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## CARRYING THE OLYMPIC TORCH

In Greece, the Olympic Flame is lit from the sun's rays at the Temple of Hera in Olympia, in a traditional ceremony among the ruins of the home of the Ancient Games. The flame arrived in the UK on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012 before setting out the next day on a 70-day Olympic Torch Relay, bringing the excitement of the Games to everyone.

On Day 25, the 12<sup>th</sup> June, the Olympic torch was carried through the streets of Dyce and Aberdeen on a 132 mile journey to Dundee on its way to London to light the Cauldron at the Opening Ceremony in the Olympic Stadium.

As this was a once in a lifetime opportunity the organisers and sponsors of the London 2012 Olympics gave 8,000 inspirational people the chance to be part of the relay and carry the torch along part of the route as close to their community as possible. Balmedie resident, Kate Barnett was nominated to take part in the relay by her fiancé Neil Powers.



Kate lighting the lamp for onward transportation to the city leg of the relay: N Powers

Neil says of his fiancée, “Having survived breast cancer at the age of 39 in 2008 and completing the Cancer Research UK Race for Life, whilst in the middle of her Chemo and Radio Therapy, she still had a smile on her face at the finish line when she received her medal.”

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Kate raised an awe inspiring £11,500 and still raises money every year. She was nominated for an Aberdeen Champion Award for her work in raising money for Cancer Research UK and won her category ahead of 5 other nominees. She now suffers from a rare Auto Immune disease called Dermatomyositis which causes a skin rash and muscle wastage but she still goes to the gym twice a week and does her Pilates on a Monday to try and keep the muscle she has got as toned as possible. It has been said by many people that Kate is an inspiration to all who meet her including all the nursing staff at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary's Skin Ward. Neil continued, "Never have I seen her break down since she has been ill, she is totally determined that nothing will beat her and nothing it seems will manage to stop her strong will and unending spirit and enthusiasm for life"

Kate was chosen as a torch bearer and carried the torch down a section of Stoneywood Drive in Dyce at 7.27am, while friends, family and colleagues lined the street to watch Kate's run.

After the event Kate commented: "I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all of you who took the time (and a very early one it was too) to cheer me on as I carried the Olympic Torch through Dyce. It was so nice to see so many people enjoying the moment as much as I did, it will certainly be a day that Neil and I will never forget."

Kate is a remarkable person and a real inspiration; she has had a lot to deal with but still finds the time, energy and focus to fundraise. When Kate is not fundraising she is committed to keeping the village of Balmedie in top order as a member of the Better Balmedie Group along with Neil, helping with planting and regular litter picks come rain or shine, all this on top of some nasty drug treatment she now has to have over 3 days every 4 to 5 weeks

Kate is such a selfless, genuine and committed person, a real inspiration and the achievements that she has made while dealing with her illnesses speak for themselves.

Well done Kate, you are a real inspiration!

**Ed.with Neil Powers**

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## **YOUNG FARMERS DEDICATE EVENING TO THE ELDERLY**



### **A North East Junior Agricultural Club visited Balmedie Home in Aid of National Young Farmers Week.**

The group of 14 young men and women from Belhelvie Young Farmers put their skills together to restore the Summer Pot House at Balmedie Residential Nursing Home to allow residents to enjoy the Gardens during the summer months. The Pot House was donated to the home by Mrs Simpson in memory of her husband, Charles Simpson, but was sadly left unused in recent months.

The Club arrived on the evening of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July equipped with brooms, dusters and polish to tidy, clean and weed the area with great enthusiasm. The club then shared the remainder of the evening with the residents, which was greatly appreciated.

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National Young Farmers Week ran from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 8<sup>th</sup> July to celebrate the institution of Young Farmers to promote clubs, raise awareness and to give something back to their local communities.

Balmedie House, owned by the Church of Scotland, is home to 32 residents and also offers respite care for the elderly. The home is managed by Anne Reid and is surrounded by 26 acres of woodland, lawns and gardens. The Home was also host to a family BBQ in August, and Belhelvie Young Farmers' efforts improved the appearance of the grounds for the event.

The Club gained a lot from the experience and would like to thank two of the on-duty carers, Lynne and Holly, for all their help and support on the night. Belhelvie Young Farmers then returned again on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July to strip down and re-paint the pot house, which is now returned to its former glory for the residents to enjoy. The project was really rewarding and the Club hope to keep in contact with the Home and return again soon.

**Secretary: Amy Jo Reid**

**[Ajreid.hfm@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Ajreid.hfm@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Tel: 01358 742450**

## **BELHELVIE SWRI**

Are your wellies worn out or have you got webbed feet. Here's hoping the rest of the summer improves and we have a few sunny days.

What or who is the SWRI? Scottish Women's Rural Institute, known to most as the 'Rural'. One thing we definitely are not is 'Jam and Jerusalem'. Yes we make jam but that is usual for most homemakers and we certainly do not sing Jerusalem.

The core principles of SWRI are friendship, fun and learning. Lots of activities are available to members including golf, bowling (outdoors and indoors) curling, walking and of course our own baking and craft competitions.

