

Braemar Buzzard



www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk



We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



With the Fife Arms re-opening this month we devote our front page to a letter from Federica:



The wait is finally over! We know that many of you have missed our public bar while the hotel has been closed for

renovations. So we are excited to announce that it will open for business on 10th December with a new name - The Flying Stag.

We very much hope that you will once again frequent the pub and we have great pleasure in inviting you to join The Flying Stag Club. Created just for residents of Braemar, Glenshee, Crathie and Ballater, the club is free to join and offers a range of benefits. These include a 10% discount on food and drink throughout the hotel, a 25% discount in the spa between 10am and 2pm and a 10% discount in our new hotel shop. To apply for membership, please email us at mail@thefifearms.com

As most of you will have seen, the hotel is a hive of activity in the run up to our opening. We have welcomed about 80 new faces to the team, who are excited to also become part of the Braemar community. I hope you will join me in giving them a warm welcome.

We are in the process of launching our new website which will be fully live in mid-December. Please do browse www.thefifearms.com to learn more about the hotel and to stay up to date with our latest news.

Lastly, a big thank you to those of you were able to join us for our St. Andrew's Day celebrations. For those of you who weren't able to join one of the tours of the hotel, please contact us at mail@thefifearms.com as we are arranging additional dates.

I look forward to welcoming you all back to The Fife Arms.

Federica



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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 MacKay
 ☎013397 41245. Adverts cost £20 per eighth of a page.

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 can be obtained from the garage, the art gallery, the 'Speciality Shop' and the newsagent/pharmacy. The Buzzard is funded by advertising and donations - donation tins are at all these outlets for any very welcome contribution towards costs.

Community Update:

Braemar Rural: Following our SWEXIT from the SWI in November 2017, Braemar Rural has had a very successful 12 months, with increasing membership throughout the year, and lots of visiting guests. The programme has consisted of a mixture of demonstrations, talks, film shows and a trip to the theatre.

We are always looking for new ideas for speakers and workshops so please come along and join in the fun and decision making. We meet on the third Thursday of each month in the back room of the Village Hall.

Our first meeting of 2019, will be Thursday 17th January at 7.30, and the programme, still to be confirmed, traditionally has a Scottish flavour that evening.

It will be a time to renew your annual membership for the year still for just £10. Or you can come as a guest to test the waters if you like.

Braemar Local History Group: After a very busy and demanding season of Village History Walks the group reported a record number of participants. A total of 750 visitors, an increase of 54% over last year, took part and had the story of the village explained to them. Donations also showed a

marked increase of 66%, a very welcome addition to our coffers! The last walk for this year took place at the beginning of November when a group of staff from the Fife Arms were shown round the village as part of their induction programme. Well done the History Group Guides!

The first formal presentation of the winter season took place on the 21st October when Professor Jane Geddes from Aberdeen University explained the fascinating results of her research into the St Andrews Sarcophagus. The talk was well received by an enthusiastic audience.

Braemar Men's Shed is about to open within the next couple of weeks. We have applied for the use of the Fire Station, across the road from our workshop, to use as a social hub. The crew room, etc will provide a comfortable environment until we re-apply for funding for our cabin next year.

We will be meeting on Friday afternoons from 1-5pm. Keep an eye open for notices of our first session. There will be no membership fees. Come along and see what we can offer. Bring overalls or old clothing if you want to help in the workshop.

Jim Stark Steering Group Secretary

Wheesht! Singing is good for the soul. Braemar's choir, Wheesht!, meets every Sunday in Castleton Hall at 7:15pm. Everyone is welcome; all ages and no auditions.



Sue Sherrard and David Frew lead. Songs can be traditional, classical or contemporary and are usually sung in three parts, sopranos, altos and a men's section.

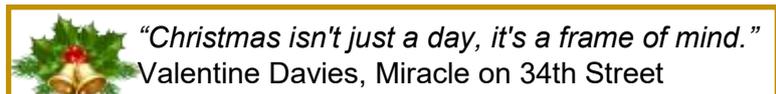
There are currently about 20 singers. New members are very welcome. Its fun, sociable, and healthy. Just come along or call Sue ☎41516.

The Community Hydro has had another successful year and at the September AGM the members approved the transfer of £5,000 to the Community Fund.

This year the fund will open for applications on **15th January 2019** with a closing date of **28 February**. Application forms will be available online at www.braemarhydro.org.uk, by email request to braemarhydro@gmail.com, or by paper copy.

