

## HAPPY 2017 FROM US

We hope you all had a lovely festive season and were able to take part in some of the events that were held here in Blackburn.

We have had a good start to the New Year, having successfully applied to our local Rotary Club for the cost of printing one issue. This will help to ensure we can continue throughout this year.

You will see as you read this issue that quite a few groups are grateful to the Rotary Club.

Blackburn has a strong band of people who are willing to give their time. One of those groups was our Community Council which disbanded due to lack of members. One of their responsibilities was to consider proposals from the Council to ensure the needs of the whole community were being met. Please give some consideration to joining if the opportunity to revive our CC comes up again.

## KINELLAR SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

### RECENT EVENTS

Prior to Christmas the Parent Council organised the annual Elf Shelf allowing the children to do their own Christmas shopping - this raised over £600. We also arranged a Christmas Disco which raised a further £600 - a great time was had by all and got everyone in the festive spirit!!

### EVENTS THIS TERM

The annual book fair took place from February 21st to 28th. It was held at Midmill School in Kintore. This is always a popular event for the Parent Council with the School earning a percentage of the takings in book vouchers. Despite the book fair not being located in the village this year we hope the support from the community will have been as strong as ever.

Finally, we would like to thank Blackburn and District Rotary for their kind donation that will be used to pay for cyber safety workshops for the children. If you have any questions or comments for the Parent Council please email [kinellarschoolparentcouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:kinellarschoolparentcouncil@yahoo.com) or find us on Facebook.

## COUNCILLOR REPORT

The row of large trees alongside the former A96 westwards from the Fintray Road junction is a prominent feature in Blackburn. Over the years, a number of the trees have been lost due to gales or ill-health. Unfortunately, just before Christmas, while carrying out the works to provide the new temporary nursery, the roots of three of the remaining trees were damaged by the contractor. For safety reasons, it was decided to ask the contractor to remove these trees (at the company's expense) as an independent advisor considered them to be at risk of falling in future in high winds. Following a review by Aberdeenshire Council's tree officer, it has been agreed that the remaining trees are also becoming unsafe and that they should all be replaced. The Council is currently considering options for replacing the rubble wall alongside the footpath, which has deteriorated badly over the last few years, and then planting a new row of limes and oaks, set back from the footpath. This work will be carried out following agreement with the planning officer.

The real-time bus information display unit for the bus shelter opposite the Leys Hotel serving westbound buses has been badly delayed. It should have been installed more than a year ago. I understand from transportation officers that the problem was arranging the electricity supply for the display unit. There are lights in the bus shelter but these are fed from the street light supply which is off during the day. I am now advised the problem has been solved and the information display unit should be in place shortly.

At the time of writing (mid-February), the Council has just decided its revenue budget for the financial year starting in April. The revenue budget is the budget that covers the running costs of Council services. Overall, to balance the 2017/18 budget, savings of over £20 million had to be found. Partly this is due to a cut in funding from the Scottish Government. Partly this is due to spending pressures, e.g. increased education spend due to a rise in the number of school pupils, increased demand for adult social care. The Council has managed to find significant savings from measures that do not reduce the services provided to residents. Savings are being achieved by increased efficiency, changes to new technology and lower prices for goods and services. However, to balance the budget, some cuts to services and increases in charges were unavoidable. The Council also decided to put up the Council Tax by 2.5 per cent, the first increase for nine years. For the benchmark Band D property, this is an increase of £28.53 per year, or just under 55 pence per week. Given the on-going demand-led spending pressures and the length of time since the last increase, in my view it would have been irresponsible for the Council not to seek additional income by raising the Council Tax this year. Council services like schools and care for the elderly really matter. Clearly, they have to be paid for, and the Council Tax (far from perfect though it is) is the only tax the Council can use to raise additional funds to keep services running.

Finally, I can confirm that construction of the new Kinellar School building is due to start before June so it will be ready for use in August 2018.

