

# BELHELVIE

# BANTER

WINTER 2009



BELHELVIE - BALMEDIE - BLACKDOG  
POTTERTON - WHITECAIRNS

# BELHELVIE BANTER

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Please include name, address & phone number in case details need to be clarified.

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are in font - Garamond 10

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Copy date for next issue is: **19 February 2010**

Front Cover Photo by: Neil Ruddiforth

Logo design by: Ron Gordon

# EDITORIAL

## **Banter is non-serious conversation, usually between friends.**

Welcome to the first edition of Belhelvie Banter. We hope you find this publication useful as its aim is to provide the communities of Balmedie, Belhelvie, Blackdog, Potterton, and Whitecairns with information about what is going on within the Parish.

Belhelvie: a Millennium of History was the last publication I put my name to and again we have a publication which will be made available to every resident in the Parish of Belhelvie. This is not a new idea as it was in 1976 'The Belhelvie Newsletter' started with the Belhelvie & District Community Association which had 6 issues, I think all edited by Joan Mackel. The 'BCC Newsletter' started in February 1977. Mike Daw was editor up to no. 37 in December 1987. I have not been able to clarify who did what but I believe Ken Gauld produced some of the editions up to No 44 in winter 1990. We also produced the 'Year Books' for 1997/8 and 2001/2. So we have a bit of news to catch up on since then!

As 2009 draws to a close we have all been affected by the prolonged torrential rain and heavy winds, but as we look forward to springtime, I hope that no ducks will chose to take over the lake that is Belhelvie's football pitch. The future looks bright with new festive lights in Balmedie, and a promise of even more flower planting in tubs, baskets and beds around the villages (Howard would welcome volunteers in Whitecairns)! Happily, the carcass of a 30ft sperm whale was quickly removed from near the country park and safely transported for landfill. The North east based company BrewDog took a step closer to creating an eco-brewery near Potterton and in October plans were revealed proposing a lateral extension of the site at Easter Hatton Farm in order to accept household commercial and industrial waste. To keep you in touch with all current planning issues <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/index.asp>

We would like to thank those advertisers who have 'taken' a chance' on us, before they have seen the finished article in print. It is through their generosity that we can provide Belhelvie Banter free to all houses in the area. Please support them.

Audrey H. Jeffries



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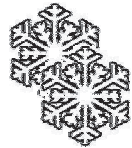
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# POLICE NEWS

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Iain Clark and I am the Community Police Officer for Belhelvie Parish, and others! I am currently based at Ellon where I have been stationed for the past four years. I have been in the police for almost 24 years, during that time I have worked at Peterhead, Laurencekirk, Banchory and latterly I spent 10 years in Aberdeen City. Some of you may already know me or have seen me about, I'm quite often to be seen walking or cycling around Balmedie. We are very fortunate that we live in a relatively quiet area as far as crime goes but in the run up to Christmas we need to be especially vigilant. Make sure you keep your car and house locked and if possible have a timer fitted to some lights in your house that come on when it gets dark, it gives the impression that there is someone in the house. Don't leave anything of value lying about in your car that can be seen from the outside, some people cannot resist the temptation to have what is not theirs!

Keep an eye on your elderly neighbours, it's a sad fact of life that, as the weather gets colder they run the risk of serious health problems.

Partnership working plays a key part in modern day policing and I feel it is imperative that Police Officers work closely with communities so we can all work together to "Keep our Communities Safe". The Police can only act on information they have to hand so it is vitally important that any illegal activity and occurrences of antisocial behaviour are reported to us, thus allowing us to tackle the issues within our community. If you think we are doing nothing about it, chances are we don't know about it.

One of the major issues I face at the moment is inconsiderate parking by parents in the morning and evening around Balmedie Primary School. I would plead with parents to firstly consider if they need to take their children to school by car and secondly if you do please think about where you park, the restrictions are for your child's safety as well as others. I have on occasion been at the school and seen cars parked on double yellow lines and even on the zig zags. I have also heard reports that the bus on occasions has not been able to get anywhere near the school due to inconsiderate parking. Just a thought.... if the bus cannot get to the school neither could the emergency services in an emergency.

I hope you all enjoy the festive period and if you are going to any parties please leave the car at home and if you have had a lot of alcohol to drink please also think about whether or not you are safe to drive the following morning.

Iain Clark Community Beat Officer Ellon

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# BELHELVIE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**Belhelvie Church of Scotland is the Parish Church for Balmedie, Belhelvie, Potterton, Whitecairns and Blackdog and is situated between the villages in the geographical heart of the parish.**

We're a friendly, growing church with good provision for children and a range of ways to explore faith and grow in faith. We'd love to see you along over Christmas if any of the following take your fancy. You'd be more than welcome to join us.

In 2007 we started a campaign called Dreaming of a Right Christmas where we try to cut back on some of the consumerism that goes with the season, and with the money we save give a present to a community who really need it. Last year we supported the Aberdeen Cyrenians; this year we're helping New Life Home Trust who rescue abandoned babies in Kenya, and look after them 'til they're old enough and well enough to be adopted. Look out for some of the fundraisers that are on between now and Christmas.

Kind regards,

Paul McKeown (minister)

## **Family Quiz Night**

**Fri 4th Dec - 7:30pm**

(Forsyth Hall—Fundraising event for “Right Christmas” appeal. Adults £10, children £3 includes buffet.)

## **“The Grinch”**

**Sat 5th Dec - 2:00pm**

(A showing of the fun-filled kids movie, held in the church. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No charge, but donations to “Right Christmas” gratefully received.)

