Blackie Banter

Issue 55
October 2026 - January 2027
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www.kinellarcommunity.com
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To find us online, see above for KCC website. Click on the 'More' tab to find Blackie Banter. Access Kintore Konnect on www.kintore.org.uk. When it opens select 'There's more from Kintore' on the tab at the top. Kemnay's newsletter can be found on www.kemnayhall.co.uk.

Hello again everyone, we are already at the final issue for 2026, this one takes us through to January. We're about to hit the festival season with all the lanterns, fireworks and twinkly lights bringing some light into the winter nights. We are lucky to have a team of volunteers who manage, erect and take down our Christmas lights every year (see their update on page 2).
Kinellar Community Centre remains operational thanks to the ongoing efforts of its Manager Kat, and volunteer Board. They work tirelessly to organise events, support local groups and ensure the Centre continues to run. What they need in return is our support. Three years ago, the current Board stepped forward when the future of the Centre was very uncertain. These are ordinary Blackburn residents with busy lives who have taken on significant responsibilities on behalf of the community. While they are committed to the Centre, they will not be able to carry this responsibility forever, and new volunteers will be needed in the years ahead.
Like many community organisations, the Centre faces challenges. Several of the groups that helped fundraise for the new hall have since closed, and we have recently lost Kinellar Stars. We hope our remaining long-standing children's groups, including Toddlers, Scouts and Rainbows, will have enough community support to help them flourish. Please have a look at the hall update on page 3 and see if getting involved with the KCC Board might be something that interests you.
And finally.. in this issue we have some fun new features, including a quiz which focuses on Christmas traditions from around the world, a wellbeing challenge for you to try, a new recipe section, and a picture challenge. You'll find all of these new items on pages 6 and 7. - *Jackie*

LOCAL COUNCILLOR REPORT

We are entering autumn (where did the summer go?) and discussions in the council start to focus on the budget for next year which is going to be challenging to say the least – and it has been the same for far too many years. I won't depress you at this stage of the process with some of the thoughts that are coming forward as to how we can save yet another £40 plus million but just to say that at some stage over the coming months, some form of budget engagement is likely to happen and that is your chance to comment on how the council spends its money (your money!) Please watch out for that and participate.
A few numbers have emerged recently on matters to do with education in Aberdeenshire. We have known for a number of years that the number of school-age children in our schools was likely to drop by 10% before the end of the decade, and we have seen in the last few years a number of primary schools closing because of lack of pupils. Every year, our education team apply to the Scottish Government for an allocation of probationary teachers – primary and secondary. We seldom get what we ask for but this year we only got half the number of primary school teachers that we requested. Surprisingly, we can actually cope with fewer teachers in our schools as we had 500 fewer pupils starting primary school in August than we expected. (We have also seen a significant drop in take up of places in our Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) settings – 15 to 25% in places.) It was even worse with our secondary teacher allocation – we asked for 44 teachers and were allocated 5. Our secondary school pupil numbers are holding fairly steady so that is just making delivery of many subjects in many of our schools challenging to say the least.
On the back of those sorts of numbers and a clear demographic change emerging, the education service has been doing some work on all aspects of our school estate. Moving Towards a Sustainable Estate is reviewing at all aspects of each of our 17 academy clusters. There is an ELC review underway which is looking at each of our ELC clusters and an Aberdeenshire-wide review of the catchment areas for all of our schools and academies is continuing. Some of this work is almost finished and some still in progress but at some stage all parents and communities will be involved in consultations when these reviews start to be finalised and implemented – please watch out for these as they appear and have your say.
And finally on having your say, the next stage of the Local Development Plan (LDP) is underway now that the Call for Sites and Call for Ideas process is complete. All bid sites can be seen on the council website and an opportunity to comment on them will soon be available to all members of the public, community councils and any other interested groups. Please have a look at what has been suggested for this area and watch out for the portal being opened up for comments.
A lot on the go just now and having feed-back from everyone really helps inform council decisions – please participate when you get the chance.
- *All the best, Cllr Jim Gifford cllr.j.gifford@aberdeenshire.gov.uk*

THOMSON partnership SCOTLAND
Your brand is our business...
Free logo set up on clothing orders
Quote BB26
Ts & Cs apply
billy@thomsonpartnership.com

Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council Update

The Community Council's purpose is to bridge a gap between the local community and public agencies like Aberdeenshire Council. We are a group of volunteers who can act as a voice on lots of issues from new buildings and roads to local services and facilities. We'd love to hear from you. Whether you have ideas, concerns, or questions, you can get in touch with us at blackburnkinellarcc@gmail.com or connect with us via our Facebook page.

New meeting dates for 2026/27 – our meetings will now be held on the second Thursday of each month at Kinellar Community Centre, starting at 7.00 pm. Our upcoming meeting dates are 8 October, 12 November, 10 December 2026, and 14 January 2027. We warmly welcome you to come along.

Let's talk Aberdeenshire Survey - Aberdeenshire Council is running a short survey to find out how people feel about where they live and what's working well or could be improved. The survey covers five broad areas of everyday life, including getting around, local spaces and facilities, services and support, community identity and pride, and how well our towns and communities are looked after. Your views matter, and we'd really encourage people in Blackburn and Kinellar to take part. You can complete the survey online at https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/lets-talk-aberdeenshire, or we've made some paper copies available on a notice board at Kinellar Community Centre. The survey closes on 31 October.

Doug & Alex at the Gala

A huge thank you to everyone who stopped by our stall and took the time to chat with us at the **Kinellar Gala in June**. It was fantastic to see so many local groups, organisations, and businesses coming together to create such a fun-packed day for the community.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised £70 through our gardening-themed activities, including children decorating flower pots and donations from our plants and cuttings exchange. We're delighted to say this money was donated to the maintenance fund for our local community defibrillators, organised and managed by the Rotary Club of Kintore, Kemnay & District. This was in addition to the £100 contribution already made by the Community Council from our own funds.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at **Kinellar Christmas Fayre on 28 November**.

