

Braemar Buzzard

www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk



Christmas Lights

Three years ago the members of the Braemar book club started fundraising to replace the village's Christmas lights. The total raised so far is approximately £6800. Phase one was completed in 2012 with the purchase of 21 lights, fitted to the lampposts in the village with existing sockets. This year four more lights were bought for the remaining socket-ed lampposts. In addition, solar lights are being purchased for a new Christmas tree at the far end of the village. All the major estates in the village have taken turns in helping us to decorate the village; this year Mar Lodge are kindly supplying the small trees for the brackets outside businesses and the proposed new tree.

Due to a change in regulations implemented by Aberdeenshire council it is now apparent that any new lights purchased will have to be fitted to sockets installed with a 'residual circuit breaker' (RCB) - raising the cost to around £600 to fit a new light to each lamppost. Although we can continue using existing sockets, we are not able to fit new sockets to the old-fashioned black lampposts. We have identified six lampposts on the A93 turn into the village which in 2014 we hope to have fitted with the RCBs, and lit by Christmas 2015. To this end we will be having a major fundraising push next year and anyone who has any ideas or donations can contact Selena Hill at selena.hill@btopenworld.com



Spot this Jacobite warrior carved on a large stone (side of Glenshee Road entering the village from Glenshee). This replaces a previous (different) image long since washed away.

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by Craig Murphy
P.7



Merry Christmas 2013



Editorial



Braemar News Group

www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk

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

Secretary: Margaret Palmer

Buzzard Editor: Liz Robertson

Please send any news/letters/dates/articles

By email: info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk

By post: Coldrach Lodge, Chapel Brae AB35 5YT

By phone: 013397 41030

For advertising: contact Maggie MacAlpine

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

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

New Year Resolutions?!

WANTED:



- * **Your contribution** to the Buzzard - perhaps a poem, photo, recipe, recommended app, shocking statistic, idea for a new column, letter etc. (you get the idea!) AND why not consider joining the Buzzard team, representatives needed from all sectors of the community, young & old. Help keep our Buzzard relevant and flourishing - contact Liz ☎41030 or any other member of the committee to see how you can get involved. The AGM will soon be upon us (March 2014), now is an excellent time to pick up the phone!
- * **Scout Group - leaders:** the group is seeking willing adults interested in sharing duties (even just one or two duties per month) on Thursday evenings with either the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorer Scouts. Training provided. With such a large group more helpers are needed or the number of children accommodated may have to be limited. Contact Jim Wood ☎41527 for more information.
- * **Volunteers** to monitor the condition of footpaths on behalf of Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust ☎David Geddes 0771 5457601
- * **The Community Council seeks YOUR OPINION** on:
 1. Whether Inverey should have a 40mph speed limit through it
 2. What route the Deeside Way extension - from Ballater to Braemar - should take
 ☎David Geddes 0771 5457601
*N.B. The Community Council is already halfway through its year. April will soon be upon us and new members are required. Could this be **you**?*
- * **Active recruits** to get involved with any aspect of the Community Action Plan (CAP) - there are lots of sub groups that would welcome your input. Our four CAP strands are: Visitor strategy; Community facilities; Young People; Housing Employment and the Economy. Recruiting now - folk interested in getting a green composting scheme up and going; enthusiasts to start up a community garden; ideas to develop village adult education classes (**volunteers wanted to help distribute and collate a village questionnaire being circulated in January**); support to create a bike park; help with producing a promotional tourist map of the village... and lots MORE! Please get in touch in the first instance with Maggie MacAlpine ☎013397 41245 Email: maggiemacalpine@btinternet.com
- * **Castle guides and ticket sellers** for Braemar Castle. The Castle doesn't re-open until Easter 2014 but now would be a good time to think about volunteering. Contact Doreen Wood ☎41407 The castle will also be looking for cuttings of plants to brighten up the courtyard garden - if you have anything that you could contribute please contact Chloe Macintyre ☎41560 or email chloemorrish@googlemail.com
- * **Historical stories about Braemar** - Have you a story/photograph/historical fact about the area that you would like to share? Then please contact Doug Anderson of the Braemar Local History Group Email: avondee@ymail.com
- * **A loving home for a stray cat** - appeal from the Deeside Branch of the Cats Protection League (DCPL). Also welcome - donations, financial or in kind e.g. food, toys, scratch posts etc. If you can help contact Deeside.cats@gmail.com or ☎013398 80457. DCPL care for stray and abandoned cats & kittens.

