reminder to dog owners to please clean up after their dogs - particularly in Tomrichton wood but of course also in the rest of the village. If anyone feels that there is a need for more bins in any area please let a member of the community council know. Rubbish and dog poo now go in the same bins, there is no need to look for a special bin.



The end of an era... Hazel Pirie has given up the able cleaning of Braemar's public toilets. After assisting Sylvia for many years, she took the role on when her mother retired. Hazel is not retiring but taking on a bigger role at Glenshee. Thanks and good luck in your new role Hazel. A new cleaner has been appointed.



Playpark Progress

Thank you from the Play Park Committee to everyone who has supported the fund raising efforts. Locally we have raised just over £5,000 (coffee morning proceeds added to: some generous donations from individuals, from the SWI (Santa Ramble), Highlands Hospitality Ltd., Castleton Hall committee, Deeside Knitwits, St Andrews church fete, Braemar Golf Club raffle and the Sound of Music raffle.) Together with our grant from Marr Area Partnership and the money promised by Aberdeenshire Council, this brings the total raised so far to **£41,000**. We currently have two grant applications in progress so that by the next edition of the Buzzard, we hope to have more good news to report.



Joanne Morris

New Beaver Leader(s) Sought

We have had Beavers as part of our local Scout Group for the last 10 year and have always been fortunate in having a number of parents and other adults willing to help run the programme and have the enjoyment of watching the Beavers learn new skills, grow up and have fun. Isla Robertson is stepping down from running the colony after the Summer break and ideally, two adults are sought to come forward as leaders - aided and abetted by one or two parent helpers. The job of Beaver leader can be a shared responsibility and it is not necessary to be a parent to become a Leader or adult helper. Full training and support is provided by the Scout Association. If anyone is interested but would like to talk it over or get more information, then please contact Dave Torrance, Group Chairman, Rosebank, Cairnadrochit or ☎ 41549 or 077969 603328. So let's make sure that we still have a Beaver Colony after the Summer.



Blooming Braemar Have you noticed the lovely Spring plants brightening up the tubs and planters around our village? The Community Council is given summer bedding plants in June by Aberdeenshire

Council but the aim this year is to extend the flowering season for as many months as possible and keep Braemar in Bloom. A new group aims to help keep these planters looking fresh, add additional planted areas and run an annual competition. If you want to help in any way or donate plants or funds, please contact Caroline Hadley Smith via Wild Thistle shop ☎41070

Crathie Opportunity Holidays We held our open day event on 12 March as part of the 2016 Disabled Access Day. A good number of people attended, some for the first time, sampled the delicious home bakes and saw around the cottages as well as our new office and biomass heating facilities. Both are proving to be really beneficial both for the guests' overall enjoyment of the cottages.

We are delighted to have been short listed in the 2016 Elevator Awards for the Alick Buchanan-Smith Enterprising Community Award. The result will be announced in June. Planning for the major fundraisers for 2016 is underway. Our Golf Day at Balmoral will be held on 22nd October and, as part of Ballater Victoria Week in August, we hope to show the film, Dad's Army, in the V&A Halls. This will also feature, of course, our now renowned canapés. Our orange ducks will be racing in the BVW Duck Race. Further details of these events will follow in due course. Our book, "Essays on Life" by Thomas Mitchell, Farmer, has been reprinted and copies can be obtained from Maggie ☎ 013397 42100.

As ever, if you have some spare time, we would be delighted to welcome you as 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, again please phone Maggie. Finally, thank you to all our local friends and supporters.

Braemar Local History Group The Braemar Local History Group rounded off another busy season of talks and visits with a fascinating presentation on the research carried out by Ed Martin and the late Graham Ewen into the records

of Mar Estate. A large audience watched and listened attentively as Graham's brother ran a recorded presentation entitled *The Uplands of Mar*. It was full of facts and characters from the estate's past and clearly stimulated a lot of interest in the mixed audience of visitors and local people. Many said that they couldn't wait to go and explore these places again in the light of what they had just heard.

We'll be back again in the Autumn with news of how our local village archive is developing and we have a talk on The Harper Suspension Bridges from Deeside to Dulikhel booked for Sunday 20 November. For more information about the group visit their webpage www.braemarlhg.com Brian J Wood, Secretary

And don't miss out on the ...

