

# Braemar Buzzard



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



## Resilience in Braemar

It hardly seems believable that it's almost exactly two years since we were starting to cope with an emergency we had not seen before at that scale. Braemar came together brilliantly as a community during Covid and now, we need to work together again to make sure we can look after everyone in a different kind of emergency.

Post Storm Arwen, a small group drawn from Braemar Community Council, Braemar Care and the Village Hall was formed with the aim of funding and equipping a Temporary Refuge (TR) Centre at the Village Hall. Here is a short update.

Volunteers from the group are progressing 3 work streams:



### Emergency Response (ER) Plan and Emergency Response Kit

BCC has drafted an ER Plan and submitted it informally to the Aberdeenshire ER Group for feedback. The group have drafted an ER equipment list, based on a reduced version of the Ballater ER list. BCC will be responsible for the ER Plan going forward, on behalf of the Community.

### Accessing Funding

We are in dialogue with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) about funding; their Resilience 2022 Fund opens shortly. The village itself has to prove it can raise money and we have almost £9,000 now through grants and donations. This is great news! Thank you to all our sponsors.

### Generator and Emergency Response Kit

Work continues on the generator specification and costs. It is likely to be a trailer-mounted machine that can prime the gas-heating system and the lighting/kitchen at the Village Hall. We will need to find a storage location and some help to maintain the generator.

### What's Next?



Our present priorities are the Braemar SSEN funding application and Braemar Hydro Funding applications. After that, we will need to recruit some more volunteer help!

Our next tasks will be:

- ✓ Produce and distribute a Home Resilience guide
- ✓ Engage the wider village in the ER Plan
- ✓ Recruit an ER team of Volunteers to operationalise the Plan, run refuge etc
- ✓ Train the ER Team
- ✓ Procure and store tequipment (funding dependent)

Thanks for all your support and interest - we will keep you updated and look forward to your future involvement. Braemar Resilience Group

**Inside this issue...** Page 2 Councillor's Corner Page 3 Raising the Standard Page 4 Community Matters Page 5 Invercauld and Garden Page 6 Braemar Royal Highland Charity Page 7 Braemar Hydro Page 8 Parish and St Margaret's Trust Page 9 Junior Buzzard and Affordable Housing Page 10 BTG, Braemar Care, Therapets Page 11 Braemar Local History Group Page 12 What's on and Bins

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

For community information relevant to Braemar, please visit: [www.braemarcommunity.com](http://www.braemarcommunity.com)

## Councillor's Corner

**Geva Blackett**

☎ 0787 647 5269 (m)

Email: [cllr.g.blackett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.g.blackett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



### Aberdeenshire Council:

The word on almost everyone's lips after the recent storms we experienced is Resilience - the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.

Here in Braemar, we have shown over and over how we rally round as a community and how we think 'outside the box'. A really good example of that thinking came about after Storm Frank when Carole Patterson had the foresight to start what is now the highly successful Braemar Care. During Storm Arwen, the volunteers running Braemar Care, along with their team of carers and of course Dr Cruickshank, knew exactly who needed

a quick check on, who needed a hot meal. And if someone needed medical attention – it was on our doorstep. We are also very lucky because the Fife Arms has on every occasion opened their doors to the community, providing a warm and safe place as well as food; a generator was identified and linked up to Kindrochit Court and another to the water supply. Work is now in progress with a Resilience Plan (see front page).

Absolutely key to any resilience planning is the ability to communicate so that someone living in an isolated spot can call for help and families living outside the affected area can check on loved ones and communicate with those who have duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 like local authorities and the police. Since the storms, I have literally been inundated by people from all over the Ward wanting to know how they can communicate when they had no mobile phone signal AND no landline (plugged into the BT socket).

By the end of 2025, no-one at all will have an analogue phone. I have raised the matter with our MP Andrew Bowie and you can email him at [andrew.bowie.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.bowie.mp@parliament.uk) I have started an on-line petition (access at <https://chng.it/HP7t8gKq>) asking Ofcom to "Pause Digital comms roll-out until emergency communication is resilient in rural areas". This is not just a Braemar or even Aberdeenshire matter; it affects rural communities all over the UK.