## **Silver Band Service**

**Sun 6th Dec - 11:00am**

(Service of Carols led by the award winning Bon Accord Silver band)

## **“Scrooge”**

**Fri 11th Dec - 7:30pm**

(A showing of the classic Christmas movie to get us in the mood! Held in the church. No charge, but a donations to the “Right Christmas” appeal gratefully received)

## **Nativity Service**

**Sun 20th Dec - 11:00am**

(Forsyth Hall)

## **Watchnight Service**

**Thur 24th Dec - 11:00pm**

(Own choice carols from 11:00, then service 'til midnight. Mince pies and mulled wine to follow)

## **Christmas Day Service**

**Fri 25th Dec - 11:00am**

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# BETTER BALMEDIE

**During the “Balmedie Views” consultation, some people said that they were interested in starting a gardening club, allotments, community garden, composting, and improvements to open spaces in the village. We met for the first time in July and now meet monthly.**

Better Balmedie members have a range of interest and experience, so we have tried to create a group which will appeal to all. We now have 20 members, all committed to making Balmedie better. Better Balmedie’s programme is a mixture of meetings with speakers so we can learn more about gardening and environmental issues, and projects when we work together to enhance open spaces. In October we planted 6000 daffodil and crocus bulbs along Eigie Road. We eagerly await the results of our labours when the flowers appear in Spring! We had lots of

fun, and hope that more folk will join us for future activities!

Better Balmedie is planning its programme for 2010, to include planting in tubs, baskets and beds around the village and a village Spring Clean. See notice boards and posters in local venues for future meetings and events!

Better Balmedie members are enthusiastic, friendly folk who enjoy working together to improve our village. The group is open to everyone in the parish. Please get involved; grow or plant some plants, pick up litter, learn from our speakers – you will be very welcome at meetings, last Thursday of every month, 7.30 at Balmedie School.

Find out more by contacting Rosie Nicol on 01358 742557 or at [rosie.inform@lineone.net](mailto:rosie.inform@lineone.net)



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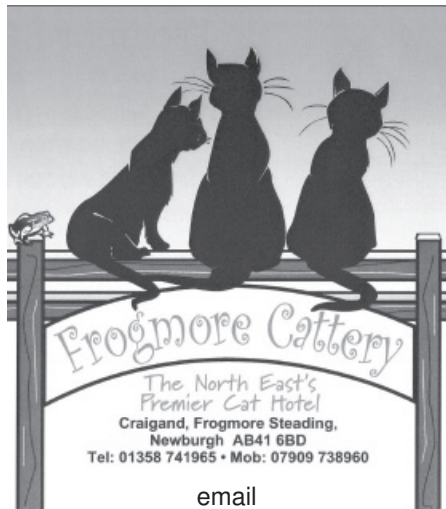
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# BELHELVI, BALHALUY, BALHALWEIS – WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The parish of Belhelvie lies in a part of Scotland that once formed the core of the Pictish kingdom, for which no written sources survive. As such the earliest history of the area has been lost forever. However, the very name of the parish, Belhelvie, speaks of a subsequent emergence of Gaelic-speaking people, who dominated the culture in the area as a result of Kenneth MacAlpin's unification of the Gaelic kingdom of Dalriada with the Pictish kingdom in the year 842AD. The Gaelic language then subsumed Pictish as the Gaels moved into the Northeast. Gaelic in turn gave way to Scots and more recently English. The several explanations for the derivation of the name of the parish, however, are all of Gaelic origin: from 'mouth of the rivulets' with regard to the seven burns which run through the parish to 'cattle-town', or baile shealbhain (pronounced 'balluh-helvan'), in reference to its primary agricultural commodity. The seven burns flowing in the parish are the Newtyle and Blackdog on the northern and southern boundaries, and the Menie, Orrok, Hopeshill, Eggie and Potterton. Although no one explanation for the name Belhelvie has been determined, it was certainly well established by the middle ages and has varied only in the spelling since then.

The parish of Belhelvie has gone through many incarnations. It is an ancient inhabited area, which has had close ties with the city of Aberdeen for centuries. In medieval times it was a thanage, where a thane, who was more or less equivalent to an earl, presided over the area. Belhelvie then became a barony, and since the eighteenth century it has simply been a local parish within the synod of Aberdeen. In a commercial directory of 1825-26 Belhelvie was described as being 8 miles north of Aberdeen and 114 miles distant from Edinburgh. Just fifty years later Belhelvie was merely a 'postal district of Aberdeen [where] a proportion of the land is under cultivation'. Today it is best known as a satellite community of Aberdeen.

The modern-day parish does not appear to be significantly different in area to the ancient thanage of Belhelvie. It comprises 30 square miles, which are bounded by the North Sea to the east, Newmachar to the west, Foveran to the north, and the Bridge of Don part of Aberdeen to the south, all within an area known as South Formartine.

Extract from *Belhelvie – A millennium of History* ISBN 1 900517 10 8

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# BALMEDIE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

We have been meeting in Balmedie Leisure Centre since 1993. Our Services are at 11am on Sunday mornings in the Coffee Lounge.

We hold short, informal and family friendly services. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We hope to hold a Traditional Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Service on Thursday 24th December 2009 at 11pm. This service will finish just after midnight after which refreshments will be served.

As a church we hope at some point to have our own building and are in the process of consulting an architect. Look out for news on the building in the near future.

We are a small group but back in January 2007 we planted a new Church in the nearby village of Potterton. It just proves that size isn't everything and that with a little faith amazing things can happen.

We continue to support the Church at Potterton and in return they also support us in fundraising and outreach ventures.

