

BELHELVIE BANTER

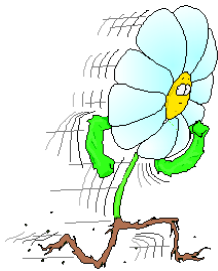


Balmedie: Whitecairns : Belhelvie : Potterton : Blackdog

EDITION 18

MARCH 2014

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BELHELVIE COMMUNITY TRUST

The Belhelvie Community Trust is now up and running with a constitution and bank account. It has been set up to serve the parish of Belhelvie - Belhelvie, Potterton, Balmedie, Whitecairns and Blackdog and all other dwellings in between the villages. It is an "umbrella" organisation, to support existing projects, clubs and organisations and to develop new projects as identified by residents of the parish.

There are lots of things going on locally, but many organisations struggle to get volunteers, funding etc. The Trust will pool resources and hopefully make it easier to make things better in our neighbourhood. In addition to supporting existing groups, the Trust would hope to help new initiatives throughout the parish. It will also be a source of information, from funding to people who can help with practical tasks.

The Trust meetings will be open to all who have an interest in the parish of Belhelvie. They will be held at 7.30 in the Whitehorse Inn on the fourth Monday of each month, so 24 February, 24 March, 28 April, 26 May, 23 June, 28 July, 25 August, 22 September, 27 October, 24 November.

Representatives from many local groups and organisations, plus interested individual people, attended our first meeting in January. There was enthusiastic discussion, several positive suggestions, information shared and actions decided.

If you want to know more, or could help in any way, please phone me on 01358 742557 or email rosie.inform@lineone.net

Rosie Nicol, Secretary

2014 BALMEDIE GALA

Balmedie Gala this year is to be held at Balmedie Primary School on the 7th of June from 11am-4pm 2014!!

Here we come!!!

We are super-excited to be holding the Balmedie gala once again; we are a little disappointed with the lack of volunteers as only 4 people turned up to the last meeting. We are hoping that somewhere out there will be people willing to help us on the day to set up and tidy away as we would hate to have to cancel this fabulous day due to lack of volunteers.

Last year the Balmedie Gala raised £1666.79!! Can we raise more funds this year??

Last year Balmedie Gala donated our funds to the following community groups: Belhelvie Pensioners Group: £300, Better Balmedie Group: £200, Balmedie Christmas Lights Group: £500, Balmedie Leisure Centre: £200, Congregational Church: £300, Balmedie House: £300 and the Friendship Club: £200.

If you feel you could help on the day for a few hours for set-up and tidy-up or would like to attend our gala committee meetings, please contact zara_wilke@hotmail.com or 01358741874 If you wish to have an inside stall at this fabulous event please contact: Louise louisecarstairs@gmail.com Outside stalls: zara_wilke@hotmail.com

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FIRST RESPONDERS

Belhelvie Community First Responders are currently fundraising and recruiting within the Parish with a view to setting up a scheme in 2014. We are indebted to Euan Bain and staff at the White Horse for our fundraising Burns Supper, for all who came along and joined in the fun and to all who so generously donated to the raffle. Special mention to Anne for organising raffle donations and Alan who acted as MC, then played in the band for free.



Top table, L to R, Councillor Rob Merson, Bill Brown, Alan Smith, Allan Jeffrey, Rev Manson Merchant and Graham Gauld

The need for such a scheme has been under discussion for some time. Several local schemes exist and operate very successfully in neighbouring areas (Bridge of Don, Newmachar, Pitmedden & Inverurie) - this has prompted formation of a group of local volunteers. These volunteers are currently fund-raising, and awaiting training by The Scottish Ambulance Service.

Our aim is currently two-fold; firstly, to raise funds for the purchase of Defibrillators to be sited at various locations within the Parish & to train a good number of local volunteers in the use of these; secondly, to raise sufficient funds to start up a Community First Responder Scheme (approx £6,000 start-up cost & a further £3000 per year to maintain) - such funds will be necessary for the purchase of equipment, uniforms and provision of transport. We will also continue to recruit volunteers to staff the scheme. Supplementary information can be found here....

[/www.scottishambulance.com/YourCommunity/role.aspx](http://www.scottishambulance.com/YourCommunity/role.aspx) **Fiona Clark** Coordinator
email belhelviebanter@live.co.uk or Call Audrey Jeffries 07814 254 301 for details

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PARISH THREADS By Mary Cane

Glee Resumes.

High up on the mountain something catches my eye. It's Doreen's fridge magnet: the little plastic red man that clamps the photos of her grandchildren. Wait a minute, says my brain, I am in a valley in South Island New Zealand and that fridge magnet is at Broomhillock in Belhelvie Parish. Ahh, my grey matter re-computes, that red figure is a full sized climber spread-eagled across the rock face, far away. We continue our picnic and watch. He slowly works his way across the grey schist, a tiny hand reaching for chalk from the bag around waist, his ropes invisible at this distance.

Adventurous activity is in the air here. The 60th anniversary of the ascent of Everest in 1953 has been celebrated in the town because Edmund Hillary climbed the mountains here as practice before he went to the Himalayas.

So here we are again, busy in the summer sun, settling back into our New Zealand cottage. It was built for a sheep musterer's family in the 1920s. It isn't marked on a map. The best places never are. The external walls are made from flattened oil cans. They have been painted and then forgotten for decades. The orangey rust colours against the soft blues of the lavender by the little green door are a perfect combination. We will continue to work on it during this visit. It's called 'Biscuit Tin Cottage' because its foundations are old biscuit tins filled with concrete. Wooden plank floors have saw marks and there are later additions of flat tin, nailed down along gaps to deter rodents. Patches of old newsprint still stick to the walls. One readable headline says: 'Glee Resumes'. I like that, it sounds positive, as if we were meant to be here enjoying the combination of renovation and southern sun.

It has some similarities to our home in Belhelvie...It has history, there are trees around it, a hill behind for shelter and nice neighbours. However there are differences. Yesterday a problem with a floor was solved by lifting the corner of the building with a car jack. That doesn't happen at home.

When William Morris went travelling to Iceland in the 1870s he noticed that there was a delight to be had in the altered ordinary things. 'Look at the horses, the hats and the hellos.' he wrote home. We enjoy doing the same here, observing the similar, seeing our own history in a different context.

At our native plant volunteer sessions, we hear tales from New Zealand locals. There was the one about the old climber interviewed in Dunedin not long ago about his ascent of one of the Southland mountains with his brother in the 1930s. 'Have you any proof you reached the summit?' he was asked. 'No because our camera film ran out.' The old man replied. The disbelieving interviewer then went off to organise his own expedition, determined to claim the peak for himself. When he eventually reached the top he found a small cairn and to his irritation, inside there was a sardine tin containing the names of the old men.

