



ISSUE 55

KINTORE KONNECT

CONNECTING OUR
COMMUNITY



**CELEBRATING EVERYTHING LOCAL IN AND
AROUND KINTORE AND DISTRICT**

IMAGE CREDIT: Audrey Gregor

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WELCOME TO YOUR KINTORE KONNECT

**Deadline for next issue:
10th May 2024**

This edition's cover photo
are two lively young lambs
from a local farm.

We wish all our readers a
Happy Easter.

Thank you as always for
your valued support.

The KDCC Team

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GIRLGUIDING KINTORE

What we have been up to

Christmas – our annual Christmas party returned for 2023 where Rainbows and Brownies from the Kintore, Kemnay and Kinellar areas attended Kinellar Hall and enjoyed party games and a chance to dress up in their Christmas party outfits. The Brownies enjoyed Ten Pin Bowling in Inverurie. Guides loved a trip to the Inverurie Panto, "oh yes they did". Finally, Rangers were treated to an escape room challenge in Aberdeen which they conquered. Well done, Rangers!



Rangers also enjoyed getting into the festive spirit by making and decorating Gingerbread houses.



Food Bank – Every year Rainbows and Brownies collect items for the food bank and deliver in time for Christmas. This year we decided to do something a little different. 1 st and 3 rd Kintore Rainbows were given the opportunity to win Gnorbert the Gonk via lucky squares. Who doesn't love a Gonk! We raised £100 and spent all the money on items the food bank desperately needed. A whopping 41.94 kg was donated. This will have helped many people over Christmas and Abigail Riddell was over the moon to win Gnorbert.



Bulb Planting – KDCC were given 100s of bulbs to plant in and around Kintore. Volunteers including Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Leaders turned up at the end of December to help plant these bulbs. We look forward to seeing daffodils, bluebells, crocus and hyacinths emerging soon.



Soup and Sweet Fundraiser – Held at the end of January was a great success. A big thank you to our local community for their help and support. Delicious soups and sweets were donated and enjoyed by lots of you who came along. Special thanks to Egroup, Sustainable Roots, The Kintore Fish Bar, First Photography, Skyline, Garioch Bowling,

Forest Farm, Electric Centre Inverurie, Cabin at The Dale, JSK Kintore, The Rock Room Music Studio Kemnay, Tesco and Costco for your generous donations to our raffle. You have helped us continue giving the girls as much as opportunities as we can, we rely on these events, and you were behind us all the way. Over £1700 was raised which will be distributed between our units.

Other Achievements

Last issue, we congratulated Rachelle Kennedy for achieving her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. We now have a picture and wish to commend the other girls who also achieved their Bronze awards. Bethan Rennie and Lois Grigor. Great work.



Gold Awards were presented to Megan Emery and Abigail Riddell of 3rd Kintore Rainbows.



Annabelle of 3rd Kintore Brownies has now completed all the Brownie Interest Badges. Well done.

We have lots more planned and look forward to telling you all about it in the next issue.
Happy Spring!



Girlguiding Kintore

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KINTORE COUNCILLOR REPORT - Glen Reid

Wellpark Road/Co-op junction

A constituent made me aware of an accident at the junction between Wellpark Road and the Co-op when a vehicle exiting the Co-op collided with another driving past. He had mentioned that there had been other such incidents and asked what could be done to improve safety here.

I wrote to the Roads team and asked them to investigate, however, the local and road safety team inspected the junction and stated that they do not see any issues with the junction in question, saying:

“There are edge of carriageway 1009 markings to inform drivers that they do not have right of way when exiting the car park and as such as the visibility splay meets with our standards then nothing more to be done here.

The issue appears to be with patrons of the co-op, and as such the team suggest that the co-op is contacted to request that they put up a courtesy message within their private grounds to warn drivers to take care exiting the car park which may assist with any potential accidents here.”