In the past we have participated in Carol Singing at Tesco's at Ellon in the lead up to Christmas. This is something that we intend to do again this year.

We are affiliated to the Congregational Federation both in Scotland and at National level.

Congregationalism is a form of church government where each Church is independent in the management of its own affairs.

If we can help you or your family in any way, be it happy or sad times please contact us.

For more information please contact our Minister.

Rev Denise Cowie Tel 01224 709102

## BALMEDIE PLAYGROUP

Community Room Primary school

Telephone 07923 470741

We are a friendly group offering fun activities and learning for pre school children. Working in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council we provide pre school education for children aged 3-5 years. Sessions are led by playgroup staff and we have a rota for parental help. Activities available include art and craft, baking, water and sand play, music sessions, role play and construction activities. Sessions are planned around the "Curriculum for Excellence" and children may attend up to five sessions per week with a mixture of morning and afternoon sessions being available.

For further information or details regarding current vacancies please contact us on the above number or pop in to visit us. Open daily during school term 9.30am till 2.45pm.

# BALMEDIE CRAFT CLUB

We are a Craft Group for children that meet in Balmedie Primary School on Thursdays from 6.15 –7.15pm during term time. We are attached to Balmedie Congregational Church.

All children from primary school age up are welcome.

Its costs £1.50 per Thursday to attend and we cover a wide range of crafts. Tile painting, rocket making, windmills, scraperfoil art, fridge magnets and photo frames to name a few of the projects that we have undertaken.

Every child should take home a piece of craft work after every session, however on occasions we engage in larger projects which take place over a few weeks.

Great fun is had every week by children and staff alike.

Sometimes at the end of the evening we play a game or two – misers gold, duck, duck, goose and ladders are some examples.

As we approach Christmas we are undertaking some Christmas themed Craft – biff bats, stockings and a Nativity mobile.

After Christmas we will participate in other crafts. In the run up to Easter we will look at the Easter Story and Easter themed crafts.

So if you're not busy on a Thursday night, and you are Primary 1 upwards, why not come and join us for an hour of craft, friendship and fun!

New members are always welcome.

For more information contact

Rev Denise Cowie Tel 01224 709102.

## BELHELVIE S.W.R.I.

**The Belhelvie branch of the SWRI meet on the second Wednesday of every month from September to May. There is also an outing or meal out in June.**

We meet at the Forsyth Hall, beside Belhelvie Church, at 7.30pm. There is plenty of parking and easy access for the less mobile.

Our syllabus is varied with talks and demonstrations or why not just come along for a chat. A warm welcome awaits you. Why don't you give us a try?

Elaine Strachan  
Tel: 01358 743173

# BEAVERS - CUBS SCOUTS - EXPLORERS

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- work in groups;
- take increasing responsibility for others;
- take part in activities outdoors;
- share in prayer and worship;
- make and live out their promise.

BEAVERS – For 6 & 7 year olds

The Wednesday night colony are very busy and is very popular, it is supported by 4 Beaver leaders. Meets Balmedie School at 6pm. Currently there is a long waiting list. See below.

CUBS - For youngsters aged from 8 to 10½. Pack meets Tuesday night in Potterton Community Centre at 6:30pm. Ours Cubs regularly get out and about.

SCOUTS – For 10-14s. Our Scout Troop meet Wednesday nights 7-9pm in Potterton and are always out and about.

EXPLORERS – Our 14-18 group meet in Potterton on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:30pm.

All our sections are for boys and girls alike.

## HELP HELP HELP

We are the victims of our own success and are overly in demand both at Beavers and Cubs. In the short term the only way to clear the waiting lists is to form a 2nd Beaver Colony and a 2nd Cub Pack.. Both are needed and several new leaders would have to come forward before we could establish them. Additional lets would be needed too. There is no magic wand for this one.

If you would like more information about becoming an adult volunteer in Scouting and what the commitments are in becoming a leader, get in touch.

To contact any of our sections call 01358743156 or e-mail [balmedie.scouts@btinternet.com](mailto:balmedie.scouts@btinternet.com)

Ian Thomson  
Group Scout Leader.

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# BELHELVIE PARISH FORUM

**How many readers have found their way to this web based message board?  
This is designed for the residents of Belhelvie Parish.**

Visit [www.//belhelvieparishforum.proboards.com/index.cgi](http://www.belhelvieparishforum.proboards.com/index.cgi) to see what topics are being discussed.

Say hello! or introduce yourself. Since this is a community forum, it was thought it would be nice to get to know the people posting messages. This is by no means compulsory and you can post as much or as little detail as you wish.

Most importantly this is a new place to air and discuss your views, on issues affecting Belhelvie Parish, with your neighbours from the comfort of your own arm chair!

You can use the calendar to advertise community events, and if you want to add more details you are encouraged to post your suggestion and start a thread!

## BALMEDIE YOUTH PROJECT

**Both Youth & Community Workers continue to meet with young people on Wednesday evenings in various locations within Balmedie. This could range from the park, the library or just walking the street.**

From the recent survey it was highlighted that there was a need for some sort of youth provision in the area. This was also an issue for young people who attended the World Café style consultation. To support this initiative, we have secured external funding from YouthLink Scotland to allow a group of young people to visit other youth facilities in the wider community. This would allow them to have a better understanding of what they could achieve for themselves in their own area.

