



KINTORE KONNECT

Connecting our community

ISSUE 63
SPRING
2026



*Celebrating
everything local in
and around Kintore and district*



KINTORE KONNECT

Connecting our community

PHOTOGRAPHERS

We are always looking for pictures to feature in Kintore Konnect - these can be local scenes, events or any subject that might be of interest. Why not send us your favourites?

DELIVERIES

Almost 2,100 magazines are delivered in Kintore and surrounding areas - could you help with deliveries in your street? Please get in touch now.

ADVERTISING RATES

HALF PAGE

£160 - one-off advert
4 per issues commitment - £125
x 4 = one payment of £512

QUARTER PAGE

£90 - one-off advert
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EIGHTH PAGE

£50 - one-off advert
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£40 x 4 = one payment of £160

SIXTEENTH PAGE

£30 - one-off advert
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WELCOME TO YOUR KINTORE KONNECT

Happy Easter to all our readers. Thank you for your continued support. The KDCC Team

CARE FOR KINTORE



Save your community activities from disappearing

Anyone can **make a positive difference** to Kintore and District. However, we **need new ideas and new members** to stop your local activities from disappearing.

Help support your Kintore Community.
We want you!

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME



COMMIT ANY AMOUNT OF TIME



OUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Brings **new community events and activities** to the town and district
- Becomes **aware of any community concerns** that arise and pass them onto the relevant bodies
- Is your **local champion and voice** for the Kintore and District community

Find out more, email: info@kintorecommunitycouncil.co.uk

JOIN US EVERY 3RD TUESDAY AT KINTORE PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 7-9PM - NO NEED TO BECOME A MEMBER, JUST HAVE YOUR SAY



STORIES/EVENTS/ CLUBS

If you have a story to share or wish to add your event/club, we would love to hear from you.

STORIES

- Please send across the full content of the story through a PDF, Word or Google Doc format.
- Any stories must be between 300 - 500 words.
- Any related images must be sent separately (not in the body of the Word document) in JPEG format through email.

EVENTS AND CLUBS

- Please send across the full name, location, dates and times
- Any related images must be sent separately (not in the body of the Word document) in JPEG format through email.

CONTACT

- ☎ 07748 111165
- ✉ info@kintorecommunitycouncil.co.uk
- 📘 Search 'Kintore'
- 🌐 www.kintore.org.uk

Cover photo: Hannah Orr, Tuach Hill from East Park.

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Deadline May 7th 2026

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What we
have been up to...

GUIDES

The Guides had a really busy few weeks before Christmas. Along with the Rangers we had a brilliant (if muddy) evening of rugby with the amazing coaches at Garioch Rugby Club. We also invited family and friends to our end of term Taskmaster fun night entirely organised by the girls. This included refreshments of mocktails they designed themselves and homemade Scottish Macaroons! Well done to winners Team Shaw! We ended the term with a fab night at the Inverurie Panto. We've started this year with a focus on the skill of Reflecting and the challenge badge, Dark in the Light. Congratulations to Eilidh and Vivienne who both achieved their Be Well theme awards. Well done!! We would like to say a massive thank you to the Knit and Stitch group who generously donated £300 to the group. We love a bit of craft so plan to put some of the money towards resources.





RANGERS

The biggest news here is our Rangers Leader Adele Steel has been awarded an MBE by His Majesty the King in honour of her continued dedication to helping support girls and adults within Girlguiding. Adele is also a trainer in Gordon County as well as deputy county commissioner for Girlguiding British Overseas Territories (GGBOT). The Rangers are so

very proud of Adele and when asked for words to describe her, they said the following – thoughtful, creative, kind, inclusive and passionate (about Girl Guiding).

Adele and the Rangers (left) and below is MBE in semaphore.

The girls held a bake sale one evening after their session and with the money they raised, various items for the Cash for

Kids
Mission

Christmas were purchased and donated at the Jim Reid Car Sales collection point.

Every year Rangers are asked what they would like to do just before Christmas and the response is always the same 'decorate Gingerbread Houses'. They are a very creative bunch.

GIRLGUIDING KINTORE NEWS

BROWNIES

Brownies have had a busy term exploring stars, constellations, fundraising for Inverurie Community Partnership and enjoyed a Christmas treat of a bowling night. Brownies and Rainbows entertained the residents of Airlie House with some Christmas songs and handed out cups of kindness. This term Brownies are working on a Craft Badge and started with sewing, they did a great job.

The girls held a bake sale one evening after their session and with the money they raised, various items for the Cash for Kids Mission Christmas were purchased and donated at the Jim Reid Car Sales collection point.



RAINBOWS

Both Rainbows units came together for a much sought after 'Rainbows Day' at the end of November. We get asked for this every year and the girls thoroughly enjoy it. We attended the Church Hall on a Saturday and started with a packed lunch, followed by an afternoon of activities including crafts, cooking and designing a mini golf course. The girls made their own snack for the afternoon, pizza muffins and toppings for dinner and decorated gingerbread men to accompany ice cream for dessert. The day was finished with the girls in their pyjamas watching some short stories on the projector. The whole day was Christmas themed, and we were told many of the girls slept very well that night!

Both Rainbows units were covering the 'Make Change' skills builder which involved finding someone local who helps in the

community by making things better and fixing problems. We were delighted to invite Jim Reid of Jim Reid Car Sales and services along for a cup of tea and cake to say thank you for all he does. We heard of the project 'It's Your Neighbourhood' that involves many members of the community helping out which Jim has co-ordinated and also took part in for the past few years. This position has now been handed over to Angus Cheyne who we also met. We hope to help this project this year.

It was good to hear from Jim Reid as Girlguiding believe helping in your community is very important. Rainbows attended the Inverurie Community Partnership and helped bag up some pasta and teabags for dishing out to those in need. It was decided that this year our Christmas fundraising was going to go to

this organisation. They were very appreciative when toiletries, tins of tuna and large bags of sugar were dropped off as those items were mentioned during our visit as being very much in need.

Rainbows finished for Christmas taking a walk to Airlie House, delivering some cups of kindness, singing a few songs then walking back to the Christmas tree in the Square, to enjoy some nice hot chips and finishing with some carols.

Our whole Gordon District travelled mid-December by bus to Cineworld, Aberdeen Beach. We saw Zootropolis 2 and enjoyed some snacks. Over 100 members attended.

As you can see, Kintore Girl Guiding is full of opportunities and if you would like any information on becoming a member or Leader please get in touch.



Your local girlguiding group needs:

We are looking for adult volunteers to help with our rainbow, brownie and guide groups in Kintore.

For further details please contact Amanda at kintoredc@outlook.com



Register today

girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

2026 is already shaping up to be another busy but exciting year. By the time you read this, the local Scout and Guiding organisations will have celebrated World Thinking Day. This falls on 22nd February and 2026 marks 100 years of this event. We will all gather at Bennachie Parish Church at Kintore for the service to mark the occasion. Refreshments and home bakes will be served by Girl Guiding Kintore afterwards, so hope you came along.

A date for your diary is Saturday 29th August this year for the Kintore Street Party. Girl Guiding will have their usual stand and hope to see you there. Further information to come.

Camps, excursions, crafts, helping in our local community are just a few of the things planned this year. We also hope to get a peek at Adele's Award and hear how her ceremony

experience went. How exciting.

Despite the snow cancelling some of our meetings, the persistent rain and lack of sunshine we've had for such a long time, the girls still turn up with eager anticipation of what we are about to do for our session. The smiles and laughter simply make everything worthwhile. So, if it's a miserable day outside, cold, wet, windy and dull, just remember Spring is just around the corner. We are already seeing the snow drops, daffodils are beginning to wake up, and tiny buds are on the trees. Nature is truly amazing and our girls cannot wait to explore and learn throughout the next season, and we will continue to let you know their discoveries and achievements.



KINTORE

Scout Group

The new Scout term is here, and we head into 2026 with lots of plans to keep our young people busy and learning those important life skills. The Group is getting busy, with intakes across all sections, so more than ever we are looking for adult volunteers to help out, if you can spare any time to assist us, please get in touch and get involved.

