

# Braemar Buzzard



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



## Braemar Care Initiative Seeks Recruits!

*The steering group for the Braemar Care Initiative is developing a new model of care provision for our community, utilizing locally recruited carers. The model will enhance the care currently provided for the elderly and vulnerable by Council services.*

On the 10th May the Braemar Care Initiative held a workshop at the golf club to help understand what the best organisational structure might be and to plan how to move forward.

We heard from similar projects including Boleskine Care/Highland Home Carers a project in Foyers (Highland) and the Health and Wellbeing Co-operative from Perthshire. We also heard from VSA, Cornerstone, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership and the Scottish Government. At the event were representatives from the Care Inspectorate and NHS Grampian. It was clear from discussions that our project will evolve and change shape as it finds its feet.

The steering group has identified a model which will be a good starting point for Braemar based on the experience of the other projects. This is most likely to use self-employed carers from Braemar to support people in Braemar. As some people may feel uncertain about self-employment we intend **to hold an event in June** which will explain the responsibilities of self employment and offer answers and support to those considering being a carer.

If you are interested in being a carer or a volunteer for the Braemar Care Initiative please contact Sandra Falconer, Aimi Blueman or any member of the steering group (Carole Paterson, Dr Donald Cruickshank, Richard Baker, Maggie MacKay, Sharon Mutch or Aileen Lawrence.)

**Aimi Blueman**

## Braemar's refurbished Play park is brilliant!

Take a look at the re-modelled play park - you will wish you were five years old again! It's taken a while but wow! was it worth it - it is perhaps the best playpark on Deeside. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen and especially to Joanne Morris who championed the project.



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**Coming soon... Braemar Junior Highland Games July 8th** [www.braemarjuniorgames.com](http://www.braemarjuniorgames.com)

# Editorial

## Braemar News Group

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

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**For advertising:** contact Maggie MacKay  
 ☎013397 41245. Note that Adverts now cost £20 per eighth of a page (first price rise for 10 years!)

*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.*

## Community Update:

**Village Hall** At the AGM of the Village hall on May 16 John Macpherson as chairperson, gave a brief synopsis on the events and maintenance of the Hall this year. He stated that the Hall was there for the community and the fees would be kept as reasonable as possible. The long overdue, internal painting plus sanding/treatment to the floor has given the Hall a new lease of life but further fund raising and decisions on the long term future of our Hall are needed. (A recent donation from Kindrochit Court has helped to keep funds in the black - see photo next page). To this end the new committee will be meeting together with an architect, to update the development plans. Whatever happens, improvements to the toilets are the next priority. John was quizzed on the next Pantomime, his 25th as producer, maybe something special in the pipeline this year? Secretary Margaret Clelland has stepped down after serving on the Committee since 1993 (thank you Margaret) and has handed over the duty to Rosy Wood.

Richard Baker

**Community Orchard** the planting of fruit trees, memorial or otherwise, are more than welcome as are visits for picnics, to play, a seat in the sun, a trim of the trees, plant some flowers... The addition of the Community Garden in no way restricts access, all are welcome.

**Appeal for more cardiac responders** If you would like to become part of a network of volunteer trained cardiac responders across the north-east of Scotland, please get in touch with the Sandpiper Wildcat Initiative ☎07793 238460

Email: [wildcat@sandpipertrust.org](mailto:wildcat@sandpipertrust.org)

**Braemar Charitable Trust** is delighted to have been chosen as one of the charities to be supported by the Co-op. Each time members cards are scanned at the checkout, cash is added to the charity pot (so if you haven't got a card, please apply for one - they are free!) The Trust supports in a quiet way individuals and families through times of need as well as administrating the medical fund. It is funded through the Highland Society and occasional collections at funerals.

**Introducing... Nicolle Macdonald** the new Community Safety and Support Officer. Nicolle has a desk at the Braemar Fire Station with a remit to help build a safer community - undertaking home safety visits, issuing fire safety advice, raising awareness of bogus callers, fitting smoke alarms and so on. She would like to be made aware about any safety issues affecting our community and is happy to arrange safety visits or give talks to community groups. Contact her ☎07554 776204 or

[Nicolle.macdonald@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Nicolle.macdonald@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**Crathie Opportunity Holidays** The cottages have been quite busy over the winter period and we are now looking forward to welcoming all returning guests over the summer. Forthcoming fundraising events include:

- Film Evening in the V&A Halls on 5 August during Ballater Victoria Week
- Golf Day at Balmoral on 21 October
- 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch and auction at Balmoral on 3 December.

