BELHELVIE BANTER

Balmedie: Whitecairns: Belhelvie: Potterton: Blackdog



EDITION 39

JUNE 2019

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Summer Dates for your Diary

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FDITORIAL



Summer now beckons and at last warmer weather is arriving. Things seem to speed up at this time of year as folk spread their wings and savour being out of doors more. Potterton Community Group have big plans for summer events and The Sand Bothy is up and running for the season. The Beach Wheelchairs are ready to roll and summer outings are being planned.

School summer holidays will come round fast too. School staff will relax and parents gear up. We are so lucky to have Balmedie School serving the needs of the younger members of Belhelvie Parish and we should be grateful for the wonderful staff there who bring fun into learning. The recent Red Nose Week not only raised funds for deserving causes, but also raised children's awareness of their place in the World and how fortunate they are in comparison to many. They experienced problem-solving, enterprise, working together and so much more – add to that a bucket of fun and that equals happy, successful, motivated learners. Thank you Balmedie School!

I hope our readers find time for buckets of fun too over the summer – and enjoy reading this latest edition of Banter outside with the barbecue blazing.

Jess Petrie, Editor

The work involved in producing The Belhelvie Banter is all done voluntarily. At the time of going to press, the information within this edition is understood to be correct, but no responsibility can be accepted by the Banter Team for any errors. We do our best!

ADVERTISE WITH BANTER

Without our generous advertisers, it would not be possible to produce our community magazine, so we are very grateful that they choose to support Banter while at the same time, advertising their businesses and services.

If you can provide a service to our area, why not promote your business by advertising with us? If you are interested, please email <u>belhelviebanter@live.co.uk</u>. Help is available for advert design if necessary.

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Half page advert	£45	£40 each ed.
Quarter page advert	£25	£20 each ed.
Small Ad	£13	£13 each ed.

Readers – it would help greatly if you would mention Belhelvie Banter if you get in touch with individuals or companies after seeing their adverts here.

BANTER DEADLINES	AUTUMN (Ed 40)	WINTER (Ed 41)	SPRING (Ed 42) 2020
For articles & ads	Friday 26 th July	Friday 25 th Oct	Friday 24 th Jan
Delivery begins	Saturday 24 th Aug	Saturday 23 rd Nov	Saturday 22 nd Feb

Thank you to David Simpson of Balmedie School for our cover photograph.



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LOOKING LOCAL

Focus on Local Businesses



Lost your keys? Been burgled? Window smashed? Who do you call? No, it's not Ghost Busters (for those of a certain age), it's **Gary Smith** of **Lokal Loksmith** to the rescue!

Gary, a resident of Balmedie for many years, decided to build on the many years he had spent as a joiner. He has gone on to complete further training to become a locksmith. Add both these sets of skills together and it's not surprising that Gary has succeeded in building an excellent, professional service, brimming with recommendations from satisfied local customers, as well as from further afield.

Lokal Loksmith is on-call to offer a fast, emergency service to cover replacing locks, burglary damage, window and door repairs. You name it, Gary can turn his hand to it. Customers repeatedly recommend his friendly, professional, speedy service.

And that's not all! One glimpse inside the Lokal Loksmith van highlights the versatility and efficiency of this business. Key-cutting equipment and all that's required to do the necessary jobs to bring security and reassurance back into your home are all ready to go. How many times have you had to go into town to get keys cut? Now we have a mobile service, straight to your door, with the additional benefit

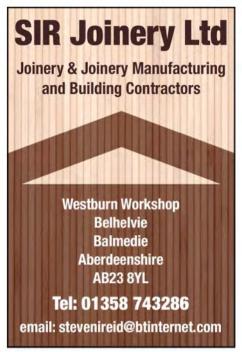
of actually checking if the key works!

So next time you need an efficient, experienced, friendly service to sort out keys, locks, doors and windows — and general maintenance — you know who to call!



Have a look at the Lokal Loksmith website. Contact by phone/email (details in top photo).







BCC and BCT - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There's sometimes some confusion about what Belhelvie Community Council (BCC) does and what Balmedie Community Trust (BCT) does, so we thought we would explain the difference. Both organisations operate throughout the parish of Belhelvie covering Balmedie, Belhelvie, Blackdog, Potterton and Whitecairns and all the dwellings in between, but they do different things...

Belhelvie Community Council (BCC) is a community organisation set up by Aberdeenshire Council. We are a group of volunteers, who live locally, and we aim to help bridge the gap between our communities and our local authority. To do this we represent your views on issues such as planning permission, licensing applications and major infrastructure developments. We work closely with our ward Councillors and send responses to the Council's development plans on behalf of the community.

An important part of our work is to liaise with the police, the emergency services and other Community Councils in the mid-Formartine area. We also work with Aberdeenshire Council to improve the infrastructure around our villages such as bike paths, pavements, the condition of our roads, access and removing redundant eyesores.

At the moment we are working on a community survey about the bus service, solar powered speed signs in Balmedie and Potterton, getting the path through the Magnificent 7 Woods down to Old Aberdeen Road reinstated and administering the village tidy scheme.

We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at the White Horse in Balmedie (7pm). Everyone is welcome to come along. You can find out more about who we are, our meetings and our work on our website and Facebook page.

Website: <u>www.belhelviecc.org.uk</u>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BelhelvieCommunityCouncil
Email: belhelviecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com

Belhelvie Community Trust (BCT) is a charity, number SC045563, set up in 2015 to act as an umbrella organisation, supporting existing community projects, groups and organisations and developing new community projects. Among its other work, Belhelvie Community Trust is responsible for running The Sand Bothy and Balmedie Beach Wheelchairs and developing a Community Sensory Garden in the Magnificent 7s Woods. When required, we will support community organisations throughout the parish in many different ways.

We meet bi-monthly on the 4th Monday of the month at the White Horse Inn in Balmedie. Dates for 2019 are 27th May, 22nd July, 23rd September and 25th November. Everyone with an interest in the community life of Belhelvie Parish is welcome to come along. You can find out more on our project websites and our Facebook pages.

Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/Belhelvie-Community-Trust</u>

www.facebook.com/The-Sand-Bothy www.facebook.com/BBwheelchairs

Websites: <u>www.balmediebeachwheelchairs.co.uk</u>

www.thesandbothy.co.uk

Both organisations have different roles, but aim to work together all for the benefit of local people.

David Wallace Chair BCC Rosemary Nixon Chair BCT









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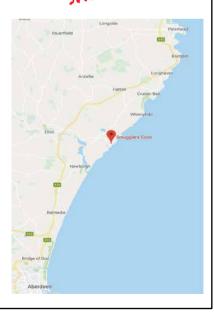








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Balmedie Beach Wheelchairs, based in Balmedie Country Park, opened for the season on 7th April.

We are hoping that we will have lots of fine weather this year so the chairs will be in regular use, giving access to the beach for all. We are delighted to report that we have some new volunteers who are willing to help look after the chairs and the people who use them. Hiring is free and we have chairs to suit

different ages and needs. Chairs are bookable for Sundays every week, but if you would like to use a chair on another day, we will see what can be organised.

The photographs here show 'The Bothy Bunker' which has been renovated in order to provide a centre for the beach wheelchairs. At the back of the Bunker you can see the beautiful seathemed mural by local artist Joni Corbett.



To book a chair or to discuss anything about the project, please phone Fiona Winstanley Wheelchairs on 07864 350 989. For more



information, look at our excellent new website:

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Finally summer is on its way... bring on the sunshine!

Our Summer Fete is on Sunday 26th May from 12pm to 4pm We look forward to seeing you there!

As a celebration we are offering our Afternoon Tea for Two at a special price of £12 (usual price £20). For the month of June 2019 only when you present this advert. Enjoy a selection of sandwiches, plain scones served with strawberry jam and butter, homemade traybakes with unlimited tea and black coffee.

24hrs notice/booking is required - we serve Afternoon Tea on Monday to Friday from 12pm to 2pm. Price does not include fruit teas or specialist coffees.

www.balmedieleisurecentre.com or our Facebook page Balmedie Leisure Centre



BALMEDIE MAGNIFICENT 7s WOODS & SENSORY GARDEN





Back in the 1990s, children from Balmedie Primary School helped to plant mixed woodland at the southern edge of the village. Many of them were in Primary 7 so they named the wood the Magnificent 7s. It has remained a community woodland ever since with a path running through it. Over the years the trees have matured and you can find hazel, alder, hawthorn, whitebeam, rowan, spruce and birch there. The areas

between the trees and the paths however were not well maintained and became overgrown and neglected. In 2017 Belhelvie Community Council obtained funds from Landfill Tax and planted wild flowers in part of the woods – last year we enjoyed a mass of white ox-eye daisies.