If, as a young person, you would be interested in participating in this project, please contact Brenda on 01358 721946 for further information. Also, as a adult, if you would be interested in supporting young people as a volunteer please call Brenda

Annette Holland  
Senior Community Learning & Development Worker

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## 1ST BELHELVIE RAINBOWS

It has been all change for the Rainbows in the area. After running 1st Belhelvie Rainbows for 10 years Maggie Bissett has reluctantly stepped down. Maggie will be greatly missed. During her 10 years many girls from Belhelvie, Whitecairns, Balmedie, Potterton and surrounding areas have passed through her group taking part in many varied activities. Now instead of one Rainbow Unit there are two. 1st Belhelvie will continue in Potterton with another group opening in Balmedie.

The programme for Rainbows provides fun and challenging opportunities for five to seven year old girls. The Potterton Rainbows started back after the October Holidays with a fun night of party games, dancing, balloons and some yummy food. The following weeks the Rainbows have enjoyed skipping, making bead necklaces and bracelets, drawing pictures to put on our wall space and learning "The Rainbow Song" as well as our usual Rainbow games and songs. We are now looking forward to Christmas and will be very busy doing Christmas crafts and activities. We will finish the term with our Christmas party and we are hoping that Santa will have time to pay us a visit.

We have room for new girls in Potterton, if you would like more information please contact Pauline Wood Tel 01358 743002 or email [woodtroop@supanet.com](mailto:woodtroop@supanet.com).

## 3RD BELHELVIE BROWNIES

We thought you'd like to hear a bit about the Brownies that meet in Potterton. We are called 3rd Belhelvie Brownies and have been meeting for years.

Girls can be a Brownie from the age of 7 to 10. We work through two programme books during that time. We are catching up with our Adventure and Adventure On activities at the moment. We also do interest badges which cover heaps of different themes from craft to science investigator.

We have just finished a national challenge called "Changing the World" which involved looking at Global warming and what we, as families, can do to reduce it. We carried out activities that looked at how we could reduce our power usage both in the home and outside. This included looking at how far our food has to travel to get to our plates. From this we have made a calendar that shows which foods we could be growing ourselves which would reduce transportation distances.

Half of us took part in the best Brownie Adventure there is. We went on Brownie Holiday and stayed at a Scout house near Maryculter. We pretended to be Secret Agents and had to dress up in disguises, follow trails and complete an assault course. We also had to do the washing up and cooking and cleaning the loos, it was brill.

Next year we are 100 and have lots of celebrations and activities planned. We are really looking forward to it.

# 1ST BELHELVIE RANGERS

1st Belhelvie Rangers meet every two weeks in Balmedie on a Wednesday night.

Rangers is any young women between 14 and 25 years of age. Rangers are the next stage in Girl Guiding. You can progress on from Guides but you don't necessarily have to be from the guiding family to come along and have some good fun. Rangers do lots of fun

activities including face masks, baking different snacks and having a really good laugh with each other. We also have the opportunity to go on different trips. This year a few of the Rangers went on a trip to Switzerland with other Ranger and Guide units for two weeks. Why not get in touch with our Leader, Susan to arrange a visit one night?

Adult helpers are also very welcome.

Susan can be contacted on 01224 703335 or [s.osbeck@physics.org](mailto:s.osbeck@physics.org)

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# TARTS AND CRAFTS

(Telephone 01358 742002) situated behind the Library in Balmedie. We have good parking and disabled access. Open Wednesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm

The café serves a variety of delicious home bakes, hot and cold drinks, savoury snacks and soups. We can cater for most people with special dietary needs. The café is staffed by volunteers.

In addition to being a café, we are an art gallery exhibiting paintings by local artists. We stock a wide range of crafts made locally. The artwork and crafts are for sale and we have on offer products to suit both those who want to spend their pocket money to items for people wanting to invest in something more exclusive. We would encourage people to visit to get gift ideas and make Christmas shopping easier. We can also offer a gift wrapping service for those who are all fingers and thumbs when it comes to sticky tape, scissors and gift wrap.

Browse for that special gift, some of which can be personalised while you relax with a coffee.

Craft classes will be running every 4-6 weeks, but we are hoping to start drop-in groups. Take along your own project or get crafty with our bits and pieces.

## Mobile Library Locations

<b>Wednesday</b>	Potterton	Kirkhill Road	a 15.00	d 15.30
<b>Every week</b>		Carpark	a 15.35	d 15.55
	Denview Road	a 16.00	d 16.30	
<b>Thursday</b>				
<b>Week 1</b>	Belhelvie area	Parkhill	a 09.45	d 10.10
	Braehead		a 10.25	d 10.45
<b>Thursday</b>				
<b>Week 2</b>	Blackdog	Kindergarten	a 09.45	d 10.15
	Balmedie	Balmedie House	a 12.30	d 13.00
	Balmedie	Eigie House	a 14.00	d 14.30
	Belhelvie area	Chance Inn Farm	a 14.40	d 14.55
	Wardhillock Farm		a 15.00	d 15.15
	Middlemuir		a 15.30	d 15.45
	Belhelvie	Scott Grove	a 15.50	d 16.00
	Belhelvie	Park Terrace	a 16.05	d 16.15

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# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

## The year is 1979.

You may be thinking about what to watch on TV tonight – sorry, only 3 channels BBC1 (an episode of “Dad’s Army”), BBC 2 (American sitcom “Rhoda”) and Grampian (Joanna Lumley and David McCallum as “Sapphire and Steele”). Then there’s the weather... “after 6 weeks of rainy holidays Aberdeen Schools went back yesterday – and on cue, the sun came out” reported the P & J.