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was an old and treasured local character. He probably had 'a smile like a burnt fence' and 'was as fit as a robbers dog'. He won a ticket to fly in an aeroplane for the first time on one of the Air New Zealand sight-seeing trips to the Antarctic. Yep, it was the one that crashed into Mount Erebus...

We shared a meal with a man who told of a dog which when his owner says: "Do you fancy a bike ride?" jumps up onto his knee facing forwards and then when it's ears are held like handlebars, makes a growling noise like a motor bike.

Our neighbours here killed pigs for Christmas and hung them in the trees, Goyaesque, before butchering them. They were generous in their invitations to share the roast but we had to walk around the pool of dried blood on the lawn to get to the table...and so it goes on.

Rosanna and Frank from Balmedie Farm came here on their Honeymoon last month and mountain biked to us down the rugged Clutha river track from Wanaka. (Clutha is from the Gaelic for Clyde) Full of youthful energy they would have zoomed past the site where Nathaniel Chalmers stood in 1853. He was the first white man to see this area. He had walked all the way up from the coast at Dunedin. He didn't stay long. Having had diarrhoea for months he apparently said to his Maori guides with typical explorer understatement, 'In truth I am too fagged to proceed further'... and they rafted his almost lifeless body back down the river to Dunedin.

It would have been around the time that the new Kirk at Balmedie was being planned. The main house at Ardo with it's smart new Rubislaw granite front, had just been finished and The University of Aberdeen was several hundreds of years old.

BALMEDIE LIBRARY

Tel: 01358 742045 Email: balmedie.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

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A PILL FOR ALL ILLS?

Hopefully you will have all negotiated the Festive Season without too much damage to waistlines and family relationships, and are all looking forward to what promises to be a very interesting and memorable year. Whilst scratching my head about a topic, I heard a story on the radio about doctors prescribing too many pills, in this case for indigestion, and that got me thinking about pills and their associated ills!

The reason these stories always catch my eye, or ear, is that the media often appears to imply that we doctors, especially GPs, always seem to get things wrong! We either give too many pills, for example antibiotics, antacid drugs, or antidepressants, but not enough in other conditions, for example Rheumatoid Arthritis or Atrial Fibrillation (a heart rhythm disturbance). We are also condemned (usually by specialists or politicians) for referring too many people to hospital, causing all the problems with waiting times, yet every week we are also condemned for missing the early signs of illness (usually by specialists and politicians!!) and not referring early enough! As I've alluded to before, it is quite a challenging job!!

So why do we have this challenge in the first place? I think that the amount of information available on the Internet is just amazing, but requires great care and a large dose of scepticism when you are browsing. This rise in information has played a part in the increase of a consumerist attitude toward health, and has led to the proliferation of guidelines and increases in expectations of what can be done. This is on the whole a good thing, and few doctors mind having well informed patients, as ignorance in health matters is seldom bliss! However it can also make people believe that taking medicines is the only thing that they need to do to stay fit and healthy. This is perhaps fostered by the big pharmaceutical companies, and over the past 25 years or so there has been an increasing interest in preventative medicine. This has led to recommendations that more people should be taking medications, even when they have no symptoms! Think about the number of medical interest stories there are with this theme, all advising you to see your GP to access a medicine to prevent illness. This all seems very sensible and easy, just take the pill and avoid the ill!

I am sometimes very happy to recommend and prescribe such treatments for my patients, but I see an increasing role in actually trying NOT to prescribe, thereby protecting people from drug side effects and perhaps long term problems caused by the treatment. This may seem a rather odd thing for a doctor to say, but the longer I spend in the job, the more often I see patients with iatrogenic, or drug induced, problems. A good example is the use of statins, which I am certain have played a really important role in reducing heart problems by lowering cholesterol, but I have lost count of the number of patients who have had to stop this class of drug due to aching muscles, a well-known side effect.

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When we look at the evidence for medicines a useful concept is the NNT, or Number Needed to Treat. This is a measure of how many patients you have to put on a medicine to stop ONE patient from suffering the problem you are hoping to prevent. I suspect you would think that this would be quite low, but for statins between 30 and 40 people have to take the drug daily for over 5 years for ONE person in that group not to have a further heart attack. A NNT of 30 to 40 is held to be very good and so all people who have a heart attack will be put on a statin. This is what we call secondary prevention, or making sure the stable door is locked next time!

In Primary Prevention, which is the technical term for preventative treatments, we give medicines to people with NO symptoms, to try and prevent the disease e.g. heart attacks from ever happening. The NNT here is actually 95, so almost 100 people need to take the pills for ONE not to have a heart attack. Small wonder drug companies are successful and rich! Therefore we try and be carefully selective when we recommend that a patient takes this kind of treatment as the benefits are not nearly as great as you would think.

So taking pills can be promoted as an easy and effective way of staying healthy and avoiding disease. However when studied closely, pills seldom offer huge benefits over lifestyle measures, except perhaps for ease of taking, and are not risk free. Often the best thing to do is try to work harder at having a healthy active lifestyle. Although harder to do, this often has more benefits all round and will help prevent or reduce the risk of more than one disease, rather than the single disease a pill may be targeted towards.

Yet again I return to my theme of trying to be active, eat healthily, and try to exercise moderation in all things. This is surely better than swallowing pills, having blood tests to check for side effects and having to sit in the waiting room for ages!

So why not try to be more active and eat more healthily this year? Good luck and best wishes for a healthy and active 2014!

Dr. Alasdair Forbes

BELHELVIE BOWLING CLUB

We open mid April for the 2014 season. We are in need of new blood!

We are offering free membership for 2 months for new members. Enjoy the friendship and chat, not to mention the cups of tea or coffee (and occasional home bakes).

If you want to give it a try, come along on Sunday 20th April at 2 o'clock.

We can supply bowls – no need to spend money at first.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact:

Marion Donald – Secretary, 01358 723126

TARTS AND CRAFTS

Tarts and Crafts café and art gallery is situated behind the library in Balmedie, find us by following the signs through the village. We have good parking and facilities for the disabled.

Opening – 10am to 4pm on Saturday

In addition to relaxing in front of our wood burning stove with one of our home bakes and a freshly made hot drink, you will be surrounded by our display of art and crafts. If you have a hidden talent why not approach us to display your creations?

This year we are running a couple of craft workshops; the first one is on 12th April between 11am and 1pm. Bring along your children so that they can paint eggs ready for Easter. There will be a small charge for the workshops to cover materials.



On 26th April between 11am and 1pm we are running a workshop for children who can make and decorate their own wooden name plaque. Following the success of these craft workshops we are planning to run more during the summer months.

We are always on the search for volunteers. No offer of help will be turned down. If you are considering volunteering with us do not hesitate act now. Contact us either by calling into the café, by phone or email. You will be welcomed to the team and supported by experienced volunteers while you are learning the ropes.

