

# Braemar Buzzard



[www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk](http://www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk)



## Braemar's own hydro electric scheme on the way by David Sherrard



Our new Community Benefit Society 'Braemar Community Hydro' launched its main share offer in May to fund construction on the Corriemulzie Burn, just west of the village. Braemar Community Hydro would like every member of the community to join the Society and be a part of owning the Hydro, if they possibly can. The minimum investment is £100.

The money invested by Members will fund a significant green energy business with a 40-year revenue stream into a community fund. The fund contribution is estimated to be around £7,000 a year in the early years, enough to make a big difference to

local organisations. It can also be used to attract matching funds from external bodies.

All regulatory permissions are in place, the Society has a firm agreement to tie-in to the National Grid, and a fixed price design and build construction contract has been placed. Final design is under-way and the immediate target is to raise £300,000 by end June so that construction can commence. This is the only remaining hurdle.

An earlier share offer in March for £150,000 was fully subscribed, with 45 Members joining the Society in just 10 days. The current offer is well on the way to reaching its June target but more subscribers are still required.

The share offer document and the application form can be down loaded from the website [www.braemarhydro.org.uk](http://www.braemarhydro.org.uk) and there will be a drop in session at 'Taste' on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June from 7:00pm for queries and application forms. Information can also be obtained by contacting any of the following: Dave Chandler ☎013397 41294; Al Hubbard ☎013397 41675; Dave Sherrard ☎01339741516 ☎Nick Mardall 07834 512 029 or email [braemarhydro@gmail.com](mailto:braemarhydro@gmail.com)

**INSIDE** **Pge2** Community Update **Pge 3** Councillors Corner; Paws for thought **Pge 4** Braemar Folk; Juniper disease **Pge 5** Book corner **Pge 6** Castle News; St Margaret's **Pge 7** Open letter re Fife Arms; Braemar Outdoor activity group **Pge 8** Scenic photo posts; Antiques road-show; Kindrochit Castle **Pge 9** Arts Festival **Pge 10** Coming soon **Pge 11** Junior Buzzard

Braemar Highland Society to accept women Ladies can now join the Highland Society as decided by a unanimous vote on May 28th. There are still details to sort out with the financial services authority but the implications of the new rule will be considered by the group at a meeting in July ahead of the Gathering on September 5th. 2015 sees the bicentenary of the Games which will be celebrated with the March of the Atholl and Lonach Highlanders with massed bands at noon. Visit the temporary display on the Games in the Royal Pavilion. For information on the Junior Highland Games (10-12 July) see page 10.

**STOP PRESS:** Fife Arms Hotel, Pre Planning Public Consultation on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015. More page 7.

# Editorial

Braemar News Group

[www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk](http://www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk)

**Chair:** Pete Mulvey **Treasurer:** Dorothy Ramsay

**Secretary:** Margaret Palmer ☎ 013397 41590

**Buzzard Editor:** Liz Robertson

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**For advertising:** contact Maggie MacAlpine

☎ 013397 41245. Adverts cost £15 per eighth of page.

Following the AGM of the Braemar News Group on 24 April, three new members joined the editorial team: Erin MacAlpine, Katy Fenemar and Laura McMeekin. N.B. Submission of articles or offers of help in production of the Buzzard are always welcome - contact any of the committee if you would like to get more involved.

**At the AGM it was decided to trial a shift in publication dates of editions of the Buzzard such that the next issues are scheduled for mid-August and mid-November. So - PLEASE NOTE! - the deadline for copy for the next issue is Friday July 31st.**

*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](http://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.*

## Community Update:

**New Community Council** Following elections in April the new Community Council (CC) is as follows: Chair-Carole Paterson; Secretary-Joanne Morris; Vice Chair-Selena Hill; Treasurer-Alisdair Colquhoun; Other members: Sue Sherrard, Caroline Hadley-Smith, John Torrance, Graeme Mitchell, Michael Holley. The CC **now meets bi-monthly** in the Primary School on the third Monday of the month - the next meeting is on 15th June at 7.30pm. Observers are always welcome.

**Community Orchard** Delivery of two new benches is expected shortly so that people can go in and sit in the orchard at any time (the orchard being located in front of St Andrews RC church).



