

# Blackie Banter

Issue 54

June - September 2026

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[www.kinellarcommunity.com](http://www.kinellarcommunity.com)

Printer: Thomson Partnership

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](http://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](http://www.kemnayhall.co.uk).

Hello again everyone, I wonder if this summer will be as warm as last year. Ideally, we'll get rain at night to soak the ground then sun all day to keep us all in a good mood and mentally strong. We have a few articles with a mental health focus this time round. This got us thinking about what we have here in Blackburn to help support our own mental health.

First and foremost, we are surrounded by nature, with woods and fields on our doorstep. Secondly, we have Kinellar Community Centre whose main focus is to provide space for people to meet up. It hosts many groups which cover all ages and have a community, sport or fitness theme to them. No one in our area needs to feel alone, if you do, please come along to Kinellar Kuppa or the free over 60's class. Do you play guitar? The Guitar Group would love to meet you. Have a look at the many groups and classes listed in the information page. A few things have changed on the info page so check that your group is still at the same time if it's a while since you went. The Bowling Club for instance now meet on a Monday evening instead of a Tuesday, the beginning of a new era for them. Finally, we need to thank our new printer, Thomson Partnership, for their support in enabling us to use colour again and spread out to 12 pages from the usual 8. Bye for now, Jackie

## **SAMH: Free, walk-in mental health and wellbeing support is on its way**

Aberdeenshire locals from Blackburn and further afield will soon be able to access free mental health and wellbeing support courtesy of a [new walk-in hub from SAMH](#) (Scottish Action for Mental Health). The Nook, based in Marischal Square, Aberdeen, will open this summer, offering stigma-free support, seven days a week.

Set in a colourful, cosy and open-plan space, The Nook is designed to feel like home. A kitchen table replaces a reception desk, confidential chats take place in snugs and family rooms instead of consultation booths, and visitors can relax in the library rather than waiting rooms.

It doesn't matter where you live or what you'd like to talk about: anyone will be welcome through the door to chat with our friendly, qualified team, or to sit and relax with a cuppa if they aren't quite ready to chat just yet.

This will be the second of five planned Nooks from SAMH, creating Scotland's first national network of walk-in mental health and wellbeing support hubs.

SAMH's first Nook, in Glasgow, opened its doors at the end of October last year and welcome more than 3,000 visitors through its doors within six months.

In response to the question 'what was the best thing about The Nook', here's what just a few of our visitors to The Nook in Glasgow had to say:

These messages sum up what makes The Nook so different: it is accessible, friendly, colourful, person-centred and non-clinical. A welcoming space for anyone to come and seek support.



*"Feeling listened to and seen. Being validated for what I'm going through and encouragement for a brighter future."*

*"I felt welcome, comfortable, a mental health and wellbeing practitioner listened to me and didn't look down on me and anybody that came in wasn't judged. I felt at home in The Nook. That's why I was able to open up - but I haven't in the past in other counselling environments. I love the colours - it brightens my day."*

*"Just being able to speak to a professional at the point of need is so valuable. No waiting, no referrals, no condition, the immediate support and compassion is so appreciated."*

SAMH has a long history of supporting people in the North East. Over the past 30 years, we have supported thousands of people — from school pupils and families to adults experiencing mental health problems. But The Nook is our most ambitious project yet, offering free mental health support to anyone who walks through the door, without the need for appointments, referrals, or waiting lists.

The Nook currently receives no public funding and is supported by SAMH's first ever major fundraising appeal. We can only achieve our ambitions with support from the public. Please consider supporting us if you can by [visiting samh.org.uk](http://visiting.samh.org.uk) and help us support more people across the North East. - Hazel McIlwraith is Director of Fundraising and Major Appeal at SAMH

## THE MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND WELLBEING SERVICE

The Mental Health Improvement and Wellbeing Service was established in February 2022. It supports people in taking control of their physical and mental health and wellbeing. The service is open to anyone aged 16 or over who is willing, able and motivated to make positive changes in their life.

The service uses a person-centred approach, working with you to identify ways to improve your well-being and connect you with other sources of support. This approach focuses on your individual needs, preferences and priorities.

You can refer yourself to the service, and the referral form can be accessed through the Aberdeenshire Council Website or here: [Mental Health Improvement and Wellbeing Service - Self Referral Form – Fill in form](#).

This service is commissioned, funded, and provided by Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

- Monica Wilton, MHIWS Link Coordinator

## GRANITE HEART – EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH GIVING BACK



Granite Heart's mission is to foster a culture of giving and community empowerment in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Through our retail charity shops, we collect donated goods from generous individuals and sell them to raise funds. These funds are then distributed as grants to local charities, organisations, and communities in need. Our aim is to make a positive impact by providing vital support to those who are working tirelessly to improve the lives of others.