In 2018 Belhelvie Community Trust were successful in obtaining funding too, and work started on the eastern area to create a community sensory garden, an area for all ages and abilities to enjoy. Phase 1, carried out by Team Niblick, is now complete; we are very happy with progress so far, and grateful to the team's enthusiasm and commitment to the project. They have built stone walls and planters, created wide



paths, cleared the ground, pruned trees and created areas to be developed for picnic and play. The area has now been seeded with grass, so we are waiting for better weather to promote its growth! BCT is now applying for funds for Phase 2 - tables, benches, a draft board, sensory plants, trees and shrubs and other features. We will not know the result of that application until July at the earliest.

The Magnificent 7s garden will be a place for everyone. The Trust is getting it started, but we need help from everyone to keep it good! We need your help and ideas! If you could plant, cut grass, weed, build things with wood or stone, pick up litter, we want you to be involved, to develop an area which can be enjoyed by folk of all ages. The more folk we involve, the less chance there will be of vandalism or neglect (materials stored near the garden have already been smashed).

Please let us know if you would like to join in. Contact us on 01358 742557 rosienicol81@gmail.com or on Belhelvie Community Trust Facebook page.

Rosie Nicol BCT



The Sand Bothy kiosk and exhibition is open on Saturdays from 12 to 3 and Sundays from 12 to 4. Space in the Bothy is bookable all year round for small



groups and classes. We will be holding a Community Fun Day on Saturday 27th July, which will be a joint fundraiser with RNLI

and will feature Love Rara. Look out for more details in posters around the village and on The Sand Bothy Facebook page and website.

We are keen to add to our team of volunteers to work in the Bothy Kiosk and Exhibition. If you are interested in helping, please contact us on 01358 742557 rosienicol81@gmail.com or on The Sand Bothy Facebook page.

Rosie Nicol

CRAFT CLUB

Everyone enjoyed our pop up craft mornings during the Easter holidays and now we welcome children back to our Summer term of craft club. We have done a variety of makes in the club recently from baking, decorating biscuits to painting. Currently, we have spaces for primary school age children to join our



craft club. The Club is held on a Wednesday evening 6.30-7.30pm in the church hall next to the Co-op, cost £1.50 per week (tuck shop also available). All school children welcome.

Upcoming - dates for our pop-up craft mornings during the Summer holidays will be released very soon - feel free to join our Facebook page for up to date information. **Catherine & Diane** 01358 743114

BELHELVIE BOWLING CLUB



We are now open for the 2019 season. New members are very welcome to join us. If you would like to know more, contact the secretary Marion Donald on 07729 817718 or email marion.donald@btinternet.com. You can also get information on

the website: www.belhelviebowlingclub.com

Marion Donald



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PARISH THREADS

'When the Blackbird flew out of sight it marked the edge of many circles.'
(Wallace Stevens)



Around a hundred years ago telegraph wires were brought over from Newmachar. The process of connecting Belhelvie to the world in real time had begun. As the men dug holes and hauled up tarred pine poles with a steam driven engine, no doubt the plough horses looked up in astonishment and cows swished their tails. Our current landline number still has the single number that was allocated then within its current six digits. Last month that same phone line got mis-connected to Belhelvie Quarry. (I hope they didn't lose too much business.) After the usual telephone argy bargy with someone from another country, a helpful young man from 'Open Reach' turned up in a van and sorted out the muddle. 'It's your copper wires,' he said, 'You're so far away from the exchange. But there'll be fibre here soon.' he continued in a conciliatory tone. 'Really?' we said.

'Yea, you'll get 20 mega-bits' he added, as if that would transform our lives.

How much our connection to the world has transformed us, is hard to tell. Certainly, we are changed from the people who approached a jangling phone nervously and picked up the bakelite receiver, saying 'Halloo' loudly: the old fox hunting alarm call. Over the years we have got used to the world's surprises although there are still things out there that are startling us.

When thinking about how much the world of communication has altered, I am reminded of the story of Jamie Fleeman, the Laird of Udny's Fool. He was more than just the Laird's witty entertainer. He was a trusted messenger. On one occasion he was given a letter to deliver to the Laird who was staying in Edinburgh. Jamie got to the bustling city, then realised he didn't know where his employer was lodging. He thought for a while and then by using his unusual talent for initiative, walked the streets staring at all the dogs. Eventually he spotted the Laird's dog. The dog recognised him and it jumped into his arms. Then Jamie set it down and tied a cord around the dog's neck. 'Awa hame w' ye' said Jamie and followed it to where their master was staying.

Recently I made a trip to Black Dog village. I wanted to see the rock after which the village was named. When I have been before, the tide was in or I hadn't been focused on the beach, so I have never seen it. The village has had its character mightily changed lately. There is the windfarm offshore and the big new interchange outside its front door. I imagine the Black Dog Rock would have been an aid to navigation on our otherwise plain but treacherous coastline between Bridge of Don and the Ythan estuary. When I was standing by it on the wet sand, I could see the dog shape had floppy ears but really it was not much of a dog. 'Ah well,' my friend said later, 'a lump of it fell off a long time ago, and that might have been its head'.

The history of this area, when the black dog still had or had not his head, was brought alive for us this month when Chris was helping a friend with technical support. It was a Power-Point talk about his Ellon solicitor father. Those days he was illustrating seem quaint to us now, when everyone knew one another, and men walked about in tweed suits tipping their hats but perhaps we shouldn't imagine that time ever stands still. Apparently, his father was so nervous of the new writing technology that he always carried a spare pen in his top pocket. The filling of new fountain pens was so nerve wracking for him that his wife had to be called to the office to refill the pen with ink.

Using our reconnected landline last month, I was pontificating to my daughter about the need for children to be exposed to poetry if they are to enjoy it later, when I realised the line had gone quiet. Wondering if I was through to the quarry again, I gave it a little 'halloo.' Yes, she was still there. In a tired voice she said perhaps I would like to solve the problem by sending poetry. So. I have. Every week or so. I post off something that catches my eye. I have copied out poems in my best longhand, using a fountain pen I might have borrowed from the Ellon Solicitor. First there was, 'The Knight Whose Armour Didn't Squeak' and now I am working on the subject of Blackbirds. I have put the blackbird into a helpful cultural context by adding information about its melodious song by day and the chink chink calls in the evening, how blackbird eggs are a subtle speckled blue and of course how it came to have a golden beak. I scribbled a picture of the naughty male Blackie trying to steal the dragon's treasure. The blast of flame issuing from the dragon's mouth that blackened its feathers and melted gold onto his beak was delicately drawn in one corner of the page. Then I wrote out the '13 ways of looking at a Blackbird' by Wallace Stevens. Out of all the little word pictures those blackbird images paint, I like the fourth one best.

A man and a woman are one.

A man and a woman and a Blackbird

Are one.

I agree it's a mental leap for a Lego and Star Wars obsessed five-year old to make but in my imagination those pages will be safely put away. Then in several decades, they will be found, unfolded and smiled over, before a little manly tear falls onto the paper to smudge the ink.

Mary Cane



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BALMEDIE SCHOOL RED NOSE WEEK

We are proud to feature Balmedie School on the front cover of our Summer edition. We could fill this entire edition of Banter describing all activities at Balmedie School during their Red Nose Week in March, but here's just a glimpse of the wonderful fundraising achievements of the School pupils, staff and parents:

- 1,200 noses sold
- 800+ tuckshop treats baked, sold and eaten
- Mickey & Minnie's Sponsored Move-It Marathon smashed
- 2 Community Mad Hatter Tea Parties held
- 3 members of staff soaked in the stocks
- Whole School Flashmob performed
- Fantasia Fun Classroom Games completed
- A mention on the national Red Nose Day TV programme achieved
- One whole week of fun accomplished
- £18,063 raised!

'Comic Relief' has classed Balmedie School as one of their 'RED NOSE SUPER SCHOOLS' due to the phenomenal fundraising they've done for the charity. For the last three years, Balmedie School has been the highest fundraising school in the UK.