## Community Update:

Donations of fruit trees, strawberry plants or similar would be very welcome to help the orchard develop - speak to Carole Paterson (she may even let you plant them!) Croquet is to be set out on the lawn just above the orchard from June onwards - mallets will be located just inside the porch door of the Church house.

Please help yourselves. There will be the makings of a cup of tea there as well - with an honesty box for donations to help cover costs.

Braemar Community Ltd (BCL) Has a new board member, Rhi Turner, resident at Hope Cottage she has experience in the hospitality industry. Rhi joins the other directors - Chair-Simon Blackett, Vice-Doreen Wood plus: Dave Chandler, Al Hubbard, Louise Kelly, Malcolm McIntyre and Glenn Perkins. BCL was set up to manage projects on behalf of the village. If you're not already a member, please do fill in an application form, it's free to join, and evidence of community support is vital in all applications for funding. Forms are also available at [www.braemarcastle.co.uk](http://www.braemarcastle.co.uk) - please complete and return to Al Hubbard at Cranford, Glenshee Road.

**Crathie Opportunity Holidays (COH)** The next fundraiser will take place on Saturday August 8th, a film evening in the V & A hall in Ballater as part of Victoria week. COH would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to become a Friend of COH to assist with a variety of tasks from fund raising to gardening - contact Maggie MacAlpine 013397 42100. Plans for our new reception/office building are well underway and installation of a biomass heating system. Both projects should be complete by the end of 2015.

What do you think of the local community? Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership would like to know in order to help develop a new community plan for Marr. What aspects do you value most? What improvements would you like to see? In order to comment, pick up a questionnaire at the Speciality shop **or** get a copy by contacting Catriona Tulloch ☎019755 64803 Email: [catriona.tulloch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.tulloch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**News from SWI** We are delighted to announce that the newly formed SWI choir that represented Aberdeenshire at the recent North of Scotland Choir competition came second. Their rendition of True Colours actually got the highest points of the day! The committee for 2015/16 as voted in at the AGM are Susie

Farquharson, Fiona McCulloch, Angela Till, Laura McMeekin, Louise Kelly, Sarah Hubbard, Pat Thomson, and Marilyn Baker. This line up makes it the youngest SWI committee we've ever had! The new season will start on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, when we hope to welcome many new members to an exciting year of interesting programmes and trips. Watch out for more details in the next Buzzard.

Village Hall AGM - June 2 We all tend to take the Village Hall for granted but the message at the AGM was clear - 'Use it or Lose It'. The finances are 'tight' and if it weren't for the 'donation account' (gratefully received small donations) it may not be solvent. The committee do a great (largely thankless task) coping with leaky roofs and the like and John Macpherson has built up a fantastic array of resources (which are in addition utilised for countless other events around the community). The Hall however needs income so the plea is to use it (even though there may be a free venue elsewhere...) and to support the hall events (of which there are plenty organised over the summer - see back page).

## Paws for Thought

**Name:** Jess  
**Breed:** Labrador  
**Owners:** Ali and Karen  
**Age:** I'd rather not say

### Favourite things:

Meeting all the lovely people on our walks who have snacks for me in their pockets. Chasing the postie's Landrover dragging Karen or Ali behind me until Lucy realises I'm there and gives me a biscuit. Hopping on my back legs whilst trying to get through the window at Kindrochit Court to get a biscuit (or 3) from all my friends there. There's a theme developing

don't you think? Oh, and barking. I love barking.

### Least favourite things:

Doing the washing up. Missing all the above people on a walk if Ali or Karen have timed it wrong. When will they learn?...



## Councillor's Corner

Katrina Farquhar

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☎(mobile) 0787 647 5403

Email: [cllr.k.farquhar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.k.farquhar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



Aberdeenshire Council previously used to be notified by National Records office of 100<sup>th</sup> Birthdays and 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries this however doesn't happen anymore but the council would still like to share these milestones with residents and be part of the celebration. If you know of anyone coming up to celebrating contact councillors or complete an online form at [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or ☎ 01224 665033 or 665034.