As always, anyone wishing to become a Friend of COH should ☎ Maggie on 013397

**Braemar & Crathie Church** would like to thank everyone for attending the Christian Aid Coffee morning which raised £441 - supporting many good causes around the world. Other news: there's a special evening service on Sunday June 4th at 6.30pm at the Parish Church, families particularly welcome. The popular summer club takes place in the village hall from Mon 31 July- Fri 4 Aug. All children, local or visiting, aged P1 to entering S1, welcome. Teenage helpers much appreciated.

Watch for details of the biannual Parish Church sale in August.

**Tennis Club Update** Plans for the funding of this project are progressing well with encouraging support from Cairngorm Leader and the Lawn Tennis Association - however still much to do! A club constitution, architects plans and lease arrangements are also all in hand. **Next Step** - a meeting for members and other interested parties has been scheduled for early July to update everyone on progress and formalise the club's presence, exact date to be confirmed. For further information on the tennis club project please contact Sue Harper at [susan.harper@me.com](mailto:susan.harper@me.com)



### Thank you Kindrochit Court

for raising the amazing sum of £1380 through a series of coffee mornings for Village Hall funds.



## Councillor's Corner

### Geva Blackett

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Its been a busy few months with two elections to fight. I was delighted to have won the by-election to the Cairngorms National Park Authority board as well as being re-elected so resoundingly to the council - which allows me to continue to help make Braemar a sustainable place to live. I firmly believe that you have to live here to understand what life here is like because it is very different and very special.

Housing will continue to be one of my key priorities as will tourism which hopefully will provide employment opportunities up the hill as well as in the heart of the village itself and certainly the Fife Arms should set people's creative instincts flowing!

By the end of the summer Simon and I hope to have moved out of Clunie Cottage and into Balnellan House – it will be a bittersweet move as after 24 years in this house, bringing up our family with the most unbelievable view of Lochnagar has been incredible but Balnellan is a much more manageable size and hopefully warmer! Both Simon and I are totally committed to the community and look forward to continuing to be part of it for many years to come. As ever, get in touch if I can be of help.

## Community Council

For the first time in many years there were more candidates than places for this year's Community Council elections and 104 people turned out to vote which was impressive.

Public meetings are held on the third Monday of every second month. The next meeting is on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June at the new time of 7pm. Please feel free to approach any member of the council with issues you would like to raise so they can be added to the agenda for discussion. You can also contact the Secretary, Joanne Morris by email at [braemarcsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:braemarcsecretary@outlook.com) or alternatively you can drop a handwritten note in at the garage. Your 2017/18 Community Council representatives are as follows:

**Chair:** Caroline Hadley Smith

**Vice Chair:** Trevor Garlick

**Treasurer:** Alasdair Colquhoun

**Secretary:** Joanne Morris

**Other members:** Sue Sherrard; Kim Neilson; Samantha Tait; Aimi Blueman; Shaila Daniels; Jayne Watson (co-opted)

The hot topic just now is **Village Parking** and we are trying hard to come up with solutions to a difficult situation. No-one is keen to have yellow lines but no-one wants to see an accident happening either so please show respect for both public safety and the lack of parking spaces by parking sensibly or leaving your car at home. Please do not park in a way that obstructs vision for other road users and pedestrians. The Community Council are having an extra discussion on 7<sup>th</sup> June to come up with ideas to tackle the problem and these will be discussed publicly at the next open meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Please come along to hear more about this and other community issues.

**Caroline Hadley-Smith**

At the AGM in April, Carole Paterson (ex Chair) reported on a number of issues including:

- The forthcoming new signage on the main road at either side of the village (hopefully to be in place by summer)
- The struggle to get the bus route to the south re-instated for the summer (currently considered by Stagecoach to be 'not viable' but discussions still ongoing)
- The successful formation of a village resilience team
- The unfortunate increase around the village of 'dog fouling'. The 'green dog walking' scheme promotes the cleaning up of dog mess after your dog and issues free poo bags and gifts to those residents who sign up. 'Poo' bags are also for sale at the garage, Co-op and caravan site. 'Emergency' bags can be obtained at the TIC. (Dog walkers are also asked by the CNPA to keep close control of dogs around ground nesting birds until the end of nesting season - i.e. until end July.)