The charity Comic Relief supports organisations working to prevent people having to live on the street, and ensure girls and women don't face poverty and abuse simply because of their gender. It sees that children receive the proper care and support they need to give them the best start in life, and those with mental health problems don't face fear and discrimination. Balmedie School should be proud of their achievement and the knowledge that everyone involved in the school fund-raising is truly making a difference. They had lots of fun doing it too. Well done everyone!



Mr Simpson & Mr Ford do their bit for Comic Relief.



A WORD FROM THE DOC...

Reflecting on 25 Years as a GP...

As Summer beckons, filling us with the promise of better weather and lighter evenings, I was thinking about what I should regale you all with this time, whilst walking our dog, practising what I preach! I must sound like a broken record

when I continually urge everyone to be active and try and be moderate in all forms of consumption, but report after report does reinforce this advice as time and again medical research confirms the benefits of staying active and eating healthily. Even though it is hardly balmy weather, wrap up and get out walking! It was whilst I was walking, helping the brain work, that it occurred to me that having been at Scotstown for 25 years, it presented an opportunity to reflect on a quarter century of being a GP.

When I joined in February 1994, General Practice was quite different from now. Then we had about 10,000 patients, many of the services we now routinely do, were delivered in hospital clinics and the computer just helped with prescriptions. Now we have 12,500 patients, run diabetic clinics, monitor patients on warfarin and other disease modifying drugs, as well as many other services and we need a computer for almost everything! On call was a family affair, there were no reliable mobile phones and my wife had to take calls when I was out visiting. I had a pager and plenty of 10p pieces to use a call box to find out my next house call!

The pace of the working day has certainly increased, and to help us deliver these services we now have Practice Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Associates working alongside the GPs. We call the sphere we all work in 'Primary Care' and hospitals are 'Secondary Care', and through Primary Care over 90% of ALL NHS work is delivered, for, in Scotland, just under 8% of the NHS budget. I have written before about the huge value GPs bring, and when you consider our practice alone will conduct over 60,000 consultations over the year, the scale of work is clear. It is likely this will increase, as patients are living longer with more complex medical conditions.

Many areas of treatment have transformed in the last 25 years. People spend far less time in hospital, and we try and admit less too. Laparoscopic, or keyhole, surgery is routine, heart attacks are thankfully less common, almost certainly helped by the smoking ban, but when they do happen are managed by immediate stenting, and lifelong conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis are treated by a wide variety of disease modifying drugs. I could go on, but perhaps one of the most startling changes in the past 25 years has been the transformation in cancer care. Patients with some cancers that, as a medical student, I was taught that there was no treatment for, are now surviving for years. In many ways, for some cancers, it has become a chronic condition, rather than a rapidly deteriorating one. This has brought other challenges, for example we now know that some chemotherapy treatments can cause heart problems and so patients need medication and monitoring for this, though, being frank, it is still better than the alternative!

It has always been a more challenging part of my job to diagnose and refer people for treatment of cancers, and still too many cannot be cured. Having said that, I increasingly refer in the expectation that treatment can be offered, rather than to confirm my worst fears and face having to help only by treating symptoms.

I would still say that my job as a GP is still the best medical job in the NHS. It is such a varied and interesting job, and it is a rare day when you do not learn something new. Being a specialist is fine, but, increasingly, consultant jobs are becoming 'hyperspecialised' as medicine becomes more complex as our genetic and molecular biology knowledge expands. People are more engaging and looking after them over the years is hugely rewarding. Many patients I see I can recall being a 'bump' when mums-to-be still saw us routinely for antenatal checks. Indeed some now have their own children, so I suppose I'm a grandpa GP (or grumpy old so-and-so according to some!).

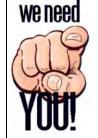
Although it is not an easy job, and indeed in many ways more challenging than the more certain, perhaps more secure feeling world of hospital specialities, I would still heartily recommend being a GP. Getting to know patients and families over the years is a great privilege - you are honoured to share moments of great joy as well as sadness. This helps make the job greatly rewarding.

Scotstown is moving to a new era as Dr Lamberton and Dr Henderson are hanging up their stethoscopes after giving, between them, over 60 years of service to this area, and I know they will be hugely missed by many, and most certainly by all of us at Scotstown, but I do think they deserve a well-earned rest!

The practice faces the challenges of a new contract and continuing reorganisation with the pragmatism and realism that characterise GPs, but our patients do still help make the job worthwhile.

After 25 years, much has changed but the job is fundamentally the same. However you can all help make it a little bit easier by staying active, eating well and hopefully being able to keep healthy!

Dr Alasdair Forbes



If you are a client of Scotstown Medical Group, why not get involved with their Patient Participation Group?

Scotstown PPG is a group of patients who meet on a regular basis with representatives from the Medical Centre to build a two-way communication between patients and staff. Our aim is to gain and share a patient perspective on health services, and work together to address issues of patient concern.

We would welcome new members of all ages. If you would like to be involved, do get in touch. We'd love to have you onboard!

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BALMEDIE HEALTH WALKS

See Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/BalmedieHealthWalks/

'Paths for All' is a Scottish Charity, promoting walking in Scotland for everyone. Through its 'Walking for Health' project, it aims to develop walking schemes in community settings and workplaces.

Want to be more active? Want to ease into it with some gentle exercise? A regular walk could be a great start. Paths for All free health walks run from Balmedie library every Thursday at 10.50am (for 11am start). We're looking to start a second walk soon, so if you can't make Thursday mornings, still get in touch and vote for when the second walk could be.

Walking is the ideal exercise for all – it can be easy, free and is always available. If you want to lose weight, get fitter, strengthen your heart, lower disease risk, increase your energy level or prevent dementia, regular walking can help achieve all these.

So, whatever it is that you want to do - get fitter, meet new people or just feel better - walking is the easy way to a happier, healthier you. Our walks are short, low-level ones starting and finishing at Balmedie library with a social cup of tea or coffee for £1 at the Beachside cafe afterwards.

We're always looking for new walk leaders as well as walkers (Paths For All Walk Leader training will be given).

Dan Wood & Chris Cane



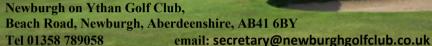
Here the Balmedie walkers are captured amidst the ox-eye daisies in the Magnificent 7s Woods.

NEWBURGH ON YTHAN GOLF CLUB **GOLF and NATURE in PERFECT HARMONY**

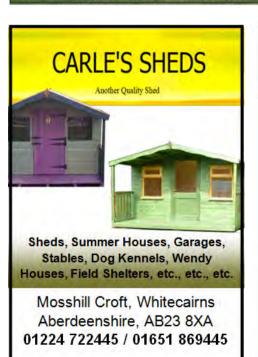
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NATURAL BELHELVIE

The previous wee note that I wrote began with a 'Healthy New Year'. Jings... now it is 'Merry May Day'. Where has the year gone, I am already recruiting for new assistant Elves, in order to train them up for Christmas!

I also said in February that it would be 'a month or so' before we see primrose flowering? With such a mild winter, I had them in bloom mid-February! Wow the seasons have gone crazy this year. My sister lives in Somerset and has had cowslip in flower for weeks, but so far, I have not seen or heard of any showing up here.

Primrose and cowslip are in the same *primula* family but cowslip is later to flower, and sadly not so common as its relative. While primrose is naturally associated with shady places such as below hedges and in woods, the cowslip prefers more open countryside, it is a 'meadow' species, but can occur in open spaces in woodland. And it is from those very same meadows that the cowslip got its common name; well one of its common names, there are dozens. Originally it was 'cow-slop' meaning a cowpat, so perhaps 'sharny dubs flooer' would be a local name up here? 'Cow-slop' arose because the plant grew where cattle grazed, and left behind cowpats!



There is another *Primula* that is even more beautiful - the oxslip, but that does not grow this far north. However, just to confuse you further, there is the common oxslip, and that does grow here in the NE. Common oxslip, pictured left, is a hybrid, a cross between cowslip and primrose and shares characteristics of both parents: a primrose sized flower on a taller and stouter cowslip stalk.