Garden Competition 2026 - **Congratulations to our winner!**
Congratulations to Michelle Wibrew and family, winner of our inaugural Blackburn & Kinellar Garden Competition! The judges were particularly impressed by the garden's beautiful colour, creativity, environmental features, and the care taken to make the most of the available space. A huge thank you to everyone who entered, and to Sandy Scott from Aberdeenshire Council for volunteering his time and expertise to support our judging. We're delighted with the response to our first competition and are already looking forward to next year - details coming spring 2027!

- Emma Morrison, Secretary, Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council

Garden competition winners for 2026

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - Sunday 29th November 2026

We know… we're a little bit early mentioning Christmas! But planning is already underway for putting up our Blackburn streetlights and organising our much-loved village Christmas Tree Switch-On! As usual, we're looking for volunteers to join our small but enthusiastic group. We'd especially love some extra hands to help with running the Switch-On event, set up and take down and of course, making the day as festive and enjoyable as possible! Whether you can spare a little time, lend a hand on the day, or would simply like to get involved with making 'Blackburn Christmas Lights' happen, we'd love to hear from you. Fancy joining us? Please contact Sheena on 07841 106506. Let's make Blackburn sparkle this Christmas!

The **Scottish Women's Institute, *aka The Rural***, meets on the first Monday of the month when we enjoy a variety of speakers and demonstrations. Why not join us at 7.30pm in the Community Hall. On September 7th we welcome Susan McNally from Meldrum Millinery; October 5th - Eve Crafts and on 2nd November Sarah Jones to talk about Forensic Biology. As you can see our talks cover a wide variety of topics.

All ladies are so welcome. You can always keep an eye on our Facebook page (KinellarSWI) to get a flavour of what's happening. - *Irene Pace, 01224 790735*

SPLAT MESSY PLAY UPDATE
I'm currently on maternity leave until next year. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram for updates on when messy play will be returning. I look forward to getting messy with you all again soon! - *Melissa, Splat Messy Play*

Kinellar Community Centre

Kinellar Community Centre is a vibrant and busy place which is always in a constant state of change. The Centre hosts so many local groups, events and activities.

We are again about to come up to another big season of change. Two of our dedicated and very talented board members are stepping down, which will be a loss for the Centre. First Kirsty Campbell, who joined as an ordinary member and stepped in to the Secretary role. Her dedication to the fundraising events, countless hours applying for grants and her support and organization of our volunteers has been incredible. She is always available with a positive attitude, a smile, and keeps us thinking about why we are doing things and how we accomplish our goals. Secondly, we need to say a big thank you to Paul for his role as Vice Chair. Paul stepped in and took on some of the vital but less visible roles. He's written policy, conducted safety reviews of the Centre, led staff training and heavily supported fundraising events. He founded the KCC annual quiz, which has been a fun and memorable event, and we hope that this year's quiz is just as enjoyable.

Both Kirsty and Paul joined the board 3 years ago when the Centre was at risk of closing, and we cannot thank them enough for stepping up when the Centre needed them. We find ourselves in a position where we urgently need members of the community to step in again. We are down to four members on the Board, and we need 5 to meet the minimum requirements and keep the Centre open. If we don't find anyone within the next 6 weeks, the Board must call an EGM in November to decide what the next steps will be. If you or someone you know would be able to support us, even temporarily, please reach out to Danielle, see email address below. It can take as little as a few hours a month and could make all the difference as to the future of the Centre.

Not able to join the Board? There are plenty of other things you could do to support; help with an hour of your time at one of our fundraising events, attend fundraising events, join our social media communities and engage with us. Links opposite.

Upcoming events- find more on our socials:

- Halloween disco partnered with Shine Trampoline on Friday 30th October
- Christmas Shopping trip on Saturday 7th November
- Family Quiz night on Saturday 21st November
- Christmas Fayre on Saturday 28th November

We also want to give a few more 'Thank Yous'! We had our most profitable Gala yet and we couldn't have done that without the following support!

Our sponsors:

- Granite City Collectables
- OSP Cyber Academy
- North East Wash and Shine
- Gears Boxing Academy
- SG Joinery Services

Those providing services in kind:

- Field Engineering Services
- Grampian Graphics

Danielle Grieve, Chair Chairperson@kinellarcommunity.com

Facebook Instagram Event Calendar Website

Blackburn Indoor Bowling Club

Our season 2026 – 2027 is nearly with us, with our first meeting on Monday 28th September at 7pm in Kinellar Community Centre. We have moved our meetings from Tuesdays to Mondays to enable the Community Centre to make the best use of the rooms. Most of our meetings are just for fun, with a spattering of competitions thrown in at various times of the season, which we do not take too seriously anyway. However, there are still trophies to be won and proudly displayed. We welcome beginners of all ages, and training can be given. We also have some spare sets of bowls to get you started. If you want to get away from the TV for an evening come along and give it a try. For more information either ask at the Centre's Reception or drop in past on the Monday evening between 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm. - *Steve Wright*

A GOODBYE MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRE OF SPIRITUAL LIGHT

Hi I'm Gladys Sellar I'm a psychic medium and since 27th of August 2015 I've run the Centre of Spiritual Light giving messages from the afterlife. I held the meetings on the last Thursday of the month in Kinellar Community Hall. I live in Blackburn born here and love the village but, due to my health, I'm closing down the Centre of Spiritual Light on 26th November 2026. After 11 years 3 months it's been my pleasure to have done this work. To see the regular faces and all the new ones over the years it's been amazing, and all those that have worked with me and helped doing the teas and coffees I thank you all. People have come from all over, not only the surrounding area but Inverness and places in between from Dunbar, Edinburgh and Cambridgeshire also we have had a lady from Alabama USA, it's been a delight to meet you all. Thanks to the Community Hall for letting me use the facilities every month blessings to the staff you all are brilliant. This has been a big part of my life, and it truly is an end of an era for me, I will miss being in the hall at the end of the month and seeing everyone's faces and reactions, tears, laughter and wonderful memories. Please if you see me going about the village say hello. Thank you everyone.
- *Love & Light, Gladys*

To advertise in the Blackie Banter please contact us on: blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk. Adverts should be in the portrait layout and no bigger than 1/8th of an A4 page. Adverts cost £40 each or £110 for 3.

