



# Braemar Buzzard



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

## Braemar Christmas Lights



A big 'Thank You' to Ballater Chiels, Braemar Primary School, Mar Lodge, Braemar Community Council, Castleton Dancers, Braemar Tourism Group, Invercauld Estate, Mar Estate, Braemar Choir and my fabulous friends in the Book Club for all your hard work and donations towards the Xmas Lights. In total we raised £4978.00. And a special thank you to David Geddes and the guys who put up all 21 lights! Phew...

Selena Hill



*Pictured above, the Braemar choir who sang in front of the Mews at the special 'lights on' celebration on Sunday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>*



## Village Panto - The Cast



This year's village panto - *The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe* - is a real family affair with three Marsdens, three Farquharsons and two Bakers in the main cast or crew, plus a whole lot more village children in cameo roles. Definitely 'not to be missed' - dates & times on back page.

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Cover photos courtesy of John Macpherson

# Editorial



## Braemar News Group

[www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk) Extra copies of the Buzzard can be obtained from the garage, the art gallery and also the newsagent/pharmacy. Donation tins are at all these outlets for any very welcome contribution towards costs.

### Dear Buzzard...

...I'd like to take this opportunity to say a massive

**thank you** to all my

wonderful friends in this village for making my birthday one I will never forget. I was blown away by your kindness and generosity. It was a total surprise and I still haven't got over it. Thank you all so, so much.



**Isla Robertson**

...My grandfather was a German war prisoner during WW2 in Braemar. I am trying to get information about his role during WW2. He got caught during the invasion in Normandy in 1944 and was brought directly to Braemar and worked in the Braemar sawmill. Does anyone have any information/articles about the war prisoners working in the sawmill or even old pictures? It would be great to hear.

**Martin Bechem** [MBechem@web.de](mailto:MBechem@web.de)

...My wife and I came to Scotland for the Braemar Games. We live in Washington US and I am part of clan Farquharson. I was proud to be present with you. Highlights were Crathie Kirk, meeting clan Farquharsons, hospitable Craiglea B & B and the amiable folks and great food at the Inver Inn. Thankyou Braemar,

**Steve and Janice Brazeau**

## Community Update:

**Comings and Goings** Welcome to **Father Chris Brannan** as the new priest at St Andrew's RC church Braemar. Originally from Glasgow, he was a solicitor before entering the priesthood and based at Banchory, serves Aboyne and Ballater also. He takes over from **Canon Andrew Marr** who is taking a sabbatical - and will be missed after his 8 years of ministrations. Driving the post van, we are delighted to welcome **Lucy Webster**. A skilled musician, Lucy also teaches the bassoon when she isn't delivering the mail.

**Community Ward Forums** Marr Area Partnership, a local independent community development organisation, runs quarterly community ward forums in the Mid and Upper Deeside area. The forums are very informal and friendly and representatives from community groups are very welcome to attend. Over the last year topics covered have included: effective working of community groups; youth projects and activities; funding opportunities; community health initiatives. The forums are held in the evening at various village halls in the area, attendance is free, light refreshments are provided and travel costs can be reimbursed. If you would like to find out more, or to be added to the email list to receive an invite to the next forum, please contact Lizzy Shepherd ☎ 07786 579426 Email:

[lizzy@marrareapartnership.org.uk](mailto:lizzy@marrareapartnership.org.uk)

**Extension to path** A new spur has been added to the Clunie bridge/Queens drive path to link to the caravan site.

**Where's the bus?** Have you discovered any irregularities in the scheduled bus service?

Feedback please to Carole Paterson ☎ 41493 in advance of the bus forum in February.



### Action at the snow gates



Installation of the new webcam has started. Look forward soon to seeing whether the road up to Glenshee is open from the comfort of your own computer screen...