For the Scouts there are several camps on the horizon, we'll be starting off with a joint sleepover

with Inverurie Scouts at Skyline, always a fun night of jumping, a movie and popcorn. Then we have a practice camp to plan, along with the District annual Flag Competition Camp (this year Kintore are organising with Jamie as Camp Chief). Other camps to look forward to are the annual Adventure Camp start of May, and in July we will be taking Scouts along to the Blair Atholl Satellite camp! Further ahead we'll be aiming for Fordel Freeze again, having missed out last year!

Staying with Scouts, two of our Young People have been selected to attend World Scout

Jamborees, with Michael Tatton being one of 35 Scouts in Scotland selected to go to the Icelandic Jamboree to represent Gordon District. Keegan Bingham is also attending the Denmark Jamboree in July, having been selected after some trial camps. Both Scouts have done well representing Kintore & Gordon District and are continuing their journeys by organising lots of fundraising in the lead up.

The rest of the Group have been equally busy, Winter has seen outdoor activities slow down for our Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs, but there have been plenty of activities as they learn skills to help them as they grow through the Scout





sections. We've been planning to have a Group camp this year all going well, where all the sections will camp together and arrange a busy weekend of fun and adventure. Having celebrated Burns night all sections put some effort into this, the image shows the Scouts enjoying a Burn Supper, after enjoying a presentation from Gordon on Robert Burns and some tunes on the Bagpipes!

We have a fundraising committee in place, so look out for various events where we'll have stalls or cooking on the go to raise important funds for the group. Look out for our teams at various events this year, and also some new plans for activities during the Summer Festival and Street Party events later in the year. Also, on the 7th March we have a nearly new sale on at the Scout Hut!!

Many thanks to all the volunteer leaders, parents and helpers who make it possible, we look forward to seeing everyone over the coming months! And as mentioned if you have time and would like to help out please email – gslkintore@gmail.com
Kintore Scout Group



Scouts
Kintore

NEARLY NEW

SALE

Saturday 7th March
1pm to 3pm
Kintore Scout Hut

£2 ENTRY
Children under 15 free

**CAKE AND
JEWELLERY
STALLS**

LAST 30 MINS: FILL A BAG FOR £5!

ALL PROCEEDS RAISE STAY WITHIN THE GROUP

Cycling without age Scotland

We at CWAS Kintore are still looking for somewhere to store our trishaw in Kintore where our volunteers can access so we can take the residents of Kintore out on our electric assisted trishaw. We are also looking for funding to help buy our own trishaw as we are just using a borrowed trishaw at the moment.

We are also looking for pilots who will cycle the trishaw, you will be fully trained and qualified to take passengers.

Please contact Ambassador **Graham Watson** on **07999213599** or **graham813@hotmail.com** for more details



How to Perform CPR

A Step-by-Step Guide

UK Resuscitation Council 2025



1 Check for Danger

Before approaching, check your surroundings are safe.



2 Check for Response

Gently shake and shout. If no response, shout for help and ask someone to call 999 and get AED



3 Check for Breathing

Open the airway (head tilt, chin lift)
Look, listen and feel for normal breathing for up to 10 seconds



4 Start Chest Compressions

After AED, continue hands-only chest compressions for 2 minutes. No breaths.



5 Continue Hands-Only

Place hands in the centre of the chest

- Push 5–6 cm deep at 100–120 times per minute
- Allow the chest to rise fully each time



6 Keep Going

Keep going until:

- The person shows signs of life
- A paramedic takes over
- You are too exhausted to continue

Scottish Ambulance Service
INVERURIE FIRST RESPONDERS

@ the heart of your community



SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE



Inverurie First Responders, at the Heart of your Community

Over the year our First Responders attended **36 cardiac arrests last year** across the Garioch area and this month alone, we have **already responded to six**.

These are not just statistics; they represent neighbours, friends, family members, and colleagues whose lives depended on fast action before an ambulance arrived.

Early CPR and prompt use of a defibrillator can double or even triple a person's chance of survival from cardiac arrest. Yet many people hesitate because they feel unsure or untrained.

CPR AWARENESS

Everyone can help save a life

The truth is simple: doing something is always better than doing nothing and anyone can learn the skills needed to save a life.

We encourage everyone to take a few minutes to learn CPR

and locate their nearest public access defibrillator.

These small actions could make the difference between life and death in your community.

Everyone can help save a life.

NEW DEFIBRILLATOR AT MIDMILL SCHOOL

In February of this year Drew had a cardiac arrest at the Midmill School Astro pitch. Thanks to the prompt actions of the Kintore United coaches performing initial CPR and of course the retrieval and use of the nearest defibrillator, located at Rebecca Carrs there was a happy ending. Drew was taken to hospital and underwent an operation; he is now well and back to his normal routine.

It was surprising to learn that there was no defibrillator at Midmill School where many clubs use the Astro pitch.

Over the summer using funds donated by the Kids Club to Kintore and District Community Council and additional donations from Kintore Summer Festival, Kintore United FC, Midmill School and Kintore Fundraising team a

new defibrillator was purchased and installed at the school.

Pictured in the photo are, Drew, Rod Smith, Treasurer- Kintore Community Council, Laura McConnachie - Kintore Summer Festival, Kintore United FC & Midmill School, Ryan McMillan, Kintore Fundraising team, Paul Johnstone - Kintore United Chairperson, 2016 Coaches - Barry Blackadder, Neil McCallum, Richard Wilson, Martyn Percival and Michael Murray.

Drew would

like to convey his thanks again to everyone whose efforts kept him alive. He would also like to thank KDCC members, particularly Alan Milne whose contribution of making us all aware for their need and to increase the number of defibrillators in and around Kintore. His recent experience proves having defibrillators at easily accessible nearby locations does help save lives.





UPCOMING CONSTITUENT SURGERIES

- 3rd March** The Axis Centre, Newmachar, 6.30-7pm
7th April Hatton of Fintray Village Hall, 6-6.30pm
5th May* Kintore Primary School, Link Room 3, 5.45-6.15pm
2nd June* Kinellar Primary School, 6.30-7pm

No appointment is necessary so please feel free to come along if you feel that I can assist you.

***To be confirmed** by Aberdeenshire Council Lets. Please check my Facebook page or councillor page on Aberdeenshire Council's website nearer the time in case there are any changes.

COUNCILLOR GLEN REID

*Community Champion - LGill Scottish
Councillor Awards | East Garioch (Ward 12)*

I was so pleased to see these works completed before Christmas:

The Loch Burn has been diverted so that it no longer flows into the town and has now been redirected to the other side of the railway embankment nearest the River Don. The two culverts have been modified and sealed using concrete and backfill to match the surrounding embankment. Within Kintore, a section of the Loch Burn channel has been retained to carry surface water runoff from the town and a non-return flap valve has been installed on the downstream culvert. This valve allows water from Loch Burn to

NORTHERN ROAD – LOCH BURN FLOOD RISK REDUCTION CULVERT SCHEME – COMPLETED

drain out freely, while stopping floodwater from the River Don from flowing back into the town.

It took many years of campaigning by me and discussions with the Aberdeenshire Council Flood Team and Network Rail to get this scheme agreed, designed, funded and then built. Network

Rail had said that the works would be completed by the end of the summer of 2024, but I'm just relieved that they were finally finished before the snow melted and the rains came this winter. This scheme has undoubtedly saved many families a lot of misery this winter.

MARSHALLS JUNCTION

Like many of you, I have concerns about this stretch of road and have raised them with our local Roads team and Amey, the Transport Scotland contractor responsible for this stretch of road.

I said, "You will no doubt be aware of the accident yesterday and that there is an accident history at this junction. I believe that you should have been contacted in December too about the lack of a safety barrier here as there are concerns of cars coming off the road and into the busy car park.

Can I ask that you look into this and advise what changes you are planning to improve safety here and the timescale?"

Amey have responded saying that, "We are collating a response which will be issued by Transport Scotland's Area Manager and I will ensure you are afforded visibility of same. We are aware of the ongoing flooding / safety issues and are taking positive steps."