Local groups are encouraged to review the application and consider if they wish to apply. Full guidelines are included with the Application Form.

Some will recall that last year the Community Fund contribution was £7000. Generation this year has been affected by the dry spell and the Hydro Fund contribution will vary from year to year in line with the weather.



North Braemar– A Vision of Design and Facility



Three years ago, Invercauld Estate embarked on its '*Braemar – A Sustainable Future*' project in a bid to identify how it could help meet the future needs of the village.

The Estate and its advisers have held three public events and met with many members of Braemar's community and have also considered how it can assist in delivery of the Braemar Community Action Plan.

This research has indicated that there is a pressing need for additional land for development in Braemar for commerce, affordable housing and associated public space.

People have indicated that any new development should be of a high standard of layout and design and respect the historic character of the village.

The locations where such development might happen are severely restricted by Braemar's mountainous, riverside location. After considering the options, the Estate has proposed an area to the north of the Invercauld Arms Hotel as the most suitable. It is understood the Cairngorms National Park Authority are minded to consider this in their next Local Development Plan ('LDP') which is expected to be published in draft form for consultation in early 2019.

If this area is identified in the LDP for future development, the Estate has produced a vision statement- called '*Braemar – A Vision of Design and Facility*' – to explain how it would envisage any development here progressing.

The core of this vision is:- *"To ensure the needs of Braemar are met and appropriate business, residential and social opportunities are enabled whilst ensuring these are undertaken in such a way that fits comfortably with the context of the existing village and its landscape, that the village's cultural, environmental and built heritage is conserved, the wider community is involved in the process and ensuring that only a very high standard of design, in terms of both layout and architecture, is employed. Any development must be designed to form an integral and attractive part of the village and strive to merit future inclusion within Braemar's Conservation Area."*

So what specifically does this mean?

Well, the wider landscape setting is key and must be fully taken into account whilst the design of new streets, buildings and open spaces will need to integrate sensitively with the existing vernacular architecture and layout of Braemar.

The objective is not to create a 'housing estate' and housing would be blended with other uses, potentially including shops and other amenities, as successfully achieved elsewhere in the village at present. Tourism in Braemar is very important and services for tourists need to be considered but these should not entirely govern the evolution of the village. Houses should vary in size and affordability to help maintain the current strong, vibrant sense of community.

The final proposals that transpire will need to be financially feasible and be delivered on the ground. This may mean the Estate undertaking some development itself, entering into joint venture partnerships and seeking controls on what is built when any land is sold. It is anticipated that the LDP would also provide a degree of protection to the integrity of the design solutions that emerge.

The Estate is keen that the wider community is provided with the opportunity to be part of the design process should 'North Braemar' be included as a development site in the LDP. Future events and engagement sessions will be well publicised to encourage participation.

In the meantime, '*North Braemar – A Vision of Design and Facility*' can be seen in full at the web link below. Comments on this are very welcome and should be sent to: office@invercauld.estate.

<http://www.invercauld.estate/BraemarSustainable/NorthBraemar.pdf>

Angus McNicol For Invercauld Estate



The Braemar Mountain Festival will take place from the 28th February to the 3rd March 2019. A full programme of events, talks and evening entertainment will be announced shortly at

www.braemarmountainfestival.com

We are looking for volunteers to help with delivering the programme - if you can help please contact Sarah Hubbard by email at

sarahhubbard21@gmail.com

The Fife Arms

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Councillor's Corner

Geva Blackett

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Since being elected to the Park Board tourism has become my role, and I recently travelled to Guizhou Province, China with Mark Tate, of the Cairngorms Business Partnership. We attended the International Mountain Tourism Alliance annual conference. This highly prestigious event provided Mark with the opportunity to present and showcase the Cairngorms to an international audience. We met with National Park representatives from

Brazil to Bali building a much greater understanding of different approaches to developing mountain, tourist-based economies.

Having first visited China in 1980, what struck me most this time was how rich and diverse their culture is; I loved seeing the fabulously rich clothing, hearing the songs and watching the dancing (to say nothing of the adorable line up of little girls singing Auld Lang Syne in both Chinese and English) and I was reminded again of how well we showcase our rich cultural heritage be it at our Highland Games, in a village hall or in our many art forms.