BHLG group guided walks around Braemar. Taking place now and continuing until mid-October every Tuesday @ 8pm and every Wednesday @ 3pm. Walks start from the Invercauld Arms Hotel and take approximately 75 minutes. Join guides Doug Anderson, Doug



Bruce and Derick Stewart to discover more about the history of our village. No charge but a donation to BHLG appreciated.

Braemar Bowling Club is open for the new season. If you would like to give bowling a try, the club 'open' night is Monday evening, turn up at the Bowling green from 7.0 pm. There are bowls available to borrow if you don't have your own. For more information contact John or Kathleen Kinsella ☎41309

Craig Choinnich Hill Race, June 22nd The oldest recorded hill race dating from 1064! As from 2016 the race will return to its former location, Braemar Castle, and be run as an evening race close to the longest day. Details/entry form can be found on Facebook.





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Call in and see what's new!
Tel: 41210

News from The Fife Arms

Federica Bertolini federica@highlandshospitality.co.uk

The Fife Arms received planning permission on 19 February and we wasted no time getting to work! Construction started at the Fife on the first day of spring, everyone was excited to see action taking place at the hotel after the extended period of closure.

The demolition and the scaffolding teams were among the first contractors on site. Demolition of the dilapidated modern outbuildings has brought to light some interesting historic features such as old granite walls and a beautiful carved wood panel. One of the extensions at the back showed evidence in the ceiling beams of a significant fire in the hotel.

The scaffolding contractors worked incredibly hard with our on-site team to deliver their bulky materials without causing too much disruption in the village. The owner of Argyll Scaffolding is Tina Crilly from Peterhead, although it is not always easy to recognise her under the hard hat and orange overalls. One day, when I looked in disbelief at her passing planks upwards to her boys, she told me, 'you don't see many grandmothers doing this!'

Tom Addy, our Site Manager from Tor Contracting, is based at the Mews office in Unit 2. I am often there too, so please do come and see us if you have any concerns or want to find out more about the project. We are launching a regular round table at the office, open to all Braemar business owners, to give updates on our progress and address any questions. The next one will be on **Wednesday 25th May at 6.30pm**. Please let me know if you would like to join.

The George Washington Wilson photography exhibition, which was displayed in the windows of the Fife, was enjoyed by many locals and visitors. Whilst the scaffolding is up we will continue to display these images on a digital screen in the office window. We will also adorn the green steel hoarding around the front of the Fife with interesting images... watch this space!

For more updates, please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fifearms and on Instagram [@thefifearms](https://www.instagram.com/thefifearms)



Councillor's Corner

Katrina Farquhar



☎013398 80836

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- **SIGNAGE** There is a new group formed, with representatives of the village together with the CNPA, Aberdeenshire Council, Visit Scotland and the NTS, working to improve the signage in and around the village so as to attract more visitors to come and visit rather than driving through. The aim is to improve all signs from parking to paths. Also, Aberdeenshire Council have a budget this year to replace Street signage so if anyone knows of any street sign requiring replacement, please let me know.
- Stagecoach have confirmed the Blairgowrie bus will run again during the Summer holidays 6 July - 18 August. Unfortunately the open top bus will not run as it wasn't viable.
- CNPA are working with Scottish Government on a project to develop a tourist route over the A93 with the name of the 'Snow Road', travelling over Glenshee and the Lecht to Grantown on Spey. The layby at the bottom of the Devils Elbow will be upgraded to encourage visitors to stop and enjoy the view.
- The Cairngorm Scenic Photo Posts project is still ongoing. Please do continue to contribute your photos to the visual record. Details can be found on the web at

<http://cairngorms.co.uk/photo-posts/>



Introducing the new Development Officer- Aileen Longino - for Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) working in the Aboyne Ballater and Braemar areas.