I will continue to progress this and update when I have responses.

KINTORE SCHOOL CROSSING – UPDATE

When the council decided to stop providing crossing patrollers in 2024, I requested that the non-signalised school crossings in my ward (Kintore and Blackburn) be upgraded, but nothing happened.

I recently wrote to officers again to try and get the crossing assessed and have received the following response:

"We refer to your correspondence on 9 December 2025, regarding the above.

Our local Roads Safety team have advised that this location will be added to the list for annual assessment in October 2026 and it will be assessed against the new Policy."

I will chase this assessment later in the year.



GET IN TOUCH

As always, if you have any concerns, ideas or issues you would like my help with, please don't hesitate to contact my office by emailing, harriet.cross.mp@parliament.uk.

HARRIET CROSS MP

for Gordon and Buchan

Since the start of 2026, communities across Gordon and Buchan have faced some of the toughest winter weather for several years, with heavy snowfall followed by significant rainfall. Roads and pavements became impassable in places, leaving some residents isolated for days. But despite the challenges we all faced, the resilience and community spirit shown across Aberdeenshire really stood out.

I want to sincerely thank everyone who stepped up during this period. This list could be endless, but must include our farmers who cleared roads, emergency service workers and volunteers who worked around the clock, carers

who went above and beyond to carry out their vital visits, neighbours who checked in on one another, delivered food, and ensured nobody was left without help. This demonstrated Aberdeenshire at its very best, and I am immensely proud of how people in Aberdeenshire looked out for each other.

The level of snowfall also highlighted a number of issues with Aberdeenshire Council's winter preparedness and response. In particular, the time it took to clear some of the main roads and the provision of grit. As such, alongside my colleague Andrew Bowie MP I wrote to Aberdeenshire Council to urge them to reinstate grit bins and ensure lessons from

this winter are acted upon to better prepare for similar levels of snow in the future. I am fully aware that the winter preparations were severely impacted by the very poor funding Aberdeenshire Council receives from the Scottish Government, something which impacts us all in the North East.

Aberdeenshire Council is the 4th lowest-funded council in Scotland per head, and the lowest funded rural council, which places real strain on local services and forces difficult choices between cutting provision or raising council tax. If Aberdeenshire Council received average funding per head of other Scottish councils, it would have had £50 million

Farmers are the backbone of our rural communities, working long hours, feeding the nation and, as we saw during the snow, stepping up when their neighbours needed them most.

more last year alone. This would have more than covered the £35 million pound blackhole the council had to fill in last year's budget, a shortfall which led to numerous cuts to services across our region. That funding gap has real consequences and forced Aberdeenshire Council to take decisions that they would not have wanted to make. As such, I have also written to the First Minister requesting that the Scottish Government provides Aberdeenshire Council with all necessary funding to ensure full provision and ongoing stocking of grit bins, comprehensive snow and ice clearance across the county; adequate treatment of secondary roads, residential streets and pavements; and any other measures deemed necessary to prepare for next year's winter. This, surely, cannot be too much to ask.

The current funding settlement for Aberdeenshire Council is not sustainable, with years of cuts now meaning that the Council is struggling to provide even basic services. If a sustainable and equitable funding model was put in place by the Scottish Government, not only would Aberdeenshire Council not have to make cuts but would actually be able to invest in improving services and could consider

lowering council tax bills. It is however clear that the current funding model will not change unless there is a change of Government at this year's Scottish Parliament elections.

I will finish on a couple of decisions by the Scottish and UK Governments that have been made since my last column and have an impact on Kintore and surrounding communities. Firstly, I was deeply disappointed that last month's Scottish Budget failed to commit funding for dualling the A96 between Huntly and Inverurie. The dualling of this road was first promised by the SNP Government in 2011 and 15 years on, we are barely any further forward. Dualling this road is vital for commuters, the local economy and improving safety for drivers. As part of my efforts to see road improvements across Aberdeenshire and to ensure the Scottish Government are held accountable for their election promises, I have asked the Transport Secretary, Fiona Hyslop, to meet me in Gordon and Buchan to allow her to see for herself the issues with A96 and therefore why dualling is so important. Her response, that "she is unable to meet at this time" speaks volumes of her

disregard for the issue and our regional transport infrastructure.

Finally, after over a year of distress caused to the sector and consistent campaigning, just before Christmas the UK Government announced a partial U-turn on the Family Farm Tax, by increasing the inheritance tax threshold from £1 million to £2.5 million. While I welcome that there has been some movement, which will be a relief to many farmers who faced the prospect of losing farms that had been in their family for generations, this still does not go far enough and does not protect all family farms. The damage has already been done to many small farms, and many farms will still be impacted by the new threshold, which is still far too low and fails to target the larger estates that the Government insist they are targeting.

Farmers are the backbone of our rural communities, working long hours, feeding the nation and, as we saw during the snow, stepping up when their neighbours needed them most. They deserve support, security and respect, not policies that put their livelihoods and futures at risk. I will continue to champion our farmers and farming communities and campaign for the full reversal of the Family Farm Tax.

Because of the continuing generous support of our local communities, during 2025 our volunteers, working in our 5 food banks across the shire, were able to provide **3309 emergency food parcels**, feeding **4322 adults** and **1379 children**. Of these, **486 adults** and **454 children** were fed by **658 parcels** distributed from our local Inverurie food bank. We cannot thank you enough for your kindness in donating both food and money throughout the year because, without your willingness to give, we simply would not be able to do what we do to help families who find themselves living in food poverty.

Please be assured that we value every single donation that comes our way. We depend heavily on all the tins, bottles and packets that are put into our collection points or handed into our local food banks because these are the items that make up the bulk of our food parcels. But, like all of you, we are finding it harder to meet the unseen but unavoidable costs which have been spiralling upwards over the last 18 months or so – electricity bills, rental charges for premises, transport costs and food costs. Premises across our network of five food banks have been a particular challenge during 2025 and we are currently looking for a suitable local storage facility in/ near to Inverurie to help us manage donations efficiently and keep costs down. Any offers of help or suggestions of potentially suitable available premises would be very much appreciated (contact **07721 379534** or **info@aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk**).

ABERDEENSHIRE NORTH FOODBANK

The number of referrals for food parcels being received continues to rise as more families as hit by the same rising costs and, as a result, we are having to buy in more food month by month to be able to meet the demand. We are so grateful for all cash donations received and fundraisers organised on our behalf because we need to pay our bills, as you all do too!

Whether you donate items of food or make donations of money (details provided on our website <https://aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk>), your good will and generosity are what keeps us going and we can never say 'thank you' enough for all that you do.





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KINTORE AND DISTRICT *Community Council*

Well, that's been some introduction to 2026, a couple of weeks of heavy snow and then weeks of rain, we will all be glad to see the back of it.

However, the inclement weather showed the true community spirit of Kintore, in being able to help fellow residents out. We are truly grateful to all the volunteers who turned out.

The Kintore Resilience Group were on hand to assist residents who needed help by doing their shopping, collecting and delivering prescriptions and clearing snow.

The team cleared the accesses at both Provost Lawrence Court and Airlie House and also cleared the parking area at Dundas Court and assisted at a small group of houses at Midmill.

We were touched to receive the following message.

Heartfelt thanks

Having spent the best part of two weeks celebrating Christmas and Hogmanay with family and friends in Edinburgh, we arrived back to a snowy Aberdeen late on Friday, 2 January. The next morning, we did a panic run to Inverurie to stock up on essentials and sat back to see what happened. There was no way we were going anywhere on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday as the snow was too deep to get a car out and even when certain areas of our lane were cleared more snow made them impassable again.

On Tuesday evening we contacted Councillor Glen Reid, mentioning that we are in our late 70s and that our neighbour's daughter provides care for the elderly and those with special needs and also could not get out.

Within half an hour a post was made on a local website,

Paul Davies arrived with a shovel and arrangements were in place for a team of

volunteers complete with a quad and a tractor to be with us at 8.30 on Wednesday morning.

By 10.30 on Wednesday morning, we had returned home from Inverurie with enough food to get us by.