In Xingi, we met with the Mayor and others to build on the co-operation between the Cairngorms and Xingi National Geopark. Combatting Rural Poverty (close to MY heart here in Upper Deeside & Donside) is high on the Chinese political agenda and we very much hope that officials from Xingi will visit us next year.

The trip was exhausting and inspiring in equal measures; the generous hospitality and kindness shown to us was humbling and I very much hope to be included in further invitations because one thing was very apparent on the business and vital accompanying social levels: Mark Tate is held in extremely high esteem and affection – it's all about building relationships based on mutual trust and respect and those are building blocks that take time to establish; consistency is clearly respected by those we met with on this memorable trip and I feel I have much to contribute.

I can hardly believe that another year has almost flown – Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need my help.

Geva



Braemar Golf Club The season ended on the 27th October with a successful AGM and Annual Dinner and Prize Giving. Both events were well attended and Robert Pern, Jimmy Smollet and their team made sure everybody was well fed and watered.

The clubhouse is now closed until April but the Club plans to hold several events during the winter (Bingo, Quiz etc.). These will be planned to accommodate the village's busy entertainment schedule. If you wish to use the clubhouse for private events, please phone 41618 or email steward@braemargolfclub.com

Flags will be left in the greens over the winter and weather permitting the course will open for play with the Honesty Box in operation. Walkers and skiers are welcome to use the course but please keep dogs on a lead and keep off the greens. Avoid crossing the course when it is frosty or wet.

We welcome everyone and encourage all ages to get involved as members, sponsors and/or social members of the Golf Club. 'Getting Started' events will be held early next season and we will do our utmost to help anybody into golf.

A big thank you to staff, members, sponsors and visitors for supporting the Club this year and we look forward to greeting you back in 2019. Keep up those practice drills.

Braemar Creative Arts Festival 2018: This year's Festival classes were well supported by both locals and tourists. I know of several people who arranged their holidays so that they could spend the week here going to workshops. We tried a few new classes this year, Bollywood dancing, felting, cuttlefish casting, to name a few and all met with favourable reports.

The committee would like to hear from you, the residents, about what you would like to see offered. Last spring we put on some mini weekend festivals which proved very popular and we are planning to do even more in 2019. Two classes which were cancelled in October due to inclement weather, wood carving and book folding, will definitely be running in the spring. But what other creative arts would you like? The sooner you tell us, the better the chances of finding the right tutors to teach it. Please email braemarartsfestival@gmail.com with your suggestions.....in music, dance, drama, visual arts, crafts, and writing.

Marilyn Baker

St Andrews Day Concert:

Sunday 2nd December at St Andrews Church 6.30pm.



Entertainers include Robert Lovie, Braemar Ukelele group, Doug's marvellous moothie, Colin's wonderful voice, Brian's musical fingers.... And so much more. Scottish song, dance and verse. Refreshments (maybe a wee dram) and food served. Entry by donation.

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Plenty of time...Shopping in Castleton in the 1950s

Alison Grant MacKintosh

Although there were three grocers in Braemar, they were all different. Strachan's had many of the everyday things, but this was the shop for anything slightly exotic in the 1950s. The first peach I ever tasted, came from Strachan's. I remember a bentwood chair where older folk could sit to wait their turn. There was plenty of time, and plenty of gossip.

Strachan's had a huge selection of whiskies, and by the late 1960s were bottling their own-label single grain

whisky. The first bottles were released in the late 1980s. The space between the shop and the bridge used to house an ice cream kiosk with tables. My maternal grandfather used to take me there for ice cream and exciting stories. George Strachan had a shop in Ballater, still in the family, and kept carrier pigeons. Is there any truth in the story that he used pigeons to transport light items between shops?

In the 1950s the name above the butcher's was Hutchinson and Sim, although Tom Hutchinson and Charlie Sim had both been dead more than 20 years. The butcher was Mr Esslemont (Eskie) and he was surely the model for those life-size butcher figures you sometimes see outside a shop - big, red-faced, jovial. This is probably the shop that has changed least, apart from modernisations to meet today's hygiene standards. Eskie sold wonderful meat - mutton, venison, steak mince. Sometimes he had strong farm cheese, a white drum of it on the counter. Any other cheese was insipid compared with it. During post-war rationing Eskie kept eggs under the counter, and would slip one into a young mother's hand whispering 'That's an egg for the bairn.'

