

# Braemar Buzzard



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

## Hydro Community Fund to Open



The Community Hydro has been in operation for close to two years. The overriding reason to build the Hydro was to generate funds for the community of Braemar.

The scheme has performed to expectations and at the September AGM the members approved the first transfer of £7,000 to a Community Fund. This fund is held by Braemar Community Limited (BCL) and terms for the operation of the fund have been agreed.

A five member panel has been appointed to distribute the funds, based on nominations from various local organisations. A short application form has been prepared and further background information is available with the application. Local groups with funding needs are encouraged to review the application and consider if they wish to apply. The application deadline for this initial round is **15 April 2018** and the panel will consider all applications received by that date.

Application forms are available online at [www.braemarhydro.org.uk](http://www.braemarhydro.org.uk) , by email request to [braemarhydro@gmail.com](mailto:braemarhydro@gmail.com) or at the Tourist Information Centre in the Mews.

### Inside this issue.....

**Page 2** Community Update **Page 3** Councillor's Corner, Quoich Bridge, CNPA Consultation  
**Page 4** The Snow Road, Unusual Winter Sighting, Ensign Cairn,  
**Page 5** Clubs and Societies news and activities **Page 6** Fife Arms Update, Village Sign Competition  
**Page 7** The Lairig Ghru **Page 8** St Margaret's, Braemar Castle and Church News  
**Page 9** Community Garden, NTS Plant Life, Vegetarian Week and Vegie Recipe  
**Page 10** Ad **Page 11** Junior Buzzard, Kitty Tales, **Page 12** Easter Services, What's On....

# Editorial

## Braemar News Group

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

**Chair:** Pete Mulvey **Treasurer:** Dorothy Ramsay  
**Secretary:** Margaret Palmer ☎013397 41590  
**Buzzard Editor:** Liz Robertson ☎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 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](http://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.*

**Braemar News Group AGM** will be held on Friday April 20th, 6.0 pm in the Moorfield hotel. All welcome. Reports will be presented on the last year of operation of the Buzzard. New ideas always welcome as are offers of support.

## Community Update:

**Well done!** to Stevie Tate - on the 29th December he was given award by Stagecoach for being the 'most eco-friendly' bus driver in the North East. His bus had the most economical fuel consumption.

## The Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT)

provides free energy advice on keeping your house warmer and reducing your energy bills. This service is managed by Aberdeenshire Council. For more information or to book a free home visit ☎0808 129 0888 or email [heat@scarf.org.uk](mailto:heat@scarf.org.uk)

## It's official! Braemar is a 'Smart' Village

Simon Blackett addressed a meeting on 'Smart Villages' in Brussels in December - talking on 'Community Trusts in Scotland - the case of Braemar'. European colleagues showed a lot of interest in BCL, the community running of Braemar Castle, the Hydro scheme and the Care initiative. Simon will continue to keep in touch with the European network for Rural Development - with or without Brexit!

**Floral Award:** Neil Bain and the Braemar Tourism Group are pleased to announce the winners of the Braemar Floral Awards, recognising the wonderful contribution made to the village by your beautiful gardens. The winners for 2017 are Ronnie Gray (residential) and Braemar Lodge (commercial). We're looking forward to spring and wish you all the best for your gardens in 2018.

**Community Council:** The AGM will be on Monday 16th April 2018 starting at 7pm in the school. Braemar Community Council will be looking for new members as some of our members are due to step down this time. If anyone is interested in becoming a member nomination forms will be available at the Braemar Pharmacy or they can get in touch with the Secretary, Joanne Morris, at [braemarccsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:braemarccsecretary@outlook.com)

Braemar Community Council aims to promote the well being of the community and is a means whereby the residents can voice their opinions on any matter affecting their lives, their welfare, their environment, it's development and amenity.

Dates of Meeting for 2018 are as follows: 19th February, 16th April, 18th June, 20th August, 15th October and 17th December. Meetings are held at 7pm in the School.

## Braemar Sheiling Open Weekend



**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 10am - 7pm**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Mar 10am - 4pm**

Come and see the proposed plan for redevelopment of the Sheiling to provide a fantastic modern facility with hall and group accommodation.

