

BRAEMAR BUZZARD



Compiled by Liz Robertson & Dorothy Ramsay



Winter wonderland

Braemar is still the current record holder for the lowest temperature in the UK at - 27.2 °C (recorded January 1982) and although it hasn't got quite this low (so far this winter...) it has certainly been pretty chilly. On the plus side the scenery has been spectacular and the skiing has been the best for many years. Glenshee has had 48,000 skier days to date, compared with 43,000 in total last year. Glenshee is hoping that skiing will continue for many more weeks to come which will raise income to allow it to upgrade some of the facilities. Everyone is hoping for a busy time over the mid term

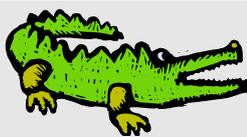


Top left: Braemar village centre January 2010 **Bottom left:** Heavy snowfall is nothing new! - photo of Ballater Road taken in around the turn of the century. **Right:** The cold weather has been tough for some of the wildlife - any suggestions for what this duck might be thinking?!

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New inside, especially for younger residents, a 'Buzzard Junior' page (page 6). This edition - find out about Crocodiles and enter the competition.

Editorial

Braemar News Group

Chair: Liz Robertson
Treasurer: Dorothy Ramsay
Committee: Pamela McAree
 Marilyn Baker
 Richard Baker
 Doug Bruce
 Susie Farquharson
 Pete Mulvey
 Margaret Palmer
Ads: Maggie MacAlpine

AGM and Buzzard Birthday Celebrations. Everyone is invited!

Come along to Taste... on Monday March 22nd to celebrate the third birthday of the Buzzard. During the afternoon (from 2 - 5 pm) in the side room of the cafe all 14 back copies of the Buzzard will be on display. The committee has compiled a special quiz (answers to be found in the back copies!) and first correct answer sheet out of the hat will win a spectacular prize! The draw will take place during the AGM. A member of the Braemar News Group will be on hand to welcome any feedback you may have past issues of the Buzzard or suggestions for content for future editions.

The third AGM of the Braemar News Group will follow the afternoon session in Taste... at 7pm - this is an open meeting, do please come along. There will be a brief report from the chair and all other formal business. Our thanks to Taste... for hosting the AGM.

Any member of the local community may, if they wish, become a member of the Braemar News Group. Membership entitles you to vote in the committee election and if help is required, you will be the first in line! If you would like to join, please speak to any member of the committee to request a membership form. However, you do not need to be a member to submit an article for publication in the Buzzard, articles are always welcome as are suggestions for new developments to the newsletter. Speak to any of the committee or email the Buzzard at the address

Please send any letter/articles for the Buzzard to: braemar.newsgroup@yahoo.co.uk or contact a newsgroup committee member

Murder Mystery, Panto and more...

Letters

A big thank you to all who took part in The Murder Mystery evening at Mar Lodge last month, both members of The Dinner Theatre Group and the caterers. It was a very enjoyable, hilarious evening. Poor Santa Claus and his floosie, they certainly got their come-uppance.

Thank you to John for the annual panto. This year it was Peter Pan, an excellent production as usual. What a beautiful singer Peter Pan was, and Tinkerbell, she was something else. I'm sure she didn't lose much sleep over learning her lines! Thank you also for arranging all the concerts over the summer. I only managed to go to the October one, but, if the others were as enjoyable as it was, I'm sorry to have missed them. I hope more can be arranged for this year.

I also had the privilege of being asked to the Primary School's Christmas Concert. It was excellent. A lot of hard work must have been put in by all the pupils and staff to produce such a good show. John, you will have to ear-mark all these children for future pantos!

Dorothy Ramsay

Gala Week 2010 – New Leadership Sought

For the past three years Braemar Newsgroup has taken on the responsibility for organising Braemar Gala Week. It takes a good deal of time and energy to maintain a successful, annual, week-long event such as this, and the members of the newsgroup feel that perhaps time has come to hand over the reins to someone or some group with new ideas and new energy. Individual members of the newsgroup committee are more than willing to put on some events during the week but are not willing to take on overall responsibility. If you think you would like to take over Gala Week please contact any member of the newsgroup.

Bellevue Cottage - Chapel Brae

Can anyone help with information as to who the current owner of this property is? The Buzzard has had a request for information from a gentleman living in Glasgow whose family used to reside in the house back in the 1930's. Please contact the Buzzard (by email or speak to any of the committee) if you can help.