Tel: 01358 742002

info@tartsandcrafts.co.uk

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BALMEDIE CHRISTMAS LIGHT GROUP

The Group had a very busy time in the lead up to Christmas 2013. We have a number of people to thank and without their help the village lights and tree would not be possible.

We experienced a major, unexpected set-back this year when it was discovered that the Council had changed the lamp posts on North Beach Road, resulting in the loss of all the sockets which had been paid for and installed in previous years, there had been no prior notification to the group. As the Council have now installed new aluminium lamp posts, unsuitable to accommodate lights, we have had to look at other locations at which to site the replacement sockets. As we are often asked by residents about siting lights on Eigie Road we asked again if this may be possible, but were refused as these lamp posts are also aluminium and not designed to take any weight. After several conversations with the council, the only location that they will agree to keep steel lamp posts in the future is on Old Aberdeen Road. They have agreed to re-install our 6 sockets but as this work is deemed non-essential, the earliest this will happen is May 2014.

The Farmer's Market was a wild affair with the outdoor stalls being abandoned before the market even got started. The high winds damaged the outdoor gazebos, and the group were forced to retreat to a safer site indoors! Many thanks to Euan for finding a space in the restaurant for our stall. Thanks to all who came along to see and buy from us. A big thank you to Carol Bulut-Milne who took time to help by sourcing goods for sale. Carol also donated the 2 cute teddies who headed off down to Balmedie School for the children to guess their birthdays - our winners were Katy Mitchell in P3/2D and Kris Abernethy in 5B, congratulations to them! A big thank you to all those who had a guess and to the school who matched the money raised to £150.

Again these past few months, our donation tubs have been on the counters of the Chemist, Co-op, Balmedie Chip Shop, Premier Shop and White Horse Inn. Your loose change is much appreciated and thanks to the local businesses for their continued support & counter space.

Many thanks to Cllr. Paul Johnston who again arranged for the donation of a tree for the village, this was kindly provided by Magnus of Sinclair Contractors, Fiddesbeg. The Group decided not to use the ground in front of the cafe as in previous years, as the wind has blown the tree over due to the land being both too wet and very exposed. The Group approached Euan Bain at the White Horse Inn who very kindly allowed us to use the grass at the front of the hotel as an alternative site this year. Euan, with the help of his regulars cemented a fixing, installed and wired up the tree lights. Thanks also to John from Scotia Animation for getting the higher strings of lights on the top part of the tree.

It is the aim of the Group to plant a permanent living tree at a site adjacent to the Leisure Centre, and it is hoped to get the Better Balmedie Group to assist and advise us in the task. We very much hope this project will be completed this year, at a point suitable in the extension build, currently underway at the Centre. Money donated by Belhelvie Community Council and donations from The Whitehorse Golf Section during the past year will be used for this purpose.

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The Group received a surprise donation in January by Ellon Fire Department who were collecting in the village before Christmas. This was a very welcome boost to our funds and the group is very grateful for their hard work.

Our Group consists of just a few volunteers & we would very much welcome additional help & new members. We have the task of raising funds each year to pay for maintenance, installation, removal, storage and insurance for our 21 street lights. New people with new fundraising ideas and a willingness to get involved and “stuck-in” would be made very welcome. You can contact us through messaging on

our **Facebook page** or **by telephone on 07740714821**. Thank you. **Fiona Clark**

1ST BELHELVIE RANGERS

The Rangers had great fun making small wreaths out of buttons for Christmas and we kick started the year by making soap! Now we are back to working on our “together we can raise awareness” badge where we are trying to empower women. To do this we are making an inspirational leaflet full of quotes from woman that we find inspiring and we are going to share it with other groups in Guiding.

After this badge we will be joining in with the Brownies to celebrate their 100th Birthday! We’ll be doing a range of activities to celebrate including an electricity free night (candles at the ready), fake wounds and first aid, and a new (possibly adventurous) water activity-still to be decided. We’ve also got girls working on their Duke of Edinburgh Award and Young Leader Qualification. All this is worked around exams of course.

We really could do with some new members though. Rangers are for women aged 14-26 years old. We meet fortnightly on a Thursday in Potterton. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining as a member or as a helper.

Before I go, I’ll leave you with an inspirational quote that we’ll be including in our leaflet:

“There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition there.”

Indira Ghandi, Third Prime Minister of India **Susan: 01224 703335s.osbeck@rgu.ac.uk**

TO CONTACT: email :belhelviebanter@live.co.uk or tel: 07814 254 301

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3RD BELHELVIE BROWNIES (POTTERTON)

We had a busy term before Christmas with a fantastic Christmas disco, a trip to Satrosphere and a holiday at Fyvie Guide House. At Satrosphere, we found out some interesting facts about lasers and atoms, and watched dazzling experiments; electrons reacting to steel wool touching a battery and a home-made volcano using bicarbonate of soda.

Our holiday was themed after the film The Lorax. It was filled with 'loraxy' activities; making tuff tuff trees, wooden spoon puppets, planting conkers and a trip to Macduff Aquarium, where the group got to see lots of sea life creatures and even a chance to feel rock-pool creatures. There was even a special visit from Santa as he took time out from his busy Christmas schedule to feed the fish. At Fyvie all the Brownies had a chance to help out in the kitchen preparing meals, setting the table to eat and cleaning to toilets. They all enjoyed the weekend and left with a big smile on their faces.

This year is special for Brownies all over the world as it their centenary year. It is going to be jam packed with events to celebrate the Big Brownie Birthday. This term we are completing the Big Brownie Birthday Challenge, where we will learn about Brownies from the last 30 years. Also, some of our girls are travelling down to PGL Dalguise with other Brownies around the Gordon County to try some new, exciting challenges, such as; orienteering, climbing, abseiling and archery.

Brownies is open to girls aged between 7 and 10 years. We have lots of space at the moment. If you have anyone who would like to come and see what it's all about please get in touch with **Katherine Hebron-Scott** by phone **01330 833448** or by email katherine@hebron1.orangehome.co.uk

SCOUTS NEED YOUR HELP ! THINKING CAPS ON !

Our Scout Group is looking for your help

BUT NOT JUST WITH VOLUNTEERS TO TRAIN AS LEADERS

We have been unsuccessful in finding a Lock-up/Garage which will keep our equipment secure but afford us ready access.

1. Do you know of any lock-ups / Garages available locally at a reasonable rate for our trailer and some equipment?
2. Do you know of a small accessible plot of ground for lease suitable for building a lock-up?

If you can help or know of the availability of either of the above, please let us know.