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

## **GIRLGUIDING**

We have 2 Rainbow groups for girls aged 5-7 years run at the Community Hall. One is on Monday 4.30-5.30 and the other is on Tuesday 5.00-6.00. The Kinellar Brownie unit for girls aged 7-10 is also in the Community Hall and is on Tuesday 6.15-7.45. We also have a new Brownie Unit in Hatton of Fintray on Monday 6.00-7.30. You can put your daughter on the waiting list for any of these units using our website [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested). You can also register your interest in helping out at any of these units at the same website. We would love to have a Guide Unit for the older girls in this area, if you would like to set this up please register your interest and someone will be in touch.

3rd Kinellar rainbows: have spaces for August start for girls aged 5 and 6 on Tuesdays between 5 and 6 pm. Go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk/join\\_us](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/join_us) to sign up and we will be in touch. Lots of fun, games, craft and learning about our world.

## **Kinellar SWI**

Since the last 'Blackie Banter', the Rural has enjoyed some great evenings.

We settled back into the Caskieben Room in time for our Christmas Party. After a magnificent buffet, provided by members, we enjoyed fun and games – not to mention the 'free' raffle!

In January, one of our own members, Sam Law gave a super talk on her love of bugs. In February, we learned about the North Aberdeenshire Foodbanks, based in Inverurie, Ellon and Huntly, and run by the Trussell Trust. We were able to give donations to the Foodbanks which provide a lifeline to those in need in our own area.

2017 sees the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SWI and the whole of Scotland will celebrate this centenary on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The Inverurie and Ellon Groups are holding a garden party at Meldrum House Hotel. 28 of our members are planning to attend and we were thrilled to receive a donation from Blackburn and District Rotary Club to help with the cost. We would like to express our thanks to them for their generous support.

Kinellar Rural is a very happy, friendly group of ladies and we would be delighted to welcome new members. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month (except July and August). If you want a flavour of what's going on, check out our Facebook page – Kinellar SWI.

## **KINELLAR COMMUNITY HALL**

Kinellar Gala update - Kinellar Gala will be held on Saturday 27th May 2017 12pm-5pm. However, due to on-going building work at Kinellar Play Park the Gala will be held at Kinellar Community Hall utilising space both inside and out. We are in the process of getting emails out to all user groups & stall holders. If anyone would like a stall or would be free to volunteer please get in touch at [kinellar.gala@gmail.com](mailto:kinellar.gala@gmail.com)

Movie night - After the success of our last movie night we are looking forward to the next one.

Dirty Dancing - Saturday 4th March 2017 at 7pm.

BYOB! Tickets £6.50 and are available from reception.

Sadly our fitness coordinator, Jen McClaren, is leaving us at the end of February. Jen is off to Canada to study.

Jen has organised our fitness classes & timetable for a couple of years now & has done a fantastic job both with the timetable & fundraising. We wish Jen well & thank her very much for all her hard work.

Our personal trainer, Julie Hulcup, will be taking over the role. Julie has years of experience in fitness and has also done the job in the past. We are looking forward to working with her.

## Yoga -

A new Yoga class has started on Thursday mornings in the Cairntradlin Room from 09:30 - 10:45 am - all ages & abilities welcome. Please contact Rona Main on [ronamain.yoga@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ronamain.yoga@hotmail.co.uk) or 07979 801307 to arrange a trial or booking.

## 100 Club

The next 6 months for the 100 Club starts in April. The first draw will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> April. Entry forms will be available from the Hall at a cost of £10.

Remember, half the money raised goes into the fundraising account and the rest is divided into the prizes.

The more entries there are, the higher the prizes.

Thank you for your continued support.

## **KINELLAR KUPPA**

'Drop-In' coffee morning held on Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am in Kinellar Community Hall. A warm welcome awaits you with hot or cold drinks together with a varied selection of homebakes served by our group of volunteers. All ages welcome with a selection of toys and books available to amuse the little ones.

