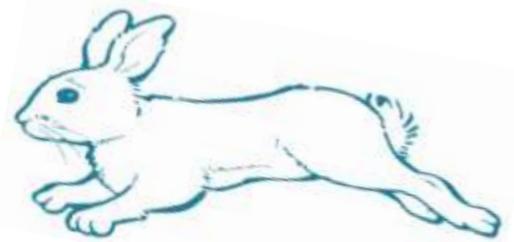


The Rabbit

Spring 2014



Welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of The Rabbit. I hope you managed to make it along to many of the wonderful events that have taken place over the last few months. If you have any comments, suggestions or entries for the Autumn 2014 edition please could you contact me, Arlene Knudsen, on 850251 or arlene_hunter@yahoo.co.uk by September. Wishing you a happy spring and summer season!

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 2 nd April	16.30	Church Hall	Messy Church
Saturday 12 th April	14.00	Finzean Hall	Daffodil Tea
Thursday 24 th April	19.30	Finzean Hall	POOT "Lord Arthur Saville's Crime"
Saturday 3 rd May	10.00	Church	Birse and Feughside Church Open Day
Thursday 8 th May	19.30	Finzean Hall	POOT "Walking on the Roof"
Saturday 17 th May	14.00	Finzean Hall	Maintenance Day
Saturday 24 th May	18.30	Finzean Hall	Family Ceilidh with "Hogtie"
Sunday 8 th June	13.00	Park	Family Fun Day
Monday 23 rd June	19.30	Finzean Hall	Hall Committee AGM
Saturday 30 th August	12.00	Finzean Hall	Finzean Under Fives Family BBQ

Forthcoming events...

Lord Arthur Saville's Crime an Oscar Wilde play being performed by Rocket Theatre.

Murder is always a mistake: One should never do anything one cannot talk about after dinner...

A gripping tale of love, honour, duty, fortune-telling and murder by Oscar Wilde.

Lord Arthur takes his marriage vows very seriously, but when he has his fortune told just weeks before the wedding, his destiny simply cannot be ignored.

Join Lord Arthur and his trusty valet, Middlewick, in a wicked black comedy that positively fizzes with fun. Age 11+

**Thursday 24th April
7.30pm at Finzean Hall**



Tickets £9 / £7 conc. / £28 (family of 4, max 2 adults) available from melshand.artist@gmail.com

WALKING ON THE ROOF

by msfits

" And the whole world goes quiet. Nothing but the sound of the wind in her ears. She opens her eyes and looks down. She sees..."

Yvonne has a guilty secret, and she's not the only one, how long before she is found out. Wild and wicked women, fugitives and fraud, gangs and guilt, mothers and sons, they're all here, and more in 'Walking on the Roof' an hilarious, poignant and nail biting drama from The MsFits.

Thursday 8th May
7.30pm at Finzean Hall

Tickets £9 / £7 / £28 (family of 4, max 2 adults) available from melshand.artist@gmail.com





Family ceilidh with...
Hogtie

Finzean Hall
Saturday 24th May 2014
6.30pm 'til 10.30pm

Tickets:
£10 adult
£5 child/conc. (under 2's free)
£28 family ticket
B.Y.O.B. and food!

Tickets available from:
Tracy Jamieson 01330 850388/thejamiesons4@sky.com
Arlene Knudsen 01330850251/arlene_hunter@yahoo.co.uk

FINZEAN FAMILY FUN DAY - SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 2014

The Finzean 2014 Family Fun Day and Primary School Football Tournament commencing at 1pm at Farquharson Park. As in previous years, it will be based around the Primary School Football Tournament with side stalls run by local groups which will hopefully included BBQ, Cake and Candy, Bottle Stall, Hamper Raffle and lots more. Donation for hampers would be gratefully appreciated and could be dropped off at Moira Aitken (Tel: 850515) or Wendy Hector (Tel: 850421) before Friday 6th June.

We will set up for the fun day on the Sunday at 9.30am and any helpers would be warmly welcomed. Please note that no cars will be allowed in or out of the park after 12.15pm for safety reasons. If you are willing to help on the day i.e. referring, car parking etc. or willing to sponsor football trophies, please contact Davie Hector (Tel: 850453).

Autumn/Winter 2013 in pictures...