Volunteering Opportunities: We are fortunate enough to have a storage facility in Blackburn, where much of our donated stock is processed, in order to keep up with the demand in our charity shops. We are always looking to expand our wonderful team of volunteers – whether you're looking to build your CV, meet new people, or keep yourself busy for a few hours a week, get in touch with us to find out more information on how you can give back to your local community. No experience is required as full training is provided, as well as tea, coffee & a fine piece!

For more information on volunteering positions and our grant giving work, visit [graniteheart.org](http://graniteheart.org) or get in touch via email [contact@graniteheart.org](mailto:contact@graniteheart.org).

## BLACKBURN MEMORIES - this was first printed in our 2nd issue, summer 2012

Ask any long-standing local resident their memories of Blackburn and they brim with nostalgia and fondness.

Gordon Barron is no exception. Born in the village in 1939, Gordon attended Kinellar School which then had four classrooms, four teachers and a gym. After school he would play football or go fishing in the burn. It used to be full of trout. However, with heavy rain the burn would overflow so a group of local farmers dug the burn deeper. For this the trout had to be removed with nets but, unfortunately, never were replaced as planned.

When the swings were first installed in the early 1950's they were a novelty for children with queues forming to have a go!

As he was growing up, Gordon's grandfather was a shoemaker and had a shop opposite the pub. In 1950 his Dad took over the shop which mainly sold school gym shoes then later sweets – remember lucky tatties? At this time there also used to be a Blacksmith, Tailors, a Dressmaker (who worked from home) and a petrol pump – which had to be cranked round for a gallon.

He also recalls dances held at the old Leys Hall where local bands played, such as the Melody Makers.

Thank you to Gordon Barron for sharing his memories with us.

We welcome many more stories and memories you may have, especially photographs we may be able to use and display. We hope, in years to come, our current community will be able to look back with the same fondness on our village life – such as our new Community Hall, the re-launched Gala, Hogmanay nights, Clubs, activities and enterprises. - Article written by Kelly Williamson (now Kelly Vine-Jones).

If you'd like to see some memories of Blackburn, check out the Blackburn Village History Book on Facebook. Alan Cumming, who grew up here, set it up to preserve photos and memories for us all to add to.

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## **BLACKBURN AND KINELLAR MEN'S SHED**

Quite a lot has been happening at our Men's Shed since we last appeared in these pages, perhaps the most significant being getting access to our workshop and meeting space thanks to H&R Insurance letting the upper floor of their office block in Woodburn Road in the Business Park to the Shed. Securing this space meant we could fulfil our aim to provide a friendly, inclusive space where members can socialise and work on projects that benefit both themselves and the wider community.

Further generous local support was provided by engineering and fabrication company H&F Moir Engineering who not only made a financial contribution to help our start-up efforts, but provided a range of Hi-Vis vests to ensure Shed members can work safely while engaged in outdoor activities such as our ongoing grounds maintenance around the Community Hall or litter picking. Funding has also been received from Aberdeenshire Council's Garioch Area Small Grants Scheme and the Rotary Club of Kintore, Blackburn and Kemnay through their Funds4U programme, for which our members are extremely grateful.

A major financial boost came through in March when we were awarded a substantial grant from the National Lottery's Awards for All, Scotland programme. This funding marked a major step forward for our Shed ensuring we could continue creating a vibrant, welcoming space where local men can gather, make new friends and support one another.

For this is essentially what Men's Sheds are all about, providing a community-based, non-profit, non-commercial and inclusive space where men - mostly retired or those with spare time - gather to work on projects, socialise, and improve their health and wellbeing. The Shed's core ethos focuses on reducing loneliness and fostering camaraderie through practical activities, "shoulder-to-shoulder" interaction, and voluntary engagement.

Sheds undoubtedly help improve men's mental health and wellbeing by combating isolation and giving men a sense of purpose and community by providing a safe, supportive space for men of all backgrounds to share skills, learn new ones and, if needed, discuss any personal concerns in a comfortable, non-threatening setting.

While we are still waiting for Aberdeenshire Council to grant change of use on the premises, Shed members have not been idle. First task was to acquire and lay suitable flooring on the bare concrete floor as well as carrying out some essential works required to meet new fire regulations. This was followed by converting a range of metal desks we inherited with the lease into workbenches for woodworking or crafting activities and positioning some purchased and donated tools and workshop equipment.