For you gardeners out there, you may be familiar with the term F1 hybrid, it means a first-filial cross, that is what a common oxslip is. Phew, complex stuff but not really. Where the primrose and cowslip grow close to each other, pollen from one may fertilize the flowers on another, and the resulting seed grows into a hybrid of the two. If you think that that is complicated try to work out what happens thereafter! You will have to get to grips with Mendel's Law of Genetics – HELP!

Our much-loved harbingers of spring are here with us now to be enjoyed by all. Swallows have suffered as much as a 50% decline in numbers over recent years, we need to do all we can to care for them, not keep them away. Enjoy the natural world out and about around Belhelvie.

Bob Davis

P.S. I feel I must express my disappointment in a major supermarket chain, with which many readers will be familiar. Despite earning zillions, they are putting up netting around the outside of their stores in order to stop swallows and house martins nesting. I feel this is a terrible thing to do as many birds have been caught in the netting. Have a look for yourselves then you'll know which store I am referring to. I, for one, will not be shopping there again!



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BELHELVIE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Belhelvie Church is part of the Eco-Congregation movement and over the last year, we've been working in partnership with the RSPB to assess how the church can improve the surrounding habitat for birds and other wildlife and to find out more about nature.

Under the guidance of RSPB warden, Lorna Dow, we've done a survey of the habitat around the church to assess the possible ways we might encourage and sustain wildlife here; our young people used the excellent 'Faith Action for Nature' resource pack and made bird feeders, and a group from the church visited the Loch of Strathbeg bird reserve.

Group member Caroline Daniel said: "We spent time in the hide and when we returned to the visitor centre there was a fantastic display from whooper swans landing on the Loch."

With plans underway for another trip to the nature reserve, and a session learning to build bird boxes, we hope to keep ecological issues very much on our agenda going forward.



Belhelvie church members visiting the bird reserve at Loch of Strathbea

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid is a UK charity working with local partners to end poverty worldwide and tackle the injustices that keep people poor. Rooted in the Christian tradition, Christian Aid value people from all cultures and faith groups and are happy to work with any community in need, anywhere in the world.

For many years now our congregation has organised a door-to-door collection around the parish but in recent years the response to that effort has been tailing off. With that in mind, we've decided to focus on a few key events in Christian Aid week this year and we'd love to see you along at them.

Christian Aid Lunch – Sunday 12th May after church service

Family Quiz Night with Alan Millar – Friday 17th May, 7-9pm, The Forsyth Hall, (£5 adults, £3 concessions)

Sponsored Walk @ Forvie Nature Reserve – Saturday 18th May - starts sharp at 9am @ Ythan Estuary Car Park (through Newburgh and on right after the bridge). Circular route on path, dunes and beach - distance about 4 miles.

For more details, please contact me on 01358 742227 or check out our Facebook page nearer the time.

Rev Paul McKeown



BALMEDIE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

11am every Sunday at the Wee Kirk in Rowan Drive, Balmedie - for info contact the minister Rev Andy Cowie on 07715 279478

BOYS' BRIGADE WITH GIRLS' ASSOCIATION - Our Company is fast approaching the end of the session, when our members will receive their badges and awards, which they have been working for during winter. The members will then continue to meet in our Church 3.30pm till 4.30pm every **Friday** during May for fun days (£2 per session). After summer we will enrol on Friday 6th September.

PLAYSCHEME - We are in the planning stages of our Annual Playscheme, which is planned to run during this summer. Details will be publicised through a note to all children.

MINI GALA - Come and join us on the 17th August from 11am - 2pm. We have a variety of stalls and tea and coffee will be available too. Everyone welcome!

LADIES' GROUP is every Wednesday at 11am. All welcome to join our group for coffee. The cost is £2. No Agenda, just an opportunity for a blether and a catch up.

A TIME FOR PLANNING

In 1620, the Mayflower left Plymouth to sail to the new world. The passengers were early Congregationalists. They endured hardships, illness, rough seas, before landing in 'New England'. Many died. They endured those conditions, because they were seen as rebels, non-conformists and they sailed to New England, to allow them to worship God without interference from King or Bishop. Many of their families went on to help establish the American way of life / and to formulate the Constitution. 2020 sees the 400^{th} anniversary. A time to remember – but how?

BETTER BALMEDIE - We appreciate all the work done by Better Balmedie around the village, but also the hard work involved in establishing the community garden in grounds at the Church.

PENTECOST - Joint Service with Potterton Congregational Church at 11am on Sunday 9th June at our Wee Kirk. All welcome!

Rev. Andy Cowie (07715 279478)

POTTERTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1st Sunday of each month at 6.15pm at Potterton Community Centre For info contact the minister Rev Andy Cowie on 07715 279478

CHANGED COMMUNITIES – Food for thought

As we go to print, the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka, are very much in our minds. It is not highly publicised, but Christians in many parts of the world suffer as a result of their Faith. In this country we take the freedom to worship as a right, but that is not the same around the world.

Of course as a Christian Minister, I would like everyone in the world to be Christian. I think it, unacceptable for people of other faiths to be bombed, to be harassed. But extremists exist in all faiths - Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, but we have to look no further than Northern Ireland to find extremists in the Christian Faith.

In one of our sister Churches, their Boys' Brigade is predominantly 'Islamic' members. People of different faiths being in this country, is not their fault. Our Government invited them and their parents to become residents.

How do we Christians respond? Do we stand at doors and say 'You cannot come in'? That would be a sure way of creating problems for the future - we would be creating a new form of apartheid which is completely unacceptable.

Our Christian Faith is about God's love for mankind. In today's multi-faith society, how do we Christians take the lead? How do we put our Faith into action? How do we show God's love to all of His creation – all mankind?

Of course, there will be differences of opinion on how we worship God, but even in our homes, we have to come to terms with people with different opinions to ourselves. Once we accept, we can agree to disagree; we can then put into practice the love of God. We do not have to compromise our Faith.

Our society has changed and even if Brexit reduces immigration, our society has changed for ever. Governments make decisions, but it is you and I who have to implement many of their decisions. Does that mean you and I will live in a divided community, or can we find a way of integrating all into our community?

PENTECOST - Joint Service with Balmedie Congregational Church at 11am on Sunday 9th June 2019 at the Wee Kirk, Balmedie. All welcome!

Rev. Andy Cowie (07715 279478)



LOGS FOR SALE - ONLY £3 /BAG

Call in by Wednesday or Saturday to Better Balmedie site by the Wee Kirk 10 am to 2 pm or phone Wishart 01358 742884 FREE DELIVERY WITHIN PARISH





You would be VERY welcome to any of the events listed!



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Family Fun

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First Saturday of the month,
10:30am-12pm
Next date: 1 June
Bouncy castle and toys for the
kids and bacon rolls for
parents! All ages welcome.



BELHELVIE SWI

By the time this issue of the Banter is delivered we will only have our summer

outing to Inverurie Locomotive Museum to visit before finishing for the Summer break. In September our first meeting is Wednesday 11th. We have Barbara Forbes a Doric speaker coming to entertain us with her stories. Please make this evening the one to come along and join us. You will be made very welcome and enjoy a chat, cuppa and fine piece. If you would like more information, please contact me on 01358 743173.



Tel: 01358 743725 Email: balmedie_leisure@btconnect.com Find us on Facebook In the News - Climate change, reducing waste and carbon footprints have been big themes in the news recently. Here at Balmedie Leisure Centre we are taking small steps to try and play our part in being an

environmentally responsible organisation and to do our little bit.

Discount - We are currently offering a 25p discount to customers who bring in their own re-useable coffee mug! We also have re-useable coffee cups available to purchase for £1.

Takeaway - We now use 'vegware' takeaway cartons that are made from sugar cane and are completely compostable.

Carbon Footprint - Last year with the help of funding we were able to upgrade the centre heating and lighting. Replacing ancient equipment with energy efficient, low carbon alternatives. These are small steps but all heading in the right direction.

Environment - You may have noticed a lot of activity and clearance at the back of the Leisure Centre. We were all surprised at the enormity of the space that was overgrown and unkempt. For the time being the area is just going to be grassed until funding / ideas / plans can be progressed forward. I think you will agree though that the clearance of the area has made a huge improvement to the look of the area and village.

Community - Plans are in full swing for this year's Summer Fete. The date for your diary is the **26**th **May.** Funfair, Zorbs, Vintage Tractor, Steam Engines, Alpacas, and an outside Disco are just a few of the attractions already confirmed.