We cannot thank Councillor Reid, Jim Reid, Paul Davies, Matthew Wilson and the Kintore Resilience Team enough for their gallant efforts - we are sure that we were not the only area they helped out - and it is wonderful to know that such lovely people exist.

We would also like to thank our much younger neighbours Allan and Christine, Lynsey and Paul, Chris and Leighann and Tracey for always being there to help us out and to Fiona McLaren for visiting the Butcher for us.

Colin and Vicki Graham

The Resilience team were also at hand when the risk of flooding occurred, we handed out sandbags where needed and continuously monitored the water levels. Fortunately, this time, although there was more rain than we have seen in years no resident's home were affected as in previous years, although water did get into several gardens. It was the longest time the Fintray road has ever been closed.

The work done by Network Rail along the back of Northern Road to divert the Loch burn and the reinstated flood plain at Midmill appears to have certainly made a big difference.





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info@kintorecommunitycouncil.co.uk

Kintore Floral Group

It's fair to say this winter has felt like a particularly long one, with grey days and cold weather lingering well into the year. As the days slowly begin to lengthen and the promise of Spring approaches, the Kintore Floral Group is looking ahead with renewed hope and enthusiasm. We're eager to get back out into the town, rolling up our sleeves and preparing our beds and containers for the season ahead. Planting time is always a highlight for our volunteers, and we're looking forward to filling Kintore with colour, texture and life once again. These floral displays play an important role in brightening our shared spaces, creating a welcoming atmosphere and reminding us that brighter days are on the way.

However, we are still seeking a replacement Team Lead for the Kintore Floral Group. Without someone stepping into this role, we are at real risk of being unable to continue our town's much-loved floral displays. The role can be shared between two people to help spread the workload, and you'll be supported by a friendly and committed volunteer team.

Sorry Kintore but we need your help again!

Since the beginning of 2025 the **Kintore Floral Display Group** no longer receive any funds or plants from Aberdeenshire Council therefore we **now rely fully** on the support of our local community via **donations and sponsorship.**

The planting, maintenance & watering is all carried out by volunteers so the **full value** of your donation goes towards purchasing plants, flowers & compost.

If you would like to help please donate by bank transfer using your name or business name as the reference to:-
Kintore Community Council Floral Display Account
Sort Code: 62-65-21 Acc.No. 50173978

Donation Guide
Platinum Donation £150, Gold Donation £100, Silver Donation £50
Alternatively, please donate what you can afford.

Thank you for your support. *Sue Parrott (Team Leader)*

**KINTORE
FLORAL DISPLAY**

FLOWERS AND MORE TO BRIGHTEN THE STREETS OF KINTORE



VOLUNTEER TEAM LEAD, KINTORE FLORAL GROUP

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Kintore Floral Group is a community-led volunteer group dedicated to enhancing the town through planting, maintaining, and caring for floral displays and green spaces. Our work helps make Kintore a more welcoming, colourful, and enjoyable place for residents and visitors alike.

ROLE OVERVIEW

The Volunteer Team Lead plays a key role in coordinating and supporting volunteers during planting and maintenance activities. This role is ideal for someone who enjoys working outdoors, bringing people together, and helping community projects run smoothly. You don't need professional horticultural experience — enthusiasm, organisation, and a willingness to pitch in are what matter most! As part of the handover, you'll receive written guidance to help you get started, though there is flexibility to adapt the role to suit your own style. You will also have the opportunity to spend time with our current lead, Sue, who will be available to offer support and share her experience during the transition.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Act as a main point of contact for volunteers during group activities.
- Help organise and lead planting, watering, and maintenance sessions.
- Welcome new volunteers and help them feel included and informed.
- Coordinate tasks on the day so everyone knows what they're doing.
- Encourage a positive, friendly, and safe working environment.
- Liaise with the wider Floral Group committee or coordinators as needed.

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Friendly, reliable, and approachable. Comfortable guiding small groups of volunteers.
- Basic organisational or coordination skills.
- Enjoys working outdoors and as part of a team.
- An interest in gardening, planting, or community projects is helpful but not essential.

Bennachie

PARISH CHURCH

KINTORE

WELCOME TO KINTORE

As the local Parish Church we are incredibly proud to be part of the Kintore community. We hope that this pull-out leaflet will help you to navigate your way to some of the wonderful community groups, organisations and businesses that make Kintore such a great place to live. And we hope you will be very happy here and feel at home among us.

Bennachie Parish covers Kintore, Kemnay, Echt, Monymusk and Chapel of Garioch. Our Sunday services in Kintore are at 10am each week, except on the first Sunday of each month when we have a joint service at one of our sites. You are very welcome to join us for worship on any Sunday.

To find out more about our activities, projects and charities visit our website:

www.bennachieparish.church.
If you would like to contact a minister, please call our Church Office: **01467-643883**

*Yours in Christ,
Rev Neil Meyer*

EASTER SERVICES MARCH/APRIL 2026

SUN, 29TH MARCH		
10:00	Palm Sunday Joint Service	Kemnay Church
10:00	Kids' Palm Sunday Event	Kemnay Church Centre
MON, 30TH MARCH		
19:30	IDCT Holy Week Service	St Andrews, Inverurie
TUE, 31ST MARCH		
19:30	IDCT Holy Week Service	St Andrews, Inverurie
WED, 1ST APRIL		
19:30	IDCT Holy Week Service	St Andrews, Inverurie
THU, 2ND APRIL		
14:00-16:00	Maundy Thursday Labyrinth	Echt Church
18:00-20:00	Maundy Thursday Labyrinth	Echt Church
19:30	IDCT Holy Week Service	St Andrews, Inverurie
FRI, 3RD APRIL		
08:00	Process of Witness	Catholic Church, Inverurie
12:00	Solemn Meditation	St Anne's, Kemnay
19:00	Good Friday Service	Kemnay Church
19:30	IDCT Holy Week Service	St Andrews, Inverurie
SUN, 5TH APRIL		
08:30	Prayers at the Cross	Kemnay Church Centre
08:45	Easter Communion	Echt Church
09:00	Easter Communion	Kintore Church
10:00	Easter Morning Services	Chapel of Garioch, Echt, Monymusk, Kemnay & Kintore
10:00	Family Service	St Anne's, Kemnay
15:30	Mini-Messy Easter	Kintore Church

Everyone is welcome to join us at all of these services. If you would like more information about any of our Easter Services, please contact our Church Office at **01467-643 883** or **office@bennachieparish.church**

KINTORE GROUPS INFORMATION

for new and existing residents

Welcome to Kintore! Whether you're new to the community or simply looking to get more involved, this booklet is your handy guide to the fantastic groups, clubs, and organisations that help make our town such a vibrant place to live. Inside, you'll find a list of local groups covering a wide range of interests and activities. If you know of a group that isn't included, please contact info@kintorecommunitycouncil.co.uk — we'd be delighted to add it and help keep our community connections growing.

GROUP NAME	FACEBOOK PAGE	WEBSITE/ EMAIL ADDRESS	CONTACT NUMBER
------------	---------------	---------------------------	----------------

PUBLIC SERVICES: STATUTORY AND VOLUNTARY

Aberdeenshire Council	✓	www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk	
Aberdeenshire Recycling/Waste	✓	waste@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	03456 081207
Inverurie Health & Care Hub	✓	www.inveruriemedicalpractice.scot.nhs.uk	03453 379911
Kintore Health Centre			01467 633000
Kintore Fire Station			01224 728600
Kemnay Academy	✓	kemnay.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	01467 533660
Kintore Primary School		www.kintore.aberdeenshire.sch.uk	01467 539975
Midmill Primary School		www.midmill.aberdeenshire.sch.uk	01467 536888
Kintore & District Community Council	✓		
Inverurie First Responders	✓	coordinator.cfrinverurie@outlook.com	07823325426
Kintore Konnect – quarterly community magazine		info@kintorecommunitycouncil.co.uk	
Kintore Post Office			01467 632201
Kintore Public Hall	✓		
Kintore Folk – community group with local information	✓		
Aberdeenshire North Foodbank	✓	info@aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk	07721 379534
Kintore Fundraising team	✓		
Action Kintore SCIO	✓	www.actionkintore.org	