**Village History Walks** will be reinstated next summer. Volunteer tour leaders required! - full script and training provided. To help, contact Doug Bruce ☎ 41985 or Neil Bain ☎ 41420

### New information directory for the elderly



A free information directory has been launched which offers important information for older people in Upper Deeside. The directory contains information on housing, energy, money, adult learning, transport, libraries, health & social work, voluntary organisations and community transport schemes for Upper Deeside - vital information to help elderly residents live in a rural area. The project came about as the result of discussions between the Upper Deeside Community Development Group (UDCDG) and the Public Health Coordinator for Marr, looking for a way to address public health concerns and promote lifelong learning and leisure. A thousand copies of the directory have been published for distribution throughout the Upper Deeside area. Copies now available in Braemar at the doctor's surgery and the Speciality shop. The directory will also be available online at [www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk](http://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk)

### Update on Kindrochit Castle



Aberdeenshire Council has agreement in principal for some Council funding and are currently pursuing additional funding from CNPA and Historic Scotland. The ultimate aim is to carry out a full stabilisation and consolidation of the structure, provide all ability access, new interpretation and signage, feature lighting and a long term agreed maintenance schedule. The Council would like to encourage a "Friends of " type group or "adoption group" for the monument longer term, but this is all largely dependant on the overall funding package assembled.

Due to safety concerns about the stability of some of the walls, security fencing has now been erected around the ruins and this will remain in place until consolidation work is completed. In the interim however it is proposed to erect signage on the fence to provide interpretation information on the castle and to advise visitors of the on-going project. In the Council's words "We are getting there slowly and on course for having all the works finished next year" - so to have another great visitor attraction in the village should be worth any temporary inconvenience that will be caused by the works. Pete Mulvey

### Alcohol Licence Reminder...

If you are running an event involving the supply of alcohol and there is ANY entry charge (however phrased) a licence is required. For a voluntary body it's only £10 but allow six weeks for processing. For more advice contact the Community Council.



### Mike's Mad Bicycle

**Challenge** Mike Holley is undertaking a 230 mile cycle ride next May to raise money for the British Lung Foundation. He is seeking sponsors as well as spares/accessories/clothing for the journey. To help please contact Mike at [mike.holley7@gmail.com](mailto:mike.holley7@gmail.com) or ☎07557 944056.



### News from Invercauld Estate



The estate had a relatively quiet grouse season which we can partly put down to the poor weather limiting the breeding success of the birds. The red deer stag stalking however went well and the stags were heavier than in past years due perhaps to the wet summer providing more vegetation and thus food for the deer. The red deer rut, where the stags roar in competition with each other and to attract the hinds, seemed to be more intense this year and a good number of stags could be heard particularly on frosty nights in the village.

Peter Fraser has retired after 43 years on the Estate and a well attended farewell party was held at the Inver to thank him for such a remarkable contribution to the Estate over so many years. We welcome Will and Donna Reid to Auchallater with their children and wish them a long and happy stay in Braemar.

Some readers may remember Auchallater as the home of Jim and Liz Emslie, and of course Aileen now Lawrence, for many years. Under the guidance of Neil Strachan and his team it has however undergone quite a transformation recently. A rival operation led by Barry McGibbon, ably assisted by Lorne Laird and Bobby Holland has also waved a magic wand over Spital Farmhouse at Glenshee to complete an equally impressive transformation.

You may be aware that the new tenants of Invercauld House have made a start on the restoration works under the watchful eye of Ian Johnston. They have also started on works to restore the garden in accordance with the Designed Landscape Management Plan.

The holiday cottages have had a good season. Freda in the Estate Office continues to take firewood orders and Ian Hill does his best to keep up with demand! A word of caution to finish! This is the time of year when sadly deer get hit on the road. The A93 is a hotspot, both sides of Braemar. Driving more slowly and keeping your eyes open is the best solution. (also see article page 6) **Simon Blackett**

## 'Let's Go' Foster Care

A German Fostering organisation called 'Let's Go' [www.lets-go.de](http://www.lets-go.de) is looking to form partnerships in Upper Deeside. 'Let's Go' works with teenagers and children who have a history of troubled backgrounds and has chosen Upper Deeside as an ideal rural highland setting to launch a Scottish venture with Scottish Foster Parents. When children are taken out of their usual surroundings and background, this can produce dramatically beneficial changes in the children.

'Let's Go' receives a generous funding allowance from the German Government for these placements which usually last for up to 2 years. Thus the costs of initial set up and ongoing expenses, including fees to the Foster Parents, are generously covered.