The summer bus service 501 to Blairgowrie will run again (once daily, leaves Braemar 10am) as will the open top bus from Glenmuick to Linn of Dee - service 200 (three times daily). They both commence on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. Timetables are on the village notice board.

David Geddes kindly provided a tour of Braemar to planning staff from Cairngorms National Park Authority. They visited the Braemar and Kindrochit Castle, the Village Hall and went round part of the History Walk. They thoroughly enjoyed the visit and were very impressed with the community activity and enthusiasm in the village.

Geva Blackett

☎013397 41541

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*Please contact me anytime if you need help or advice.*

Email: [Cllr.G.Blackett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.G.Blackett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



One of the highlights so far this year has been the completion of Kindrochit Castle - hard to imagine that just three years ago the smart tourist attraction we now have was a pile of overgrown rubble! There is much to look forward to later in the year with the bicentenary of the Braemar Gathering as well as 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the raising of the Jacobite Standard on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Helping to find 'local people find local housing' remains high on my agenda working together with the community's team driving the housing survey forward.



Braemar Folk by Selena Hill

## Louise Kelly - 'Bore da' \*

The lovely Louise, Cub Scout Assistant and recently appointed Cub Leader; Director of BCL; active member of the local Amateur Dramatics Club; avid reader and member of a local Book Group; newly appointed committee member of the Braemar SWRI and on the committee of the Braemar Creative Arts Festival, in charge of evening events. So how did Louise become such an active member of Braemar community?

Born in St Asaph, on the North Wales Coast, at the time the smallest city in the UK, her father Viv, a sales director for Mercedes Benz, was from a welsh speaking family and her mother Carol, was from the Wirral. Louise has a younger brother, Jay. She grew up in Llanellian, another small village with one pub and one church. Her mother still lives in the same house in Llanellian. Louise professes to having a fairly idyllic childhood. Playing on the beaches, walking in Snowdonia, spending her weekends in Betws-y-Coed, where her father grew up, poddling in the river and generally 'being kids'. She started school at the tender age of 4yrs old, the day after her 4th birthday. Ysgol Y Plas, was a very rural welsh speaking church school. The school, a converted tithe barn, consisted of a big class and a little class and all lessons, with the exception of English, were taught in Welsh. It was a shock to her young system when she moved to Ysgol Bryn Elian, a secondary school of 800 pupils and English speaking.

From a very young age Louise was besotted/obsessed with animals, taking any injured animal home with her and then being distraught when it had died by the morning. She had originally thought a career as a vet was for her but as her father pointed out she would have to eventually put animals to sleep. She always knew she would go to university and chose Stirling because of the course, Animal Behaviour. Whilst at Stirling Louise worked during term time as a researcher at Edinburgh Zoo with the chimpanzees, and during the holidays as a zoo keeper in the Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay, looking after the chimps and reptiles. She graduated in September 1992 with a BSc Hons, specialising in Behavioural Primatology. After graduation she got a place to do a PhD in Atlanta Georgia at Emory University but unfortunately could not raise enough funding to cover the fees. Dreams shattered.

Her brother, Jay, was working as a Junior Manager at the Invercauld Arms Hotel and in 1993 Louise moved up to Braemar and started work at the Invercauld in the bar. Jay left, Louise did not. She has had a few different jobs in Braemar over the years but in 1999 she was offered the job as Manager of the Lochacarron shops in Braemar and she still continues there today. She has also worked at Braemar Lodge part time for the last 18 years. Louise loves to travel, continuing a theme from her childhood, and has been to India many times over the years. She also visits her Mum in France every year. Her Father had a lovely saying, 'Money is better spent creating memories than buying possessions' and Louise likes to live by this philosophy. She has remained in Braemar as her friends are now her family and she loves the sense of community.

**\*Bore da - welsh for good morning!**



## Juniper Disease Katy Fenemar

As a gin and tonic loving runner, it's hard to beat running through our juniper scented Morrone Birkwood. The Birkwood is the UK's most extensive example of the transition between woodland and juniper in the UK, and its flora remain unchanged since the end of the last ice age.