## Kindrochit Castle **Pete Mulvey**

At last a formal agreement has been signed between Aberdeenshire Council and Braemar Community Ltd confirming the responsibilities of each party for the future management of the Kindrochit castle site and setting out the role of the Friends of Kindrochit Castle group within this relationship.

Ownership of the Site and Castle remains with the Council and they have now committed to be responsible for all of the future maintenance of the internal and external fabric of the structure, the grounds, the cost of grass cutting and carrying out repairs for any acts of vandalism, accidental damage, theft or acts of God. It also remains the responsibility of the Council to undertake any necessary work to trees in and around the site and I have recently been advised that some pruning work is to be carried out this year and will open up better views of the site from the bridge while improving the efficiency of the flood lighting which has already been installed.

The Friends of Kindrochit Castle (and the school 'Guardians of Kindrochit castle') are to undertake 'operational and janitorial' duties to maintain the cleanliness of the site and also to report any necessary maintenance issues to the Council. They are to ensure that the leaflet holders on site are regularly stocked, the flag flying and that any proposed use of the site for community events is appropriate and responsibly organised. The Friends are to have exclusive access to the monies raised from the donations box to use for the benefit of the castle - or for any other appropriate purposes in the village.

After years of neglect it is lovely to see the Castle restored, its importance recognised, and once again being used and appreciated by both residents and visitors to the village.



## St Margaret's Project

As the serious business of securing funding to restore and develop St. Margaret's continues tirelessly behind the scenes, the team have been busy creating an ambitious and varied programme of concerts and events for 2017.

Some dedicated hands were on deck for a big spring clean-up in preparation for the launch of the season's live concerts. The first of these was on 26<sup>th</sup> May when a very enjoyable evening was held at 'Transatlantic Connections' featuring Fiona Kennedy and Paul Anderson in collaboration with Nashville singer Mary Gauthier.

There's a short lull in June whilst final preparations are made for a very busy week of entertainment and cultural events in July. The Three Inch Fools start the week off with a bang on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July**, visiting Braemar as part of their UK wide summer tour. They're a five-strong troupe of actors with a variety of musical instruments, props and costumes to perform an imaginative and vibrant musical take on Romeo and Juliet. This is a fun show for all the family. On **Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup>** we are trying out something completely different. Cornish composer Graham Fitkin and Scottish harpist Ruth Wall have curated a mini festival featuring world-class musicians who will perform a wide repertoire from Renaissance Portugal, through Tallis and Bach, to present day Scotland. Graham has even composed a specific piece of music for the event having been inspired when he visited Braemar last year. The festival 'One Fine Day' will incorporate performances by Simon Haram, an outstanding saxophonist, Ruth Palmer *'the most distinctive violinist of her generation'*, Ruth Wall renowned Scottish harpist and the Marian Consort, a young, dynamic and internationally recognised early music vocal ensemble. To make the evening complete the tickets include food, refreshments and an opportunity to meet the artists in the Castleton Hall during the interval. The finale of the week will be a very energetic and enthusiastic 50-piece youth orchestra from Holland, the Riccottini Ensemble visiting us with their wonderful repertoire as part of the Aberdeen International Youth Festival.

In **August** we're delighted to be displaying the Braemar Royal Highland Society games exhibits whilst they host the games. This will run alongside a solo exhibition of oil paintings by Aboyne artist Stephanie Vandem who has created a series of paintings around the theme of the heavy weight lifting events. This is opening to the public on **26<sup>th</sup> August** and will show for a week. The Aberdeen University Choir will play for us again courtesy of Paul Mealor on **Sunday Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

We have several other plans in progress for August including a lunchtime concert by Ten Strings Duo on the 21<sup>st</sup> and a German Youth Orchestra on 24<sup>th</sup>, more details of all these events will go onto our website [www.stmargaretsbraemar.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsbraemar.org.uk)

If you would like to be notified via E-mail of our up and coming events then please contact [admin@stmargaretsbraemar.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmargaretsbraemar.org.uk) to be added to our mailing list. We hope to welcome you to St Margaret's for some of these events over the summer.