I would like to share a story: Kirsty is in her thirties and has congenital heart disease. She lives with her husband a mile down a track on an estate. Her nearest neighbour is half a mile away. Her broadband is provided by satellite, and keeps cutting out. The satellite dish on the side of the house runs to a Wi-Fi box inside which in turn is powered by electricity. Mobile phones don't work at the house – you have to go to the main road a mile away to get a signal. This woman's safety depends on her landline: her analogue landline. If her power goes off and her husband is at work, a back-up battery with an hour's life might not be enough if she needs an ambulance – a scarce enough commodity as it is.

If you haven't yet signed the petition, please do and please share the link with family and friends.

Finally, the council elections are on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Please remember to register to vote if you haven't already (<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>).

I will again be standing for election, as an independent. However I do not have the time to push paper through your doors as I am 'getting on with the day job' as the saying goes. If I am re-elected I promise to continue doing my best for Braemar and indeed all my constituents in every community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow ward councillor Paul Gibb for all the help and support he has given us all over the past five years. I am very sad he has decided he won't be standing again – we have worked really well together in recent times and his diligence and commitment has been invaluable. I have warned him that if I am re-elected I do have his phone number so he can't escape completely. "Thank you, Paul"

## Braemar Castle: “Raising the Standard”

Our “Raising the Standard” project is making excellent progress and Harper and Allan Masonry have already removed much of the harling. Our archaeologist, Ali Cameron is on site to make sure any significant finds are recorded and logged and, so far, has uncovered a 17<sup>th</sup> century coin.



Our fundraising continues with the sale of limited-edition prints of [Martin Creed: 'Work No. 3531 – EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT' Prin – The Fife Arms Shop](#) organised by the Fife Arms on our behalf with all proceeds going to the project. Much appreciated, as we strive to reach our funding target of £1.6M. Sales have been brisk, and we want to make sure local residents have a chance to buy, so please click on the link above or contact the Fife.

With the Castle packed up, Volunteer Co-Ordinator, Anni Stonebridge’s focus has now moved to the “Activity Plan”. At present, she’s concentrating on the Invercauld Oral Reflections Project, which has been funded by the Barrack Trust. The aim is to record conversations between oldies who have lived and worked on Invercauld Estate, and younger people who have grown up locally or now live in the north-east as students or residents. All, from secondary school pupils upwards, are invited to get involved. Lots of opportunities: from telling your story, interviewing, filming and recording as well as helping run on-line events. Please do get in touch to take part, or to register for our e-newsletter, at [braemarcastlevolunteering@gmail.com](mailto:braemarcastlevolunteering@gmail.com). Or you can give Anni a ring on 07766 913 595

As the Castle enters its next phase, we bid farewell after 5 years, to our Castle Manager, Georgina Errington. Thank you to Georgina for her dedicated service to the Castle and we wish her all the best in her new ventures.

## The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Group

At their January meeting the Community Council heard of Invercauld Estate’s plans to light a beacon on a nearby hilltop to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The Councillors agreed to bring together the various village organisations which might be planning events in order to maximise collaboration and co-ordination. The first meeting was held in the Games Centre and representatives of the Community Council, Invercauld Estate, Braemar Royal Highland Society, St Margaret’s Trust, the Parish Church, the Fife Arms Hotel/Artfarm, Braemar Local History Group and Braemar Tourism Group met and shared their ideas. Most of the events will occur over the Jubilee weekend at the beginning of June, but there will be others taking place throughout the summer. A full programme of activities will be published soon.

It is intended that the group will meet regularly over the next few months and will continue to share their plans.

If your organisation is planning a Jubilee event and would like to join the Group then please contact Brian Wood, Chair of the Community Council at: [brian.j.wood@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.j.wood@btinternet.com).

## New Community Councillors

Two new members have been co-opted on to the Braemar Community Council to make it more representative. At the February meeting Gareth Guy and Jamie Atkinson were welcomed to the Council and will hold office until the next round of elections in June.