However, this stunning habitat is under threat, since the discovery of juniper disease. The disease, discovered first in the UK in 2007, is a fungus like pathogen that attacks the plants roots. The first signs are rust coloured foliage, which leads to dieback, and eventual death. Spores are most likely to be spread in soil and water, with a higher risk on wet soils.

Keeping to the path and cleaning your boots when you leave the birkwood will help inhibit the spread.

## Book Corner by Erin MacAlpine

I recently joined the Braemar Book Club, and have read a number of interesting books over the last few months. If you are into Historical novels that seem to have a new twist with every turn of the page, then *The Miniaturist*, a debut novel from Jessie Burton, is a must read. Set in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Amsterdam, provincial eighteen year old Nella Oortman, the new bride of a wealthy and charismatic merchant - a man she barely knows - is met with a less than warm welcome from her new sister in law. It is not the best of starts, and it gets progressively stranger as Nella's husband presents her with an exquisite miniature replica of their own sheltered, controlled home. As the novel progresses, what initially seemed to be an innocuous wedding present soon turns sour as it allows Nella to uncover the unusual secrets of those she lives with, allowing her to understand - and fear - the escalating dangers that await them all.

If you are interested in page turning thrillers, then I recommend *I Am Pilgrim*, a debut novel from Terry Hayes. *I Am Pilgrim* tells the gripping tale of a former intelligence agent who wrote a book on forensic pathology who becomes involved in a case where someone uses his book to commit untraceable murders. To read this book is to go on an adventure, and by the time you reach the last page, you won't know if you are more exhilarated or exhausted!



Sharon Jamieson and Gavin Leggat (Library services) 'launch' the new pop up library

The new pop-up library was officially opened in May. It will make it much easier for everyone to access books and audio books. The library is open between 10 am and 4pm daily in the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) in the Mews - and the Visit Scotland staff are on hand to assist. Books can be requested or chosen from the selection housed in the TIC.

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## Braemar Castle News

Laura McMeekin

The castle has had a roaring start to the season, with 1680 visitors to the castle in April and May. Braemar Dinner Theatre Group played their Murder Mystery nights to sell-out crowds. Maureen Kelly has been researching a talk of the lives of the castle's servants, and we can find out what she has learned in the Drawing Room on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June. We also celebrated our first wedding of the season in the castle. Many congratulations to Mr and Mrs Steve and Heather Rennie.

Jacobite Dinner (Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July) looks likely to sell out well in advance and preparations for Jacobite Day (Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July) continue apace. Contact [info@braemarcastle.co.uk](mailto:info@braemarcastle.co.uk) for tickets. Two of our German students will be joining us this year, Mandy Focken and Charleen Blaa, with Britta and Laura also hoping to make an appearance. We'll also be taking on two Scottish students, with interviews being held at the beginning of June.

Work on the Castle Conservation Plan continues, with a heating and electrics survey carried out at the end of May, a measured survey and condition report, an inventory of contents and a full social and economic history of the building. Implementation of the Landscape Plan has begun, the snowberry at the visitor entrance (aka Sleeping Beauty's thicket) has been cleared and, most obviously, the larches at the rear of the castle have been removed. The larches were coming towards the end of their life, so there was a concern that if they blew down the curtain wall would be damaged. Opening up the views of the castle has had a dramatic effect, the castle can now be seen from the Quoich and the other side of the glen. Internally, the light in the rooms is much improved and we hope that the dampness in the curtain wall will dry out.



## Music at St Margaret's

Brian Wood

The recent Evensong Service led by the choir of the Royal School of Church Music in Glasgow demonstrated clearly the fine acoustic qualities of the St Margaret's and what an ideal venue it provides for choral performances. We look forward to further choral events with the return of Paul Mealar and the Aberdeen University Singers and the inaugural Schools' Choral festival planned for September.

In the meantime pupils at Braemar, Strathdon and Tarland schools are rehearsing hard for their concert as part of the Aberdeen University Sound Festival and will perform in the building at 4.00pm on Monday 22 June.

This is a big year for the village with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1715 Jacobite Rising and to help mark the occasion there will be a concert featuring well-known Scottish singer Sheena Wellington and other artists on Friday 24 July. Tickets will be on sale soon.