Her role is to provide support to the voluntary and community sector by offering advice and information in any area that is requested. This could involve the creation of a new group, charitable status, constitutional arrangements, promoting your group to attract volunteers, funding and fundraising, resolving issues that may have arisen in your group, directing volunteers to find suitable groups or help with accessing training. You are invited to contact Aileen by Email or phone on:

Aileen.Longino@avashire.org.uk or ☎07824096531



Community Health in Partnership Team - A team of 7 people covering Aberdeenshire with Alison McPherson, the team

member who looks after the Marr area (which includes Braemar and the surrounding communities.) The Team are linked to Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action who are the Third Sector Interface for the Shire. Their role, as from April 1st in Aberdeenshire, is to support the integration of health and social care services. This sees health and social care professionals working together to make best use of their skills and resources and offer a more streamlined service to people at the point when they need it. Lots of communities also do a huge amount of good work complementing the work done by the statutory services. One of Alison's key roles is to develop stronger links between community supports/services and the health and social care professionals so that closer working relationships can be fostered. The outcome can often mean someone being able to stay independent longer in their own home and maintaining interests and connections with others, especially important to those living in remoter communities. Since coming into post (end of 2015), Alison has been meeting people across Marr, listening to their views and ideas and getting a feel for what is working well and also what is not or learning about some of the gaps which if addressed would make a positive impact on people's health and wellbeing. If you are involved in a community group or voluntary organisation and you would like to know more please get in touch by email:

Alison.McPherson@avashire.org.uk

or ☎07342881529

For anyone not familiar with the work and services of AVA visit their website at www.avashire.org.uk or facebook page www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireVoluntaryAction



All the main elements of the hydro scheme have now been built - the intakes, pipeline, turbine house and tailrace. The connection to the grid is expected to take place in mid May - a little later than scheduled due to delays caused by Storm Frank diverting the power teams involved to reconnecting homes and businesses affected by the storms. Once the connection is in place, the final phase of installing the turbine and generator and commissioning the system can commence.

Braemar - A Sustainable Future Angus McNichol for Invercauld Estate

Many of you attended the open day held in the Castleton Hall on 30th March to meet our masterplan team and share your views on the future of Braemar. Our thanks go to everyone who joined us for attending and engaging so fully and constructively. But for those who were not able to join us, what was it all about?

Invercauld Estate decided in 2015 to start the process of creating a masterplan which would seek to show how the Estate's land in and around Braemar could be used to both fulfil the opportunities that exist for the village and address threats to the its long term future. The masterplan team is led by award winning planning consultant Richard Heggie of Urban Animation, and also includes Invercauld Estate, commercial property advisers CKDGalbraith and tourism experts Jura Consultants. The team felt that it was fundamental from the start that they had a clear understanding of what particular groups within the village are trying to achieve and where the wider population of Braemar see the future for the village.

Meetings with various groups and organisations in the village have been held and the open day on 30th March was an opportunity to hear directly from members of the wider community their views so that these could be fed into the process. The team sought to build on the four key themes of the Community Action Plan rather than start completely from scratch - and risk boring people to tears! The results of the day are still being analysed but several key themes have already emerged.

On attractions within Braemar for example, there was a feeling that Braemar could be more of a tourist destination, including more accommodation and activities, but also that the village should not be spoilt. There was also a feeling that marketing of the village to tourists could be improved. Better transport links both to the east and, even more importantly, to the south of Braemar was also considered very important whilst many people supported the idea of a village pub (indeed a planning application for a pub at the former Strachan's shop is due to be submitted shortly). There was significant support for the Deeside Way to extend into Braemar together with the harnessing of more opportunities to link the natural environment with the village.

Improved, and more efficient use of, existing facilities for young people in Braemar was considered very important. Enabling young people to remain in the village through the provision of affordable housing, including starter homes, and work opportunities was also considered vital.

If you were unable to attend, comments continue to be most welcome and you can make these through a link at www.invercauld.estate/BraemarSustainable/index.html. Please do let us know your thoughts. We shall also be holding future events in due course as the masterplan develops as feedback from the wider community will be essential to making it a success. Developing the masterplan will take a significant amount of time and resources to complete as it is an evolutionary endeavour. Whatever the masterplan eventually looks like, it will also take a lot longer to implement. However, the incredibly special environment of Braemar, with its rich history and enterprising people gives us a huge amount of confidence in the prospects for the village to enjoy a very special - and sustainable - future.



Open Day March 30th Castleton Hall



Share an App

Have you got a good 'App' (for your phone/ipad etc.) that you would like to share? Please send details to info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk and we will feature it in this space!