Healthy Living - As always, we have a range of fitness classes to suit all ages and abilities. Most classes can be attended on a pay as you go basis. You can also purchase a 10 class pass giving you discount for bulk purchase. The staff at reception are always happy to provide information on what's available. If you are new to the village or just haven't been down for a while, feel free to pop in and see what we have going on.

Update - We have recently applied for planning permission to fence off the area outside the coffee shop. This is to enable us to have an enclosed area for customers and children to play / sit safely. It would also enable us to erect play equipment outside the coffee shop for which we have funds reserved which were raised through the Co-op scheme last year.

Emma Ritchie Treasurer



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BOBBY ON THE BEAT

Introducing our new Community Beat Officer Doug Donald

I was brought up and completed my schooling between Ellon and Turriff Academies, before leaving the area when I joined the Army in 1983. I joined the Police in 2004 and have worked in Fraserburgh, Banff, Turriff and now latterly Ellon.

I live in our Policing area of Formartine and have a keen interest in what happens in our area, whether that be agricultural, construction, wildlife and various outdoor

activities. I have taken on the role of the Formartine Community Beat officer, which covers an area of 319 square miles, and is divided up into the three multi-member wards, Turriff & District, Mid-Formartine and Ellon & District.

Formartine contains 2 towns, 24 villages, 25 primary schools and 3 secondary schools, with an approximate population of 41,500 people. As part of my new role, I intend getting out on foot (bobby on the beat) and visiting all the towns and villages and speaking with residents, in relation to any issues you have, whether that be crime, including crime prevention, road safety or simply discuss day to day issues that you might be experiencing. (Prevention is always better than cure).

I will be working on a shift basis, which includes day shift and late shift, allowing me to attend all parts of the area at various times of the day and into the late evenings. I am very approachable and will be happy to chat to anyone, so don't be scared to give me a shout or a wave.

If you have any Belhelvie Parish area issues that you would like to discuss, please contact me by calling 101 and ask for PC Doug Donald at the Ellon Police office.

Doug Donald





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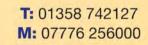
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WHAT'S GOING ON IN POTTERTON?

POTTERTON'S FIRST EASTER EGG HUNT



Easter Sunday saw the first Potterton Easter Hunt. It was attended by around 30 children and their families. The sun was shining and it was great to see so many people out and about going round the village. The hunt involved all the teams following clues on different routes around the village to collect letters and solve the anagram in exchange for a treat from the Potterton Easter Bunnies Lisa Lonie and Michelle Milne.

Lisa Lonie & Michelle Milne Event Organisers



POTTERTON WALKING GROUP

The Potterton Walking Group is led by residents Chris Schenk and John Hutcheon. Anyone can come along, just join us at Potterton Recycling Centre at the times below. The group run a car share for walks further afield.

Date	Walk	Meeting Place	Time
21 st May	Kintore to Kinnellar and return	Potterton Recycling	Midday
	(6 miles)	Centre	
11 th June	Maud to Aden and Return	Potterton Recycling	Midday
	(7 miles)	Centre	
2 nd July	Sands of Forvie from Forvie	Potterton Recycling	Midday
	Centre (8 Miles)	Centre	
23 rd July	Bennachie Low Level from	Potterton Recycling	Midday
	Rowan Tree (8 Miles)	Centre	

POTTERTON PLANTING GROUP

The Potterton Planting Group are keen to hear from anyone wishing to join the group of volunteers to support the yearly programme of planting throughout the village. If you are interested, please contact Fiona Scott by email on fmscott40@gmail.com

KNIT & NATTER GROUP

The Knit and Natter group meets every Monday from 2.30pm - 4.30pm in the Potterton Community Centre - bring along your own knitting, sewing or crochet. £1 per session.

POTTERTON PICNIC IN THE PARK

The Potterton Picnic in the Park will return this year on Saturday 6th July from 12.00 noon onwards at the Park on Panmure Gardens. This is a free event for anyone to attend. Bring along your own food, drink, picnic blanket or chair and join in the fun and games. As usual we will arrange games throughout the afternoon including football, Sports Day Races and the obligatory Welly Wanging. Games suitable for young and old. Come along and join the fun!



ADULTS ART & CRAFT GROUP - The Adults Art & Craft Group have started up again this year with fortnightly classes held on Tuesdays from 7.30 - 9.00pm in the Stead Inn (breaks in July, October and December for holiday period). Following a planning meeting held earlier this month, the following classes will be run. Please note to keep costs low, group members will bring along some materials for the class. Class prices range between £3 to £5 depending on materials required and numbers in class, to cover room hire. If you have any queries, please contact Caroline Anderson - carolineanderson300@gmail.com

Month	Dates	Class	Cost	Bring Materials
May	7 th & 21 st	Introduction to Mosaics	£4	All materials provided.
June	4 th & 18 th	Button Art Pictures	£4	All materials provided.
July	2 nd	Animal Felting Demonstration	£3	All materials provided.
August	20 th	Sewing Machine - How to thread machine, basic maintenance and stitches.	£3	Additional sewing machines welcome.
Sept	3 rd	Sewing Machine - Create / upcycle shirt to create cushion.	£3	Bring your own shirt. Additional sewing machines welcome.
Sept/Oct	17 th Sept 1 st Oct	Mosaic Intermediate - Decorate outdoor or indoor ornament.	£4	Bring your own vase, plate or outdoor ornament.
November	12 th & 26 th	Basic Upholstery - Chair pad, footstool etc.	£3	Bring your own chair pad, footstool and material to upholster.
December	10 th	Create a Felt Christmas Stocking	£4	Additional sewing machines welcome.

POTTERTON POP UP CAFÉ

The Pop Up Café takes place on the last Saturday of every month (except for a break in July and December) from 10.00 - 12.00 noon in the Stead Inn. Come along and help raise funds for the village whilst enjoying unlimited tea/coffee, freshly made pancakes, scones and home bakes. £3 for Adults and £1.50 for Children. If you are interested in joining our group of volunteers for the Café, please contact Susan Tuccaroglu or Caroline Anderson at Pottertoncommunitygroup@gmail.com.

Caroline Anderson Potterton Community Group

BALMEDIE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Friendship 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 Eigie House lounge from 2-4pm and have an interesting mix of musical entertainment and talks. We are always happy to meet new members. Here is our Summer programme:

21 May RNLI Talk - Bill Deans 4 June Just Me - Fiona G

18 June Outing to Deans of Huntly for lunch then to Kellockbank

For more details contact: Margaret Murison Secretary 01358 742285

or Vic Deans President 01358 743634

PARENT & TODDLER / MESSY PLAY GROUP

Our group for 0-5 year olds runs every Friday (including during the school holidays) 10-11.30am in the Wee Kirk hall in Balmedie. £2 per child includes juice and snack / tea and coffee / cake for the adults.



We alternate weeks, one week we have a variety of **TOYS** to suit all ages - baby mats, sensory bottles, bouncers, cars, toy kitchen and lots more, then the next week we have **MESSY PLAY** which is a great way for babies and toddlers to explore new textures and sounds that our resources make. Messy play involves things like foam, pasta, sand, water, jelly, mushy peas and lots more.

We're a friendly group so do come along. You can keep up to date by following our Facebook page, or phone me for details on 07850 235215.

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FAMILY FIRST

"Oh, the Places you'll Go"

The short, cold, dreich days of winter have given way to long, bright days filled with the sound of birds chirping in the sky and children playing outside. Our beautiful parish of Belhelvie has come alive with the vibrant colours, scents and sounds of summer.

With the arrival of summer comes the prospect of change for many families: a child starting their first school journey, or leaving the familiarity of Balmedie to travel into Aberdeen or Ellon to the Academy; it may be a young adult about to start their working life or move onto a new phase of education. Whatever the reason for the change, it can be both an exciting and nerve-wracking time.

In his book, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" Dr Seuss narrates the story of a young boy referred to as 'you', but representing the reader, setting out on the journey of life:

"Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away."

Like all our young people about to start a new chapter in their lives, the story begins with the excitement and expectation of great things to come. The journey ahead is fun but there will be times when they have to make decisions and it is in these times we hope that we have given our children the skills they need to make the right decisions.

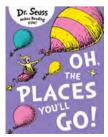
"You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care. About some you will say, "I don't choose to go there." With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet, You're too smart to go down any not-so-good street."