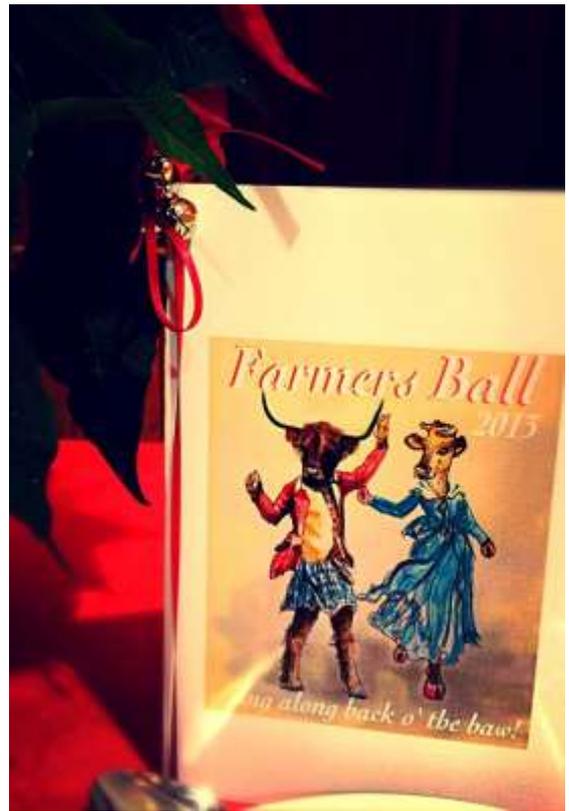
School and Nursery Litter Pick



P3-4's Celts Day - Helen Jackson helping with Willow Weaving



School Gardening Day



Farmer's Ball 2013



Burns Supper 2014

FARMERS' BALL 2013

The Finzean Farmers Ball Committee would like to thank everyone who came along back in November (where DOES the time go?) and enjoyed a fine evening with a delicious supper provided by the Farm Shop and dancing to the enthusiastic playing of Ceilidh Stomp - who have already been asked back to play again for us for this year.

We are delighted to have made a profit of £700, which will be donated to the Lymphoma Research Trust.

FINZEAN SCHOOL AND BALLOGIE NURSERY SPRING 2014

I'm sure it won't have escaped your attention the recent press release about the inspection of Finzean School and Ballogie Nursery which took place in December. The overall tone of the report, whilst slightly harsh, suggested that improvements needed to be made at the School. An open meeting was held at the School at the beginning of March to discuss the report and was extremely well attended by staff, parents, representatives of Aberdeenshire Council and local councillors. It was a very positive meeting where the acting Headteacher was able to report that the staff have already taken huge strides to set in place a plan to address the issues raised. The report on the Nursery was very positive and highlighted the excellent progress that has been made and continues to do so.

Fundraising, as ever, has been very much part of the focus of the Parent Council and we've had some fantastic events since the last Rabbit in October. These include the James Bond themed Casino night, where the cocktails flowed all night and a variety of Oddjobs appeared! The evening was a resounding success and this was very quickly followed by the Xmas Fayre which was extremely well attended and another very successful annual event.

Into January, another highly entertaining Burns night was enjoyed by a fully packed Hall. A number of new acts were on show, indeed the standard gets higher and higher every year it won't be long until the Royal Variety show moves to Finzean!

Overall the events over the past few months have raised an astonishing £6,000!

Looking forward to next term we are planning another Sponsored Bike ride so please keep an eye out for that date.

Thanks again to everyone for helping organise these events and to you all who continually support them.

Catriona Tanner

CHURCH NEWS

Although Christmas is always on the 25 December, Easter is a celebration without a fixed date. We celebrate Easter on the first Sunday in spring after full moon. To be honest for those living in the northern hemisphere this is a wonderful time to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. It is a time nature renewed itself. Crocuses and daffodils start to colour the gardens, birds flying around with their beaks full of twigs for the building of their nests, the buds are growing on trees and bushes, the first lambs appear in the fields. With Easter we celebrate that Christ rose again from the death. There is hope after brokenness, life after death. Maybe this is a difficult concept to understand. However when we look around us and may witness year after year the miracle that nature come alive again after a cold winter where nothing grows, we see the Easter story unfolding in front of our eyes.

Also this year Birse and Feughside would like to celebrate this hopeful festival. We start on Maundy Thursday with a Passover meal. The Passover Meal is the meal where the Jewish people commemorate the exodus from Egypt. After Jesus shared His last Passover Meal with his friends, He took bread and wine and celebrated with his disciples the first communion. On **Maundy Thursday** we would like to do the same as Jesus did. We start with the Passover Meal and finish with Holy Communion. We will start at 7.00pm. Everyone is very welcome but because there is an evening meal involved for catering purposes we would like to know how many people would like to attend this evening. There will be a list in the church or you could contact Dorothy Dinnie, 013398 86339.

On **Good Friday** there will be a short reflective service at 7.30pm in the church.

On **Sunday morning** we have again an **Easter Breakfast** in the Finzean Hall. We hope to start at 9.00am and there will be an Easter egg hunt for the children.

The breakfast will be followed by an **Easter celebration** in Birse and Feughside Church. The service starts at 11.00am.

For the children we have an Easter egg competition. Take a decorated egg with you to the church and after the church service we will announce the winners of the Easter egg competition 2014.