**Thank you!**

# Editorial

## Braemar News Group

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

**Chair:** Pete Mulvey **Treasurer:** Colin Hunter  
**Secretary:** Margaret Palmer ☎013397 41590  
**Buzzard Editor:** Liz Robertson ☎013397 41030

Please send any news/letters/articles to

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

**By post:** Coldrach Lodge, Chapel Brae AB35 5YT

**By phone:** 013397 41030

**For advertising:** contact Richard Baker  
 ☎013397 41225. Adverts cost £20 per eighth of a page.

**From the Editor:** My last editorial was waiting for Storm Arwen and since then, we have had several more storms! This has really emphasised the importance of village resilience and hence we wanted to highlight this on our front page. Please think of ways you could contribute. During Arwen, our very old phone played a role linked to soup distribution but even more modern phones may become merely decorative in



an emergency. Think about signing the petition. Liz has again entrusted the editor's role to me as she continues her well-earned break. Many thanks to her for the hours of work she puts in every year in making the Buzzard a really useful newsletter for us all! Also, thanks to everyone who has sent in material. Any omissions and errors in this issue are entirely mine.

*Past and current editions of the Buzzard can be viewed online on our website:*

[www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk](http://www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk) and also on the Braemar Community website

[www.braemarcommunity.com](http://www.braemarcommunity.com) Copies are delivered free of charge within the locality of Braemar. Extra copies can be obtained from the garage, the art gallery 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.

Braemar Highland Games Visitor Centre are delighted to announce that have formed a partnership with Chloe Lawson of Chloe's Kitchen Creations in Alford to reopen daily the Pavilion Cafe at the Duke of Rothesay Pavilion from April to October.

## Community Matters

**Got an outlet in the village?  
 Want to help locals access the  
 Buzzard?**



We are looking for another business to display copies of the Buzzard and have a collection tin. A great service for visitors for not too much effort! Please email [info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk](mailto:info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk) if you feel you can help.

### Braemar Pop-up-Pantry

Great news! In the next few weeks, we will have a shed to house pantry items. This will be open 3 or so days a week and folks will help themselves. Weather dependent! It will be up next to the old garage in Castleton Place, across from fire station.

We hope to have this until we get our new space. Keep an eye open for more info!

### Line Dancing

Line dancing sessions will continue as before on Mondays at 2-3pm and Thursdays at 7.30- 8.30 in the Village Hall. Several men and women have been attending regularly and enjoying the light exercise and social gathering while dancing to Country and Western favourites.

We would be delighted to welcome more people. No previous experience is necessary.... you can even have two left feet...and each dance is walked through before we start.

If you are interested but not sure and would like more information, please email [midante@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:midante@hotmail.co.uk) or give me a call 41225.

I hope to see some new faces among the dancers in the coming weeks.

### Knitwits

We had another productive year in 2021 and raised over **£2600** for local needs and national charities..

So huge thanks to everyone who supported us!

We cheered ourselves up during the last lockdown with knitting another Purlcasso..."Woman Knitting Near a Window" based on Picasso's "Woman Sitting Near a Window" which sold for £73.5million in 2021.

We've also been knitting ducks for a trail at the Craighendarroch, as well as getting going with this year's trail which will feature the flora and fauna found in the Cairngorms, including some ducks!

Thanks to Kindrochit Court for letting us meet in their lounge - every Tuesday 2-4 - all knitters and crocheters welcome!

## Braemar's Lion Set to Roar!

Two exciting new developments involving the Lion's Face Quarry to the east of Braemar are currently in the pipeline.

A few years ago, Invercauld Estate worked with the Cairngorms National Park Authority to help identify a route for a new path to come off the current circular path which forms a loop around Creag Choinnich. The proposed new route takes a spur off this path from the Lion's Face Quarry to the Keiloch, three miles or so east of Braemar. When installed, it will be possible for the very fit to walk via a combination of paths and estate tracks all the way from the centre of Braemar to Tomintoul (and back again!).

The new path route has planning consent and the Estate is delighted that funding for the project has now been identified. We are currently working with the access authority to finalise the details and look forward to the works commencing soon. A longer-term ambition is to ultimately connect the new path with the Deeside Way which currently comes a few miles out from the west side of Ballater.

We also obtained planning permission at the end of 2021 for eight workshop units with associated facilities in part of the Lion's Face Quarry. Aberdeenshire Council will continue to lease the larger part of the quarry as their local depot serving the Braemar area.

