

Braemar Buzzard



Compiled by Maggie MacAlpine and Susie Farquharson

A Happy Birthday to Braemar Bowling Club

This year will be of particular note as we celebrate 25 years of bowling on the present green. It is also our turn to host the Dee Don League Champion of Champions matches.

Opening Day, this season, is Sunday 25th April.

Bowling opens at 12.30pm. Come and join us, a barbeque will be ongoing throughout the afternoon.

We are always looking for new ideas to attract new members and enhance the image of the Club. We will be happy to answer any questions and to discuss any proposals you may have regarding the way forward for the Club. And of course **Everyone** is welcome to have a go at bowling or just watch.

We will be arranging some special events during the summer both bowling and social. These events will include fun matches, barbeques and quiz nights. Notices of these events will be posted on the notice board at the front of the Club. Our fixtures, for the season, will also be posted as soon as they become available.

Liz Robertson has volunteered to run a Friday session to encourage more young people to take up the sport. Junior size bowls are being obtained for this purpose.

We very much hope that you will come along to support us on Open Day and during the forthcoming season.

Pam McAree,
President of Braemar Bowling Club.
☎41456



Braemar Bowling Club 25 years ago.
Do you recognise anyone?

What's Inside	
Page 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial • Community Update
Page 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Fit for Summer • Focus on Braemar Ski Club • Braemar Scouts Grand Prix • Braemar Castle News
Page 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Margaret's Church • Royal Deeside & The Cairngorms DMO
Page 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mar Hangman's Tree • Braemar Book Club • Walking Group
Page 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacobite Project
Page 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buzzard Juniors

Editorial Braemar News Group

Management Team: Chair: Liz Robertson, Treasurer Dorothy Ramsay, Secretary Margaret Palmer, Marilyn Baker, Pete Mulvey **Editorial Team:** Richard Baker, Doug Bruce, Maggie MacAlpine (ads), Susie Farquharson, Pat Thomson, Pamela McAree, Dave Sherrard, Selena Hill.

The Braemar News Group held its 3rd AGM on 22nd March 2010 in the coffee shop "taste.." This was the venue for an open session by the News Group to which anyone could go and look at all the back issues of the Buzzard and enter a quiz on their content. The winner was Ros Evans.

At 7pm the AGM commenced and opened with a Chairman's report from Liz Robertson, followed by a treasurers report compiled by Dorothy Ramsay and delivered in her absence.

The compilers for the next 4 editions are:

mid-June: Pete Mulvey & Selena Hill
mid-August: Richard Baker & Pat Thomson
mid-October: Liz Robertson & Dave Sherrard
mid-December: Pamela McAree & Doug Bruce

If you wish to submit any letters/articles/ notifications of births, deaths or marriages please contact any of the above News Group members or email us at:

braemar.newsgroup@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline for next Buzzard is May 31st.

And finally a great big thank you to Dave and Ros Evans for their fantastic hospitality and use of their premises.

Community Update

Village Clock Restoration Fund - there is going to be a Charity Shop for a week in April in the newly refurbished Capercaillie shop before its new tenant takes over. Please look out any unwanted gifts/clothes etc for donation to the Clock Shop. Further details will be issued nearer the time.

Beavers and Scouts

The weekly meetings of the Braemar Beaver colony are being suspended for the summer term (after Easter). The Committee and Leaders have had to take this action, with much regret, due to insufficient qualified

Beaver leaders. It is hoped to resume the Beaver meetings after the summer holidays with a full Leader team.

Braemar Community Ltd is holding a midsummer raffle in aid of Braemar Castle restoration. The prizes are 10 pairs of tickets for an exclusive tour of the organic flower and vegetable gardens of TRH The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay's Deeside home, Birkhall. The tour is to be taken at 11am on Wednesday 14th July, and will end with refreshments. The draw will be held on Saturday 19th June. Tickets cost £1.00 each and will be available from Braemar Castle, The Heritage Centre and various other outlets.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

discussed the issue of informal camping at its recent board meeting and has decided not to introduce bye-laws banning this activity in certain areas. Its approach is to work with the land owner, ranger services and the police to tackle problem areas. There have been problems on Invercauld Estate by the Clunie riverbank on the approach to Braemar. Dog walkers are also being reminded to keep their pets under control coming into lambing season.

New Clunieside/Golf Course Walk will shortly open and it is hoped it will be enjoyed by many.

