

# BELHELVIE BANTER

*Balmedie : Whitecairns : Belhelvie : Potterton : Blackdog*



**EDITION 24**

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

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## EDITORIAL

Autumn approaches with another edition of Belhelvie Banter hot off the press, arriving just as we are experiencing the lovely warm days that we have been given in compensation for the summer of mixed offerings. Yes, you've guessed, this editorial has been written earlier, but with the most positive of attitudes, in adherence with my life's motto: 'Ever hopeful'.

Belhelvie Banter arrives on your doorstep as a result of the hard work of many individuals, all giving of their time and energy on a voluntary basis. So, I'd like to take this opportunity, first of all, to thank our wonderful Banter Team for their efforts. I'm very grateful to Alan Smith, Production Manager whose IT skills ensure everything is assembled, ready for printing, Shuna Jenkins, Advertising Manager who works tirelessly to attract advertisers and organise adverts and David Moss, Financial Manager whose support and expert advice helps us to keep track of our finances. Our newest recruit, Paul Collier has valiantly taken over the job of Distribution Manager, and has been doing a marvellous job organising the delivery rounds, so to him, and the fantastic band of deliverers across the parish, a big thank you.

I must also thank our loyal advertisers, some of whom have been with us since Banter's early days. Their support not only enables us to bring this community magazine to every home in the parish, but also to fund local projects. Last but certainly not least, a thankyou goes out to all our contributors for their continued enthusiasm in taking part in this community project, and for being willing to share their ideas and information throughout the parish.

The hope is that the combined efforts of everyone mentioned above, brings to you a publication that you enjoy reading, that informs you about what is going on in the community and in some way, serves to strengthen the links within our parish. If you feel it doesn't tick these boxes, then we need to hear from you. We are open to ideas and would welcome feedback as to how we can make Banter better. We are very happy to receive articles for publication – just send them in. We would also like to have information about any special events coming up, as well as photographs from past events and celebrations. If you would like someone to come along and take a photograph to go in Banter, just get in touch. Banter is an ideal way to raise the profile of your group or club, share contact details and attract new members.

And now comes the plea for help. We would welcome more volunteers to distribute Banter across the parish. If you could help us by delivering to even a small amount of homes, possibly around where you live, do get in touch. Another pair of hands to help us with advertising tasks would also be wonderful.



Volunteering is a way to play your part in the community, make friends and open the door to new experiences. There are many opportunities in the parish. Youth groups (Scouts, Rangers, Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Beavers) need volunteers to help with activities. Balmedie Litter Squad at the beach and in the village welcome anyone who wishes to join their magnificent efforts in keeping the area beautiful. The Christmas Lights Group would love to have new people coming on board. These are just a few of the volunteering opportunities out there. If you feel you would like to try something new and get involved in the community by volunteering, please do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

**Jess Petrie, Editor**

*Cover photograph by Paul Collier- Do you know where this is?*

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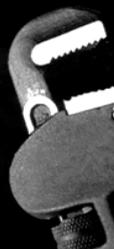
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## **BELHELVIE COMMUNITY TRUST**



### **The Sand Bothy, Balmedie Country Park** (formerly known as The Beach Rangers' Hut)

The most popular name for the hut, as voted for by Belhelvie residents recently, is “The Sand Bothy”. Thank you to everyone who voted. Belhelvie Community Trust has applied to Aberdeenshire Council to take on the running of the Sand Bothy that has lain empty and neglected for several years. Everything is well on the way to the final phase of the Council transferring the building to our community, although the process is a long one!

We hope that the Sand Bothy will become a vibrant, well-used hub for local people and for visitors to the Country Park. We have been working hard behind the scenes to achieve this and it is very exciting planning what could happen at the Bothy. However this cannot be achieved without YOUR help. We hope eventually to have a paid development worker, but in the meantime the success of the project will depend on the willingness of local people to get involved as volunteers. There will be all sorts of jobs to be done, from maintaining the building, selling hot drinks, organising groups and classes, fundraising and just being involved.

We want the space to be as inclusive to all ages and abilities as possible and are looking forward to hearing from groups, organisations and individuals for anything you would like to see happen in this wonderful building that we are really privileged to get ownership of! People have commented for years that it is sad to see the building fall into disrepair when it could be a very useful addition to Balmedie Beach

- The Bothy will be just the place for those classes or workshops that you've always wanted to run or join and we want to start putting together a timetable of events and workshops for us all to enjoy. We very much want to bring out the creative talents in the area and already have some tutors lined up to share their talents for those who wish to learn.
- The Bothy will be the place to buy hot and cold drinks, ice cream and beach items
- The Bothy will also become home again to a permanent display all about Balmedie Beach and dunes, similar to the exhibition that was widely used in the past by Balmedie School pupils and visitors to the beach.

Please get involved ...we'd love to hear from you. Contact us via the Belhelvie Community Trust Facebook Page or email [rosie.inform@lineone.net](mailto:rosie.inform@lineone.net) or phone 01358 742557

Belhelvie Community Trust is a charity number SCO45563



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## BALMEDIE LEISURE CENTRE

On behalf of all staff and the committee may I thank everyone for their lovely prize donations, help and support, for making this year's Summer Fete so successful. A special thank you goes to the Scouts who thoroughly deserved their community badge awards for the tremendous efforts they put in - it was great to see them getting so involved in our community event.



I would also like to remind everyone that Balmedie Leisure Centre is not run by, nor is staff employed by, Aberdeenshire Council. The land and buildings, including the pavilion and grass football pitches are in fact leased from Aberdeenshire Council by a Management Committee, made up of local community volunteers. The Management Committee was established in 1986 as a non-profit, charitable organisation, in order to provide a broad range of community learning, sporting and leisure based opportunities to individuals and community groups at reasonable cost. Annually, the Centre applies to Aberdeenshire Council for funding to help towards the costs of running the facility. Funds are also generated from admissions and fundraising.



In addition, we are delighted to let our other rooms when they are available - we can also offer catering for your event/conference/training session/function if required.

Our current voluntary Management Committee consists of: Chairman Bill Murray; Vice Chair Kathleen Valentine; Treasurer Emma Ritchie; Secretary Shona Buchan.

The Committee are: Julie Russell, Paula Holton, Barry Nicol, Grant Macdonald, Councillor Allan Hendry and Council Representative Glynis Buchan.

We would welcome any additional help, be it voluntary or financial. This would be much appreciated.

**Bill Murray**

### CRAFT CLUB

The Craft Club will resume on Thursday 27th August from 6.30 - 7.30pm at £1.50 per night in the school and is open to all primary school boys & girls. Each week we have fun, making, creating and sometimes baking (a favourite activity). We had a chocolate stall at the summer Fete at Balmedie Leisure Centre making £90 towards Craft Club funds. Thanks to all who donated and came along to support us on the day. For more details phone 01358 743114.

**Diane & Catherine**



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## **BANTER HELPS OUT LOCAL GROUPS**

Banter is delighted to be able to support local community groups when they can. Recently, we have donated to the Belhelvie Parish Defibrillators project (£600); Whitecairns Planters project (£150); the Twos Group at Balmedie Leisure Centre (£100) and the Beach Litter Squad (£50). We continually keep an eye out for community projects that need support, and welcome approaches from groups who need assistance. We help when we can!