We meet in Eigie House lounge the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7-30pm. Our first meeting of the new session is Wed. 12th September when we have a young lady from Honey Pie Crafts giving a bead work demonstration.

Our syllabus is varied so why not come along and see if there is something for you. A warm welcome awaits, easy parking and easy access for the less able. We also run a whist night in Eigie House on the 4th Wed. of the month commencing 26th September. For any further information, please contact:

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## AWARD FOR POTTERTON ARTIST

It was my pleasure, as Chair of the Garioch Art Group, to present Ian R. Cormack with the Commended Artist Award at the group's recent Annual Exhibition in Inverurie Town Hall.



Ian, a former schoolteacher, has lived locally for 39 years, and has enjoyed painting since his schooldays. He is equally at home working in acrylics, water colours or oils and his work is varied: landscapes from his extensive travels; still life' and recently he has given more time to portraiture. He has exhibited work in Milton Gallery (Crathes) at ArtAboyne, the Gordon Forum Exhibition at Inverurie and, as a member of the Garioch Art Group, at their annual exhibition in the Town Hall. This year is the group's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, so he will be exhibiting with the Group at Hatton of Fintray Hall during North East Open Studios(NEOS).

Photo: Ian Young, Newmachar

The Galleryi Award, which carries a cash prize, is sponsored by Inverurie's contemporary Art outlet, Galleryi, which is located in the Garioch Shopping Centre, Constitution Street. Director Mark Gask and his team chose Ian's "Reflection of a Tango" and "Amsterdam Spring" for the award. Noted Artists were Pat Bain for "Californian Balcony", Jill Betts for "1928 Steam Wagon" and Sybil Hall for "Waterfall".

NEOS is from 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

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## **STRIKING THE BALANCE**

Life is rather complicated and confusing these days, even the weatherman never gets it right! I believe the sun is confused with a UFO these days! We have access to more information than ever; I bet most of us had never heard of the Jetstream before our bad weather of recent years! Yet it is a challenge to know which information we read is good medicine, and which is quackery. Many pieces that appear in the media appear to contradict each other, and I am not surprised that confusion can reign. So what can we do?

One approach is to ignore everything, and carry on regardless. This may have some benefits, as ignorance can be bliss! Sadly this means you may well miss some useful and potentially lifesaving information so this approach cannot be recommended. Equally bad is trying to keep up with everything and follow all the latest advice not missing anything. This is a recipe for anxious hypochondria! As you may guess the best approach, as with most things in life, is to find a good balance.

The important aspect of finding a balance is the ability to vary and be able to accept that change will happen. Think of an old set of scales swinging as you measure out something. This means what you look at and read will evolve and change over time, or become more complex, thereby causing the apparent conflicts oft reported in the media. Remember the media can operate on the principle of “why let boring facts spoil a good story?”

A good example were the media’s reports over cholesterol levels a number of years ago. Total cholesterol is in two parts, low density lipoprotein (LDL) and high density lipoprotein (HDL). If your level of HDL cholesterol is high, this tends to be good as your arteries will tend to “fur up” less, whereas if the LDL cholesterol is high then this is not good for you. This was reported as “Docs say high cholesterol is good for you!”, when this distinction was first made. If you did not read the full article, or have access to the proper scientific papers, then small wonder you got confused!

Doctors are nowadays advised to practise what is called Evidence Based Medicine or EBM. This means that we are challenged by vast quantities of information, and often find that things we were taught in medical school as “fact” are now wrong! We rely on expert journals and reviews of the scientific papers done by specialists to distil the information for us, producing guidelines for best practice. Applying these in the real world is a combination of scientific understanding and the art of medicine: in other words a balance.

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What does this mean for us as patients? We all want, I think, to live long and healthy lives, but no-one takes exactly the same approach. Some like the idea of a “pill for every ill”, but many don’t like taking pills at all. Yet again the best approach is usually in between, but varying according to a person’s individual circumstance. The job that we do as GPs is to help people find that balance, based on the current EBM recommendations, and then discuss the best way forward. It is interesting that despite all the science and new drugs, it still boils down to judgement as to how best to apply this for the individual.

This means that we will often present you with many facts and figures to try and help you decide whether or not you should take a certain pill, leaving many feeling that they should have gone to medical school as well! However we all strive to do our best to strike a balance so that we can find the best way forward for patients.

A very good example of an area which can cause concern is the use of vaccines, or immunisations. We give immunisations to stop a person getting certain infections. The guiding principle is that the immunisation is safer than the infection it is trying to prevent. They act by giving part of the virus or bacteria, or an inactivated shell of the bug, as a jab so that the immune system will learn to recognise the real bug and so be able to fight it off. This elegant idea is centuries old and has saved countless people, yet some find the idea worrying.

We have huge data sets showing how safe all vaccines are, but we find it hard to relate to these numbers when a picture or individual story seems more real and to us makes more sense. This is where as doctors we try to translate the science to help reassure you that what we want to give to you or your children is safe. A good test is what we do for our own families!

