

## **BLACKBURN BOWLING CLUB**

Our club meets on Tuesday evenings in the Leys Hall, from the beginning of September through to the middle of April. The sport is suitable for all ages and abilities, and is a fun and relaxing way to spend an evening. We have several competitions during the season, but the main focus is on having a fun evening. We receive regular invitations to send teams to play in other clubs' competitions, and we can use these as an opportunity to gauge our standard against others. In truth, other clubs tend to take their game more seriously than we do, hence winning an outside competition is a rarity for our members.

This season has been successful for us, with several new members, but new members – experienced or beginners – are always welcome.

For more information, please contact Steve Wright on 01224 790464

## **FINTRAY KINELLAR KEITHALL CHURCH**

In this time of Vacancy we have taken the decision to change our pattern of Worship. There will be only one Service each Sunday at 11.00am and we will meet in each Church in the Parish in monthly rotation. This means that each Sunday in February we will worship in Kinellar Community Hall, each Sunday in March we will worship in Keithhall Church, then each Sunday in April in Fintray Church. This pattern will take us back to Kinellar Community Hall in May. Notices with these arrangements are on display on the village notice boards.

Matthew Rodger, our Locum Minister, can be contacted at 15 Meadowlands Drive, Westhill, AB32 6EJ, Tel. 01224 743184.

We are planning a family "Easter Eggstravaganza" in Kinellar Community Hall on Sunday 20th March from 3.00-5.00pm with Easter craft activities and refreshments for children and adults. Look out for the posters which will be on display around Blackburn and why not bring your children along for a fun afternoon.

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## **KINELLAR PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PARENT COUNCIL NEWS.**

The new 2016 term started under the most difficult of circumstances when large parts of the school were lost to the fire on New Year's night. But out of this adversity has come an overwhelming level of support from the teachers, management team, parents and community. The arrangements that were quickly put in place meant that the school could open the term on time. Since then the school has quickly got back to some normality - albeit a new normal! The work continues and demolition work on the damaged areas began at the end of January and will continue through February.

The support from the community has been phenomenal. From the volunteers who helped rearrange classrooms in January to the donations of provisions for the children to use from day one of term to the monetary donations to the Just Giving page that was set up. It has all helped motivate and energise the management team in these difficult times. The list of contributors and volunteers is too long to mention here but your help is profoundly appreciated - thank you!

The Just Giving page raised over £4000 and it has been agreed to set up a small steering group to represent people's ideas on how this sum should be best spent. We also intend to include the children in this decision. Updates to follow on this.

## **PREVIOUS EVENTS**

Prior to Christmas the Parent Council organised the annual Elf Shelf allowing the children to do their own Christmas shopping - this raised £948. We also arranged a Christmas Raffle which raised a further £1493 - we hope the winners of the Marcliffe B&B prize enjoy their stay!!

The parent council provided funds for upcoming school trips for each class and a National Trust membership to be used by the school throughout the year.

Aberdeenshire Council has been very supportive to the school at this time and the money raised recently will be put to use very soon.

Unfortunately due to fire safety concerns, the one event that has had to be cancelled recently is the Community Cafe. This is due to the limited number of people the School can currently accommodate in the hall. It is hoped these can re-commence soon.

## **OTHER SCHOOL NEWS**

"Engineering week" was held during January and captured the imagination of all the age-groups (and some of the teachers!).

Primary 1 has been meeting "People who help us" - doctors, firemen and paramedics have all visited the school to explain what they do

Primary 2 enjoyed an evening walk up to Tappie Tower at the beginning of February as part of their 'Day & Night' project and enjoyed some hot chocolate at the top and then a bed time story back at the school - everyone slept well that night!

Primary 3 are also getting involved in some outdoor learning and working in the eco garden

Primary 4 has been learning about 'Flight' and hope to visit the airport soon

Primary 5 has started work on their annual show and more details will follow on that soon

Primary 6 & 7 had a visit from the Police to discuss cyber-bullying. All pupils were very attentive to this important issue.