News from the Estates



Invercauld Estate

Looking back at the summer, whilst the weather was great for walkers and tourists, the summer weather was terrible for the Dee salmon. The cold May weather held back the salmon out at sea and we then had a drought through till late September. When the rain did come in September, the season was over - but there were many days when swimming in the river was just perfect! The grouse season was very good and the stalking season also went well. We welcomed a number of sponsored walks through the Estate and a good number of Duke of Edinburgh teams got sunburned and midged. There were also some well attended orienteering meetings based around Braemar and Keiloch.



Mar Lodge Estate

Winter approaches once again, and now that the air is turning chillier and the nights drawing in, it's still a perfect time to wrap up and get outside to explore. The roaring of the stags in the glens is now mostly quiet, but you can still catch sight of red squirrels busily storing up provisions, and the snow offers the opportunity to follow the tracks of animals and birds through the woods and along the riversides.

It's good to witness tree regeneration continuing apace. As part of our long term forest plan, we have been setting up some small scale experimental trials to see whether we can stimulate ground conditions to increase the opportunities for the germination of tree seedlings. By disturbing the layers of vegetation we can create the effect of allowing in more light and provide a more fertile seed bed. We are trying out different methods - some work is done with machines, some by dragging a pine log through the heather - and we also recently invested in four pigs, which we hope will be a success. We are pushing ahead with our plans for a biomass heating scheme for the Estate buildings, which will substantially reduce our energy costs, as well as providing a 'greener' solution. This will rely on burning wood, so we are having to think carefully about how we manage our timber plantations for the future. We recently held a well-attended event on the Estate, where a contractor demonstrated the removal of timber from the plantation around Linn of Dee by the use of horses. Whilst machines have the capacity to remove larger volumes of timber in a given time, we believe there are some situations where horse-logging is preferable, being less damaging and more selective.

The Braemar schoolchildren were treated to a fascinating demonstration in the afternoon, not only getting to see the horses close up, but witnessing the whole timber process, from the felling of a tree, extraction, and right through to the conversion of the logs into planks on our sawmill. Some of that timber will end up providing raised beds for the school garden.



Aberdeenshire Matters

Did you know that:

- * The Citizens Advice Consumer Service provides free, confidential and impartial advice on consumer issues. Visit www.adviceguide.org.uk or call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on ☎08454 040506 (9am - 5pm Mon - Fri)
- * There is a new bus time table in place which can be viewed online at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/publictransport/timetables/index.asp

Cllr K A Farquharson

Braemar Creative Arts Festival 2013

Marilyn Baker

This year's festival was bigger and better than the last with more than 50 classes in music, art, craft and literature taking place over the four days.



Not only locals but several participants from more than 20 miles away, including three from overseas, took advantage of the wonderful tutors we had in all disciplines. The evening events and the fringe events were well attended too, with Elmer and the Squirrels being a great

attraction to all ages.

Next year's Festival dates are **Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th October.**

The winners of the **Great Braemar Bake-off** scone contest as judged by New Zealand chef Alan Anderson, were, in first place Georgina Morris, and in second Fergus Wood.

The Haggis contest was split into two categories, the best large haggis and the best small haggis. The Mar Lodge Staggs couple took first place in the large section, and Stella Chandler's Highland Rambler Haggis, won the small section.



Top left: Making folded books Top right: Ceramics class Above: one of the squirrels on the Squirrel trail.



Music at the Craft market during the Creative Arts Festival

St Margaret's

Pete Mulvey

Now the legal transfer of ownership of the building to the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust (SRCT) has been completed, the project divides into two strands - firstly fundraising for restoration and adaptation of the building for its new use (the sole responsibility of the SRCT) and secondly - development of its sustainable new use as an arts and performance space.

SRCT have already found money to enable us to carry out some immediate works which include the installation of heating and the repair of the existing toilet. SRCT are also currently finalising a brief to seek tenders from Architects for the design and construction of the future building works.