The story however is also very realistic. There are times when things won't be straightforward:

"I'm sorry to say so but, sadly, it's true that bang-ups and hang-ups can happen to you."

There will be times of indecision, loneliness, fear and waiting but these difficult times won't last. Although not a pleasant thing to talk about, it is important that our young people know that when they face these times, they know where to turn to and who to talk to.

The story continues with the reader being told to "remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act."



There will be ups and downs on the journey ahead but with perseverance and the right choices things will work out.

No matter what age your child is and what adventures they are preparing for after the summer, the message is the same:

"Kid, you'll move mountains! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way! - Oh, The Places You'll Go!"

Emma King



Birch Way, Balmedie, AB₂₃ 8SJ Tel No: **01358 741226**

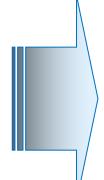
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MODERN DAY STRESS

Why is it so dangerous?

The stresses our ancestors had to deal with were more in the shape of dangerous predators - and the body's response needed to be immediate and dynamic. In simple terms, our ancestors, when faced with danger, would run away or fight, then rest until the next time.

Nowadays, our stresses are more to do with our **perception** of danger. We are stressed trying to keep up with work, having to do our best all the time, feeling we have to prove ourselves, pressurising ourselves to achieve perfection in whatever form. The stress response is the same, it gives us the energy to flee or fight but we can't. Instead, we continue in the stressful environment feeling overwhelmed and threatened as if by a predator. The same stress response continues for long periods of time. Indeed, too long and this comes at a price.

We have to remember we also have inner stresses. The bacteria, viruses and the many other opportunist cells that live inside us are controlled by the organs and the immune system. A lot of energy is used up protecting us and keeping us well i.e. not allowing the bacteria, viruses or other toxins to take over our bodies, providing the right environment for cells to repair and grow, nurturing our good bacteria particularly in the gut (the gut biome).

We can't fight two battles. If we perceive our bosses, teachers, workmates as threats then the 'fight or flight' reflex is initiated at the expense of our inner controls.

We cannot renew and repair our cells, internally at the same time as our body is responding to external stresses with the fight or flight response to a threat. Indeed, stress hormones are used in medicine when the doctor wants to suppress the immune response to prevent a body rejecting transplanted tissue.

While we are in a state of stress, stuff is happening inside. When stressed, we are 'in our heads' and there is numbness in our feelings. Our organs are adapting to this and damage is being done. This is the danger.

Once, we relax, have a holiday or a weekend off, feel better about a situation... then the signs and symptoms appear. Does this sound familiar?

How can we help ourselves cope and feel better when challenged with teenagers, work, children, aging parents' demands, time constraints and being unable to stop?

1 - Take time to be! Be in the moment - not in the future (anxiety) or in the past (depression) but the NOW. Look at your surroundings, touch the table, hear all the noises, smell what's there. Be fully present. Breathe into your belly. It doesn't matter if your mind gets in the way with lists of 'to dos' just persist with your awareness. Look at a photo that gives you a yummy feeling. Be thankful for all you have.

- **2 Remember that some foods are stressful** the greener and healthier your diet is, the better. Preservatives, high sugars, antibiotics, pesticides in food are all stressors to the body. With the wrong foods, inflammation and pain also get worse! (Did you realise that the 'low sugar' drinks are now full of aspartame and that 'free from' and 'low fat' foods are full of sugar and preservatives?) Soups are easy to make and digest and full of calming goodness. Omega 3 fatty acids are really good for your mood (as well as your heart and joints). Water is the best drink, make sure you drink enough, as we do dehydrate with stress.
- **3 Sleep is essential for us to repair and renew our cells.** It needs to be deep and restorative. No smart phones or other blue screens at bedtime. There is sufficient research now to show that this is not beneficial for a good night's rest.
- **4 Be kind to yourself.** If you are tired and/or overwhelmed, work out how you can find even 10 minutes to rest and Be (as in number 1). Do something different (have a massage), listen to music, read, walk in nature (that also boosts your immune system), or even have a nap. If you can't be kind to you how can you expect others to be!

Maggie Brooks-Carter DO, RGN, SMTO



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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 Tel: 01358 281070

Starting from Wednesday 1st May, every second Wednesday (term time only), from 14.00 to 14.30, there is a **Bookbug Rhyme Time** session for 3-5 year olds. From Tuesday 4th June, every second Tuesday, we will be hosting a **Rhyme Time** for 0-2 years (term time only), from 10.00 to 10.30. Why not come along and join in the fun? Our **Knit & Natter Group** is a very friendly gathering of local ladies. They are looking for new members so why not pop along for a natter, a cuppa and cake? Apart from knitting lovely items for themselves, they also knit and crochet items for various charities. They meet here every Thursday morning from 10.30-12.30.

We are hosting a **Dementia Friendly Boogie in the Library** on 14th May 2-4pm. Join us for a relaxed afternoon dance and sing-a-long to the hits from the 50s to the present. All welcome and tea and fine pieces available! There will also be a **Dementia Friends Awareness Talk** on 4th June 11-12.30 to promote Dementia Awareness Week.

Our **Lego Club**, for children aged 8 and over, has restarted after the school Easter holiday. It runs on Mondays from 6.00 - 7.00pm. There is a waiting list for new members so please contact library staff if you wish your child to be added to the list for Lego Club. Over the summer holidays, we are having 2 drop-in opportunities for **Family Lego Sessions**. This is a Lego session for children and parents/grandparents to work together to create wonderful Lego designs. All ages are welcome.

The **Summer Reading Challenge** runs throughout the school summer holidays, starting at the end of June. This is a fun challenge for children from Balmedie and surrounding areas, to read as many books as they can and receive stickers and prizes from the library.

We now have a **Balmedie Library Facebook page**. It would be great if as many people as possible would like our Facebook page, to promote library activities at Balmedie. Why not visit Balmedie Library and find a whole new world - our helpful staff would love to help you get the most out of your library experience.

Email: balmedie.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Website: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries
Like us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/balmedielibrary
Follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/onceuponashire
Read our blog at http://onceuponashire.wordpress.com

Debbie Barclay



SCOUTING IN BELHELVIE

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts have been making good use of the relatively fine Spring to get out and about, and those weeks that weren't so good have been spent learning skills and creating things indoors.

Beavers were busy preparing things for Mothers Day, Cubs spent several weeks learning to use tools safely and end up making bird boxes to place throughout the Parish, and Scouts were having a great time working through puzzles and codes to 'Escape' from a locked tent!

Our Section Leaders are all busy planning for the Summer months and Cubs and Scouts will be camping at a District Event for two nights whilst Beavers will be attending on the Saturday.

Our camps, activities, weekly meetings and fun we all have would never happen without the enthusiasm and dedication of all our 20 Leaders at Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. We continue to seek additional leaders to strengthen our teams at all levels in Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

Balmedie Scout Group is for girls and boys and caters for ages 6 through to 25. Beavers (age 6-8) are very popular with a long waiting list. Beavers meet on Wednesdays at Balmedie School.

Two Cub Scout Packs meet in Potterton CC Mondays or Tuesdays for ages 8-10.5. Scouts also meet in Potterton CC on a Friday evening and cater for the 10.5-14 ages. Explorer Scouts are a self programmed Unit for 14-18 year olds and generally meet on Tuesday evenings in Potterton CC. All welcome.

Scout Network are for young adults aged 18-25 who also take up volunteer roles within the group. They form a Gordon wide unit and meet as required. Their members can undertake the Queens Scout award program which is similar and can be undertaken concurrently to the Duke of Edinburgh Gold scheme.

Our Group continues to grow with around 100 young members and 20 adults. Adult opportunities are also available for keen volunteers with our Scout Group.

The 1st Balmedie Scout Group will reach their centenary year shortly and would be grateful for the views of residents of Belhelvie Parish with regard to the seed of an idea to develop a Scout Centre for the use of all uniformed organisations and for the wider communities. The Location and scope of the Scout Centre are open to

discussion but when selecting a site we must be mindful of the needs of the organisation first.

Finding a piece of land within the Parish to develop for Scouting and wider community use is high on our to-do list. Anyone in a position to offer us land and wishes to discuss further should get in touch.