## Braemar Castle

**Doreen Wood**

Our tenth season got off to a great start with a rise in both visitor numbers and income and more than a thousand people visiting the Castle in April. Our Press day in March to launch the season generated considerable coverage across the media with pieces on STV news, BBC radio, the Press and Journal, the Evening Express and the Piper all of which will have helped boost numbers.

Shake Hands with the Past on Easter Sunday was a great success and was much enjoyed by both visitors and volunteers. It also gave us great photo opportunities!

Emergency lighting has now been installed so we no longer have to stumble about when locking up on dark nights. A floodlight with a movement sensor has also been installed to light the car parking area at the side of the Castle. We are indebted to Bert McIntosh of McIntosh Plant who has again stepped in to fill in the potholes on the driveway and the car park. We are very grateful to our many benefactors.

Ian Davidson who has just retired from the National Trust for Scotland and was heavily involved in the re-harling work at Craigievar Castle is now working with us and he and Matt Halliday are formulating a plan and timetable for the reharl. Historic Environment Scotland have been on site and are engaged in the process. The first task is exploratory work to establish the best way forward. This will cost in the region of £20K. Matt is about to launch a Crowdfunding appeal for £10K under a new scheme which will then be match funded by Historic Lottery Fund to take us up to £20K.

In June, we will again host the Craig Choinnich Hill Race. The date is the longest day, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, we have the first of our two Murder Mystery Dinners, written this year by Susie Farquharson. Tickets are now on sale from the Castle or Lochcarron. Tickets are £25.

After the great success of the Braemar Highland Fling last year, we will repeat on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and use the day as a celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And looking ahead to August we will again host an Edwardian Princess Dolgorouki Dinner on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August and our highly popular WW1 concert on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August (see more below.)

We are delighted to have recruited several new volunteers this season and if you'd like to join the team, we'd love to hear from you. And remember if you are a member of Braemar Community Limited (everyone in the village is entitled to join and it's free) then you have free entry to the Castle. If you are not a member, and would like an application form, please contact Al Hubbard at Cranford or Email: [info@braemarcastle.co.uk](mailto:info@braemarcastle.co.uk)



*The cast of - 'Shake hands with the past' day*

Why not step back one hundred years on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> August? Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Haldane Farquharson of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Gordons and his wife, Zoe Farquharson will again be hosting a fund-raising afternoon tea with period costumes and musical entertainment to commemorate the centenary of World War One. This year, we will remember the young men from the village who fell during 1917 as well as enjoying songs and poetry from the period. Tickets will be available from the usual sources.



## Maggie Gruer

by Katy Fennema

The name Maggie Gruer was a famous one to walkers and climbers in the Cairngorms. She lived at Thistle Cottage, Inverey and was famous for her hospitality. Thistle Cottage had two rooms at ground level and two above with a small room out the back. Beds were crammed in and their occupants were charged a shilling for bed and breakfast, or sixpence if they didn't have a shilling. Mainly men would stay there, although there were occasionally ladies - one describing it as *'tea from five to nine, and in every corner there's a man.'*



Thistle Cottage. Inverey

It was often said that Thistle Cottage had elastic walls - indeed Maggie would often give up her own bed for one of her guests. Walkers would be met at the door with *'ye'll hae an egg?'* which generally translated into boiled eggs, oatcakes, scones, freshly churned butter, jam and tea from a big brown teapot that was always ready for action on her hob. Maggie would often hold dances in her threshing barn - it would be crammed with 50-60 people - shepherds, ghillies, maids and locals. John Morgan, the postman, would play his fiddle and Maggie would provide tea at midnight.

A gentleman who was later to lose his life in World War One wrote *'found Glen Tilt road, then over to the Dee. Inverey? Lights ahead. All very tired. At last the good woman, most kind, and supper of eggs and cold mutton. Catholic lithographs of Popes and Saints. All to bed, gloriously tired.'* Maggie told of how her mother was worried about one of her guests who had failed to return to Thistle Cottage after an ambitious day on the hill. Her mother would lie on the road, listening for his footsteps, unable to rest until he was back.

Maggie Gruer was a distant relative of John Lamont, another Inverey resident, and was present at the unveiling of the monument to him in 1934. A dedicated anti-Tory, she remembered Liberal leader Gladstone visiting Thistle Cottage when she was a child.

Maggie died in 1939 aged 77.



