

Blackie Banter

Issue 46 Sept-Dec 2023
blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk
Phone 01224 791649
See online at [https://](https://connectingkinellar.co.uk/)
connectingkinellar.co.uk/

Hello people of Blackburn and Kinellar,

Jenny and I hope this Autumn issue of the Blackie Banter finds you all well.

You may remember there is now a community website called Connecting Kinellar [<https://connectingkinellar.co.uk/>] and although it is at the early stages of development, each issue of the Blackie Banter is now posted there. We considered reducing costs by only delivering to those who request it. Initially that would work but once people start to move on it will be very difficult to keep up to date.

To reduce printing costs we have decided to begin covering 4 months with each issue instead of 3.

We have approached quite a lot of local businesses via email to refresh and improve our advertising revenue. Our only expense is printing so if we can have 7 adverts in each issue, or the equivalent in sponsorship, we will cover current printing costs and cope with minor increases. We don't need everyone advertising at once! We just need constant, long term awareness that we are here.

It's been a while since most of the local gardening volunteers had to stop for various reasons. Would it be possible for a new group of gardening volunteers to be formed? To support the Hall and keep the small patches around the village tidy? Personally, I love the wild meadow look. Overgrown grass filled with wildflowers appeals to me and would not require much care (not a gardener so only guessing). For those of us not skilled in gardening, there is always weeding to be done so we could still join in.

Email us on the address at the top of the page or contact the Hall if you would be willing to be part of a gardening group to keep our village pretty.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles from some of our local groups.

Jenny and I are always on the look out for new ideas so please email or phone us if there is anything you'd like to see featured in future issues of the Blackie Banter.

We look forward to hearing your suggestions, wishing you all a colourful Autumn and a kind Winter.

See you in January.

Jackie and Jenny



A2B dial-a-bus

**Blackburn – Kintore –
Inverurie**

New A2B service commencing 21st August 23

Timetable Guide – Every Monday

Blackburn	10:15	Inverurie	12:40
Kintore	10:35	Kintore	12:50
Inverurie	11:00	Blackburn	13:15

This service, operated by Aberdeenshire Council, is open to anyone who needs door-to-door transport.
All trips must be pre-booked.

**You can ask to be dropped off and
picked up anywhere in Inverurie.**

**For further information call A2B on
01467 535333 and choose option 3 for
general enquiries.**

A2B Bus Update

There is a **trial shopper service from Blackburn to Inverurie** which fits in with the Kintore service. This door-to-door service will hopefully benefit residents of Fechnie Brae sheltered housing and other older residents of Blackburn who find it difficult to walk to a bus stop or carry shopping.

Passengers must book to travel by calling A2B on 01467 535333.

This service will be reviewed and, if it isn't used, it will be withdrawn.

I fought hard for a service to be provided to Hatton of Fintray, as they have such poor public transport, but not one single person used it and it was therefore redeployed.

Please use this as this is a great addition to Kintore and Blackburn.

Cllr. Glen Reid

Community Champion - LGiU Scottish Councillor Awards

East Garioch (Ward 12)

Blackie Banter is compiled by a very small group of volunteers, it is also delivered by volunteers, to around 1250 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 Jan, May and September. Articles will be included, space permitting, at the Editors' discretion. Opinions expressed by writers are not necessarily those of the Editors. Contact us and email your articles to blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk. Phone 01224 791649 with any queries. Photos are welcome but will be black and white. We require you to have the image ownership, and permission of anyone visible, before submission.

Thank you so much to everyone who visited Forest Farm over the summer and for your amazing support. From proposals to wedding parties, first dates to puppy dates, our team has loved seeing friends and families enjoying gelato and coffee in the garden.

This summer has been particularly special, with the gelato garden hosting a hare sculpture for Clan Cancer Support's Big Hop Trail. With your help, we are delighted to have raised over £8,000 and counting for the charity this year.

While Autumn may be approaching, we remain open every day 10am to 8pm (self-service milk vending machines open 6.30am to 8pm). Our fairy lights and heated domes will soon be on to enjoy cozy evenings with a hot chocolate or pumpkin spice latte.