CLAN Outreach Upper Deeside - invites you to take part in a **Tartan Trek** in the beautiful surroundings of Balmoral Estate on Saturday 22nd May. The aims of the Tartan Trek are: to raise awareness of the facilities that CLAN outreach offers to those affected by cancer, to show that exercise can be beneficial even for those who are unwell, and to boost funds to enable us to offer more comfort to those who use the Outreach Centre in Ballater. There are two walks, the longer is 15km and the shorter 6km. Registration for the walks costs £5 and forms can be collected from the Braemar Post Office or by email:

thedreyers@btinternet.com Optional sponsorship forms can be sent on request.

**Marion McIntyre
Fundraising Secretary**

Crathie Church Coffee Mornings- these will be held every Monday from April - September in the Church Hall in Crathie from 10.30am - 1pm. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the home baking and a friendly blether.



Get Fit for Summer

Are you interested in getting fit for the forthcoming summer and maybe shedding a few pounds too?

I have devised a training programme for myself but would love some people to join me. Starting on Wednesday 21st April from 6 - 7pm in Castleton Hall and running for 11 weeks.

I am not a professional training instructor but have spent many years attending aerobics classes and fitness training. I will be alternating between aerobics or exercising to music and also some circuit training. It doesn't matter what your fitness levels are you can choose your own pace to work at.

As I am not a professional I do not require any payment but a cost of £1 per person for each class attended will cover the cost of the hall hire. So come along and have some fun and get fit in the process. Bring some water and a mat or a towel.

Any enquiries ☎41382.

Susie Farquharson

Focus On:

Braemar Ski Club

Braemar Ski Club has enjoyed a bumper ski season this winter. Currently the club has members from Braemar, Crathie, Ballater, Aboyne and on the Perthshire side, Glenisla.

The Ski Club acquired a grant from Awards for All a few years ago to put up flood lights on Claybokie. Floodlit skiing has been very popular over the last few years and has helped many youngsters improve their skiing.

The Ski Club is funded purely by fund raising events. The money goes towards fun races, subsidising lessons for beginners from age 5 upwards and the "ladies" skiing. The Club helps fund the Braemar School ski week and 27 children enjoyed a full week's fantastic skiing this year. Some of them had never been on skis before but by the end of the week were very competent.

The Club is also involved with Glenshee Performance Squad (GPS) which also has Dundee, Blairgowrie and Aberdeen Ski clubs as members. GPS teaches children of many different abilities and holds a master class for the more able skiers. Recently, some members of GPS have been racing in the Scottish Ski circuit and are all currently doing very well. Congratulations to Aleysha Rattray



who won GPS's first medal when she achieved a third place this season.

Recent fund raising events were a Ceilidh in January with music from Clachan Yell which raised £600. The other major, now annual, event is the "Auction Dinner" which raised a huge £3,104. This places the club on a great footing for the next season. Thank you to the organisers of both events for all their hard work and to all the generous people who donated auction lots.

This summer the ski club is hoping to renovate the unused Scottish Ski Club Hut with other GPS affiliated clubs and may be contacting you if you have a particular talent in that field, you have been warned!

If you are interested in joining the Ski Club contact Barry Morris ☎41235 or Gordon Rattray ☎41970

Finally the support from the instructors, staff and directors of Glenshee Ltd is invaluable to all the committee members and ordinary members of Braemar Ski Club and the club would like to take this opportunity to thank them for everything they do.

Susie Farquharson

Braemar Scouts Grand Prix

The annual Braemar Scouts 2010 Grand Prix was held on 25th March in Castleton Hall. 32 Scouts, Cubs and Parents enjoyed an exciting evening racing Scalextric cars in teams on a huge 4-lane track, which was specially constructed for the event. The overall team winners of the sports/saloon races were the 'Woody Wonders', and the winners of the formula 1 races were the 'Mental Mars Bars'.

Duncan Robertson

Braemar Castle News

An Open Day was held for Deeside Businesses last month, all those who attended were very impressed with the restoration.

A Midsummer Ball is being organized by Sheila Anderson – posh frocks, nice band and nice food in the Village Hall on Saturday 19th June - sounds like great fun!

Braemar Castle has been included in a new incentive prize for visitors through the DMO website. This will give us great exposure on the Royal Deeside website.

Our new website is up and running, (skeletal, at the moment, content being added) www.braemarcastle.co.uk

We have commissioned a professional brochure this year which will be in "Mrs Farquharson's signature pink" to be widely distributed throughout the area.



St Margaret's Church

An open meeting to discuss the future of St Margaret's Church was held on February 22nd in the Village Hall. This well known Braemar landmark was officially declared redundant in 2000. The building is unsafe, largely due to the result of water ingress following the incorrect application of mortar in the failed 1990s restoration.