Four new schools opened in the region for the new session- Lossiemouth, Westhill, Ellon and Bridge of Don. The new £2,268,000 Bridge of Don Academy boasted a 25 metre pool, large games hall with 4 badminton courts, general purpose room, drama teaching studio, lecture theatre, library, resource centre and an open-plan science department. The timetable was built up of seventeen 20 minute units a day. Pupils went to classes for 2, 3 or 4 units. Registration was at 8.55, lunch 12.55-2.00 and classes went on to 4pm. Rector Richard Wallis was assisted by his Depute Rector William Barber and Assistant Rectors Gordon McIntosh, Brian McWilliam and Ian Noble. School meals were available – price 30p.

The Number one hits of 1979 included- Village People “YMCA”, Art Garfunkel “Bright Eyes”, Gary Numan “Cars”, Boomtown Rats “I Don’t Like Monday’s”, Lena Martell “One Day at a Time “ ( yes, really!) and the big disco diva song by Gloria Gaynor “I Will Survive”.

This brings us to our own group of “Survivors”. 10 members of our present school staff have been here for the whole 30 years of the “new” Bridge of Don Academy- and some were at the “old” school before that. Our 10 Survivors are: Sheena McBain (August 1973); Meg Jones (August 1975); Sheila Shand & Ian Thomson (August 1976); Gordon McFarlane (August 1977); Dave Chesser, Liz Garden, Sheena Anderson (Summer 1979) ; Eva Forbes & Dave Nicol (Autumn 1979). The current Head Teacher, Mr Harland, presented them with a special certificate to mark their special anniversary at the beginning of the new session. Congratulations!

# “GUESS THE TEACHER”

The present members of staff have donated a “baby photo” and pupils (and parents back to school for parents’ evening) are asked to identify the bonny babies. House points are on offer for all correct guesses! This will be followed up by a “Guess the Parent” competition – watch out all you parents (and grand-parents) who went to Bridge of Don in past years ... class photos stretching back through the 50s, 60s and 70s will be dusted off and scrutinised for suitable candidates. Of course, if you would like to voluntarily donate your school photo...

...Happy 30th Birthday Bridge of Don Academy!

Callum Stuart.

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# ADVANCED HIGHER BIOLOGY/ GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

The annual fieldtrip to the sand dunes at Balmedie allowed the Advanced Higher pupils to experience first hand the techniques involved in undertaking a study of the changing environmental conditions in a sand dunes ecosystem.

The pupils recorded information to allow them to draw a cross section of the dunes, tested the pH, infiltration rates, soil moisture and organic content of various sites and were then able to write up this work in the form of a report. The trip allowed some of the pupils a closer insight into the work they will need to do to complete the coursework for either of these subjects.



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# CHARITY CORNER

Do you work for or volunteer with a charity? If you have any news, particularly of local events that may be happening, get in touch and we may feature you in the Charity Corner. In the first edition we feature a Scottish children's charity, CHAS. Read on to find out more

The Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) is a Scottish charity that provides the only hospice services in Scotland for children and young people with life-limiting conditions.



**Children's Hospice Association Scotland**

**Sharing the Caring**

A children's hospice offers professional care, practical help and emotional support to the whole family usually from the day of acceptance, to the death of their child, and beyond.

No two families are the same, and CHAS has the flexibility to respond to the particular needs of mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters, as well as the extended family.

Rachel House in Kinross, Scotland's first children's hospice, opened in March 1996. Robin House in Balloch opened in August 2005. Both hospices are purpose-built and each can provide ongoing support for up to 200 families across Scotland each year. The CHAS at Home Team offers support to families referred to the hospices by providing a care service to families in their own homes when they need it most.

At any one time, Rachel House and Robin House can each accommodate up to eight children or young people and their families. CHAS services are free to children, young people and families who need them and all services are funded mainly through the huge generosity of our many supporters who help us in so many ways.

If you would like more information about CHAS visit our website at [www.chas.org.uk](http://www.chas.org.uk), contact the Aberdeen fundraising office on 01224 645000 or email [Aberdeen@chas.org.uk](mailto:Aberdeen@chas.org.uk).



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# POTTERTON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

We are a commissioned group and this means that our play leaders are trained to nursery standard and that we are inspected by HMI and the Care Commission. There are 2 play leaders and several relief play workers.

We follow all guidelines that are expected from HMI and the Care Commission and now follow the Curriculum for Excellence.

The session times are : Tuesday 9.30 - 12 noon, 12.45pm - 3.00pm, Wednesday 9.30 - 12 noon and Thursday 9.30 - 12 noon, 12.45pm - 3.00pm. We also run a private crèche for lunch time so it allows the children to stay the whole day. (the crèche is only available for the children who attend playgroup)

The children usually start at 3 years of age (depending on birthday for commissioned places).

We provide a safe, secure and happy environment for the children to learn through play. The children are actively involved in the playgroup, choosing resources they want to play with and contributing their ideas for themes, etc.

We have a rolling snack and the children help to decide the menu and prepare the food.

We have an outdoor play area at the rear of the building and a garden that the children help look after. We also visit the local parks in the village.

We organise various trips outside the playgroup for the children.

We recently won a competition and are going to meet Santa and two of his reindeers on Friday 20th November 2009 at Codona's.

The children had to draw a reindeer and name them. The winning names were Jingle and Bell. The winning children were Benjamin and Watson. The children are very excited about the trip and I'm sure we will have a lovely time. In the next newsletter we will share with you our trip and hopefully have some photos to let you see.

We are going to be very busy this term with the lead up to Christmas - busy with Christmas Crafts, St Andrews Day, our trip to BA stores, our Christmas Concert for the parents and our Christmas Party at which the children hope Santa will appear with a sack of presents !