We plan to build the first five of these units and an adjacent toilet block this year. Each unit will be approximately 60 square metres in size and will have electricity and water connection points.

If you might be interested in leasing one of the units please contact the Estate Office as soon as you can on 01339 741224 or [office@invercauld.estate](mailto:office@invercauld.estate). Please see artist's impression below.



**The Community Garden** has been under a bed of snow (and probably some weeds!) but will spring into action in the next month or so, as will the Community Gardeners who are starting to look through seed catalogues and are getting excited as the days get longer.

Before we are ready to plant we will need to dig the beds over and this is a great opportunity to reclaim that fitness lost in the winter months and get some fresh air in our lungs without a face full of hail/sleet/wind/snow. We garden at a sociable pace, we like to have a chat, take in the scenery, swap recipes and have a coffee and cake.

No experience is necessary, we all like to learn new things and just give it a go. The benefits of the community garden are almost endless - fresh air, exercise, cheap, healthy and fresh food, carbon neutral(ish) and sociable.

With food prices rising a share of the harvest will only cost £5 per household and a few hours' work this year. If you'd like to join us just let Aimi know at 07725 001817 or e-mail [david.sherrard4@btinternet.com](mailto:david.sherrard4@btinternet.com). Alternatively just look out for the first work party date on Facebook and come along.

Whether you join us for the season or not, do come into the garden for a look around and enjoy the space; we love it and want you to enjoy it too.



## BRHS & Braemar Royal Highland Charity

Some dates for members' diaries - BRHS Quarterly Meetings will be held on April 15th, July 15th & October 21st, 2022. Members are welcome to come along as observers. BRHS AGM will be held on 20th May. Members are welcome to come along. Meetings are held in the Duke of Rothesay Highland Games Pavilion at 7.30pm. We produced a newsletter in December 2021 for our members and sent it out by email. If you are a member and did not receive it, please email your contact details to our Secretary, [sheena@brhcharity.org](mailto:sheena@brhcharity.org)



Finally, after two years we are busy organising the Games for 3<sup>rd</sup> September. It will be a very special day as we celebrate H M The Queen our Patron's Platinum Jubilee. We have had plans drawn up to build a permanent arch in the Games Park to complement the Duke of Rothesay Highland Games Pavilion which is now at the pre-planning stage. Timing and funding will determine whether the project will go ahead. There is also maintenance work being carried out on the covered grandstand which will be completed for the Games.

We are also planning to hold a Platinum Jubilee Garden Party in the Games Park on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June along with other local groups bringing the community together to celebrate. Keep an eye on our FB page for further details, you will need to get your hat and best dress out!

Our dancing teacher Vivienne McIntosh has a great dancing class going, with the children doing well at their last dancing exams. Diane Wright has started teaching the chanter again. You are most welcome to come along and try out either of the classes.

If you have any queries regarding BRHS or BRHC please get in touch by email.  
Sheena M Fraser



# BALMORAL

## CASTLE & ESTATE





<p><b>April 1st</b> "Life at Balmoral" Exhibition Opens</p> <p><b>April 15th,16th,17th</b> Easter Egg Quiz</p> <p><b>April 23rd-24th</b> Run Balmoral</p> <p><b>June 2nd</b> Ballater Pipe Band</p> <p><b>June 2nd-5th</b> Balmoral Jubilee Afternoon Tea, with live coverage of all Jubilee celebrations</p> <p><b>June 3rd</b> Birds of Prey</p>	<p><b>June 4th</b> Vintage Buses to shuttle &amp; display</p> <p><b>June 5th</b> Leeds Pipe Band</p> <p><b>June 9th</b> Midsummer Night's Dream <i>outdoor performance</i></p> <p><b>June 10th</b> Othello <i>outdoor performance</i></p> <p><b>July 3rd</b> Awful Auntie <i>outdoor performance</i></p> <p><b>July 26th</b> Peter Rabbit <i>outdoor performance</i></p> <p><b>August 2nd</b> Close for summer season</p>
--	---

**Open daily from 1st April - 2nd August 2022**

Exhibitions, Gardens, Castle Ballroom, Audio Guide, Coffee Shop & Mews Gift Shop

For further information [www.balmoralcastle.com](http://www.balmoralcastle.com)








## Applications to the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the Braemar Hydro Community Fund are in!



The construction of the Hydro Scheme commenced in 2015 with electricity generation commencing in June 2016. The scheme was officially opened in September 2016 by HRH, the Duke of Rothesay. BCH is a Community Benefit Society, generating low carbon electricity from the Corriemulzie Burn. Surplus income from the enterprise goes to a community benefit fund to be used for projects and worthy causes in the local community.