We are also excited to announce that we will soon be serving up handmade pizza, alongside our drinks and gelato! Our dough will be made fresh on site every day and cooked in our new pizza oven, which arrived from Italy last month. Please keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages (@forestfarmdairy) for updates.

For those who are new to the Forest Farm, we are a family run organic dairy in Kinellar. As an organic farm, our focus is on farming sustainably, by using no artificial pesticides or fertilisers, creating wildlife habitats and looking after our animals to the highest welfare standards. The organic milk produced on our farm is pasteurised fresh each morning in our onsite creamery, with no food miles, and available to purchase in reusable glass bottles.

Here are a few things you might not know about the farm:

- All of our award-winning gelato is made in our purpose-built creamery and gelato kitchen on the farm. Every flavour is carefully developed using the finest fresh ingredients and churned in small batches. Our in-house bakers make all the homemade inclusions and ingredients to fold, infuse, ripple and crumble in the gelato.
- We also produce a range of dairy free sorbet, which won a Gold Award at the Royal Highland Show this year.
- This year we launched our pop-up parlour, which can be booked to serve gelato at events and weddings. We also make gelato cakes, which will soon be available to order online.
- From farmers to front of house we have a brilliant team of over 30 people, many of whom live in Blackburn and the surrounding area.
- We are working with Kemnay Academy to offer Foundation Apprenticeships in the business and also host free educational tours of the farm for schools and groups throughout the year.
- We are proud to farm organically and love to show off our cows. You can watch our cows being milked every day at 3.30pm.

We have some exciting plans at Forest Farm over the next year and some of our best ideas have been inspired by our customers. If there is anything you would like to see at the farm, whether it's a particular flavour of gelato or a pizza topping you just can't live without, we would love to hear from you. Our brilliant team can be contacted at office@forestfarmdairy.co.uk or please pop in past and have a chat.



Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

FORESTRY AND LAND SCOTLAND

Are encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to take a look at the opportunities it can offer through its rolling recruitment drive. The call comes as part of a push to address a national skills and labour shortage in the forestry and land-based careers sector.

A simplified application process, informal interviews, a range of locations across the country and opportunities for progression along a clear career path makes working in the forestry sector more attractive than ever.

With entry routes into land-based careers open to school leavers, college and university graduates and people looking for a career change. It's never been easier to throw your hat into the ring.

For further information contact Paul Munro: paulmunro@forestryandland.gov.scot.

KINELLAR SWI

Kinellar SWI (Rural) starts the new session on Monday 4th September with a talk from John Carroll from the Aberdeen and NE Scotland Family History Society; we will be entertained in our October meeting (2nd) by the Spectrum Singers; in November (6th), we welcome Sue Kinsey, who will give us a talk about the Garioch Charity Shop; and our December meeting will take the form of a Christmas Party.



More information on each of the meetings will be published on Facebook (Kinellar SWI) a few days before, or by contacting Irene Pace on 01224 790735.

Please come - all ladies would be so welcome!

KINELLAR SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

At Kinellar School Parent Council we have been supporting improvements in the School Garden to help improve the social space the kids have to relax in and learn from. Your assistance with fund-raising help to make these changes. There is still a long way to go with making the improvements to the school gardens. We would also like to thank Archer for their donation to help improve the garden.

In remembrance of Rachel Singer we also donated a new Creativity Award last term. It's important to remember the skills and interest in creativity she developed in our kids that were lucky to have been taught by her. Through this award we wanted to continue the excitement in learning through digital technology and other creative skills so it was an honour to be able to supply the reward for the best students each year to challenge each other to develop creative skills that will benefit them in their future lives.

We will be continuing to have fundraising events this year with school discos at Christmas and in the summer. Elf shelf will return in December as well. If you have any fundraising ideas for the school, please come along to our meetings.

We welcome all support and help that you can offer to the parent council, without you we cannot achieve our improvement goals that we have agreed with the school.