School road safety campaign has also been started.

As always keep up to date with school activities via the Kinellar School Parent Council Facebook page and the Kinellar Primary School Twitter page.

Blackie Banter is compiled by a small group of volunteers and also delivered by volunteers to around 1200 homes. Short items and letters are welcome and should be submitted as early as possible during the month prior to publication. Issues are published in June, September, December and March. Articles will be included space permitting and at the Editors' discretion. Opinions expressed by writers are not necessarily those of the Editors. Email copy to [blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk). Phone 01224 791649 with any queries. Photos are welcome for inclusion in the newsletter. We require you to have the image ownership and sought permission of anyone visible before submission.

## ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

Aberdeenshire Council's income from the Council Tax, non-domestic rates and Scottish Government grant determines the amount the Council can spend each year from its revenue budget on providing public services. On 11 February, Aberdeenshire Council set its revenue budget for the financial year starting in April. With the continuing Scottish-Government imposed Council Tax freeze and a cut by the Scottish Government in its grant funding to the Council, the Council had to find savings of £28.312 million to balance its 2016/17 budget. It is simply not possible to make savings on this scale without affecting some services provided for residents.

Fortunately, the Council has been able to identify ways of making most of the saving required by means that will not affect service delivery. There are substantial savings from reduced costs, such as lower-than-expected interest rates, fuel and electricity costs. Increased recycling has lowered the amount to be paid in Landfill Tax. Sales from the Council's quarries are up by over £1 million. Increased uptake of school meals means £800,000 less is needed to provide the service.

There are cases where budget provision has been made for higher levels of demand for a service than have actually materialised, so the budget can be reduced to just the amount really needed. There is also scope for making true efficiency savings. One example is included in the 'road network management and maintenance' saving – where £65,000 of the saving is to be achieved by accelerating the replacement of street lights with more energy efficient LEDs.

However, some of the budget reductions made within the £28.3 million total savings will, unavoidably, impact on the service provided. For example, eligibility criteria will be tightened for some social care. For me and other councillors, it is horrible being put in the position of having to vote for cuts to services, but there is nothing the Council can do about the funding package handed down by the Scottish Government. The budget has to be balanced, the savings must be made. Since cuts there must be, what I want to do is minimise the adverse consequences.

I believe the majority of the service cuts the Council has decided to make are among the least damaging that could have been found. Whilst I didn't agree with everything in the budget measures voted through, the budget passed for 2016/17 does include some positive changes I welcome. There is extra money for cycling and walking infrastructure and money put aside to invest in renewable energy generation – such as solar panels – to reduce the Council's future energy bills, meaning more of the Council's budget can be used for service provision.

There was no budget proposal that could have been put forward on 11 February that would achieve the required savings and be painless. Overall, within the financial straitjacket imposed on it, I believe the Council has done a good job at avoiding cuts to services this year, while making some targeted investment in priorities.

Because of continuing difficulties and uncertainty over acquiring the land identified for the new, replacement, Kinellar School, the Council decided late last year to revisit the choice of site.

The Council had initiated a compulsory purchase process for the intended new school site in 2013 and had been negotiating since then. However, in circumstances where there is an unwilling seller, the Council is not able to set a timetable for purchase, and due process must be followed. By late last year, uncertainty over when or if the Council would secure the land it was trying to buy made it prudent to consider whether there should be an alternative approach, specifically rebuilding on the current school site.

The choice between rebuilding on the present school site or continuing to try to acquire the replacement school site identified in the local development plan is not straightforward.

There are advantages and disadvantages with both options and neither is risk free. The site identified for the new school in the local development plan is larger and moving the school to it would free up the present school site, potentially for other community facilities.

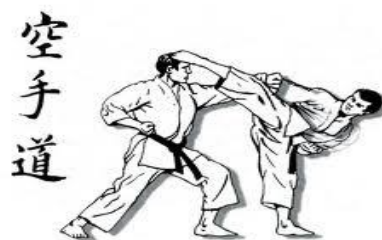
The present site is smaller than ideal for the larger school needed. Also, there may be other planning applications for the site allocated in the local development plan for the new school if it is not used for that purpose. On balance, though, the certainty that comes with the Council already owning the current school site is probably a decisive advantage, whereas continuing delay is a serious problem.