ADULT/YOUTH SPORTS

Kintore Angling Club	✓		
Kintore Bowling Club	✓		
Cycling without age Scotland – Kintore	✓		
TEN Cycling Club – Inverurie	✓		
Kintore Golf Club	✓	www.kintoregolfclub.net	01467 632631
Kintore AFC – adults	✓		07792 364710
Kintore United Football Club – youth, girls, boys and amateurs (adults)	✓	www.kufc.co.uk / secretary@kufc.co.uk	
Garioch Gymnastic Club (premises in Kintore)	✓	www.clubmanager@gariochgymnastics.com	07852 615858

Garioch Rugby Club - Inverurie	✓	www.pitchero.com/clubs/gariochrugbyfootball-club2	07792 894936
Jog Scotland Kintore – jogging/running for all abilities	✓	www.jogscotland.org.uk	
Kintore Tae-kwon-Do School	✓	www.kintoretkd.co.uk	07759 283040
Garioch Road & Gravel cycling club (based Kintore)	✓	www.gariochroadandgravel.co.uk	
Garioch Archers - Inverurie	✓	info@gariochsports.co.uk	01467 626141
Inverurie Boxing Club at Midmill	✓		
Kintore Mum's Book Club	✓		

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Kintore Childminding Group			
Kintore Scout Group	✓	Gslkintore@gmail.com	07710 757573
Girlguiding Gordon		kintoredc@outlook.com	
The Bothie, Kintore – youth groups	✓	www.thebothie.org	07592 844224
Kintore Playgroup	✓		01467 539979
Midmill Velohut (Bicycle Maintenance Workshops at Kintore and Midmill Primaries)	✓	midmill.velohut@gmail.com www.midmillvelohut.org	07817 934860

OTHERS, FOR ADULTS AND FAMILIES

Bennachie Parish Church, Kintore	✓	www.office@bennachieparish.church	01467 643883
Kintore Community Church	✓	www.info@kintore.cc	01224 868096
Kintore Summer Festival			
Sustainable Kintore	✓		
Kintore Plant Swap & Sell	✓		
Kintore Men's Shed	✓		
Kintore Village Info	✓	www.kintore.org.uk	
Kintore Pipe Band	✓	www.kintorepipeband.com	
Rotary Club – Kintore, Blackburn & Kemnay	✓	www.rotary-ribi.org	
Kintore Free Giveaway	✓		
Buy, Swap, Sell Aberdeenshire – includes Kintore	✓		
Garioch Community Kitchen – minimal cost courses for adults & children	✓	www.gariochcommunitykitchen.org	07729 297892

LOCAL VOLUNTARY GROUPS WITH NO SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Flower display beds and containers - planting & maintenance group			
Kintore Senior Citizens – Wed. afternoons, 1400-1600 Sept-April, Church Hall			
Scottish Women's Institute, Kintore, first Tuesday every month 19.30 in Public Hall		www.thswi.org.uk	
Health Walk – Wed. morning summer months			
Knit & Stitch Group, Tuesdays 10.00-12.00 Kintore Library		www.kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	01467 532605
Kintore Church Drop in Thursday 10.00-1400 Sept-April, Church Hall		www.office@bennachieparish.church	01467 643883
Kintore Community Church Open House Tuesday mornings		www.info@kintore.cc	01224 868096
Kintore Additional Needs Support Group, first Wednesday of every month 10.00-12.00			07584 672271
Golden Agers Group (dementia and Alzheimer's) – Granton Developments		grantondevelopments@gmail.com	01467 268520

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Sunday is coming

The deadline for this edition of the Kintore Konnect fell right in the middle of “the longest sunless period in the Aberdeen area since Met Office records began in 1957”, to quote the BBC. Hopefully by the time you read this edition there will have been a break in the weather and things will have started drying out a bit. But there was a moment there when quite a few of us were casting about for some wooden planks and wondering whether we should start rounding up two of every kind of animal we could find to take with us into an ark.

All joking aside, winter in general and this wet, wet winter in particular can have the effect of dampening our spirits. The dark, cold and wet weather can become oppressive and feelings of sadness or even depression are not uncommon. For most of us, the things that eventually lift our spirits are the early signs of spring – snowdrops, days lengthening, a bit of sunlight, the return of birdsong and eventually the emergence of daffodils. In short – New Life!

Perhaps it is no accident that the Christian celebration of Easter takes place in spring. Whatever else Easter means, at

its heart it is the celebration of New Life.

It recalls the Good News that despite his death on the Cross on Good Friday, Jesus was raised to New Life on Sunday! And it proclaims the equally Good News that because of His Resurrection, Sunday is coming for us too. No matter how many “Good Fridays” we endure; no matter what experiences we have that “kill” us physically, emotionally or spiritually; no matter how dead we feel inside through guilt or shame or sin or failure or disappointment – Sunday is coming!

To be clear, Resurrection does not deny death. The sense of death and decay are real. We do sin. We do grieve. We do fail and disappoint and sometimes the things that matter to us do come to a very real end. We have reasons to mourn. But the story of Easter teaches us that there is always – always! – an opportunity to begin again, to hope again, to live again.

May God begin a new thing in your heart this Easter season.

*Much love,
Rev Neil Meyer*

KINTORE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

A big thank you to everyone who completed our recent validation survey. Your feedback has been really helpful and has played a big part in shaping the next stage of the Community Action Plan.

We’ve been reviewing all the responses and pulling together a list of possible actions, along with the groups and organisations who could help make them happen. It’s been great to see so many positive ideas and such strong community support.

Our next step is to move into the stakeholder engagement phase — bringing the right people together to start turning ideas into action. We’ll be sharing the priority actions, exploring opportunities for partnership, and agreeing realistic next steps and lead contacts.

Once this session has taken place, we’ll update the Community Action Plan with clear commitments and timelines, and share the next steps with the community. Thanks again to everyone who’s been involved — your input is helping shape the future of Kintore.



KINTORE

Men's Shed

The Kintore Men's Shed is a relaxed and friendly group that brings men together to support wellbeing and enjoy a bit of good company. Meeting at The Bothie every Tuesday from 10am–12pm and Thursday evenings from 7–8pm, the Men's Shed offers a safe, informal space to take a breather from everyday life, have a laugh, and

connect with others.

We're also delighted to share that we now have a bench set up in our container, complete with electricity, which means we're ready to take on new projects. One of the projects planned for this year is making bird boxes, which will be a great way to put our new setup to good use while giving something back to the local environment. We're always keen to welcome new members — whether you want to roll up your sleeves and get stuck in, or simply come along for a coffee, a blether and a bit of craic.

If you'd like to find out more, you can look up Kintore Men's Shed on Facebook, or simply come along during one of our session times and see what it's all about. There's no need to book — just turn up, have a cuppa, and say hello. You'll be glad you did.



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The It's Your Neighbourhood volunteer group kicked off the year with an enthusiastic meeting at the end of January, bringing together local residents to brainstorm ideas and priorities for 2026. It was a really positive session, with plenty of discussion about how we can continue to look after and improve our shared spaces in Kintore, while encouraging more people to get involved along the way. The group is keen to build on what's already working well and to explore new activities that reflect what matters most to the community.

One of the first activities planned for this year is a community litter pick focused on the slip roads to the dual carriageway, an area that really benefits from some extra care and attention. We're delighted

KINTORE

It's your neighbourhood

that Kintore Fire Station have kindly volunteered to take this on, and their support is hugely appreciated.

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers, with a range of opportunities available to suit different ages, interests and abilities. Whether you can give a little time occasionally

or want to be more hands-on, there's something for everyone. To find out more about It's Your Neighbourhood, visit <https://kintore.org.uk/its-your-neighbourhood> or get in touch at info@kintorecommunitycouncil.co.uk — we'd love to hear from you.

Get ready, Kintore

OUR MUCH-LOVED GARDEN COMPETITIONS ARE RETURNING FOR 2026!