Glen Clunie Lodge, Braemar

27. 5. 05

## Whatever became of Glen Clunie Lodge?

**Tom Kelly**

☎ **07971 538250**

Email: [tomkelly@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:tomkelly@blueyonder.co.uk)



Postcards of the early 1900s - and the OS map of 1902 - show a substantial house called Glen Clunie Lodge between the A93 and the Clunie, three miles north of the Cairnwell. Tom Kelly is researching its fate. If you have stories or clues, please get in touch (contact details above).



## Book Shelf...

**Fiona Hunter**

'Elizabeth is Missing' by Emma Healy has been the hot read in Braemar over the last few weeks. The novel is a mystery with a twist; the narrator is living with dementia. We immediately have a double reaction. We anticipate the additional challenge of unravelling the mystery with such an unreliable narrator and we feel a little anxious that the book will be challenging. Both reactions turn out to be right.

The mystery is a double one. Maud is certain that her friend is missing because her numerous notes to herself tell her so. She is a determined lady and, despite the fog and muddle of her dementia she wants to find Elizabeth. Woven throughout Maud's present-day search for her friend is her search seventy years ago for her sister. The intermingling of these two stories highlights how Maud's dementia makes the past clear as day but makes her forget she's just eaten.

Unexpectedly, this book is full of gentle, wry humour although the moments of comedy are often tinged with sadness or frustration. Maud's daughter, Helen is her staunch carer and Emma Healy, cleverly illustrates frustrations and emotion on both sides.

*"I'm not allowed to eat," I say, picking up the photo. "That woman told me."*

*"What woman?"*

*"The woman," I say. "God, I'm sick of explaining myself all the time. That woman who works here. Is that right? She works here."*

*"What are you talking about?"*

*"You know the one ... Yes, you do. She works here. Always busy. Always cross. Always in a rush."*

*"I think you mean me, Mum."*

Both mysteries remain blended until the end, when they are both neatly resolved but sadly Maud's own confusion has increased. Emma Healy's sharp insight, clever attention to domestic detail and use of the present tense make this a believable, moving and thought-provoking read.

### Note:

1. There are three book clubs currently running in Braemar (for details see Community Matters Flyer). Two of the book clubs have read and discussed this book so that there are plenty of copies about to borrow - just ask!
2. Aberdeenshire Library Service operates a book cupboard in the Tourist Information Office (TIC) - you can borrow, return and request books here and join the library service if you aren't already a member. The TIC is open every day so LOTS of opportunities for reading! The library service also has an extensive collection of e books to borrow.

## Samba Drums Marilyn Baker

On the weekend of 6th and 7th May, two of the Samba Sisters came all the way from Dumfries to start Braemar on the path to having its very own Samba Drum band. Sixteen eager drummers attended the three sessions on offer and, according to teachers, Alison and Saskia, they made great progress....or at least great noise! Another lesson is planned for the first weekend in June, and hopefully, after that, we'll be able to practice and perfect what



we have learned. Drumming will be introduced to the school children too, and maybe we'll have a youth band before long.

What's in a name? Can you help?

Suggestions are

welcome.

Braemar Beatz, Braemar Bangers, Deeside Drums, Castleton Clangers? Or something better?



The interest in Samba grew through the annual **Braemar Creative Arts Festival** which is now in its 6th year. The committee is currently putting together the programme for 2017 **October 18<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>**, and would welcome suggestions for new classes in music, art and craft, dance and drama. If you have a desire to learn something new in the arts, please email [braemarartsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:braemarartsfestival@gmail.com) with your ideas.

## Music in Braemar

There's no shortage of music in Braemar whether you want to actively participate or just listen in. Some of the options include:



- **Samba Drumming** (see above!)
- Traditional music - the Blaeberries meet every Monday evening with a mix of fiddles, whistles, guitar, drums. Contact Dave Sherrard for further information ☎41516
- **Piping** - Monday evenings ☎ Dianne 07873 952644 and of course listen in every Sunday afternoons in the village centre, July and August.
- **Ukulele** - G7 meets Friday evenings in the Moorfield hotel and Tuesday mornings in the golf club. New beginners welcome. This is a quiet, small, easy to learn, inexpensive FUN instrument. To get involved ☎ Liz 41030
- **Choir** - meets Sunday evenings in Castleton Hall - numbers rapidly expanding! Interested? then contact Sue Sherrard ☎41516
- Frequent music events - check out both the St Margaret's and the Village Hall programmes for summer events

## Too much of a good thing?

**Angus McNichol, Invercauld Estate**

Spring in upper Deeside this year, and particularly during April, has been unusually dry and sunny. And who doesn't like a sunny spring? It's been a boon for tourism in Braemar with the caravan park busy and walkers, mountain bikers and others able to enjoy the stunning scenery around the village at its best. Unusually, the main concern for many has often been how to keep cool and well hydrated rather than how to keep the rain off.