All the Braemar shops show local architecture at its best, and the next two stand literally on a pedestal. The chemist's (Lamont Sporrans) could have been moved intact to a museum. It was run by Mr Clark, who had succeeded his father. In the old tradition of giving everyone a nickname, Mr Clark's was 'The Dipper', - to do with dipping a pipette into a bottle to dispense medicines. The shop was lovely, long and dark with high mahogany and glass counters, and big flasks of highly-coloured liquids on a shelf behind them. These, like the bronze-coloured mortar and pestle hanging outside the door, were just for show.

Next door, Walter Randall's jewellery shop (Wild Thistle) was a shop most of us couldn't afford. Like Haggart's it depended on the tourist trade, and specialised in cairngorm jewelry. It towered above the shoe repair shop, a little wooden cabin on the site of the Horn Shop. Mr Clark the Sutor (the word is Scots -Latin for shoemaker) lived in the wee house at Daisybank. As a child I assumed he was entirely responsible for the production of Clark's shoes. There's been a Horn Shop on the site for at least 60 years. Horn carvers used to buy antlers, a good source of income for local children. Incidentally, has anyone else ever heard a visitor exclaim gleefully 'There's a porn shop!' before discovering his mistake?

That leaves just the Speciality Shop. It was a shooting bothy at the Baddoch, until it was brought to its present site (does anyone know when?) Tom Pickford had a weaving business there, before Mrs Farquharson had it painted pink and yellow, named it the Invercauld Speciality Shop, and sold tweeds and knitwear at flexible prices, inflated for her wealthiest guests.

So many shops - in the 19th century there were even more. The 1841 census lists a wine merchant, a seed merchant, and a bookseller. The 1865 valuation roll mentions shops in Castleton Terrace, but we don't know exactly where, or what they sold. On-line shopping could have been invented for communities like Braemar. But we still miss the days when there were so many shops, and plenty of time.



Slow Cooker Mulled Wine:

2 x 750ml bottles red wine
100ml Cointreau
Peeled zest & juice of 2 oranges
Pared zest of 1 lemon
120g golden caster sugar
2 cinnamon sticks
4 cloves, 3 star anise

Method:

Put all the ingredients (except the slices of orange) in a slow cooker on low for 1 1/2 - 2hrs until hot. Ladle into heatproof glasses and serve with slices of orange. *Using the 'keep warm' setting (if your cooker has one) will ensure the mulled wine stays hot during the party*



Reader's Response from Dave Lamont: I've been reading with interest Alison's account of shopping in Braemar in the 1950's and tumbledown appearance of the Fife Mews.

Up until the outbreak of World War II, the Mews were shown off and separated from the Main Road by a beautifully constructed dyke of granite, probably from the Inver Quarry with a tall wrought iron fence set on it. The gate to the Mews was of similar construction.....are the hinges still visible?

One of my earliest memories is of the lorry driver from Mar Lodge, Mac Arthur who was obviously in charge of collecting the fence, admonishing the village teenagers who were taking delight in pulling the long wrought iron stakes from their lead encased sockets on top of the dyke "Dinna mend them noo" MacArthur had a cleft palate and was unable to say "bend" The end result was that all the wrought iron stakes were bent about 90 degrees at the bottom and didn't lie nicely on the lorry. No doubt there were older lads and agriculture workers helping too.

The dyke was eventually taken down and remnants of it are still visible in the village.

Officers horses were stabled in the Mews and Officers were billeted in the Manse. A pistol must've been fired in the right hand corner of the Mews where hay was kept,(probably at mice or rats) the holes were visible for years afterwards. We got hurls round the village in Bren Gun carriers....these were parked in the open space between the Fife Brae and Colliers Brae.....Johnny Stammers built a house in that space.

Eventually the south section of the Mews was converted to staff quarters and the ambulance occupied a section to the right of the main entrance. When I was responsible for maintenance in the Hotel and Mews from about 1982, as Alison says they were tumbledown and a small but very conspicuous tree about 18ins tall had taken root in the very apex of the roof to the right of the main entrance. I was told to remove it, but refused and used the tree as a lever for the hotel to do something about the Mews in general. The owners of the Hotel, I think it was S and N, offered it to me for 1 Pound. I declined.

It would have been far beyond my capabilities to design and build the present building.