To start us off - have you discovered RadarBox24? With this app you can track 'live' passenger aircraft as they cross the sky. Watch each plane image track across the globe as the flight progresses. Each 'cartoon' plane is identified with its flight number. There are similar apps for boat tracking too such as Ship Finder - not only does this track individual ships it tells you whether they are ferries, cruisers, cargo boats etc. Fascinating stuff!

Canadian Loggers - part one

Katy Fennema

When I started researching the Canadian Sawmill at Mar Lodge, I was amazed at the wealth of information that has survived. An initial wander around the mill itself yielded few clues, but as I began to dig deeper, a fascinating story appeared. This is the first part of the the story behind the Canadian Forestry Corps time at Mar Lodge.

In 1913 the UK was dependent on other countries for 93% of our timber, importing an astonishing 12 million tonnes a year from Russia, North America and Scandinavia. It is estimated that five trees were needed for each fighting man, and they were used to make pit props, building, packing cases, telegraph poles and explosives. By 1939 the situation was even worse, 96% of timber was now imported to the UK. Just as had happened in the first world war, Canadian loggers were called in to help fell trees. The UK provided accommodation and sustenance, and Canada provided their pay and transport. The recruits worked five-day weeks and nine-hour days, with additional drills on Saturday. Working in pairs, they managed to fell a tree in an astonishing 70 seconds. The men were trained combat troops and woodsmen, receiving their initial training near Quebec before being shipped into a Clyde estuary port.

There were six local camps at Blackhall, Banchory, Ballater, Ballogie, Aboyne and, of course, at Mar Lodge where the Lui joins the Dee. Between 190 to 230 men from Company 25 were stationed there from March 1942 to June 1944, signing a six month contract which they were given the option to renew. The camp is now dismantled and the area was replanted in the 1980s, although there are still some marks of its past, with concrete blocks, the remains of the bridge and ceramic insulators on some of the trees. Logs nailed together with steel and rails from their light railway can just still be spotted. The area still feels like it's bustling with the energy of the Corps, who certainly left their mark on Braemar. The Canadian camp building was mostly made of timber, although Nissen huts were used to accommodate their shoemakers and carpenters. Fourteen men lived in each hut, and the extensive area also included a cookhouse, showers house, a sergeants' and officers' mess, a medical hut, garage and workshop.

Mar Lodge was not accustomed to mechanised timber removal. All work had previously been done by horse powered machinery, but the Canadians used tractors, logging sulkies (two wheeled carts) and impressively powerful trucks. The installation of a turbine provided electricity for the camp - something regarded as a novelty by locals who still weren't linked to the grid. The felling of trees was just a small part of their work.

The subsequent trimming was more difficult, and the transportation particularly challenging on steep hillsides and poor roads. Once the trees were taken off the hillside they were dumped in a man-made water-filled ditch 10 feet deep and 20 feet wide before being sawn. This had two benefits, as it rid the logs of dirt and also make them easier to manoeuvre onto the machinery that took the logs to the sawmill.

The Canadian Forestry Corps stuck to a formula for their sawmills. Each was equipped with a 100 horsepower diesel engine to power all of the machinery. It was an impressive line of machinery too - with headsaws, resaws and edgers. Once the timber was sawn into boards, a light railway was used to take them over a timber bridge to trucks waiting at Inverey. The road from Inverey to Braemar was straightened out with bulldozers to make the trip easier. From Ballater the journey continued by rail to Aberdeen harbour. The bridge the Canadians built over the River Dee was intended as a temporary structure. However it survived until the 1960s when floods undermined its foundations, and its subsequent removal proved to be rather tricky as it had been so well constructed.



The Canadian Sawmill

Braemar Creative Arts Festival Attracts Royal Attention

Braemar Creative Arts Festival website with the 2016 classes is under construction and will be ready soon, but we can tell you that new for this year will be a class in Celtic Harmonica by Douglas Black, and a class in snare drumming. We are also looking forward to a visit from Ken Campbell and Lindsay Aitken who'll be entertaining us at the launch dinner and offering workshops in traditional tune arrangement, harmony and accompaniment during the Festival. Many of our old favourites will also be on the programme and full details will be in the brochure with your next Buzzard.