Refreshments and stalls All welcome

Contact [braemarsheiling@gmail.com](mailto:braemarsheiling@gmail.com) for more information or just come along

Braemar Guide Sheiling, Broombank Terrace,  
AB35 5YX

## Councillor's Corner

**Geva Blackett**

☎013397 41541

☎(mobile) 0787 647 5269



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

I am thoroughly enjoying the work on the CNPA Board and have a much more rounded view of what is going on. The Main Issues Report Consultation in February was a source of stimulating discussions and ideas which shows again what a fabulous community Braemar is!

With my council hat on, I sit on the Aberdeen Airport Consultative Board. At last year's update from the Border Force Agency we had a briefing on trafficking. After discussions with colleagues the Community Planning Board will be charged with making a plan to combat this evil trade. We learnt that in Scotland in 2016 there were 100 cases - including children. It takes many forms from prostitution through to domestic help, shoplifters, cannabis dealers and even hotel staff. Worryingly people may not know they are being trafficked. I will bring more on this as it becomes clear the role those close to our communities can play in identifying people affected.

Gairnshiel Bridge has been badly hit again. The Council are monitoring it very closely to assess the cumulative damage from overweight vehicles using it. The police are to be asked to spend ½ day on site to hopefully deter the abuse. We know the importance of that bridge to sustaining the route from here to Speyside and beyond and officers are working on plans to ensure our economy is safeguarded.

I am on the case with land allocated for social housing behind Kindrochit Court and am delighted that the CNPA and Council support community involvement in development; I have asked for an update on the legal side and will pass on any news when I get it.

### Who are my local councillors?

There are three councillors serving our Ward (Ward 15 - Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside):

Peter Argyle (Scottish Liberal Democrat)

[cllr.p.argyle@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.p.argyle@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Geva Blackett (SNP - our MOST local councillor!)

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

Paul Gibb (Conservative)

[cllr.p.gibb@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.p.gibb@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Their roles and responsibilities are described on the Aberdeenshire Council website

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**New Quoich Bridge:** Do you want the good news or the bad ? – the good news is that a new bridge to replace the original, which was washed away by storm Frank in 2015, has now been installed in Glen Quoich about 1.5 miles upstream from the Punch Bowl. The bad news is that, due to storm damage and disuse, the path on the North side of the river is now more like a commando course than the pleasant walk that it used to be. Hopefully however, in time, this lovely circular walk will be restored so that we can once again enjoy the views of woodland, heather moor and spectacular waterfalls.



**Big Park – Big questions** - A drop-in public meeting was held in the village Hall to give residents the opportunity to comment on how Braemar, and other settlements in the Cairngorms National Park, should develop in the future.

On display was the 'Main Issues Report' which identifies issues, proposed objectives and possible development options for each area of the Park and representatives of the CNP were on hand to give further explanation and advice about that information - all of which is also now available on the CNP website at <http://cairngorms.co.uk/consultation/mir/>

This exercise is the initial public consultation on the CNP Local Development plan 2020 which, on adoption, will guide all future development throughout the National Park. Specific development sites around the village are identified on the Settlement Plan as 'Preferred Site Options' and others as 'Not Preferred' and the communities' opinions on these and the other Consultation Questions will be welcomed.

Comments on the proposals can be submitted via an online survey, by e-mail or by post until 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 and phone enquiries can be made on 01479 873527

## An Unusual Winter Sighting

Early in the New Year villagers on their early morning walk crossing the Society Bridge were amazed by an unusual sight for the upper reaches of the river Dee.

A dead salmon about a meter long but partially eaten by, what can only be assumed, an otter was causing much talk among walkers.

The next day the carcass was gone.



by Doug Bruce

## Ensign's Cairn by Richard Baker



On the Northern corner of Creag Choinnich (Kenneth's Hill named after King Kenneth II AD971-995) sits a symmetrical Cairn, which overlooks Braemar castle and the approaches to it. The Cairn was erected by an Ensign (flag bearer) named Edwin Ethlestone who was serving with the 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment in 1829. He was second in command of a detachment of 56 government troops who were stationed there to keep the peace. From 1748 Government troops were stationed at the Castle and Creag Choinnich must have been a very strategic position to place lookouts during and after those troubled times. The path to the cairn is now well overgrown and the inscription on the base of the cairn has begun to submit to the ravages of the years and weather. However, if you are reasonably fit the views will more than compensate for this small journey back through time (OS grid reference NO159921).