'Let's Go' is looking for potential carers who can offer children opportunities to help with animal husbandry or chores in an outdoor setting, such as farming. Ideally, one of the foster parents should have a background in Social Care or Education, although this is not always necessary. For an informal enquiry please contact Frank Ribbons  
☎ 0133 988 7267

## Official Opening of New Houses at Invercauld Gardens

On the 16<sup>th</sup> October I had the pleasure of representing the Buzzard at the official opening of the new houses at Invercauld Gardens. We met in the



one remaining unoccupied house where David Lappin, Castlehill Housing Association, gave us a short resume about the building of the houses. Each house has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, lounge and kitchen/diner. There are no gardens but there are grassed clothes drying areas between the houses.

The houses are heated by a 'Body Heat' system, too complicated for me to explain! Bill Howie was introduced to perform the opening ceremony. Bill was a founder member, now retired, of the association. We were then invited to visit two of the occupied houses followed by a buffet lunch at Kinlochit Court. We were joined there by the residents. The houses I visited were beautifully furnished and very cosy. The owner said that so far, the heating system was working well and was economical.

**Dorothy Ramsay**

## Your local councillor...

**Geva Blackett**



Hopefully by the time you read this, our new webcam on the snow gate will be up and running, allowing everyone to see if the gate is open or not. It has taken a very long time to see this common sense solution actually materialise - I think I first mentioned the idea to John Macpherson over five years ago - but I hope it will prove a valuable tool for locals and visitors alike! Particular thanks must go to Gordon McKnight of Deeside Computers and Aberdeenshire Council's Les Allan & Ralph Singleton.

Many will have heard of what has become known as the 'Bedroom Tax' being imposed by the current Westminster Coalition government. From 1st April 2013 anyone of working age currently in receipt of Housing Benefit, living in social rented housing, and under occupying their property will lose benefit and find themselves liable to pay in the region of £8 per week per bedroom they do not qualify for. Aberdeenshire Council has written to all their tenants but there has been a poor response. If you know anyone who may be in this situation, please urge them to contact the council housing department to discuss their options!

Please do contact me with any concerns or if there is anything I can do to help! That is what I am here for...

**Geva**

☎07876 475269 (m) or email me at [cllr.g.blackett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.g.blackett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

## Police News

As we approach Christmas with the chance of extra valuables in our houses and cars, can we do our utmost to ensure that we don't become easy targets.

Winters are here so please check your vehicle is fit for it, and be aware of the weather and road conditions, giving yourself extra time if necessary.

If you wish any advice regarding the above, check out the Grampian Police website or contact me at the Braemar office or ☎0845 600 5700 or email me at [Jeffrey.Hall@grampian.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Jeffrey.Hall@grampian.pnn.police.uk)

PC Jeff Hall



## Braemar Creative Arts Festival

Marilyn Baker

When people ask me how the Creative Arts Festival went (17-21 Oct 2012), I tell them the story of Martina, a young lady from Switzerland who arrived in Braemar with a plan to stay for two days. She saw a brochure about the festival, decided to stay for the week, and signed up for no fewer than 5 different classes. She discovered she was a natural on the fiddle, although she'd never played before, and bought one in Edinburgh on her way home. As soon as she arrived in Switzerland she emailed to ask if she could book up for next year's Festival.

That feel-good story reflects the general feedback that we received from most participants and teachers. While giving the Festival a big 'thumbs up' overall, people were honest and made positive suggestions for improvement. Planning for Festival 2013 (Oct 23-26) will begin in January and we are looking for ideas, suggestions and a few volunteers willing to work on the steering committee. Please email or talk to Andy and Kirsty on [info@braemargallery.co.uk](mailto:info@braemargallery.co.uk), or Marilyn on [mjdante@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mjdante@hotmail.co.uk) if you would like to be involved in any way.



Some of you may have noticed we had some large woolly visitors in Strachans during the festival. The giant knitted patchwork pandas were the work of the Knit Wits - a community knitting group co-ordinated by Rosy Wood to raise awareness and funds for VSA (formerly Voluntary Service Aberdeen). Both knitted pandas are now in residence in Edinburgh zoo in pride of place in front of the gift shop.



This splendid 'Haggis kept guard outside the Youth Hostel during the Arts Festival whilst its cousin, the 'Mar Staggis', adorned with antlers and cv, kept watch outside the Village Hall. Thankyou both to Mar Lodge and the Youth Hostel for their wonderful creations - here's hoping that they will re-appear together with lots more cousins next year.