Such weather is of course very welcome. However, it does bring challenges in upland environments such as those around Braemar. The Invercauld Estate gamekeepers for example were generally pleased with the amount of managed heather burning they were able to do this spring to help rejuvenate the heather sward and maintain a diverse plant age structure. However a lot of the time planned burning could not take place as the dry weather resulted in a risk that fires could get out of control. By late April and early May the risk of accidental fires being started by careless campers or others was at times very high. We were lucky here that there were no major outbreaks of unintended moorland fires but some other parts of northern Scotland did not fare so well.

The dry conditions helped lambing (albeit some snow in late April, just like last year, proved a significant problem for a few days) but the grass has not been getting the rain it needs to make the best start to the growing season. The sun we have had seems to have brought a lot of broadleaved trees into leaf earlier than normal but they too need moisture as well to thrive and put on vital early season growth. Birdlife in the hills also requires water, not just to drink but to encourage the insects that are so important to the diets of ground nesting species such as grouse, golden plover, curlew and lapwing. With so many private water supplies around Braemar, people can suffer too with a risk that some supplies can dry up in extreme conditions.

Fishing on the upper River Dee has been better than for a number of years and catches have perhaps been surprising given how low the river has been. By mid-May the Clunie, a major feeder of the Dee with a catchment in the order of almost 50 square miles, looked in parts more like a burn with only a thin ribbon of water flowing through it. Nevertheless, it is difficult not to conclude that had there been more 'normal' river levels for this time of year catches would have been materially higher still.

So- yes, a sunny, dry spring is indeed something to be grateful for: but in the countryside around Braemar, even this can sometimes be too much of a good thing.



*Volunteers helping to plant trees along the A93 south of Braemar for the Cairngorm BIG weekend, May 2017*

## The Fife Arms

**Federica Bertolini** [www.thefifearms.com](http://www.thefifearms.com)

Steady progress has taken place at the hotel in the last few months. The excavation at the back is now complete and building of the new basement is well underway. The LPG gas tanks have been craned in and buried underground. Exciting developments are taking place internally. Several bathroom fittings have now been installed on the top floors. Tiling and decorating contractors are at work to give the new bedrooms and bathrooms a truly authentic Victorian feel.

The huge pile of rubble you have all been able to see in the back garden will be magically transformed by garden designer Jinny Blom, creating a space for all to enjoy. Jinny knows the Highlands well having worked at Corroul, the Estate owned by the Rausing family near Fort William. She has a very practical, no non-sense approach and has a reputation for being particularly sensitive to the surroundings she is working in. Her gardens are created to last and never seem overly designed, but fit naturally within the landscape around them as if they had always been there... We are very excited to see how her garden will complement and enhance the project.

On my agenda, recruitment is starting to take a more central role. I have planned a few open days to take place in the autumn and early next year. I have also arranged to attend a few job fairs and carry out individual presentations to University and College students in Scotland. We will approach recruitment with a very inclusive frame of mind. We want to hear from people from all walks of life who have the right attitude and a warm smile. We will be open to part time and seasonal availability and will make sure that as many jobs as possible are offered locally as long as the candidates have a passion for great service.

The next Business Round Table will take place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Mews Office from 6 – 8pm. The theme will be Job Opportunities and everyone is welcome!



## Gardening Talk...

**Caroline Hadley-Smith**

Email [schs@btinternet.com](mailto:schs@btinternet.com) ☎41558

May is a month when gardeners can get excited about creating instant vibrant displays of summer bedding plants however the old phrase "Ne'er cast a clout till May be out" should be a reminder to the over enthusiastic! The phrase apparently has been in written use since 1732 and 'Clout' meaning cloth suggests not to discard your winter clothing too soon. May however refers not to the month of May but the first flowering of the Hawthorn flower, known as the May flower. This can bloom as early as April in warmer southern parts of the country but as late as June in chillier Braemar. If you enthusiastically put your tubs and baskets out too soon there's a good chance a ground frost will catch you out and destroy your hard work. Garden Centres tempt us with packs of stunning blooms far too early so if you can't wait it's advisable to use some protective plant fleece.