In July we will once again welcome to St Margaret's one of the groups featuring in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival. The Kiryat Ono Youth Concert Band will be in the village with forty talented young musicians from Israel on Friday 31 July.

With money raised by the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust (SRCT) we expect some roof and floor repairs to be carried out in St Margaret's over the summer. This will hopefully result in the removal of the steel propping in the Lightfoot Aisle and the building being re-opened to the public during the week.



## Castleton Dancers 'Dance Weekend' 5-7 June

What do 'Autumn in Appin', 'The Bees of Maggiecknockater' and 'The Dundee Whaler' all have in common? They were all dances performed and enjoyed by the 80 or so dancers (drawn from as far afield as Australia!) participating in the Castleton Dancers 7th annual dance weekend. A very successful weekend of workshops, ceilidh and a formal dance.



**OPEN LETTER FOR BRAEMAR BUZZARD - 25/05/15**

*Dear Braemar Resident*

*As you may know, we recently purchased The Fife Arms Hotel, and over the past few months we have been actively developing our plans for the building, working with a creative and experienced team of professionals including local Crathie architect Ben Addy.*

*The Fife Arms is a distinctive landmark at the centre of Braemar, and the building displays many of the traditional architectural characteristics of the area, such as the decorative timber bargeboards, the pink and grey granite and the beautiful arts and crafts windows. We are aware that the hotel has a special significance to many local people, and has been a constant backdrop and gathering place for the village for many years.*

*Highlands Hospitality will sensitively repair and refurbish the hotel, transforming it into a top class establishment, offering stylish accommodation and exceptional service. The hotel's amenities will be creatively designed, and the hotel will welcome all guests, becoming a cultural hub for the village and attracting a broad range of international visitors.*

*We have enjoyed being part of the local community over the last few years, making many friends during that time, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to build an exciting and sustainable business at the heart of Braemar, Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park. The Fife Arms will encompass all of our passions: the traditions and culture of the local area, arts and crafts, food and drink, and warm, welcoming, generous hospitality.*

*It is very important to us that our plans for the hotel are both supported by - and give support to - you, the local community. We will shortly be preparing to make a full planning application, but before we do, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share our plans with you and to listen to your comments, and so we invite you to join us for a public consultation on 4 July 2015 (full details of the event below).*

*We look forward to discussing this project with you in more detail and hope that you can join us in July.*

*Yours sincerely,                      Manuela and Iwan Wirth*



*Old photo of the Fife Arms*

Highlands Hospitality Ltd - Pre Planning Public Consultation for The Fife Arms  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 4-6pm at The Fife Arms

## Braemar Outdoor Activity Group

A year on from the publication of the Visitor Management Plan (VMP) there have been many changes in Braemar, the closure of the Fife and the Bistro, the opening of the Bothy and the new look for the Golf Club, to name but a few.

Many of the actions from the VMP have already been or are currently being implemented by the numerous vibrant groups in Braemar with members of the Tourism Group, the Castle, St Margaret's, Friends of Kindrochit, the Highland Games Committee, all working hard to improve the visitor experience.

There remains however a series of actions in the VMP to progress relating to the outdoor environment, specifically surrounding: path maintenance, mapping and signage, the Deeside Way, the Dee footbridge, the cycle network, interpretative boards and the continuing development and promotion of associated outdoor activities eg. wildlife safaris and quality guided tours.

Under the umbrella of Braemar Community Ltd. (BCL), the Outdoor Activity Group will look initially to review the suggestions made in the VMP and the valuable work already achieved by a host of groups and individuals, with the aim of coordinating the ongoing improvement and maintenance of outdoor activities and access in the vicinity of Braemar.

If you have a passion for the outdoors or experience in this field and might be interested in joining the group please contact Rhi on 077654 939198 or e-mail [robri.turner@gmail.com](mailto:robri.turner@gmail.com)

## Cairngorm Scenic Photo Posts

If you have been walking up Morrone lately or if you have stopped at the upper viewpoint on the Linn of Dee road you may have come upon a new initiative



of the Cairngorms National Park (CNP) - the Scenic Photo Posts project. This is a "pioneering citizen science initiative" to gather information about our landscapes as they change from day to day and year to year. There are 14 posts in total throughout the national park - closest to Braemar are Post 4 (base of Morrone) and Post 5 (River Dee view). If you come across a post you can place your camera in the marked space, take a photo and then download



View from Post 4

onto the website at [www.cairngorms.co.uk/photo-posts/](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/photo-posts/) There is more information at this same web address on the project.