The Twos group at Balmedie Leisure Centre certainly put their donation from Banter to good use and purchased a Little Tykes Playhouse which you can see them enjoying below, with leader Jane Wright. The Twos group meets on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 10 am and noon.



### **BINGO AT EIGIE HOUSE**

Bingo will be held at Eigie House on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm, starting 2nd September 2015.

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**Winifred Stewart**

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## NATURAL BELHELVIE

Hello folks, it's time once more to delve into the fantastic natural world that provides all of us with so much. As we rapidly approach the autumn equinox wildlife is changing in many ways with the majority of wild plants going to sleep as winter approaches, having spent the summer months dazzling us with a profusion of blooms that in turn become the potential for a new generation – seed.

The flowering plants are a huge group including the obvious daisies, buttercups and dandelions, but also the less obvious grasses and trees. Yes grasses have flowers and if there is a corner of the garden left uncut then you can see the flower heads waving on the top of thin stalks. We all recognise a gean (wild cherry) tree when it flowers, but not so many folk will recognise the flowers of a birch or a wych elm (both common in the area).

All flowering plants produce seed and it is that that provides the ability to produce new generations, and also to 'move about'. In the plant world competition for living space is a hard fought battle, with every violet, hazel and rowan trying to ensure that new generations have their own space to grow and thrive in. But it is a case of 'not in my back yard' when it comes to their offspring. They want them to do well but not growing right by their side and competing for the same essentials, so it is a case of 'sling your hook kiddies'! Plants have devised some wonderful methods of achieving their objective; that is to get their seed and potential wee ones far away.

Violets have exploding seedpods that burst open and send ripe seed hither and thither. Hazel? Well everyone knows and probably enjoys the nuts, but in nature squirrels will collect stores of them as winter food, and hide them somewhere. But squirrels have 'squirrel brains' and often forget where they have buried their loot, and come the spring any nuts that remain undiscovered will germinate and produce a new bush. The rowan needs no introduction and if it produces a good crop of berries then the birds will gobble them up. Once eaten the fleshy part of the berry is digested but the actual seed passes through the bird when it goes to the loo, and that might be kilometres away and may result in a new rowan tree.

There is a tree that is common hereabouts that is related to the rowan, it is the Swedish whitebeam. This also has red berries and grows in Sweden, surprise, surprise. In late autumn there are two species of bird that visit us from across the North Sea in Scandinavia, namely fieldfares and redwings. These birds feed on Swedish whitebeam berries prior to coming to Scotland, stocking up for the journey. Once they make landfall along the coast of Aberdeenshire, they rest up and leave their droppings at various sites, droppings that contain Swedish whitebeam seed. Hey presto, up pops a new Swedish whitebeam tree. Amazing eh?

Have a great autumn watching our wonderful wildlife, keep an eye open for fieldfares and redwings that should arrive in October. Enjoy natural Belhelvie.

**Bob Davis**

## A LITTLE BIT OF BELHELVIE HISTORY

Balmedie, the largest settlement in Belhelvie parish, is regarded as a modern village; a product of the late 19th Century to house commuters who work in Aberdeen city only some 7 miles away. It is true that the majority of buildings were constructed during the three decades leading up to the Millennium, and since, but that is not the whole picture. There are signs all around the village, and across the parish, that people have inhabited the area since Neolithic times (up to 4000 years ago), through the Bronze Age (about 2000 years ago); and also in the mediaeval periods (some 500 to 600 years ago). The place name Balmedie is itself reflected in its history, and is constructed from two essential parts; "Bal" - a shortened Scots word that in Gaelic is the word "baile" - meaning 'town or village', and 'medie' a synonym for the Eggie, now the Egie, the burn on which an original settlement consisting of a flour mill and smithy was sited in medieval times; therefore Balmedie = "a village next to the Egie". If you say 'Baleggie' a few times you will see how the change can have occurred over time.

The most visible, and iconic sign of ancient activity by people living in the area is at Hare Cairn to the west of the village and north of Belhelvie. If you stand on the dunes at Balmedie Country Park and look across Balmedie towards the horizon, you will see a small hillock, with some misshapen trees around its base. This is a Bronze Age burial cairn, and up to 2000 years old. Fragments of urns were found here and presented to the Society of Antiquaries for Scotland by a John Stuart on 14th February, 1853. The cairn has seen several decades of weather erosion, cattle browsing, and other disturbances such that the trees are almost all gone, the walls are crumbling, and little now remains to capture the imagination other than its iconic appearance in the landscape.



Nearby, at Keir Farm, other relics were also found. The skeleton of a young female was found in a cist - a burial box constructed of stone slabs - in 1915. It also contained three cups or beakers. The presence of the beakers is important. They point to a Scottish culture being defined around 4,000 years ago by a religious, industrious and fashion conscious folk - the 'Beaker People' - a name derived from the vessels they drank from and buried with their dead. They farmed the land, created metal jewellery designs, and produced

some of the first woven garments. They not only loved personal adornment, but were probably responsible for introducing alcohol - a honey based drink like mead - to Scotland 2,000 years before the birth of Christ. They have been said "*to be the first Scots to introduce the social ritual of having people round for drinks and ready to party*" - a quote from 'Scientists Are Unlocking the Secrets of the Original Party People...' by Jim McBeth, October 21, 2006. Curiously, the men had teeth that show more wear than the women. This reveals that women ate more protein, or meat, and the men more seeds and plants. This is apparently opposite to similar folk in Yorkshire where the men apparently ate the meat and the women

the plants! The Beaker People obviously believed in an after life, preparing, clothing, and burying their dead with food and drink in the beakers. The bodies are often placed with their heads in a due south direction, the men with their faces turned towards the rising sun in the east, and the women facing west where the sun falls to be buried in 'mother earth'.

But older yet than Hare Cairn, is the earliest sign of habitation, a little way to the south, at the "Temple Stones" between Belhelvie and Potterton. These are described as the remains of a recumbent stone circle that stood on the top of the ridge on the home farm of Potterton House and have remained there for up to 4000 years. There is a spiritual dimension to its name, reflecting early beliefs and serving as a place for pagan worship. Although the remains of this feature are still visible, only the recumbent stone and accompanying pillar stones (now lying on the ground) had survived by the start of the twentieth century, and the fourth stone with its cup marks has since disappeared. Three smaller stones at the site may have formed part of the circle, but there is a field clearance heap in the centre of the site to confuse matters further.



The site of another cairn is nearby, but is more accessible as it is next to the road at Home Farm, Potterton. The remains of this cairn are situated on a low rise immediately west of the B977 Potterton to Belhelvie road. Although the eastern side of the cairn has been truncated by a cutting on the west side of the road, and the south side has been 'trimmed' by ploughing, the grassed and tree covered mound still measures 15 metres across from north to south, and is about 2.3m in height, although the top has been slightly disturbed.

Other evidence of historic peoples is from various worked flints that have been found throughout the parish, and in sandy stretches along the coastline near Balmedie. They have sometimes been found, with other remains of human habitation, in midden piles that contain shells and bones that are probably the product of early beach-dwellers. Some of the flints have been knapped or fashioned into blades. In 2008, an eagle-eyed 11-year-old spotted a 5,000-year-old flint knife sticking out of the sand at Balmedie beach. Schoolboy Jordan Collier joined his P7 classmates from Balmedie Primary on a school trip to the beach, but had no idea that he would uncover a piece of history.