Clearly, the Council needs to continue to engage and consult with parents and other stakeholders over this important decision, as part of this a meeting was held in Kinellar School on 1 March.

Cllr Martin Ford (01224 790052, [maf.cairnie@gmail.com](mailto:maf.cairnie@gmail.com))

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**FOR FURTHER INFO – KINELLAR HALL**

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### KINELLAR KUPPA COFFEE MORNING

Kinellar Kuppa is a 'drop in' coffee morning held each Wednesday morning from 9.30-11.30 in Kinellar Community Hall. If you've never assured of a warm welcome. Tea/coffee and a plate of home bakes only cost £2.50 and proceeds are shared between the Community Hall and local Church.

We first started in 2008 and have since raised over £22,500. We have become a popular venue for both younger and older age groups who either spend most of the morning with us enjoying a blether or just pop in for a quick cuppa. Children and babies are welcome and we have a variety of toys/books to amuse them. A rota of ladies serve the food and drink and if you have a little time to spare why not consider joining the rota. Additional help is always welcome.

### KEMNAY HALL NEWS

The following touring production will take place at Kemnay Village Hall on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30 pm *'Tales of a Grandson'* Tickets are available at Kintore Library.

There is potentially another touring production on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May "O is for Hootlet" though this is not certain at the time of going to press.

Friday evening cinema will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 29<sup>th</sup> April and Saturday Morning cinema on 26<sup>th</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Size	Per Issue	Annual Charge (4 issues)
1/4 page:	£30	£100
1/8 page:	£15	£50
1/16 page:	£8	£25

To place an advert contact [blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk)  
Printed within the village by local company Above All Designs.

## VEGAS THEMED BALL

In aid of Flood-Aid North East and Kinellar School

19<sup>th</sup> March 2016

6:30-7:00pm to 1:00am

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**Rotary**  
Club of Blackburn & District



### Blackburn & District Rotary Club

The Leys Hotel  
Blackburn, Aberdeenshire  
AB21 0SS

It's been a busy time over the last few months with the club involving themselves in a number of areas. We have been involved with the local community helping to raise money for the flooding that happened in the near-by areas, this included helping out at the family ceilidh in Fintray.

We have also been busy helping the school set up a Rotakids club (a mini Rotary Club run by the school), in the last week this has been finalised and all that remains is the final presentation of certificates. They are very enthusiastic, and have already completed a task, which was to go to Fechnie Brae House and sing Christmas Carols for the residents.

The final thing to remind you about is that our 3rd annual charity ball is coming up on Saturday 19th of March. This promises to be another amazing evening, seeing the return of the Vegas theme. The profits from the ball will be split between Kinellar Primary School and the North East flood aid.

That's all from us but we would love to see you at the ball, look us up on Facebook (and like us!) for more information about anything we are doing.

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**Can you spare an hour a week?**

Royal Voluntary Service is looking to recruit 'Volunteer Befrienders' to support older people who are socially isolated. We need you to visit local older people in their homes as well as helping them get out and about to continue doing the things they enjoy. This could mean anything from sharing a cup of tea, going to the shops together, but could also be going to a football match or helping someone Skype their grandchildren.

For a person experiencing loneliness, the support of a Befriender can make a real difference. If you can give at least an hour a week of your time to support an elderly person, then why not join us as a volunteer. To find out more please call Pat on 01467 626012 or email: Pat.Middleton@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk



### **BETTER BLACKBURN: a community action plan for the village?**

The Garioch Partnership has been tasked by the Garioch Local Community Planning group to engage with the people of Blackburn to explore the possibility of a local community action plan. A community action plan is an assessment undertaken by a community to reflect the needs and aspirations of local people – **your assessment, your needs, your plan.**

Many other communities in Aberdeenshire have found community action plans are a useful tool to identify what can, and should be done to benefit the community and to get people thinking positively, what's good about living in your community, what do you value, what do you want to protect?