## BBC Antiques Roadshow comes to Balmoral

Get yourself along to Balmoral castle on **Thursday July 30th** if you have any antiques that you would like valued by the BBC Antiques Roadshow team. No tickets are required and entry and valuations are free. The roadshow admission is from 9.30 am until 4.30pm - and it states on the BBC website that as long as you



are in the queue by 4.30pm you will see an expert and that the mornings are usually the busiest. The format is to queue at the roadshow reception to be assigned a ticket to the team that you need to see e.g. 'ceramics', 'books and manuscripts' etc. If you have a selection of different antiques you may need to see different teams and it would be good to go with family or friends so that you can split into different queues to help out. Look at the BBC website for further information on anything from advice on how to wrap and transport items to disabled access. The advice also includes the wise words of 'don't forget the umbrella!' - and should possibly include (as it is Scotland) 'don't forget the midge repellent'... The grounds, gardens and exhibitions will be open at Balmoral as usual on the day with normal admission charges waived apart from a £5/car parking charge. Refreshments will be available to purchase both on the lawn and in the cafe.


## Kindrochit Castle tour and BBQ - June 21st


On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30pm the refurbished Kindrochit Castle will be the location for a guided tour, about the Castle, and also a comprehensive talk by Stewart Urquhart about the work he carried out recently on the Castle restoration. A BBQ will follow the viewing - which is organised by the Braemar Local History Group (cost £5 per adult, £3 for children - see local notice boards for more information).

Prior to this event, at 5.00pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, a group from Ballater Historical Group will be at the Duck Pond, Chapel Brae to exchange knowledge and information about the Second World War, and also about the Cold War input, that Braemar, Ballater and Tarland had been involved with. Local villagers with personal insight into these historical goings on will be made very welcome, and will, hopefully share among us their personal wartime memories.








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## Braemar Creative Arts Festival (BCAF) 2015, October 21-25

Plans continue afoot for this year's festival - watch [www.braemarcreativearts.co.uk](http://www.braemarcreativearts.co.uk) for details.

Meanwhile, the Braemar Creative Arts Festival has been short listed for the Best of Marr award and representatives have been invited to attend a civic reception and awards ceremony at Haddo House on 11<sup>th</sup> June. 'Inspiring Aberdeenshire' is a celebration of the achievements of communities across Aberdeenshire. We'll bring you a report of the occasion in the next Buzzard when we'll also be including the full programme of the 2015 festival classes and events.

May ukulele workshops much enjoyed

A group of 16 Braemar ukulele-ists had a great day of workshops on Saturday May 23rd given by Finlay Allison (of Celtic Connection fame) and strains of 'Blue Moon' and 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life' could be heard wafting down the corridor of Braemar's Primary School... The day was organised as part of Braemar's Creative Arts Festival 'out-of-festival' events and was arranged to give support and encouragement to Braemar's budding ukulele band (formed since last October's festival). If you would like to get involved with ukulele scene (and let's face it, who wouldn't?...), Finlay will be returning in the Arts Festival proper in October with absolute beginner workshops as well as sessions for improvers. If you can't wait until October, then feel free to come along to the sessions at the Moorfield hotel on Friday evenings from 7.30pm. Just a handful of chords will enable you to join in lots of the tunes - but be warned, it's a bit addictive! More information from Liz ☎41030.



Cam Ruadh!

There is to be a change this year to the Arts Festival competition set to locals, local groups and businesses... Previously folk have been challenged to make a 'haggis' and put it on display during the festival - last year this was changed to a 'bird house' to tie in with the knitted birds. This year it is to be to make a 'Cam Ruadh'. If you're not sure what that is! - then check out the 'Legends of the Braes o' Mar' by John Grant - Cam Ruadh is a one-eyed red headed person - so plenty of scope for creativity. Ballater Victoria Week (coming up 8-16 August) is famous for its scarecrows, can Braemar equal these?!