KINELLAR GIRLGUIDING

Rainbows: We had a lovely end of term game of ten pin bowling and meal at Garioch Bowling centre in Inverurie where we said goodbye to 7 Rainbows.

Over the next two terms we are going to do the Take Action, Influence badge which includes learning the difference between fact and opinion, and thinking about how we can help each other and make friends. We are also going to make fruit pizzas, learn some songs for our annual District Campfire in October, and do Halloween and Christmas crafts, ending next term with a fun-filled Christmas party.



Brownies: We ended last term with the visit from 'Alan's Magic', the excitement from our Brownies when they realised their visitor was a magician was wonderful to see. The girls were mesmerized by the magic tricks and were extremely excited to be given the opportunity to learn some magic themselves. We ended the year awarding 13 Theme Awards, 4 Bronze Awards, 1 Silver Award and many Interest Badges, too many to count! A fantastic achievement from all the Brownies and leaders.

The summer holidays are now a distant memory. We start the new school year with 29 Brownies, eight of whom are new joiners. As leaders we are really excited to have so many Brownies in our unit and to also have the opportunity to support seven of our original Brownies complete their final year before moving to Guides next summer.

This year we will explore camping and safe campfires as well as space and planets through our theme Have Adventures. We will also learn about need vs want, money and the cost of food as well as different tools and how to use them through our theme Skills for my Future. We have an exciting year ahead.

Please register your daughter early at www.girlguiding.org.uk. Both our waiting lists are very full so please be patient.

Thanks
Sue and Allison

1st KINELLAR SCOUTS

We would like to thank the **Jo Walters Trust** in awarding a grant to 1st Kinellar Scout Group. The Jo Walters Trust commemorates the life of Joanne Walters by giving grants to causes that she would have approved of.

Due to our increasing numbers we did not have enough tents for everyone. With the money provided we will purchase additional tents and lanterns so all can enjoy the outdoor camping experience. We also have purchased some kelly kettles so the scouts can learn some new skills such as fire lighting and cooking in the great outdoors.

By purchasing the equipment we encourage the young people to take part in outdoor adventures. Everyone is welcome to join Scouts, all genders, races and backgrounds. Regardless of the young person's physical ability – there's a Scout adventure out there waiting for them. And we'll help them find it.

1st Kinellar Scout Group wants to prepare more young people with skills for life, supported by our leaders delivering an inspiring programme. We aim to build and develop young people's confidence, sense of adventure and outdoor skills.

Scouting is shaped by young people in partnership with adults and we are always looking for new volunteers and if you fancy a go at 1st Kinellar Scout Group why not join the adventure at www.scouts.org.uk/join.

1st KINELLAR BEAVERS

When you join Beavers, you'll be introduced to lots of new activities, people and things. Here's everything you need to know about Beaver Scouts.

Beavers are young people, aged 6 to 8, who:

- Master new skills and try new things
- Have fun and go on adventures
- Make friends
- Are curious about the world around them
- Help others and make a difference, on their own doorsteps and beyond

Every week, they gather in groups called **Beaver Colonies** to hop, skip and jump their way through lots of different games and activities – achieving anything they set their minds to, and having lots of fun along the way.

Interested in joining in the adventure? Please email kinellarbeavers@gmail.com.



Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Church of Scotland

Cannot believe where this year has gone, and I am sure many of you are feeling the same way. Fintray, Kinellar, Keithhall Church has been meeting every Sunday in Fintray Church with a good number of people in the congregation. Before the school holidays began, I was invited along with Pat our Treasurer and Lorraine our Session Clerk to Hatton of Fintray School assembly. It was a great afternoon with many talented

children showing us how good they are at playing various instruments. The whole school sang several songs with great gusto, and I am sure all gathered there thoroughly enjoyed the assembly.

Sadly, I had to go into hospital for a major operation at the end of July but the Worship Group and one of our congregation members helped with services whilst I was recuperating. I came back last Sunday 27th August and conducted the service and will do so again this Sunday. I will then be going off on holiday to rest and fully recover ready to come back to continue the work in Fintray Church.