Ian Thomson, Group Scout Leader, 07743844040 balmedie.scouts@btinternet.com

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BALMEDIE LEISURE CENTRE

Well what a busy time we have been having here at Balmedie Leisure Centre! As many of you will already be aware we have been progressing with our Coffee Shop extension, due for opening spring 2014. We have also completed the car park extension which is now open for use.

We are also running a competition via Balmedie Primary School to name our Coffee shop. The winner will receive a family pass for Cineworld plus a family meal voucher for our Coffee Shop! We also require ideas and suggestions as to what you would like to see on our menu.

Balmedie Leisure Centre is a registered charity and we would like to promote the fact that we rely on fundraising to continue our progress in becoming a centre that caters for the whole community.

We are planning some great events, a night of wrestling with Wrestlezone in October, a race night at the White Horse and an afternoon tea at the Leisure Centre. The proceeds of these events will go towards our extension project, keep an eye on our Facebook Page for dates and other events. Any other fundraising ideas and or help would be greatly appreciated.

Some of you may remember some fundraising that was started by members of the community for a Skate/BMX park, if anybody would be willing to continue this quest, please get in touch as we hold the original figure sum in a regeneration account.

Finally if you haven't been into our facility before, or it's been a while since we last saw you, please pop in and take a look, we think you will be pleasantly surprised at the range of classes and activities on offer, whatever your age, or fitness level.

Hope to see you here soon. **Caroline Weatherall, Fitness Coach/Comm. member**

FRIDAY FUN FOR UNDER 5'S

January 2014 marked the first anniversary of the Potterton Under 5's group. In the first year many local children and their parents have enjoyed the weekly sessions at Potterton Community Centre. This first year has been very successful with the children enjoying free play, story time, songs, arts, meeting friends and the occasional party.

With some of the children moving on to nursery and school, there is space for more children to come. So if you are have some free time on a Friday between 10 -12 and have a child/children under 5 years, why not drop in by and have a chat and a cuppa with other parents while your little ones play. We are conscious that families can have busy days and with this in mind the sessions are run on a flexible basis. There is no need to commit to attending every week just drop in when you can manage.

Sessions cost £2.50 per child and £1 for additional siblings. All toys, activities and snack are provided. Potterton Under 5's is a non-profit group, run by parents and all money collected will be fed into the group in the form of new equipment and seasonal gifts. Parents are required to stay and be responsible for their children while they make and play with friends.

For more information email **pottertonu5@gmail.com**

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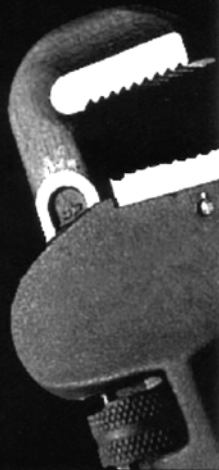
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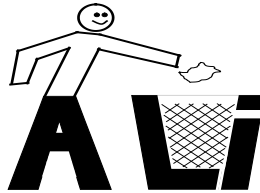
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VOLUNTEER



Aberdeenshire Litter Initiative – Ali is a volunteering scheme run by Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum. Based on the concept of ‘adopt – a – Street’ it encourages residents of Aberdeenshire to keep their own street clear of litter. We think that we are the biggest scheme of its type in the UK with over 500 volunteers....but believe that there are thousands of civic minded people out there who already pick up the occasional piece of litter from outside their own house.

We cannot afford to pay the Council to be in every street every day, especially in residential areas. Litter attracts more litter, so if a street is litter free then there is less chance that someone will drop litter.

There are no fancy requirements or rigid rules in **Ali** the scheme is designed to support and encourage residents to pick litter at a time, frequency and in a way that suits them. No one checks up on the volunteers. To assist volunteers who register with us we supply safety advice, a hi-viz safety vest marked VOLUNTEER and a litter picking stick. These items are offered free of charge as a result of sponsorship from Aberdeenshire Council street cleansing service. In the spirit of doing what you feel comfortable with, volunteers do not have to accept or use the equipment offered. We do not attempt to replace that essential street cleansing service but to enhance it by picking up litter in small areas at a time but with a regular frequency.

We know that there are a good number of residents in Balmedie and area who already pick litter on a regular basis ...why not join us and them and show that you care for the beautiful environment that we live in? By wearing the hi-viz vest you will not only be safer but importantly act as a deterrent to future littering. After all prevention is better than cure is it not? However, we are totally relaxed about whether you wear it or not.

Think Global –

If you would like to join us, further details available on our website:
www.green-butterfly.org.uk

where you will find the application form.
We also have a Facebook page....

Friends of Ali,
where you can find out what is happening and contribute your thoughts and ideas.

Act Local a little - change a lot

Check it out at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/47510797273/>



Balmedie litter pickers with 16 bags (11/1)

Are ye prood o' Scotland, min?
Then, pit yer litter in a bin!
Aye, an' it will be richt fine
If ye dee the same, ma quine!

Auld Scotia's sic a bonny place
Bit needs nae scar upon its face!
We need tourists frae far an' near
Tae come an 'spen' their siller HERE!

So, LISTEN, ilka quine an' loon,
Let's brichten up yer ain wee toon,
Likewise oor bonny countryside,
Let it prove oor NATIONAL PRIDE.

Unless yer a puir demented craitur,
Litter's the wark o' a would-be
TRAITOR!

An' it cairies a certain cost -
Money - tae better causes - LOST!

An' ye poo-ers wha this country rin'
Tak' aff that supercilious grin.
There's nae doobt ye can dae mair,
If PRIDE IN SCOTLAND, ye really
share.

By Derek Massie for Friends of ALi,
Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/47510797273/>

This has been sent in by Alan Leith
who though all you gardeners might
like Tony Perry's

The Lowly Worm

*The lowly worm casts no doubt,
The earth below should be without.
Both day and night he's hard at toil,
Continuously unearthing casts of soil.
A tiny creature; an invertebrate minor,
But none-the-less an excellent miner.
Pound for pound compared to the mole,
The lowly worm mines the perfect hole
Bereft of tools; no hands nor feet,
How does he achieve such a miraculous feat?*

*But I too have been toiling hard,
To create a garden that was once a yard.
The flower beds so full of colour,
Achieved by honest, hard endeavour.
Literally spending hours and hours,
Filling the borders with pretty flowers.
Not to mention different types of shrubs,
Painstakingly grown in individual of tubs.
And in the centre, my piece-de-resistance,
The finest lawn in many a long distance.*

*Neighbours came to stand and admire,
The most beautiful lawn throughout the shire.
Then one day to my annoyed surprise,
A cast appeared to spoil my prize.
All too quickly my verdant green,
Became a mosaic, mottled with casts obscene.
Despite the expert's, "Worms are good for aeration!"
Served only to fuel my resentful irritation
Whence I had previously nought but admiration
I now wished each worm eternal damnation.*

And furthermore.....