Try and take care what you read. Always remember to look for a sensible balanced view. Like everything else it is best not to be too extreme. We know that exercise is good for you, but extreme amounts are not so; alcohol can be safe in limited amounts, but not in excess, the same with eating. So try hard to keep the balance and don’t forget that if you are 65 or over by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, or have a chronic medical condition (diabetes, heart disease, COPD, previous stroke), make your appointment for a ‘flu jab and, if required, a pneumococcal jab as well.

Have fun on the tightrope that is life, keep your balance and remember not to test the safety net of the NHS too often!

**Dr. Alasdair Forbes**



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We are always on the search for volunteers and no offer of help will be turned down. We are pleased to welcome a new volunteer who is working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Award by working at Tarts and Crafts. If you or somebody you know needs experience before going to catering college or into the retail trade then we can provide the relevant experience for your CV. You will be welcomed to the team and supported by an experienced volunteer while you are learning the ropes.

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## **BALMEDIE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CRAFT CLUB**

The craft club is held in Balmedie school on Thursday evenings from 6.30-7.30pm during school term time. Primary school children of all ages are very welcome to attend. There is a variety of activities that are great fun to do. These include glueing, painting, sewing, creating and a great favourite, baking. There is a small charge to cover the costs of the items used. Come along and join in the fun. Hope to see you there! For further details contact: **Catherine Cassie**

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## BALMEDIE FAMILY JUBILEE CAMP

The biennial Balmedie Scout Family camp was held on the Jubilee weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Haddo Campsite and not unsurprisingly the theme was 'The Jubilee'. The camp site accommodated 150+ members of the Balmedie scout family throughout the weekend; including all members of the royal family, in the form of the various scout leaders i.e. "The Queen", "Prince Philip", "Prince Charles" etc. and let us not forget the 120 residents and visiting commoners. (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, parents and visitors).



After approximately 40 colourful tents of all shapes and sizes had been erected on the Friday night and camp opened by "King Canute" (Ian Thomson) a rousing camp fire was led by "The Queen" (Young Leader) and "The Duchess of Cambridge" (Lesley Cruickshank). In usual scout fashion, all the individual units entertained everyone else with their own pre-prepared entertainment part of the camp fire then marshmallows were roasted and enjoyed before supper and bed.

A lovely dry sunny Saturday saw the teams of Corgi Dogs, Good Knights, Beefeaters, Castles and Royal Standards practising their archery skills with "King Fergie" (Peter Laing) and Stewart Moore (Gordon Scouts Active Support) then seeing how high they could crate-climb with "Prince Charles" (Alistair Simpson), "Princess Anne" (Alison Warren) and "Prince William" (Malcolm Farr). The art of Backwoods cooking was demonstrated by the "Duchesses of York" (Elaine Neil) and "Cambridge."

## OLIVER – The Musical

This year Bridge of Don Academy produced a school show for the first time in ten years when the curtain rose for their production of Lionel Bart's musical 'Oliver'. Pupils and staff took on the task of bringing their performance to the stage at Aberdeen Arts Centre for three nights at the end of June. The show that they chose to resurrect the school's theatrical ambitions was the much-loved musical written by Lionel Bart and based on Charles Dickens' classic, the timeless tale of the adventures of orphan Oliver Twist. Auditions for the principal parts were held before Christmas and Joel Simpson, pictured left, who lives in Potterton, was chosen



to play the part of Oliver.

The show proved to be a great evening's entertainment for all the family, with song and dance numbers including the memorable numbers: 'Food

Glorious Food', 'Consider Yourself', 'I'd Do Anything' and 'Where Is Love?' all featuring.

The streets, dens and taverns of Victorian London depicted in "Oliver!" resonated to these songs and teemed with colourful and vivid characters who have become such iconic figures: Fagin, Nancy, The Artful Dodger and, of course, Oliver himself.

Organisers hope to build on their success and to make this enriching experience a yearly Bridge of Don Academy tradition. Look out for next year's production!

## CORE PATHS

*"Name and Address Supplied"* in the last issue of the 'Banter' gave us an interesting recollection of recent times-past in our community. I will not comment on remarks made about landowner difficulties in establishing the core paths except to say that "we are where we are!". The present situation is that Aberdeenshire Council will not progress the Core Paths plan itself; therefore, if we want to advance this initiative it will be up to ourselves in the local community to form a committee and take the plan forward. The committee will need to negotiate with landowners, source the money needed from the various grants set up for this purpose and finally to oversee the construction of the paths. Members of this community who are willing to serve on the 'Core Paths Committee' are asked to contact any member of Belhelvie Community Council. Hopefully we will have a committee up and running to tell you about in the next issue of 'Belhelvie Banter'.

**Malcolm Ross**



Then all participants prepared and cooked their own muffins in hollowed out orange skins, on an open fire. “Prince Philip” (Ivor Jenkins) and “Princess Leah” (Laura Nebbiolo) taught various scouting skills using the compass and also adverse weather survival techniques. The highlight activity for everyone was the giant Haddo hill slide with “The Queen” and her grandson “Prince Harry” (Ian Isted).

Competition was close for the furthest slide, the fastest slide and who could slide off the end but everyone had an enjoyable time getting wet. “Cook Go Away” (Shuna Jenkins) and “The Duchess of Cornwall” (Arlene Thomson) ensured no one went hungry and had a constant supply of tea, coffee and cold drinks readily on hand.