If you would like to contribute to the immediate discussion about this, you are invited to email balmedie@gordondistrictscouts.org.uk, drop a line to 23 Old Mill Crescent, Balmedie or have a chat with a Leader or myself.

If you are in a position to offer professional assistance or enthusiastic support for the project as it moves forward, we'd be really pleased to hear from you.

For all Scouting enquiries please call 07743 844040 or email as above.

Ian ThomsonGroup Scout Leader



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Unlock our Future Fund

Over 30 applications received to the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund

The closing date for the community benefit scheme set up by Vattenfall in connection with the wind farm in Aberdeen Bay, the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC), passed on 15th April 2019, with more than 30 applications received. Successful drop-in sessions for potential applicants were held in Balmedie, Inverurie, Stonehaven, Aberdeen, and Fraserburgh in January, with over 200 different groups from across the City of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire visiting one of the sessions to talk to the Fund Panel and Foundation Scotland about possible applications.

Foundation Scotland, who works with the Panel of community champions to administer the Fund, is now carrying out assessments of each application, and reports on them will be provided to the Panel for its decision-making meeting in June 2019. Vattenfall has committed to annually investing £150,000 to this Fund for the lifetime of the wind farm. 10% of that sum has been set aside for projects taking place in Blackdog.

Natalie Ghazi, Vattenfall's Local Liaison and Project Communicator said: "We are delighted that there has been a good number and range of applications from across the City and Shire, and the Panel is looking forward to making decisions on them at its June meeting."

Full details about the Fund and can be found at https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/unlock-our-future-fund/ or contact Foundation Scotland local representative lain Catto t: 0791 275 9525 or email: iainc@foundationscotland.org.uk

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES				
June	Mon 3	Local Holiday	Balmedie, Ellon	
July	Fri 5	Last day of School term	Balmedie, BoDA, Ellon	
August	Tue 20	First day of Autumn Term	Balmedie, BoDA, Ellon	



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BALMEDIE BROWNIES (2nd Belhelvie)



The year is flying by and at the time of writing we're looking forward to our Brownie holiday at the Sir Arthur Grant Centre in Monymusk. The Brownies are particularly excited as they chose the theme for the weekend away: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We have a whole range of different activities planned, both indoors and outdoors, with maybe just the odd one or two involving

chocolate or sweet treats! Watch this space for photos of our exploits next issue.

We're close to gaining our 'Guiding into Engineering' badge, a project from Amey, which the girls have really enjoyed. There have been lots of different activities chosen to gain the badge, with the girls thinking about safety, construction, the environment, measurements, team work and leadership, to name but a few! It's really complemented elements of the new Girlguiding programme too.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported our community fundraiser in March for the North Aberdeenshire Foodbank. Volunteers from the Foodbank came into the Unit to talk to the girls about what they do and how they help members of the local community, before we held our sponsored dance/run (the Brownies couldn't choose just one so had a shot at both), raising a whopping £400! The following week the whole Unit headed down to the Co-op in Balmedie and pretty much stripped the shelves! Many thanks to Co-op staff and customers for your patience whilst we shopped (and thank you to the gentleman who gave us an additional donation in-store when he heard what we were doing); in total 212.4 kgs of items went to the Foodbank, filling approximately 15 food parcels. An awesome effort, thank you so much!

There's a great range of activities for children in the evenings in and around Balmedie now, and our unit is glad to welcome new members! Brownies is for girls aged between 7-10 years old so if you're interested in Brownies/Girlguiding, please register (to find out about being an adult volunteer or for your daughter to join) via the Girlguiding Scotland website www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk and click on 'Get Involved'. If you'd like to know more about what we do, there's information on the website, but you can also get in touch with our Brown Owl, Marianne, details in the 'Who's Who' at the back of the Banter.

Tracy Leach (Sapphire Owl)

2nd Belhelvie Brownies





1st BELHELVIE GUIDES

This year is a very special one for Belhelvie Guides as we are going to be 100 years old in November. To celebrate, we'll be holding an event for current and past members in November in Balmedie - exact date to be set. Anyone who is interested in attending and wants to be kept up-to-date, please get in touch letting us know when you were a member: s.osbeck@rgu.ac.uk

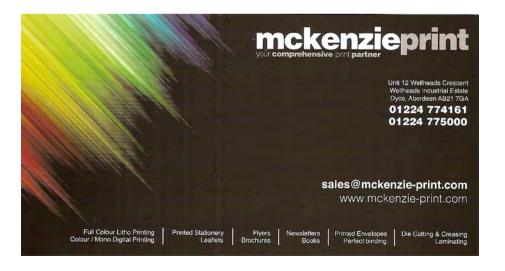
The Guides are also now full! So, we are looking for a third volunteer to help at 1st Belhelvie Guides on a Tuesday night and a group of enthusiastic volunteers to help set up another Guide unit. We haven't set a day or location for it yet as it will depend on when helpers are available. Any volunteers will get full support to achieve their Leadership Qualification including training in first aid. If you are interested, please feel free to email me any questions or go straight to the sign up page https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-volunteer/

GIRLGUIDING SCOTLAND

Girlguiding Scotland is the leading charity for girls and young women in Scotland, with 50,000 young members. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good. We give them a space to have fun.

Find out more at: www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk

Susan Osbeck







1st BELHELVIE RANGERS

Last term the Rangers tried their hand at pyrography, embossing, karate, and we made what is becoming our traditional Thinking Day waffles. We finished off the term with a campfire at Balmedie Beach, cooking s'mores and dampers. This term, we started with another craft while we planned the rest of the term. We've planned hockey, tea testing, a games night, CV building, and swimming. We're also going to do a Skills Builder badge - Camping or Exploring and will be looking at starting the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Rangers is for young women (14 to 18 years old) who want to keep having fun after Guides or want to give Guiding a try for the first time. Girlguiding has plenty of opportunities for Rangers including international camps and we'd really love to have more members.

Rangers meeting fortnightly in Balmedie on a Tuesday. If you are interested in joining, either give me a call on 01224 703335 or email s.osbeck@rgu.ac.uk or register online: https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-member/

As always, we also welcome any new helpers or potential leaders: https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-volunteer/

Susan Osbeck

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Ambulance/ Police/ Fire Brig.	emergency	999
Police Scotland	non-emergencies	101
Community Policeman	Douglas Donald	101
Fire Brigade	non-emergencies	01224 696666
NHS 24	(18.00 to 7.00)	0800 111 999
Scottish Gas	emergency line	0845 600 8855
Scottish & Southern Energy	emergency line	0800 300 999
Scottish Water	emergency line	0845 600 8855
ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL:	HQ, Gordon House, Inverurie	01467 628011
	Cllr Paul Johnston	07799 582879
	Cllr Jim Gifford	07766 497856
	Cllr Karen Adam	07388 956121
	Cllr Andrew Hassan	07388 956123
	Dog Warden	01467 628195
	Environmental Health	08456 081207
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS:		
Beavers (Balmedie)	All enquiries to Ian Thomson	07743 844040
Cubs (Potterton)	balmedie@gordondistrictscouts.org.uk	
Scouts, Explorer Scouts		
Rainbows (Balmedie)	Claire via website <u>www.girlguiding.org.ul</u>	<u><</u>
Rainbows (Potterton)	Pauline Wood	01358 743002
Brownies (Balmedie)	Marianne McIntosh	01358 724231
Brownies (Potterton)	Katherine Hebron Scott	01330 833448
Guides (Balmedie)	Christine Coldwells	07766 050457
Rangers (Potterton)	Susan Osbeck	01224 703335
CHURCHES:		
Belhelvie Ch. of Scotland	Rev Paul McKeown	01358 742227
Balmedie Congregational	Rev Andy Cowie	01224 703248
Potterton Congregational	Rev Andy Cowie	01224 703248
MEDICAL CENTRES:	Columbald Dd AD22 OLD	0245 100 7070
Scotstown, Bridge of Don	Cairnfold Rd AB22 8LD Woodside Terr AB41 6PJ	0345 189 7070 0345 189 7070
Udny Station	Fairview St AB22 8ZP	01224 822866
Danestone, Bridge of Don Oldmachar, Bridge of Don	Jesmond Dr AB22 8UR	0345 3370510
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		0345 3370510
Oldmachar, King Street Ellon	526 King St AB24 5RS	
DENTISTS:	Schoolhill, Ellon AB41 9JH	0345 3371150
	2 Palgownio Pd AP22 SID	01224 703010
Bridge of Don Practice Grandholm Practice	2 Balgownie Rd AB23 8JP Grandholm AB22 8BH	01224 703010
Kingseat Practice	Kingseat Business Park AB21 0AZ	01224 701890
Oldmachar Dental Care	Jesmond Drive AB22 8UR	01031 200200
Oldinaciiai Delitai Cale	JESHIOHU DHVE ADZZ OUN	01224 02/093