With a little bit of looking around, perhaps we can be lucky too?

**Ian Nicol**

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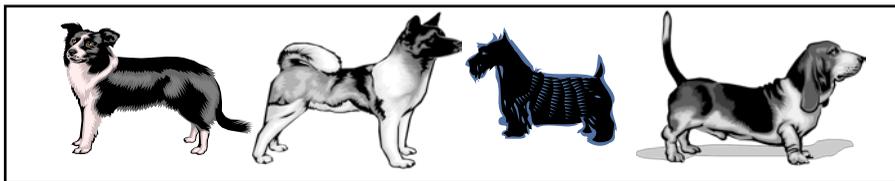
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## THE FAMILY TREE

It is supposed to be summer, but somebody forgot to tell the weather! We now know that this is not only due to the effects of Global Warming, but also the variation in the position of the Jetstream. With the advent of supercomputers and understanding of chaos theory (I have to exclude myself from this, mathematics and me are not compatible!) we understand more about the weather and can predict it more accurately than ever before. We know, however, that the forecasters are not always correct and that more localised predictions are harder, and so we can get surprises with the weather still. This is not unlike the understanding of genetics in medical care.

The Human Genome has been fully described and we know much more about our DNA and the genes that are encoded in the double helix strands. We have identified certain genes associated with some diseases, and some are quite well known, such as the BRCA 1 and 2 genes for breast and ovarian cancer. That been said having a certain gene in your DNA does not mean that the gene is going to be actually “switched on”, or to use the genetic parlance, expressed. The ability to gather all the information has been amazing, but the full understanding of how everything works is still some way off, just like our understanding of the weather, we can still be caught out, just ask Michael Fish!



Watching the television the other day I saw an advert extolling the benefits of people having their genes tested so that they could get an idea of their risk of certain diseases and even predict responses to certain medicines. Whilst this sounds quite a good idea, I would advise a word of caution. We can do some tests for certain cancers, and can perhaps treat if caught early. The detection of a possible cancer risk via analysing your genes and having a clear ability to know what to do is a huge and occasionally impossible challenge. This is also the same for other diseases, such as Huntington’s or Cystic Fibrosis. These very serious genetic conditions have very limited, or in the case of Huntington’s, no treatment options at present, and knowledge about having the gene is not about treatment options, but whether or not you may have affected children and how to avoid passing on a “faulty” gene.

As doctors we have always known that family medical history is important, and if your parents or grandparents had a certain condition, you may have more chance than the rest of the population of being affected. We still ask about this when we meet new patients or if you show signs of certain illnesses. The increasing knowledge of our genetic code is adding to this information, as well as making the job of a GP more challenging! That being said, we are not yet in a position to advocate routine genetic

testing for all as we do not have enough knowledge about how genes are expressed and it is not ethical to test for diseases or conditions that we have no clear effective treatments for. I do not argue that ignorance is bliss (though I suppose it can be!), but it is important to only check for things that you can actually do something about.

So take great care when thinking about genetic tests, and at present I would advocate seeing a genetic specialist if you have concerns, via your GP. A good example would be a family history of certain cancers such as breast cancer. To mis-quote a character in "Jurassic Park" about genes "just because we could test does not mean that we should test"!

Just before I sign off, I'd better remind you that we will soon be back in 'flu season, so start looking to book your 'flu jab from the end of September, the weather is autumnal already and sadly we will be there all too soon!

**Dr Alasdair Forbes**

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

The exams are behind us and I guess the summer is as well! Rangers will be starting back on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August in Potterton and meeting every second week after that. We're going to be working on our Look Wider Challenge, which is the main programme for Rangers (like Rainbow Roundabouts, Brownie Adventures or Guide Go For Its). Look Wider consists of eight sections: Community Action, Creativity, Fit for Life, Independent Living, International, Leadership, Out of Doors, and Personal Values. Rangers can work on as many or as few Octants as they want and as you can see, there's something for everyone. You even pick your own activities within the Octant theme; there are no set tasks to do. There are many other activities you can do as a Ranger as well. Visit this site to find out more:

<http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/seniorsection/whatcanido/index.html>

We're keen to get new members and volunteers. Don't worry if you've never been in Guiding; we'll make you sure you feel welcome. Guiding is a great way to make friends and looks fantastic on your CV. If you are a young woman aged 14 to 26 years old, you could join as a Ranger and if you're over 18 years, you could join as a leader or helper.

Please give me a call (01224 703335) or drop me an email (s.osbeck@rgu.ac.uk) if you want to come along and give it a try or if you are interested in joining as a leader or occasional helper.

**Susan Osbeck**

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# NEOS

north east open studios  
Sept 12th -21st 2015

[www.northeastopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.northeastopenstudios.co.uk)



Come September, you may see, along the roadside, an abundance of yellow rectangular signs with black lettering and you may wonder what they are all about. Each sign alerts you to the fact that there is the studio of an artist or crafter nearby, and you are free to visit. Open Studios events take place all around the UK at various times of the year, but North East Open Studios (NEOS) is Scotland's largest Open Studios event. This year, it takes place from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 21st September throughout Aberdeen City and Shire.

NEOS is an award winning collective of artists, makers and designers based in the North East of Scotland. It has been going now for 12 years, providing a network for artists and makers to help the public access the wealth of creative talent throughout the area.

Many followers plan a day's excursion, using the NEOS catalogue of artists' venues and the enclosed map. A runnie-oot with a difference, you could say. Artists in Balmedie, Newmachar, Newburgh, Ellon, Inverurie, and all along the way and beyond, offer opportunities to experience a variety of visits. As well as meeting the artist, you get a taste of their working environment and their skills. Displayed work is also for sale, so you can treat yourself. NEOS catalogues will be available free in many outlets in the area including Balmedie Library, Balmedie shops, The White Horse, The Cock and Bull and the Stead Inn, Potterton. So pick up a copy and plan your day out. Alternatively, visit [www.northeastopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.northeastopenstudios.co.uk) or NEOS Facebook page for information.

**COFFEE HAVEN** opens again after the summer break on Tuesday 1st September and then continues on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 am to 12 noon in the Forsyth Hall (behind Belhelvie Church). Enjoy home bakes in a friendly atmosphere. All ages welcome – there are toys to keep little ones amused. There is ample parking and easy access to the hall.

**ZUMBA GOLD** runs every Monday 9.45 to 10.30 am in the Forsyth Hall, followed by a cuppa and a blether.

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## BALMEDIE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

All our Services are at Balmedie Leisure Centre every Sunday at 11am.  
Everyone Welcome to our informal and family friendly Services.

At last, after many years, we are delighted that our builder has managed to get a start on our small Church building. It is on Rowan Drive, near the Co-op. We give thanks to God.

During the summer we enjoyed a visit from an American Congregational Minister, Reverend Lisanne Winslow and her two daughters. Lisanne brought lively and thought provoking messages and we look forward to their return next year.



## POTTERTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Our Services are now at Potterton Community Centre on the first Sunday of every month at 6.15 pm. Everyone Welcome.