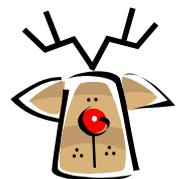
### News from Mar Lodge Estate Peter Holden

Our monitoring of the tree regeneration in the east of the Estate continues to demonstrate real progress - young trees being evident, particularly in the lower Quoich, and on riversides and drier knolls.

Whilst stalking with guests in the Pinewood areas provides a challenging day, we continue to have sustainable numbers of deer available for sporting clients on the rest of the Estate. Following the recommendations of the Independent Review, the newly constructed fence line bordering Glen Lui and Glen Dee will help to separate wintering populations of deer from these areas, whilst still allowing them shelter. Recent initiatives such as the Review process and the S7 Deer Management Agreement have provided an opportunity for much constructive and positive discussion between ourselves and neighbouring estates. The hind stalking season is now well under way, and our team of stalkers have been hosting residential visits of students from Newton Rigg College, who have been given the opportunity to accompany staff onto the hill as part of their course experience. This is an important part of the Estate's commitment to education and training.

Work on the Quoich bridges continues, with both the Allanaquoich and the upper footbridge still scheduled, weather permitting, to be completed by the new year. This will formally re-open the popular circular walk around the lower end of Glen Quoich.

We recently welcomed Rebecca Rowe as Hospitality Assistant to the staff team to continue the excellent and important work carried out by Jane Torrance, who has left us to concentrate on helping to run the family restaurant and look forward to becoming a grandmother! Thank you Jane, for all your dedicated work over the years - we all wish you well.



## St Margaret's Arts Project Pete Mulvey

A team of Conservation Architects and Engineers from Edinburgh are now working to prepare an Options Appraisal study, commissioned by the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust, for the proposed St Margaret's Arts Project. The study will look at the repairs to the building which are necessary to restore it to its former glory - as well as the alterations and extensions which may be required to make it suitable for its new purpose. These alterations could include the construction of a new aisle on the North side of the building - which was intended in the original design but was never constructed - and may also consider some other possible extensions to the facilities - along with provision of toilet and administrative accommodation, viable heating solutions, and the mandatory arrangements for disabled access. A number of fully costed alternative options will be submitted to The SRCT in February 2013 to enable them, in discussion with community representatives, to make a final decision on the viability of the proposals and to enable them then to proceed with the legal transfer of ownership of the building from the Episcopal Church.



In the meantime the project team are continuing to research and develop ideas for the activities which will form the core of the project - alongside management and ownership models for its operation. This work included a visit to the East Church in Cromarty, the Scottish Piping School in Glasgow, the St Andrews in The Square Centre, also in Glasgow, and Abbotsford House the home of Sir Walter Scott. The Team are also actively trying to make contact with, and forge relationships with, organisations and individuals who we believe can contribute to the development and eventual success of the project - and from these sources we are constantly being advised to remain flexible - as the experience of others suggests that where we end up is unlikely to be where we think that we are heading!

Towards this aim an outreach component of the North East of Scotland 'Sound' Festival of new music was invited to stage a performance of work by Glasgow based musician and composer Matilda Brown in the church in October and an International Fiddle Festival is being arranged there from 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> July next year. This event will be led by Paul Anderson, Shona Donaldson and another renowned Scottish fiddle teacher and it is hoped that around 30 students from as far away as Hungary and Scandinavia will spend a week in the village leaning new skills and absorbing the culture which underpins the music of this area.

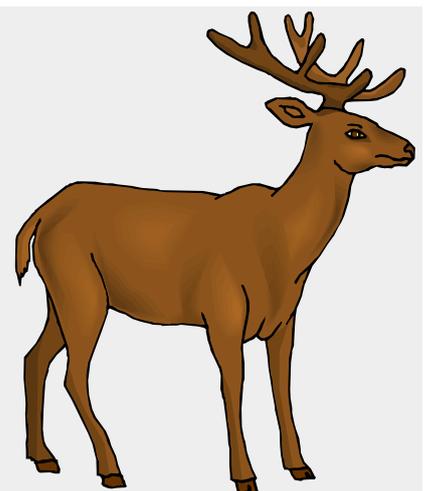
In the more immediate future however another concert of local talent is to be held in St Margaret's on **6<sup>th</sup> January 2013** to which a number of influential guests, and organisations who have pledged their support to the arts project, have been invited - and to whom we hope to demonstrate the potential of the building for both visual and audio performances - we also hope to see many of the other village residents there to demonstrate the art of community singing!