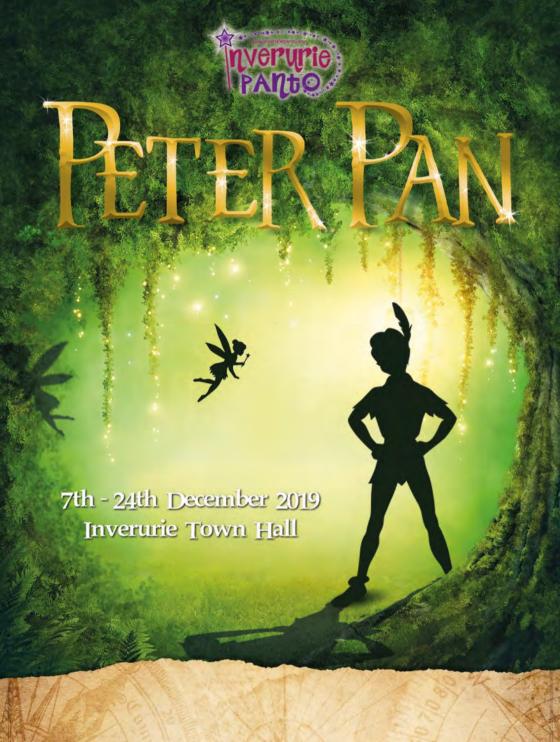
SCHOOLS:				
Balmedie Primary School	HT Douglas Ford	01358 742474		
Bridge of Don Academy	HT Daphne McWilliam	01224 707583		
Ellon Academy	HT Pauline Buchan	01358 720715		
COMMUNITY CENTRES:				
Balmedie Leisure Centre	Bill Murray	01358 743725		
Potterton Community Centre	Joanne Murray	01358 727910		
Belhelvie CC (Green Hut)	Joanne Murray	01358 727910		
POST OFFICES:				
Balmedie PO	Eigie Road, Balmedie	01358 742556		
Potterton PO	Potterton AB23 8UY	01358 742670		
Balmedie Pharmacy	Dickies, 3 Rowan Drive	01358 741226		
First Responders	Marc Wood	07789 965236		
Belhelvie Community Council	David Wallace	01358 743595		
Belhelvie Community Trust	Rosie Nicol	01358 742557		
Balmedie Beach Wheelchairs	Fiona Winstanley	07864 350988		
Balmedie Health Walks	Dan Wood	07851 733096		
Belhelvie Banter	Jess Petrie	07763 314579		
Balmedie Out of School Club	Lynne Fyfe	07920 295508		
Balmedie House Eventide Home	Ann Reid, Service Manager	01358 742244		
Balmedie Library	Maureen Muirden	01358 742045		
Balmedie Friendship Group	Margaret Murison	01358 742285		
Potterton Community Group	Caroline Anderson	07920 280212		
Better Balmedie	Allan Jeffrey	01358 743851		
Neighbourhood Watch	Paul Collier (Belhelvie)	07825 216233		
Belhelvie Bowling Club	Marion Donald	07729 817718		
Aberdeen Balgownie Rotary Club	Graham Donaldson	01224 744144		
Scottish Women's Institute (SWI)	Elaine Strachan	01358 743173		
The Sand Bothy Project	Rosie Nicol	01358 742557		
KIDS' STUFF				
Kindergym				
Little Monkeys	These first 6 groups take			
Fun-nastics	place at the Balmedie	01358 743114		
Pitched	Leisure Centre Phone for			

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Little Monkeys	These first 6 groups take	
Fun-nastics	place at the Balmedie	01358 743114
Pitched	Leisure Centre. Phone for	
Gymnastics Club	details.	
2s Group		
Balmedie Out of School Club	Lynne Fyfe	07920 295508
Mainly Music, Forsyth Hall	Jeanette Lamb	01358 742684
Balmedie Craft Club	Catherine Cassie	01358 743114
Under 5s Rhymetime (monthly)	Library	01358 742045
Mother & Toddlers/ Messy Play	Diane Cassie	07850 235215
Happy Noise, White Horse Inn	Tineke Wintour	07725 341715
Child-minder, Potterton	Pauline Wood	01358 743002
Child-minder, Belhelvie	Linda Carroll	01358 741988
Links Nursery, Balmedie	Lyndsay Fleming	01358 743094
Flowerpots Childcare, Kingseat	Alison King	01651 869078
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SUMMER DATES for your DIARY			
May Sun 26	Summer Fete	Balmedie Leisure Centre	Noon-16.00
June Tues 4	Dementia Friends Awareness Talk	Balmedie Library	11.00-12.30
July Sat 6	Potterton Picnic in the Park	Park, Panmure Gardens	from noon
Aug Sat 17	Mini Gala	Balmedie Congreg. Church	11.00-14.00
Weekly		, , ,	<u>'</u>
Mon	Knit & Natter	Potterton CEC	14.30-16.30
Wed	Ladies Group	Balmedie Congreg. Church	11.00
Thurs	Knit & Natter	Balmedie Library	10.30-12.30
Thurs	Health Walks	Start Balmedie Library	10.00
Thurs	Indoor Bowling	Potterton CEC	14.30-16.30
Fri	Mother & Toddlers	Balmedie Congreg. Church	10.00-11.30
Sat	Better Balmedie	Balmedie Congreg. Church	10.00
Fortnightly		, , ,	
Tues	Friendship Group (see article)	Eigie House, Balmedie	14.00
Tues	Adult Arts and Crafts	Stead Inn, Potterton	19.30-21.00
Wed	SWI (see article)	Eigie House, Balmedie	19.30
Wed	1st & 3rd Wed of the month - Bingo	Eigie House, Balmedie	19.30
Every 3 Weeks			<u>'</u>
Tues	Potterton Walking Group (See article)	Potterton Recycling Centre	Noon
Monthly		, ,	
1 St Tues	Coffee Haven	Forsyth Hall, Belhelvie	10.00-12.00
1 st Sat	Family Fun (New Hope Church)	White Horse Inn, Balmedie	10.30-noon
3 rd Mon	Belhelvie Community Council	See article	19.30
4 th Wed	Whist	Eigie House, Balmedie	19.30
Last Sat	Pop Up Café Potterton Group	Stead Inn, Potterton	10.00-noon
Bi-Monthly			
2 nd Monday	Potterton Community Group	Stead Inn, Potterton	19.15
4 th Monday	Belhelvie Community Trust	White Horse Inn, Balmedie	19.30
Term Time Grou	ups for Children and young Adults		•
Mon	Lego Club	Balmedie Leisure Centre	15.30-17.00
Mon	Lego Club (Over 8s)	Balmedie Library	18.00-19.00
Mon	Cubs	Potterton CEC	18.30-20.00
Tues	Rhyme time (0-2yrs) (see article)	Balmedie Library	10.00-10.30
Tues	Rainbows	Balmedie School	18.00-19.00
Tues	Cubs	Potterton CEC	18.30-20.00
Tues	Guides	Balmedie School	19.00-20.30
Tues	Explorer Scouts	Potterton CEC	19.30-21.30
Wed (fortnightly)	Bookbug Rhyme time (see article)	Balmedie Library	14.00-14.30
Wed	Beavers	Balmedie School	18.00-19.15
Wed	Rainbows	Potterton CEC	18.00-19.00
Wed	Balmedie Kids Craft Club	Balmedie Congreg. Church	18.30-19.30
Thurs	Happy Noise	White Horse Inn, Balmedie	10.00-noon
Thurs	Brownies	Potterton CEC	18.00-20.00
Thurs	Brownies	Balmedie School	18.15-19.45
Fri	Under 5's Messy Play Group	Balmedie Congreg. Church	10.00-11.30
Fri	Girls & Boys Brigade (May only)	Balmedie Congreg. Church	15.30-16.30
Fri	Scouts	Potterton CEC	19.00-21.30

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