The Prince's Regeneration Trust (PRT) carried out a consultation with the village on the potential for the Church's future last year and Bishop Bob Gillies received a report in September. The Bishop explained that he believed the church to be worthy of restoration for reasons of architectural and cultural interest, as an asset to tourism and as a space for community use. The hurdles to restoration being - where does the funding come from? (funding in the order of £2 million) and who organises the work?

The general feeling at the meeting was that Braemar simply hasn't the resources to undertake responsibility for organising the church restoration. Against this gloomy background, the Bishop reported on a glimmer of light - a recent proposal from the PRT - that they would like to appoint a person for one day a week for three years to investigate restoration opportunities. Although the person would not be based locally, the PRT would fund the post, viewing this as a pilot project which if successful, could be replicated in other communities to secure the future of remote buildings at risk. The meeting welcomed the PRT's proposal.

Royal Deeside & The Cairngorms Destination Management Organisation (DMO)

We are pleased that The Hill and River Exhibition is coming back to Braemar Castle in April. This was a popular exhibition last year produced by the DMO and it highlights in an entertaining way the importance of fishing, deer and grouse management to the local economy. It helped Braemar Castle stay open into October last year and is just one of the many things which businesses are doing to grow the tourism economy.

One of our big initiatives for 2010 is Food Tourism and a Royal Deeside Food Tourism Action Group has been formed to oversee a range of new initiatives. Royal Deeside is home to high quality food and drink and we plan to market the local restaurants, shops and events under one common brand and develop a strong marketing proposition for the area.

Please check out our Discover Royal Deeside Facebook page and Flickr sites which have been recently set up. The Facebook page is a good interactive page where you can quickly post up news and events for the Braemar area. The Flickr photography site is building up and we are looking for people to post photographs to this. We will shortly have a Royal Deeside You Tube for visitors and local video clips of the area.

The Deeside Sessions will be back in the Summer of 2010. We are looking at expanding these to more venues and with some different formats but highlighting as ever the traditional folk musicians in the area. The Deeside Sessions last August and September were very popular and we are looking to expand them into Braemar for this Summer. We are also working with the Cairngorms Ceilidh Trail on this.

There are many benefits to joining the DMO, but the most important is that local businesses will have the opportunity to help shape and drive the future success of tourism in our area. Even if you are not a member we want to hear from you and we aim to represent all tourism businesses in the Deeside area. Please check out the website www.discoverroyaldeeside.com which is fast becoming a key portal for all visitors to the area and contains comprehensive list of What's On information and visitor itineraries.

John Carnie
Tourism Development Manager

The Mar Hangman's Tree

Most people locally know something of the story of the Mar "Hangman's Tree", or "Gallows Tree", or, "Dark Doom's Pine", as it is variously called, but fewer know how it died, or how its skeleton came to be wired upright in a gravel quarry just west of the Victoria Bridge at Mar Lodge.

Around the middle of the 16th century, following on from a raid in Glen Muick by Lamonts and others, the Farquharsons of Invercauld, partly to please the vastly more powerful Gordons, and partly no doubt to advance their own ends by helping to eliminate potential local rivals, hung one of the Lamonts of Inverey. The victim's mother, (with quite remarkable presence of mind at such a stressful time), is supposed to have cursed the Farquharsons in a Gaelic version of the following verse (referring to the tree from which her son had been hanged):

*This tree will flourish high and broad,
Green as it grows today,
When from the banks of bonnie Dee,
Clan Fhionnlaidh's all away".*

It is generally believed that the prophesy in the curse was fulfilled, as the Farquharsons of Monaltrie, Inverey, Auchendryne, Balmoral, Allanquoch and Tullochcoy are all long extinct in the male line, and the Invercauld line failed in 1806, when James Farquharson, 10th of Invercauld, died. Not so: Joseph Gillan Farquharson, 13th of Finzean, and the last of the male Deeside Farquharsons, died in 1938, and by that time the Gallows Tree, disgracefully and needlessly, had been killed.

The tree grew quite close to the Inverey road, and a gravel quarry, used for road metal by the County Council, Mar Estate, or perhaps both, gradually got too close to the tree and started to undermine it. On 3rd December 1920, a gale completed their work and blew it down into the quarry. In the hope that it might survive, the estate manager ordered that the tree should be propped up, but in January 1921 he was over-ruled by HRH Princess Louise, The Princess Royal, who decreed that the timber should be used for a bench to be put in the Mar Lodge grounds. What further discussions took place we do not know, but the ultimate insult to this historic old tree was avoided, and it was finally wired upright. It did not, of course survive, but, just possibly, some remnants of its skeleton will still be there in 2020, a full century after it was blown over.