## Coming soon in Braemar ...

### Summer Club

New and exclusive this summer, Braemar and Cra-thie Church are running a summer club for all children aged between 5 and 11 years. The club will include various fun activities such as songs, games, crafts and Bible stories, a drink and snack will also be included. The club will run from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> August daily from 10am - 12pm in Braemar Village Hall and is totally free. Members of Braemar and Cra-thie Church will be running the club. There has been a very successful Summer Club in Ballater for many years. The club will be open to all children resident in Braemar and Cra-thie, also any visitors to the area at that time may also come along. For a registration form or any enquiries please contact Susie Farquharson 41382, [susie@farkys.net](mailto:susie@farkys.net).



### Autumn Sewing

**Classes** Having run one very popular sewing class for 6 weeks in March and April of this year, Stella Chandler, retired Home Economics teacher from Albyn School, Aberdeen is going to run another. If you can sew already, have never sewed or are interested in learning more about sewing then this is the class for you. Stella is hoping to run another 6 week course in the autumn. Places are very limited and all you have to do is bring a project along with you and a sewing machine if you have one. The classes will be held in Braemar School on a Thursday evening from 7 – 9pm. No dates have been confirmed as yet. If you would be interested and would like to guarantee a place then please contact Stella Chandler on 41294 or email at [dlc@aberdeen7.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:dlc@aberdeen7.wanadoo.co.uk)



### Alpha Course - An invitation from Rev Ken McKenzie and Fr Chris Brannan

Members of our congregations who took part in an Alpha course which we ran jointly, found it so helpful that they suggested we offer it to the wider community of Braemar.

Two participants reflecting on the course said:-

“The Alpha Course is an ecumenical, non-pressurised, fun and informative series of sessions. Returning to the same venue each week allowed friendships to form. This put us at ease and so better able to ask questions, discuss and share experiences in a relaxed atmosphere”.

“The Alpha Course is a chance to explore your relationship with God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, something many of us have not done since our childhood, when it was more a question of accepting what we were told. There is no pressure on the individual to reveal inner secrets or make declarations of faith. I found the experience to be both illuminating and very convivial.”

It was suggested we hold the course on ‘neutral territory’ so, through the kindness of the Golf Club, we shall be running an Alpha course in the Club House - 6 evening sessions from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October starting 7pm and finishing promptly at 9pm. There will be tea/coffee/ cake at the start of the evening. All are welcome. The topic for the first evening is ‘Christianity - boring, untrue, irrelevant?’ There will be a talk on DVD followed by discussion in a group in which you can take part or simply listen. If you come on the first evening, there is no obligation to attend the rest of the course.

To help us make arrangements for the course, it would be helpful, but not essential, if you could indicate if you are coming so we can order enough refreshments. For registration of interest/ more information contact Kay 07807495341.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Braemar Junior Highland Games Weekend 10-12 July

Sponsored by Falck Safety Services, Ballater Charitable Chiels and Balmoral Estate - the Junior Games take place on Saturday 11 July, with traditional Highland dancing, piping and drumming, tug of war, tossing the caber, throwing the hammer and more! There are some new events this year for secondary children. The weekend starts off on Friday evening with a marquee dinner, auction and entertainment fundraiser followed on Saturday evening with a musical evening with ‘Big Country’, ‘Bingo Wings’ and Paul Anderson. Tickets for both evening events can be purchased from John Kinsella on 01339741679. The event concludes on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July with a family fun day. Please do come along and encourage all your visitors to do so as well. Tickets for the games themselves, £3 adult, £1 child, can be purchased on the gate. Proceeds from Saturday evening’s bar will be donated to the ARCHIE foundation, the main charity beneficiary from event.

For more information visit the website [www.braemarjuniorgames.com](http://www.braemarjuniorgames.com) or the Braemar Junior Highland Games Facebook page.



## Junior buzzard

## School is Cool!

This junior Buzzard page has been compiled by the pupils of Braemar Primary School

On the 18th March P4-7 went to Mar Lodge to plant some fruit trees and bushes. We had to measure accurately to make sure the plants would be healthy. We returned to school exhausted but happy!