The development of the end use for the building remains the responsibility of the 'Gang of four' - which has now become five with the inclusion of Colin Wight. Partnering arrangements have been agreed with the Directors of Aberdeen Arts Centre and Woodend Barn by which we will be advised of performers who they consider would be suitable for St Margaret's. This arrangement has already borne fruit in that a superb singing talent, Jamie MacDougal (the 'nation's voice' of classical music for BBC Radio Scotland), has agreed to perform at our forthcoming concert on 4th January 2014 as one of a number of celebrity acts. The only cloud on the horizon is that with the transfer of ownership, the building no longer benefits from some concessions on facilities, granted to places of worship. We are hopeful that all problems will be resolved before 4th Jan and are forging ahead with concert planning with in what will be a 'heated' building!

Miss Margaret Boyd

Miss Margaret Boyd, who died in May, aged 92 came to Braemar almost fifty years ago. A quiet, dignified lady, she generously gave away far more than she ever spent with charities in Braemar and worldwide benefiting from her kindness.

Miss Boyd's passion was textile crafts and earlier this year she donated her precious wool collection to the knitting group the "Deeside Knitwits". The wool proved an invaluable resource for this year's Creative Arts Festival. Collected over a lifetime, in every colour and thickness, from tiny balls to big hanks, many squares on Elmer the stag and many squirrels for the Secret Squirrel trail were made from Miss Boyd's wool.

Her generosity was also a major contributor in the setting up of Crathie Opportunity Holidays in 2002 without which this successful charity, enabling disabled people to have a holiday, would never have been realised. Throughout her life she had supported the Church and Margaret loved Braemar, its wild natural beauty, its people and its history and, over the years, backed many community projects. From the outset, she donated money to the Castle, paying for the new dining tables as well as contributing to the roof work. Her final kindness to the village is of astonishing generosity with Braemar Church receiving a bequest of £30,000, St Margaret's, £20,000 and the Castle £100,000. Her legacy to Braemar is great and we are privileged and grateful that she chose to live here.



Elmer the stag - knitted for the Creative Arts Festival using wool donated by Miss Boyd



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Tel: 41245 or Mobile: 0775 327 8597

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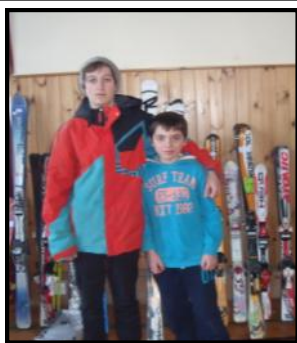
Call in or ☎ 41206 to place your order

Braemar's Twelve Days

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me:

12 **Skiers skiing**

Hopefully there will be plenty of skiers skiing this year - after the Braemar Snowsport Club held a very successful sports equipment and clothing sale on Sat Nov 23rd raising almost £200 for the club.



11 **Pipers Piping**

In fact the Braemar Piping group now has 24 members and there are 9 players learning



how to play the goose with more moving closer to this level of ability. The Braemar Royal Highland Society recently provided the group with polo shirts to help with future public performances.

10 **Lords A Leaping**

'Movember' saw a push to encourage male dancers at the weekly Scottish dancing at Castleton Hall and everyone's £2 for each session was donated towards testicular cancer research.



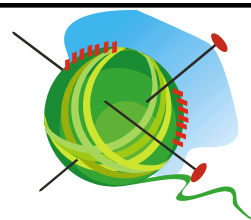
Ladies Dancing

Castleton Dancers have now raised in excess of £63K for charity by dancing each week for visitors in the Fife Hotel and taking a charity collection. The 'tired' outfits are to be replaced with NEW in 2014 (whoopee!)



8 **Knitters knitting**

Inspired by the knitting at the Creative Arts Festival, a Knitternatter group has started up in Taste, meeting fortnightly on a Tuesday evening from 7-9pm. Bring whatever knitting project you are working on (expertise is on hand if you require) together with beverage of your choice and be prepared to natter! For more information call into Taste.



7 **Quiz-zers quizzing**

Just started! - a series of quizzes run by Dave Torrance in the Fife Arms Hotel bar every fortnight in aid of local charities. First quiz Sunday December 8th. Quizzes start at 8pm



6 **Ladies painting**

And not just painting... (that's on the agenda for Thursday Feb 20th with Andrew from the Gallery) but visiting the theatre, finding out about skin care, getting tips on gardening and so much more.