Forest Farm has been awarded the UK's Best Ice Cream Parlour 2026 by the Ice Cream Alliance

Catherine McNeil, Director of Operations of Ice Cream Alliance, said, "We're so excited to crown this year's Parlour of the Year. Forest Farm absolutely deserves this. A glowing standard for ice cream in Scotland, Forest Farm's heritage of excellence shines through their amazing gelato."

Historically the farm, Glasgoforest, was bought as a dairy farm by Anthony and Anne Willis in 1989 and converted to an organic dairy farm in 1998, the first to be established in Scotland so is Scotland's longest established organic dairy farm. The farm introduced the country's first milk vending machines in 2017, before turning its hand to gelato, producing small batches from 2019 and quickly winning awards. In 2021, the family opened an on farm gelateria, pizzeria and garden serving gelato, Neapolitan style pizza, specialty coffee and cakes. Today, managed by Anne, her sons and a team of 40, Forest Farm welcomes over 250,000 visitors a year.

The team at Forest Farm would like to thank everyone for their support this year and for visiting the farm, which has extended its seven-day a week summer opening hours until the end of October. 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.

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 in 2023.
- In 2023 we launched our pop-up parlour, which can be booked to serve gelato at events and weddings. We also make gelato cakes, which are available to order online.
- From farmers to front of house we have a brilliant team of over 40 people, many of whom live in Blackburn and the surrounding area.
- 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.

- Angus Willis Director, Forest Farm, Kinellar; www.forestfarmdairy.co.uk Be like our cows, social: Instagram/Facebook

The **Bailies of Bennachie** merchandise includes our **Calendar** which is out now. This is available from our website and local shops.

Our largest ever **Project** is Help Your Hill with the work scheduled to commence in October on the Timeline Path Upgrade. Please consider helping this fundraiser.

Archaeological Dig 2026 June (training), July & August finished up with a Dig Tour for interested parties hearing about the work.

The **Wildlife / Environment** group upcoming events in Sep & Nov are a Fungal Foray and then a Pine Marten & Wildcat talk.

Our **Work Parties** are a great way to support us, tending to be on the first Saturday of the month with other dates slotted in to accommodate the team or tackle larger projects. Members may sign up to join any of our groups as volunteers, see 'volunteering' on the website https://bailiesofbennachie.co.uk. Any queries may be directed to us by emailing info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk.

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 by the beginning of the month prior to publication. Issues are published in February, June and October. 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. Photos are welcome. You must have the permission of anyone visible and image ownership before submission.

Royal Approval Right on Our Doorstep: Perfect Hygiene Granted Prestigious Royal Warrant There is cause for celebration at Blackburn Business Park! Local enterprise Perfect Hygiene has officially been granted a prestigious Royal Warrant of Appointment by His Majesty The King in recognition of its role providing washroom and hygiene services to the Royal Household. The milestone marks a double royal success for the local hub at Alma House. Its sister company, specialist window cleaning firm Perfectshine, was previously awarded a Royal Warrant, making the combined operations a true beacon of North-East excellence.

A Proud Moment for Blackburn

Founded in 2017 by Steve and Claire Forbes, Perfect Hygiene provides hygiene, washroom, and clinical waste services to organisations across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Together with Perfectshine, the business employs a team of 50 people right here in the area. To mark the achievement, the Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, Sandy Manson - The King's official representative in the region - visited the team at Blackburn Business Park to offer his congratulations in person.

"This distinction is a clear reflection of the company's sustained excellence, professionalism, and commitment to the highest standards of service. Perfect Hygiene's achievement is a source of considerable pride for Aberdeenshire."

- Sandy Manson, Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire

Managing Director Steve Kennedy highlighted that the honour is a direct reflection of the hard work put in by the entire staff every day. *"We are very pleased to have been granted a Royal Warrant of Appointment by His Majesty The King. This acknowledges the consistency and commitment of our team. It is a great honour for both Perfect Hygiene and Perfectshine to hold Royal Warrants."*

Royal Warrants are awarded to companies that have regularly supplied goods or services to the Royal Household, serving as a recognised stamp of quality, reliability, and high standards. Keep an eye out around the village and across Aberdeenshire - you'll soon see the Royal Arms proudly displayed on the team's fleet of service vehicles!

Girlguiding

Girlguiding We started the new term with 4 new girls. We're doing the Express Myself, Innovate Badge this term which includes making clay monsters, doing some exciting experiments and making puppets and musical instruments. We also play lots of games both inside and outside.

The start of the new school year marks the beginning of another exciting year for 1st Kinellar Brownies. We were delighted to welcome three new Brownies after the summer break and hope they quickly settle in, make new friends and enjoy all the fun and adventures that Brownies has to offer. This year, we'll be working towards activities from the Skills for My Future and Have Adventures themes. The girls will have the opportunity to develop some useful life skills, including learning about money, saving and spending, as well as getting outdoors and learning practical camping skills and fire safety.