Local residents can take part in the Scarecrow Competition, Sunflower Competition and Planter/Window Box Competition, or showcase their Small Garden, Large Garden or Low Maintenance Garden. There are also prizes to be won for the best Hanging Basket, Planter and Container displays. This is just the beginning—more updates will follow shortly, so keep an eye on the Kintore Facebook page for the latest details and information on how to enter!

BAILIES OF BENNACHIE

The Bailies of Bennachie are pleased to report on some of our news from groups and events as follows:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for mid-March. There will be reports from our Trustees on all things Bennachie and Bailies specific topics. This year we will welcome our special guest speaker from Aberdeen Mountain Rescue. Members will receive an invitation to the AGM allowing them to register their attendance. If you would like to join, membership is £25 for life, with signup available from our website <https://bailiesofbennachie.co.uk/membership>

WILDLIFE / ENVIRONMENT

The Wildlife / Environment groups are working on their 2026 program. To be confirmed but early discussions suggest events on bird song, wildflowers and a talk on pine marten and wild cats. At a recent event there was great excitement viewing footage from their trail camera project. Species filmed include roe and red deer, bats, mountain hares, red squirrel and a variety of voles to name a few.



WORK PARTIES

Work Parties will recommence, weather dependent, in March, if not before. Join our merry band in this satisfying and worthwhile work. Find out more from our website or by email, see below.

WEBSITE SHOP

Look out for new products being added to our website shop including T-shirts, sweatshirts, neck warmers, mugs, cards etc.

HELP YOUR HILL

Our Help Your Hill campaign is ongoing; donations can be made via our website or by sending a cheque. The total raised so far for this project is more than £22,000 with Gift Aid still to be claimed.

Members may sign up to join any of our groups as volunteers, see 'volunteering' on the website. Any queries may be directed to us by emailing info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk



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Set against the backdrop of Aberdeenshire's countryside, Kintore Angling Club offers anglers an exceptional opportunity to enjoy fishing only a short distance from the town centre. The peaceful surroundings provide a welcome escape from the pressures of everyday life, with time by the water always a worthwhile experience.

The club is organised to provide low-cost fishing for the benefit of the local community as well as visiting anglers. We offer extensive fishing on the Don consisting of approximately 4.9 miles on the left bank and around 3.8 miles on the right bank, starting above the golf club and continuing downstream through mixed agricultural surroundings. We offer approximately 21 named pools consisting of a wide range of features including fast flowing streamy runs, gentle gliding water alongside deep holding pools. This offers considerable scope for varied fishing tactics, both spinning and fly fishing.

Fishing can be booked on a daily, weekly or seasonal basis offering the chance to enjoy the occasional peaceful day, a quick summer's evening visit or indeed regular fishing on

KINTORE ANGLING

a varied and substantial stretch of the river.

The Don has been long known as a salmon and sea trout river and for many these remain the primary target. The club offers some excellent opportunities for both species with sport typically offered from spring through to the end of October. Specimen salmon are caught every season with fish up to 20 pounds, and sometimes above, landed most years.

However, the Don's potential for wild brown trout fishing is increasingly the reason why anglers choose the river as a destination for a truly exceptional experience. Our beats offer the opportunity to record plentiful catches in the half to one pound range. But there are some world class trout in residence, with fish of three pounds and upwards caught every year. To connect with a large wild brown trout of this calibre is always an exciting and memorable experience.

The Fishing the Fly website www.fishingthefly.co.uk

fishingthefly.co.uk offers a wealth of specific advice for river Don tactics and is worth a look.

The club supports conservation efforts on the river with bank maintenance carried out by volunteers. We work in cooperation with the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative helping to control and hopefully eliminate invasive plants such as giant hogweed. Again, this is carried out by club volunteers. We work alongside the River Don Trust and the Don District Salmon Fishing Board and adopt their fishing guidelines and conservation code. The Board's activities extend to catchment wide habitat restoration. More information can be found at www.riverdon.org. Our aim is to be an environmentally responsible and conservation focussed angling club.

The club is keen to attract those new to fishing and the river Don as well as maintaining long lasting members of which there are many. We offer low-cost fishing for junior members and free fishing for accompanied juniors under 15 as well as discounted membership for senior citizens.

If you are new to fishing then you may be interested in the Aberdeenshire Fly Fish 50 programme (you'll find on facebook). They will be offering three sessions at Loch Insch



CLUB



fishery in May this year and the link for these is <https://bit.ly/3Mfjgdz> Well worth considering if you are interested in some fly fishing tuition as an introduction to the sport.

We aim to be inclusive and welcoming to new members as well as returning regulars. We are happy to offer advice and guidance to anyone interested in learning more about our local fishing opportunity. In this

respect we are happy to respond to queries directly and can be reached via **Stan Christie**, Club Secretary, on 07951 859507 or **Iain Mitchell**, Club Chairman, on **07788 925405**

Membership with Kintore Angling Club can be obtained via our website www.kintoreanglingclub.org.uk and daily or weekly permits can be

purchased on www.fishpal.com

Although 2025 was a more difficult season, due to ongoing low water levels, we look forward to the opening of the new season with the usual sense of anticipation and optimism. Tight lines everyone!

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DO YOU ORIGINALLY COME FROM KINTORE?

No, I come from Orkney. I was born on the island of Stronsay, moving to the Orkney Mainland when I was 5.

We stayed on a farm just outside Stromness.

CAN YOU GIVE OUR READERS A BIT OF BACKGROUND ON YOUR EDUCATION, CAREER AND FAMILY?

I went to school at Stromness Academy, moving to Glasgow when I was 18 to study at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

While there I studied piano,

voice and oboe, winning the coveted Bach Piano prize Class A in my 2nd year.

I moved up to Aberdeen to do my Post Grad year achieving my Teaching qualification from the Northern College as it was known at that time, now taken over by Aberdeen University.

While there I did further studies in

singing and gained the London Guildhall Diploma in performance.

I returned to Orkney to take up the post of an itinerant teacher of music after qualifying.... I loved this job as it meant travelling all over the Mainland of Orkney and to several of the isles too One such fun time was going to teach at Rousay Primary School, they had no piano so I took my guitar to sing with the bairns.... Mansie Flaws used to skipper the boat I took to get there.... Every second week I went he took his fiddle and we would play while crossing the 'Soond' to get to the island. He would tie the wheel with a rope to keep the boat on track!!

At weekends I joined a local band called The Orcades. I had played with them before leaving Orkney and rejoined on coming back. We played everything from ceilidh to Country Music to

Ruby Mackay

KINTORE'S UNSUNG HERO



Pop and Rock. Such a cracking band of great musicians. We had a reunion about 10 years ago.

I was approached by an agent and asked if I'd like to go on a UK Tour with an American singer called Kenny Serratt. I was given unpaid leave of absence and set off on a 3 week Tour of Britain. What an experience!

It was after this Tour finished, I was approached by Golspie band Colorado to join up with them. They were a busy Country Music band travelling all over the World. I was sad to leave my homeland but the lure of 'the road' took precedence and off I went. I eventually ended up fronting my own band The Ruby Rendall Band which I still have to this day but just different members. This band won Scottish Country Music Band of the year for two years running back in the mid 80's. We have Toured all over Britain, Ireland, Europe and played Nashville's Grand Ole Opry.

I have loved my days of playing all over the World.

I have made 10 Studio Albums over the Years. Currently I am also working on a new Celtic Rock Musical - The Viking Bride a 12th century peak at my native Orkney.

I met my husband Sandy when I joined Colorado - we've been together over 40 years now!

We have two children Debrah and Robbie who are both involved in my Music School business - Chalmers Mackay Music School.

After being on the road full time for many years I decided I'd had enough of the nomadic unsettled life it presented although I loved the fun and

experience of it all I had always had a hankering to run my own Music School.

Through a chance communication from Grace Matchett (Drama) who was in charge of the RSAMD Alumni I got in touch with my friend Roy McGillvaray who was running a school in Musselburgh, I met with him and he gave me sound advice on how to set up my own School. The rest is history - Chalmers Mackay Music school opened its doors back in 1997 at 41 High Street Inverurie. Let's hope we make our 30th in 2027!!