The 5<sup>th</sup> round of funding applications opened on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and closed on 11<sup>th</sup> March, with applicants invited to bid for awards from £500 up to £5,000. Each year this fund is open to applications from community organisations, or individuals seeking funding for community purposes and activity located within the Parish of Braemar.

Andrew Martin, Chair of the Panel, said "This funding is all about the community benefitting from their hydro scheme. We hope organisations and individuals will continue to come forward this year and next with their plans on how hydro community funding can make a positive contribution in Braemar." Interested in learning more? Have a look at the Braemar Community Hydro website. <http://braemarhydro.org.uk/community-fund/>. The 6<sup>th</sup> round of funding will open again in January 2023, and it's never too soon to be working up your community plans.

This year successful applicants will be announced in April at an Awards event in Braemar, when all applicants will be able to celebrate the past, present, and future success of the Hydro Community Fund.

As Andrew said "It's great to have a vehicle to bring the community together and celebrate success, not only of the hydro scheme, but also the valuable contribution community funded initiatives can make to the quality of life of those living and visiting Braemar".

 <p><b>Tree Surgery</b> Qualified &amp; Experienced Tree Surgeons covering all aspects of tree surgery, including stump removal &amp; 24 hour emergency call out</p> <p><b>Garden Design &amp; Construction</b> Patios, Decking, Turf, Raised Beds, Walls, Water Features, Planting - Call us to find out what more we can do!</p> <p><b>Garden Maintenance</b> Grass Cutting, Lawn care, Hedge Cutting, Shrub Pruning, Weeding and more!</p> <p><b>Fencing &amp; Gates</b> All types of bespoke fencing and gates</p> <p><b>Narrow Access Cherry Picker</b> For precision tree pruning, wide hedges, paintwork &amp; gutter cleaning If you can't get to it, our Cherry Picker can!</p> <p>Logs, Wood Chips, Mulch, Site Clearance, Painting, Ground Works &amp; Excavations</p>	 <p><b>FLAME</b> BOILER SERVICES LTD.</p> <p><i>Oil and Biomass Heating Engineers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local family business</li> <li>Oil and biomass boiler servicing and repairs</li> <li>New boilers sold and installed with 5 and 10-year warranties</li> <li>Aga Servicing</li> </ul> <p>01975 571775 07792 830780</p> 
<p>Tarland: 01339 881589 / 07932 075225 julian@julianbarclay.com • www.julianbarclay.com</p>	  <p>flameboilerservices@gmail.com www.flameboilerservices.co.uk</p>

## NOTES FROM THE PARISH

After almost two years of rather stringent, albeit largely understandable restrictions, most community organizations do now seem relatively confident that normal service(s) will shortly be resumed.

There have been a number of hopeful signs along the way - the loosening of the limit on the number allowed to attend funeral services being one - and it has been good to see the return of a few of the midweek activities that we used to take for granted. The Messy Church team have continued to put on events; at the time of writing a Community Alpha Course is underway; and the season of Lent is due to begin with an Ash Wednesday Vigil in the village.

Now that the wearing of masks in churches and public spaces is going to become advisory rather than mandatory, it is very much hoped that over the coming weeks congregations and singing groups will be able to resume more conventional, not to mention comfortable, singing practices.

All being well the churches in the area will be running a full programme of joint events during Holy Week:

**A Good Friday (15<sup>th</sup> April) 'Walk of Witness'** at 12.00 from The Parish Church to St Andrew's RC Church for a **'Stations of the Cross'** service, and an outdoor **Easter Morning Service** - probably at Kindrochit Castle at 8.00am followed by bacon rolls in St Margaret's.

We in the churches are glad to see shoots of new life all around, and we are enormously grateful for all those who have been such a support and encouragement through difficult times.