One of the highlights of the early term will be our annual District Campfire later in September. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from Kinellar, Kemnay and Kintore will come together for an evening of campfire songs, fun and friendship. It's always a lovely opportunity for the girls to meet other girls from the local area and enjoy a traditional campfire together. We're looking forward to another busy year filled with friendship, fun, learning and adventure! We're always looking for helpers and new Leaders to join Girlguiding. Please visit our website for more details and register your interest: www.girlguiding.org.uk. - *Thanks, Sue, Mo and Allison*

Maths Tuition

Maths tuition in Blackburn from National 5 to Advanced Higher.
Many years professional experience.
Contact Peter Nicol by phone, text or WhatsApp 07425160320 or email
peterknicol@gmail.com

WELLBEING CHALLENGE

This autumn, why not join our community wellbeing challenge? Running from October 2026 to January 2027, the challenge is packed with simple ideas to help us look after ourselves, connect with others and enjoy our community.

1. Have a cuppa or go for a walk with someone — 1st Kinellar Brownies
2. Take a photograph of something you love about Blackburn & Kinellar — Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council
3. Pick your favourite tune and dance around the room — Danz Creations
4. Inhale, think 'I am strong' then exhale strongly — Lynda from Saturday morning yoga at KCC
5. Talk to your neighbour and ask if they need help with any tasks? — 1st Kinellar Scouts
6. Try a different path each time you visit the hill — Baillies of Bennachie
7. Stand on one foot while you brush your teeth to improve your balance — Kelly, KCC's Les Mills instructor
8. Find out when our open sessions are and attend one of them if you can — Shine Trampoline
9. Do 10 chair sit-to-stands to build strength and confidence — Phase 2 Fitness Studio
10. Carry two safe weights (e.g. tins of beans) for 5 minutes while walking at home — Harley, KCC's Fitness instructor
11. Make up a new ending to a well-known story — 1st Kinellar Rainbows

Want to find out more? See page 10 for group meeting times and activity details.

Complete the Challenge and Be in with a Chance to Win!

To be entered into our prize draw, simply complete all of the wellbeing challenges and submit your completed entry to the Wellbeing Challenge drop-in box at reception of Kinellar Community Centre.

Entry deadline:
Saturday 16th January 2027

Everyone who completes all the challenges and gets their entry in by the deadline will be entered into the draw, with one lucky winner chosen at random. So get involved, have fun and give yourself a little wellbeing boost along the way. 🌿

Good luck!

Your name: _____

Contact details: _____

Where Am I?

Test your local knowledge with our quick photo challenge!

Helen Allan has taken a photograph of a familiar spot somewhere around Blackburn and Kinellar. Can you guess exactly where this is?

Don't worry, you don't have to wait until the next issue to find out if you're right. Flip over to page 11 to reveal the exact location and see how well you know our local area!

From Our Kitchen To Yours

INGREDIENTS

150g prawns
100g hot smoked salmon
Fruit of your choice
Boiled egg
Grated cheese
Coleslaw
Prawn Marie sauce
(*all approximate*)

Prawn and Hot Smoked Salmon Fruit Salad

2 servings · 15 minutes

From Our Kitchen to Yours *is a brand new feature and we are grateful to Stephen Bruce from Peterhead Fish Company who very kindly contributed the first recipe...*

"When I was asked to suggest a recipe, I thought I'd do something a little different. I love a salad, so here goes!

Use whatever fruit you enjoy or have available - I like a mix of melon, kiwi, peaches, strawberries, and pineapple.

Mix mayonnaise and tomato ketchup together to taste to make a simple Marie Rose sauce."

PETERHEAD FISH COMPANY

Welcome to Blackburn Scouts!

New to the village? Welcome to Blackburn! If you have children or young people who might be interested in joining our Scout Group, we would love to welcome you. Scouting is open to all young people aged 6–18, regardless of gender, background, faith or ability. It's a great opportunity for young people to make friends, learn new skills, build confidence and enjoy new experiences. Our programme is divided into age-appropriate sections:

- **Beavers:** Ages 6–8
- **Cubs:** Ages 8–10½
- **Scouts:** Ages 10½–14
- **Explorers:** Ages 14–18

We meet at **Kinellar Community Centre on Wednesdays, from 5.00pm until 9.30pm during term time**. Each section meets at a different time during the evening.

Could you help?

We are also always happy to welcome adults aged 18 and over who would like to get involved. Whether you have lots of time or just a little, there are opportunities to become a leader, helper or supporter. Our adult volunteering roles and sections are fully open to everyone, and we welcome people of all genders and faiths. If you are new to the village, or simply interested in finding out more, come along to the hall on a Wednesday evening and say hello. We would be delighted to meet you and answer any questions. We look forward to welcoming you to Blackburn Scouts!

Kinellar Explorers – Adventure, Skills and New Experiences for 14–18-Year-Olds

Are you aged 14 to 18 and looking for something different to do? Kinellar Explorers is welcoming young people from across the local community to come along, try new things, learn new skills and have some great experiences along the way. Explorer Scouts are the fourth section of the Scouts movement, for young people aged 14 to 18. Unlike younger sections, Explorers are encouraged to have a real say in what they do. Young people can help shape their programme, choosing activities and challenges that interest them and developing skills that will be useful both now and in the future. There is a huge range of opportunities available. From adventurous activities and outdoor challenges to community projects, practical life skills and trying something completely new, Explorers is all about doing more, learning more and making memories. The new Explorer Programme has been designed around young people and gives them the freedom to customise their experience. There are new and familiar Activity Badges, Challenge Awards and Top Awards to work towards, while sessions can be shaped around the interests and ideas of the young people themselves. Whether you want to challenge yourself, learn a practical skill, get outdoors, meet new people, contribute to the local community or simply try something you've never done before, there is plenty to get involved with.