Bedding & hanging basket plants are known as "annuals" which comes from the Latin word for "year", *annus*, and last for only a portion of a year even in their native climates. They are called bedding plants because they are used to create instant ground beds of colour and with dead heading & a regular feed will bloom all summer long. All over the country councils provide towns and villages with displays of these vivid plants, often in hanging baskets, to celebrate summer.

**Here in Braemar our free plants arrive from Aberdeenshire Council in the second week of June. It's a mad frenzy to get the 1500 plants all safely watered and planted. An even bigger challenge is keeping them watered, weeded, dead headed & looking good through until September. If anyone would like to help please contact me via Wild Thistle shop. This year I'm looking for people who will volunteer to tend a specific couple of tubs or boxes near their house or business to spread the work load. If you would like help keep Braemar colourful please let me know.**

## Community Garden Aimi Blueman



The Community Garden now has around 60 members (full members and supporters) and with funding from garden membership, BCL, the Community Council, The Fife Arms and Marr Area Partnership we have purchased some garden equipment, seeds and plants.

The garden has had a few planting work parties and we have salad crops, strawberries, herbs, potatoes, broad beans, onions, carrots, beetroot, kale and brassicas in the ground. The cold snap and the 'mini heat wave' hasn't deterred the plants from growing! We have already enjoyed the fruits of our labour as the Pak Choi was ready to harvest at our latest work party. Work parties will be announced on the Braemar Community Garden facebook page but if you don't have access to facebook just let us know your alternative contact details.



The community garden is now on the look out for some good quality tools, if you are having clear out and have spare tools in good working order, which you are willing to donate, please contact David Sherrard, Aimi Blueman, Sandra Falconer, Angus Wood or Caroline Hadley-Smith.

**Braemar Local History Group** is now moving forward with a summer programme of events including: The popular Historical guided tours of the village Tuesday evenings at 8pm and Wednesday afternoons at 3pm; Summer BBQ (details to follow); Unveiling of ROC plaques at the Underground Bunker (late July) – any local ROC member wishing to attend should get in touch with Derek Stewart. Information on BLHG autumn events can be found online on the Buzzard events calendar

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

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## Junior buzzard

### Braemar School

Since our 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we have been going from strength to strength!

#### Gardening

We have been working closely with the community to gain 'expert' knowledge and recently visited the Community Garden to find out what grows best in Braemar. Our children are now competing with each other to see which House can produce the best crop.

We are still keen to add new plants to our School Wildlife Garden, so if anyone has any cuttings or plants surplus to requirements, please send them our way.

#### Orienteering

Our team took part in the Ballater Festival with Ben and Euan earning a Bronze medal and the whole team went onto receive the overall third place trophy.

#### Braemar: Beasties, Birds and Bears

We are ecstatic about our most recent achievement. The whole school, Nursery to P7 produced an educational film, with the use of a little artistic license, about wildlife in the local vicinity. The film was entered into The Cairngorm National Park competition and we won first prize in the Innovation Section. We will shortly be attending a presentation ceremony in Battleby, Luncarty where we will be presented with our very own Camera Trap.

*This term Primary 1-4 have been enjoying the outdoor and reflecting on this back in the classroom. Highlights have been a visit from Kincardine O'Neil Primary School for a day of learning in the woods, a spring walk with Kim the ranger and entering the Cairngorm National Park's Art Competition. Two pupils from the class; Maddalena Sim and Diamond MacKay were finalists in the competition and had a great day out at Blair Atholl, meeting Nick Baker from Spring Watch (photo below of Maddalena & Nick Baker).*



The spring walk

On Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May we went on a walk down to the River Clunie. We went to a pond and we saw a froglet. It was so cute and funny. Mrs Nixon thought it was an early frog. It was tiny. Kim the ranger caught the froglet in her net then we let it go. We took some tadpoles back to the school because we have a pond that we can put them in. The pond we went to was quite small and we said "the bit between the rocks is tadpole school and all the rest is tadpole city". Before this, as we came closer to the pond, we saw stags. When I saw the stags I was amazed.