### Church of Scotland, Parish of Braemar and Crathie

**Good Friday** "Walk of Witness" 15th April 12.00 Parish Church to St Andrews, short prayer

**Messy Church** 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June 2.30-4.00pm Braemar Parish Church

**Daffodil Tea** 9th April 2.00-4.00pm Crathie Kirk Hall in aid of Crathie Opportunity Holidays

**Film Night** 10th June Braemar Village Hall (time and film to be decided)

### St Andrew's Catholic Church

**Stations of the Cross** every Friday during Lent at 7pm, starting Friday 4th March

**Lenten Lunch** 23rd March to raise awareness and funds for SCIAF

( Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund) - watch for details.]

**Good Friday** "Walk of Witness" 15th April 12.00 Parish Church to St Andrews, short prayer

**Easter Sunday** We are having an Easter egg hunt in the Church grounds with teas/games/music/bouncy castle/stalls. Watch for details.

**Easter Mass** will be put on Facebook page and on Church notice board.

## St Margaret's Braemar

An exciting year lies ahead at St Margaret's. We've got some great acts coming up as well as some big names! But we've already had a great few months. Our first **Festival de Noel** at the start of December was a huge success, complete with a memorable Christmas concert and amazing fireworks display. We also hosted a well-attended Watchnight service.

Then in January, just before Burns night, former Scots Makar **Jackie Kay** enthralled and entertained us with her poetry and honest stories about her amazing life and upbringing in Glasgow.

But back to the future! March will be a month of scintillating traditional music which also features the **Hamish Napier Trio** (March 19) and the internationally-acclaimed Gaelic folk heavyweights **Breabach** (March 24). Then the gears shift and we have the first of the big names in legendary jazz saxophonist **Tommy Smith** performing solo (April 8). Don't miss that.

And there are more legends to follow on April 23 when "**Legendary Braemar**" features a specially-commissioned performance of the stories of the braes. That will feature local storyteller and poet Sheena Blackhall and music and performance by Chris Stout, Catriona Mackay and Hamish Somers.

In May, Masterchef judge, jazz pianist and restaurant critic **Jay Rayner** brings his acclaimed one-man show to Braemar on Saturday, May 7. Tickets for that are selling fast as they will too for the songwriting skills of Verlon Thompson from Oklahoma who returns to the village with a cast of special guests later in the month.

A busy month of May finishes with one of the UK's most exciting jazz pianists **Fergus McCreadie** bringing his accomplished trio to the stage.

And that's only a small taste of what St Margaret's will be offering this year. We'll have our regular monthly farmers' markets and we've more exciting news to come about the Jubilee and a very special concert later in the year plus of course the return of the Braemar Folk Festival at the start of October! More details on page 9. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for further details.





## Junior buzzard

## Braemar School Visit from the BBC

This is the link to our pupils' short films on the BBC website.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00kl3tf>

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February Christopher O'Rourke and David Tennent from the BBC came to film with us we were assorted into two groups the mountain group and the forest group. The mountain group went first to film their part, the forest group went second, and we went to the playpark to film ours since there was a forest behind the playpark. We decided to move to the entrance of the woods since it was a lot less windy, and the wind can affect the audio from the boom mic. We could not go into the woods because the storm had knocked down trees and made them weak.

By Lewis, P7



*On Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February we had an especially important visit from the BBC. Two men from the BBC came. They had one camera and one microphone. We had two groups- the forest and the mountain group.*

*On Thursday, when we got to school, we found out that we would not be able to film in the woods because the most recent storm had made some branches fall, and it still was very dangerous, so instead we filmed in the park. The mountain group went off first. They talked about the mountains and the area around Braemar. When it was our turn, we did our intro and outro at the same time, then we said our lines and played for a bit at the park.*

*On Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> February we had a big premier of our videos. We had to pretend to be VIPs. We wore special VIP clothes and even walked on a red carpet. After we watched our videos, I was proud, but very embarrassed. I remembered all the fun and all the laughs we had when making the videos, but I also remember how nervous I was, I learnt so much and am very thankful they came and had the time to make two videos with us.*

By Julia P7

On Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February the BBC came for script writing, and I was so excited! First, they started with the mountain group script, then they worked on the forest and woods group script. We started to practice the scripts, and they showed us a boom stick and the camera.