Where's this all happening? at the SWRI on every third Thursday of the month. The group meets in the Colonel's bed of the Invercauld Arms Hotel. And there will be more than six ladies painting! - following a campaign at the end of last season to attract new recruits there are now approaching 30 members. If you are interested in joining or coming along as a guest to one of the meetings contact Marilyn ☎41225. The deputy manager of the hotel remarked that in his entire career he had never seen a WRI with such a wide spread of ages...

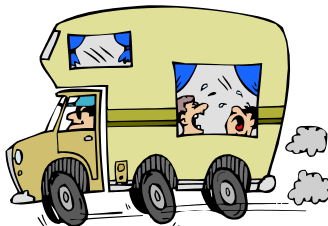


of Christmas

5 Car-a-vans

Well hopefully many more than just five caravans... After closing in October, Invercauld Estate took over the running of Braemar Caravan Park and Jayne and Chris became the new wardens. The park re-opens on Friday December 13th with over 70 Caravans already booked in! The new wardens are hoping to make the caravan park as sustainable as possible - and are looking into installing water saving devices and sensor lights around the park. To get in touch:

☎41373 Email: info@braemarcaravansite.co.uk



4 Lots of Dosh

The Braemar Royal Highland Friendly Society is running a 300+ club and the first draw took place on 24th November - the four lucky cash prize winners were: Diane Meston, Ian Geddes, M. Calder and Joss McGregor. Hurry to the Speciality Shop to buy your tickets for the next cash draw which will be drawn in time for Christmas.

The Highland Society report that plans for the new Discovery Centre have been lodged with the planning department. The outcome is expected in January.



3 Ghouly Ghouls

Or really **four** Ghouls and a mannequin... pictured below on Halloween night, the closing event of this season at the Castle. Another successful year - the sixth year since Braemar Community Ltd took on the lease - and one which saw Phase 1 of the roof work complete. Money is now in place to continue with Phase 2 of the roofwork.

Thankyou to all the volunteers who so generously give their time.



2 Badges - wood

Louise Kelly and Susie Farquharson were presented with their wood badges on December 5th - in recognition of the completion of training required for their roles as Cub scout leaders. Well done both!



1 Partridge in a Pear Tree

It will be a few years before the Pear tree is big enough for a roosting Partridge BUT Braemar has been successful in its bid to create a Community Orchard, a scheme conceived by the Cairngorm National Park Authority to celebrate its 10th Anniversary. The orchard will be created in the bottom of St Andrew's Church garden, behind the wall. The primary school will be involved in all stages of the planting and offers of help with fencing, wall repair etc. have been forthcoming from other members of the community. More details to follow.



On the first day of Christmas my true love brought to me:

Twelve Skiers Skiing
Eleven Pipers Piping
Ten Lords a Leaping
Nine Ladies Dancing
Eight Knitters Knitting
Seven Quizzers Quizzing
Six Ladies Painting
Five Car-a-vans
Four Lots of Dosh
Three Ghouly Ghouls
Two Badges - Wood



And a Partridge in a Pear Tree

Extract from the diaries of Peter Lyon Nicol – born 23 July 1910

Thanks to Royal Observer Corps, and to Peter Nicol's daughter, for granting permission to allow this remarkable insight into R.O.C. life in Braemar, during the War Years to be published. At the time of writing the diaries Peter was Headmaster of Braemar School and CO of Braemar Royal Observer Corps.

"1939 released from hospital and eventually after several months bed rest was eventually allowed to start teaching again part-time. As classed unfit for military service joined 'Dad's Army', the local defence force.

Living in Braemar in 1941 I was asked to join the Royal Observer Corps. The Observer Post was up on a shoulder of Morrone Behind the Princess Royal Park, where Braemar gathering was held. Very few people had ever heard of the Royal Observer Corp and few knew what we did. The post was manned 24 hours each day by two men who worked in shifts of eight hours, and no matter what the weather conditions were, two men were outside watching constantly.