A consultation session, "Blackburn Blethers," was advertised in the previous edition of the Banter, but unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances had to be cancelled at short notice. Our apologies for that.

To ensure that local people are heard it is really important that there is a strong steering group made up of local people from all ages, backgrounds and interests. As this group will manage the project it is crucial that the group has a wide representation of local people. A preliminary meeting took place on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Kinellar Hall with representatives of the local community groups, interested residents and some Hall Board members. But there is always room for more! If you live in Blackburn or Kinellar and want to be part of the consultation that will help highlight local issues and shape the future of the community please get in touch. We aim to complete the consultation process within 6 months so although there will be some work involved it is a reasonably short timescale.

For further information contact [anne@gariochpartnership.org.uk](mailto:anne@gariochpartnership.org.uk)

This is a great opportunity to have your voice heard!

Anne Simpson



28 MARCUS ROAD,  
BLACKBURN, ABERDEENSHIRE  
AB21 0SF

01224 790739  
07854685572

Email: [moirsmayhem@btinternet.com](mailto:moirsmayhem@btinternet.com)

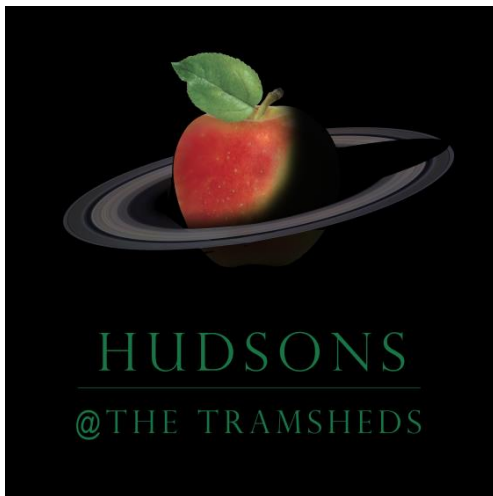
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**Call Bob on 07732 382 620**

Thanks to all those who came along to the Bloody Mary's event on Saturday 13th March. This event was a sell out and raised a fantastic £1195.26! We have some more great events planned over the next few months and hope to see you all there.

Family Ceilidh

Saturday 12th March with live band Hipflask.  
 Ticket price; £20 per family (2 adults, 2 children)  
 £8 single adult,  
 £4 single child

Doors open 7pm, band starts 7.30 pm - 11.30pm  
 Disco 11.30 - 12.30

BYOB

Tickets available from reception

Blackburn Gala

This year's gala will take place on Saturday 28th May 12-5pm. We will have something for all the family with climbing walls, zorbs balls, bouncy castle, fancy dress, tug of war, Great Blackburn Bake Off, face painting, candy floss, ice cream, popcorn, beer tent and lots more. Come along and join the fun.

GYM

We have successfully purchased and installed 2 new spin bikes for the gym along with spin DVDs which are available from reception. We are in the process of acquiring more gym equipment and hope to have this installed during March. We have also introduced some exciting new classes to the hall including T3 pump and PT coaching sessions. You will find the current timetable in this issue.

SPORTS CAMPS

Unfortunately it has proven very difficult to find staff to run term time sports camps. We are going to try and establish holiday sports camps instead. If you would be interested in using this service please hand in a written note to that effect to allow us to gauge the level of interest.

Also, if you or anyone you know are qualified in this area and would be interested in helping please get in touch.

KINELLAR 100 CLUB

We are again running the 100 Club.

The money raised will be used for Hall projects such as replacing the main doors, maintaining the water recycling system, new chairs etc. Please use the attached form with as many names as required per household. Each will be issued a separate number.

The cost is £10 per person for 6 months and can be paid by cheque made payable to Kinellar Community Association or in cash and placed in an envelope and handed in to the Hall reception by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The first draw will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and monthly thereafter.



**100 Club**



Raise funds for YOUR community hall and you could win money for your efforts!