Community Update:

Corriemulzie hydro-electric scheme

The feasibility of reinstating the hydro-electric scheme at Corriemulzie is being led by Braemar Community Ltd. The next step is the assessment of the twelve months of flow monitoring (just completed) before discussions on a possible business plan with other interested parties.

New shop for village

There is no new tenant signed up yet for the premises vacated by Capercaillie in the village as Invercauld Estate has been busy upgrading the premises with installation of heating and insulation. Building work should be completed soon and anyone interested in taking up the lease should contact the Estate. The plan is to have a new tenant in place by Easter. (What would we all like to see?!)

St Margaret's Episcopal Church

The Bishop has produced an 'options for the building' paper which he will put forward at an open meeting in the village hall on **22nd Feb at 7.30pm**. The Bishop is interested to establish how much enthusiasm there is within the village to take on responsibility for the building depending on what end use is agreed. Come along to the meeting on the 22nd.

New Clunieside/Golf course walk

from Society Bridge now has planning consent and is fully funded. The path work is underway. Expected completion - beginning of March.

Braemar Community Ltd.

has had a number of excellent projects suggested to them: allotments, Canadian lumber-jacks in Braemar, the Devils Elbow, WW2 fortifications, information and walk markers, a village entrance feature, fishing pond, Inverey drinking well, clearance villages, Farquharson's seat. If anyone is interested in taking forward any of these (or any other projects) please contact a member of the Braemar Community Ltd. board of directors.

Bluebird bus station development

This is being undertaken by Castlehill Housing Association and is due for completion late summer. Two blocks of 6 houses are underway. Four of the finished houses will be available for rent, two for sale.

Third Age Lunch Club

Hopes to meet fortnightly on Wednesdays in the Moorfield Hotel and is open to anyone over 60. Contact Carole Paterson ☎41493 for booking (essential) and more information.

Village Hall refurbishment

The project is still looking for major funding. Meanwhile, painting of the exterior (which will continue when the weather improves) has given the hall a much needed 'face-lift'.

Braemar Ambulance

The retained ambulance service is no further forward. More recruits to man the service are still being sought.

Balnellan Triangle

After the success of last year's 'Great Village Clear Up', volunteers are sought to help tidy up the area of land between Castleton Hall and Balnellan. It is then planned to sow wild flower seeds. Doug Bruce is co-ordinating the initiative.

Heather Hopper axed

The cross-Park bus service known as the Heather Hopper is to be axed due to the increasingly high price of keeping it going and following a joint review of transport provision in the Cairngorms National Park. The CNPA board agreed to cease funding the service - which operated from May to September - after figures revealed that it was carrying only 42 passengers a week at a cost of £78.00 per passenger. A decision will be made in April about the Braemar south service.

Police News

I trust everyone had a good Christmas and on behalf of Grampian Police and myself, I would like to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous 2010. To ensure



this, please maintain your vigilance with regard to home and vehicle security, especially when warming up your car first thing.

Friday 18 December 2009 saw the first Grampian Police Braemar Surgery with 27 attendees, and a range of issues raised. I look forward to addressing the issues raised and building upon this success.

Finally a wee thanks to those who helped a young lad see his Christmas. Having got off the bus, and unaware of his surroundings the young chap wandered to Corriemulzie. He was found, suffering from the bitter cold, by a concerned member of the public who took him to Braemar and alerted the Police.

PC Jeff Hall

Jeffrey.Hall@grampian.pnn.police.uk



Braemar SWRI 85th birthday celebrations - the cutting of the cake by the president watched by three ex-presidents. From left to right - Pat Thomson, Vi Hunter, Margaret Garden (current president) and Betty Robertson. January 2010.



Scouts help Africa

Scottish Scouting has launched a campaign to help Scouting grow in Malawi. The aim is to raise about £6,000 for the Scout Association of Malawi, not only to help more young people there to experience Scouting but, at a more basic level, just to allow the Movement to continue.