My first job was to learn the names, height and distance from the post of every mountain within sight, then learn to recognise every plane that flew in the war, allied and enemy. This was from photographs of them in flight taken from every conceivable angle. Anyone with an ear for music could soon distinguish between various planes by sound - the 'Gerries' used the fuel injection system which made an unmistakable noise; most American planes had Pratt and Whitney engines whose sound was entirely different from British Rolls Royce.

Shortly after joining the Royal Observer Corps I was promoted to the CO much the dismay of some of the older crew members. One night on duty with one of the 'doubters' Peter Crighton and on the way up the hill he remarked he had never been on with me before and added he would be very interested to find out what I knew. He was soon to find out. We were completely blind on our west side and could only give a sound angle for any plane coming in from that direction. In the early hours, Peter Crighton was on the phone and I told him to report to Centre a plane to our west, sound angle only. He reported this and then said "Do you have any idea what it is"? I said I thought it sounded like a Lockheed Hudson - "Oh" he said "I've never seen one of them. What does it look like"? I started to tell him and then I said, "Look up and see for yourself". There overhead silhouetted in the moonlight was indeed a Lockheed Hudson, its cigar shaped fuselage, elliptical wings, twin fin and rudders, and of course its unmistakable 'rakes' on the trailing edges of the wings - exactly as I had described it to him. From that day on I was accepted as CO - no questions asked.

In the post was a table marked off in squares, representing the area round the post. Fixed to the centre of the tables was a movable arm. Rotating this arm to point to the plane and using our knowledge of distance and height of various mountains we could give the Command Centre in Aberdeen a fairly accurate plot on the plane, its direction and height and approximate position. The serious side of our job was picking up strays returning - even with our help they often crashed unable to maintain enough height to avoid the mountains. On a happier note one moonlight night, we guided a Wellington safely home to Lossiemouth. With a 'wonky' engine, he was lost until we picked him up. He landed safely then asked "How did we know where we were?" When he was told he had been picked up by the R.O.C. he asked the usual question "And who the hell are they?"

Latterly the main task of the R.O.C. was to monitor nuclear activity and to the regret of many, the R.O.C. was stood down in 1992 when I now lived in Port Elphinstone near Inverurie. I have happy memories of the post G4 and of wading through deep snow and then scrambling up the hill to the Post, sometimes taking three steps up and sliding two down, in the severe winters. Sometimes the temperature was as low as 22 or 23 degrees C below freezing, and remember, we were outside all night. To compensate we had some of the finest scenery in the world around us and in the spring, climbing through the woods with the wonderful scent of the Birch trees and sometimes the thrill of coming on a fawn, lying under a tree, the spotted coat a marvellous camouflage in the dappled carpet made by the sun shining through the leaves."

It is now apparent that there were two R.O.C. posts in Braemar. The first one was just below Tomintoul Farm (square concrete open shelter) and was used during W.W.2 as a plane spotting Post. The second is located beside the Duck Pond (underground bunker) and was used during the Cold War to monitor nuclear activity.

The Winter Programme of the Braemar Local History Group continues Sunday 19th Jan with Gregg Strange 'History of Mountaineering in Scotland', 7.30pm Village Hall, thereafter Sun 16th Feb and Sun 16th March. More details on website www.braemarlhq.com



Junior buzzard

Aleysha Selected to represent Scotland



Aleysha Rattray (17) has been selected to represent Scotland at the bi-annual World Schools Ski Championships to be held at Sierra Nevada Spain in March 2014. The top 5 ranked skiers in the British Alpine Seeding System (BASS) are selected and Aleysha is currently second in her age category.

It takes a lot of hard work and commitment to compete at this level. Athletes must train all year on and off snow. They must also train and compete in Europe. Aleysha will be spending at least 6 weeks away in Europe this winter on top of all the weekend training and races in Scotland (and somehow manage her school work). All this is expensive! - travelling, equipment and training costs will amount to around £12,000 this season. Aleysha is very grateful to Braemar Mountain Sports for their support and to Glenshee Ltd. for extensive use of their facilities. Aleysha is very proud to represent both Braemar and Glenshee and hopes to be an ambassador for both. She would welcome further support from any local club, business, organisation or individual. Aleysha can be contacted ☎ 07944 606002 or Email: aleysharattray@hotmail.com

Q What's an Ig?