A note on the Hotel in War years - Several regiments occupied it at different times, Commandos used the Cairngorms for winter training and built the Commando Bridge a few hundred yards up stream from Ford Cottage.....that was a boon to the local lads who were employed at the sawmill at the Quoich.....remnants of it are still visible. Heavy horses were used to tow the trees. Thousands of these trees were planted by the father of John von Lamont and were felled by Canouks, the timber being used to make the plywood tanks in the Western Desert to fool Rommel into thinking they were real. Also the Mulberry harbours in the D Day landings.

Several other Regiments occupied the Fife; One in particular I remember was a Welsh Regiment; they called me 'Taffy'. Other ones used the rocky shoulder of Cairnadrochit to fire onto with the big guns being towed into place on the riverbank below Am Poola Island by mules.(These were Argentinian mules brought over by Bill Geddes and Lofty. Mules being 'billeted' at Balnellan where Charlie Sim's thoroughbred horses had been stabled.



Photo Courtesy of Tom Kelly "Here is an early, undated photo of staff of the Fife Arms Hotel. Does anyone know when it was taken? There are clues – such as the just discernible Stars and Stripes flag, the ceremonial arch across the bridge, and the absence of St Margaret's Church from the background. Certainly it predates the refurbishments of the Fife Arms Hotel in the 1890's and could date from a lot earlier. Any suggestions would be welcomed by Tom Kelly (email tom@tandemkelly.co.uk or text 07971 538250)."

Christmas Pudding Biscuits: 175g soft unsalted butter, 175g caster sugar, 3 eggs, 400g plain flour 75g cocoa powder, 1 tsp baking powder, 1tsp salt, 200g white chocolate, green writing icing, Glace cherries

Method: Pre-heat the oven to 180C, cream together the butter and sugar, beat in the eggs. Sift the flour, cocoa powder, salt and baking powder in to the bowl and mix in well to form a dough. Wrap the dough in cling-film and refrigerate for an hour. Roll out the dough to about 1/2 cm thick. Use a large circle cutter to cut 12 circles. Place on a greased baking tray and bake for 12 minutes. The biscuits should be browning slightly but still spongy to touch. They will firm up as they cool. When the biscuits are cool, melt the white chocolate. Coat half of each biscuit in white chocolate. Trim the glaze cherries into small pieces and put them on to each biscuit to form the holly berries. Use writing icing to draw on the holly leaves.



Braemar Castle: We were delighted to hear, after months of preparation and at the third attempt, that we have secured an initial contribution of up to £100k development funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The funding will help us move towards applying for a full National Lottery grant at a later date as part of the £1.6M "Raising the Standard" project to make the Castle fit for purpose in the long term.

Close on the heels of HLF news came word that, provided we are successful with securing funding from HLF, Historic Environment Scotland are also likely to offer support in the future. Reaching this stage is a huge achievement for Braemar and the Castle team and structures are currently being put in place to make sure we have the best chance of securing this funding. Provided all goes to plan, our responsibility will be to add the final piece to the jigsaw which will be fundraising to secure the final half a million pounds.

We are currently collaborating with the Prince's Foundation to explore how the Castle can best support and work with other businesses in the village to showcase Braemar as a unique destination as well as enhancing community opportunities. On 14th November, over 60 people from the village and from external agencies gathered in the Invercauld Hotel to explore options and discuss possibilities. The Prince's Foundation will collate and feedback in due course.

Following the success of the Rover ticket, we have again worked with other Aberdeenshire Visitor Attractions to boost visitor numbers in the shoulder months. The scheme has been organised by Grampian Transport Museum and the Rover Ticket entitled holders to free entry to other Attractions after paying admission to one. A fantastic opportunity for both visitors and locals

Castle numbers are again up with just over 14,000 visitors this season which is 12,500 more (paying!) than in our first season in 2008. We have been really pleased to have had opportunities to work with Braemar Primary School this year and welcomed them again on our final day of the season for a fun afternoon in the spooky Castle on Hallowe'en. A truly wonderful way to end yet another successful Castle season, made possible by the commitment of both volunteers and staff.

Doreen Wood

Note from Editor: see the children's stories on page 11.

St Margaret's Update: To celebrate the year of young people a project, funded by the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, enabled us to host a week of musical composition and performance workshops last month. The work was directed by Barluath, a Glasgow based Scottish folk band, and involved 8 local young musicians on fiddle, guitar and pipes.