*Where once was my piece-de-resistance, so outstanding,
Alas! Is no more but now a concrete hard standing.
Throwing down the gauntlet, shouting loud and clear,
"Make a cast out of that Chief Worm Engineer!"*

Alan met Yorkshireman Tony and
his wife Sandra while on holiday
last year.

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SCHOOLING IN BELHELVIE PARISH

The first Belhelvie Parish school can be dated to 1628, with the first school masters employed prior to 1633. In 1637 a Mr William Cheyne, schoolmaster, reader and session clerk for the kirk, had his salary increased to £70 per annum. By 1676 the children were being taught grammar, music and arithmetic. Relations between the parish and the schoolmasters were not always cordial as on two occasions, in 1699 and 1717, Belhelvie Schoolmasters were dismissed for inefficiency or offenses against morality.

In the early years of parish education, schooling was neither mandatory nor was it free. It was not until 1889 that free education was introduced to the public, although social pressures meant that most children did attend school before this point. Ties between kirk and school were well-established, and the kirk session was responsible for paying poor children's fees. By the early 19th century it was said that very few in the parish could not read, and many could write.

Belhelvie Parish was once well-served for educational purposes with schools at Belhelvie (Old Balmedie school), Menie, Craigie (Whitecairns which opened in September 1853) and Wester Hatton (Potterton), with roles of between 80 and 133 pupils. Subjects such as Greek, Latin, Geography, Mathematics, Navigation, Arithmetic, Writing, Reading and English were offered. In 1939, during WWII these numbers were boosted by 17 evacuees from Glasgow. Menie School was the first to close, in 1949, Craigie and Wester Hatton primaries remained operational until the late 1950s, with the Wester Hatton premises becoming Potterton Community Centre. Belhelvie (Old Balmedie) school became Balmedie School when new premises were built in Balmedie just prior to 1975. The old school building at Belhelvie has unfortunately now been demolished.

Extracted from **Belhelvie a Millennium History of Time**

SWRI

As I write this we have had our first meeting of 2014 and very successful and entertaining it was too. We had various quizzes to get the little grey cells in gear after the festive season.

One new lady was made very welcome, it is very encouraging for our membership is up and down like a yo-yo. So ladies please come along and give the "RURAL" a try I have heard so many times that you have to be AMAZING AT BAKING SEWING CRAFTS ETC. Well you don't; I wish I was. We try to vary our guest speakers to make the evening interesting for all. and of course we do have small competitions but there is no pressure to enter. Just come along to Eigie House Lounge the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7-30pm. It is warm and very comfortable, plenty parking and easy access. **Elaine Strachan: 01358 743173**

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BELHELVIE SENIOR CITIZENS' GROUP

The Belhelvie Senior Citizens Group enjoyed a nice Xmas meal served by the friendly, helpful staff of the Whitehorse Inn Balmedie followed with music for dancing and games or just to sit and listen to, played by the C B Sound. During the evening the raffle was drawn then a 96 year old Santa arrived with his band of helpers where he gave a packet of shortbread with a kiss and "bosie" to each guest. A most enjoyable evening ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne followed by Jessie's Polka for the more energetic!!

The next social event is the Whist and raffle on Wednesday 30th April at 7.30PM in Eigie House all welcome.

The summer outing is planned for the last Saturday in May details later.**DM Fowler**



BRAMBLES WALKING GROUP

Belhelvie Rambles (BRAMBLES) Walking Group has been going for a year already. The Group is open to all in Belhelvie Parish.

For short walks around Balmedie and a bit further afield, we meet every Thursday at 10am in front of Balmedie Leisure Centre, Eigie Road Balmedie.

On the first Sunday of each month we go for a longer walk. The 2014 Sunday programme includes Haddo House, Aden Park, Elrick Hill Sculpture Trail, Muir of Dinnet, Dunnottar Woods, Castle Fraser, Fetternear and a beach walk from Balmedie to Bridge of Don. For more information about Brambles please contact

Alan Leith on 01358 743759

BETTER BALMEDIE

Although the gardening group may be less visible around the village over the winter months, we do nevertheless keep ourselves occupied with necessary maintenance jobs around the polytunnel, and generally keeping things ticking over. We maintained stalls in the run-up to Christmas both at the church Christmas Fair and the December Farmers' Market, and again the local community supported us well for our efforts. We were particularly proud of our hand-crafted Christmas wreaths, which we had learned to produce from our friend Tim, the head gardener at Leith Hall who again led us in an informative workshop in early December. He will be back with us for another workshop in late April, this time leading a workshop on vegetable growing. Interested members of the public will, as ever, be most welcome.

We will, in February, be joining with the young gardeners from the school in planting poppy seeds around the village, as part of the nation-wide commemoration of the First World War. We have plans for other initiatives in the coming months with the **young Eco-gardeners, who will also be joining us in the Clean Up Scotland Spring Clean on 26th April. Members of the public will again be most welcome to join us on that day.** Litter- picking is a job that we have continued periodically over the winter, most recently in mid-January. Sadly, this is a job which is only too necessary.

As always, we would appeal to anybody who would like to join our group to please get in touch. No matter how unskilled you may feel yourself to be, the wide variety of jobs would mean there is something for everybody, even if your time is limited. Strong, able-bodied men would be particularly welcome! Monthly meetings continue on the last Thursday evening of the month, but now in the local library (see dates for your diary). We continue to meet in the polytunnel behind the Leisure Centre on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 10 a.m. to midday. For more info.: www.betterbalmedie.org or www.facebook.com/BetterBalmedie or contact allan.jeffrey@ymail.com (tel. 01358 743851)



AUXILIARY UNITS

During the early days of WW2, Britain faced a German invasion since Germany had occupied virtually every country in Europe and could therefore launch an attack from any of the occupied coastlines facing Britain.

Under the strictest secrecy, a resistance movement was set up known as Auxiliary Units. Auxiliary units were made up from people vetted by the police then approached to join, and in doing so had to sign the Official Secrets' Act. A number of men were formed into a "patrol", these men were the likes of farmers, gamekeepers, poachers etc. who could generally live off the land. Often, some of these members were in the Home Guard and unknown to their colleagues.

These "patrol" members were well armed and well trained and had secret bases (called Operational Bases). Training took place in Fife and also in Oxfordshire where the command for Auxiliary Units was based. To get to Coleshill House in Oxford, patrol members were to report to the Post Office there, then a truck would appear to collect them. The local HQ for Auxiliary units in the local area was in Huntly.