This summer, we again held our Joint Churches BBQ at Danestone Congregational Church. Around fifty people, adults and children alike, enjoyed the food and the company.

Our young people (P5 upwards) enjoyed a 5 day residential stay at our Perth Congregational Church. They enjoyed visits to the cinema, ice skating, swimming, Camperdown Park, Dundee and a day with the Dundee Sea Cadets, out in the Harbour where everyone got an opportunity to steer the boats with a tiller.

There are plans to try and establish other groups in Potterton, so if you have any ideas, please contact me.

**Rev. Andy Cowie**

*Rev Andy Cowie is the contact for both churches and can be contacted on 01224 703248*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Belhelvie Neighbourhood Watch Group is always looking for people to sign up. You can do this at [www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk) and then locate the Belhelvie Group to join it there. The same website is your route to getting information should any others in the area wish to set up their own Neighbourhood Watch group.

## Dried Cod with Mustard Sauce

‘How was it in Belhelvie while we were away?’ I asked, when we returned from America. ‘The world wept for you.’ replied my poetic friend from over the hill. ‘Yes’ I replied somewhat ruefully, ‘I see that, and the stars appeared too I see, in the form of seeding grass plants on our gravel paths’.

We did our best to be good grandparents in America. As well as being taxi drivers for the two boys aged 7 and 9 we looked after them while their parents worked. It wasn’t plain sailing it has to be said. It’s one thing for their parents to hope that they would enjoy time with us so much that they stop playing on their tablets. It’s another for us to have the power to lure them away. Our weaponry to counteract their exciting virtual world was, if you remember, playing cricket, the nineteen fifties dub-lo train set, chess, the family curiosities I had taken with me... and gardening. Yes, I know, and I can hear the sound of your head bumping onto the table as you mutter ‘What was she thinking?’ Anyhow, we went over there and did what we could. We showed them the depths of our naivety and did our best to engage with their little souls. In our different ways I hope we all enjoyed the companionship.

...And you are right, it was a hopeless task to imagine we would entice them with our archaic family pastimes. However they were close by the train set when it was running, saw their family tree being constructed and a Cabinet of Curiosities was painted and left with family objects tucked inside it.

It was strange to see how far the boys ranged in those enticing miniature worlds and how little they were able to access the real world on their own. Of course their restricted freedom now will be so much expanded as they grow up. They will be free to think and do what they please. They certainly aren’t committed to continuing their father’s line of work or to stay at a certain level of social order.

The Newburgh artist James McBey walked to Aberdeen and back on his own to buy a box of paints when he was under 10 ... around 1890. He went on to be well travelled but he was unusual for the time.

This text is from his autobiography showing how attached people were at the time into their place of birth and the social hierarchies. (Lots more about him of course in The Aberdeen Art Gallery when it reopens.)

*“Each farmer for miles around would be known by the name or contraction of the name of his farm- Piscaff, Linnie, Saak, Pitgersie, Ardo, Craibadonna, Drums Dubbystyle- and each had his pew. The pews of the prosperous wore cushions; those of the more humble worshippers had no padding. The collection was taken by the elders of the kirk, each of whom went to his appointed section bearing a pole like a broom handle with a square open box at the end. Deftly he would push this along in front of each pew. Meanwhile everyone listened to the fall of the coin into the box. All could tell if the coin were a penny a half penny or a threepenny piece. Our minister the Reverend J.S. Leutit (Captain Leutit of Ardo was the son of this minister.) was determined to change this mode of collection and at his own expense supplied velvet purple bags with handles that could be passed from hand to hand in a civilised manner. This created a schism and feeling ran high for months. Nearly half the congregation suspected this to be a ruse of the devil who had caught the minister off guard.”*

We overheard the grandchildren while they searched fussily for lunch possibilities. 'I only like the French bread hot. ... Oh, we don't like that kind of pizza... Those carrots are the wrong shape. We only like the pancakes with chocolate chips...'

As a contrast, here is McBey on the food of his childhood at Foveran Smithy:

*"Our meals were frugal. The function of food was to keep the body alive and working: it was not to be enjoyed, and the changes were rung with oatcakes white bread, boiled beef, cabbages, kale, carrots, turnips, potatoes and tea."*

The grocery store in America was so large we dared not split up. To find everything we walked the distance between Foveran and Belhelvie if not all the way to Aberdeen. When we eventually we got back in the car we stowed items that were shipped from five continents including a very nice sauce to go with fish. It was in a convenient plastic container with a snap off lid. Here is McBey on his grandmother's Mustard Sauce:

*"The entrance to the Ythan was difficult for small boats and gales were frequent in the winter so fish was not plentiful. The grocer kept a supply of dried codfish and on this we fed several times a year. By way of a treat my grandmother made for it a mustard sauce. She put a handful of dry mustard in a china washbasin with a pint or so of skimmed milk and a large cannon ball that was kept for this purpose. Seating herself on a stool, she held the basin on her lap, gripping it with her thighs, and then with a swaying rocking motion she kept the cannon ball swirling round the inside rim of the basin until it had crushed the mustard seeds which as it amalgamated with the milk became a paste. As more milk was added it became a sauce. Never once did it sag to the bottom centre nor did it ever shoot over the rim."*

That was some skill don't you think? I am off to practise so I can show the grandkids next year.

**Mary Cane**

## **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS GROUP**

Merry Christmas folks!!! Now I can just picture you scratching your heads and thinking 'What IS she on about?' Well I'll explain now that I have your attention...

The Balmedie Christmas Lights Group needs your help... please.

We all like the village to look bonnie over the Festive Season but it doesn't happen by magic. Unfortunately there is no Christmas Fairy flitting around the village. There is however a small group of local peeps working hard and we would love it if anyone out there can lend a hand. Men or women, we don't discriminate. I can just hear you cringing at the thought of going onto a committee. Never fear - we are nice people who are more than happy to plan our get-togethers in the White Horse. What can I do, I hear you say. Well you never know until you try. No task is forced on anyone and we would really welcome some new blood with new ideas.

Now that you have read this, please get in touch if you can give up even a few hours from say September until December. It would be greatly appreciated! Pick up the phone some evening and talk to either Anne on [07513476362](tel:07513476362) or Elaine on [07976758334](tel:07976758334). I hate to remind you, but Christmas will be here before we know it.