The feedback from all concerned was so positive that it is hoped that a similar event can be held again next year and we are delighted to announce that award winning highland fiddler Adam Sutherland Music will be working with St Margaret's Braemar to lead another similar and exciting new project 'What a Story a Pair of Boots Could Tell'. This is another unique opportunity for traditional musicians over 16 years of age from the Upper Deeside area to participate in a collaboration and performance of new work at the opening of the Braemar Mountain Festival. Further details are now available on the St Margarets website.

As we go to press preparations are well in hand for the 'Braemar Remembers' WW1 remembrance concert which promises to be another memorable event. This is the finale to a series of very popular concerts held in Braemar Castle over the past 3 years which were styled as fundraising events for the war effort hosted by Lt. Col Alexander Haldane Farquarson of Invercauld and his wife Zoe. Many of the performers who featured in these concerts will be involved again alongside the Aberdeen University Camber Choir and a group of Gordon Highlander re-enactors in period uniforms. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to research the stories of all of the local men who were killed in both world wars and this will be presented during the performance.

In response to pleas from audience members we have recently submitted an Application for Planning and Listed Building consent to erect handrails at the front entrance steps to assist patrons to access the building more easily and we are also currently progressing plans to fit controls to the overhead heaters to enable us to adjust the temperature output from them.

Pete Mulvey



Kindrochit Castle: A new flag will fly over Kindrochit Castle next year to replace the original one which has been damaged by strong winds during the three years which it has been in place. That flag was designed by pupils who were at Braemar Primary school at the time, but as most of them have now moved on to Aboyne Academy, it was thought appropriate that a replacement should be designed by pupils who are currently at the school. The children were split up into 'house groups' each of which produced a design representing a feature of the castle itself, or a view of the landscape around it, and every pupil contributed to a presentation of the work which was made to a representative of Aberdeenshire Council. The designs were then sent to a Graphic Artist who created a composite image from them which incorporates an element from each groups' proposal to give all of the

children of the village a pride in the new flag and a sense of ownership of the site.

This year the site has again proved to be a very popular visitor attraction requiring us to top-up the on-site leaflet holders on a weekly basis and necessitating purchase of another 5000 of these leaflets - which we were able to finance from the £430.00 taken from the donations box since last November.

Pete Mulvey

Ring Out, Wild Bells

by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.



Deeside Knitwits: Another great year of knitted nonsense. The monkey trail was a great success with over 150 maps sold and many families exploring the village. The Kong Family looked great at the wishing well and we raised over £1,500 for local charities.

The poppy panels were out to mark 100 years since the end of World War 1 and made an eye catching display at the bridge and war memorial, before moving to St Margaret's. It was only possible due to the contributions of knitters far and near, with over 2,000 poppies knitted or crocheted.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us this year - making, appreciating and buying!!!



Rosy Wood

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?



A rebel without a Claus. Ho Ho Ho!

Farquharson's Bar and Kitchen There has been a lot of work going on at the former Strachans shop and Rowan Cottage over the last few months as the conversion to form the 'Farquharson Bar and Kitchen' nears completion.

The idea of converting 'Strachans' into a bar emerged from the local community after the Fife Arms closed for the hotel's refurbishment. Invercauld Estate thought this was an excellent suggestion and decided to take it forward.

Upon investigating the structure of the building, it was discovered that the wall between the old shop and Rowan Cottage was not solid and so the plan evolved to join the two buildings together to create a much larger, open space. The concept then expanded further to adding on an extension which would also form a south-facing roof terrace overlooking the River Clunie and the ruins of Kindrochit Castle. After discussions with a number of parties, it was decided to take forward the project with Idris Bozyl from Edinburgh. Idris runs several well know bars and eating establishments in the Old Town of Edinburgh so the Estate felt he was ideally placed to create a venue that would be both sensitive to its special situation but also unique.

The project to extend and transform the outside of the building has been undertaken by Invercauld Estate whilst Idris and his team have been undertaking the internal improvements and fit out.

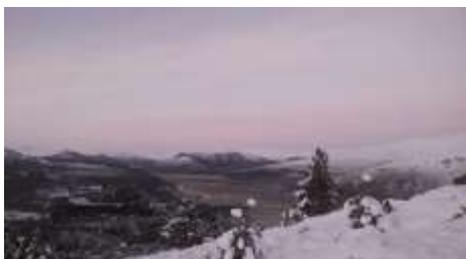
In addition to the wide range of drinks on offer at the bar itself, Idris and his team will bring a flavour of Mediterranean speciality cooking to Braemar and also provide more traditional local foods in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The intention is to arrange live folk music on a regular basis in due course whilst opening hours will be long and consistent to meet both local and visitor needs.