Everyone slept better on the Saturday night, after all the day’s activities, the Scout AGM, and the evening wide-games, where each team tried to capture the opposition’s flag.

Thankfully the weather held and the parents were able to get all the tents down dry on the Sunday morning. Meanwhile the Scouters took their respective groups off for separate activities. The Beaver Scouts had an interesting teddy bears picnic with their own teddy bears, the Cub Scouts went on a treasure hunt using compasses and the Scouts each turned their own woggle on a wood lathe. To finish the camp, the royal scout subjects (everyone present) formed a Union Flag on the ground in front of the Pheasantry in preparation for the royal fly-past but, like the real royals, suffered from a weather delay, so, sorry there are no photos. After a final mopping-up lunch, King Canute declared the weekend a success and the flag was lowered to signal the end of the camp.

PS Unfortunately King Canute’s luck expired on his return journey to reality and it poured, heavily!

**“Cook Go Away”**

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## **BETTER BALMEDIE**

Well, we planted the planters, the tubs and the boat in the rain, and we haven't needed to water much this "summer". We have instead been weeding and snail hunting! I have never seen so many snails and slugs in Balmedie before and most of them have been heading for our displays! The biggest casualty has been the Jubilee Crown which had its golden top eaten away.

We are delighted that 2 Belhelvie Brownie packs have spent time at the polytunnel and will be coming back in the autumn. They now have their own planter near the Leisure Centre, made of wood from Pitmedden Wood Recyclability by Brownie dad Jim Jamieson, assisted by members of Better Balmedie. The Brownies planted their planter at the end of June. It is looking good so far and they will be looking after it from now on.

Our tattie patch is looking fantastic and we look forward to sampling them and other home grown vegetables as they become available. Look out for signs at the polytunnel for produce for sale. All money raised from these sales will be used to continue to make the village look good. Our Plant Sale at the end of May was fantastic! We were very lucky to hold it on the hottest day of the year, and local people supported us to the tune of £1070. Thanks to everyone who bought plants. We hope they are doing well despite the weather and that you will come back for more! We were also delighted to take part in the first Farmers' Market run by the Whitehorse Inn. We had a great day, and look forward to the next one.

Better Balmedie planted a wild flower meadow in the area next to the polytunnel. We had some success, with several varieties flowering, but the rain did a lot of damage. We will persevere though.....if you come across any "freebies" of flower seeds (wild or cultivated) we will put them to good use.

Members of Better Balmedie are delighted with the growing support we are getting from our local community. We have had donations of seed potatoes, tools, planters, a bench, turf, garden chairs and table, slabs and pots (we can still use any big ones, but have plenty of little ones). The group is growing and we are very pleased that we now have several junior members. However, there's always room for more and you will be made very welcome. You don't need to be a gardener; just turn up and there will be work to be done and tea to be drunk! The polytunnel is always open, whatever the weather, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10am to 12noon, so come and see us then, lend a hand, buy some plants, and meet fellow residents of the village. Alternatively, come along to a monthly meeting, always on last Thursday of the month, see Diary Dates.

We have entered Formartine in Bloom this year. The competition will be judged on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, so fingers crossed that we have positive comments. Thanks to Aberdeenshire Council, we are employing a village orderly over the summer again but he needs everyone's support, so please help to keep our village tidy!

To find out all about Better Balmedie please look at [www.betterbalmedie.org](http://www.betterbalmedie.org)  
For more information, ring me on 01358 742557  
or email [rosie.inform@lineone.net](mailto:rosie.inform@lineone.net)

**Rosie Nicol**



Just one example of the Better Balmedie Groups acquired skills!

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## PARISH THREADS - SWANNING AROUND

St. Andrew reputedly rescued six ladies who had lived seven years in the form of white swans. Some of us are thinking that we might be better off as swans if this wet weather continues. We could paddle about to our hearts content outside, because inside a wet day seems to last forever. The sort of day you are reduced to dusting off the dulllest book in the world, like Ruskin's 'Seven Lamps of Architecture'. It will have been in the bookcase since Noah was a boy. Eventually when your damp bored eyes look up at the window, and the rain is still coming down, even those 'Lamps' he describes: Sacrifice, Truth, Power, Beauty, Life, Memory and Obedience, won't shed any light over Belhelvie. My Dad, who only had the one lamp, probably called Gedonwithit, used to say you can make hay with a stick when the sun shines and I think we can guess what he meant. When conditions are right, life's not too hard.

In this Parish we are rarely short of water even when it's not raining. We have springs, wells, divined boreholes, bogs, burns and saturated peat. Belhelvie hugs water, from its high boggy ground to the spongy marshland by the sea. Water features in the old geographical names: Muirton, Middlemuir, Boghead, Damhead, Bridgeton, Butterywells, Dubbystyle and the several Mills and Mosses.