As their contribution towards the fund raising effort, members of the 1st Braemar Cubs and Scouts were each given £2 from which to make as much profit as possible. Some of them used the money to buy ingredients to bake cakes and cookies and then to brave the bracing Braemar November weather to sell them (see photo). Some of the other ways in which money was raised included car washing, holding a Malawi scout tea party, selling bird feeders, making

wooden reindeer, a sponsored bike ride and dancing in the Invercauld Hotel. Beavers did their bit by filling smartie tubes with coins. (If you need ideas for fund raising, ask the scout group!) Together, the group raised a fantastic £1,300. Well done to everyone involved and a big thank you to all in the village for supporting the cause.

Visit www.deesidescouts.org.uk online to see more photographs and catch up with all the latest scout news from the 1st Braemar Group.

Focus on:

The Braemar Mountain Rescue Service

We are lucky indeed to have a Mountain Rescue team based in Braemar. That there is need for such a service is witnessed by the number of call-outs - forty one in 2009. There are currently 36 members in the team, who come from an area stretching from Banchory in the east to Mar Lodge in the west. Each member commits to training twice a month plus additional days on the hill to maintain fitness and competence and to being on call all day, every day! Members need to be enthusiastic mountaineers and good team players. Money to run the service comes partly from the government with the rest from fundraising and contributions from the public.

I asked the secretary (Graham McDonald) if he had any good stories to relate about past rescues and the one he recalled (from many!) was the occasion late one winter night some years ago when two climbers went missing on Lochnagar. Members of the rescue service battled through terrible conditions in their search but were rewarded, as dawn broke, to see two figures staggering towards them. Spirits lifted, a sense of achievement spread through the team, the missing walkers beamed with delight to reach safety until... it became clear that these two were not the missing climbers. The search continued and luckily, a couple of hours later the 'original' two missing climbers were found - search for two, get two free!

Liz Robertson

Castleton Dancers raise £25k!

The Castleton Dancers reached new heights over Christmas as their fund raising efforts topped £25k. Each week throughout the year, the team dance for the tourists staying in the Invercauld and Fife Hotels. After their performance a collection is taken for charity. A generous donation from the Moorfield Hotel on Hogmanay evening took the total to date (raised over approximately three years) to £25k. The funds go to a mixture of local and national causes, but occasionally also to worthwhile international causes. Some of those that have benefited are listed below:



Local causes/charities: Junior Games 2007-2009, Castleton Hall, Village Hall, Kindrochit Court, CLAN Cancer Support, Crathie Opportunity Holidays, Braemar Primary School, Mothers & Toddlers Group; Scouts, church clock restoration, plus items for the village - Christmas lights, picnic benches, flower tubs.

National charities: British Heart Foundation, Children in Need, National Children's Leukemia Foundation, Erskine, Ghurka Welfare Trust, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Macmillan Cancer Support, Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Osteoporosis Society, Parkinsons Disease Society, Epilepsy Scotland.

International Charities: The Smile Train, Phillipines Flood Disaster, Suits on Bikes, Medicins Sans Frontieres (for Haiti)

New! - Braemar Walking Group

Following an open meeting at the Moorfield Hotel on January 11th, a new walking group has been formed in the village. The initial plans are to hold two walks per month, one during the week alternating with one at the weekend. The type of walk will be varied to provide interest and accessibility e.g. some circular, some shorter, some more strenuous, some with a historical theme etc. Two volunteers will take turns to plan and reconnoitre each walk. Each walker is responsible for their own safety and under 18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Anyone interested in joining the group should add their name and email address to the database by phoning Richard ☎ 41225 or emailing braemarwalkers@btinternet.com

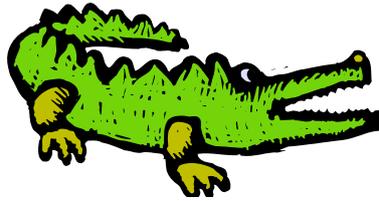


January 25th - Ballochbuie forest, inaugural walk!

Historical Association

Nearly 40 people turned up at the Moorfield Hotel on January 17th to talk about setting up a Braemar Historical Association. From the conversation that took place it appeared that there was not only great enthusiasm for such a group but that there is also plenty of local historical material for the association to work on - the problems being how to record the material, where to start (!) and how to store and archive the material. A committee was formed under the chairmanship of Neil Bain who will take advice from other similar societies and professional archivists and report back to the whole group. The next open meeting is planned for the third Sunday of February in the Moorfield hotel at 7.30 pm. Anyone who didn't get along to the first meeting but who would like their name included on the circulation list should contact Neil ☎ 41420 or email neil@braemarhighlandsafaris.co.uk

Hi Buzzard Juniors



Did you enjoy the wonderful ticking crocodile in the village pantomime of Peter Pan? This issue's junior page is all about **crocodiles**; some facts, some fantasy and some fun.