There will be two experienced members of Idris' team from Edinburgh who will be moving to the village, bringing with them their hospitality expertise. Idris also anticipates recruiting two to three local members of staff in addition. Interested parties can send their applications to Idris via Invercauld Estate Office (office@invercauld.estate).

It is expected Farquharson's Bar and Kitchen will be open for business in January 2019.

Winter Solstice



**O solstice comes but twice a year,
So celebrate, be of good cheer
Bring on the feast, break out the beer!
To evil tidings block your ears
Hang on to hope & trample fear
For soon there comes a bright New Year!**
Yes, it's that time again.

The winter Solstice, Yule, (Old Norse *Jól* deriving from Old Norse *hjól*) has been celebrated for thousands of years and is the moment when the wheel of the year is at its lowest point ready to rise again.

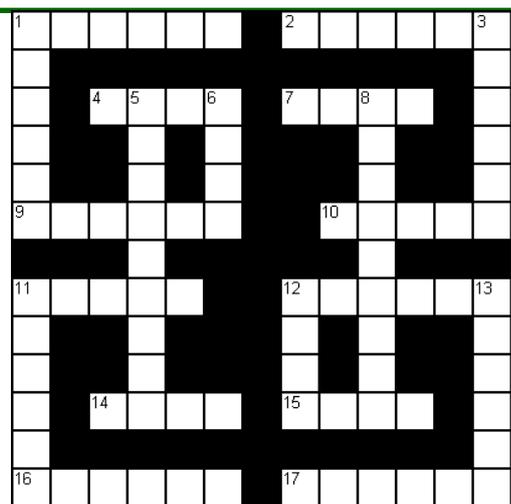
For those that feel the urge to see the sunset on the shortest day are welcome join a few hardy souls at the top of Creag Choinnich at 15:26 on 21 December to lay the old year to rest in traditional style.

Richard Baker

Christmas Crossword
Across

1 The place where Kanakaloka might bring you your presents. (6) **2** Who King Herod killed. (6) **4** Sound a cracker makes. (4) **7**, The first Carol 'Angels ___'. (4) **9** Hark the ___ Angel Sings. (6) **10** What candles first represented on Christmas Trees. (5) **11** ___ Peter who sometimes travels with St Nicholas. (5) **12** What Epiphany is known as in Spain, '___ de los tres Reyes Mages'(6) **14** Another name for things like a Nativity crib scene. (4) **15** A decoration found in a lot of homes. (4) **16** The instrument that Silent Night had to be learnt to! (6) **17** Two of the legendary Wisemen had these. (6)

Down: **1** Where a yule log is put to burn. (6) **3** People who started Wassailing, the Anglo ____. (6) **5** The place where the thickest ice was found. The _____. (9) **6** One of the gifts from the Magi. (4) **8** A plant you can kiss under! (9) **11** The 26th of December is also known as '____ Day'. (6) **12** Some people do this during advent to help them prepare for Christmas. (4) **13** Who told the Shepherds about Jesus? (6)





Junior buzzard

First I went to the fog house. We had to get a biscuit off a string. Then I went ducking for apples. We got to put a witch's hat on and then we got a spooky story. it was lots of fun. thank you Eilidh p 2

There were scary decorations in the dining room! - Sebastian P1

We had some scary stories and liked the book. The apple ducking was fun. I liked everything at the Halloween Castle, Braemar - Alex P1

I went to the castle. I went with the school. It was fun. I was listening to a story then I went to the fog house where we had to eat biscuits from the piece of string. I was scooping apples in the hut but it was hard. I used a fork to scoop the apple and put the apple back in the water.

I liked Halloween at the Castle. Sophie P2

I liked eating the biscuit on the string. - David P1

I went to the castle yesterday with the school. Finally we got to the castle. We began to play. First we played at the fog house. We had to eat pastry from a string. Next we had to duck for apples. It was a fun day. I Ioved it! Chloe P2



Fun at the castle - Braemar School went to the castle at Hallow-

I liked taking the pastry apples off the string.

There was a witches hand and a spider on a cup.