Our roads can be traced back to where animals were transported on foot, keeping to the dry upper levels. Sheils tells of shepherds stopping off with their flock. Causeyend is at the end of the old stone road from Aberdeen, the Causeway's end. Cannahars refers to Cottongrass on the Muir or moor, Drum is a ridge and Reeve a fold. We have so many of these old poetic descriptive place names for our hills and valleys. They shape our sense of place and they are rooted in our landscape.

The name Belhelvie could be from ancient Scottish words meaning 'the mouth of the rivulets'. Edinburgh is built on seven hills and Belhelvie is known for a seven too... (not just seven waterproof jackets per person) because seven burns drain down to the coast: Newtyle, Menie, Orrok, Hopeshill, Eggie, Potterton and Blackdog all meander down to join the Seven Seas.

We could complain, drip even, that we have had more than seven weeks of rain and fog, and say it's hard to remember the views we used to enjoy over sea and land. Ward Hill, a high vantage point overlooking Ardo to the north and Broomhillock to the south, has a view of seven parishes. (I seem to be clinging to a seven theme) The word 'Ward' means 'watch' suggesting it was a beacon hill. It would have been good for passing a message up and down the coast and across to the Garioch, when it wasn't raining. On the other hand maybe we should be more positive about our plentiful natural resource and listen to John Gough. In the mid 1800s hoping to encourage temperance he wrote:

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## **BELHELVIE CHURCH – THE AUTUMN TERM**

After a busy summer with our Children's Holiday Club well attended, we're gearing up for the Autumn term again. We would love to see you at any or all of the events in the months to come.

### **All dates are in the Dates for Diary page**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. we have the annual Guild Dedication Service and the following Friday 7<sup>th</sup>, our Talent Show will be held in the Forsyth Hall at 7.30pm. This evening of entertainment will also include the presentation of prizes to winners of the Open Photograph Competition. A selection of photos will be on display and anyone interested in performing at the Talent Show is invited to get in touch as soon as possible (Tel: Doreen Crawford 01358-742309). Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> is a Communion Service and on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. at 6:30pm we have a visit from our Mission Partners, David and Rebecca Morton, who work at Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. is our Harvest Service and we welcome visitors to our 'Back To Church Sunday'. On the 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. we have a Communion Service.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. at 10:50am is our annual Remembrance Day Service and on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. we have our Christmas Coffee Morning in the Forsyth Hall 10.00am – 12.00 noon. We will have a variety of stalls displaying quality, seasonal items plus refreshments and a Prize Draw.

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. sees the start of our Christmas celebrations with our 6:30pm Christingle Service. The following Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 11am we welcome the Bon Accord Silver Band to our Service. Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> is our Communion Service with Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. our Nativity Service in the Forsyth Hall. Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. we still have to confirm that our Community Carol Service will be held in Balmedie Leisure Centre at 4pm followed by our Watchnight Service from 11pm and on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 11am we have our Christmas Morning Service.

**Rev Dr P McKeown**

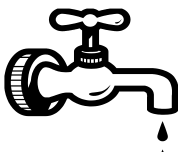
### **Enquiries to**

**Doreen Crawford, Convener, Tel: 01358-742309, [doreen51@talktalk.net](mailto:doreen51@talktalk.net)**

**Arthur G Nicolson, Secretary, Tel: 01358-743628, [arthurnicolson@sky.com](mailto:arthurnicolson@sky.com)**

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## FORMARTINE LOCAL POLICE TEAM NEWS

Formartine local policing is informed by understanding what communities need through consulting, listening, responding and providing feedback. We asked you what our local priorities should be and in general terms, you told us the following were important to you. **Anti Social Behaviour:** in general but particularly around vandalism and antisocial driving. **Speeding:** within your areas. **Community Focus:** visible Police presence was important to enhance community safety, well being, provide reassurance and to seek increased visibility in some of the smaller communities.

The 'Midnight Football' in Ellon on Fridays between January and March culminated on 3 May at Pittodrie when one of the Ellon teams won the final and the cup sits proudly in the Ellon Police Office. This very successful exercise gave young people something to do and divert them from antisocial activities.

Vandalism occurrences are down 45% on last years' activity across Formartine.

The last quarterly update contained information about drug seizures in and around Ellon following a six week programme of proactive searches and enforcement work by the Local Team. As a result of this, a man from Ellon has recently received a lengthy prison sentence. Additional, but separate, cases are still pending in respect of other individuals.

Speed enforcement in our communities was a focus and, for a four week period during May and June, staff were deployed during weekdays, to address that issue. Areas across Formartine were monitored including Potterton – Kirkhill Road and Balmedie – Eigie Road.

The Ellon Police Office 'Open Day' was held on 26 May with many visitors taking the opportunity to visit. Officers were on hand to provide information on Crime Prevention, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Community Policing Duties, with visits to the cells, speaking to Specialist Officers such as a Dog Handler and Wildlife Crime Officer. A Police Cadet and member of the Training Department were also on hand to answer questions on recruitment and careers within the Police. Staff have continued to visit groups and organisations to promote the work of Grampian Police and provide general advice on how to behave in the community. Balmedie Beavers, is one of many groups to benefit.