As Interim Moderator I have been very blessed by the people in Fintray, Kinellar, Keithhall Church and enjoy every minute sharing with them Sunday by Sunday. Soon I hope to conduct a baptism and we will be celebrating Communion in October and then before we know it, we will be preparing for Advent and then Christmas. I hope to have an Advent study group in November and look forward to a good response to it.

The church in Fintray is a beautiful building which has been well maintained over the years and we will continue to worship Sunday by Sunday for the foreseeable future. All are welcome to come and join us at 11am on a Sunday for a great time of friendship and fellowship.

Every blessing to you all. Sheila

Rev. Sheila Craggs Interim Moderator.



The Rotary Club of Kintore, Blackburn and Kenmay have had a busy few months over the summer. July is the start of the Rotary Year, and this year the Rotary theme is "Create Hope in the World". At our handover, Morag Thorburn handed over president duties to Jamie Grant for the upcoming year, it promises to be another busy one. At our handover we reflected on the successes of the past year, with multiple events organised and funds raised.

As a club, we were also very proud to attend the handover of District Governor to Jim Hatter, which was an event attended by many clubs within District 1010 at the Beach Ballroom. This was a great opportunity to meet with other club members, and discuss ongoing activities and new ideas. It was well attended and a great way to start the Rotary Year.

Our Club is supporting the local charity Abernecessities. They provide disadvantaged families with the essential items that no child should go without. From maternity bundles for mother and baby to nappies, formula milk, and clothing for young children. We recently had a talk at the Kintore Church Hall which highlighted how much this charity has grown and the benefit brought to the North East, it made us realise how much this work is needed and why we had to support. You can read more about what the charity does by visiting their web site: www.abernecessities.co.uk. We are supporting them by providing collection points at various locations, including the Reception at Kinellar Community Centre.

We have taken upon ourselves to try to brighten up the village, by planting the flower bed at the entrance to the village by the Clinterty Roundabout, tidying up some verge flower beds on the Fintray Road, and the flower beds around the Hall. This all takes time, and we would appreciate any assistance that can be given – many hands make light work. As the Hall belongs to the Village, Aberdeenshire Council are not able to provide any assistance – except for accepting the bags of weeds etc that are dug up. We also recently helped to organise a litter pick around parts of the village with Kinellar Cubs and Scouts.

June was a busy month, we had a very busy Kintore Summer Festival, providing games and raffled a gallon of Whisky, this was followed by the Blackburn Gala and we were also at the Kemnay School fair. At each of these the Rotary games proved as popular as ever. Another big event for us was the Blast from the Past at Thainstone, we launched the Rotary Car Raffle here, tickets are available from club members and we'll soon be in Aberdeen Bon Accord selling right up until Christmas. At the Thainstone event we also had a surprise visit from "Booby the Barman" from Still Game, he was very interested to hear what Rotary is about and how we help our communities.

In the run up to the end of the year, look out for our news on the Facebook page, we have tipsy tea parties arranged, and will also launch our shoebox collection as well as our Funds for U applications for local charity organisations.

We welcome any guests, and if you would be interested to join in on a meeting or find out more about Rotary and how you can contribute within your community, find us on Facebook or send a message to jamie.grant79@yahoo.com. We are keen to recruit more members to build on the team we have and be able to support the community more.

Our meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, normally at 6.45pm and just ask for location!

Jamie Grant and Steve Wright, Rotary Club of Kintore, Blackburn and Kenmay



KINELLAR COMMUNITY CENTRE

Upcoming events: Bonkers Big Day Bingo 8th September & Christmas Fair 2nd December

Here at the Kinellar Community Centre we are happy to be back into our winter opening hours of 8am-10pm. We hope this opens up more opportunity for more room hire during the week and our members to enjoy the longer hours in the gym. If you would like more information on our gym memberships please do give us a call or pop in past and speak to any member of staff.

The summer was a hard time for us here at the centre, as our user groups are reduced by half over the holidays so is our income. We really do appreciate everyone's patience with us while we cut our hours to try and cut costs.