In the event of an invasion, the patrols would go to ground for anything up to 2 weeks before coming out to conduct guerrilla warfare on the Germans. Key tasks were to disrupt transport systems, destroy fuel and ammunition stores and kill where an opportunity arose. The Operational Bases were used for living in and also where stores were kept. The stores had an assortment of different explosives and mechanisms for sabotage. One of the key targets in the area was the railway bridge over the Ythan at Ellon, and every other bridge over the Ythan, the aim being to disrupt the invasion forces until the main British army can organize a counter-attack.

Very few operational bases have been found, several have been found in the Huntly area by forestry vehicles falling through the roof. These bases have been found under churches and in hillsides, and may have been known as Emergency Food Stores or just bunkers. What is clear is that these are near impossible to find unless you know where they are.

During a recent visit to the National Archives in London, I found a document listing members of the Auxiliary units in the area, several from Ellon, Belhelvie and Newburgh. In seeing one name, I contacted a resident from Newburgh who confirmed that this was his father and also some information on several other local residents. Also revealed was the location of the Operational Base his father used which was near Tippetty. Until I contacted him, he was completely unaware his father was in an Auxiliary Unit patrol.

An interesting fact is that each base had sealed instructions. On invasion the envelope was opened and a list of people given that had to be assassinated. Typically this was the likes of the police chief that vetted the people (since he could identify them) or others in the area that could be a risk to their security.

The units were mostly disbanded in 1944, and most of the patrol members went to their grave without telling a soul of their secret role in times of war. Had the invasion happened, then the life expectancy of the patrol members was a few weeks.

Only in the past few years has the role of the Auxiliary units been made public, and surviving members were allowed to march on Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph. These members were all part of the 201 Battalion and have a unique lapel badge which is a giveaway on who they were.

If anybody has any information, or would like information about Auxiliary Units or Operational Bases (hides) in the area then please contact me with the information, cartaberdeenshire@gmail.com or visit the website www.coleshillhouse.com/

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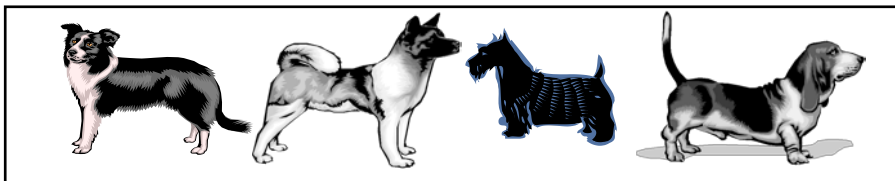
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OUT OF AFRICA

Tanzania, on the East Coast of Africa, just below the Equator.

The Country of my birth. During the 1920's, only 50 years after the Missionary Congregationalist David Livingstone met Stanley at Ujiji, in the now Tanzania, my mother's father, was in Tanzania, building bridges in many places, and harbours at Dar-es-Salaam and Tanga. My mother's early childhood was in that country.

In the late 1940's, my father, a Merchant Navy Officer, accompanied by my mother, went to Dar-es-Salaam to supervise ships being loaded. I was born there and came to Aberdeen when I was one.

I only returned 9 years ago, with my mother and family.

This "tattie" holiday, along with my wife, Margaret, son Bruce and his son Aiden (my daughter-in-law, Denise, due to family illness, was unable to accompany us) and my daughter Anne and her husband Marvyn, I again returned.

Due to extreme back pain, I was wheel-chaired through all airports. We immediately went on a safari, and saw the anticipated animals, the giraffes, baboons, elephants, hippopotami, crocodiles, zebras, jackals, impala (deer), lions and the illusive leopard. (spotted by Aiden), huge centipedes 9 inches long and large locusts, that landed on Anne's back. Two days and we were off to Dodoma, the new capital, in the centre of the country. Rough roads, with frequent shouts of 'Daddy' from our driver, to warn me of the worst of the ruts and pot-holes and sleeping policemen on the only tarmac road. We passed straw huts, mud huts, and brick huts, with either roofs of straw or tin. People living in abject poverty

At Dodoma, we stayed at the New Dodoma Hotel, the original Station Hotel, which my grandparents had stayed in. Aiden was now the 5th generation to do that.



We were at Dodoma, to visit a project, which we had established 9 years earlier. In Tanzania, there is no benefits system. We met with widows, one aged 78, who was now too old to go out to work, but she would like to sell from her house, charcoal the energy source for cooking. Her son was an alcoholic and she had to bring up her grandchildren. Another, aged 56, whose son had died of aids and she had 4 grandchildren to bring up. She was selling home bakes to school-children and she would like to extend her 'business'.



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The overseer of the project is the Hotel Manager. He owns a small farm and is willing to allow the widows to raise chickens there. They will cost \$1.00 to buy and will require feed to raise them to the point of egg producing. Being a Hotel Manager, he will buy the eggs and chickens. The widows are considering this possible project.

Another widow aged 53; her husband was a well-known, broadcaster, preacher who became a politician, who became a Government Minister. He was murdered. The government appoint the person who will oversee the estate and they appointed his brother, who promptly walked away with the estate and left the widow and her children destitute. The widow is the Hotel Managers mother-in-law. He has built her a house, educated his wife's siblings, but the widow does not want to live on hand-outs. She has been cooking meals and selling them at a nearby school. She would like to extend her business.

While we visited the farm, we met local people from the village – a rural village, a scattered community.

The hotel manager daily sends out a vehicle with water and another vehicle with food hand-outs.

We met some local children, some bare foot, some with tatty clothing. They had nothing. No games, no football, no dolls. We gave them very simple small plastic toys (plastic penny whistles). They were over the moon. {As Christmas approaches – and Santa comes to our homes – with his sack full - humbling!!!} None of the village children go to school 10 kilometres away.

We agreed to try and help the widows establish themselves with small businesses. There was some money left in the kitty from the old project and we left TS 1,500,000 (£600) to double the kitty. Enough to kick start the new projects. We probably need to double the total again.

Beyond that we dream, that perhaps we can do something for the children.

It would be very expensive, even at African rates to send all the children to school. They would all have fees, uniforms, transport costs, books and lunch costs. Our thought is that it would be cheaper to pay a person to go to the village and pay them to teach the essentials, reading, writing and counting. That way, they may manage to be employable.

We left Dodoma, and headed for Dar-es-Salaam, where we saw the hospital I was born in, and the part of the harbour, which my grandfather built back in the 1920's and where my father worked in the 1940's.

Soon it was time to return home – to a flooded house – a pipe joint to the boiler had parted. Yes very inconvenient – three months out of the house. But compared to the lives of those we saw in Africa, we are still very blessed.

If you would like more information, please contact me. Rev. Andy Cowie 01224 703248



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WELL DONE AIDAN!



On 21st October 2013 Aidan Laing, Potterton, won the Under 12 Scottish Archery Association Championship held in Montrose against stiff competition from 10 other contenders. Aidan, who only started archery in March 2013 practises at the Lethen Archers at Portlethen Academy most weekends against other junior and senior members. Since his win Aidan has also received a certificate for gaining a new Scottish Scoring record of 871 out of 1200.