Olivia

### Time is counting down to the Scottish 6 Days Orienteering Event on Royal Deeside

**Accommodation is required** throughout Deeside for athletes and their families participating in the Scottish 6 Days Orienteering Festival from 29 July to 5 August. We are anticipating over 3000 entries and are looking for self catering, B & B or hostel accommodation. Please contact [jon@big-jon.demon.co.uk](mailto:jon@big-jon.demon.co.uk) if you know of anything suitable.

For more information on what is happening and where over this festival, how you can take part, what free family events are on offer etc. - go online to

[www.scottish6days.com/2017](http://www.scottish6days.com/2017)



**Mama Mia**

How do you fancy a trip to the Greek

islands? Look out your summer gear, especially if it is 70s style and come along to the *Mama Mia* singalong movie night in the Village Hall on Saturday 10th June, at 7.30. A delicious Greek buffet supper, and some fun and games are on offer as well the chance to sing and dance your way through all your favourite ABBA songs from *Mama Mia*. Tickets, £12, will be available from Louise at Lochcarron, from Thursday 1st June.

### Village Bin Collections Tuesdays

#### Wheeler Bin

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

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>

Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Recycling

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>



### Don't Miss! - regular events over the Summer

- BLHG Historical Guided tours of Braemar. Tues @ 8pm; Wed @ 3pm. Running now until end Sept.
- Mar Lodge Evening Stroll with NTS Ranger service, Wednesdays 5-7pm. fortnightly, from June info / booking ☎013397 20164
- Highland Dance & Bagpipe displays Wednesdays 8pm Village Hall, July & Aug
- Pipe Bands in the Village, Sunday afternoons 2-4 pm during July & Aug

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

Date	Event
June 10 Sat	Mama Mia - film show, Village Hall, 7.30pm, organised by Braemar Creative Arts Festival
June 12 Mon	Traditional Music Concert featuring young talent from Plockton (including Braemar's own Ellie MacLaren). Village Hall, 7.30pm, tickets £5/£3 Braemar Pharmacy
June 15 Thur	Fife Arms Business Round Table, Mews Office 6-8 pm
June 17 Sat	Dee Don Ceilidh Collective weekend of music in Glenbuchat <a href="http://www.deedonceilidhcollective.org.uk">www.deedonceilidhcollective.org.uk</a>
June 19 Mon	Community Council Meeting Braemar School 7.0 pm
June 21 Wed	Craig Choinnich Hill Race
June 22 & 24 Th/Sat	Death at the Castle - Murder Mystery Dinner, Braemar Castle, 7.30pm Tickets, £25, from Lochcarron, Braemar Mews <a href="http://www.braemarcastle.co.uk">www.braemarcastle.co.uk</a>
June 23 Fri	Comedy Night with Aberdeen's funniest comedy club, village hall, 8pm. Tickets £15 from <a href="http://www.breakneckcomedy.co.uk">www.breakneckcomedy.co.uk</a>
July 2 Sun	Invercauld Arms Hotel - new event - Family Summer Fair, 11am - 4pm, entry free. Celebrating 'Walk the Walk' in aid of breast cancer (and more walkers very welcome to join in). More information ☎ 41605
July 8 Sat	Braemar Junior Highland Games 1130 - 1700, Games Park. Followed by family ceilidh in the village hall. Further info <a href="http://www.braemarjuniorgames.com">www.braemarjuniorgames.com</a>
July 9 Sun	Family fun in the village hall. Activities with Mar Lodge Rangers am (free). Special family show with the 'McDougalls' theatre company @ 2pm, £3 admission.
July 21 Fri	Donald Black in concert (on Scottish Celtic Harmonica) Village Hall
July 23 Sun	Braemar Highland Fling, Braemar Castle grounds
July 25 Tues	Cairngorm Ceilidh Trail concert, village hall, tickets £8/£6/£4 from Braemar Pharmacy
July 25 Tues	'Three Inch Fools' perform their musical take on 'Romeo & Juliet' at St Margaret's, a fun family show
July 26 Wed	Mark W. Georgsson, with guest Barrie-James, performing at the Braemar Art Gallery
July 27 Thur	A festival of concerts with Fitkin and Wall at St Margaret's

**More events online at [www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk](http://www.braemarbuzzard.org.uk)**

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

**Deadline for the next edition: August 21<sup>st</sup> 2017**

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

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