Police attendance at the 12 Formartine Community Councils has reached nearly 100 % and I hope to maintain that level of staff commitment. **Extract from 'Formartine Local Policing Update' - Inspector Steve Pratt, Local Policing Team Inspector, Ellon.**



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### **3<sup>RD</sup> BELHELVIE BROWNIES (POTTERTON)**

The Brownies have been very busy. We had a fantastic weekend of fun activities at PGL Dalguise, Perthshire. There were about 80 Brownies from all over the Gordon District and it was great for the girls to be able to meet Brownies from other areas. Activities included raft building, zip wire, abseiling and quad biking, to name a few.

We had quite a few new girls join us who have now proudly made their promises. The other girls have been working on badges as well as other activities which included blindfold food tasting, jewellery making, decorating cup cakes for the jubilee, teddy bear party and making lanterns for tree decorations. All ideas were suggested by the Brownies during their Pow-wow.

We joined all the Rangers, Guides, Rainbows and other Brownies for a Queen's Jubilee Street Party in Balmedie. We bounced on Balmoral Castle, we made carriages and QE2s. We made a commemorative jubilee badge and had an old fashioned street party on a very long table.

We have a few spaces at Brownies if your daughter is between 7 and 10 years old. **Contact Katherine Hebron-Scott on 01330 833448 or email [katherine@hebron1.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:katherine@hebron1.orangehome.co.uk)**

### **BELHELVIE BOWLING CLUB**

Winners of the Quiz sold in aid of club funds were:

M. Hay, Balmedie

and

E Strachan, Potterton

**Well Done!**

The Bowling Club closes for the season on the 15th September.  
Any queries regarding the club, do not hesitate to contact us.  
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**Marion Donald**  
**Secretary**

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Can you give an evening a week, time preparing and meet with the team now and then?  
Could you make a promise and keep it?  
Do you have fun every week?

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However if you are uncertain about most of it you are no different to any of our leaders before they took their first Scouting steps.

We have a committed team running not only Beavers but Cubs and Scouts too.

We wouldn't throw you in at the deep end but work with you to grow your experience, knowledge and confidence.

You would initially be integrated into the team until you are ready, along with others, to form a 2<sup>nd</sup> Beaver Colony to meet the huge demand we have for places. The original team will still be available to support you all.

If you'd like to know more about us or come along to visit our meetings, please give me a call or drop us an email.

We know that Scouting works for youngsters and adults alike – we just can't meet the demand.

Our Scout Group caters for all youngsters from 6 to 18 in the Parish and beyond.

**BEAVERS** – For 6&7 year olds. The Wednesday evening colony is very popular, supported by 4 Beaver leaders. They meet in Balmedie School at 6pm.

We currently have a long waiting list which is open from a youngster's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**CUBS** – Our Packs meet both Monday and Tuesday in Potterton Comm. Centre at 6:30pm. Ours Cubs regularly get out and about. For youngsters aged 8 to 10½.

**SCOUTS** – Our Scout Troop caters for 10-14s. Meet Friday nights 7-9.30pm in Potterton Community Centre and are always out and about. Please note our new vacancy for Leaders here too, to join our current team.

**EXPLORERS** – Our 14-18 group meet in Potterton Fridays from 7:00-9:30pm. All our sections are for boys and girls and we are a multi-cultural organisation.

To contact any of our sections call - **01358 743156**

e-mail [balmedie.scouts@btinternet.com](mailto:balmedie.scouts@btinternet.com) **Ian Thomson Group Scout Leader.**



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## **1<sup>ST</sup> BELHELVIE RANGERS**

Last term the Rangers worked on an Olympic themed badge. We had good fun and the energy bars we made were quite nice (if a little over cooked). This term we are having a Chills and Skills indoor weekend in October. It's a chance for the Rangers and any Young Leaders to try some relaxing activities as well as learning new skills such as car maintenance. All the other activities this term will be chosen by the Rangers at our first meeting back.

Rangers are for women aged 14-26 years old. You don't have to have been in Guiding before to join us and you can come and try out a few weeks first if you are not sure if it is for you. If you are over 18 years, you might like to join us as a helper. Duke of Edinburgh volunteers are also welcome.

Our first meeting back is the 30<sup>th</sup> of August and we meet fortnightly after that. We charge £3 per night Please get in touch if you are interested in joining as a member or as a helper. **Susan 01224 703335 s.osbeck@rgu.ac.uk**

## **BALMEDIE FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

This group is open to all residents over the age of 50 who reside in Belhelvie Parish. Each year there is an interesting mix of musical entertainment and talks from invited speakers. There is an annual outing at the end of the summer session. This time it was a trip to Banchory for lunch followed by a ride over Cairn 'o' Mount to Brechin Castle Centre for afternoon tea. The new session begins on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012 with a Bingo session. We meet every second Tuesday from 2-4pm in Eigie House lounge and everyone is welcome. There is a small charge to cover refreshments.

The full programme of events up to Christmas is included in Dates for Your Diary later in this edition.