**Anne Armstrong**

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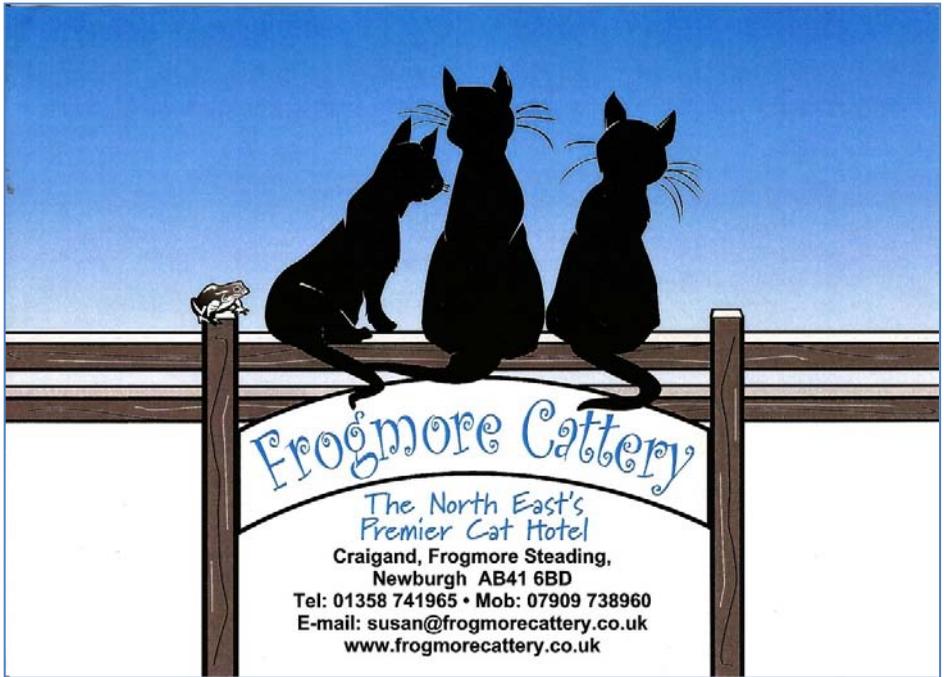
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## SCHOOLING IN BELHELVIE PARISH

Looking at the modern Balmedie School that serves children of primary school age from across the parish, it is hard to think that our extended parish once had four schools.

The first Belhelvie Parish School can be dated to 1628, with the first schoolmasters 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 offences 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 (Whit Cairns), which opened in September 1853, and Wester Hatton (Potterton), with rolls of between 80 and 133 pupils. Subjects such as Greek, Latin, geography, mathematics, navigation, arithmetic, writing, reading and English were offered. In 1939, during the Second World War, seventeen evacuees from Glasgow boosted these numbers.

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 just prior to 1975 in Balmedie. The old school building at Belhelvie has unfortunately now been demolished, but you can still see the school buildings at Menie and Craigie, which have now been made into residences. The most unchanged old school is Wester Hatton, which of course is now Potterton Community Centre.

*Research from 'Belhelvie a Millennium History of Time'*

## SCHOOLS IN!

By the time your Banter is delivered, new school uniforms will have been bought and that mixed feeling of trepidation and elation will be engulfing all young people as they get to grips with the beginning of a new school session. Parents too will be feeling bereft at not having their offspring at home, all day... every day... surely?



So we'd like to wish all pupils the best of luck as they settle in to their new school term. Some will be entering years where exams loom ahead. As a warning to them, and an entertainment for their parents, we have here some actual examples of exam answers written by pupils.

- Q – Define “monotony”  
A – *Monotony means being married to the same person for all of your life.*
- Q – Who was Charles Darwin?  
A – *Charles Darwin was a naturist who wrote “The Organ of the Species”.*
- Q – Explain the composition of water.  
A – *Water is composed of two gins, oxygen and hydrogen. Oxygen is pure gin. Hydrogen is water and gin.*
- Q – What is the definition of a protein?  
A – *A protein is something that is made up of mean old acids.*
- Q – What did Sir Francis Drake say when told the Spanish were coming?  
A – *The Spanish Armada can wait, my bowels can't.*
- Q – Where is the alimentary canal?  
A – *The alimentary canal is in the northern part of Scotland, near Inverness.*
- Q – Name six animals that specifically live in the Arctic.  
A – *Two polar bears and four seals.*

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



Mary and Hebbie Watson are well known in the area for their tremendous efforts in raising funds for MacMillan Cancer Support. They are again hosting their annual MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00am, and welcome you to join them for tea/coffee and home bakes at Homestead, Whitecairns. Do come along – and bring some friends too.

## THE NEW ACADEMY



We hope all pupils are now settled into the new term. What excitement, especially for pupils from Belhelvie Parish who are enjoying the benefits of a brand new school building. Ellon Academy Community School is up and running at last at the new campus at Cromleybank, on the edge of Ellon. This £36million “super school” opened its doors to pupils and the wider community on 20<sup>th</sup> August. Taking two years to build from start to finish and completed under budget, on time and on programme, it can certainly be classed as a successful project.

Offering a 25m competition standard swimming pool, a theatre with cinema-style seats, where school assemblies, among other events, will take place, this new Academy is certainly state of the art. As well as a 240-seater canteen, it has two gymnasiums, four games halls, outdoor sports pitches, five community rooms and a fitness suite. Many local groups and clubs are set to use the community rooms, which will also host a crèche and a nursery.

Three floors high, each storey houses a different area of study. Sports and PE, creative arts studios, media and music are on the ground floor, as is the canteen. The second floor is maths, business studies and science departments, as well as a third and fourth year community area. Fifth and sixth year will be based on the top floor, which will also house humanities, history, English, geography and a library. Also part of the school is the North East Scotland College, Ellon Learning Centre, which offers full and part time courses.



Sure to become a very popular community hub, this innovative campus offers excellent up-to-date facilities fit for 21<sup>st</sup> Century education for all – a far cry from the old split-site set up of Ellon Academy. Those not of school age, will be hankering to return to school. Now surely *that's* a result!

## PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP



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Many residents of Belhelvie Parish attend the Scotstown Medical Practice, either in Bridge of Don or at Udney Station. Some patients from this practice have formed a "Patient Participation Group" with the intention of building a two-way communication between staff and patients in order to gain and share a patient perspective on local health services.

The PPG meets every three months to discuss ways in which they can contribute effectively to the work of the General Practice and help staff at the Practice achieve its aim to create an efficient service tailored to patient needs.

If you have any queries or comments you would like the PPG to forward or discuss, please contact the surgery and leave your details (tel. 01224 551415).

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## BELHELVIE CHURCH



Over the past 20 years or so our family has found itself gravitating back to Tiree in the Western Isles for every other summer holiday. Tiree's a beautiful, small island with a population of just 600 folk and it's blessed with an abundance of beaches – some with beautiful white sand, others with an array of gorgeously coloured rocks and pebbles. Next time you find yourselves in the ARI (and may it be a long

time in the coming!) keep an eye out on the walls for the work of Frances Walker. Frances is a renowned Aberdeen artist, a former lecturer at Gray's, who did much of her work on Tiree and who's donated quite a few pieces for display in the city's hospitals. It always cheers me up to see her work on the walls when I'm in visiting folk.

One of the simple pleasures of our holidays is walking the beaches and seeing what treasures we find, and that was firmly in my mind when I wrote this piece last year.

### *The Flotsam in the Bay*

*There's no hurry in a beach walk  
it's an amble, not a stride.  
Step out too quickly and you'll miss  
the gifts borne by the tide.*

*The point is not to get someplace  
or clock another mile.  
It's the manner of your travelling  
which makes the walk worthwhile.*

*So let your gaze go wandering  
as you stroll along the sand.  
And when you find a treasure, pause  
and take it in your hand*

*and wonder at the choice you've made.  
Why did this speak to you?  
This stone, or shell, or piece of glass –  
its shimmer, shape or hue?*

*And why did others pass it by  
and leave it in its place?  
Because you're you, and they're themselves.  
Our selfhood is a grace.*

*And grace it is, when we forget  
our names along the way.  
To find ourselves again amongst  
the flotsam in the bay.*

Part of what makes holidays so enjoyable is the chance to reconnect with our families and ourselves in the middle of lives that are often so busy and hurried. The chance to slow down, make time and re-create is something many of us live for. It often feels like holidays are the only times we really get to do that properly.