John Duff

Book Club Review



For your reading pleasure this month your local Book Group suggests **The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde**. I appreciate a few of you will have read this story but for those who haven't, it is worth it, and for those who have, reacquaint yourself with one of the classics.

A brief summary: The novel tells of a young man, Dorian Gray, the subject of a painting by artist Basil Hallward. Basil is impressed by Dorian's beauty and becomes infatuated with him, believing his beauty is responsible for a new mode in his art. Talking in Basil's garden, Dorian meets Lord Henry Wotton, and becomes enthralled by his world view. Adopting a new hedonism, Lord Henry suggests the only things worth pursuing in life are beauty and fulfillment of the senses. Realizing that one day his beauty will fade, Dorian cries out, expressing his desire to sell his soul to ensure the portrait Basil has painted would age rather than himself. Dorian's wish is fulfilled, plunging him into debauched acts. The portrait serves as a reminder of the effect each act has upon his soul, with each sin displayed as a disfigurement of his form, or as a sign of aging.

The Book Group, has been running now for four years and we have read some wonderful books and, clearly, some unusual books. We meet once a month on a Round Robin basis. Due to this, we cannot expand beyond the current 12 members. If anyone is interested in starting up another book club, with the possibility of both groups meeting once or twice a year, then please get in touch with me for advice on setting up a book group. Look out for more book suggestions and Book Group updates in future Buzzards. Keep on reading!

Selena Hill ☎41358

Braemar Walking Group

The Walking group was formed in January. Its aims are to encourage walking new and existing routes and researching old and ancient paths around Braemar. We have thirty two members so far and the list is growing. Our average turnout has been fifteen. Walks are planned by a member of the group for either a weekend or weekday. Walks last, on average, about 4 - 5 hours but can be longer as the weather and light improves. Walking is a good way to shed a few pounds and doesn't cost the earth. For details of the next walk check our Blog: <http://braemarwalkers.blogspot.com>

Richard Baker ☎41225

Spring Opening Hours
 Sun—Wed 10am—8pm
 Friday & Saturday:
 10am—9pm
 Closed on Tuesdays



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The Jacobite Project

There has been a very positive response to the idea of a Jacobite Day at the castle. The date is **Sunday 25th July** (not Saturday as previously published) and the castle will be open for tours as usual from 11 am.

The 18th Century Fete in the grounds will open at **1pm** and many people have agreed to be involved in one way or another. There is still room for many more so please do not be shy. We want to hear from people who would like to volunteer to help on the day. We need car park attendants, programme and ticket sellers, people willing to organise a game or run a stall. If a group or club run a stall selling produce, or a game that raises money (e.g. a Tombola) then that group can keep their profit and all we ask is a small donation to castle funds. **So far we have on the planning board for the fete:** the Jacobite camp, archery school, bowling alley, storyteller, spinner, 18th century children's games area, 'join the Jacobite army challenge', dress up and be photographed, 18th century weapons exhibition, beer tent, hog roast, obstacle course, horses, home bakes, and the list is growing.

The Show begins at **4.30pm** once the fete and the castle have closed. This will be an hour long lively open air programme of music, song and dance, telling the story of Bonnie Prince Charlie's time in the British Isles. There is an abundance of local talent to be featured in this programme, including singers, dancers, musicians and actors. If you would like to be part of this show, please let us know. **Costumes** – We would like to encourage all those taking an active part in the day to be dressed as 18th century Scottish villagers. We are collecting bits and pieces of cotton, tweed, tartan, and leather and Magali and Michel are very willing to give advice on all matters relating to this subject. There are drawings available and if you can make your own costume so much the better, but if you cannot, we do have a number of volunteer seamstresses who can help you out. Blouses, petticoats and shirts can be made from sheets and tablecloths. Cheap tartans (good quality polyester) can be found at £2.99 a metre on www.ukfabricsonline.com and pure wool, ancient looking tartans at £3.99 on Heritage of Scotland eBay shop. For further details, and any questions ☎ Marilyn Baker 41225, or contact Louise Kelly at the Heritage Centre in the Mews.



Hi Buzzard Juniors

Thank you to those who took the time to write to us with stories, poems and pictures. We wish we had the space to publish them all but unfortunately we don't. We would need a whole newspaper just for you. (Now there's an idea!) The challenge was to write about, or draw Braemar's crocodile, so I am afraid that we had to send Hamish's Nile Crocodile poem to Egypt. Maybe it will be published in the Cairo Times. We did enjoy reading about Calum Cruickshank's Lochnagar Alligator, and Jack Foster's crocodile who ate Britney Spears. We liked all the pictures you sent too. Keep up the good work and try again next time. Here are the ones we chose to publish this month.