Remaining members of the St Margaret's church congregation are also to be invited to the concert to enable them to be part of the new direction in which the building is being developed - and we can confirm that arrangements are already in place to heat the building for this first event of 2013!

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## Deer Related Road Accidents

The UK's leading expert on deer related road traffic accidents, Dr Langbein, was at the recent Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group's meeting at Mar Lodge, Deeside. Once the clocks go back in October there tends to be an increase in deer feeding at roadside verges as people travel to and from work, resulting in more collisions. There are 40-80 reports of deer related accidents in the CNPA every year however, many accidents go unreported on more rural roads. If you hit a deer in the Braemar area, please leave a message with Invercauld Estate (41224) to allow clear up of carcass and the addition of data to the nationwide survey of deer related accidents. Alternatively an incident submission form is available at [www.deercollisions.co.uk](http://www.deercollisions.co.uk)



**Braemar Folk Margaret Clelland – A Braemar Lass** by Selena Hill

Margaret is a rare find these days - someone born and still living in Braemar. Margaret was born in Birchwood on Chapel Brae April 1943. Her Mother, Mary Jane Thomson (known as Jean), moved to Braemar in 1939 to work at the Invercauld Estate Office - she had decided living in Aberdeen during the war would be too dangerous and got herself digs and a job in the country. Margaret's father, Alexander Malcolm Abernethy (Sandy), belonged to St Cyrus. He too had digs in Braemar and he worked for Strachans Bus Company on the Braemar to Aberdeen route. Her parents met and then married in 1941. When Margaret was around 2yrs old the family moved to 2 Millington (now 3 School Road). Margaret attended Braemar Primary, Ballater Junior Secondary and then Banchory Academy, as there was no academy in Aboyne. The school bus would leave at 6.50am to get to Banchory on time, returning the school children at 6pm. One winter they had to stay in digs in Banchory, as the snow was so atrocious.

Margaret spent almost all her spare time (when not travelling to school!) on the Bernard's Farm. Her father worked there part time and Margaret would hang around allegedly helping with the milking and other farm chores. Margaret also worked at Strachans (local shop) part time where her mother was now employed as a clerkess and remained so for 30yrs.

Margaret wanted to join the police but in the early 1960's women could not join the force until they were 20yrs old. So Margaret went off to stay with Granny Thomson in Aberdeen where she got a job working in the records office of the ARI. She eventually joined the Police in 1963 with Lothian & Peebles (now Lothian & Borders), this being the first available vacancy. Margaret was now training at the Scottish Police College Tulliallan Kincardine on Forth, on probation for 2 yrs. Whilst there, Margaret met her first husband and they married in 1969 and had a daughter Wendy, born in 1972. Margaret had since left the police and moved to Livingston and then Bathgate with her family. Once Wendy started school, Margaret got a job as a precognition clerk. She basically swapped roles and now interviewed witnesses on behalf of the defence lawyer.

Unfortunately her marriage broke down and Margaret and Wendy moved back to Braemar in 1987, where they moved in with Jean at 2 Millington. Margaret started work at Lochnagar in 1988 and moved to St Andrews Terrace in 1990. Once in her own house things needed fixed. Along comes a handy electrician by the name of Ian Clelland and things got fixed! Ian and Margaret got married in 1992. Margaret continued to work at Lochnagar until she retired in 2002. After her retirement Margaret was kept busy looking after her three grandchildren who are now 14, 12 and 10yrs old. They still live in Ballater but the babysitting duties are greatly reduced. Unfortunately Ian passed away in 2009. Margaret notices changes in Braemar, a lot more strangers compared to when she was growing up but she has lovely neighbours and (reluctantly) accepts that the village must change.