I then wrote to the manager of the Co-op asking for assistance and received a positive response saying that their Health and Safety Manager is going to do a store visit to see what they can do, with the possibility of them erecting a sign to warn drivers exiting the car park.

I hope that this proceeds and I thank the Co-op management for their assistance.

Kingsfield Road - Please turn your pavement facing mirrors inward during cold weather

I received a complaint from a constituent who had discovered during a recent cold spell that “the pavement clearing and sanding

had stopped at Howieslap.” He was raising concerns due to the “high number of elderly residents, some disabled, East of Howieslap who have to walk on very uneven ground to get to the village.”

I asked officers to investigate and they initially told me that the whole street was a F3 rating (Footway Priority 3) and therefore would be done when resources allowed.

I queried that this did not explain why the operation stopped at Howieslap when the whole road was a F3.

After a few more emails, they said, “We spoke with local colleagues about this matter and they stated that in this instance the gritting team experienced an inability to do the full length of this footpath due to parked cars and mirrors sticking out which was further compounded by increased size of footpath tractors we are now using. As such if residents can keep this in mind for future winter periods they should be able to cover this full area next time.”

I asked for clarification on whether there was pavement parking involved and was assured, “According to our colleagues the vehicles were too close to the kerb and their mirrors were protruding too far out in this instance. Hopefully this helps clarify it.”

I know this is not ideal, but could residents please be mindful, in cold weather spells, to turn their pavement facing mirrors inwards and not to park right on the edge of the pavement - this will hopefully mean that the pavement gritter can access the whole street.

Northern Road - Lochburn Flood Prevention Scheme

I thought I would provide an update on the outcome of the meeting that was held on the 24th of January between; Network Rail (NR), SEPA, Aberdeenshire Council’s Flood Team

and myself.

NR said that they had appointed JBA as their contractor and were to have a meeting with them at the beginning of February, and that the programme for the design would begin week commencing the 5th of February, concluding at the end of March, with a design being submitted to SEPA for their approval.

From w/c 05.02 to w/e 29.03, NR/JBA are to have conversations/meetings etc with SEPA to provide them with as much pre-application info as possible to ensure that the design goes through as quickly as possible with SEPA.

The meeting on the 24th clarified a few things that NR were not sure of with SEPA so it was also productive from that point of view. I pressed on the timeline as SEPA have a statutory duty to process applications within four months. This would mean the end of July, and NR had indicated the end of June. SEPA are confident that if NR provide the info required pre-application, then the three months, or quicker is achievable.

I pressed NR on when their contractor would be able to mobilise on site as these works are urgently required and we must take advantage of the summer weather window. This was to be discussed when they met at the start of February.

The funding that is required for the project is part in place. Essentially the council will be funding the design, as long as it leads to the project being implemented, and NR are funding the works leading up to this point. Transport Scotland (TS) will be required to fund the building of the scheme and NR are working on this just now.

I pressed NR on the funding and TS commitment to the construction and they said that the project had been flagged many times to TS, they were aware that it had to be built this year, that there is effectively a budget line for it, but they need the details of how much etc. NR said that they had "no

reason to believe that TS won't fund it."

I have asked how long it will take to construct, but NR didn't know and were to ask JBA at their meeting at the start of February.

I emailed NR on the 5th of February to see how the meeting went with JBA, and to confirm that the design stage had started with their contractor, and I will continue to press as best I can as timelines need to be adhered to.

Drains – the Square

A constituent contacted myself with detailed concerns about the drains around the Square area of Kintore saying, "the whole network, particularly around the Square (low lying) needs attention."

I passed all the information on to officers and asked them to investigate, to which they replied:

"Thank you for your email. I can see we have a defect for the drainage system at The Square for inspecting the flooding issues, however it is rated as a 'Monitor' defect. Considering the comments made by your constituents I will notify this to local colleagues so they can look into this further and may ask drainage colleagues to visit the area sooner than their usual routine clearing. It may just be that the drains are reaching capacity due to the extreme amounts of rain but we will investigate."