We are a friendly, happy group and would be delighted to welcome any new children and their parents for a visit to see the playgroup for themselves. This allows both adult and child to spend some time with both the other children and the play leaders. At this time the child will be able to experience some of the activities and resources we have to offer, have a tour of the facilities and it allows for any questions the parents may have, to be answered.

Please telephone on 01358 743335 and ask for Jenny Gallacher or Joyce Givans for more information.



# POTTERTON 2'S GROUP

Come along and experience Potterton 2's group on a Monday 10-12 and Friday 10-12.

Children can come along from 18 months with their parents/carers until their 2nd birthday and then the adults have the choice of leaving or staying with their children.

We are the younger group of Potterton Pre-school and follow the national standards set by various education agencies, more information can be found on the group's starter pack.

The group has an exciting range of activities, outdoor play area and equipment, arts and crafts, large indoor play equipment, just to mention a few. We have songs, music and movement at the end of each session. The most important thing about the group is it gives the chance for the child to expand their social and communication skills by meeting new friends their own age, while learning through play.

We have 2 qualified friendly play leaders, who don't mind getting messy!

We join the playgroup for the annual summer trip to places like Dizzy Rascals and the children are also looking forward to going to the BA stores to see Santa for the Christmas trip. Then at the end of this term Santa will be coming to our Christmas Party.

We have a good parent/staff relationship with nights out and fundraising events. The group has an "open door" policy for any children and parents want to come for a visit before joining our group. Children come to play from all areas, not just the village.

When a child reaches 2 years 10 months they have the opportunity to join the playgroup.

Our only rule is: wear play clothes as the more we play, the messier we get!!  
If you wish more information on our group please call 01358 743335 and ask for Joyce or Jenny.



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# GROUP LIGHTS UP BALMEDIE!

Saturday 21st November 2009 saw the first Christmas Light – Up event for the village of Balmedie. “The Balmedie Christmas Light Group” was formed following the recent Community Research Project. We have only had a few short months to prepare and deliver our planned Christmas Programme, which included a festive parade celebrating the switch on of the Christmas street lights and tree. The efforts of the group were well rewarded as many local people braved wild weather conditions to take part in the celebrations.

It has all been made possible by the generosity of all those who willingly gave their time and support in the lead up to the main event. Special thanks to local businesses, other Community Groups, volunteers and all those who worked hard behind the scenes – you know who you are!

We were delighted to be joined on the day by the Kintore Pipe Band, dancers from Danz Creations Balmedie, vehicles including an appliance from Grampian Fire and Rescue, a Bentley, Monster Truck and, Shetland Ponies owned by Mrs Brooker of Cothal - all led of course by Santa Claus and his helper Nathan Davies. Sarah Malone of the Trump Organisation, kindly attended to officially switch on the village Christmas tree lights helped by our Prince Ben Hosie and Princess Alejandra Tait.

Looking beyond the Festive Season, our group will continue to be involved in fundraising for further light decorations to enhance this year’s display. We are currently working with the Lighting Department of Aberdeenshire Council to improve on the number of light connections available in the village.

We will be busy organising further fundraising events for the village throughout the year and your continued support would be greatly appreciated. We would also be delighted to hear any of your ideas and suggestions for future events, you can contact us by email at - [christmasgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christmasgroup@hotmail.co.uk) and keep up with our progress and news at the Belhelvie Parish Forum – [belhelvieparishforum.proboards.com](http://belhelvieparishforum.proboards.com)

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas

On behalf of The Balmedie Christmas Light Group

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# FAMILY LEARNING IN FORMARTINE

Community Learning worker Sally Sheehan is based at the Ythan Centre in Ellon. Her job is to provide advice, help and support for families with young children. Working in partnership with local Health Staff, Speech and Language therapists, librarians and the voluntary sector; a range of activities can be provided. These may include support groups for parents, rhyme time sessions and first aid classes.

Groups and classes are very informal and fun and help with costs may be available.

Sally manages a pre school group for children with additional support needs and their siblings. This is held twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Esslemont School, Ellon during term time and provides a supportive play environment for the children, while parents have the chance to meet other parents over a welcome cup of coffee. The group is free and for children from anywhere around the Ellon and Belhelvie Banter area.

Ellon Community Centre runs a crèche for pre school children from 9.30 to 11.30 every weekday morning. No pre booking is needed – the cost is £4.50 per session, and provides busy Mums or Dads with some precious time to go shopping, attend appointments or classes. The community centre's phone number is 01358 727910.

Parents of pre school children are very welcome to come to Rhymetime sessions in both Ellon and Balmedie libraries. Songs, stories and rhymes are great fun for both children and adults, and also give children a valuable first step in socialising with other children and enjoying books and music. Ellon's Rhymetime take place on the first Wednesday morning of each month, while in Balmedie they are on the first Thursday of the month – the next one is 3rd December.

In January there will also be a new opportunity available called Sharks – which is Rhymetime in the swimming pool – “Stories, Hand Puppets, Rhymes and Kids Songs!” More details will feature in the local press nearer the launch date.

If you would like any more information on any of the above topics, Sally would be delighted to hear from you. She may not have the answer to everything, but she will probably know someone who does!