The castle looked like it was haunted! - Kayleigh P1

Braemar School went to the castle for some Halloween activities. I did apple stabbing in the cabin with my friends. I listened to a story in the drawing room and I got a pastry off the string in the fog house. It was fun. Robin P3

Yesterday I went to the castle with the school to have some Halloween fun.

After that I went ducking for apples. It was very hard.

Next I went to the drawing room to listen to a story. It was spooky but I liked it. Then we went to the fog house where we had to eat pastries off string. I enjoyed seeing everyone in Halloween costumes. I really liked it there.

Thank you everybody.

Lucian P2

On Wednesday the 31st of October I went to the castle with the class and we heard a spooky story. Then we went to get biscuits off a piece of string with no hands. The biscuits were delicious and yummy. The apple ducking was exciting and fun. Thank you for letting us see the castle. It was fun and exciting!

Thank-you

Emma P3

Happy Days and Fond Memories I will be heading off on a new adventure early in the New Year and wanted to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you. I spent many years wanting to be a Braemar 'local' but never truly expected it to become a reality. I have loved every second of my time in Braemar and have enjoyed getting to know you all. I am particularly privileged to have been the Head Learner at Braemar School and leave with my head and heart filled with very many happy memories.

Missing you already.

Jayne x p.s. I have already booked by holiday cottage for next year

What's on in and around your village?

Church Services and events

St Andrews RC Church

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Mass 5pm - preceded by carol singing at 4.30pm
 Mulled wine and Christmas pies served.
 There is no Christmas Day Mass in Braemar

Braemar & Crathie Parish

Dec 24 11.15 for 11.30 pm Watchnight service, mulled wine & carols
 Dec 25 Church Day Family Service 10.00 am
 Jan 6 Joint Service at Crathie Kirk 11.30am—no service in Braemar



Village Bin Collections

Tuesdays

Wheelie Bin

Dec 18th,
 Jan (2019) 1st, 15th, 29th
 Feb 12th, 26th

Recycling

Dec 25th
 Jan (2019) 8th 22nd
 Feb 5th, 19th
 Mar 5th, 19th



Did you know? - that if you find it difficult to put your home rubbish out for collection (e.g. acute medical condition, disability, elderly lone householder etc.) you can request an assisted collection service from

Mobile Library: Tuesdays, approx. twice a month: Dec 18th Jan 15th and then onwards... More info from aberdeenshire.gov.uk

1000 (Kindrochit Court); 1035 (Chapel Brae); 1050 (St Andrew's Terrace); 11.05 (Old Church)

Crossword Answers

Across: 1 Hawaii, 2 Babies, 4 Bang, 7 Come, 9 Herald, 10 Stars, 11 Black, 12 Fiesta, 14 Icon, 15 Tree, 16 Guitar, 17 Beards

Down: 1 Hearth, 3 Saxons, 5 Antarctic, 6 Gold, 8 Mistletoe, 11 Boxing, 12 Fast, 13 Angels

Date	Event
Dec 1 Sat	Christmas Fayre, Village Hall 2—4pm
Dec 2 Sun	Messy Church Christmas Party 4—6pm St Andrews Day Concert, St Andrews Church, 6.30pm
Dec 8 Sat	Three harps at Christmas - concert by Ruth Wall. 7pm, St Margaret's
Dec 15 - Jan 12	Newton Harrison Exhibition, St Margaret's
Dec 15 Sat	'Fara' - Christmas Concert 7.30pm, Village Hall
Dec 16 Sun	Santa Ramble
Dec 21 Fri	BLHG—Panel Discussion chaired by Doreen Wood
Dec 23 Sun	Winter Solstice - Meet at top of Creag Choinnich at 15:26 hours
Dec 23 Sun	Combined Churches Carol Service St Andrews 6.30pm
Jan 17 Thu	Braemar Rural—Village Hall 7.30pm
Jan 20 Sun	BLHG - Past in Postcards Part 2 with Tom Kelly.
Feb 2 Sat	Messy Church 2.30-4pm Village Hall
Feb 10 Sun	BLHG - Bridges of Aberdeenshire with Donald Macpherson and AGM.
Mar 9 Sat	Messy Church 2.30-4pm Village Hall
Mar 17 Sun	BLHG - Film Night with Colin Wight.

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

Deadline for the next edition: 14th February 2019

Website: www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk

Adverts cost £20 per eighth of a page. Contact Maggie MacKay ☎41245