A new night and new opportunities. Kinellar Explorers has also moved to a new meeting night and venue. We now meet at **Kinellar Community Centre on Wednesdays, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm**. We are open to **all young people aged 14 to 18**, and you don't need to have been involved in Scouts before. Whether you are completely new to Scouting or have moved up from another section, you will be made very welcome. So, if you're aged 14–18 and fancy trying something new, why not come along and see what Explorer Scouts is all about?

Kinellar Explorers – try more, see more, do more.

SAVE THE DATE! - Scout Jumble Sale

Saturday 30th January 2027

Come along and grab yourself a bargain while supporting our local Scouts! More details to follow.

Blackburn Youth Football Club was founded in 2010 by a group of dads who created a soccer sevens team to take part in school friendlies. From there the club grew into what we have today, with over 200 children taking part in grassroots development football to competitive ADJFA leagues. We currently cover age ranges from 2010 to 2020. Each year the club is growing whilst trying to keep the community at the heart of the club.

It is a completely voluntary organisation drawing on the support of the local community and businesses. We recently said thank you and goodbye to Chris Fraser who had been the Club Chair for five years and welcomed our new Chair Kevin Mather. Kevin said "*I'm excited to step in as the new Chairman of BYFC. There's a real buzz around the club right now, and I'm ready to get stuck in and help drive things forward. A massive thank you to Chris and the whole team for the hard work they've already put in - they've built a solid base, and I'm proud to carry that momentum on. And let's be honest - it's the kids who make this club what it is. Their passion and energy are the heartbeat of BYFC. We should, and are, proud to support them, proud to back every team across the club, and proud of the direction we're heading.*"

We rely on local businesses to sponsor our teams so we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them. We also rely on the support of our community, having recently launched our Supports Draw, where anyone can join to be in with a chance of winning the prize pot. This helps with the costs of running the club, from the facility lets, to buying more footballs, to ensuring our coaches are properly SYFA trained. Please scan the QR code for more information.

BYFC train and play at local facilities, including the local pitch in the heart of the village. We are currently working with the Council to get the pavilion back into operation for the community. For this we will undoubtedly need the help of the wider Kinellar community. We want the club to feel even more connected to the community, and local supporters and spectators are always welcome at matches, especially when teams play at the pitch in Blackburn.
The 2025-26 season was a great season for BYFC, with our 2013s team winning their League, and our 2010s team making it to their League Cup Final. The new season has just started, and we are excited for what we may achieve. Afterall, our motto is 'Believe to Achieve'. If you would like to support our community club in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact our Club Secretary via secretary.blackburnfc@gmail.com, or join our Facebook page for all the current happenings in the club and any events we may be holding.

Rotary Club of Kintore Blackburn and Kemnay

We started summer off with the **Kintore Summer Festival**. We were then involved with the **KidsOut Aberdeen annual event** held this year for the first time at Bogenraith Equestrian Centre in Durris, where children with disabilities and their carers from schools around Aberdeenshire are given a real break and a lot of fun.
We then took part in **the Final of the Rotary Gavel Challenge**, where rival clubs from our District compete against each other. Our Club progressed to the Final and we won handsomely.
Our **annual Golf tournament** was held at Kintore Golf Club. We invite local businesses and individuals to take a team of four players to compete in a Texas Scramble format. The proceeds from the golf day goes towards our activities in the local area. If you are interested in joining our mail list for this annual event please use the email address below.
Each year Rotary organises our **RYLA summer camp**, where Clubs sponsor youngsters (older teenagers) to spend a week at the Nethybridge Outdoor Centre, taking part in tasks which encourage teamwork and leadership. We just managed to avoid the disruption caused by the nearby wildfire.
Throughout the year, Rotary have competitions that youngsters of all ages can take part in. This year we had local youngsters competing in the **Young Writer**, **Young Photographer**, and **Young Artist competitions**. Local winners can progress to Scottish Finals, and then UK Finals. This year we had successes in the Scottish Finals, with all competitors receiving a Certificate of Participation as a minimum, and in two cases financial prizes, so well done to all of them. Local Primary Schools take part in the **Rotary Primary School's Quiz**. Each school has a team of four P7 pupils, and a reserve, competing against other local schools. The winning team goes to the Area Final, then the District Final held at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen in June.
Also in June, we were represented at the **Kinellar Gala**, providing information about Rotary and selling raffle tickets for a Christmas Eve prize draw, the prize being a new car. This raffle is an annual event, raising over £88,000 so far being donated to Charlie House and other charities over the years.
At the end of August, we had a stall at the **Kintore Street Party**, followed by our **Annual Duck Race**. The weeds had taken over the local burns, so we ran a Virtual Duck Race instead.
Throughout the year, we maintain the **public access defibrillators located in the village**. The three in Blackburn are on the front wall of Blackburn Pharmacy, on the wall of the Community Centre by the Fintray Road, and on the wall of Kinghorn Bodyshop in the Industrial Estate. The pads that adhere to the patient's chest have to be replaced if used or when they reach

their use by date. Each defibrillator has a battery pack to provide the resuscitation shock. They eventually run out of power even if not used. These components are expensive so funds must be raised to replace them. Our sincere thanks go out to those who support us with this, especially those who helped with the recent replacement of one of the defibrillators that had become faulty due to the corrosion of the cabinet. People ask why the cabinets are locked, there are 2 reasons. One is to protect against damage or loss of the equipment. But, more importantly, the access code is obtained by calling the Ambulance Service on 999, which means the Service is aware of the emergency and can despatch an ambulance immediately as these calls are prioritised. The Ambulance Service then advises us immediately, as Guardians, that the Defibrillator has been accessed and requires attention. It is taken out of service until we have replenished and checked before it is made available in full working order for any subsequent incident. Can you imagine taking a Defibrillator to help a patient that is in danger of dying only to find out that it cannot be used. For more information on what we do, contact us at: kbk.rotary@gmail.com. - *Steve Wright*

BLACKBURN AND KINELLAR MEN'S SHED

There's plenty been happening at Blackburn and Kinellar Men's Shed these past few months, with visits, exciting upcycling projects, generous donations and some fine improvements to our workshop.