Meanwhile... everyone is invited to help with the knitting of **Octavius Flexipants**, a giant octopus being created for the Festival. The body will be made of squares and the legs stripes. You can help by knitting a row or two...The tentacle knitting kits can be found at the following locations in the village: Taste, The Bothy, Gordon's Tearoom, Doctors waiting room, Invercauld Moorfield House Hotel, and Braemar Lodge Hotel...and there is a roving pot which has been to Norway, and might end up at the school... There is lots of coloured wool in the kit, just change colour every 4 rows...! We're aiming for each tentacle to be at least 2m long... (Invercauld Hotel is winning at the mo!)



It's just that time of year to be alert for ...TICKS

Deeside is the perfect environment for a huge variety of birds, animals and insects but unfortunately this includes ticks. The most common are sheep and deer ticks, most prevalent between spring and autumn. Ticks feed off the blood of people or animals, attaching themselves as they brush by and can transmit bacteria that may cause Lyme disease, associated with flu-like symptoms, fatigue and muscle ache. Thankfully only a small proportion of tick bites will result in any disease.

As you may not feel a tick bite it is important to check for them after being outdoors, especially if you have been in the hills, woodland or grassland. Brush off your clothing first and then check your whole body for ticks not just areas of skin that have been exposed; look carefully as they can range in size from a poppy seed to a small spider. If you find a tick:


- Using a tick tool or fine tipped tweezers, grasp the tick body as close to your skin as possible. Pull in a steady upward motion until the tick comes out. Do not squeeze or twist the tick body. If any tick parts remain in your skin, you can leave them alone or remove carefully as you would a splinter. Once the tick is removed apply an antiseptic to the bite area and wash your hands with soap and water.
- Check the bite area over the next few months, should you develop a rash or feel unwell then seek medical advice and make sure you mention you were bitten by a tick and when this was.

There are lots of myths about tick removal – DO NOT try these!

- ⇒ Do not put nail varnish, alcohol, perfume or vaseline on the tick
- ⇒ Do not light a match near or on the tick
- ⇒ Do not pour hot water on the tick
- ⇒ Do not freeze the tick



“FACES”
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION BY **STEVEN RENNIE**



BRAEMAR GALLERY

FRIDAY 8th JULY 2016 18:30
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St Margaret's Update Pete Mulvey

After a number of false starts work is now well advanced on the preparation of a grant application for the project to The Heritage Lottery Fund - which will be lodged at the end of May. If successful this will provide the building's owners, The Scottish Redundant Churches Trust, with a large part of the funding necessary to repair the building to its former glory and modify it for its proposed new function as a high quality performance and exhibition area. The tenants of the refurbished building will then be the St Margaret's Trust Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) which has recently been formed for this purpose - and who will specialise in bringing niche musical events, and their followers, to the village for one-off and mini festival events. Recognising the lack of experience which the founding members of the SCIO have in the management and promotion of a performance venue they have now addressed this issue by adding the following new members to the team - singer, songwriter and producer Fiona Kennedy, manager of the Aberdeen Arts Centre Mrs Paula Gibson and manager of the Fife Arms Hotel Ms Federica Bertolini.



Readers may have noticed the main window facing to the West and a smaller North facing window have recently been removed from the building for conservation repair and are programmed to be returned in June of this year. This summer, as another new venture, we are going to be holding two prestigious photography exhibitions - the first features Scottish landscape and fine art photographer Duncan Astbury 'Awaiting the Rapture' which will be running for three weeks from July 1-24, immediately followed by the 'Retina' Scottish International photography festival exhibition. There are also several musical events planned - the first of which featuring Nashville star Beth Nielsen Chapman, will have taken place by the time this issue has gone to print. For details of other events check out the events listings (back page), village noticeboards and website www.stmargaretsbraemar.org.uk The building will be left open this summer between the hours of 9.0 am and 5.0 pm and will be furnished with the Braemar History Society exhibition about the history and Heritage of the village.

Braemar Castle News

Doreen Wood

The Castle season got off to a great start on Good Friday with the launch of our Cairngorm Gems Exhibition. On show, are jewellery and artefacts supplied by local Braemar folk, by jewellers from Aberdeen and Edinburgh and also from Inverness and Aberdeen Art Galleries. We are grateful to Jamie Compton for allowing us to display the famous Invercauld Cairngorm, the biggest in the world at over 22 kilos and also for the Joseph Farquharson of Finzean's exquisite cairngorm-topped sgian dubh (see photo right). Roy Starkey, who put the Exhibition together, was unable to be with us so beamed in 'Oscars style' on a video link to introduce the Exhibition! which is already attracting visitors who are travelling specially to see it.