The more members who participate, the larger the winning pot

- £10.00 per member gets you 6 draws.

Next draw is to be made on 6<sup>th</sup> April, therefore all entries to be in and paid for by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Cheques acceptable and should be made payable to "Kinellar Community Association Ltd". Please hand in this completed form with money to the Community Hall..

50% of the money taken in is divided into 7 for 6 draws and 1 double pay out in September. Thanks very much for our regular supporters – it is very much appreciated. We look forward to welcoming new supporters.

-----DETACH HERE-----

KINELLAR 100 Club

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## **ON THE GARDENING FRONT**

The weather over the last few months has really been too wet to be conducive to active gardening. However, with the amount of plants generously donated by residents - thanks for that - pressure was on to use every opportunity to get them planted out around the Hall grounds. These plants may struggle to show in the early days of spring but will come good after they get the benefit of a bit of sun.

Shrub pruning ran a little bit late but it is now in hand with only a few shrubs in the flower beds to be given a trim. Elsewhere in the village the flowerbeds are looking fine and a flush of bulbs is beginning to show in the roadside tubs. Thanks to all those volunteers who give freely of their time to make it happen.

The fencing, recently installed, nicely sets off the upgraded seated area at the village centre road junction and proved an excellent location for the village Christmas tree. Council staff deserve congratulations for both the design quality and that of the ground works.

Finally: In next to no time 'weeds' will be up and looking to take over. To prevent that happening the accepted practise is *frequent use o' the dutch hoe!* If the day is right (ground is a bitty dry and the sun is up) and you have the inclination, feel free, with hoe in hand, to come to the hall and assist with lightly surface hoeing to help keep weeds in control. Many hands make light work. You will be made most welcome.

Jock McGregor (Blackburn Volunteers) Contact No. 01224 790468

## **GIRLGUIDING**

Do you have some spare time, plenty of enthusiasm, planning skills and a good sense of humour? Then why not volunteer as a Leader in a Girlguiding group? Our Thursday Brownie group is on the verge of closing and needs volunteers to keep it open. We also need permanent help at the Monday Rainbow group. Please help our girl groups to continue in Blackburn by registering your interest at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested). You can also register your daughters for the groups at this website. We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks Sue

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KINTORE LIBRARY?**

Kintore Library  
Castle Walk  
Kintore

Tel :01467 634393

[kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

We are open at these times all year round, including school holidays

For those who have not been to visit the library before, the entrance is shared with the Primary School. The Library is open to people of all ages, and we have something for everyone.

If you or your group are holding an event, why not drop a poster off at the library for us to display free of charge.

Kintore's local historian Alison McCall will once again be at the Library on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March talking about the road and canal at Kintore. The talk starts at 7pm. All are welcome and there is no charge, but if possible please phone the Library to say that you are coming along. The Library will also be participating in Kintore Summer Festival on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May

**Library Direct** This is a service for housebound people and their carers, and encompasses those people who are unable to leave their homes in the long, or the short term. Books (including Large Print), DVDs, CDs and talking books can be delivered directly to your door by the Library Service. Alternatively if someone can come to the library on your behalf we will be delighted to look out books etc for you. Please contact the library if you, or someone you know, could benefit from this service. There are no charges at all.

**Bookbug Stories and Rhymes for babies to 5 year olds** is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from

2 – 2.30pm at the Library, there is no charge and no need to book, big brothers and sisters are more than welcome in the holidays. Stay behind afterwards for a chat with the other mums and carers and enjoy a cuppa

The Library has tea and coffee available for a very reasonable 50p a cup, so why not enjoy whilst you are looking for a book or using the computers, or just meeting your friends

You can renew and request books & items, and access recommended databases

online at [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries). You can also download ebooks and talking books and emagazines and download and stream music, all free of charge. Please ask us for your PIN.