**The Snow Roads** project is a tourism initiative, based on a Norwegian model, which is being promoted by the Cairngorms Business Partnership and the CNPA and is intended to encourage visitors to drive the 90 miles from Blairgowrie to Grantown on Spey to experience the stunning landscapes which they will pass through on the journey. This, the highest public road in Britain, links the communities of Braemar, Ballater and Tomintoul with a diverse range of natural and cultural attractions along the way and with huge seasonal variations in which to experience them.

Phase 1 of the project involved the creation of three stunning sculptural Route Installations for travellers to stop and explore – the nearest of these to Braemar being 'Connecting Contours' which sits in a lay-by beside the Devil's Elbow in Glenshee.

Phase 2 of the project is now in hand and aims to enhance the traveller's experience, and to maximise the benefit for communities, by providing more information about interesting features of the area - stories, myths, legends, architectural information, histories, culture, walks or other outdoor activities and the organisers are seeking the help of local communities to provide these and to submit them to them on [stories@snowroads.com](mailto:stories@snowroads.com) or [photos@snowroads.com](mailto:photos@snowroads.com). Once all the information is assembled a phone app is to be developed which will be GPS enabled to give an audio or visual response as triggers are passed, enticing drivers to stop to explore them further. There are also ideas being considered to assemble some of these triggers into groups which can be collected by children, and adults, as an in-car game to make the journey more enjoyable and even educational for them.

**Highland Games Centre** - work is progressing well as you can see below.



**Clubs and Societies - news and activity ...****Marramba**

The Samba band is still meeting regularly on a Sunday morning and honing their drumming skills. We have core of a dozen players, but with the busy lives we all lead we seldom all manage every practice. We have found though that even 5 or 6 at a practice can make a decent sound and a lot of progress on techniques.

We are hoping to encourage a few more people to join the group as it is a really good physical and mental work out, and a real stress buster. During March and April we'll be offering a few 'come and try' sessions. Watch out for notices on the Braemar Community page, or email [mjdante@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mjdante@hotmail.co.uk) to add your name to the mailing list.

**Braemar Local History Group**

After a short winter recess the group restarted its winter programme with an interesting talk by Douglas Harper about the various bridges that his grandfather had designed and installed world-wide. The Group held its AGM On 25th February which was followed with a talk by Hugh MacKay and Gordon Bruce about The Keiller Family, famous for marmalade. Both talks were enthusiastically received by their audiences.

The popular Village Historical Walks will resume on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 3.00pm, and on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm. If you would like to become a Walk Guide please contact Doug Anderson soon.

**Braemar Bowling Club**

Apologies to Doug Anderson, our men's champion, who did not get a mention in the last Buzzard. Over the winter we have enjoyed indoor bowling in Castleton Hall on Monday afternoons. This will stop once the weather allows outside play - hopefully in May - look out for notices. Then on Monday evenings we hold a 'Hat Night' when we all can join in and there's always someone there to help and advise new bowlers. Wednesdays evenings are league match nights but all can use the green at other times. Visitors always welcome @ £3 per person contact John on 013397 41309, Dorothy 41917 or Doug 41378 or 0758122730



**3<sup>rd</sup> Age Lunch Club** continues to be held in the Invercauld Arms Hotel every second Wednesday. All welcome to come along at 12.30pm and enjoy a glass of sherry, a nice lunch, a blether and sometimes a speaker. Thank you to 'Taste' for providing us with a lovely place to meet and enjoy an afternoon tea and cake in January. For more information and when the next lunch date is, please contact Margaret 41413, Kathleen on 41309 or Carole on 07708001798. Look forward to seeing you all there.

**Braemar Men's Shed**

The Braemar Mens' Shed was awarded a start up grant from AgeScotland in December. It must be spent on some specified items, but we are still seeking funds for working capital.

A meeting of interested men was held to discuss progress and it was decided to defer any further gatherings until we gain access to the large hut in Castleton Place around the end March/early April.

As the hut is too large and draughty to heat effectively, we are currently searching for a portable cabin to be installed outside as a hub for meetings, games, computing, etc.. We also need a toilet module, as the hut has no water or drainage.