A team of Shedders took a table at the Kinellar Gala held at the Community Hall in June where we hope we have attracted potential new members.

Before

After

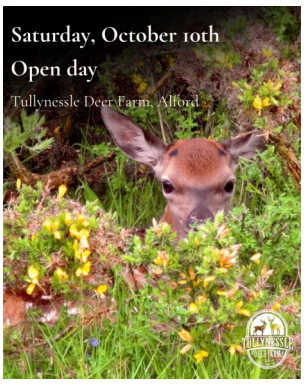
In July we were delighted to welcome a visit from Brian McWilliam, the recently appointed East Coast Development Officer for the Scottish Men's Shed's Association (SMSA). Brian spent the morning with us discussing a wide range of Shed-related topics and opportunities for the future, one idea being a Men's Health Roadshow, which would cover a range of health and wellbeing topics particularly relevant to "men of a certain age". It is likely to be an evening event open to all men in Blackburn and area, not just existing Shed members. Keep an eye on the Blackburn Shed and other local Facebook pages for details. We received three pieces of furniture for upcycling from the Salvation Army for resale through their Auchmill Road shop. There's an extending dining table, a vintage sideboard and a sturdy chest of drawers, all well-made. See photos on our website. After renovations the items will be returned for re-sale through the Salvation Army shop – and the Shed will get half of the sale proceeds. We will then see how it compares to the outlay for materials required to do the work. One of our members has also been working on a personal project refurbishing his grandson's mud kitchen and we're all now keenly waiting to be invited for a fine muddy meal!

The Shed has also built up a substantial range of donated garden equipment that can be refurbished and offered to the community for a suitable donation to Shed funds. Repaired if needed, cleaned, tested – and PAT tested if cable powered – we have mowers, strimmers large and small, leaf blowers, pressure washer and a chainsaw. Anyone who enjoys a bit of cleaning, repairing or tinkering is welcome to get involved. These items may be offered up on our website soon and on appropriate social media pages, but if your piece of vital gardening kit has just given up the ghost, don't go spending a lot of money on a new one, come to the Shed and see what's available for a donation to our funds.

Good news for our digitally minded Shedders: Wi-Fi is now available in the Shed and a dedicated guest network set up, allowing members to browse the internet using the Shed's laptops or their own devices – another useful addition to our growing facilities. And the workshop now boasts a comfortable social corner, giving members a warm and welcoming place to sit, chat and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a piece! Whether you're working on a project or simply dropping in for company and conversation, there's now an even better space to relax and catch up with fellow Shedders.

The Shed continues to grow thanks to the enthusiasm of our members, support from local organisations and the generosity of our community. Present opening times are Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10 am – 12 noon and on Wednesday evenings from 7 –9 pm. New members are always welcome whether you're keen to get involved, curious to see what we do or just looking for a cuppa and a blether. To find out more, visit our website https://bkmshed.org, email us on info@bkmshed.org or find us on Facebook at Blackburn and Kinellar Men's Shed.

Tullynessle Deer Farm October marks the rut, the breeding season for red deer. In the lead-up, male stags compete for dominance and their chosen harem of hinds for breeding. Shorter daylight hours trigger the hinds to come into heat, also known as oestrus, bringing them into season for only around 18 hours every three weeks. This short window is vital as the hinds move into gestation. For us, this is the most exciting time to visit the farm. The stags are with the hinds, the calves are a little older, and everything feels calm, apart from the stags, who seem to be competing with our 3 lambs on holiday in our fields, bleating together to form a wonderful orchestral noise for the neighbours. With wild stags calling from the distant hills and ours answering back to defend their territory, there is never a dull moment on this farm, and we wouldn't change that for anything. With the old grey hides replaced by a warm red velvet reflecting the summer sun, there is no better time to make the trip out to the farm. Our **next Open Day is on Sunday 11th October**, when we plan to open our doors to as many of the community as possible during the most active time for deer all year. Come along to see the calves running, hear the stags calling and learn more about Scotland's iconic red deer and their seasonal life cycle. This will also be our last Open Day of the year, so get in touch to book your visit and come and experience the farm during the rut. Fancy trying some of our venison, or perhaps our new range of venison products such as kebabs? We are happy to offer a monthly delivery to Blackburn. Get in touch to book at https://tullynessledeerfarm.co.uk/.



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. Phone 01224 790861, check website or Facebook.

Monday: 8.30-10pm, Tuesday: 8.30-9.30, Wednesday 8.30-9.30, Thursday 8.30-9.30, Friday 8.30-8.30 Saturday 8.30-12.30, times may be different during school holidays

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

Monday: Barbells 10.00-10.45 HIIT Step/Zumba alternate weeks 10.50-11.35
Friday: Circuits 10.00-10.45 Core 10.50-11.35
Saturday: Yoga 9.00-10.00

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

Bodypump: Tues 6.00-6.45pm Wed 7.00-7.45pm (Bodypump Heavy)
Core: Tues 6.55 -7.25pm
Bodycombat: Wed 6.00-6.45pm
Bodybalance Wed 8.00-8.45pm

Gears Boxing Academy: Tuesday 7.15-9.15pm, Thursday 5.30pm-7.30pm
Email: Gearsboxingacademy@gmail.com

Pilates and Physio by Helen: Monday 9.15am-10.05am All Abilities Mat Pilates, 10.15am-11.05am Foundations Mat Pilates, Email helenwillisphysiotherapy@outlook.com or Phone 07763767312 for more information.