Mon: 2.30 – 7pm

Tues: 10.00 – 12pm, 2.30 – 4.30pm

Wed: 10.00 – 12pm

Thurs: 2.30 – 7pm

Fri: 10.00 – 12pm , 2.30 – 4.30pm

Sat: 10.00 – 12pm

## **KINELLAR STARS**

Kinellar Stars is for 2's and preschool children based in Kinellar Community Hall. We provide sessions for children aged between 2 and 5 years old. It is important to us to provide an environment where children can become confident individuals and successful learners and enjoy their time spent at the group. To facilitate this we have created an open plan setting with different "learning areas" for children to explore.

Kinellar Stars is a charity (Registered Charity Number SCN 011486) run by a voluntary committee of parents/carers of current or past attendees of the group. We employ a Manager, Early Years Practitioners and Support Workers who all work hard to give the children an ideal environment in which to play and learn. We follow the Curriculum for Excellence and are regularly inspected by the Care Inspectorate, work closely with Aberdeenshire Council and are a member of Early Years Scotland, with whom we are fully insured.

Our sessions run as follows:-

- 2's Group – Monday to Thursday – 9.15am to 11.15am
- Preschool – Monday to Friday – 9.15am to 12.15am

We accept Council funded places and private places.

The staff have been covering the topic "Keeping Ourselves Safe/People Who Help us" with the children this term. This was partly prompted by the fire at Kinellar School as the children had been curious about what had happened. A Police Officer and a nurse are coming to talk to the children about the roles they play in helping them and keeping them safe. Scottish Week was a mini topic covered to coincide with Burns Day on 25 January. The children had great fun learning some Scottish dancing, Scottish songs and stories and they also tasted some haggis! Chinese New Year will be the next mini topic with the children trying Chinese cuisine and using chopsticks and also making paper dragons and lanterns. A day trip is also planned for the children before the end of term.

As a charity we rely on fundraising for the group. The children are taking part in a sponsored Easter Egg Hunt and we have lots of fun ideas for events in the coming months which include a Quiz Night, Comedy Night and much more – details to follow soon!

We are very grateful to local businesses and individuals who have given us donations of cash and materials all of which benefit the group and the children.

If you would like to find out more about Kinellar Stars or you would like to arrange a visit for your child you can contact us as follows:-

[kinellar.preschool@hotmail.com](mailto:kinellar.preschool@hotmail.com)

[kinellarstarscommittee@outlook.com](mailto:kinellarstarscommittee@outlook.com)

Why not also visit our newly updated website: [kinellarstars.weebly.com](http://kinellarstars.weebly.com)

***Kinellar Stars – Where your pre-schooler will shine!***





## BLACKBURN FOOTBALL BOYS CLUB

### Who are we?

We are a charitable organisation and members of the Scottish Youth Football Association helping children pursue their love of the sport from 5 - 12 years of age. Our club has dedicated coaches and committee members who meet on a monthly basis to make improvements and discuss progress

### New team members wanted!

We are currently looking for players (boys/girls) and coaches to help us setup the new P1 and P2 teams that will start in April. Also there are some spaces available for players in P6 and P7 teams. Email us for more info.

### How to contact us

Email: [blackburnfc2011@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blackburnfc2011@hotmail.co.uk)

Web: <http://www.clubwebsite.co.uk/blackburnfootballboysclub>

### Race Night!

Come and join in the fun at the Craigmile on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March Tickets are £15 per person and available by emailing us or calling Sarah on 07786933107



January 2016: The Blackburn Football Boys Club 2008 team were presented with new strips by Aberdeen FC's Mark Reynolds kindly provided by Eddie Reid from Reid Roofing. Shown in the photo is the 2008 team and coaches with Eddie Reid and Mark Reynolds

## LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

### We need your help to move forward.

It would be wrong to think that all Community Councils are alike or that they do the same thing. In practice they vary a great deal in terms of how they are organised and the issues they get involved in. This is partly because the legislation that sets out the remit for Community Councils is not specific to their purpose. However, it is also because every community has its own particular needs and priorities.