Our project is now well under way, and anyone interested can contact us at [braemarmensshed@btinternet.com](mailto:braemarmensshed@btinternet.com)



**Braemar Golf Club** opens on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April when the committee would like to welcome all members new, old and juniors for the new season. Our new Steward will be here and I am sure we will all welcome Robert to Braemar and look forward to meeting him, and his family when they arrive.

New fixture cards are available for members and there is a full schedule of competitions and events coming up. There are different categories of membership and you can join from being an 'introduction to golf' member, 'flexible play' member, full member, social membership and of course we have 'junior' membership. Hopefully we will have coaching for juniors and new golfers in place this season.

We will be holding social evenings in the clubhouse - watch for notifications on the community facebook.

For more information on membership and social events etc contact the Golf Club on 01339741618 or email [steward@braemargolfclub.co.uk](mailto:steward@braemargolfclub.co.uk) or [captain@braemargolfclub.co.uk](mailto:captain@braemargolfclub.co.uk)



## Clubs and Societies - news and activity ...

### Wheeshst Choir

Last August we performed at Crathie Kirk, in front of Royalty. Simon persuaded the students from Braemar Castle to join the choir while they stayed in Braemar.



Our Summer Concert was very well attended. Derek Mutch and Iain MacKay sang a Gaelic song and Sue did a solo.

In November we led the community carol singing at the Christmas Light switch-on. We enjoyed mulled wine & mince pies which took the chill off the hard frost we endured.

In early December we joined a community service in the Parish Church and sang 'Thorns in the Straw'.

Sue and Lesley also help the junior choir. The children sang for us in practice, to give them confidence for a competition they took part in. Our choir funds helped pay for their bus.

We also sang at a Burns Supper in Crathie and at the Messy Church evening service.

Grateful thanks from all of us to Sue, Lesley and David (pianist) - without them the choir wouldn't exist.

We meet at Castleton Hall, every Sunday eve at 7.15pm **Sandra Stewart**

### Village Sign Competition

Many villages mark their entrances with a "welcome sign" for arriving visitors and a "come back soon" sign for those leaving. A Buzzard reader proposes a contest to put in place something similar in Braemar.

There is a prize of £100 for the best design to mark the entry and exit signs - from Glenshee and Ballater directions. The aim is to catch the attention of travellers without distracting them from safe passage.



The plan is that the winning design may be in place for the 2018 summer tourist season.

#### Competition Rules:

Entries to be drawn or sketched onto A4 white paper and can be in black and white or in colour.

All lettering must be clearly legible

Computer aided graphics (C.A.D.) welcome.

Entries to be placed inside a sealed envelope, with entrant's name, address and telephone number to be clearly shown on a separate sheet of paper, and handed into the Chemist.

Entry limited to one per person.

Final Entry Date is 31st March 2018.

All ages welcome to enter.

Winner to be announced soon after closing date.

**Braemar Tug of War Team** is looking for new members for the upcoming outdoor season. Male or Female, Young or Old, Large or Small tug of war is a sport anyone can participate in. Contact Mike -07780650685 or Barry 07876075462.

**Fife Arms Update:** We were very pleased to be included in the Conde Nast Traveller's 18 hottest hotel openings of 2018. The Fife's inclusion has spurred us on to make sure the hotel exceeds all our expectations.

We will make a formal announcement on the opening date in the coming weeks.

Construction will be complete in early summer, at which point we will 'move in' with thousands of objects, art works and furnishings, all helping to tell the story of the hotel, Braemar, Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park

In the last few weeks we have met with Braemar Community Council to openly discuss our staff accommodation strategy and we have been working with the councillors and our neighbours to ensure that our staff are a welcome and positive addition to the Village.

My office has become a little busier since January, as I start to build our team for the hotel opening. I am pleased to introduce you all to Kirsten Jensen and Robert Cameron. Kirsten moved to Dinnit a couple of years ago with her husband; she is a very experienced hotelier and as Deputy General Manager she will oversee Front Office, Housekeeping, Maintenance, the Shop and the Spa. Robert is our new Executive Chef, originally from Glasgow, he has moved back to Scotland after spending several years in Dubai, where he worked for the Royal Family and Fortnum and Mason. We will host several pop up events over the coming months so that you can all meet Kirsten and Robert in person.