Girlguiding: Rainbows for girls aged 4 to 7. Mondays 4.30-5.30pm

Barre: Monday 6.30-7.30pm contact Emma on 07989995119

Guitar jam sessions:- Mondays at 7-30 until 10 - All welcome

Blackburn Indoor Bowling Club: Monday evenings, from 7:15pm till 9:15pm, September to April. Beginners welcome, instruction given. Contact: Steve Wright – Secretary, 07584 170507

Kinellar SWI: First Monday of every month at 7.45pm-10pm, September to May. Contact Irene Pace 01224 790735

Wado Ryu Karate club times: Mondays
Kids 10+ and Adults 6.30-8.00pm 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: Mondays and Wednesdays, NB Wednesdays at Fintray Hall
Monday 5.15-5.45 adult class A, 5.50-6.20 adult class B
Wednesday FINTRAY HALL at 6.00-6.30 adult class D)
Here are the contact details for enquiries re children's class places:makeyourmove85@gmail.com, phone 07718882382, Facebook @mymheart, Instagram @mym85. Regular classes running through summer. Keep eye on my socials for family dance sessions.

Pilates: Emma Duncan Tuesday 6-7pm, Booking essential, phone 07989995119

Beacon/Kinellar Basketball: Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm and 4.30-5.30pm(Girls only) beacon.kinellar@yahoo.com

Splat Messy Play classes – stopped for now due to maternity leave, Keep an eye on Facebook or Instagram next year for return date.
Contact: melissa@splatmessyplay.co.uk Facebook: Splat Messy Play Aberdeen & Shire Instagram: splataberdeen

Kinellar Kuppa: 9.30-11.30am on the 1st Wednesday of each month: 7th Oct, 4th Nov, 2nd Dec. Adults £3.50, Children 50p. Why not drop in for tea, coffee and a cake. Refills are free. Everyone welcome. **ALL PROCEEDS TO HALL FUNDS: a simple way to support your village and get to know people. Working from home? Come in your morning break to have someone to chat to.**

Danz Creations: Wednesday afternoons: 07733 222852 danzcreations@btinternet.com
3.25-4.25pm - preschool
4.30-5.00pm - highland (from age 4 years & P1 & P2) 5.00-5.30pm - tap (P1 & P2)
5.30-6.00pm - ballet (P1 & P2) 6.00-6.30pm - highland (P3+)
6.30-7.00pm - tap (P3+) 7.00-7.30pm - ballet (P3+)

1st Kinellar Scout Group: Wednesdays
Beavers (6-8ys) 5-6pm, kinellarbeavers@gmail.com Scouts (10 ½ - 14yrs) 7.30pm-9.30pm, kinellarscouts@gmail.com Cubs (8-10 1/2yrs) 6pm-7.30pm, kinellarcubs@gmail.com Explorers (14-18yrs) 7.30-9.30pm kinellaresu@gmail.com

Blackburn and Kinellar Community Council: Please follow us on Facebook to keep yourself up to date with things happening in and around our village. 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm. email us on blackburnkinellarcc@gmail.com.

60plus exercise and wellbeing class Every Thursday 1pm. Free of charge, seated light exercise, teas and coffees provided afterwards.

Peterhead Fish Company: every Thursday from 1.00pm-1.30pm. In the KCC car park. Keep an eye on Facebook in case of changes.

Kinellar Badminton Group: every Thursday from 7.45pm to 9.15 pm and Friday 7.00-8.30pm all year round

PizzaBox: Pop ups in the KCC car park. Keep an eye on Facebook for updates.

Kinellar Toddlers: Kinellar Baby and Toddler group meets on Fridays, term time only, 9.30 -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.

Team Wilson Football: Fridays from 2.15-3pm for 2--5yr olds, 3.30-4.30 for P1-P2 and 4.30-5.30 for P3-P5. teamwilsonfc@gmail.com . See Facebook or email us for full details.

Shine Trampolining: Thursday 5-6pm,6-7pm, 7-8pm adult only. Friday:5-6pm, 6-7pm and 7-8pm, ASN class 4-5pm, Sunday 12-5pm. Contact shinetrampoline@hotmail.com or whatsapp: 07746096068

Saltire Kick Boxing: Saturday 9.00-11.00am. Classes for 3-6yrs, 7-9yrs and ladies only throughout morning. Check Hall Facebook, or phone

THE FOLLOWING GROUPS ARE NOT IN THE HALL

Girlguiding: Brownies for girls aged 7 to 10. Tuesdays 6.00-7.30pm at Kinellar Primary School

Blackburn and Kinellar Men's Shed: Tues and Fri mornings 10:00am-12:00pm and Weds evening 7:00-9:00pm at H&R House, Woodburn Road. Visit https://bkmshed.org or email at info@bkmshed.org

Blackburn Football Youth Club Training for age groups **2009-2020** take place at various football pitches in the local area with regular matches played on **Saturdays & Sundays.** Contact secretary.blackburnfc@gmail.com 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, join us or help out.