Our most recent acquisition is a laser engraver and dedicated laptop which - provided we get ourselves trained up in time - will allow us to show some samples of coasters or etched tiles when the Shed takes part in the Kinellar Gala on Saturday, June 13.

While all this has kept us busy, shedders have also found time to exercise their horticultural skills by helping residents of Fechnie Brae sheltered housing tidy up a weed filled garden plot so that it could be replanted with some colourful spring plants. We also moved some of their garden furniture around and helped assemble a newly acquired patio set so that residents can enjoy being outside in the fresh air - weather permitting. More recently we kept our commitment to help at the Community Hall by cutting the grass in the garden area.

The Shed is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10 am - 12 noon and on a Wednesday evening from 7 - 9 pm. New members are always welcome, whether you're keen to get involved or just curious to see what we do.



To find out more, visit our website <https://bkmsshed.org>, email us on [info@bkmsshed.org](mailto:info@bkmsshed.org) or find us on Facebook by searching **Blackburn and Kinellar Men's Shed**.

**To advertise in the Blackie Banter please contact us on: [blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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.**

## **Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council Update**

The arrival of spring and summer always brings colour and character to Blackburn and Kinellar, with gardens, planters, and outdoor spaces helping to brighten our area and bring neighbours together. This year, we are excited to celebrate that community pride through the launch of the inaugural Blackburn and Kinellar Garden Competition!

We are also looking forward to having a stall at this year's Kinellar Gala on Saturday 13 June 2026. Please do come along to speak with us, share your ideas for the local area, and ask us any questions about the Garden Competition. There will also be activities for all ages including seed potting for children; a free plant and cutting exchange (bring along any spare plants or cuttings and take home something new); and we will be fundraising to support the maintenance costs of the Public Access Defibrillators in Blackburn.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at Kinellar Community Centre, at 7.45 pm. At our May meeting we were thrilled to welcome 3 new members - Jackie Smith, Steve Witte & Karen Thomson. The remaining meeting dates before the summer break are 10 June and 8 July, and then we resume from 9 September 2026 onwards. We warmly welcome you to attend. Copies of the minutes from previous meetings are available on our webpage [www.kinellarcommunity.com/communitycouncil](http://www.kinellarcommunity.com/communitycouncil).

Whether you have ideas, concerns, or questions, you can get in touch with us at [blackburnkinellarcc@gmail.com](mailto:blackburnkinellarcc@gmail.com) or connect with us via our [Facebook page](#).

Emma, Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council

# Blackburn & Kinellar Garden Competition 2026

by Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council

**Got a garden that's blooming lovely,  
or know one that's the pick of the bunch?**

We are delighted to launch the **inaugural Blackburn & Kinellar Garden Competition**, celebrating the creativity, care and pride shown by residents and local businesses in our community.

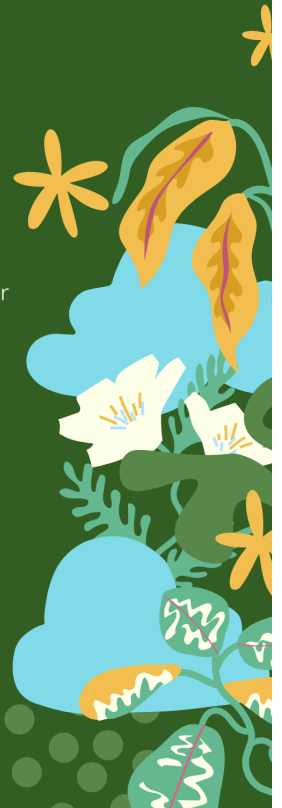
Gardens of all sizes and styles, and all budding gardeners, are welcome! You can enter one of three categories and impress our judges with your botanical brilliance:

- **Best Residential Garden**
- **Best Young Gardener's Garden**
- **Best Floral Display by a Local Business**

### How to Enter

The competition is open to all residents of Blackburn and Kinellar, and the deadline for entries is **10 July 2026**.

Scan the QR code to submit your entry online, or pick up a paper form from Kinellar Community Centre.



## **GIRLGUIDING**



**Rainbows:** We had 2 new starts this term and 4 girls received their Bronze Awards. This term we are doing a First Aid badge which includes learning about First Aid kit essentials, who to call in an emergency (and how to call them) and how to deal with bites. We are also having a visit from the RNLI to talk about water safety, doing a litter pick in the village, a craft for Father's Day, a water games meeting and a party to say goodbye to 4 girls who are moving up to Brownies.