**HIGHLAND GLEN**  
HOT TUBS & SPAS  
DINNIT, ABERDEENSHIRE

**Hot Tubs for your home and business**

Our luxurious hot tubs are hand-crafted in the USA and are a perfect combination of quality and affordability. Do you have a holiday home? We have models designed specifically for the hospitality industry that come with a full commercial warranty.

[www.highlandglenspas.co.uk](http://www.highlandglenspas.co.uk) Phone: 013398 80540



Photo by Al Hubbard

**The Lairig Ghru** was one of my childhood dreams. From about the age of four I used to ask my father when I could walk the Lairig. The answer was always 'Not yet.'

But long before anyone walked the Lairig for enjoyment, many people passed through it because it was their livelihood.

The Lairig was a drove road - although it probably existed before herds of cattle were driven through. The earliest reference to droving in Scotland goes back to the 14th century, but itinerant visitors generally leave no record and no trace. We have no way of knowing when the first drovers took herds through the Lairig to the markets in Crieff or Falkirk, or when the cattle robbers first lay in wait for them.

Cattle had to be driven south for sale, either for slaughter or for fattening on richer pastures. The clan system was guilty of over-producing cattle. The clan chief needed plenty of men willing and ready to fight for him when necessary, and they expected common grazing rights. Too many clansmen, too many cattle - the beasts had to be moved and sold in large numbers. They were small, sturdy, shaggy cattle, reddish-brown, like a small Highland cow.

The drovers were a rough lot, and they had to be, facing harsh terrain and attacks by raiders. But they were shrewd as well as tough. A canny drover could use each trip to pick up bargain cattle in the markets, for himself or to sell on.

Often there were as many as 100 cattle on the move. In easier terrain than the Lairig, there could be 2,000. Robert Macfarlane writes that the Lairig still bears 'the scars of centuries of feet and hooves.' To protect the hooves, progress was slow - about 10 miles a day. This was also the reason the drovers used what looks like a more difficult route, instead of hard roads. Some drovers knitted, or played the pipes, as they walked. They brought oatmeal as their own food, with milk from one of the cows, or sometimes they would bleed a cow to make black pudding. At night they slept in the open, wrapped in their plaids.

It would be wonderful to find that one of those men kept a diary. But historians aren't often that lucky.

Droving through the Lairig continued until the 1870s, but its death knell had struck as early as 1815. During the Napoleonic Wars, the army needed immense quantities of beef. But one result of peace was a dramatic plunge in the beef market, and before long, the end was sealed by railways, faster steamships, and finally road transport.

What does Lairig Ghru mean? When I was a child we believed it meant 'the gloomy pass' - perhaps 'gruesome' was what we had in mind. Adam Watson produces the simplest, most obvious solution. Referring to the original Gaelic spelling, Lairig Dhru, Watson proposes 'the pass of the Druie burn'. Why didn't we think of that!

After the drovers left, a few people still made a living from the Lairig. It must have gone very quiet with neither drovers nor cattle reivers using the route. The way was open for leisure use of the pass.

This would have been incredible to the drovers. The Highlands were regarded as too wild and inhospitable to be worth the risk. There was nothing there, after all, except hills, and uncouth residents. Early travellers into the Highlands, like Samuel Johnson in 1775 and the Wordsworths in 1803, were regarded by their friends as mad or suicidal.

Of course Queen Victoria softened up the tourist market when she bought the Balmoral estate in 1848. She may not have walked the Lairig, but is popularly believed to have got in sight of Bod an Deamhain, She was always interested in placenames and their translations. The story goes that John Brown, appalled at having to tell the Queen it meant The Devil's Penis, thought fast and renamed it The Devil's Point.

Plenty of people now walk the Lairig, and even after the last drover, it provided a livelihood for a few. We'll look at some of them next time in part two.



Photo by Al Hubbard

**Alison Grant-MacKintosh**

## St Margaret's

We have again put together a varied programme for 2018 that includes new as well as some familiar faces.