Rightly understood, though, the practice of prayer brings the same kind of space into our daily living. Long before mindfulness came into fashion, practicing Christians knew that deliberately setting time aside in the day to pray is a life-giving activity. It helps us reconnect with ourselves, our lives, our priorities and above all the God who's at the centre of it all.

Never tried it? This website's a good place to start: <http://www.trypraying.org> , but it's also good to get in tow with other folk who are learning how to make prayer a part of their life. This is a big part of what church is supposed to be about, and there's a reawakening to that going on within the lives of many congregations. I'd love to talk to you about this and help you begin to experience for yourselves the blessings that come with a life of prayer, so please be in touch if you want to know more.

In the meantime, every blessing to you and yours for the remainder of the summer.

### **Coming Up This Term:**

10am services continue until Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> August, when we revert to 11am

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September Guild Dedication Service

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September Invitation Communion

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October Harvest Festival

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November Communion

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Service

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September there is to be a talk by Mark Morgan from Stella's Voice Charity at 11.00am in the Church.

### **Development Update**

At the time of writing our new car park is almost finished. Our next aim is to build on additional storage space to The Forsyth Hall and after that, turn our attention to the renovations at the front of our church.

Paul McKeown (minister, Belhelvie Church of Scotland)  
[pmckeown1@btconnect.com](mailto:pmckeown1@btconnect.com), 01358742227



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## **BOOTIFUL BALMEDIE**

Better Balmedie would welcome donations of old boots (wellington, hiking, working or knee-length), which are otherwise being put in the bin. Please bring these to the Polytunnel on Wednesday or Saturday mornings (10 am to noon). Just what will this creative group come up with next we wonder?

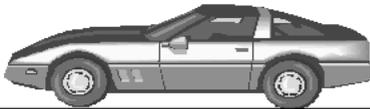
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## LOCAL POLICE CONTACT



I am one of your local Sergeants based within the Formartine area and am your single point of contact for the Belhelvie community. Having recently commenced duty within the area, I look forward to working with you in the months ahead to ensure we continue to live and work within a safe community.

We're coming to the start of the school year again. With road safety being one of our local priorities, it's important to reemphasis safety around the school grounds. Inappropriate parking is a regular complaint around our schools. We will be running local initiatives looking to identify those who park in a dangerous or obstructive manner or those driving inappropriately around schools.

We regularly have officers out in villages looking to detect those breaking speed limits. A recent operation within Formartine saw 3 drivers being warned about their speed within Belhelvie within a short time period. We will continue to target those who continue to speed and where we can, issue relevant punishments to offenders.

Within the villages, we continue to see low levels of youth disorder and anti-social behaviour. However, we are not complacent and we need you to tell us where these incidents are occurring and who is responsible.

Over the coming months, I would like to hear from anyone within the community who wishes to discuss any incidents of concern to them. We can be contacted on 999 for emergencies, 101 for non-emergencies and [EllonDistrictCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EllonDistrictCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk).

**Sergeant Alex Carle**

## BALMEDIE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

This group is open to all residents over the age of 50 who reside in the parish of Belhelvie. We meet every second Tuesday in the Egie House lounge from 2-4pm and have an interesting mix of musical entertainment and talks. There is a small charge to cover refreshments and a raffle. Come and join us and enjoy our Autumn programme:

25 August	Entertainment by Audacity
8 September	Talk by Scot Baxter of Cyrenians
22 September	The Drama Wifies
6 October	Beetle drive
20 October	Reel in Country: Don Carney
3 November	Gordon Skinner and Friends
17 November	Talk by William Johnston on WW1 Battlefields
1 December	Dorothy Taylor: Something Doric
15 December	Christmas party

**Margaret Murison 01358 742285**  
**Vic Deans 01358 743634**



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## BALMEDIE LIBRARY

Library opening times are:

Monday	14.30 - 16.30	Thursday	10.00 - 13.00
	17.30 - 19.30	Friday	CLOSED
Tuesday	CLOSED	Saturday	10.00 - 13.00
Wednesday	14.30 - 16.30		
	17.30 - 19.30		

Rhyme Time Sessions will be starting again on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2.00 – 2.30 pm and then the first Wednesday of the month during term time.

Our very popular Knit & Natter Group meets every Thursday morning from 10.30 – 12.30. If you like knitting, or want to learn, come along and join this friendly group and enjoy a cuppa, a fine piece and a good blether too.

We are absolutely delighted by the response we have had to this year's Summer Reading Challenge which we think is on course to be our most successful yet. We are really enjoying seeing so many enthusiastic young people in the library. Well done to you all and we hope you are enjoying all your prizes.

Trying to remember that poem you learned at school? What was it called? Who wrote it? Where can we find it? As part of the National Poetry Day celebrations, Information Services (of Aberdeenshire Libraries) will be available to answer your poetry questions from Wednesday 7th until Friday 9th October, 9am until 5pm. Contact details are below.

Alternatively, you can give details of any poem / poet you remember and what information you are searching for. Pick up a form from Balmedie library and hand it back to a member of staff who will pass on your query. Information Services is actually available all year for queries on any topic.

Email: [alis.enquiry@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:alis.enquiry@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01651 871206  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/onceuponashire>  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireLibraries](http://www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireLibraries)  
Balmedie Library: 01358 742045 /email: [balmedie.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:balmedie.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**Maureen Muirden**

### GARIOCH FIDDLERS CONCERT DATE

Members of the The Garioch Fiddlers will be performing in a concert at Forsyth Hall, Belhelvie Church on Friday October 2 at 7.30pm. Refreshments and a raffle will be held at half time and tickets priced £5 are available from 01358 742142.

**Jean McLeish**

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## OLD BELHELVIE PARISH BOOK

In the Banter earlier this year I wrote asking for any pictures of Belhelvie Parish, Balmedie, Belhelvie, Blackdog, Whitecairns and Potterton and all places in between. Since then I have had several responses, from people lending me photos and postcards of the area. I am looking for more though, of buildings, people, farms, the Beach, shipwrecks, transport, in fact any pictures that tell a story about this parish. As the parish has changed so much since the advent of oil, I am looking for pictures up until around 1970. Please get in touch if you have any pictures, stories or memories of Belhelvie Parish. You can ring me on 01358 742557 or email [rosie.informlineone.net](mailto:rosie.informlineone.net)

Thank you!

**Rosie Nicol**

### CRAFT CLUB

The Craft Club will resume on Thursday 27th August from 6.30 - 7.30pm at £1.50 per night in the school and is open to all primary school boys & girls. Each week we have fun, making, creating and sometimes baking (a favourite activity). We had a chocolate stall at the summer Fete at Balmedie Leisure Centre making £90 towards Craft Club funds. Thanks to all who donated and came along to support us on the day. For more details phone 01358 743114.