The Crocodile Hunter by Jessica McIntosh

One day the monstrosity of a crocodile came lazily up on the bank of the Clunie. He was so hungry. He watched a stray cat eat a small bird and then a fish. He went back into the cool water and watched the cat licking the water. The croc was waiting for the right moment, and then the cat went into bathe, but SNAP! The croc shut his huge jaws and the cat was gone. What the croc didn't know was a man had been watching. He was studying crocodilians and needed to shoot the beast because it had been known to kill and eat humans whole. 'It will be quick and sort of painless but it has to happen today.' The croc hunter loaded the gun and fired Boooooom. The croc was dead. It was a fascination in Dundee University where it went to be studied. Everyone was safe.

A Crocodile Poem by Ailsa Lawrence

Swish, swash, swish went the crocodile's tail
 With a splash and a splosh, he glides through the water
 Hunting his prey.
 The scales on his body glitter in the light,
 His eyes are like pools of terrible fire and his teeth
 shine like gold.
 But watch out for those sharp points and don't get
 too close
 I bet you don't want to be as dead as a ghost.
 The water will be red, like a red, red rose,
 All that will be left of a body will probably be
 Some toes
 And a nose
 And some terrible clothes.

RYAN McGibbon



Crocodile Job

Wanted: someone to go and find Crocodiles
 and bring them back to the Clunie.
 Must be 18 or over.
 Enquiries to Dillon Phillips

Scottish Legends

Tad Losgann was the name of Braemar's legendary crocodile. Another Scottish legend is about the **Red Caps**. Found among the ruined castles scattered across Scotland's hillsides live goblin-like creatures known as Red Caps. Despite wearing spike-clad iron boots, the buck-toothed demons are said to be too fast to catch. Have you ever seen one? Have you ever spoken to one? Do you think they exist and if so what kind of things do they do? Why do you think they are called Red Caps?

Send your stories, pictures and poems to the Braemar Buzzard



What's on in and around your village?

<p>Mobile Library Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesdays</p> <p>On the following dates : Apr: 7th, 21st May: 5th, 19th</p> <p>Starting at the School (2.30pm) and finishing at St Andrew's Terrace (4.55 pm).</p> 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #cccccc;"> <th style="text-align: left;">Date</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Event</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18 Apr</td> <td>Historical Society, 7.30pm in Village Hall - Local Stories</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19 Apr</td> <td>Walking Group, 10.50am at Keiloch Car Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19 Apr/17 May</td> <td>Community Council, 7.30pm in Braemar School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 Apr</td> <td>Balmoral Road Races</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 Apr, 1 & 8 May</td> <td>Black Grouse Viewings, Mar Lodge Estate. Cost £25 (includes breakfast) ☎0844 493 2173</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25 Apr</td> <td>Bowling Club Opening Day from 12.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21 May</td> <td>Disco in Village Hall in aid of Braemar School, 9pm - 1am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 29</td> <td>Fun Day at Braemar Castle, 11am - 4pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jun 19</td> <td>Midsummer Ball, Village Hall</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Event	18 Apr	Historical Society, 7.30pm in Village Hall - Local Stories	19 Apr	Walking Group, 10.50am at Keiloch Car Park	19 Apr/17 May	Community Council, 7.30pm in Braemar School	24 Apr	Balmoral Road Races	24 Apr, 1 & 8 May	Black Grouse Viewings, Mar Lodge Estate. Cost £25 (includes breakfast) ☎0844 493 2173	25 Apr	Bowling Club Opening Day from 12.30pm	21 May	Disco in Village Hall in aid of Braemar School, 9pm - 1am	May 29	Fun Day at Braemar Castle, 11am - 4pm	Jun 19	Midsummer Ball, Village Hall
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<p>Some useful websites:</p> <p>www.marlodgeestate.org.uk</p> <p>www.discoverroyaldeeside.com</p> <p>www.braemarcastle.co.uk</p> <p>www.runbalmoral.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Please send any news/articles for the Buzzard to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">braemar.newsgroup@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Deadline for next edition: 31st May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Compilers next edition: Pete Mulvey and Selena Hill</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Adverts: cost £15 per eighth of a page.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Maggie MacAlpine ☎ 41245</p>																				
<p>Coming in the next Buzzard -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Countdown to Jacobite Day - Danish Scouts' Troop Visit - Castleton Dancers Weekend of Scottish Country Dancing 																					