**Brownies:** We were delighted to welcome three new Brownies after the Easter break—it's lovely to see our unit growing! We have an exciting term ahead, with activities such as trash fashion, a walk to Forest Farm, an awards ceremony, and a fantastic end-of-term party. We kicked off the term with a fun, girl-led pamper night. The Brownies took charge and planned the evening which started off with them arriving in their pyjamas and included them making face masks from natural, edible ingredients, enjoying some relaxation time, and creating their own smoothies. We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our volunteer Zoe, who will be leaving us at the end of this term. She will be greatly missed. As we say goodbye, we are also on the lookout for new volunteers—if you're interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you!

Later this month, the Rainbows and Brownies are attending a county-wide Friendship Fun Day in Inverurie. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity for the girls to meet girls from other units and make new friends.

Please visit our website at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) to register your interest as a helper and to register your daughter to join any Unit. - *Thanks, Sue & Mo*

*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 Feb, 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](mailto:blackie.banter@hotmail.co.uk). Photos are welcome. You must have the permission of anyone visible and image ownership before submission.*

**KINELLAR COMMUNITY CENTRE; owned by all of us, managed by a Board of Directors of volunteers**



At Kinellar Community Centre, we know how important community connection is for supporting positive mental health and wellbeing. Whether it's sharing a cup of tea at Kinellar Kuppa, joining an activity, or simply spending time with others, having a welcoming place to come together can make a real difference.

Our centre continues to be a hub for fun, support, and friendship for people of all ages across the community. One of the largest factors for poor mental health and stress at the moment is burn out and stress caused by a lack of community connection and lack of balance between work, family and personal connection. We are especially proud of the many activities that help reduce isolation, encourage social connection, and promote active minds and healthy lifestyles.

Our popular Over 60s Group continues to thrive, offering a friendly space where members can meet weekly and take part in sports such as pickleball and chair yoga. New faces are always welcomed warmly, and we encourage anyone looking for community spirit to come along and join in.

We are also looking for new members for our 2s Group, Kinellar Stars. This is a wonderful opportunity for young children to connect with others in a relaxed and supportive environment before starting nursery. This gives the children a chance to make friends and parents and carers an opportunity to meet before the school gates, starting strong bonds for all involved early.

Like many community organisations, the centre faces rising running costs each year, including heating, electricity, maintenance, insurance, and general upkeep of the building. As a charity-run facility, fundraising and volunteering are essential to helping us keep the centre open, welcoming, and affordable for everyone who uses it. Without this support, increasing costs would inevitably need to be passed on to the user groups who hire the centre, which in turn impacts the wider community. Every volunteer hour, raffle ticket bought, donation made, and event attended genuinely helps make a difference.

Which leads nicely to updates about the Gala. It is always one of the highlights of the year and our biggest fundraiser. The team has been working hard securing vendors, food trucks, bouncy fun and live music for the event this year. The Gala not only raises vital funds to help keep the centre running and support our activities, but it also brings the whole community together for a day of fun, laughter, and connection — all things that are so important for wellbeing and mental health.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**FOR THE KINELLAR GALA - SAT 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

We're looking for help with:

- set-up
- manning stalls and games
- logistics
- bar service
- first aid

*Thank you!*

**CAN YOU HELP FOR AN HOUR?**

Contact: [secretary@kinellarcommunity.com](mailto:secretary@kinellarcommunity.com),  
 reply to this message or pop into Reception.

We look forward to seeing you at the centre soon! - Board of Kinellar Community Centre



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**CLASS TIMETABLE**

**PHASE2FITNESS**

MON	TUES	WED
1210 FULL BODY TONE  430PM & 515PM BARS & BELLS  7PM FITNESS BOXING	930AM TRX  1210 FUNCTIONAL TRAINING  530PM CARDIO BLAST  615PM KETTLEBELLS	930AM FITNESS BOXING  1210 TRX & KETTLEBELLS  430PM FULL BODY TONE
THU	FRI	SAT
930AM CARDIO BLAST  1210 BARBELL TONE  615PM FUNCTIONAL TRAINING	930AM CIRCUIT TRAINING  1210 BARS & BELLS	945AM BARBELL TONE  1045AM FITNESS BOXING



Did you know the profits from the **Bailies of Bennachie** merchandise sold on our website (see 'shop') helps fund our projects and volunteer events? You can 'Help Your Hill' and promote us whether you can physically be on the hill or not. **Archaeological Dig 2026** runs in June (training) with the main dig July and August. Email us for more details. The topics of the **Wildlife / Environment** group events in June to August are medicinal plants, geology and bats. More will follow in the Autumn. 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](mailto:info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk).

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### **COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE - Dominic Lonchay**

By the time this article will have been published and read, the "MSPs at Holyrood" election will have been long forgotten; or maybe not, depending on the result(s) – God only knows what awaits us!