I do a monthly podcast for the BBC presenting Back to the Country under my pseudonym Ruby Rendall. Rendall is my middle name and my mother's surname. Its origins are Viking - Rendall means WolfMother!

My Agent asked me to adopt this name as he thought it went well with my christian name - hence Ruby Rendall just in case folk wonder why I have two names!!

CHARITY WORK....

My involvement with charitable work came after I had my daughter Debrah. We ran concerts to get a wheelchair for new mothers to be transported to see their babies in the Aberdeen Maternity Unit Special Nursery they were so short of equipment.

This began a yearly pledge to support various Charities struggling with funds - Marie Curie, MacMillan, MND-Lucy Lintott fund, Cerebral Palsy - song for Alex, the Drew Bruce Fund (to help purchase electric wheelchair) , Imperial Cancer, RDA (riding for the disabled), Sandpiper (medical equipment)

... just a few of the Charities we have raised funds for. To date we have raised over £88,000 for local Charities.

Closer to home we support our local community by staging Kintore Street Party annually on the last Saturday in August, performing at the Kintore Fireworks event and holding a Burns Supper for the local community at Kintore Golf Club, and raising funds for the Kintore Floral Group annually.

Our School is geared to supporting both young and old students - some of whom have gone on to experience fame out in the performing World.

Whether on guitar, piano, singing, fiddle, saxophone, drums, pipes, accordion..... we encourage enjoyment first and if someone wants to do exams or just play for fun, we are here to steer them in the right direction.

HOBBIES

Kintore residents must see me daily out with Ziggy my Hungarian Vizsla. He's a bit of a nitwit wanting to speak to and chase after every dog on the Planet, he's a lovable rogue.

I enjoy playing with Robbie's band at weekends. A mix of rock and Country.





ABERDEENSHIRE LIEUTENANCY THE LORD LIEUTENANT'S UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Aberdeenshire residents who were recognised for the outstanding contributions they have made across the county and beyond in the King's New Year Honours List. From highland dancing to historic building preservation, apprenticeships / catering, charitable work, tourism, cadets, medicine we are grateful to them and proud of their achievements. Peter Bruce (CBE) for catering/charity, Prof. Zosia Miedzybrodzka (OBE) for genetics, Claire Bruce (MBE) for

tourism, James Buchan (MBE) for seafood, Paul Higson (MBE) for heritage, David Reid (MBE) for disability support, Adele Steel (MBE) for Girlguiding, and Alison Milne (BEM) for highland dancing and Squadron Leader Stewart Norris (BEM) for youth.

COMMEMORATIVE SYCAMORE TREE PLANTING AT BALMORAL CASTLE

A very moving and special tree planting ceremony was held within the grounds of Balmoral Castle on Armistice Day in

recognition of the 28 estate workers who fought in the First World War, of whom seven made the ultimate sacrifice. Rev Kenneth MacKenzie LVO DL, Minister of the Parish of Braemar and Crathie, led the short commemorative service which was attended by Balmoral estate staff, Gordon Highlander veterans and volunteers from The Gordon Highlanders Museum. The Lady Saltoun DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire and Kirsty Wilson, Head of Gardens for Balmoral and Birkhall, planted a sycamore tree in commemoration of all the estate workers who

served. The new Resident Factor, Major Rob Whitson, welcomed everyone and made a commemorative speech which included a special message from His Majesty The King.

Anniversaries, Birthdays

Myself, or one of my Deputies are always delighted to visit on the day of special milestones, 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th birthdays and present a card and personal congratulations. Please do look at our web site, details below, for further information.

HONOURS

I had the great pleasure of presenting Keith Jensen with his British Empire Medal for his remarkable work over 30 years saving lives as a paramedic in the North-East of Scotland. Keith has also played a key role in supporting the impactful work of life saving charities such as Aberdeen Mountain Rescue, The Sandpiper Trust and BASICS Scotland. A truly exceptional contribution to our communities and so many families.

The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy would like to know of any individual or

voluntary organisation who has made an exceptional contribution for the wider benefit of others in their community. The Lieutenancy will assist in giving full consideration for appropriate recognition. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ABERDEENSHIRE LIEUTENANCY?

Myself, or one of my Deputies would be pleased to visit local groups and schools to share information about the Lieutenancy and the work we do. Please use the email contact below to get in touch.

<https://www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk> or contact us info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram – 'Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire'

Very best wishes to you all
Sandy Manson, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire

KINTORE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Who can we trust?

One of the most delightful things to behold is the natural trust a child has in a loving parent.

Think of the little girl who jumps gleefully from the top of the climbing frame into the arms of her daddy. Or the little boy who instinctively runs through to his mum for a cuddle after a bad dream.

We somehow know this is how things are meant to be. Which is why it is so devastating when trust is broken. The beautiful heights of a child's instinctive trust are mirrored only by the horrific depths of a soul-crushing betrayal.

Even in public life, we feel so angry when there has been a betrayal of trust. In recent months, our politics and the news have been full of such matters. It can certainly leave us feeling hopeless. Where are we to turn?

In Psalm 146, we read:

Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there.

But joyful are those...whose hope is in the Lord their God.

I'm sure many of us could say a hearty "amen" to that first verse. But what about the other?

I'm so grateful Jesus offers us hope. While human leaders are often shaped by the pressures of prestige and power, Christ is the 'Anchor for the soul.' He is the one person who knows the very worst about us, yet offers us forgiveness and life. He will never let you down.

Kintore Community Church meets at 10:30am every Sunday (16 Forest Road), and in various activities throughout the week. Check out kintore.cc, and if there's any way we can be of help to you, email us at info@kintore.cc.

Martin J Clarke



NEW PUPPIES AND KITTENS

Charlie Carnochan BVM&S MRCVS
Veterinary Surgeon
Donview Veterinary Centre

Spring always brings a wave of tiny paws through our doors. Puppies wrapped in blankets, kittens tucked into boxes, children trying very hard not to drop anything. There is always excitement, a bit of nerves, and one simple question:

"Are they healthy?"

That first visit is about much more than a quick check. Before we even start examining them, we talk about where they have come from. Good breeders will have already given a first vaccine, started worming, and written down exactly what was used and when. That information lets us build the right plan for the weeks ahead.

Most young pets come in for either their first or second **vaccination**. After the second injection, they can usually start proper walks a few weeks later. Until then, they need to be protected from contact with unknown dogs and places where lots of dogs have been.

That doesn't mean they should stay at home. The early weeks are when puppies and kittens learn what the world is like. Puppies can meet calm, fully vaccinated dogs in the house. They can be carried around villages, shops, school gates and busy roads so they get used to people, noise and traffic without being put at risk. Kittens benefit from gentle handling, different sounds, and calm new experiences too.

Worming and parasite

treatment start early. Many young pets already carry worms even if they look well. Regular treatment keeps them growing properly and avoids problems that can build quietly.

Feeding habits start from day one. It's easy to show love with food,

but overfeeding begins early and leads to problems later. Measuring meals and being careful with treats makes a real difference.

After those first visits, we don't disappear. We offer regular puppy and kitten checks with our nurses until six months of age. These visits look at growth, teeth, weight, feeding, behaviour and parasite control, and give owners space to ask all the small questions that always come up. For Healthy Pets Club members, these nurse checks are free. The club spreads the cost of routine care through a simple monthly payment and includes discounts on treatments, a free six-month nurse check, and a free vet consultation.

Neutering is different for every pet. Breed, size and sex all matter, so there isn't one "right" age for everyone. Our nurses and vets talk it through with each owner and make a plan that fits their pet.

Those first few months shape everything that comes after. Good care early on doesn't just prevent problems – it helps puppies and kittens grow into relaxed, healthy companions.





Multi-award winning, highly rated practice

We pride ourselves on being available 24 hours a day to offer the best for your pets.

Our Veterinarians are driven to provide a high standard of service and maintain a sympathetic approach to your animals's care whilst offering the best value for money.