**Duncan Cumming** The photograph of this magnificent cup, along with other family related documents, was very kindly given to us by Jennifer Woods of the Blairgowrie and Rattray History Trust. The cup was presented to Duncan Cumming for his services as Post Runner from 1807 to 1841. Duncan was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1777 in Gleney and married Margaret Leys at the Inver Inn on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 1820: they had 8 children. More details of this wonderful story to follow in the next issue of the Buzzard. Meantime if any of our readers have information on the Cumming family, Roger Sudworth of the Braemar Local History Group would love to hear from you. Contact details:- 013397 41511 or [rn@sudworth.force9.co.uk](mailto:rn@sudworth.force9.co.uk)



**Braemar Castle**

Doreen Wood

A year ago we set the tough local fundraising target of £20,000. In October, a month ahead of target, we hit £20,850. Thank you to everyone who made it happen through organising fundraising events, attending events and donating both large and smaller amounts of money. In October, we were fortunate to benefit from Aberdeenshire Council's underspend with £50,000 coming to the Castle roof fund. This money will be used as match finding to secure another slice of the £144,600 pledged by Historic Scotland. Current funding will repair approximately half of the roof. Fundraising continues!

Visitor numbers are again up, with a 7% increase on 2011 at 6,226. September showed an astounding rise of 62%! On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August, we broke our record of 177 with 200 visitors through the door that day. We are looking carefully at monthly numbers to consider revised opening times to capitalise on the periods when there are the maximum numbers of people around.

A new notice-board is planned for the Castle Car Park, double side with information on the Castle on one side and, on the other, information about the village in the context of the National Park. The aim is to encourage people who might have planned only to visit the Castle to stop off and stay in Braemar. We have been awarded funding of £8,000 by Cairngorm Leader and the National Park and the sign should be in place for next season. Design-wise it will tie in with the new Village notice boards. And coming soon - some very exciting and unexpected developments on our Stones Collection. It's much more interesting than we thought! even without the giant Cairngorm.



**CLAN Cancer Support** is looking for volunteers to help run the shop in Ballater. The shop provides much needed income to ensure that CLAN can continue to provide services locally - supporting those with cancer. If you can help, please contact CLAN on ☎013397 56318 For more information about CLAN Cancer support visit [www.clanhouse.org](http://www.clanhouse.org)





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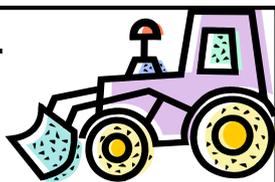
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**Braemar Community Ltd AGM** Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Invercauld Arms Hotel

Following the formal business, informal updates were presented on: the new Dee bridge (Dave Evans); Corriemulzie Hydro Project (Al Hubbard); Braemar Castle (Doreen Wood); Braemar Local History Group (Brian Wood); St Margaret's project (Brian Wood); Braemar Community Action Plan (David Geddes).



Some points of particular interest which arose:

- **Vacancies for two directors exist** - anyone interested should get in touch with the chairman Simon Blackett
- **New Dee Crossing** Dave Evans presented an architects impression of a design for a new suspension bridge to cross the River Dee close to the Sewage works and just upstream of the junction of the Dee and the Clunie (cGrid Ref NO146922). The proposed bridge, with a span of 60m, suitable for pedestrians, cyclists, horses and emergency vehicles has a price tag of somewhere in the region of £1 million. Consultation is now ongoing with CNPA, SEPA and SNH to get approval prior to applying for planning permission and then seeking funding
- **Braemar Community Action Plan (BCAP):** A stakeholders meeting was held in the village hall in September focussing on: visitor strategy, attractions and services; community facilities & services; young people; transport; housing, employment and the economy. Since the meeting the BCAP Steering Group have, with Braemar Community Limited, and support from the Cairngorms National Park Authority, recruited a part time Support Officer - Maggie MacAlpine - to help finalise the action plan. Maggie will be talking to groups and individuals about the draft plan and how they can contribute to it. The draft action plan will be circulated for comment before being presented to the Community Council, finalised and implemented. If you have any queries, and/or want to receive a copy of the draft action plan for comment, please contact; Davie Geddes, Chair of the Steering Group ☎013397 41654 or 0771 545 7601, or Maggie MacAlpine ☎ 013397 41245 or 07808 156396 or [maggiemacalpine@btinternet.com](mailto:maggiemacalpine@btinternet.com)

## More going on in and around your village...

**Braemar 3rd Age Lunch Club** continues to meet in the Fife Arms Hotel every 2nd Wednesday at 12.30pm. Open to over 60s. Contact Carole Paterson ☎41493 for more details.