But don't worry, as another election is now in our sights – the Councillors' election which will take place in May 2027. For that one, I have only two recommendations. The first one is that everybody should make a real effort and go to vote: an election with a poor turn-out does not adequately represent the population at large, and only the fringe and extreme parties gain from it. And my second recommendation is easy: if you are happy with the way things are going, then by all means carry on voting the same way as before; if you are not happy, then clear your mind and look for change! No doubt all parties will come up with promises of "milk and honey" ... Well, we all know that and, in some way expect it, but sometimes the before and after story looks so different that one would welcome cast-iron legal guarantees that promises made during an election campaign should be promptly delivered! I would advise not to hold one's breath waiting for that to happen, though...

Now, for something closer to home: it has come to my colleagues' and my attention that parts of Blackburn are experiencing parking problems – with this in mind, my colleagues and I would like to encourage you all to consider where you park to avoid inconveniencing your friends and neighbours. You could also be risking a fine.

There is information on the Aberdeenshire Council website which explains the rules in a way that's easy to understand. Please see it copied and pasted below. The council cannot enforce the bye laws so reporting to the Police would be necessary if you require support with a problem relating to these.

#### **Where you can't park**

You must not park:

- On pavements including within cul-de-sacs
- More than 50cm from the kerb (double-parking)
- At dropped kerbs for pedestrian or cycle use, including:
  - At pedestrian crossings (puffin, toucan, or zebra)
  - Beside pedestrian islands
  - At the end of the street
  - Where tactile paving is located
  - Where a dropped kerb is directly opposite on the other side of the road

The ban applies to all roads or pavements accessible to the public, regardless of ownership, but not private driveways or paths serving a single property.

#### **Enforcement and penalties**

Drivers who commit an offence may get a £100 Penalty Charge Notice (reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days).

And now, "for something completely different...".

At last meeting of the Audit Committee, Aberdeenshire Council's Auditors stated that the Council is currently facing a huge funding shortfall over the immediate future, moreover specifically over the next 4 years – we are talking thereabout a whisker from £160M over 26/27 and 30/31! Which means that things which were taken for granted from the Council will / might have to be changed and/or even withdrawn... I will leave it to the current Administration to find a way out of this particularly serious situation. Suffice to say that the way things were done in the past is quickly running out of road!

That's All Folks! I wish you all a good summer.

## **Hudsons Larder**

Hudsons Catering, based at Units 14/15 in the Blackburn Industrial Estate, has long been a trusted name in outside catering, serving everything from private parties and weddings to corporate events. Alongside our event catering, we've also offered the local community a convenient spot for workday breakfasts and lunches. And now, we've grown again.

In February, **Hudsons Larder**, at Unit 9 Blackburn Ind Est, opened its doors, and it's been wonderfully busy ever since. It's been a joy welcoming so many of you in, sharing our shelves and fridges, and becoming part of your daily routines. We're open Monday to Friday from 9am–4pm, and Saturdays from 9am–2pm. You'll find breakfasts, hot specials, soup, salads, baked tatties, heat@at@home meals, confectionery, and drinks all ready to enjoy.

At the Larder, you can also learn more about our private party and celebration catering. We offer occasion afternoon teas and even host community events: like pop-up bookshops, so keep an eye on our socials to see what's coming up!

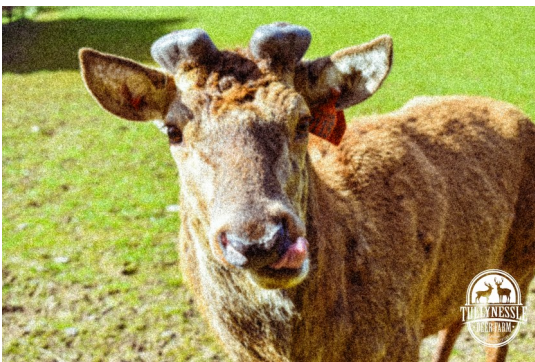
Thank you for all your support so far. We're excited for what's ahead and can't wait to welcome even more of you in the months to come. Feel free to get in touch on [enquiries@hudsonscatering.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hudsonscatering.co.uk) 01224 791 100 or on socials: @hudsonscatering to make an enquiry!



HUDSONS  
CATERING



UNITS 9 / 11/ 14 & 15  
BLACKBURN IND EST  
KINELLAR  
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01224 791 100



## **Tullynessle Deer Farm: From Rural Aberdeenshire to Your Table**

Sit upon a hill in the heart of rural Aberdeenshire, Tullynessle Deer Farm is a family-run business with a story that runs deeper than they first anticipated. They had discovered that Willie's own grandmother had been born in the house on the very same land. That family connection is not lost on them, as Willie and Janet raise their herd of red deer with a commitment to animal welfare, no antibiotics, and minimal intervention. That same dedication shapes the next generation too, with Willie and Janet raising their grandchildren with a chance for hands-on understanding of farm life and the importance of knowing where food comes from.