Community Councils are recognised as the point of contact in communities to seek views and ideas about what is important to that community. The opportunity to get views from your village can be missed if there is no Community Council to be consulted. It is therefore very important that each village has a Community Council to ensure that they are able to receive appropriate services and comment on developments and policies that will impact on their lives.

Community Councils can also develop projects and seek funding to realise these to enhance the quality of life in the area.

In order to set up and maintain a Community Council we need residents of that Community to give up their time and commit to representing the views of their community. Anyone can become involved, but the best Community Councils often come from those with a range of age, views, backgrounds and experience. The Council will assist with training members in understanding their role and how they can be most effective as a Community Councillor.

The Fintray and Kinellar Community Council has been running successfully for many years but recently failed due to lack of membership. We are running 2 events to try to re-establish the Fintray and Kinellar Community Council and we would encourage as many people as possible to come along and hear about the role of the Community Council and how the community can benefit from having one and you can benefit from being part of it. These events are taking place on:-  
**9 March 2016 at 7pm in Fintray Public Hall, Hatton of Fintray**  
**16 March 2016 at 7pm in Kinellar Community Hall, Blackburn**  
To find out more please come along!

## SPOTLIGHT ON- BISHOP FORBES CRESCENT: IT'S ALL IN A NAME

Blackburn, as most readers will know, is a commuter village situated in the parish of Kinellar approximately 9 miles North-west of Aberdeen. The village, currently with a population of 1000, has expanded considerably from the 1970's and the extra housing has challenged those looking for inspiration to give the new streets an identity.

In this short article I hope to explain how Bishop Forbes Crescent came by its name. Who was this Bishop? Why would a street in Blackburn be named after him? What was the connection between a Bishop of Aberdeen and Kinellar? He is probably not given a second thought by most folk who walk past the sign that bears his name but perhaps I can renew some interest in this formidable character and the street that has his name.

Bishop Patrick Forbes was born in 1564 at Corse Castle near Lumphanan, the eldest son of Elizabeth and William Forbes, the Lairds of the Corse Estate. When his father died in 1598 he took over the management of the family estates. He was a deeply religious man and attended St Andrews and Glasgow universities and at the former he was greatly influenced by the famous theologian at the time, Andrew Melville. Patrick Forbes was a passionate, puritanical preacher but was reluctant to enter the Ministry until his good friend John Chalmers, Minister of Keith, asked him to take over his parish. The request was made as John lay dying and Patrick felt compelled to carry out his friend's wishes, accepted the call and was ordained in 1612, at the age of 48 becoming the Minister of Keith in the diocese of Moray.

From 1612 onwards Patrick Forbes's rise to influential positions in Aberdeen was meteoric and he was asked by the King to accept the position of Bishop of Aberdeen in 1618 which he did after much deliberation. He was also appointed Chancellor of Aberdeen University and directed the education and training of future theologians. He was held in great esteem by his congregation and peers and described in the "Times and Life of Patrick Forbes" by WG Snow, as "gentleman of the highest character, devoid of vice or tyranny, peaceable, modest and kindly"

What does any of this have to do with a street in Blackburn? How did this man extend his influence to the parish of Kinellar? In 1626, the farm Cairntradin, Kinellar, where the Campbell family has lived for many years, was purchased by Bishop Forbes's wealthy brother William for Aberdeen University. It was bought for 10,000 merks and the sale included "Lands of Cairntradrane, mill, mill lands, multures etc and salmon fishing on the Don, lying in the parish of Kinellar"

John Forbes, the Bishop's son was appointed to manage Cairntradrane and the useful investment funded the upkeep of the Aberdeen University Divinity Chair. Cairntradin remained in the ownership of the university, latterly being rented by various tenants until it was bought by Sylvester Campbell in the early 1940's. The village of Blackburn began to expand in the 1970's with more housing being built as oil and gas exploration brought prosperity to Aberdeen and its satellite villages and it seems only fitting that a man who was so influential in Aberdeen's past and had such a close connection with Kinellar should have a street in Blackburn dedicated to him.

Maybe food for thought when next you make your way to Bishop Forbes Crescent?