Our concert season opens with a lunchtime recital by The Camilli String Quartet visiting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. For anyone wanting to enjoy the magnificent views from St. Margaret's Tower we're planning guided tours on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Liz Lothead and saxophonist Steve Kettley will treat us to an evening of entertaining conversation, poetry readings and music on a date TBC "... Liz weaves a spellbinding and beguiling show mixing poems monologues and music. "We celebrate our natural environment and the talents of some of our top local photographers at Braemar's first photography festival the first weekend in May. There will be an exhibition and a programme of workshops and talks. Following this Fiona Kennedy and Paul Anderson will welcome Nashville singer Jonatha Brooke as a special guest at "Transatlantic Connections "on the 18<sup>th</sup> May. We're privileged to have renowned Scottish Soprano Lisa Milne perform on 26<sup>th</sup> May. June kicks off with the popular, traditional, local artist Jenny Sturgeon accompanied by Jonny Hardy and Charlie McKerron on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June .

We resubmitted a funding application for restoration and development to Heritage Lottery Fund and are awaiting the outcome. Our ongoing thanks and appreciation to all our benefactors and dedicated volunteers.

For ongoing information please LIKE our facebook page : Or join our mailing list at [admin@stmargaretsbraemar.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmargaretsbraemar.org.uk) .

**Jane Smith**

## Braemar Castle

Although the Castle is closed over winter, we are busy preparing to submit a Heritage Lottery application for the harling repairs. With Matt Halliday in the driving seat, we are working with Ian Davidson, who was in charge of the restoration work at Craigievar Castle, and with Jura Consultants to prepare the documents needed in a tough climate for the bid. We are grateful for an award from the Co-op Community Foundation to help build a family picnic area in the grounds.

The Castle has overwintered well with continuous monitoring of humidity levels by Younger Conservation. This is important as we discover how to best to look after the interior and the historic collection. We are planning a training day on 18<sup>th</sup> March for volunteers, and all interested, to learn how historic objects are best handled and conserved.

We will re-open on Good Friday. Our exhibition this year, Forces and Foes, will focus on the Castle's Military History, weapons and soldiers' tales and Michel Brat, has been helping with the preparations.

Our Events programme will include an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday, a weekend with Alan Breck's re-enactment Regiment's training on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April and the Highland Fling on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. ) On 15<sup>th</sup> June, we will celebrate the Year of Young People when Braemar Primary School will capture the Castle and act as tour guides.

New volunteers are always welcome and if you'd like to get involved - shop, guiding, gardening, conservation, events etc email or ring Castle Manager, Georgina Errington on 41219, [georgina@braemarcastle.co.uk](mailto:georgina@braemarcastle.co.uk).

**Georgina Errington**

## Braemar & Crathie Parish Churches

There was lots of fun and surprising results at "Messy Church does science" when we tried experiments! Messy Easter is on -Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30 – 12.30, Braemar Village Hall, followed by an evening service of Easter Praise and Reflection on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm in Braemar Church.

Other dates for the diary include – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 11am – 1pm Pentecost BBQ at the Manse in Crathie., Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 10am - 12, Coffee morning in aid of Christian Aid, Braemar Village Hall. Everyone is invited to all these events, which include fine food and are FREE!

**Susie Farquharson**



## St Andrews Church

Everyone is most welcome to join us for a Lenten Lunch at the Sheiling on Friday 8th March.

Enjoy a lunch of soup and sandwiches (and maybe even a fine piece). Donations for "Mary's Meals", who work tirelessly to provide nourishment for children in developing countries and help them to attend school and find a way out of poverty. There will also be a small sale of 'Fair Trade' goods helping small Co operatives in developing countries, and more info on Mary's Meals. Everyone will be most warmly welcomed.

**Carole Paterson**



**Braemar Community**

**Garden** has had a successful first year with some active membership and plenty of produce. Particularly successful were carrots, kale, sprouts, cauliflour, and broccoli. We enjoyed a visit from the school who used some of the garden's produce in recipes and our salad crops were used by the castle for a murder mystery dinner and a car rally.



The gardeners are lucky enough to draw on the experience of Balmoral Head Gardener Alan Beedie and we are making plans to improve garden productivity in 2018 - starting with a layer of manure on the beds. If you have any horse or cow manure that you would like to donate then please get in touch with David Sherrard or Aimi Blueman.

We are looking for members to sign up for 2018; £5 for individuals £10 for couples/families. We will then send out a questionnaire to members to see what you would like to grow this year and pick from the most popular choices. Don't worry if you know nothing about gardening - just come along and learn from others and enjoy the experience. Its very rewarding to be eating freshly harvested vegetables and an hour a week is the maximum commitment you make. We like to make Community Gardening sociable so we have regular work parties to share the work, have a chat and learn from each other.