Contact Us:



Kintore Surgery - 20 School Road, Kintore, Aberdeenshire, AB51 OUX.
call: **01467 634 803** email: **kintore@donviewvets.co.uk**

Inverurie Surgery - Blackhall Industrial Estate, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 4FW.
call: **01467 621 429** email: **reception@donviewvets.co.uk**



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 01224 748167

 **Inverurie Recovery**
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AB51 4FR

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9am-4pm

 01467 538828
(Will divert to out of hours)

KINTORE LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday 09:00 – 13:30
 Wednesday 14:00 – 18:00
 Thursday 13:00 – 17:00
 Saturday 09:00 – 11:30

BOOKBUG SESSIONS WITH ELEMENTS OF MAKATON

Every second Wednesday 11 – 11.30.am. This is for little ones (0-5years) with their parent/carer. We will sing some songs and rhymes and share a story together. Booking is recommended for the attending adult, but we welcome walk-ins if space allows.

KNIT AND STITCH group meets every Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00, no booking is required but spaces are limited. E-mail for details: kintoreK.n.s@gmail.com

JIGSAWS adult jigsaws are available for borrowing

TOYS & GAMES including Duplo are available to be played with in the library

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

INK BANK bring in your empty ink cartridges, proceeds go to Girl Guiding

NHS HEARING AID BATTERIES, FOOD CADDY AND BATTERY BAGS

are available on request. For information on how to access free e-books, talking books, magazines and newspapers on your tablet or phone, or to request your next good read, please see <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/> or call into the library – you will need your borrower number and PIN.

In addition to public open time library staff undertake outreach activities, for instance Nursery Bookbug sessions, visits to clubs and groups and so forth. If you would be interested in this or have suggestions to make, please get in touch at kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

CONTACT US

E-mail: kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Telephone: **01467 532605**

Libraries homepage: <https://livelifeberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries>.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KintoreLibraryAberdeenshire>

COMMUNITY NOTICES



KINTORE PLAYGROUP

PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER

ESTABLISHED IN 1969, OUR COMMUNITY-LED PLAYGROUP HAS BEEN PROVIDING CHILDCARE FOR CHILDREN FROM THE AGES OF 3-5 YEARS FOR OVER 50 YEARS.

Kintore Playgroup offers exceptionally **high quality childcare** in a **safe, stimulating and caring environment** both **indoors and outdoors** where children can **play, learn, explore and grow.**

'A WARM, SUPPORTING AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES'
'CHILDREN ARE AT THE HEART OF THE SERVICE'
CARE INSPECTORATE

FUNDED HOURS AND OPENING TIMES

Term-time funded places with children attending up to **6 hours a day.**

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 am - 3pm	ADDITIONAL DAYS Half Day - £28 Full Day - £36
--------------------------------------	--

FOR AGES 3-5 YEARS OLD

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Where to find us: Kintore Primary School

kintoreplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

01467 539979

KINTORE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB



Are you over 55 and looking for good company and great music?

Come and join our friendly club in the Church Hall every Wednesday afternoon from 2-4pm during the winter months.

Our 2025/26 session commences on Wednesday 1st October.

Enjoy live performances from Scottish, Irish and Country Western musicians and singers.

Annual membership is only £10.
Whether you're a regular or new, you'll be warmly welcomed.

For more information please contact Meg Mackay on 07565503384



Messy Church

Dates for your diary...

Sunday, 5 April (3:30-4:30)
Mini-Messy Easter at Kintore Church

Sunday, 10 May (3:30-5:30)
at Kintore Church

Sunday, 14 May (12noon onwards)
Parish Picnic at Monymusk Park



Kintore Additional Needs Support Group

**1st Wednesday of every month (termtime)
Ask for location, central Kintore (10am-12pm)**

Hi, I am Janine Cracknell and for the last decade I have been running the support group in Kintore for parents and carers of children and young people with (ASN) Additional Support Needs. Our eldest child has just finished secondary school, so I have firsthand experience of the (ASFL) Additional Support For Learning provision available from Nursery right through to S6.

With the new year well underway, now is a great time to reach out for much-needed support and guidance. Perhaps, your child will be starting nursery shortly or you are facing a tricky transition to a new stage or place in the coming months. Our members have so much knowledge and experience to share and the meetings are very informal, with bottomless cups of tea and homemade cakes. It would be wonderful to get to know you and we do also have a giggle or two!

Please contact me on **07584672271** or janinecracknell@outlook.com for further information.

 **Haddo Arts**
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Presents... Exciting Events in 2026!



Our season starts on **Saturday 11 April** when renowned composer **Sir John Rutter CBE** directs a Come and Sing day, fun for singers of all abilities. **Places limited so early booking recommended!**

On **Sunday 12 April Opera Bohemia** return to Haddo for an early evening performance of their sparkling new production of "**Die Fledermaus**".

Multi award winning violin & cello duo, **The Ayoub Sisters**, perform a diverse selection of folk music drawing on their Scottish/Egyptian heritage on **Saturday 16 May** and on **Sunday 17 May**, **Nigel Clayton & Imma Setiadi** offer a pot pourri of piano duets from France and Russia.



June brings Mexican guitarist **Morgan Szymanski** back to Haddo with Scottish violinist **Roo Geddes**; **August** offers a **family ceilidh** and a **Scottish Country Dance evening**; **September** sees **Nikita Lukinov** give a chamber performance of **Grieg's Piano Concerto**, and in **October**, historian & novelist **Sarah Dunant** shares insights into the life and times of a renaissance **Marchesa**.

Tickets for all events **on sale from 27 February!**

Scan the QR code for details, to buy your tickets and sign up for our newsletter!

Follow us on social media [@haddoarts](https://www.instagram.com/haddoarts)



HEALTH WALKS

Meet at 10am in the Square Kintore
Every Wednesday

APRIL – 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
MAY – 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
JUNE – 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

OPEN TO ALL

BLACKIE BANTER

Online Community Magazine

Our Neighbours Blackburn have their Online Community Magazine where you can keep up with the latest Updates from them.

Their Website: www.kinellarccommunity.com



KINTORE SUMMER FESTIVAL

Get ready to enjoy a great day out with family and friends browsing all the fantastic community stalls, watching local performances and experiencing some fantastic entertainment.

11 AM TO 4 PM

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

Kintore Pleasure Park, Castle Road, Kintore



Open House

Every Tuesday at Kintore Community Church, 16 Forest Road, Kintore

Kintore Community Church has recently launched "Open House"—a relaxed and welcoming space open every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon at 16 Forest Road.

Whether you're looking for friendly conversation, a listening ear, or simply a warm cuppa and a biscuit, Open House is a place to feel at home. There's no agenda, no pressure—just a chance to slow down, connect with others in the community, and enjoy some company.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of age or background. Whether you're new to Kintore or have lived here for years, we'd love to see you. No need to book—just drop in!



THE BOTHIE

Young People's Project

Youth Projects

Action Kintore
Kintore Community Charity

Mondays 3.30pm-5pm
Junior Group
P5, P6 and P7

Tuesdays 7pm-9pm
YAFTS Youth Group
Young and Free To Speak
Age 12+

**Allandale Gardens
KINTORE AB51 OUT**

Sessions are free and delivered by youth workers and volunteers to create a safe, fun space for young people to have a voice, make positive changes in their community, participate in educational workshops, and to have fun!

**Pool Table-Games Consoles-Snacks- Arts and Crafts
Music-Games-Day and Weekend Trips**

Keep an eye on our Facebook for more youth opportunities

Get in touch with Rachel Lewis, our youth development worker for more info about our groups and projects.

Thebothiekintore@gmail.com

Action Kintore is a community charity who oversee The Bothie Kintore and Town House project. The charity is made up of volunteers of different ages, from Kintore and meet once a month to discuss the projects, share ideas and get involved with the local community.

We have a range of volunteering roles for people who wish to join Action Kintore; volunteer at our youth groups, support funding applications, fundraising, basic Bothie maintenance, sharing ideas, website updates, advertising and promotion, sounding board for projects and event ideas and much more!

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer with us, or want to hear more about what we do, please get in touch with our youth worker, Rachel, at Thebothiekintore@gmail.com, or pop along to our AGM at The Bothie on the 1st December at 7pm.

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