Unfortunately our Assistant Manager Debbie decided to move on to other things. Scarlet has stepped up and is now filling the role of Finance Administrator and she is doing a fab job. Scarlet can be found here at the centre on a Thursday and Friday 8am-4pm. We also welcome new leisure assistants Ethan and Ava.

We are always on the look out for volunteers and have set up a Fundraising team. If you would like to be part of a great team and help your community please do get in touch. As always we are also open to your ideas and what you would like to see here at KCC.

Blackburn YFC 2017 – Players / Officials wanted

Our 2017 team is our newest team to Blackburn YFC, we are now up and running with a great response so far. We train indoors on a Tuesday evening with the aim to be attending festivals in the coming months. If your child was born in 2017 and would like to take their first step into club football, please contact us for more info. We are also looking for coaches and team helpers, if you have some spare time to volunteer and support the team, please also contact us for more info.

Email: secretary.blackburnfc@gmail.com Tel: 07926 088289

Blackburn YFC 2011 – Players wanted.

Blackburn 2011's are looking for additional players to supplement our squad as we transition to ADJFA 11-a-side competitive football. We train on Monday and Friday evenings with games taking place on Sundays. Coaches are SFA qualified, PVG checked, and First Aid qualified. If your child was born in 2011, we are looking for motivated and enthusiastic players preferably with club football experience who would like to further develop their footballing ability in a fun & positive environment. Please contact the below details for further info:

Email: coach2011.blackburnfc@gmail.com Tel: 07971 326332

Sponsors



Blackburn YFC would like to thank Jackie & Derek Moir from H&F Moir Engineering for sponsoring the Blackburn U14's with new kits. The team look very smart in their new kits, and we all very much appreciate the sponsor. Thank you from Blackburn 2010's. Blackburn YFC is a registered charity, we are regularly looking for sponsors to support our teams, to provide kits and equipment, if you would like to sponsor and support our club please contact below:

Email: secretary.blackburnfc@gmail.com Tel: 07926 088289

KINTORE LIBRARY: Would you like to access newspapers, magazines, e-books and audio books for free online? – then please read on.

Kintore Library is open 15 hours/ week, on Tuesday 09.00 – 13.30, Wednesday 14.00 – 18.00, Thursday 13.00 – 17.00 and Saturday 09.00 – 11.30.

You will be able to **access the public computers, print and photocopy**, and of course you will be able to **choose your own books**. You can also pick up NHS hearing aid batteries /distance aware badges & lanyards /dog poo bags & food caddy waste bags.

What else can you do at the library? **Bookbug sessions** for any pre-school child (including babies) are on a Tuesday at 10.30am and a Friday at 9.15am and continue during the school holidays except when staff are on annual leave – booking is advisable. A **Knit and Stitch** is on a Tuesday 10 – 12, no booking is required but spaces are limited. If you are unable to come to us we may be able to come to you via our **Doorstep Delivery** service, please phone us direct for details 01467 532605 or email kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. Bring in your new and gently worn bras for our **Bra Bank** for women in Africa. Enjoy a wide selection of **jigsaws** for adults available for borrowing.

What can you do at home? Visit www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk and on the libraries homepage you can see various initiatives including a **Digital Library** to access free newspapers (including the PJ), e-books, e-audio books and e-magazines, a **Library Catalogue** to reserve books which will be delivered to the library of your choice, and **Online Databases** of trusted sites - great for any homework help!

For further information about our range of services, including outreach activities, please visit livelifeberdeenshire/libraries or contact us direct on 01467 532605 or kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. Please like our Facebook page Kintore Library and/or Aberdeenshire Library and Information Services.

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SOME OF OUR LOCAL GROUPS. Unless stated otherwise these groups meet at KINELLAR COMMUNITY CENTRE
Kinellar Community Centre usual opening times, school holidays may vary.