Drop an envelope into Wild Thistle by the end of March with your membership fee, name and email address if you would like to join us for a very tasty 2018.

**Aimi Blueman**



Love wild plants? Love getting into the hills? Plantlife Scotland and NTS Mar Lodge Estate are looking to involve local people who are enthusiastic gardeners and/or hillwalkers in a project; Cairngorms Wild Plants. All you need is a passion for this part of the Cairngorms, a couple of days a year where you are free to help and a desire to conserve the amazing flora of our mountains. You don't need to be an expert in plant identification to get involved. Come along to find out more about the Cairngorms Wild Plants project, to learn more about the conservation work at NTS Mar Lodge and what opportunities there are to get involved.

**When: Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> April 2pm**

**Where: Stable Block at Mar Lodge Estate**

To let us know you are coming, or for more information, please email: [srao@nts.org.uk](mailto:srao@nts.org.uk) or call Shaila Rao on 01339 720165. To find out more information on the Cairngorms Wild Plants project, visit [www.plantlife.org.uk/scotland](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/scotland)

This project has been part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community (Cairngorms Local Action Group)

LEADER 2014-2020 Programme



“The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas”.

**National Vegetarian Week** runs from 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May, but celebrations are encouraged any time in the two weeks leading up to it. We are hoping to have a weekend of Vegetarian Cooking Demos in the village on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May. We are still at the planning stages so can't give too much information at this time, but mark the date in your diaries and watch out for notices on lampposts and in the community page.



**Vegetable Crumble....** A lovely comfort food for the winter months..

**Crumble topping**

100g butter  
175g plain flour  
100g grated cheese  
50g chopped mixed nuts  
kidney beans etc)

**Base**

675g Mixed vegetables (parsnip, potato, carrot, leek etc)  
1 large onion  
25g plain flour  
1 can of chopped tomatoes, 1 can of pulses (chick peas, mixed beans,  
300ml vegetable stock, 142ml milk  
3 tbsp fresh chopped parsley, Salt and pepper

**Method**

Preheat oven to 170\* fan. For the topping, rub together the flour and butter until 'breadcrumbs' are formed. Add the remaining topping ingredients. Set aside. Chop the vegetables; sauté the chopped onion in some butter and oil and when transparent, add the remaining vegetables. Cook over a low heat, stirring occasionally for about 10 minutes. Mix the flour with the milk, add to the vegetables along with the stock, chopped tomatoes and chosen pulses. Bring to the boil, reduce heat and then simmer for about 15 until the vegetables are tender. Transfer to an ovenproof dish, cover with the crumble topping then bake for half an hour until golden.

**Sarah Hubbard**

THE  
**FIFE ARMS**

BRAEMAR



# NEW BEGINNINGS

The Fife Arms opens in 2018 and we want you to join our team as we set out on an exciting new chapter in the life of this historic hotel. We think a new job is like a blank page, the opportunities are endless.  
Be part of our new beginning...

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- PA & HR CO-ORDINATOR
- F&B OPERATIONS MANAGER
- HOUSEKEEPING MANAGER
- MAINTENANCE MANAGER
- RESERVATIONS & RECEPTION MANAGER
- SPA SUPERVISOR
- SHOP SUPERVISOR
- FINANCIAL CONTROLLER
- ACCOUNTANT
- EVENTS MANAGER & SALES CO-ORDINATOR

Job descriptions and application forms are available online at [www.thefifearms.com](http://www.thefifearms.com)  
Alternatively, send your CV and Covering Letter to [mail@thefifearms.com](mailto:mail@thefifearms.com)

#thefifearms   @thefifearms



## Junior buzzard

### Braemar School

This term the whole school topic is Vikings all the children including the nursery are thoroughly enjoying learning all about the history of the Vikings.