CHIEF SCOUTS SILVER AWARD

Ewen Davidson recently completed his Chief Scout's Silver Award at Balmedie Cub Scouts. This is the highest award attainable in the Cub Scout section. For this Ewen had to complete 6 challenges sections;

Creative, Community,
Fitness, Global,
Outdoor and Promise.
He now gets to wear
this badge on his

uniform.



Ewen receiving his award from Mr T (Group Scouter)



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BALMEDIE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

All our Services are at Balmedie
Leisure Centre Eigie Road, Balmedie
Every Sunday at 11 a.m Everyone
Welcome

SIERRA LEONE -For over ten years our Church has sponsored a Childrens Home in Freetown, Sierra Leone. We have a particular interest in Paul Sanday. Paul has now left school and is attending College. We thank everyone who has supported this ongoing project. We still sponsor the work there.

YOUTH - Our Minister is involved in organising for young people Primary 5 and upwards, an Annual Summer Camp, for our group of Churches. It is planned for the first week of the school holidays –7th to 11th July. This year children from other Congregational Churches in Scotland, have been invited. Destination – Perth. An interesting programme is planned.

LADIES GROUP

Every Wednesday morning, we gather a small group of ladies together for a coffee.
If you would like to join us, please phone Margaret on 01224 703248

Our Sunday Services are informal and family friendly - everyone is welcome and you are invited to come visit us – without any obligation. If you have questions, please telephone me

Rev. Andy Cowie 01224 703248

POTTERTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Our Services are now at
Potterton Community Centre
Every Sunday at 6pm
Everyone Welcome

If you wish to contact us: Minister,
Rev. Andy Cowie 01224 703248

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is past again. Our Joint Christmas Eve Collection (with Balmedie Congregational Church) has been donated to Global Love, Tanzania, to help regenerate the widows Project. The widows are patiently waiting for the rainy season to finish, March / April before they revitalise their projects. Exciting times.

Our Churches have also taken the first steps to look into Literacy and Numeracy for the children in rural Dodoma.

PULLING TOGETHER

Along with our sister Churches we have been busy running a Charity Shop, for a week. This is a good opportunity for folks to volunteer and work together, and help the Churches with their various outreaches and with Mission.

FUTURE - We are looking ahead and want to help establish groups that are of interest to the residents of Potterton. If you have any suggestions, please contact our Minister, Rev. Andy Cowie, 01224 703248

Our Church is here to help and support, be it a happy occasion or sad, we are here for Baptisms, Weddings, funerals or if you simply need a listening ear. For further information, please contact our Minister,

Rev. Andy Cowie 01224 703248

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BELHELVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Balmedie Christmas Lights Group - Thanks go out again to the Balmedie Christmas Lights Group for their fundraising and providing Balmedie with its annual show of Christmas lights; and thanks are also expressed to Euan Bain for allowing them to site the tree outside the Whitehorse Inn and for providing electricity to light it.

Balmedie Leisure Centre

Construction work is on-going with the extension to the leisure centre which will comprise of a café and resiting of the office. The access to the building was changed to the east side of the building in 2013. This will provide a much improved facility for families and groups using the centre. The leisure centre committee are now able to see their plans and efforts over the past few years coming to fruition. Well Done !

Blackdog Electric Substation - A planning appeal has now been lodged by Vattenfall against the refusal for planning permission to build an electricity substation adjacent to Blackdog Village which would service the proposed 11- turbine windfarm in Aberdeen Bay. Councillors voted 9 to 1 against approval of the site.

Blackdog Football and Leisure Park

The Blackdog Residents Association has with local householders to pay an annual maintenance fee for the upkeep of the recently constructed football and leisure area. It has been well-received by the local residents; this is a much-needed facility, whose aim is to cater for all ages.

Bruntland Whitecairns Development

At long last there is some progress being made at the Bruntland site at Whitecairns towards re-profiling and restoration of the site.

Main Issues Report

A public meeting was held in the Whitehorse Inn on 7th November by Aberdeenshire Council's Local Development Plan Team. Due to poor advertising of the event by the LDP Team a second event was held in Balmedie Primary School on Wednesday 8th January with around 70 residents being in attendance. Residents were given a chance at the end of the meeting to ask questions and express their views. One of the biggest concerns raised was the capacity of Balmedie Primary School.

Police

At recent Belhelvie Community Council meetings attended by Ellon Police, break-ins have been reported due to house holders not locking their doors and cars, therefore making it easy for thieves to target these. It was suggested that BCC publicise through the 'Banter' that local residents be more vigilant.

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Restoration of Wester Hatton Landfill Site

Progress is being made with the Formartine Planning Service with regard to the long-awaited restoration of Wester Hatton landfill site. Belhelvie Community Council will request a progress report from Jane White, Senior Planner at Aberdeenshire Council in February.

Belhelvie Community Council AGM

The above AGM will be held at Belhelvie Community Centre on 17th February 2014 @ 7.30pm. If you are interested in being a member or being co-opted at a later date, please call David Watson on 01358 742118.

David Watson

BETTER BALMEDIE

Although the gardening group may be less visible around the village over the winter months, we do nevertheless keep ourselves occupied with necessary maintenance jobs around the polytunnel, and generally keeping things ticking over. We maintained stalls in the run-up to Christmas both at the church Christmas Fair and the December Farmers' Market, and again the local community supported us well for our efforts. We were particularly proud of our hand-crafted Christmas wreaths, which we had learned to produce from our friend Tim, the head gardener at Leith Hall who again led us in an informative workshop in early December. He will be back with us for another workshop in late April, this time leading a workshop on vegetable growing. Interested members of the public will, as ever, be most welcome.

We will, in February, be joining with the young gardeners from the school in planting poppy seeds around the village, as part of the nation-wide commemoration of the First World War. We have plans for other initiatives in the coming months with the **young Eco-gardeners, who will also be joining us in the Clean Up Scotland Spring Clean on 26th April. Members of the public will again be most welcome to join us on that day.** Litter-picking is a job that we have continued periodically over the winter, most recently in mid-January. Sadly, this is a job which is only too necessary.

As always, we would appeal to anybody who would like to join our group to please get in touch. No matter how unskilled you may feel yourself to be, the wide variety of jobs would mean there is something for everybody, even if your time is limited. Strong, able-bodied men would be particularly welcome!