That history extends to the animals as well. Red deer are native to Scotland, having roamed Scotland for well over 10,000 years. Tullynessle continues that tradition with a modern and sustainable approach, producing venison that is 100% Scottish and fully traceable. With health increasingly at the forefront of food choices, venison continues to stand out as one of the healthier red meat options available, high in protein, low in saturated fat and cholesterol, and rich in iron.

Beyond this, the farm is fast becoming a tourist destination, with bookings coming in from across Europe and America, and open days featuring farm tours, traditional bagpipes, gundog demonstrations, antique road roller displays, and freshly grilled venison BBQ lunches. Janet and Willie ensure these events are more than entertainment, giving in-depth talks covering both the business and animal welfare. These events enable young people, families, and students to get outdoors and reconnect with Scottish land and heritage. Their mission remains the same: to champion a Scottish product and an industry that deserves greater recognition.

## **FINTRAY, KINELLAR, KEITHHALL CHURCH**

Here is an update on the Fintray, Kinellar, Keithhall church where everything is fine. The church is doing well and is growing with new people coming along and looking to join the church. We had a well-attended Lent Study Group which helped all to prepare for Easter. We held our three services in Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We shared communion on the Thursday and Sunday which was lovely and the church looked beautiful as it had been decorated with flowers and symbols of Easter by one of our Session members. The church certainly came alive and made Easter very special.

On September 12<sup>th</sup> we are holding a Candlelit Supper in the Village Hall in Fintray, and we will be selling tickets later once all the arrangements have been made. We held one two years ago and it was a great success and enjoyed by all who came to it.

The church meets every Sunday at 11am, and we always look forward to giving a great welcome to all who come and after the service there is tea and biscuits, and the chatter and laughter is a joy to behold. The church is there for all so if you have a free Sunday and would like to join us, please feel free to do so and you will be made very welcome. Fintray, Kinellar, Keithhall Church is thriving and it is because we have so many dedicated to coming along Sunday by Sunday and sharing time together with all those there. - Blessings to you all from me, Sheila Craggs, Interim Moderator

**Kintore Community Church** has been meeting for nearly ten years, and has now moved into our permanent home at 16 Forest Road, Kintore. It doesn't obviously look like a church - no steeple or large wooden doors that fit traditional perceptions of what a "church" looks like. Our hope from day one has been to become a permanent part of the community, and we have had folks join us from Kintore, Blackburn, Kemnay and further afield. For more information see Kintore Konnect, details of how are in the header of every Blackie Banter, see top of front page.

School Edition

Aberdeenshire



# Kinellar News



What is going on in Kinellar school



## **Brilliant bodies! By the Kinellar Bloggers**

Every term the whole school gets an IDL subject, and this term it is Brilliant Bodies! Every class has been doing different fun games or cool experiments to do with our bodies. Some classes also learned about their brains! There was an assembly on the 17th of April, and four special visitors came whose jobs all had something to do with the subject of Brilliant Bodies - for example a midwife, a skin person and a nurse. Thank you for coming out here and showing us what you do!

To explore the senses, we took part in activities. For touch, we had to find out what object is in the bag. For smell, we had to smell 4 different things and figure out what scent it was. For taste, we drank 3 flavours of water and had to think of what flavour it was.

And there was more! You can ask your child what else we did together. Thanks you for reading this. Have a nice day!

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We at the Rotary Club of Kintore, Blackburn and Kemnay have been busy over the past few months on various projects and preparing for upcoming events.

Each year we organise several competitions for youth, including Young Musician, Artist, Photographer, Writer, Chef and Environmentalist.

This year we have entrants that finished in the top three in two of the above competitions in our District (the whole of the North of Scotland), namely Writer and Photographer. Congratulations to both, pupils at Kemnay Academy.

In addition, the Club Round of the Primary Schools Quiz was held at Kintore Primary School on 26 th March, and Kintore repeated their success of the last couple of years and will progress to the Area Final on 16th May at Meldrum Academy. We wish them the best of luck, and hope for a repeat of last year when they progressed to the District Final at Aberdeen Beach Ballroom.

We have also completed our annual Funds 4 U programme, with approved grants for the purchase of equipment by local organisations to 17 applicants around our villages, including 1 st Kinellar Scout Group and Blackburn and Kinellar Man's Shed.