The primary 1 - 4 teacher, Mrs Nixon's son Finn aged 19 is travelling to Fiji for 8 weeks on a voluntary basis. He will be escorting some children by boat from one island to another daily for their lessons at school and then he will be helping teach them to speak English. The children in the primary 1 – 4 class met Finn and handed him some letters for the children of Fiji. In their letters they were enthusiastic to share lots of information about their lifestyles including facts about their hobbies, local wildlife, the Highland games, living next door to the queen and their favourite foods. Here are some of the questions that they included in their letters –

Do you have electricity?  
 Do you like to draw pictures?  
 What kind of weather do you get in Fiji?  
 Do you have Audis and Minis?  
 Do you have mountains?  
 Do you play Minecraft?  
 Do you live close to your school?  
 Where do you swim?  
 Do you have pets?  
 Do you go ski-ing?  
 Do you ever eat pizza?  
 What is technology like in Fiji and do you have electronics?



### Kitty Tales

Meet Mala, the Calico cat, sometimes named Princess Malala because she is so precious. Her meow is tiny and soft, but her purr is the loudest ever. Mala's role model on this planet is Nell, the collie so, when it comes time for walkies, Mala is first at the door waiting to go on an adventure with big sister. You'll often see her tripping alongside Nell as they explore the best Braemar walks. Visiting friends along with her humans, just like a member of the family, is something else she loves to do. She even tried to sneak into the hall to watch the Pantomime at Christmas.

Mala mostly thinks she is either a dog or a human, but sometimes just to prove she is a feline, she brings home the odd natural food supplement. She can tell her humans don't care for that habit so thankfully she doesn't do it too often.



*Princess Malala*



### BOILER SERVICING & REPAIR

- OIL & BIOMASS SYSTEMS SUPPORTED
- SAME DAY EMERGENCY CALLOUTS
- AGA & RAYBURN COOKERS SUPPORTED
- NEW BOILER SALES

#### THANK YOU BRAEMAR

*we are proud to support you and value your business!*

OFFICE: 01975 571775

MOBILE: 07792 830780

EMAIL: [flameboilerservices@gmail.com](mailto:flameboilerservices@gmail.com)

<http://www.flameboilerservices.co.uk>



### Three ways to advertise an event you are running!

- 1 It can be printed in the next issue or included in the live online events section.  
Send to:  
[info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk](mailto:info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk)
- 2 Email Al Hubbard with details of the event and he will make you an entry on Braemar website:  
[alastairhubbard@gmail.com](mailto:alastairhubbard@gmail.com)
- 3 Put posters up on the lamp posts - remember no more than 4 and for up to 1 week

### Village Bin Collections Tuesdays

Wheelie Bin  
March 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

Apr 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>

Recycling

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>

Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>,



### Easter Services

#### Maundy Thursday

A service of the Lord's Supper at Crathie Kirk, 7.30 p.m. St Andrew's Church will remain open until 9pm for quiet reflection.

#### Good Friday

Morning Prayer at 11am in St Andrew's.

An interdenominational "Walk with the Cross" beginning at 3pm in St Andrew's with Stations of the Cross and concluding with a devotional service at the Parish Church.

#### Holy Saturday

Morning Prayer at 11am in St Andrew's

#### Easter Sunday

An open air service at 8am in the Community Garden. Easter Service in Crathie Kirk at 11.15am Mass of the Resurrection at 5pm in St Andrews.

**Everyone is most warmly welcome to all services**

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

Date	Event
March 8th	Lenten Lunch at The Sheiling
March 11th	BLHG - History of The Cairngorm Club by Robbie Middleton
March 18th	Volunteer Training Day at Braemar Castle
March 23rd	St Margaret's - Camilli String Quartet Concert
March 24th & 25th	Guide Sheiling Open Days
March 30 Fri	Braemar Castle opens for season
March 31st	St Margaret's—Open to the Public
April 1st	Braemar Castle Easter Egg Hunt
Apr 14/15	Braemar Castle Jacobite weekend
April 15th	BLHG Panel Discussion about bygone days in Braemar hosted by Doreen Wood
April 15th	Golf Club Open Day - everyone welcome to give golf a go and find out how to become a member
Apr 20th	Braemar News Group AGM—6pm Moorfield Hotel
May 5th	St Margaret's - Photography Mini Festival
May 18th	St Margaret's - Transatlantic Connections
May 26th	St Margaret's - Lisa Milne
June 1st & 2nd	Braemar Castle - Murder Mystery Dinner
June 15th	Braemar Castle celebrates Year of Young People with Primary School tour guides

Please send news/articles for the Buzzard to:

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

Next edition: June 2018

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

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