Mon-Fri 8.00am-10.00pm Sat 9.00am-1.00pm

Exercise classes included in membership or 'pay as you go'

Clubbercise: Fri 10.45-11.45am

BoxHit: Sat 8.45-9.30am

Les Mills Exercise classes: included in membership or 'pay as you go'

Bodypump: Mon 9.15-10.00am Tues 6.00-6.45pm Wed 7.00-7.45pm Fri 9.30-10.30am

Core: Tues 7.00-7.45pm

Bodycombat: Wed 6.00-6.45pm

Bodybalance Wed 8.00-8.45pm

Kinellar SWI: First Monday of every month at 7.30pm, September to May. Contact Irene Pace 01224 790735.

Wado Ryu Karate: club times:

Kids Monday 5.30-6.30pm in the Caskieben Room. Adults Monday 7.00-8.00pm in the Leys Hall.

New starts always welcome – first two lessons free! Contact Danny on djmclernon@hotmail.co.uk or mobile 07712 565959.

Make Your Move:

Monday classes 4.30-5.00 kids (pre book by block, term time only), 5.15 class A adult, 5.50 class B adult

Wednesday 4.30-5.00 class C adult Forthcoming October kids holiday camp.

makeyourmove85@gmail.com, phone 07718882382, Facebook @mymheart, Instagram @mym85

YogaVik: Tuesday 6.30-7.30pm

Splat Messy Play classes: for children from 6 months + Wednesdays 10am-11am

Contact: melissa@splatmessyplay.co.uk Facebook: Splat Messy Play Aberdeen & Shire Instagram: splataberdeen

Girlguiding: Rainbows for girls aged 4 to 7. Mondays 4.30-5.30pm at Kinellar Community Hall. Brownies for girls aged 7 to 10. Tuesdays 6.00-7.30pm at Kinellar Primary School.

Blackburn Indoor Bowling Club: Tuesday evenings, from 7:15pm till 9:15pm, during the months September to April.

Our new season opens on Tuesday September 26th. Beginners welcome, instruction given.

Contact: Steve Wright – Secretary, 07584 170507

Kinellar Kuppa: 9.30-11.30am on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Danz Creations: Wednesday afternoons:

4.30-5.00pm - highland (from age 4 years & P1 & P2) 3.25-4.25pm - preschool class

5.30-6.00pm - ballet (P1 & P2) 5.00-5.30pm - tap (P1 & P2)

6.30-7.00pm - tap (P3+) 6.00-6.30pm - highland (P3+)

7.00-7.30pm - ballet (P3+)

1st Kinellar Scout Group: Wednesdays:

Beavers (6-8ys) 4.30-6pm, kinellarbeavers@gmail.com

Cubs (8-10 1/2yrs) 6pm-7.30pm, kinellarcubs@gmail.com

Scouts (10 ½ - 14yrs) 7.30pm-9.30pm, kinellarscouts@gmail.com

Explorers (14-17 yrs) 7.30pm-9.30pm kinellaresu@gmail.com

Kinellar Badminton Group: every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. all year round.

Kinellar Toddlers: Kinellar Baby and Toddler group meets on Fridays, all year round, 9-11.30, drop ins very welcome. For all preschool children, aged 0-5 and their parents, grandparents and carers. Contact Kinellartoddlers@gmail.com or Facebook Kinellar Baby & Toddler group.

THE FOLLOWING GROUPS ARE NOT IN THE HALL

Blackburn Football Youth Club Training for age groups 2007-2016 take place at various football pitches in the local area with regular matches played on Sundays. Contact blackburnfc2011@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

Rotary Club of Kintore, Blackburn & Kemnay: We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Please refer to the 'Weekly meetings' section of our website for details. Contact: secretary@kintore.rotary1010.org or through our Facebook page if you would like to attend. If you want to know more about becoming a member, a Friend or to offer any assistance please get in touch.

Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Church: Sunday at 11am, Fintray Church, Hatton of Fintray, Rev Sheila Craggs Interim Moderator for Fintray. Kinellar, Keithhall Church, 07884264724. Church phone: 01224 460056, fintraykkchurch@outlook.com.



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www.nhsgrampian.org/mhiws-aberdeenshire



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