**Diane & Catherine**

### S.W.I. (BELHELVIE RURAL)

I hope all are enjoying the "summer weather" with wellies very much in fashion! Our first meeting of the autumn session is on Wednesday 9th September at 7.30pm, in our usual location, the lounge of Eigie House. Audrey Davis will be our guest and she will be demonstrating handbag making. This should be an interesting evening, you don't have to be a member, feel free to come along as a visitor and you will be most welcome. Our first whist evening is on Wednesday 23rd Sept, also in Eigie House at 7-30pm. This is a great social evening with a cuppa, sausage roll and fine pieces all for £2, so that's a real bargain! We run a very successful raffle at the whist, at only 50p a strip. Come and join us for a good night out!

Eigie House has easy access for the less able and parking is available. If you wish to know more please feel free to contact me on 01358 743173.

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## BETTER BALMEDIE



Here we are in mid July although it feels more like mid November. When you open the bedroom curtains these days, the room gets darker! Nevertheless lots of work has been going on at Better Balmedie since the last Banter. We collected our allocation of bedding plants from Aberdeenshire Council in mid June and thanks to a sterling effort by our members, had most of them in the planters within 24 hours. The remarkable thing is, despite all the torrential rain and almost total lack of sunshine, most of the flowers are looking great and all the others will bloom with just a day or two of sunshine.

On 30<sup>th</sup> of May we had our annual plant sale and surprise, surprise it was raining! However we had the usual great support from the folk of Balmedie and sold about two thirds of our normal amount of plants and were fortunate to make up the shortfall the following week thanks to the Summer Fete being held next door to us.

Work continues to chop up the two trees felled on our site and we have accumulated a fair stock of logs. These are for sale at the polytunnel on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at £ 3.00 per bag, which is the same price Aldi charges except our bags are twice as big.

We would like to thank the Co-op customers who drop their change into the cans at the check-out. The totals for the last twice were £43.31 in May and £ 34.85 in July. These donations are greatly appreciated and help us to further enhance the village and allow us to buy plants and equipment for our team. We would cordially invite anyone to visit us at the poly tunnel behind the Leisure Centre or to join us any Wednesday or Saturday from 10am to 12 noon. (No green fingers required)

Over the past few months, when time permitted, we have been working on a new novelty planter.

We think this will be something special and hopefully it will be on show within the next few weeks, so keep your eyes open as you walk round the village, not only is it safer but you will have more chance of seeing our newcomer.

This year we are entered into the Formartine in Bloom Competition which will be judged in August – we'll let you know the results in the next edition of Banter!

For more information visit [www.betterbalmedie.org](http://www.betterbalmedie.org) or contact Allan Jeffrey on 01358 743851, or look at our Facebook Page

**Alan Leith**

## **BELHELVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Easter Hatton Landfill Tax** Funding has now been received for the second quarter of this year. The funding will go towards the upgrading of Potterton football pitch and the construction of two seven-aside football pitches adjacent to the football pitch in Balmedie. The pitches will be available for use by Balmedie Primary School and also for public use.

Belhelvie Community Council has now received status as an 'Approved Body' to deal with applications for funding from landfill-tax. We would welcome applications from constituted bodies who wish to apply for funding for:

- The reclamation, remediation, restoration or other operations on land to facilitate economic, social or environmental use.
- Community-based recycling which protects the environment.
- The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other public amenity.
- The conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat
- To maintain, repair or restore a building structure or site of historic interest.

If you wish to make any enquiries, please contact David Watson ( in the evening) on 01358 7421118 or [eagc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:eagc@hotmail.co.uk)

**Balmedie – Tipperty A90 Dualling** Contractors commenced work on 3<sup>rd</sup> August fencing off land at Millden and Southfolds to accommodate the construction of the grade separated junction at the south entrance of Balmedie. Elsewhere in our parish and further afield, we can now see lots of activity, with major earthworks underway towards the construction of the AWPR (Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route).

**Whitecairns** Thirty-five objections were received by Aberdeenshire Council following a planning application being submitted for a landfill site. The application is to infill the borrow pit which was excavated on the hill across from Whitecairns village with inert material.

**Trump International Golf Links** Belhelvie Community Council put forward comments on the proposed development at Menie. However, the only communication we have had so far is to say that we would receive a response from them soon.

**Village Tidy Scheme** Blackdog village has now been included as a settlement for this scheme and a person has been appointed to undertake tidy-up duties.

**Community Council Meetings** These take place on the third Monday of each month, normally in Balmedie School during school term and in Belhelvie Community Centre (Green Hut) during holidays, starting at 7.30pm and you are very welcome to attend.

**David Watson, BCC Chair**

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## THE MEN'S SHED



The Men's Shed movement began in Australia when men realised they could come together around practical tasks on a regular basis, particularly if they had a designated place or workshop where tools and work in progress could be stored. Men often develop their skills and interests in the privacy of their own shed, but in a larger facility, with better or more equipment, with skills you can develop with others and jobs you can do for the community, a Men's Shed offers something new. Finding a way of working, alongside others and with a purpose in view but without imposed demands can be exactly what many men need.

There are now thousands of Men's Sheds in Australia and the idea has migrated to many other countries, finding its way to the UK too. Research worldwide points in particular to the health and well-being benefits of men working together. An Australian contact also informs us that WOMEN are actually involved in the Men's Shed he attends... but only on a Tuesday!

The Shed concept was first realised in the UK by Age Concern Cheshire at Hartford in 2009, about the same time as the first Shed in Ireland was set up. Sheds vary from full-time projects with paid staff and occupying industrial premises to groups meeting in village halls and community centres for only a few hours a week. Some Sheds are in rural locations, while most are in small towns. Surprisingly, there are relatively few in large cities. There are Sheds that have been started by their users, by churches, by village development trusts, by large charities and by health authorities. Nearly a quarter have been started by Age UK affiliates.

A Men's Shed is a larger version of the typical man's shed in the garden – a place where he feels at home and pursues practical interests with a high degree of autonomy. A Men's Shed offers this to a group of such men where members share the tools and resources they need to work on projects of their own choosing at their own pace, in a safe, friendly and inclusive venue. They are places of skill-sharing and informal learning, of individual pursuits and community projects, of purpose, achievement and social interaction - a place of leisure where men come together to work.

A Shed's activities usually involve making or mending in wood (e.g. carpentry, joinery, turning, carving, whittling, marquetry, furniture renovation) and may include activities as varied as bike repair, gardening, vehicle repair, tool renovation, upholstery, boat renovation, model engineering, milling, turning in plastics, etc. Reclamation, reuse and restoration will feature strongly – and some say that is true of

the men too! Although Sheds mostly attract older men, some have men of any age, women and teenagers. Whichever activities are pursued the essence of a Shed is not just a building, but the network of relationships between the members.

Aberdeenshire has employed its own Voluntary Action Men's Shed Development worker, Jason Schroeder who has been busy supporting groups to establish Men's Sheds in their local areas. The Men's Shed concept has been used to achieve Scottish Charity status. Many community groups are in discussion with Aberdeenshire Council regarding premises for their Men's Sheds. This co-working relationship between Aberdeenshire Men's Shed groups and the Council has culminated in Aberdeenshire continuing to lead the way in Scotland after the Council won their first COSLA award for the Westhill Men's Shed in 2014.