For any further enquiries please contact:

**Margaret Murison, secretary Tel 01358 742285**  
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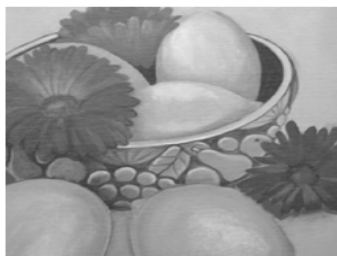
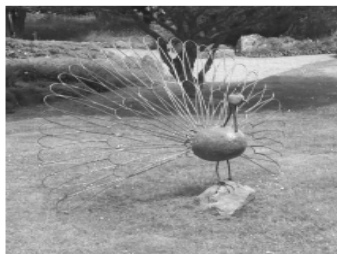
## NEOS - THE NORTH EAST OPEN STUDIOS

**NEOS Dates are Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012**

NEOS is Scotland's largest Open Studios event providing easy access to the wealth of creative talent throughout the North East of Scotland. Formed in 2003 primarily to provide a focus in the year for arts & craft practitioners to open their doors and interface directly with the public. Last year this "not for profit" collective of artists, makers and galleries in the North East welcomed an estimated 15,000 visitors to the 286 participating studios and venues. Clearly there is a thirst from the public to see and experience creative practice in our area. Most items on show are for sale.

Catalogues are freely available so that you can plan your route for interesting days out. Why not start in Fintray? Easy Parking and I'll make sure you get a cuppa!

**Ed.**



**Garioch Art Group | Colin Smith Sculpture |  
Jennifer-Jane Stained Glass | Fintray Fine Frames**

**North East Open Studio Exhibition**  
Sat 15th - Sun 23rd Sept 2012  
10am - 4pm Daily  
10am - 8pm Wed & Fri

**Hatton of Fintray Village Hall**  
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## BALMEDIE GALA

Saturday 9th June at Balmedie Primary School was the venue for this year's Village Gala and although it was not very warm, at least we had dry weather this year.

Our attendance was slightly down on previous years due to the Gala being on the same day as the Emmerdale Extravaganza at Fyvie Castle and an Olympic Procession in Aberdeen but we still had a great turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves at the variety of stalls and outdoor events.

Our raffle was well supported and thanks to the generosity of the local businesses we had over 60 prizes to award with the major prize being a round of golf for 4 at Trump International Links which was won by a resident in Belhelvie. Special thanks must go to the village Co-op and the White Horse who donated the proceeds of their takings from the gala which shows the level of commitment which our local businesses have to the village.

Due to the generosity of the villagers we now have over £2000 to be able to donate to local organisations and this will be distributed in the coming months.

Following a brief respite from planning, the Gala committee is about to hold its opening meeting to start preparing for the 2013 gala and our hope is that with your support, we can make it even bigger and better . **Wishart McBride**



## ***BETTER BALMEDIE***

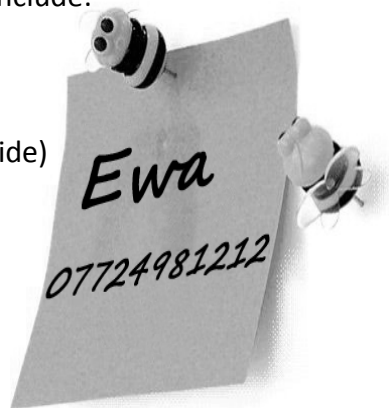
***Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 10am***

***Open Day  
at Polytunnel  
Leisure Centre  
Eigie Road***



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## WHITECAIRNS DUMMY AIRFIELD

During the Second World War, Dyce Aerodrome became a Royal Air Force station - RAF Dyce. Although fighters were based there throughout the Battle of Britain to provide protection from German bombing raids from Occupied Norway, it was mainly used as a photographic reconnaissance base alongside anti-shipping operations and convoy escort by Coastal Command. The airfield was bombed by the Luftwaffe in July and August 1940, although no significant damage was reported.

Harestone Moss, close to Whitecairns was set up as a Decoy or 'Q' site for Dyce Airfield. This was to trick the Luftwaffe into thinking that this was 'the' airfield and to create the impression of an active airfield during the night. The decoy was bombed on several occasions between August and December 1940 and again in July 1941, with one highly explosive bomb hitting nearby farm buildings, and 16 incendiary bombs landing on the moss.

There were two types of decoy airfield: K-sites operated during the day and moved dummy aircraft about the field, while Q-sites operated systems of static and mobile false lights at night to simulate an operating airfield. The decoy site at Whitecairns had a bunker, north of Easter Craigie that housed a generator used to power the dummy airfield lights. The generator was used to power a decoy 'flare path' in addition to rotating lamps to be used to give the impression of a taxiing aircraft. There were three retractable forts installed on the site but no information is available on the effectiveness of these installations.

The remains of the air-raid shelter, located on a gentle South facing slope, comprise three compartments. The central one of shuttered concrete is entered by a flight of eleven concrete steps; it has vertical walls and a flat roof. The East and West compartments are roofed with corrugated iron sheeting, externally reinforced with concrete and arches over from North to South just above ground level. Situated against the foot of the East wall there are two concrete plinths, one supporting what appears to be a concrete sink or trough, and the second for the generator. At the West end of the chamber there is a roof aperture covered by the remains of an iron hatch.