On Thursday, they came for the filming and started with the mountain group. After break it was the forest group which was the group I was in, and I was so excited and nervous at the same time. We were going to go into the Creagchoinnich woods, but it was too windy, and the trees were too dangerous, so we filmed outside the woods and the park.

We started with the intro and outro then we started filming individually. When someone was filming the rest of us were playing in the park then we walked over to the woods and stood outside gate to film. Then it was my turn to be filmed and I was so scared it took 2 takes to get the best take.

On Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> we did a fun little movie premier with the younger class and the older class got to dress up which was fun, and we got popcorn while we watched the two films.

Cassie Stewart

## Affordable Housing

The project at the back of Kindrochit Court continues to move forward, with the planning application rumbling through a multitude of departments and processes. It seems foolhardy to predict when planning permission might be granted but, when it is, the next step will be for the architects and engineers to put together the building warrant application. Once this is in place, we'll then be able to invite prices from local construction firms to build the homes.

Recent storms caused some damage to the woods beside the housing site, though thankfully none of the trees that were blown over had any squirrel dreys in them. In fact, some of the trees that did come down in the winds were due to be taken down in any case – mainly for safety as they were a bit unsteady already. We hope to clear trunks blocking paths before too long, but as many of you have seen they are quite large. Most of the trees in the wood are what might be described as mature/old so we need to look at how we achieve a bigger range of age in the trees.



## Braemar Local History Group

The group held its AGM on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February. The Chairperson for the last 8 years, Douglas Anderson, had previously stated his intentions to step down and in doing so the group presented him a nice bottle of whisky along with an inscribed quaiach with which to do some sampling. Thanks for all the hard work, Doug!

The committee was re-elected

and Fiona Hunter was duly elect Chairperson. Following the AGM, a very successful talk was presented by Simon Blackett about "Auchtavan" followed with a lively question and answer session.

The popular Village Historical Walks recommence on Wednesdays at 3.00pm from 13<sup>th</sup> April and on Tuesdays at 7.30pm from 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

See "What's On" (p9) for forthcoming talks.

The History Group is delighted to be contributing to the village's Jubilee celebrations in June.



Based in the heart of the Cairngorms. We provide a professional service delivered to the highest quality in all landscaping projects both private and commercial.

We cover all types of ground-based works from simple garden tidy ups to full scale design and installations.

We stock Stonepack Core & Decorative Aggregates at our yard in Ballater, have a range of OX Tools and are Marshalls registered for a credited landscaper contractor

Firewood also available, tractor/digger and driver also available for hire

Glenmuick Sawmill, Glenmuick, Ballater  
07821746756 / weejim03@live.co.uk  
www.weejim.com



## Braemar Tourism Group

BTG held their AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> February. Dave Evans, Julian Fennema and John Torrance stepped down after their many years on the committee, and all were thanked for their support. The Chair welcomed three new committee members - Cathy Anderson, Dan Brown, and Gareth Johnston.

- The new website <https://braemarscotland.co.uk> is working apart from the function to upload events, which is hoped to be completed soon.
- Visitor map has been updated and reprinted and available for all members. Contact Sarah if you require any.
- £500 grant from Green Recovery Fund was used to purchase litter picking equipment. A community litter picking day will be arranged soon but if you want to borrow equipment in the meantime, it is being stored at Cranford Guest House. Contact Sarah.
- There will be an Engagement Meeting, open to all businesses, clubs and groups at the end of March. Date TBC.
- The Ghillie's Larder will be back with the first market in April. Date TBC.
- Braemar Youth Hostel has a new manager and will re-open soon.

### Braemar Care



Braemar Care would like to acknowledge the deep loss we feel for one of our much-loved carers, Isla Robertson, who passed away very suddenly in

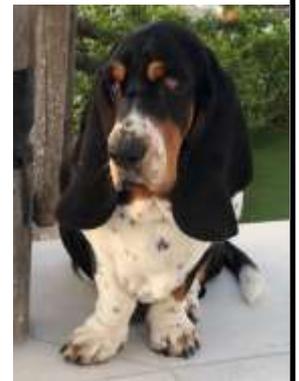
December 2021. Isla was a valued member of the Braemar Care team and was loved by her colleagues and clients alike.