Sadly we lost one of our regular volunteers, May Jones, who died at the end of last year after a short illness. Her friendly smile and wicked sense of humour are missed by us all.

We have a sales table available each week which includes a selection of beautifully knitted children's clothes. Helen our resident knitter donated the money she raised recently from the sale of these items for the purchase of tablecloths which provide a more 'cafe' style to our coffee mornings.

We periodically have other handicrafts for sale such as those made by local clothing designer and manufacturer Angelina Chesterfield.

If you are interested in helping us or would like any further information please contact Jenny on 01224 791649 or 07566219088

## **KINELLAR TODDLERS**

Kinellar Toddlers is Blackburn's local Baby & Toddler Group. We are all volunteer mums that want nothing more than to create a fun, safe environment in the community for kids and parents/carers alike. We welcome new starts from all the surrounding areas and are always happy to see new faces. Join us at Kinellar Community Hall from 9.30-11.30am on Friday mornings to meet new friends for you and the kids. We welcome all little ones from newborns to age 5.

We try to create a fun environment for your little ones to play safely and learn interaction and independence in a huge hall. For the babies we provide a baby corner with many interactive toys to allow babies to interact, safe from rampaging toddlers! For the bigger ones there are slides, seesaws, trampoline, buggies, ride on toys (scooters, trikes, cars, tractors - which is a firm favourite!). We have different areas to allow the children to express themselves and develop key skills such as music, craft, imaginative play (play food and dressing up), garage, car mats, cars and toy people area, and a quiet reading corner.

A healthy snack, milk and juice is provided for the wee ones, and vital cuppas and biscuits for the grown-ups. First session is free then £3 thereafter with £1 per additional child and under 1's are £1. Please come along and join our welcoming and friendly group.

Thanks to all who attended our Christmas party it was a huge success. The kids loved a visit from Santa, festive fun and there was quite a party spread.

Our next event is our Easter Party on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March from 9.30am-11.30am. Tickets are £5 for over 1's and £2.50 for babies or each additional child. Party games and food for all, as well as party bags for the kids. Tickets on sale now (must be pre-booked)

Our other news is Heather Gray has now taken over as Chairperson as Claire Brunton has stepped down, but will continue as an ordinary member of the committee. We are always looking for mums to join our committee; it's a great way of making new friends in the local community. If interested don't hesitate to ask.

e-mail [kinellartoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:kinellartoddlers@gmail.com) or find us on facebook (Kinellar Toddlers) for more information.

## **1<sup>st</sup> KINELLAR SCOUT GROUP**

### **Beavers**

The Beavers have had a busy time this term. We have Celebrated Chinese New year, had a fun evening tenpin bowling, Pancake day is always a great topic with the Beavers. We will be working on our animal friends badge by visiting Pets at home and also a Vets surgery. We are looking forward to Spring and heading outdoors a lot next term by following a Treasure trail, doing some gardening and heading to Daviot to work on our camp craft badge.

### **Cubs**

The Cubs have had a busy start to the year, games night, junk modelling, celebrating Burns Night - with Haggis, Neeps & Tatties and the traditional Scottish tippie - Irn Bru We will be attending the annual district quiz night at Hatton of Fintray Hall - as last year's winners we hope to hold on to the trophy. Before breaking up for Easter we will have an Easter Egg Hunt in/around Blackburn. And finally our older Cubs will be attending a Sixer & Seconder Camp where they will work together as part of a team and learn some valuable leadership skills.

At the end of the 2016 we celebrated our 100 years of Cubs Scouting and said a fond farewell to our Cub Scout Leader - Mary Smith after running Cubs for over 10 years it was time for Mary to put her feet up. We are therefore looking for anyone aged over 18 years young and would like to join our team we would offer you a warm welcome - please feel free to come along to Kinellar Hall on a Wednesday between 6pm - 8pm.