*Inside the Whitecairns bunker*

**Editor  
Banter would like to hear from readers  
with memories of Airfield activity.**

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<b>National Gas Emergency Service</b>	<b>0800 111 999</b>
<b>Scottish Water (Water Supplies and Emergencies)</b>	<b>0845 601 8855</b>
<b>Electricity</b>	<b>0800300 999</b>
<b>NHS 24 (Calls from 6pm to 8am)</b>	<b>08454 24 24 24</b>

### COUNCIL

Aberdeenshire (General Inquires)	0845 608 1207
Cllr Gifford	01651 869493
Cllr Hendry	01358 743091
Cllr Johnston	01651 851198
Cllr Shand	07876 475365
Balmedie Library	01358 742045
Eigie House	01358 743506
Community Centres - Bookings (Belhelvie and Potterton)	01358 727910
Balmedie Leisure Centre	01358 743725

### CHURCHES

Church of Scotland	(Rev Paul McKeown)	01358 742227
Congregational Church	(Rev. Andy Cowie)	01224 703248
Catholic Church	(Parish Office)	01224 626359

### SCHOOLS

Bridge of Don Academy		01224 707583
Emergency Contact	0870 054 1999	PIN 011020
Balmedie Primary		01358 742474
Emergency Contact	0870 054 4999	PIN 021290
Ellon Academy		01358 720715
Emergency Contact	0870 054 4999	PIN 021040

### DOCTORS

Danestone Medical Practice	01224 833866
Ellon Group Practice	0845 337 1150
Oldmachar Medical Practice (Jesmond Drive and King St)	0845 337 0510
Scotstown Medical Practice	01224 702149
Udny Station Surgery	01651 842204

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**\*\*\* Deadline for copy for next issue: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012**

# White Horse Farmers Market

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## GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT

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**SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2012**

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**FARMER'S MARKET  
FROM 10AM TIL 2PM**

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Old Road : Balmedie : [whitehorseinn.co.uk](http://whitehorseinn.co.uk) : [bookings@whitehorseinn.co.uk](mailto:bookings@whitehorseinn.co.uk)



## Dates for your Diary

### September

Sat 1	Better Balmedie Open Day Polytunnel Leisure Centre	Eigie Road	10.00am
Sun 2	Guild Dedication Service	Belhelvie Church	11.00am
Fri 7	Talent Show	Forsyth Hall	
Tue11	Friendship group	Eigie House	2-4pm
Wed 12	SWRI	Eigie House	7.30pm
Sun 16	Communion Service	Belhelvie Church	11.00am
Fri 21	Aberdeen Holiday	BoDA off	
Mon 24	Aberdeen Holiday	Balmedie Primary, BoDA off	
Tue 25	Friendship group	Eigie House	2-4pm
Wed 26	SWRI Whist	Eigie House	7.30pm
Thu 28	Better Balmedie Talk Herbs for Health & Cooking	Whitehorse Inn	7.30pm
Sun 30	Belhelvie Church visit from Mission Partners, Malawi		6.30pm

### October

Sun 7	Harvest Service and “ Back to Church Sunday”	Belhelvie Church	11.00am
Tues 9	Friendship group	Eigie House	2 -4pm
Wed 10	SWRI	Eigie House	7.30pm
Fri 12	End of School term	Balmedie Primary, BoDA, Ellon	
Tue 23	Friendship group	Eigie House	2 -4pm
Wed 24	SWRI Whist	Eigie House	7.30pm
Thu 25	Better Balmedie Business & Social Meeting	Whitehorse Inn	7.30pm
Sun 28	Communion Service	Belhelvie Church	11.00am
Mon 29	Start of school term	Balmedie Primary, BoDA, Ellon	
Mon 31	Senior Citizens Fundraising Whist evening	Eigie House	7.00pm

### November

Tue 6	Friendship group	Eigie House	2 -4pm
Sun 11	Remembrance Day Service	Belhelvie Church	10.50am
Mon 12	School in-service	Balmedie Primary, BoDA, Ellon	
Tues 13	School in-service	Balmedie Primary, BoDA, Ellon	
Thurs 15	SWRI Birthday party	T B A	
Tue 20	Friendship group	Eigie House	2 -4pm
Sat 24	Christmas Coffee morning	Forsyth Hall	10am-noon
Wed 28	SWRI Whist	Eigie House	7.30pm
Thu 29	Better Balmedie Wine Tasting	Whitehorse Inn	7.30pm

### December

Sun 2	Christingle Service	Belhelvie Church	6.30pm
Tue 4	Friendship group	Eigie House	2 -4pm
Sun 9	Bob Accord Silver Band Service	Belhelvie Church	11.00am
Tue 11	Friendship group party	White Horse Inn	2-4pm
Wed 12	SWRI	Eigie House	7.30pm
Sun 16	Communion Service	Belhelvie Church	11.00am
Fri21	End of School term	Balmedie Primary, BoDA, Ellon	
Sun 23	Nativity Service	Forsyth Hall	11.00am
Mon 24	Community Carol Service	Balmedie Leisure Centre	TBC 4.00pm
Mon 24	Watchnight Service	Belhelvie Church	11.00pm
Tue 25	Christmas Morning Service	Belhelvie Church	11.00am