Events coming up in the immediate future are the annual Rotary Duck Race, which will be a virtual race again this year due to the condition of the burns.

For further information on what we do please contact us at:

[kbk.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:kbk.rotary@gmail.com).

### 1st KINELLAR SCOUT GROUP UPDATE

Our dedicated volunteers are already hard at work planning an exciting programme of activities for the coming term. However, due to recent changes in Scotland, we are facing some limitations. Without more volunteers signing up to our PVG scheme, we will unfortunately be more restricted in the range of activities we can offer—particularly those outdoors.

We would like to say a big thank you to the parents who have already stepped forward to help. Your support makes a real difference. That said, we would still warmly welcome more volunteers to ensure we can continue to provide the best possible experiences for our young people.

### 📍 AGM – We Need Your Support!

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up soon, and we are actively looking for new team members to help keep our group running and thriving. We are currently seeking a **Secretary, Chairperson**, and ideally new **Beaver, Cub and Scout leaders**.

Without support in these roles, we may struggle to continue delivering the full programme our young people enjoy. If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is the perfect time. No prior experience is needed—just enthusiasm and a willingness to help. Please consider coming along or getting in touch to find out more.

### 👦 Cubs – New Members Welcome!

We are currently looking for new young people to join our **Cubs section**, as numbers are a little low at the moment. If your child enjoys fun, friendship and adventure, Cubs is a fantastic place to build confidence and try new things.

We meet **every Wednesday during term time, 6:00pm – 7:30pm at the hall**. If you're interested or would like to find out more, please get in touch—we'd love to welcome some new faces!

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Tracy Poojary (STATs) and Gareth Tweddle (TotalEnergies) for successfully applying for charity donations on our behalf. Thanks to their efforts, we have been awarded funding to purchase lightweight hiking tents for our Explorers as they prepare to undertake their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition. This support will make a real difference to their experience and opportunities.

Looking ahead, the Scout section has a thrilling "Traitors"-style camp planned for May. Scouts will take part in missions, gather around the round table for discussions, and vote to banish suspected traitors—while the traitors themselves strike under the cover of night. It promises to be an action-packed and memorable adventure!

Meanwhile, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers will all be coming together for a joint sleepover at Skyline. The night will be full of fun, including jumping, movies and plenty of adventure. And yes—who knew you could even sleep on a trampoline?

We're looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming village gala. Please come along and visit our stall, where you can enjoy a cuppa, treat yourself to a delicious pancake, and try your luck on our tombola.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support—we couldn't do it without you. A special word of thanks and acknowledgement to **Rotary Club of Kintore, Blackburn and Kemnay** who have awarded us £200 from their Fund4U scheme to go towards the purchase of new tents.



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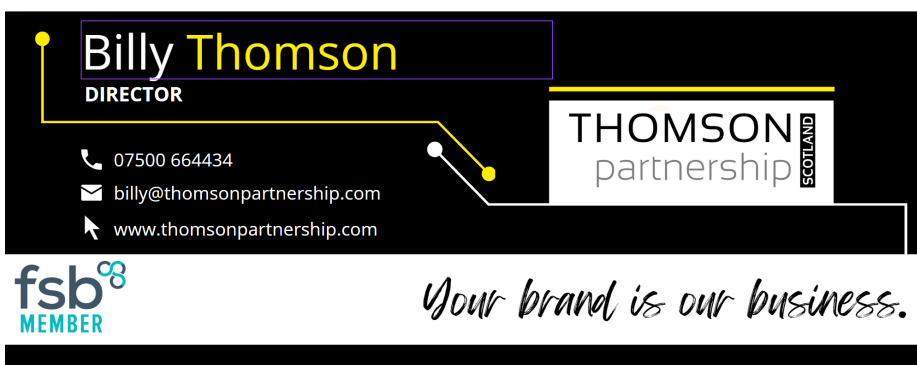
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### **Kintore Library – More than just books**

Kintore Library, located within Kintore Primary school complex, and accessed through the reception foyer is open 15 hours a week, on a **Tuesday morning 09.00 – 13.30, Wednesday afternoon 14.00 – 18.00, Thursday afternoon 13.00 – 17.00 and Saturday morning 09.00 – 11.30.**

You will be able to access the **public computers** and **print** from your own, or our, device, paying either beforehand with your card or in cash at the desk (correct change please). You can send your printing from home and collect within 24 hours using the Princh App (you can pay by card at home or in cash when you collect). You may also photocopy (cash only). You can also pick up **NHS hearing aid batteries / food caddy waste bags and battery bags.**

### **What else can you do at the library?**

**Bookbug sessions** for any pre-school child (including babies) are on a Wednesday at 11.30 am – 12.00 pm, booking is advisable at <https://livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries>.