Sally Sheehan, Ythan Centre, Station Road, Ellon. Telephone: 01358 729237



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# BALMEDIE LEISURE CENTRE

Balmedie Leisure Centre is run by a volunteer Management Committee whose aim is to provide recreational activities for all ages. The Leisure Centre relies solely on grants and fundraising events to cover day to day running costs. We have many children's activities which include:

**Parent and Toddler Group** - an opportunity for parents and children to meet new friends.

**2's Group** - Crafts and fun for 2 years old (children must be registered for a place)

**Kindergym** - Energetic fun for pre-school children.

**Gymnastics** - A very popular sport for boys and girls.

**Junior Football** - Football skills for primary school children.

**Karate** - For children 7 years and upwards.

**Trampoline classes** - An energetic class for 3 - 5 year olds.

**Dancing classes** - Ballet, tap, majorettes, highland and Streetdance for children, tap classes for adults.

**Ian Wilson Soccer Coaching and Mini Kickers** - football classes for age 3 and above.

Adult activities include:-

Aerobics, Karate, Netball and a Fitness Room. We also have a weekly bingo class for the pensioners on a Monday afternoon.

The Leisure Centre is also available to hire for birthday parties at the weekends.

## BALMEDIE OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

**Tel no – 07920 295 508**

**Opening hours – 7.30 – 9.00am 2.45 –6.00pm**

We are a club for school children aged between 5 – 12. The aim of the Out of School club is to provide high quality, affordable, accessible childcare enabling parents to know that their child is being cared for in a safe and secure environment. The policy of the out of school club is to promote a happy, caring and secure environment where the children can develop self-confidence, gain self-esteem and motivation.

If you would like any information please contact the club.



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# GORDON DISTRICT FRIENDS OF CHAS

Although based in Ellon, Gordon District Friends of CHAS, aim to raise funds for CHAS throughout the north and east of Aberdeenshire. Formed in 1992, we have a core group of 24 active members who come from Hatton in the north to Menie in the south.

The Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) is a Scottish charity established to hospice services in Scotland for children and young people with life limiting conditions. CHAS offers professional care, practical help and emotional support to the whole family usually from the day of acceptance, to the death of their child & beyond. The majority of children have progressive, incurable, terminal conditions where their health and abilities deteriorate gradually over time. Many metabolic and genetic conditions are rare and complex. Not many children who use the hospices have cancer. This care is provided in 2 purpose built hospices, Rachel House in Kinross and Robin House in Balloch with a CHAS at Home Team, based in Inverness, to provide help to families who are unable to make use of the hospices.

CHAS has to raise £1.5 million each year to ensure that the facilities are available to our families free of charge. Last year we raised over £25,000 of this sum and to keep the momentum going we want to encourage new supporters by helping in our numerous activities including can collections, bag packing, local galas, and many other fun filled events. And not forgetting a 200 club with a current membership 438 (with quite probably many of you reading this already members)

We are very lucky in that our local businesses are VERY supportive of our efforts in giving us donations, both money & raffle prizes for fund raising events.

Our success is because we have become 'part of the community' and for this reason we are constantly looking to encourage more people to become members of our Friends Group. There are no specific qualifications (anyone from 18 – 80 is welcome) other than an enthusiasm to raise funds and help in any way they can.

If you are willing to help, please contact David Crosley by telephone on 01358 722007 or by email [CHAS.GDF@gmail.com](mailto:CHAS.GDF@gmail.com)

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## OPENING TIMES

MONDAY	2.30 - 4.30	5.30 - 7.30
TUESDAY	Closed	
WEDNESDAY	2.30 - 4.30	5.30 - 7.30
THURSDAY	10.00 - 1.00	
FRIDAY	Closed	
SATURDAY	10.00 - 1.00	

The first Thursday of each month (term time only), there is a Rhymetime session for under-fives from 11.30 – 12.30 come along and join in the fun. Adult and Junior Books, Talking Books, DVD's and CD's

Photocopier, free internet access and scanner available.

## BOOK GROUPS

### Balmedie Bookends

Meeting monthly in the White Horse Lounge Bar (First Thursday of the month at 8pm). Each month sees the informal discussion of a different book selected by the group. Books are generally sourced and supplied by Balmedie library.

Previous books discussed include Winter in Madrid by C J Sansom, The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold, Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier. New members welcomed please contact Sarah on 01358 741869 or sarahcassidy1@hotmail.com

### Young Adults Book Group

Recently started book group for young adults aged 13 – 16. Meeting once a month at Tarts & Crafts community cafe in Balmedie to informally discuss a book chosen by the group.

The current book for discussion is The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon.

New members welcomed please contact Sarah on 01358 741869 or sarahcassidy1@hotmail.com

# CHRISTMAS /NEW YEAR REFUSE AND RECYCLING ARRANGEMENTS

## Normal refuse or recycling collection day    Collection will take place on

Friday 25 December

Saturday 26 December

Monday 28 December

Collection as normal

Thursday 31 December

Collection as normal

Friday 1 January

Saturday 2 January

Monday 4 January

Normal Collection

Christmas Trees can be recycled free at Household Waste & Recycling Centres.

ALL Household waste & Recycling Centres will be CLOSED on 25 and 26 December and 1 and 2 January.

All Christmas cards and wrapping paper can be recycled in the normal household recycling provided there is no glitter, foils or brown card included. White and grey card is acceptable. Brown parcel paper cannot be recycled in the paper recycling. Look out for extra Christmas card recycling at major stores and supermarkets.

## Missed collections due to severe weather

If a refuse collection is missed due to severe weather, up to two extra black bags will be accepted alongside your refuse bin on the next collection day. This is the ONLY time extra waste will be accepted.

If a recycling collection is missed due to severe weather, put it out as normal on the next collection day or take it to your most convenient Recycling Centre or Recycling Point.