### **Scouts**

The Scouts have had great start to the year. We've been going back to learn the basic scouting skills including lighting fires, and working on our knife, axe and saw badge. We also created hand- made chariots and had a race. Sadly one contraption didn't stand the test of time and collapsed before the end of the first lap. At the end of 2016 we had an amazing Christmas camp which including a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Turns out it's pretty difficult to do crate climbing when it's icy!

Coming up we have another weekend camp in Aberdeen and will be going to see the Aberdeen Scout Gang Show where lots of adults and young people from around Aberdeen (including one of our leaders) will entertain us with songs, sketches and 'funny' jokes on stage.

### **Group**

Our jumble Sale was a big success raising nearly £1000.00. Huge thanks to all those that donated and came along to the Jumble Sales. Sunday 26th February is Founders Day which is celebrated by the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides of Kinellar by renewing our promise during the Church Service in Kinellar Community Hall.

We recently welcomed a donation from the Blackburn & District Rotary Club which will enable us to buy hammocks for the group. A massive thank you to the rotary and we'll let you know how many attempts it takes for the scouts to get in the hammocks.

If anyone would be willing to help out in any role please get in touch as we're always on the lookout for more adults and young people to make scouting great for all.

### **CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT UPDATE**

Arlene Fortune & Gill McOut would like to say a big thank you to all who came along and supported the Community Evening of Christmas Carols at the Community Hall in December. The evening was a great success, with over 170 people getting into the festive spirit singing Christmas Carols & Songs. A big thank you to all who help put the evening together, including our new local Minister Rev Sean Swindells (who held the audience captivated by telling the Christmas Story using carrier bags!) We'd also like to thank the band and all the children who took part. Thanks to the generosity of the local people of Blackburn over £250 was raised. This sum was split equally between Kinellar Community Hall and the Salvation Army. Looking forward, with the amazing community in Blackburn, to doing it all again this December!!

### **KINELLAR NURSERY**

Kinellar Nursery are very pleased to be moved into their temporary location until the new Kinellar Primary School is built. The staff welcomed the children on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February into the new accommodation situated on the corner of the road to Hatton of Fintray and the main road through the village, opposite the Post Office. The premises are light and airy with two rooms and also includes a safe enclosed outside area. The work is ongoing to complete a public fenced play area for all to enjoy.

### **BLACKBURN BOWLING CLUB** **Fundraising for the Hall Car Park**

The Hall Board are to be congratulated in achieving these repairs before the winter weather deteriorated. We are also grateful to those other organisations who have already contributed to the fund raising. The promised dance is in the Hall on:

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017 7:30pm until 11:30pm Tickets: £7.50 each.**  
**Contact Jock McGregor on 01224 790468 or Steve Wright on 01224 790464 to purchase. Hurry as demand will be high**

All the way from Kirkcaldy, the James Coutts Scottish Dance Band will be providing the music. Ticket cost includes hot drink and a biscuit at the break. Soft drinks are available throughout. BYOB if you prefer something stronger. There will also be a raffle and other opportunities to win prizes.

### **BOWLING CLUB Contd**

Our season is gradually heading to a close, with the last meeting being on 11<sup>th</sup> April at the AGM, when the winners of our competitions will be awarded their trophies. Overall, we have had a successful season, but are always on the lookout for young or not so young with hidden talents. Please contact the aforementioned Jock or Steve for details.

***The following is an extract from a book written by the late Norman Gray, who lived in the village until his passing in 2003. He was the owner of a local merchants shop in the village, following in the footsteps of his father John Gray, who owned it for many years. Norman Gray was also a local historian and artist.***

*Reproduced by Steve Wright with the kind permission of Norman Gray's family.*

### **TURNPIKE ROAD FROM ABERDEEN TO INVERURIE**

In the days before the construction of Turnpikes the road system was primitive; being little more than rough, badly maintained tracks over rocky and boggy terrain. Goods had to be transported on pack horses or dragged along, fixed between poles, in the manner of the Red Indians of North America. Apart from the few short summer months this proved to be a most arduous task for those sojourning over the old road in the early 1700s. The gradient was prohibitive and crossed the hill (*the Tyrebagger Hill*) near to the summit. In the latter part of that century a new route, to the south side of the hill was adopted.