**Knit and Stitch** is on a Tuesday 10 – 12, no booking is required but spaces are limited.

**Doorstep Delivery** if you are unable to come to us we may be able to come to you, please phone us direct for details on 01467 532605 or email [kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

**Coding Sessions** We now have monthly coding sessions for children aged 6+ during term time. Check online for the next one to book your child's space.

**Bra Bank** bring in your new and gently worn bras and we will arrange for them to go to Africa, via a charity partner.

**Jigsaws** there is a wide selection of jigsaws for adults available for borrowing.

**Toys and Duplo** are readily available in the library for children to use while in the library under parental supervision.

### **What can you do at home?**

**Live Life Aberdeenshire** is an innovative approach to delivering Sports and Culture Services on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council. On the libraries home page you can see various initiatives which might be useful to you.

**Digital library** to access free newspapers (including the PJ), e-books, e-audio books and e-magazines.



The **library catalogue** is where to go to reserve books of interest to you, which will be delivered to the library of your choice, you can also request the library service buys a book if it is not already held.

**Online Databases** are also accessible, these are trusted sites and great for any homework help as well as being useful tools. Contact Kintore Library direct on **01467 532605** or email [kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) for further information, or to book a Bookbug place or Click and Select slot at any Aberdeenshire Library please visit the website <https://livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries> or phone 01467 532929 during office hours. This is also the phone number for Live Life Aberdeenshire Leisure sites.

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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. Phone 01224 790861, check website or Facebook.**

Monday: 8.30-10 pm, 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 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:** Sunday (competitors' class) 10.30am-12.30pm, Monday 7pm-9pm, Thursday 5.30pm-7.30pm

Email: [Gearsboxingacademy@gmail.com](mailto:Gearsboxingacademy@gmail.com) Email: [Gearsboxingacademy@gmail.com](mailto:Gearsboxingacademy@gmail.com)

**Kinellar Star's 2's Group:** Monday and Tuesday 9.15am-11.15am, Email: [Kinellar.preschool@hotmail.com](mailto:Kinellar.preschool@hotmail.com)

**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 SWJ:** 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**1st Kinellar Scout Group :** Explorers Tuesdays: (14-17 yrs) 7.00pm-9.00pm [kinellaresu@gmail.com](mailto:kinellaresu@gmail.com)

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

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

Contact: [melissa@splatmessyplay.co.uk](mailto: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: 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> July, not in August, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 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](mailto: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 (6-8yrs) 5-6pm, [kinellarbeavers@gmail.com](mailto:kinellarbeavers@gmail.com) Scouts (10 ½ - 14yrs) 7.30pm-9.30pm, [kinellarscouts@gmail.com](mailto:kinellarscouts@gmail.com)

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

**Blackburn and Kinellar Community Council:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm email [blackburnkinellarcc@gmail.com](mailto:blackburnkinellarcc@gmail.com). Please follow us on Facebook.

**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 will start again in March. Keep an eye on Facebook for updates.

**Centre of Spiritual Light:** last Thursday of the month except December 7-9pm. Donations at door for teas coffee and hall fees I'm a psychic medium and on these nights bring through messages from loved ones that have passed over. Contact me on [gladyssellar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gladyssellar@hotmail.co.uk)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:teamwilsonfc@gmail.com) . See Facebook or email us for full details.

**Shine Trampolining:** New class starting Thursday 4.6.26. Friday:5-6pm, 6-7pm and 7-8pm, ASN class 4-5pm, Sunday 12-5pm. Contact [shinetrampoline@hotmail.com](mailto: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://bkmsshed.org> or email at [info@bkmsshed.org](mailto:info@bkmsshed.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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@kintore.rotary1010.org) or through our Facebook page if you would like to attend, join us or help out.

**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](mailto: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](http://livelifeaberdeenshire/libraries) or contact us direct on 01467 532605 or [kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto: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

**LOCAL COUNCILLORS FOR EAST GARIOCH:** **Cllr. Jim Gifford,** Vice Chair Sustainability & Garioch Area Committees, 07810 030774. [cldr.j.gifford@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.j.gifford@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) Independent; **Cllr. Glen Reid,** 07712 045331, [cldr.g.reid@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.g.reid@aberdeenshire.gov.uk), SNP; **Cllr. Trevor Mason,** [cldr.t.mason@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.t.mason@aberdeenshire.gov.uk), Scottish Lib Dems; **Cllr. Dominic Lonchay,** [cldr.d.lonchay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.d.lonchay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk), Reform UK.

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