A A house of an Eskimo without a loo!

Paws for thought...

Richard Baker

Name: Milo **Breed:** Cocker Spaniel

Colour: Blue Roan **Age:** 5 years **Owner:** Louise Kelly

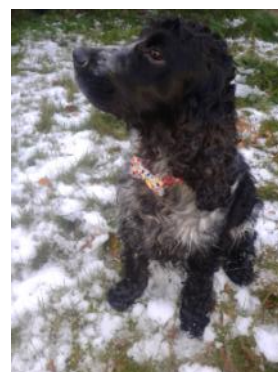
Friends: Friends: I get on with everyone I meet but my best friend is Maisie and we get up to all sorts of mischief together. My favourite human friends are Barbara, Lily and Julie ... they all spoil me.

Favourite things: going for a walk of course! and when I get home I like to find the warmest spot in the house, be that by the fireside or in a sunny spot, and curl up and have a snooze. I love it when my owner brings me home the scraps from her part time job at Braemar Lodge and I've become very partial to the odd bit of sirloin steak or chicken... it's very disappointing when all I get is my normal dry food! I also love going to collect the Sunday papers as Wendy spoils me with dog biscuits... that's what I call customer service.

Least favourite things: I'm not very good at being in a car as I get terrible travel sickness and tend to drive all the other occupants of the car insane with my unhappy grumblings. I've got a seven hour car journey to Wales to endure at Christmas!! I'm off to the dog groomers to get a short back and sides because when it's snowy

I get huge snowballs forming on my fur and it's quite a job to defrost me! My owner insists I wear a special doggy trouser suit in snowy conditions to try to ease the snowball problem but it's really not my favourite fashion look.

Speaking of fashion, I am modelling the latest addition to my wardrobe... my new bow tie! Joanne McCabe brought it me back all the way from America... she says when she sees me walking on only my hind legs that I should be packed off to the circus and that all I needed was a bow tie to complete the look.



.....
 Thankyou Braemar Primary for sending the Buzzard some of your Christmas pictures



THE SPECIALITY SHOP



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OF HUNTLY



We have a wide range of frozen desserts which can be pre-ordered for the Festive Season including:

- * Profiteroles * Chocolate Bombe *
- * Limoncello Flutes of Sorbet *
- * ... and much more *

Lots of sweets and goodies for the Christmas Stockings too!

If you're still searching for the perfect gifts for Christmas... come in and browse around the many pre-loved items in the Speciality Shop. There's something for everyone -



- * Sweet little trinkets * Memorabilia *
- Furniture * Homewares*



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We wish all our customers a Very Happy Festive Season and look forward to continuing to serve you in 2014.

Photo right:

Remembrance Day -

Sunday November 10th.

Supported by all sections of the community. The beavers, cubs and scouts joined in the procession with their flags and took part in the ceremony at the memorial (following on from the church service.) The weather (for once!) was quite balmy...



Cartoon left:

Solving the problem of transferring Advent Candles & Christmas Tree for the Joint December services of Braemar & Crathie?

Braemar and Crathie are combining services over the winter months - for more information check out the website

www.braemarandcrathieparish.org.uk

Whats on in and around your village?

Mobile Library Service

Tuesdays

Calls monthly however there will be no library van during December... (last called 26 Nov)

More info ☎

Aberdeenshire Library & Information service
01651 87270



Village Bin Collections - Thursdays

Wheelie Bins:

Dec 12th 26th

Jan 9th 23rd

Feb 6th 20th

Recycling:

Jan 2nd, 16th, 30th

Feb 13th 27th

N.B. bin collection as normal on Dec 26th. There will be NO kerbside collection of Xmas trees but these can be taken to recycling centres. Xmas cards & wrapping paper can all be recycled providing that they contain no brown card or glitter (both mess up the recycling process of turning into newsprint).



Date Event

Dec 9 Mon Christmas Cafe Church Hall, Crathie 10 am - 12 noon.

Jan 12 Sun Wu string quartet, Victory Hall Aboyne 3 pm Tickets ☎ 013398 86222

Regular Events

Sundays **Choir** Castleton hall from 7.00 pm. More information contact Sue Sherrard ☎ 41516

Sundays **Braemar Local History Group** (monthly). Village Hall 7.30 pm. Next meeting 19 Jan 2014.