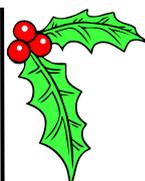
**Exercise Classes** resume after New Year in the Village Hall, Tuesdays and Fridays at 7.30pm. Bring your own mat and weights. £2 per session. More information from Aileen Lawrence ☎41566

**SWRI - come and join us!** The Braemar SWRI meets at Kindrochit Court on every third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Between September and May. New members always welcome. Please contact Pat ☎41214 or Margaret ☎41590 for more information.

**Braemar Mother & Toddlers** is now meeting at 9.30am on Wednesdays (apart from school holidays) in the session room in the Church. All welcome, just £1 for tea/coffee. More information from Jill ☎07845 250115

**Coffee mornings at Kindrochit** Every Monday up until Christmas 1030 - 1200 £1.50 for coffee and pancake in aid of the Cyrenians.

**Library bus** Calls once monthly on a Tuesday. Apologies, phone number quoted in last issue omitted the last digit of the telephone enquiry number which should be 01651 872707. *(On checking visit times for December, I was told that as the scheduled visit coincided with the Christmas period there would be NO visit in December so look forward to sighting the bus on 22 January 2013 - 1130 at Kindrochit, followed by Chapel Brae 1150 and St Andrews terrace 1215. If you think two whole months between visits is a bit much - please do phone and complain. Ed.)*



## Dancing in Braemar

The **Line Dancing** class started up again in March 2011, with a few keen members meeting every Tuesday in Castleton Hall. Some of the ladies were brave enough to show off their skills at the Braemar's Got Talent show in October. As a result of that, it was apparent there are a few more ladies (and gentlemen) living in Braemar who might like to give it a go. The



classes will start up again early in the New Year, with a special beginners' half hour for newcomers.

One of the most popular classes on offer at the Arts Festival was **Step Dancing**, under the expert instruction of Naomi Harvey from Lurach. Although we don't have a teacher living here in Braemar we do have an instructional DVD by Danna which we might be able to use to learn the basics. There's a plan to use the big screen in the village hall to do a few tester classes, which would be suitable for all ages from 7 and up to 70+. Anybody interested?

As always, **Scottish Country Dancing** is very much alive here, and classes on a Wednesday night from 7.30pm at Castleton Hall will continue. No partners required, and all levels catered for.

Dancing is one of the best forms of exercise you can find so if one of the above appeals to you then watch out for posters going up with more information on all these classes in the New Year. If you are interested in finding out more please call Marilyn on 013397 41225 or email [midante@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:midante@hotmail.co.uk)

## Paws for thought...

Richard Baker

**Name:** Gimli - because of the colour of my coat, I was named 'Gimli' after the red headed dwarf in the film Lord of the Rings. I am a Hungarian Vizsla and my ancestors were used as gun dogs.

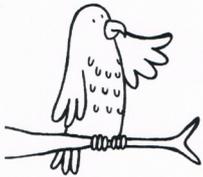
**Age:** I'm a very fit 5 year old.

**Where I live:** with my mistress Isla who really looks after me and takes me on long walks. I'm very friendly and if you see me in the village I'll always say hello.

**Favourite doggy pals:** My best pal is Fudge who is also a Hungarian Vizsla. We go walking together and take sleepovers whenever we get the chance. 'Tilly' Wood is another pal of mine; she is good at finding sticks then lets me steal them from her.

**Doggy adventure:** I made my mistress Isla very unhappy when I was younger because I would find so many interesting things to see and do that I would wander away from home and forget where I was. On one occasion Fudge was sent to look for me but could not find me so my Mistress had to ask NECR to make an announcement on Pet File. I was found eventually by Laura Street and her West Highland Terrier called 'Mac'. Isla keeps me very close to her now.





# Junior buzzard



**Q** What does Santa Claus' cat want for Christmas?  
**A** Some new claus!

## Colour 'Magic'

Did you know that red cabbage water (the water left over after boiling red cabbage) changes colour in response to **acidity or alkalinity**. Add something acid, such as lemon juice or vinegar, and it will change from purple to pink; add something alkaline, such as a bit of bicarbonate of soda in water, and it will turn from purple to green. As for the left over cooked red cabbage - it makes a delicious veg that adds a festive splash of colour to the plate!