Did you Know?

There are more than 23 species of crocodiles, some as long as 20 feet – that's longer than 3 tall men, and some just 5 feet. They can move at up to 28 miles per hour on land, and even faster underwater so don't ever challenge one to a race because you could never win. If you were the child in a crocodile family you would have lots of company, but also lots of competition from your 90 brothers and sisters. It's just as well crocodiles don't wear socks. Can you imagine the amount of laundry and the matching up of socks and all the arguments if you happened to get the wrong pair? As crocodiles can live up to 60 years old, you would probably have a Granny or Grandad to help you sort stuff out, but at the age of two, you would be off on your own adventures. Crocodiles can live for several months without food but when they do feel hungry watch out. They can open their jaws very wide and swallow their chosen victim whole. And we are not talking about a burger here, but a whole goat, or calf. If you are ever lucky (or unlucky) enough to see a mother crocodile swallowing her babies don't call the SSPCCC (Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Crocodile Children) she is just hiding them inside a pouch in her mouth to protect them.

Braemar's Crocodile

Did you know that a long time ago, there lived in the waters of the Clunie a great monster that some people said was a huge crocodile. Known as Tad-Lozgann, this creature had an insatiable appetite and the families of the village took it in turns to feed it with whatever livestock they had.

What if a crocodile had a toothache?

Shel Silverstein's poem explores what might happen.

The Crocodile went to the dentist
And sat down in the chair,
And the dentist said, "Now tell me, sir,
Why does it hurt and where?"
And the Crocodile said, "I'll tell you the truth,
I have a terrible ache in my tooth,"
And he opened his jaws so wide, so wide,
That the dentist, he climbed right inside,
And the dentist laughed, "Oh isn't this fun?"
As he pulled the teeth out, one by one.
And the Crocodile cried, "You're hurting me so!
Please put down your pliers and let me go."
But the dentist laughed with a Ho Ho Ho,
And he said, "I still have twelve to go-
Oops, that's the wrong one, I confess,
But what's one crocodile's tooth more or less?"
Then suddenly, the jaws went SNAP,
And the dentist was gone, right off the map,
And where he went one could only guess...
To North or South or East or West...
He left no forwarding address.
But what's one dentist, more or less?

Shel Silverstein

For more fascinating facts you can find out about crocodiles on the internet. Try www.crocsite.com or <http://a-z-animals.com/animals/crocodile/>

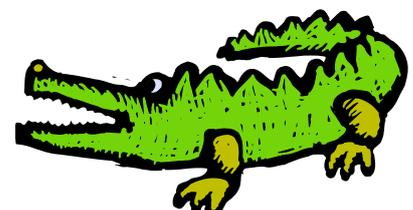
Competition

Our competition is for you to make up a short story or/ poem or/ draw a picture about the legend of Braemar's Crocodile by March 20th.

Email it to The Buzzard at:

Braemar.newsgroup@yahoo.co.uk

(or pass your entry to one of the BNG committee members - listed on page 2). The best entry will be printed on the Buzzard Junior page in the next issue.





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Do you have any odd jobs needing done?

Cleaning Gutters, Raking Leaves,
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Iain MacKay
All jobs considered
Tel:013397 41245
Mob: 07753 278 597
All jobs considered.




Who do you think your are?

Farr d'ye bide? Using the census

Alison Grant MacKintosh

The next census will be taken on 27 March 2011. The first national census in Scotland was taken in 1841, and there's been one every ten years since. The records become available for re-search after 100 years.

Anyone whose family has lived in Braemar since the earliest available documents can piece together a basic family history from census returns alone. It won't be entirely accurate, either because the enumerator couldn't spell or because your ancestors were economical with the truth, but it's a fascinating picture of how they lived.