Mondays **Traditional Music Group** 7.30 pm Moorfield Hotel

Mondays **Pipe Class** Society Office 7.30 pm ☎ Jim Wood 41527

Mondays **Braemar Community Council** every third Monday in the month, 7.30 pm Braemar School. Next meeting Jan 20.

Tuesdays **Line Dancing** 6.30 pm Castleton Hall.

Tuesdays **Knitternatter** (fortnightly) 7-9 pm at Taste. Bring your current knitting project along, additional expertise on hand! Ask at Taste for more information.

Wednesdays **Over 60s Lunch club** (every second Wed of the month) Fife Hotel. Sherry, 2 course meal, tea/coffee - £5/person. Contact Kathleen ☎ 41679 for more information. Next meeting Jan 7 2014

Wednesdays **Pipe class** - Goose practice Castleton Hall 7.0 pm ☎ Jim Wood 41527

Wednesdays **Scottish Country Dancing**. 7.30 - 9.00 pm. Castleton Hall. More info ☎ Marilyn 013397 41225

Wednesdays **Youth club - Guide Shieling** (fortnightly). More information contact ☎ Maggie 41245 (Also looking for additional willing adults to help supervise - contact Maggie to find out more)

Thursdays **Scout Group** - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts - Castleton Hall ; Explorer Scouts (fortnightly) Guide Shieling

Thursdays **SWRI** (monthly) Invercauld Hotel in the Colonels Bed. More information ☎ Marilyn 013397 41225. Christmas Party Dec 12. First meeting of the New Year - Jan 16 Scottish night.

The School Run On the 2nd of March 2014 Braemar resident Charlie Denny and ex-resident Vicky Lang are participating in 'The School Run' which will see Land Rover Ambulances drive from the UK to The Gambia in West Africa. Each vehicle will be filled with school equipment and medical supplies and all will be given to the charity www.shineafricatheGambia.org on arrival.

The team are looking for donations of stationary, toys, games, clothes, water purification tablets/devices, medical supplies or anything else along these lines. Any donations - financial or in kind - would be much appreciated. You can contact Charlie Denny via email at teampoppy-archie@yahoo.co.uk if you have any items that may benefit the charity or you can donate money online at:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/theschoolrun2014uktothegambia



Seasonal entertainment - Christmas and beyond

Christmas Services

Sun 15th Dec 6.00 pm Braemar Community Carol Service, St Andrews Church, refreshments served afterwards, all welcome.

St Andrew's RC church

Christmas Eve 5.00 pm carol singing followed at 5.30pm by Mass (no service Christmas Day)

Braemar and Crathie Parish

Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Watch Night Service in Braemar Church



Christmas Post

Local cards delivered @ 10p/card - funds in aid of Braemar Castle. Service runs Dec 1 - Dec 22. Take your cards to the pharmacy with a **full address on!** **ALTERNATIVELY** display your greetings on the notice-board for £5



The Braemar Pantomime Cinderella



Runs from Thursday 19th December to Saturday 21st December and also on Boxing Day 26th December @ 7.30 pm. In the Village Hall. Matinees at 2.30 pm on 21st and 26th December.

Tickets now on sale from the newsagent/pharmacy, £7 adult £6 concessions £4 child or ☎ Dave Torrance 013397 41549

Braemar's Panto celebrates its 21st year! - the first show was in 1993 which was also 'Cinderella' - the first time in the series that any story been repeated albeit with a different script.



Christmas Music

Songs of the Season A mix of Christian and secular songs with popular entertainer Bruce Davies. Fri Dec 13th Crathie Kirk 7.30 pm. Tickets £6 - call ☎ 013397 42344 for info.

Winter Music Night at the Moorfield

Mon Dec 23rd All welcome. Come along to play or just listen. Watch out for posters for full details.

Music for a New Year at St Margaret's

Sat Jan 4th St Margaret's Church - watch for posters with details.



Hogmanay

Ceilidh

Dec 31st - 8.00 pm
Village Hall

Tickets limited in number so **buy early** available from the pharmacy.



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

Next edition due out mid March. Copy deadline February 24th 2014

Ads ☎ Maggie 013397 41245