On our opening Saturday we welcomed 102 visitors, a new record for so early in the season, with visitor numbers already over 700. Our archaeology students from Aberdeen University will be joining us again this year and will arrive shortly to spread the load on the volunteers. If you are interested in history and enjoy meeting people, volunteering at the Castle is a great way to spend a few hours, email info@braemarcastle.co.uk

Staff from local businesses are invited to see round the Castle on free familiarisation visits. Hilton Craigendarroch were the first round this year and if you would like your staff to visit please email the Castle. Members of Braemar Community Ltd also qualify for free admission and we are working with local businesses to give discounted entry to their overnight guests.

We have our usual varied programme of events planned from a talk on the local buildings used in the filming of Sunset Song (June 5) to a Victorian Dinner (July 16) hosted by the exotic Russian Princess Dolgorouki who rented the Castle for 20 years. The Creag Choinnich Hill race is returning to its roots at the Castle at 8pm on Wednesday 22nd June. Legend has it that this race was the trigger for what has become the Braemar Royal Highland Gathering. In July (July 24), Instead of Jacobite Day, we're holding a Braemar Highland Fling featuring piping to terrier racing and everything in between! as well as the ever-popular annual village dog show. Also in July, the third of our hugely successful WW1 concerts, and in September, our much anticipated revival of the late Charles Barron's Son et Lumiere (8-10 Sept) telling the Castle story with sound and lights. See www.braemarcastle.co.uk for more details of all events.

Braemar Golf Club

Michael Holley

Where has the last few months gone? Thankfully with the help of a number of volunteers we have got the majority of the course cleaned up and the clubhouse freshened up with some new flooring and painting. To all the volunteers that have helped - it is very much appreciated!

We are now 6 weeks into the season and hopefully winter has now passed us by. The clubhouse is now open 7 days a week for Food and Drink and you can either renew your Social Membership or sign up for one in the clubhouse.

Our Quiz night and Bingo night both ran with great success and we will hold more of these later in the year - keep an eye on our Facebook page for details of further social events planned throughout the year. On the evening of **Friday 8th July** we plan to run a fun 9-hole event on the original 9-hole layout of the course complete with plus fours and hickory clubs! This will be followed by a 2 course buffet meal and a fundraising auction and raffle. Further details will be announced in due course but save the date in your diaries!

We are always on the lookout for new members. Whether you have played golf before or not at all we have a range of playing memberships to suit. If you would like to know more, please send me an email at clubhousemanager@braemargolfclub.co.uk and I'll be delighted to assist you.





Junior buzzard

Thank you to the pupils of Braemar Primary for their contributions to this page...

Kindrochit Castle

Did you know we are guardians of Kindrochit Castle?

What do we do?

1. We clean up
2. We check for hazards
3. We check the donation
4. We stock up the leaflets
5. We do the gardens



We are proud to be guardians of Kindrochit castle.

Mar Lodge Orchard

Braemar School P5-7 class went to Mar Lodge to plant an orchard for the National Trust of Scotland and also (when the fruit grows) we could collect some of the produce ourselves. We planted apples, plums, redcurrants, blackcurrants and raspberries. We used a lot of different techniques to plant them.

We are also helping with the Mar Lodge Open Day which is on the 14th May 2016 10.00am-4.00pm. Some of us will be tour guides showing people around the gardens. We will also help around as well.

Braemar Primary School

A Big Thank You!

The Play Park Planning Committee



Thank you for planning our play park. It will be a big asset to the young people of Braemar and it's something else for us to do to make us healthier and have fun at the same time. When it's finished it will be more available to a wider variety of people, including tourists, families and infants.

Bikeability

The primary 5's will be doing Bikeability 2. We will be on the roads wearing high-visibility jackets and wearing helmets. Can we please ask all motorists to be careful on the roads.



Thank you. Braemar Primary School.