Another plant with colour-changing pigments is the indoor pot plant Poinsettia - lots of these around at Christmas. With the owner's permission (Mum or Gran might get quite cross without...) cut and chop some of the red poinsettia 'petals' (not true petals, really leaf bracts), put in the microwave with a little water for about a minute and allow to steep, like a tea. Now try adding your lemon juice and bicarb (as above) and see what colours you get!



## Have you sent your letter to Santa?

Letters to Reindeerland *may* be acknowledged if you write by **Friday 14 December**. Include your name, gender (e.g. I've been a good boy/girl this year), and address with your wish list of Christmas presents. Pop in the post with a first or second class stamp and send to:

**Santa  
 Santa's Grotto  
 Reindeerland  
 SAN TA1**

## What Christmas Means to Me

... lots of plum puddings (Fraser Wood)

...seeing Christmas presents under the tree (Oliver Till)

...when it's 6.45 am and I burst into my parents' room with my stocking (Sam Hubbard)

...helping Mum make the Christmas dinner (Katie Strachan)

...all the members of my family coming to visit (Ella Daniels)

**Snakker De norsk?** (Do you speak Norwegian?) Braemar Scouts and Explorer Scouts are practising! - in advance of their trip to the Norwegian Scout Jamboree in July 2013. In total a contingent of 31 (Deeside District Explorer Scouts, Braemar Scouts and leaders), will be flying off to Norway. **God reise!**



**New Braemar Youth Group** for academy aged children. The youth group will hopefully start in early 2013 and will be held once a fortnight in Castleton Hall. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Anna Sherrard ☎ 013397 41516.

*Thank you to Aberdeenshire Council for funding volunteer training and club equipment to get the group off the ground. Six volunteers have come forward to be trained along with a paid youth worker until April.*

Thankyou Braemar Primary for text and cartoons Ed.

# Seasonal entertainment - Christmas and beyond

## Christmas Services

16<sup>th</sup> December 6.30 pm Braemar Community 'Nine Lessons & Carols', Braemar Church

### St Andrew's RC church

Christmas Eve 4.30 pm carol singing followed by 5.00pm Mass. Seasonal refreshments served after the service

### Braemar and Crathie Parish

Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Watch night Service in Braemar Church

Christmas Day Short family service 10.00 am Braemar



## Village Christmas Post

This year in aid of Braemar Castle funds. Stamps @ 10p available at the newsagent/pharmacy. Deliveries to Braemar, Inverey and the Keilloch. Cards **must** have an address on them! Last collection Sat 22nd Dec.

## The Braemar Pantomime - The Old Woman who lived in a shoe

Runs from Thursday 20th December to Saturday 22nd December and also on Boxing Day 26th December @ 7.30 pm. In the Village Hall. Matinees at 2.30 pm on 22nd and 26 December.

Tickets now on sale from the newsagent/pharmacy, £6 adult £5 concessions £4 child



## SWRI

### Xmas

### Buf-

### fet

Thurs 13th Dec Kindrochit Court 7.30 pm

Thurs 17 Jan SWRI Scottish Night



## Christmas Fairs...

Sat 8th Dec Mar Lodge 4-8 pm Entry £1 Over 20 craft stalls.

Wed Dec 19th School Christmas Fair from 2-3 pm. Tombola, crafts, games, refreshments. All welcome. Entry free.

### Music for a New Year at St Margaret's

Sun Jan 6th St Margaret's Church 6.00 - 7.30pm. Entry by advance ticket purchase only - no admission at door. Tickets £5 available from Braemar Gallery and Wild Thistle

### BLHG Cheese and Wine/photographic evening rescheduled ...

Sat 19 Jan Village Hall

### Scout Group Burns Supper

Sat 25 Jan Village Hall 7.30pm. Details to follow.



## Hogmanay

### Ceilidh

Dec 31st - 8.00 pm Village Hall

Ceilidh band 'Beggar's Row'

Tickets limited in number **so buy early** available from the pharmacy £12 adult/£10 concessions.



Please send news/articles for the Buzzard to: [info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk](mailto:info@braemarbuzzard.org.uk)

Next edition due out mid March.  
Copy needed by 3rd week February