## Local Waste Recycling Points

**Balmedie Eigie Road** - Glass, Paper, Textiles, Cans, Cardboard, Plastic Bottles

**Co-op Car Park, Rowan Drive** - Glass, Paper, Cans, Cardboard, Plastic Bottles

**Belhelvie Playing Fields** - Glass, Paper, Cans, Cardboard, Plastic Bottles, Textiles

**Potterton Playing Fields** - Glass, Paper, Cardboard, Cans, Plastic Bottles

## Ellon – Hospital Road – Household Waste Recycling Centre

Glass, Paper, Cans, Cardboard, Plastic Bottles, Textiles, Garden Waste, Household Batteries, Lead Acid Batteries, Engine Oil, Tyres, Electrical Appliances, Pressurised Containers, Scrap Metal, Hardcore & Rubble.

# **POTTERTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

We have been meeting in Potterton since January 2007. Our services take place at 10am on Sunday mornings in Potterton Community Centre, Laingseat road, Potterton. Our services last for approximately forty minutes.

At present on a Sunday morning we are holding informal Bible studies. We enjoy a cup of coffee or tea as we explore and discuss varied issues and topics.

We are a very friendly small group and everyone is welcome to join us. Families are welcome.

We are hoping to have a Christmas Eve Service at 7pm on Thursday 24th December 2009. This has yet to be confirmed.

As a Church we support not only our mother Church at Balmedie, but also the five other Congregational Churches in and around Aberdeen. They are found at Cove, Danestone, Kittybrewster, Woodside and Peterhead.

We are affiliated to the Congregational Federation both in Scotland and at National level.

Congregationalism is a form of church government where each church is independent in the management of its own affairs.

We are here to help in good times and in bad times. For Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals please contact our Minister.

Rev Denise Cowie Tel 01224 709102

## **1ST POTTERTON BOYS' AND GIRLS' BRIGADES**

We are Christian uniformed organisations and we are attached to Potterton Congregational Church.

We meet from 6.15 – 7.15 pm on Fridays at Potterton Community Centre during term time.

Girls' Brigade is split into 3 sections, explorers P1 – P3, juniors P4 – P7 and brigaders S1 upwards.

Boys' Brigade is split into 3 sections, anchor boys P1- P3, juniors P4 – P7 and company section S1 upwards.

We work towards badges which are presented at our Open Night, which takes place between Easter and summer every year.

We enjoy, games, craft, badgework and physical activities. We also participate in drill and marching.

New members are always welcome.

For more information contact  
BB Capt Bruce Cowie  
Tel 01224 709102.

GB Captain Denise Cowie  
Tel 01224 709102.

[www.victoriagarage-belhelvie.co.uk](http://www.victoriagarage-belhelvie.co.uk)



# **Victoria Garage**

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## **QUICK CONTACTS:**

Emergencies -Fire, Police, Ambulance,Coastguard	999 or 112
Police – Non Emergency Calls	0845 600 5700
National Gas Emergency Service	0800 111 999
Scottish Water (Water Supplies and Emergencies)	0845 601 8855
Electricity	0800300 999
NHS 24 (Calls from 6pm to 8am)	08454 24 24 24

### **COUNCIL**

Aberdeenshire (General Inquires)	0845 608 1207
Cllr Gifford	01651 869493
Cllr Hendry	01358 743091
Cllr Johnston	01651 851198
Cllr Loveday	01651 872591
Balmedie Library	01358 742045
Eigie House	01358 743506
Community Centres - Bookings (Belhelvie and Potterton)	01358 727910

### **CHURCHES**

Church of Scotland	(Rev Paul McKeown)	01358 742227
Congregational Church	(Rev Denise Cowie)	01224 709102

### **SCHOOLS**

Bridge of Don Academy		01224 707583
Bad Weather	0870 054 1999	PIN 011020
Balmedie Primary		01358 742474
Bad Weather	0870 054 4999	PIN 021290

### **DOCTORS**

Oldmachar Medical Centre	0845 3370510
Scotstown Medical Group	01224 702149
Udny Surgery	01651 842204
Ellon Group Practice	01358 720333

Tarts and Crafts	01358 742002
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# Dates for your Diary

## December 2009

Friday 4th	Family Quiz (New Life Home Trust)	Forsyth Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 5th	'The Grinch'	Belhelvie Church	2pm
	Kids film - donations for Right Christmas		
Sunday 6th	Silver Band Service (Carols)	Belhelvie Church	11am
Friday 11th	'Scrooge'	Belhelvie Church	7.30pm
	Christmas movie - donations for Right Christmas		
Monday 14th	Belhelvie Community Council	Balmedie School	7.30pm
Friday 18th	Last day of school term (Balmedie and BODA)		
Sunday 20th	Nativity service	Forsyth Hall	11am
Thursday 24th	Congregation Church Potterton CeC		7.00pm
Thursday 24th	Watch night Service	Belhelvie Church	11pm
	(Mince pies and mulled wine to follow)		
Friday 25th	Christmas Day Service	Belhelvie Church	11am

## January 2010

Tuesday 5th	School restarts ( Balmedie and BODA)		
Monday 18th	Belhelvie Community Council	Balmedie School	7.30pm

## February 2010

Friday 12th	Mid term holiday (Balmedie)		
Monday 15th	Mid term holiday (Balmedie and BODA)		
Monday 15th	Belhelvie Community Council AGM	Potterton CeC	7.30pm
Tuesday 16th	In Service day (Balmedie and BODA)		
Wednesday 17th	In Service day (Balmedie and BODA)		
Friday 26th	Family Ceilidh	Forsyth Hall	7.30pm
	Music by The Tartan Quavers look out for advertisements nearer time		

## March 2010

Monday 15th	Belhelvie Community Council	Balmedie School	7.30pm
Friday 26th	Last day of school term ( Balmedie and BODA)		