FintrayKinellarKeithall 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

Kintore Library

Tues 9-13.30, Wed 14.00-18.00, Thur 13.00-17.00 and Sat 9-11.30. For further information about our full range of services, including outreach activities, please visit the website livelifeaberdeenshire/libraries or contact us direct on 01467 532605 or kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. Let us know if you would like us to visit your group or if you would like books but are unable to travel to the library. Please like our Facebook page Kintore Library and/or Aberdeenshire Library and Information Services

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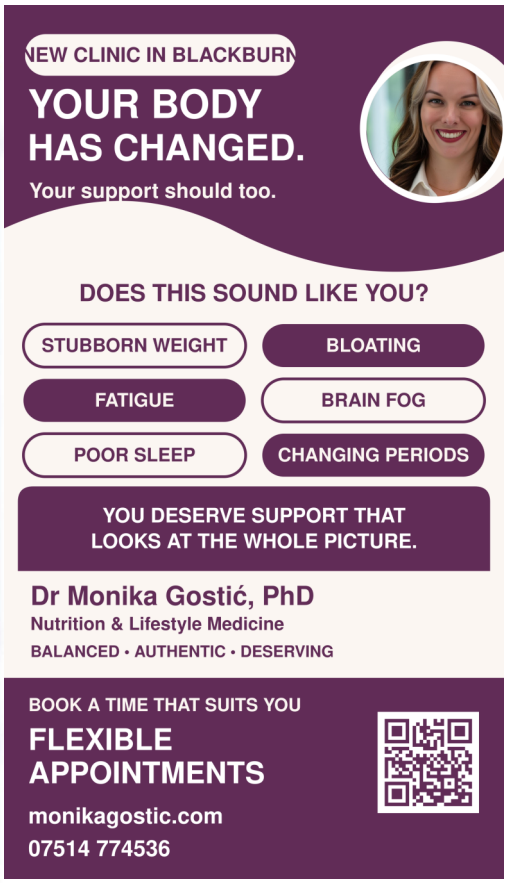
Cllr. Jim Gifford, Vice Chair Sustainability & Garioch Area Committees, 07810 030774. cllr.j.gifford@aberdeenshire.gov.uk Independent
Cllr. Trevor Mason cllr.t.mason@aberdeenshire.gov.uk Scottish Lib Dems
Cllr. Dominic Lonchay cllr.d.lonchay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk Reform UK
Cllr. Glen Reid cllr.g.reid@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, 07712 045331 SNP - Upcoming surgery dates for Cllr Reid are as follows: 3rd November 2026 at Hatton of Fintray Village Hall, 6-6.30pm, 2nd February 2027 at Kintore School, Link Room 3, 5.45-6.15pm, and 13th April 2027at Kinellar Primary School, 6.30-7.00pm.



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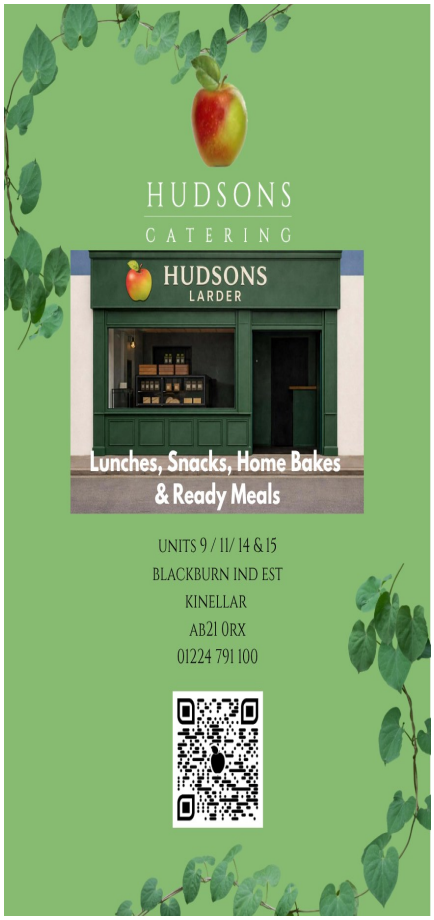

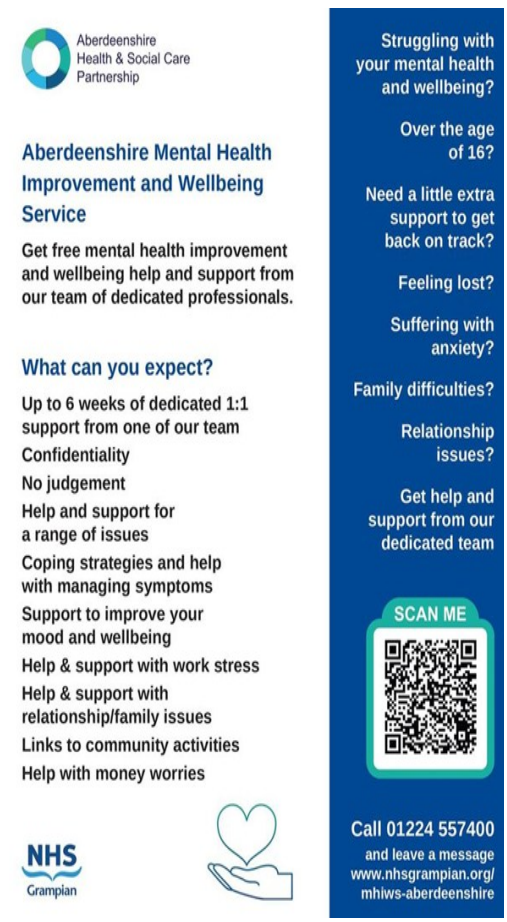

Answer from Where Am I? Looking towards the village from Caskieben Road (between The Sycamores and Begsdell).

Answers to Christmas Traditions quiz, from top to bottom*: Germany, Iceland, Poland, Spain, Italy, Finland.*

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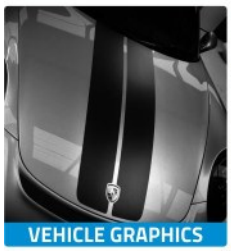
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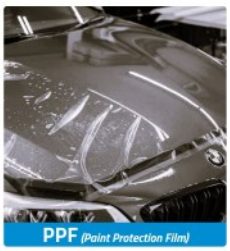
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