P4-7 organised a Mad Scientist Party for the Mums and Dads, Crathie, P 1-4 class and the nursery.

We did a lot of experiments e.g. a lava lamp , running water on a string & making a handmade bouncy ball.

It was a perfect day to see the solar eclipse!

**The nursery have been busy recreating their outdoor play area and are hoping to attract a variety of mini-beasts. They love their outdoor learning!**



**P1-4 have been busy planting a variety of seeds in the wildlife garden. They will be selling their fresh produce to family and friends on a first come, first served basis!**



**On Thursday 19th March we were lucky to have a trip to Satrosphere in Aberdeen where we got involved in doing many different science activities and experiments. We had a blast!**

**Kim and Duncan from Mar Lodge worked with Room 3 to help us design and build a pond for our wildlife garden. We are patiently waiting for new wildlife to come to our pond and make it their new home!**





# What's on in and around your village?

## 3rd Age Lunch Group

Meets in the Invercauld Hotel every second Wednesday of the month at 12.30. Three course lunch, tea and coffee £5 per person.



New members welcome contact Kathleen 013397 41679 or Carole 07798 001798.

## Church of Scotland

Sunday services in Braemar will be at 0945 from June through to end of August. Alternate joint services with Crathie will resume in the autumn.



## Village History Walks

From June onwards:

**Tuesdays at 8pm**  
**Wednesdays at 3pm**

Meet outside the Invercauld Hotel. Open to all. More walk leaders sought - contact Doug Anderson

## Village Bin Collections - Tuesdays



## Wheelie Bins:

Jun 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Jul 7<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup>  
Aug 4<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>

## Recycling:

Jun 16<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>  
Jul 14<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>  
Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>

Date	Event
Jun 15 Mon & 17 Aug	Community Council Meeting Braemar (third Monday of alternate months), 7.30pm Braemar Primary School. Observers welcome.
June 21 Sun	Tour of Kindrochit Castle & BBQ 7.30pm - BLHG. More info page 8
Jun 22 Mon	Sound Festival Primary Schools performance at St Margaret's 4.00 pm
Jun 28 Sun	You Rang Madam? Braemar Castle - afternoon tea and talk
July 4 Sat	Concert with Alastair Savage on fiddle, Village Hall 7.30pm
July 4 Sat	Jacobite dinner Braemar Castle. Info/booking ☎41219 or email <a href="mailto:info@braemarcastle.co.uk">info@braemarcastle.co.uk</a>
July 10 -12	Junior Games weekend - dinner Friday night, Games Saturday followed by music evening, Family Fun Day Sunday. More information on page 10
July 19 Sun	Mar Lodge Local Interest Group - Ben Bhreac walk. For more information on this and other group activities contact Shaila Rao ☎20165 <a href="mailto:srao@nts.org">srao@nts.org</a>
July 23 Th	Feis Ros, traditional song & dance performance, Village Hall 7.30pm
July 24 Fri	Jacobite concert in St Margaret's with Sheena Wellington
July 25 Sat	Jacobite landrover safari & BBQ to the Quoich
July 26 Sun	Jacobite Day Braemar Castle
July 28 Tues	Ceilidh Trail, Village Hall 7.30pm
July 31 Fri	Concert at St Margaret's as part of Aberdeen's International Youth Festival: Kiryat Ono Youth Concert Band
Aug 2 Sun	WW1 Memorial concert at Braemar Castle
Aug 3-7	Braemar Summer Club 10-12 daily, Village Hall. More info ☎Susie 41382 <a href="mailto:susie@farkys.net">susie@farkys.net</a>
Aug 8 Sat	Crathie Opportunity Holidays - film evening, V & A halls Ballater - part of Victoria Wk
Aug 23 Sun	Schiparelli Pink day Braemar Castle
Aug 23 Sun	SWI Flower & Craft Show Village Hall
Sept 4 Fri	Gathering Ceilidh, Mar Lodge
Sept 5 Sat	Braemar Gathering

Please send news/articles for the Buzzard to:

[info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk](mailto:info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk)

**Deadline for next edition: July 31st 2015**

Website: [www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk](http://www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk)

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Contact Maggie MacAlpine ☎ 41245