They followed this up shortly with:

"Local colleagues have informed me that they will send out an inspector to this area to perform a fresh site visit to the drains here and will raise any additional defects they can find."

I hope that this will result in the drains being returned to their normal function.

Cllr. Glen Reid

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DYSLEXIA AWARENESS FAIR

Kintore Primary School is very fortunate to have a very supportive and hardworking Dyslexia Awareness Pupil Group and also a Dyslexia Awareness Parent Group. Our goal is to improve education for all pupils who are dyslexic or who have literacy challenges. To date there have been several collaborative activities with the most successful being assemblies, partly led by parents as part of Dyslexia Awareness Week activities.

As a result of the Dyslexia Group writing persuasive letters to Dyslexia Scotland, there are now metal blue ribbon badges. Our pupils all proudly wear their badges to indicate they are supportive and encouraging towards all dyslexic pupils. For our next venture we wish to raise as much money as we can to provide our senior pupils with as many touchscreen Chromebooks as possible for them to access Texthelp, which makes writing and reading a bit easier.

To do this we are having a Dyslexia Awareness Fayre on Friday the 21st of June in Kintore Main Hall from 6 – 8 pm. Our pupils will be on hand to promote all the resources and strategies they find helpful and also to offer information on Dyslexic strengths and challenges. There will be stalls with crafts and activities with tea/coffee and a raffle. Please put the date in your diary and come along to support this good cause.



REBECCA CARR

WE ARE  8 YEARS OLD

Thank you all so much for supporting our small business whether it was your first time or you have been on our journey for the last 8 years we appreciate you! It's been amazing watching the business grow and flourish! We have more than doubled our team which is testament to all the support you have given us over the years.

When I opened these doors I was so ready to have my own salon and grow something that would be used for the whole community but equally to those that travel far and wide. We have created a destination salon that has something for everyone and boy its been hard work but I am thankful everyday for each and everyone of you and of course my team, my extended family.

The salon strives on consistent training and we are proud to say we have home grown 7 Assistants into Future Stylists all the way to Senior Stylists, Development is key. We will be looking for our next future assistants in the spring so if you know school leavers that would like to start their career in hairdressing please let them know.

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KINTORE COUNCILLOR REPORT - Jim Gifford

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this edition of the Kintore Konnect.

As I type this, we are already well into February of yet another new year but sadly 2024 looks like having just as many, if not more, of the challenges we have all had to deal with over many previous years – not least the effects of the weather!

Local development Plan

Previously, I have mentioned that the new Local Development Plan (LDP) is now in place for Aberdeenshire Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 - Aberdeenshire Council and highlighted the opportunities for individuals, groups and communities to contribute to the process of developing the next LDP – a five-year process that starts as soon as the current plan is signed off.

Another element of community input to local planning are the relatively new processes of Local Place Plans (LPPs).

LPPs are a new right for communities to produce their own plans as part of the planning system. They contain the community's proposals for the development and use of land and provide a new opportunity for communities to feed into the planning system with their own ideas and proposals. The aim of the provision is to significantly enhance engagement in development planning and effectively empower communities to play a proactive role in defining the future of their places. Communities can bring forward their own proposals and suggestions for the development and use of land that reflect national and local outcomes.

The LPPs that are currently being developed are generally being taken forward by community councils but other groups can also take the lead and work up a LPP for their area.

If anyone is interested in looking at the LPP process, community councils or groups who wish to receive more information should email delivery@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Energy Projects around Kintore

On the topic of planning, many people have been raising issues and concerns around the number of energy-related projects that are around or are planned to be around Kintore – especially around Leylodge. There at least 11 not counting the proposed pylons and cables for the proposed Peterhead to Tealing grid upgrade.

I have raised this issue with planning officers at Garioch Area Committee (GAC) and at the Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC).