The 1841 census is a bit basic but should give: address; name and occupation of everyone in the house on census night; their age rounded up or down to the nearest five years; whether they were born in the county. From 1851 there's more detail, including relationship of each person to the head of the household; age on census night; marital status; where they were born; whether they were blind, deaf or dumb. From 1861 you'll also get the number of rooms with one or more windows. From 1871, whether anyone was 'imbecile or lunatic'. In 1891, whether they spoke Gaelic.

Don't worry if ages are crossed out – this indicates official work on the census and doesn't mean the ages are wrong. If someone seems to be missing, don't assume they died young. The census tells us where everyone was on that one night. A child may have spent the night with grannie; a young person might be away at school, in service, in the armed forces, in a prison or poorhouse, or working away from home. A young wife might have gone back to her mother's to give birth; or older children might be staying with an auntie while a new sibling was born. People might even have been away on holiday. All this used to be difficult to trace. Now that the records are searchable, it's easy, and you might be surprised where people turn up.

Try scrolling back or forward a page, to find out about their neighbours. You won't find Robert Louis Stevenson at RLS Cottage, because he wasn't there on a census night – but you will find his landlady, the Mrs McGregor he mentions in his diaries. Remember you're at the mercy of what your ancestor said, and what the enumerator wrote down.

Whats on in and around your village

Mobile Library Service

Wednesdays

On the following dates :

Apr: 8th, 22nd

May: 6th, 20th

Starting at the School (2.30 pm) and finishing at St Andrew's Terrace (4.55 pm).



Bin Collections - Thursdays

Wheelie Bins:

March: 11th, 25th

April: 8th, 22nd

Recycling:

March: 18th

Apr: 1st, 15th, 29th



Did you identify all the people in the photographs published under 'All our Yesterdays 1973' in the Xmas edition of the Buzzard? These were:

A Miss Lindsay & Mrs Holroyd **B** Mrs Fraser & Mr McKellar **C** Mr & Mrs A Cheyne **D** Mrs Petrie **E** Mrs Duff **F** Mr G.McIntosh **G** Mrs McLaren **H** Miss Pawson **I** Mrs S.Bruce **J** Sgt J.Duff **K** Mrs Rose **L** Mrs T.Gordon & Mr I.McLaren **M** Mrs Murray **N** Mr & Mrs D.Macdonald
 Thank you to Liz McKellar for sharing these photos with us.

Date	Event
Feb 15 Mon	Community Council 7.30pm Braemar School.
Feb 18 Thu	SWRI Kindrochit Court 7.30pm Talk on CHAS (Children's Hospice Association Scotland)
Feb 21 Sun	Braemar Historical Society 7.30 pm Moorfield Hotel
Feb 22 Mon	St Margaret's Church - the future? Open meeting in the Village hall. 7.30pm. All welcome.
Feb 24 Wed	Bowling Club AGM 7pm Old Bakery
Mar 12 Fri	Ski Club Auction Dinner 7.30 for 8.00 pm, Village Hall. Tickets - enquire at Taste...
Mar 15 Mon	Community Council 7.30pm Braemar School.
Mar 18 Thu	SWRI Open Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm Talk by Mr Temple Melville on 'The Gurkha Welfare Trust' All welcome.
Mar 22 Mon	Braemar News Group - 3rd year Birthday celebrations at Taste... (2-5 pm) followed by AGM at 7pm. All welcome. (Details - see page 2 of this edition)
March	First meeting for all those interested in getting involved with organising the Jacobite Day, Braemar Castle (Sunday July 25). For more information contact Marilyn ☎013397 41225
April 3 Sat	Braemar Castle re-opens. Volunteers always needed to help out ☎ Sheila Anderson 013397 41599

Weekly Events

Tuesdays	Scottish Country Dancing. 7.30 - 9.00 pm. Castleton Hall. Open to all (adults). More info ☎013397 41225
Thursdays	Braemar Fruit & Veg stall. 12.30 - 2.00 pm. Village Hall. Orders may be given in advance to Mary at the Health Centre (Tuesday for Thursday collection).
Thursdays	Scout Group - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts. Meets Castleton Hall. More information ☎Duncan 013397 41030

Please send any letter/articles for the Buzzard to:

braemar.newsgroup@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline for next edition: March 28th

Compilers next edition: Susie Farquharson & Maggie MacAlpine

Adverts: cost £15 per eighth of a page. To book space contact Maggie MacAlpine ☎013397 41245