During storm Arwen you may have encountered Isla who was providing everything from flasks of water, soup, blankets, information and even a seat by her fire. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Isla's family and many friends.

We have a growing list of volunteers and we can't thank them enough as they have proved to be invaluable to our Care Community from delivering newspapers, shopping, snow clearing and transporting folks to medical appointments. They also rallied round during storm Arwen and the recent prolonged power cuts making sure everyone was informed with where they could find shelter and information. If you would like to join our happy team as a volunteer, a carer or indeed just as a supporting member of our organisation please phone our Care Coordinator Susie Farquharson on 07936362724 email [susie@braemarcare.org.uk](mailto:susie@braemarcare.org.uk) or drop into the surgery as she is there every Friday between 10 am and 12 noon.

### Therapet Service

Canine Concern Scotland Trust ("Therapet") is a charity that facilitates visits to individuals who, through no fault of their own, find themselves deprived of the companionship of a much loved dog. It may be that they have had to go into sheltered housing, residential home, a long stay in hospital or they are simply no longer able to care for a pet. The same applies to those who might have additional support needs or are suffering from terminal illness. Ruben (a basset hound) was assessed by the charity in November 2021 and was chosen for his loving character and temperament. Both he and I are registered and insured through the Charity and I am a PVG Member through Disclosure Scotland in respect of regulated work with Adults.



The service is completely free to use. Ruben and I are willing to make a regular commitment to visit anyone in Braemar or surrounding area. The service can be accessed directly through the charity or by contacting myself in the first instance and I will contact the charity to formalise visits. Further information on the Therapet Scheme can also be found at [www.canineconcernscotland.org.uk](http://www.canineconcernscotland.org.uk) Ally Walker [awalker@walker-laird.co.uk](mailto:awalker@walker-laird.co.uk) 07795 498099 Therapet [info@canineconcernscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@canineconcernscotland.org.uk) 0131 553 0034

**Village Bin Collections****Tuesdays**Wheelie Bin (3-weekly)

12 April

3 and 24 May

14 June

5 July

26 July

16 August

Recycling Bin

All other weeks

Green Food Caddy

Every week



**Please send news/articles  
for the Buzzard to:**

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

**Deadline for the next edition:  
6th June 2022**

Website:

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

Adverts cost £20 per eighth  
of a page.

Contact Richard Baker

☎41225

## CAIRNGORM NATIONAL PARK

Work on the new National Park Partnership Plan continues – we had a record response to the consultation, including from residents, and there is a considerable amount of discussion to be had as we take people's views into account going forward. It is anticipated that the Plan will be signed off for sending to Ministers at the Board meeting in May.

## What's on in and around your village?

Date	Event
19th March 8.00pm	Hamish Napier at St Margaret's
20th March 7.30pm	Braemar Local History Group talk—Colin Wight "Read All About It" Braemar in the News
24th March 8.00pm	Braebach at St Margaret's
26th March 7.00pm	Evening of Pipe Music with Stuart Liddell
8th April 8.00pm	Tommy Smith at St Margaret's
10th April 7.30pm	Braemar Local History Group talk—Maureen Kelly "Born to be Wild? The Aristocracy, the Adventurers and the Army in early Braemar
23rd April 8.00pm	Legendary Braemar at St Margaret's
7 May 7.30pm	My Last Supper: one meal, a Lifetime in the making by Jay Rayner
28 May 8.00pm	Fergus McCreddie Trio
2nd to 5th June inclusive	Jubilee Celebrations in Braemar—watch out for details!

### **NEW TENNIS COURTS AT BRAEMAR GOLF CLUB**

Around fifty years since the Blaes tennis courts fell into disuse, plans have been approved for the construction of two new tennis courts at the Golf Club.

Weather-permitting, work on the courts will hopefully begin in mid-March and will take about 9 weeks to construct followed by 2 more weeks for tarmac settlement and acrylic finish.

This is great news for locals and visitors alike and especially for the Primary School children who, with their dedicated coach Charles Chamberlain, will be able to practice on real courts instead of the school playground.