Braemar & Crathie Church Summer Club is on again following last year's very successful summer club



for primary aged children. In the village hall from 1-5 August with games, Bible stories and loads of fun activities. It is free and takes place every day from 10-12 noon, open to all all children aged 5-12 years. For more information ☎Susie 41382 or ☎Lesley 41132

Paws for Thought

... I'm the new bitch on the block...



Name: Loula
Breed: X lab collie
Age: nearly 6 months!

Hi, I'm Loula and live behind t a s t e .. with my family Ros, Dave, Frey and Esme.

I love the snow, digging, chasing leaves in the wind, picking up sticks and eating anything and everything.

I dislike being in the car - so far!

I also enjoy playing with my friends Donnie and Maise

I'm still a little jumpy and excited but I am working on this so please be patient. I feel I am learning well and a wee treat here and there will make us friends for life!

Whats on in and around your village?

Mexican Night at the Bothy



Friday 24th June at 7.30pm £25pp excl. drinks

Locally sourced produce prepared by Deeside chef Sam Chainey including foraged food collected by Rhynie Woman (see event 24 May). All profit will be donated to The Braemar Outdoor Group, contributing to their fund-raising for the proposed path linking the Lion's Face and the Old Brig O' Dee. To book contact Federica Bertolini by phone or email at:

federica@highlandshospitality.co.uk

☎ 07876 327603

Village Bin Collections - Tuesdays

Wheelie Bins:

May 24th

Jun 7th 21st

July 5th 19th

Recycling:

May 17th 31st

Jun 14th 28th

July 12th 26th



Library cupboard open at the Tourist Information Centre 10am - 4pm seven days a week. Not a member? - you can join at the TIC.



Date	Event
May 22 Sun	Ballater Duck Festival - fun day on the village green from 10am culminating with a duck race on the River Dee at 3pm
May 24 Tue	Foraging Walk in the Quoich with Rhynie Woman, 10.30 am - 3.30pm, meet at Linn of Quoich carpark. Bring a packed lunch. £15 per person
May 25 Wed	Fife Arms 'Round Table', Mews Office 6.30pm (see page 4)
June 5 Sun	'Sunset Song' - talk at Braemar Castle by Professor Geddes of Aberdeen University
June 8 Wed	Mar Lodge Evening Stroll 7.00 - 8.30pm Guided walk around the grounds. Adults £5, U16s free. Refreshments provided. Booking/info 013397 720164
June 12 Sun	Celebrate Your Monarchs Birthday - Party in the Park. You are invited by the Highland Society to the Games Park 1-4 pm. Bring your own picnic. Tables, chairs and entertainment provided.
June 21-24	Drumming lessons in Braemar with Graham Simpson. Book via email gsimpson76@rocketmail.com
June 22 Fri	Creag Choinnich Hill Race, starts Braemar Castle 8 pm
June 24 Fri	Mexican Night at the Bothy - details see right of page
June 25/26	Dee and Don Ceilidh Collective - traditional music workshops plus a ceilidh on Saturday night at Glenbuchat Hall, Strathdon. Info www.deedonceilidhcollective.org.uk Similar weekends to follow in this area.
June 26 Sun	Village Hall Concert - Fiona Driver (fiddle) & Graham Simpson (guitar), with special guest Elli McLaren (Braemar). Tickets from Braemar Pharmacy & Newsagent and at the door.
July 2 Sat	Village Hall Concert - Alastair Savage (fiddle)
July 8 Fri	'Faces' - photography exhibition by Steven Rennie opens in Braemar Gallery at 6.30pm
July 13 Wed	Les Petits Chantiers - French School Choir at St Margaret's
July 16 Sat	Victorian Dinner, Braemar Castle - for details/tickets see www.braemarcastle.co.uk
July 16 Sat	Ceilidh Band Concert, Village Hall
July 24 Sun	Braemar Highland Fling, Braemar Castle - with piping, caber tossing, highland and country dancing
July 26 Tues	Cairngorms Ceilidh Trail Concert, Village Hall
Aug 2 Tues	Aberdeen International Youth Festival, Vivaldi Strings from USA at St Margaret's

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

Deadline for next edition: August 31st 2016

Website: www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk

Adverts: Cost £15.00 per eighth of page

Contact Maggie MacAlpine ☎ 41245