Towards the end of the century improvements in agricultural methods demanded better communications. Population figures were increasing and better roads were required to transport the products of the land to markets in town and to convey manures, lime etc. back to the countryside.

With the passing of the Turnpike Act in 1795 the new Aberdeen – Inverurie turnpike was planned, to follow an easier route to the north of the Tyrebagger, but when the necessary subscriptions were called for, the response was very poor. On concluding a new survey, the southern side of the hill was chosen, as the route was shorter, had an easier gradient, required fewer bridges and would open up the rich farmlands around Kemnay and Monymusk. When the route was accepted by the Trustees, their chairman was ordered to demand further subscriptions from the country gentry to raise the required sum of £7000. This total was not achieved; however sufficient funding was available to allow construction to commence.

Adam Wilson of Glasgoego, solely among the subscribers, objected to the proposed route on the grounds that it would spoil his best farmland. On his acceptance of the route, with slight modifications, about a year after the road was opened he received compensation of £871 (including interest).

It is of interest to note that the Inverurie turnpike opened up George Street as the main western access to the town centre. From Aberdeen to Blackburn, a distance of 8 ½ miles, road construction would cost £2500 per mile and from Blackburn to Midmill £227 per mile.

The road was eventually opened in October 1800 and a toll house was built at the top of the Tyrebagger hill. In the first year toll receipts amounted to £1035 and in ensuing years proved to be a profitable investment for the subscribers. The Toll House was unique in that toll was extracted at both ends of the house, from users of Aberdeen – Inverurie road and from those using the branch road to Skene. The post of toll keeper was put up to auction annually and the rent offered was generally £100. To recoup himself the toll keeper levied toll payments at the rate of 4d for a cart, 6d for a cab and ½ d per head of sheep and so on.

### **BLACKBURN JOGSCOTLAND**

Blackburn Jogscotland has restarted and meets every Wednesday evening during term time at the Kinellar Community Hall. It is run by Sean who is a qualified Jog Leader and holds a current PVG with Scottish Athletics. We average about 20/25 people split between two groups. The beginners group meets at 5.45 pm and is gradually working towards running 5k. The improvers/intermediate group meets at 6.45 pm and is gradually working towards 10k. The groups are strictly non-competitive with the emphasis being on mutual support and fun. New members are always welcome. If you are completely new to jogging/exercise and would like to get more active a new group that is strictly for novices will be starting nearer the summer, beginning with periods of brisk walking. For more info please visit the Blackburn Jogscotland Facebook page or contact the jog leader at [seanswin1@aol.com](mailto:seanswin1@aol.com).

### **BLACKBURN AND DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB**

On Tuesday 7th February 2017, Blackburn and District Rotary held an open evening at The Leys Hotel, the purpose of which was to distribute funds raised at the Kinellar Gala in 2016, where our club organised various stalls. These funds were discussed by the club and it was decided that they should be dedicated to support both local community organisations and International needs.

Those attending the presentation were as follows: Kinellar School Parent Council, Fintray/Kinellar/Keithhall Church, 1st Kinellar Scout Group, Kinellar SWI, Kinellar Community Hall, Blackburn Boys Football Club, The Blackie Banter and the Blackburn & District Rotary Club International Donation to "End Polio Now Campaign".

1st Kinellar Brownies was unable to attend due to Tuesday being their group night (However, they were presented with their cheque on the night of the 28th February by 2 members of our club).

We are a small but dedicated club, with all our active members proud with what they have achieved fundraising during 2016.

We hope that we can continue to be part of the community and support its activities where ever we can.

Barry Craigmile, Press Officer.

On behalf of Blackburn and District Rotary Club.

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

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

**Bookbug Collectors cards** until the end April, pre-school children can collect stamps on their cards for each library visit and earn certificates after four visits.