We wish you all a very happy Easter,

Rev Anita van der Wal

Church events:

Saturday 3rd May 10.00-12.30 Birse and Feughside Church Open Day

PRESS RELEASE

A Portrait of the River by Mel Shand

Local artist and photographer Mel Shand has been busy again and can now add author to her CV. To celebrate 150 years of the River Dee Board, she was commissioned to produce a beautiful book that showcases the people whose life revolves around the River Dee. The book features 71 people who work on and around the Dee, including 50 ghillies.

Mel spent over a year travelling the length of the River Dee, from the source at the Linn of Dee to Aberdeen Harbour where it meets the sea. Along the way she interviewed and photographed every ghillie and some of the riparian owners, shopkeepers and river staff including the harbour master. The book contains some extremely interesting and entertaining anecdotes, as well as stunning photography of the people and their river.

In the spirit of *A Portrait of our Time* (Poot) Mel's aim was once again to capture the heart and soul of the people in a celebration of rural life and work.

The book will be published in April, signed copies can be ordered at a cost of £20 + p&p by emailing melshand.artist@gmail.com. Proceeds from the sale will go to support the work of the River Dee Trust.

Finzean Hall

The Hall maintenance day will take place on Sat 17th May from 14.00 - 16.00. The aim of the afternoon is to carry out any minor work in the Hall and also give the hall a spring clean. Any one who is available to help should meet at 14.00 at the hall where tasks will be issued out.

FINZEAN SWRI

Finzean SWRI meets in Finzean Hall at 7.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month from September to April.

We are just coming to an end for this session and have had a variety of speakers at our meetings - from wicker weaving to Tai Chi to the Scottish SPCA.

The next syllabus has not yet been arranged but for more details please contact June Whyte (tel. 01330 850327 or email jwhyte31@hotmail.co.uk).

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE IN ABERDEENSHIRE

The Royal Volunteer Service helps older people in their local community with a variety of tasks such as shopping and providing transport. We do have a volunteer in the local community who is able to provide lifts and support where required. If you require assistance or can help volunteering then contact the local Aberdeenshire Office on 01476 626012 or e-mail them on

aberdeenshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

FINZEAN BADMINTON CLUB

We have just finished another enjoyable season over the winter months. We are very much a social club and welcome anyone to join us from secondary school age upwards. The new season will start on Monday 7th October 2014 at 7.30 pm in Finzean Hall.

For more information please contact June Whyte: Tel - 01330 850327 or email - jwhyte31@hotmail.co.uk

The Jolly Singers

Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 8.30pm
Finzean Hall.

No talent necessary (!) just a desire to sing and have fun together!

Contact Louise Counsell 01330 850 323 - or just turn up, at Finzean hall.

FINZEAN FARM SHOP

- The Farm Shop holds Buffet Nights on the second Friday of the month kicking off this year on 11th April at 7.30pm.
- Finzean Farm Shop is able to supply newspapers daily including Sundays - orders for newspapers or magazines can be placed either by phone, e-mail or just pop in.
- The Post Office, offering a full service, now operates on Monday between 1.30pm and 3pm and Wednesday between 11.30pm and 1pm. An external post box is being installed shortly as an addition to the two already in operation in Finzean.



FINZEAN FRIENDSHIP GROUP

PROGRAMME FOR 2014



Monday 7th April	Dark Island Ceilidh Band entertain
Monday 5th May	The Lodgers entertain
Thursday 5th June	Bus Run
Monday 7th July	Scolty Group entertain
Tuesday 5th August	Bus Run
Monday 1st September	Couthie Company entertain
Monday 6th October	Hector Riddell and friends entertain
Saturday 6th December	Christmas Lunch - 12.30 for 1 p.m. Members exchange a small gift.

Monthly evening meetings start at 7.30 p.m. in Finzean Village Hall. Tea is served at the end of the meeting. Each member and their guests are requested to bring a mug/cup for tea and a small prize for the Raffle.

For further information, and for help with transport, please contact Elizabeth Rose, Tel: 01330 850 768.

FINZEAN UNDER 5'S

We are a friendly group of parents/carers and children who meet in Finzean Village Hall every Thursday morning from 10-12. Craft, a good range of play equipment and snack is provided and children can play outside if the weather is good. All children 0-5 are very welcome. £2 per family, first session free. Contact Tracy on 01330 850388 for more details. Come along for a cuppa and a tasty homebake!



Upcoming Events:

Thursday 22nd April outing to Den at the Glen

Saturday 24th May family Ceilidh with Hogtie

Saturday 30th August family BBQ

FINZEAN UNDER FIVES CHRISTMAS POST

We would like to say a big thank you to all who used the Under Fives Finzean Christmas Post. We raised £186.40 in total. We have decided to donate this to the Typhoon Appeal.



To receive updates about live theatre performances and other local events make sure you are on the POOT emailing list! Please send your email address to Fiona Carter: info@portrait-of-our-time.co.uk

Also don't forget to keep Fiona informed if you change your email address, or know someone who has moved into the POOT area of Birse, Ballogie, Finzean and Strachan who would like to be added to the emailing list. We promise never to share our list with anyone else.