Monthly meetings continue on the last Thursday evening of the month, but now in the local library (see dates for your diary). We continue to meet in the polytunnel behind the Leisure Centre on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 10 a.m. to midday

For more info.: www.betterbalmedie.org or www.facebook.com/BetterBalmedie or contact allan_jeffrey@ymail.com (tel. 01358 743851)



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BELHELVIE PARISH CHURCH



This garden was originally created perfect for the Belhelvie Church Holiday Club in the Forsyth Hall, but it was messed up to represent what happened to the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sin entered the world. We still get into a mess when we leave God out of the equation. As we look forward to Easter, many still disregard the finished work and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

William Anderson

Something for the future.

Do you want to get together with other mums with young children?

We are planning on starting a "Mainly Music" group in the area. It is for pre-school children (0 - 5yrs) and their mums or carers. We start with a sing along session with plenty of fun and actions. The children will then get a snack followed by time to play while mum has her "cuppa", a nice homebake and time to have a chat. It is to take place in the Forsyth Hall from 1:15 to 2:45 every Tuesday. It will run during term time and cost £2/ session. We hope to start on Tuesday 22nd of April. If you are interested in coming along contact Mrs J Lamb on 01358 742684 or email jeanettelamb@btinternet.com Hope to see you there.

Social Events For Springtime

Our first event is a **Safari Supper on Saturday 22nd March** when we meet up in small groups to enjoy food and chat before moving on for the next course, eventually meeting up in the Forsyth Hall for pudding and coffee.

This is followed by two **Pot Luck Suppers on Sunday 27th April** and **Sunday 25th May** in the Forsyth Hall from **4.30 – 6.30pm**. Everyone is welcome especially families. Just bring along a favourite supper dish for the buffet table and have a good time.

We would be delighted if you could join us and for more information please contact **Anne Christie – 01358 742435**.

The Pastoral Care team

run a Golden Zumba class every Monday in the Forsyth Hall -9.45- 10.30 am (hall open 9.30 am) followed by coffee and chat. New members very welcome £2.50p per class. Coffee Haven, also run by Pastoral Care team, is tea/ coffee, home bakes and chat in the Forsyth Hall 10am -12noon on 1st Tuesday every month apart from July and August when closed. All welcome.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Belhelvie Neighbourhood Watch group held their pre-Christmas meeting on December 5th. Many thanks to those who turned up on such a wet and extremely windy evening! We thought the Green Hut was about to blow away!!

PC Kev Marron from Police Scotland's Crime Reduction team visited us and gave a talk about Crime Prevention tactics householders could use to deter intruders. Items included "intruder-repellent plastic spikes" to place on garden fences to deter anyone climbing them and also about good quality cheap garden lights that can take photos of anyone activating the light. He did state that actual crime in our area is very low but that it's still a great idea to have intruder deterrents! The main hint was to ensure all external doors are locked...especially at night!

We do hope to arrange our next meeting in May and the invite to the meeting is open to those in Belhelvie as well as the surrounding villages. It'd be great to see lots of new faces at the meeting!!

IF ARE INTERESTED IN CO-ORDINATING A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GROUP, GOING ON THEIR MAILING LIST, OR YOU WOULD LIKE A REMINDER OF THE MEETING NEARER THE TIME PLEASE CONTACT BANTER

by email [belhelviebanter @live.co.uk](mailto:belhelviebanter@live.co.uk) or 07814254301

POTTERTON RECYCLING POINT

I would like to start off by saying a big thank you to all who use the recycling point in Potterton to recycle their waste; it's great to see it being so well used.

There is however an issue with people leaving bags waste and other large items on the ground beside the recycling bins. Please do not leave any waste, even bags of recyclable materials, on the ground because it is illegal and we may serve a £50 fixed penalty notice to anyone who is found doing so. In April 2014 the fixed penalty will rise to £200.

Whilst all recycling points are serviced regularly there are a great many of them scattered across the 2,500 square miles of Aberdeenshire and there is a limit to how often we can empty them. If you find that the recycling point is full please take your recyclables to another point or to your nearest Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Balmacassie Industrial Estate in Ellon, during opening hours. If you work in Aberdeen then you can also use the recycling points and HWRCs in the city.

For more information on how to reduce, reuse and recycle your waste please visit Aberdeenshire Council's website at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste or contact the Council's Wasteline on 0845 600 3 900. You can also call the Wasteline to report anyone you see fly tipping or tell us when our recycling points are full.

Lesley Forrest; Compliance Officer Aberdeenshire Council Waste Management

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*IFC Inside Front Cover

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Sun 2	Brambles Walk	Haddo House	
Tues 4	Coffee Haven	Forsyth Hall	10 – noon
Thurs 6	Rhymetime	Balmedie Library	11.00-11.30
Sun 9	Invitation Communion	Belhelvie Church	11am
Tues 11	Friendship Group	Eigie House	2 – 4pm
Wed 12	SWRI Mini Show	Eigie House	7.30pm
Sat 22	Safari Supper	Belhelvie Church	
Mon 24	Community Trust Meeting	Whitehorse Inn	7.30pm
Tues 25	Friendship Group	Eigie House	2 – 4pm
Wed 26	WRI Whist	Eigie House	7.30pm
Sun 30	British Summer Time begins	Clocks forward 1 hour	
April			
Tues 1	Coffee Haven	Forsyth Hall	10 - noon
Fri 4	School term ends	Balmedie Primary, BoDA, Ellon	
Sun 6	Brambles Walk	Aden Park	
Wed 9	SWRI	Eigie House	2-4pm
Thurs 17	Maunday Tuesday	Belhelvie Church	7.30pm
Fri 18	Good Friday Service	Foveran Parish Church	7.30pm
Sun 20	Easter Sunday Service	Balmedie Beach	9am
Tues 22	Term Begins	Balmedie, BoDA, Ellon	
Tues 22	Mainly Music	Forsyth Hall	1.15 –2.45
Sat 26	Balmedie Litter Pick	Poly Tunnel	10am
Sat 26	Children’s Workshop (Door plaques)	Tarts & Crafts	11am-1pm
Sun 27	Pot Luck Supper	Forsyth Hall	4.30-6.30
Mon 28	Community Trust meeting	Whitehorse Inn	7.30pm
Wed 30	Belhelvie Senior Citizens Whist	Eigie House	7.30pm
May			
Fri 2	School In-service Day / Holiday	BoDA / Ellon	
Sun 4	Brambles Walk	Tyrebagger Wood & Elrick Hill	
Mon 5	May Day Holiday	Balmedie, BoDA / Ellon	
Sun 25	Pot Luck Supper	Forsyth Hall	4.30 -6.30
Mon 26	Community Trust meeting	Whitehorse Inn	7.30pm
Sat 30	Senior Citizens Summer Outing	Venue TBA	
June			
Sun 1	Brambles Walk	Muir of Dinnet	
Tues 3	Coffee Haven	Forsyth Hall	10 – noon
Sat 7	Balmedie Gala	Balmedie Primary School	11am -4pm