The nearest Shed to Belhelvie parish is the Ellon and District Men's Shed, the members of which have been working hard to get their Shed established. They have been fund-raising, applying for awards and searching out donations of tools over the last year. Should any Belhelvie-ites wish to join this group, please telephone 07478895785 or email: [ellonmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:ellonmensshed@gmail.com). Their website is [ellonanddistrictmensshed.blogspot.co.uk](http://ellonanddistrictmensshed.blogspot.co.uk). On Facebook, you can find "Ellon Shed" and also "Mens Sheds Aberdeenshire" which will keep you up to date with the development of Sheds in the area.

How's this for an idea though? What about a Belhelvie Men's Shed? Do we have any individuals or groups out there in the parish who like the idea and would be willing to work together to get it up and running? If so, then Jason Schroeder, the Aberdeen Voluntary Action's Men's Shed Development Officer is the contact you need. His mobile number is 07964 036821 or phone him at the office 01330 825027. You could also email him at [jason.schroeder@avashire.org.uk](mailto:jason.schroeder@avashire.org.uk).

As part of their fund-raising activities, the Ellon and District Men's Shed are having a Quiz Night at the Ellon McDonald Golf Club on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. Teams of 4 can enter (£20 entry fee per team – this includes stovies and macaroni cheese). If you would like to enter a Belhelvie Team or just want to go along to pick their brains about setting up a Men's Shed, phone 07786 748296 or email [andy.leonard@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.leonard@btinternet.com).



You can watch the video entitled 'Shed Men' at <https://vimeo.com/84392065> or the documentary "Better Shed than Dead" can be found at <https://vimeo.com/110898334>

## INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

<b>GARAGES &amp; TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Pg</b>	<b>PETS contd.</b>	<b>Pg</b>
Cadger's Garage, Belhelvie	22	Lady & Tramp Pet Grooming	13
Cadger's Taxis	31	Positive Paws	8
GRM Motors	36	<b>RETAIL</b>	
Jock's Taxi	18	Aberdeenshire Larder	6
Lawrence of Kemnay	31	Beachside Coffee Shop	42
Potterton Service Station	26	Bridgefoot Organics	22
Victoria Garage	12	Mair's Fish Van	18
<b>GARDEN SERVICES</b>		Pauline Wood - Antiques	36
A&C Gardening	18	Potterton Shop	6
Newmachar Tree Surgery	23	The Store	24
Parkhill Garden Centre	*IFC	<b>SERVICES</b>	
<b>HEALTH &amp; BEAUTY</b>		Aberdeenshire Laptop Repairs	38
Aberdeen Osteopathy Clinic	4	Flowerpots Nursery	26
Balmedie Hair & Beauty	36	Leigh Smith Soft Furnishing	13
Dickies Pharmacy	40	Lokal Loks	18
D. Leal Chiropodist	45	Marks Valet	42
Eliz Ross Physiotherapist	13	McKenzie Print	*IBC
1st Class Foot Care	18	MSD Design Ltd	25
Hairshack	40	Pets Crematorium	45
Kingseat Dental	2	Robert Lamb Architect	33
Nail & Beauty Academy	16	RJG Property Maintenance	38
<b>LEISURE</b>		Toni Allen	33
Cock & Bull	*IBC	<b>TRADES</b>	
Inverurie Panto	25	Anderson Joinery	33
Jazzercise	22	Balmedie Plumbing & Heating	2
Murcar Golf Links	8	Carle's Sheds	33
Newburgh Golf Club	32	Gough Decorators	26
Whitehorse Inn	*IFC	John Duncan Plant Hire	12
<b>PETS &amp; THEIR NEEDS</b>		K F Watson	16
Animal Nanny	16	Michael Duncan, Builder	32
Ardene House Vet	24	Prompt Plumbing	31
Frogmore Cattery	23	Reid Plumbing & Heating	4
		Wayne Combe Roofing	45

\*IFC Inside Front Cover

\*IBC Inside Back Cover

\*\*\*Copy date for Winter Edition: Friday 16th October 2015

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# McKenzie Print

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# AUTUMN DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## AUGUST

Tues 25	Friendship Group - Entertainment	Eigie House	2pm
Thurs 27	Kids' Craft Club resumes	Balmedie School	6.30-7.30pm

## SEPTEMBER

Tues 1	Coffee Haven resumes	Forsyth Hall	10am-12noon
Wed 2	Rhyme Time	Balmedie Library	2 -2.30pm
Wed 2	Bingo - every 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	Eigie House	7.30pm
Tues 8	Friendship Group - Entertainment	Eigie House	2pm
Wed 9	SWI	Eigie House	7.30pm
Sun 20	Talk: Mark Morgan – Stella's Voice	Belhelvie Church	11am
Mon 21	Belhelvie Community Council Meeting	Balmedie School	7.30pm
Tues 22	Friendship Group The Drama Wifies	Eigie House	2pm
Wed 23	SWI - Whist	Eigie House	7.30pm
Thurs 24	BB Illust. Talk Buchan Heritage Soc.	Balmedie Library	7.30pm
Fri 25	MacMillan Coffee Morning	Homestead Whitecairns	10am
Mon 28	Belhelvie Community Trust Meeting	The Whitehorse Inn	7.30pm

## OCTOBER

Fri 2	Garioch Fiddlers	Forsyth Hall	7.30pm
Tues 6	Friendship Group – Beetle Drive	Eigie House	2pm
Wed 7	Rhyme Time	Balmedie Library	2 -2.30pm
Fri 9	End of Term Balmedie, BoDA, Ellon		
Wed 14	SWI meeting	Eigie House	7.30pm
Mon 19	Belhelvie Community Council Meeting	Belhelvie Comm. Centre	7.30pm
Tues 20	Friendship Group – Reel n' Country	Eigie House	2pm
Mon 26	Term starts Balmedie, BoDA, Ellon		
Mon 26	Belhelvie Community Trust Meeting	The Whitehorse Inn	7.30pm
Wed 28	SWI - Whist	Eigie House	7.30pm
Thurs 29	Better Balmedie AGM	Balmedie Library	7.30pm
Fri 30	Deadline for Banter Contributions	Winter Edition	

## NOVEMBER

Mon 2	Rhyme Time	Balmedie Library	2 -2.30pm
Tues 3	Friendship Group – Gordon Skinner	Eigie House	2pm
Sun 8	Remembrance Sunday	Belhelvie Church	10.50am
Wed 11	SWI meeting	Eigie House	7.30pm
Mon 16	Belhelvie Community Council Meeting	Balmedie School	7.30pm
Tues 17	Friendship Group WW1 Battlefields	Eigie House	2pm
Mon 23	Belhelvie Community Trust Meeting	The Whitehorse Inn	7.30pm
Wed 25	SWRI Whist (Last one until January)	Eigie House	7.30pm
Thurs 26	Better Balmedie Meeting	Balmedie Library	7.30pm

## WEEKLY

Mon	Golden Zumba	Forsyth Hall	9.45 -10am
Wed	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed of Month - Bingo	Eigie House	7.30pm
Thurs	Knit & Natter	Balmedie Library	10.30 - 12.30
Thurs	Kids' Craft Club - term time only	Balmedie School	6.30- 7.30pm