**Library Direct** A fantastic free service for anyone who can not get to the Library themselves – even for a short time. The RVS can deliver books including large print, audio books, CDs and DVDs, just contact

the library for more details.

**Magazines** Do you have any magazines that you could donate to the Library? We are looking for magazines that would appeal to P6/7 children eg cookery, wildlife, history etc

**Dad Creche** We have been running this as an experiment over the winter months and are extending it into March. It's the opportunity for Dads and smaller children to meet and socialise, and maybe have a cuppa. Saturday mornings 10.30 – 11.30

**Bookbug Stories and Rhymes for babies to 5 year olds** is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday and 4th 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. Tea and coffee are 50p a cup.

You can renew and request books & items, and access recommended databases online at [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries).

### **What's happening at:**

#### **FINTRAY KINELLAR KEITHALL-Church of Scotland**

Along with our usual activities such as the Sunday Services, Kinellar Cuppa etc., there are a few new things starting off this year..

**Easter for the adventurous!** This year we celebrate Easter Sunday (April 16<sup>th</sup>) by gathering at the top of Mither Tap, Bennachie for a sunrise service (6.00 am!). Meet at 5.00 am at Rowantree Car Park. Torch and full hill walking gear required. This will involve uneven paths, steep slopes and possible inclement weather! Everybody is welcome. For more details contact Sean or visit our Bennachie Sunrise Service 2017 page on Face Book.

**Messy Church** Later this year we will be starting a new family friendly activity called Messy Church. As the title suggests this is church where things get messy! We begin with games and crafts and other child/parent/carer friendly activities. This is followed by a short service which again is appropriate for a wide range of ages. After the service we gather for a meal (not need to cook that night!). Messy church is very different from traditional church. It is inclusive and informal and fun. If you would like to know more details or perhaps would like to be involved, please contact Sean.

**Church Website** By early summer we hope to have a new parish website up and running. Not only will this provide details of church events and activities we will have a section on local heritage and history, plus links to other community groups. Watch for the new website going live at: [www.fkkchurch.org.uk](http://www.fkkchurch.org.uk)

Rev Sean Swindells  
Parish Minister  
[SSwindells@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:SSwindells@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
Tel. 01224 790439



**BARRY WILLIAMS**  
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I am a fully qualified driving instructor, based in Blackburn, Aberdeenshire, and cover most of the shire, and the north of Aberdeen. I completed my driving instruction training 3 years ago with the AA, but I am now independent.

Prior to becoming a driving instructor, I was a Traffic Officer with Grampian Police, with 10 years' experience of advanced car and motorcycle training.

My tuition car is a brand new, Silver Ford Fiesta 1.0 petrol (eco-boost)

You can contact me by phone, email [barrywilliams9288@btinternet.com](mailto:barrywilliams9288@btinternet.com) or on my Facebook page: [Barry Williams Driving Instructor](#).

Adverts cost £30 each or £100 for 4. If you would like to place an advert please contact us on [blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk)

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07732 382 620

AND THE FINAL BRIEF WORD FROM THIS ISSUE IS FROM.....

### GARDENING MATTERS

There is not a lot to report this time, except a reminder that some trailing /border plants can always be used to enhance the tubs at the hall.

### KEMNAY HALL NEWS

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, *Your Bard*, Was there a man called William Shakespeare and did he write all those plays? Or is it all just a case of mistaken identity?

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> or Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Fleeman Productions *A Bosie For Luck*, a two act play by Charles Barron, based on short stories by David Toulmin, depicting family life in an Aberdeenshire farming community.

All at 7.30pm

For tickets and more details please contact [kintore.library@aberdeenshire.ov.uk](mailto:kintore.library@aberdeenshire.ov.uk) or 01467 634393

### *Kemnay Movie Nights*

Fridays 24<sup>th</sup> February and March and a possible date in April, 7.30 pm tickets £4 on the door

Saturdays 25<sup>th</sup> February and March, a family film free of charge, 9.15 for 9.30 am