Kintore is a particular hot-spot but renewable energy projects are appearing all over Aberdeenshire – onshore and offshore. I have asked for, and been promised, a comprehensive briefing on how the council is dealing with these applications and especially on the cumulative impact of developments on people and our communities.

Financial Challenges

By the time you are reading this, the council will have set its budget for 2024-25 including the Council Tax for next year. This is the 16th budget process that I have been involved in and it has been by far the most difficult and challenging.

Years of under-funding are really catching up on all of our council services which has been accelerated and exacerbated by the continuing aftermath of all things Covid, the high rate of inflation, supply chain volatility and increased interest rates that have affected all of us for the last few years.

The cost of living affects councils just as much as individuals and we are only too painfully aware that decisions that we make to get the

numbers in our budget to stack up directly affect many people who depend on the many services that the council provide or pay others to deliver on our behalf.

To get the budget to balance – as we must do – we will have had to make a raft of the least-worst choices from a list of unpalatable options.

Having set the budget, we must then ensure that, as far as that is possible, our residents and communities are supported through the coming months while we hope for better times to come.

Cllr. Jim Gifford

Tel: 07766 497856

Email: cllr.j.gifford@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

KINTORE'S AED NETWORK

KDCC continue to promote the Defibrillator Circuit part of the British Heart Foundation. If you have an AED that you'd like to add to the support network of AED around Kintore, (See below link).

<https://www.defibfinder.uk/>
Defib Finder Web App.

The Circuit is where public access defibrillators get registered, and they've launched an app where you can find the nearest registered public access defibrillators to you, as well as showing you the times it is accessible and directions to it. The ambulance service tie into this system to help direct the public to the nearest AED.

Anyone can also use this app to determine the nearest public AED anywhere in the UK.

It also lets you know immediately which are available, and which aren't.

Unfortunately, it also painfully highlighted looking at the app, the number of unavailable AEDs currently within and around Kintore.

There are numerous AEDs located around Kintore which could be registered with the circuit, providing a faster response time

during a cardiac event. Unfortunately, AEDs unknown to the Scottish Ambulance Service could mean vital time being lost accessing an AED further down the road that is known.

KDCC kindly ask, that you only access the AED informed by the Scottish Ambulance at the time of an emergency, as accessing another unit will remove two AEDs from the register. The AED informed by the Scottish Ambulance and the unknown AED which has also been removed. This could result in another AED being assigned in an emergency when it's not actually available.

If you're a local business located in or around Kintore, please register your AED with the circuit <https://www.thecircuit.uk/> and help grow our public AED network within Kintore. Knowing where to find the nearest public defibrillator could save a life.

If you would like some help with this, please feel free to contact KDCC.
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A colorful poster for an Easter Fun Day event. It features several decorated Easter eggs in shades of pink, blue, and green, and a white bunny silhouette. The text is in large, bold, pink and yellow letters.

KINTORE 0-3 group
SCD 34472

EASTER FUN DAY

SATURDAY MARCH, 30TH
MORNING SESSION 10AM - 12
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KINTORE PUBLIC HALL

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Activities & Games
Tattoos
All ages welcome

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KINTORE CHURCH

The Old, Old Story

*Tell me the story slowly, That I may take it in—That wonderful redemption, God's remedy for sin;
Tell me the story often, For I forget so soon. - Kate Hankey*

As I write this season's reflection (in February), in the supermarkets Easter Eggs are wrestling for shelf-space with Valentine's Day chocolates. Soon our church buildings will pass through the Lenten spring-clean so that they're ready for fresh flowers and bright ornaments to welcome the dazzling light of Easter Morning. And we'll tell again the "Old, Old Story" of Jesus' Resurrection. Except that we won't.

Instead, we tend to tell cleaned-up stories of Jesus at Easter. Laced in high theology of the wonder of Resurrection we usually try to emphasize the transition from earth to heaven. "If Jesus could make it out alive and become good enough for heaven – you can too!" we seem to say. Depictions of the Resurrected Jesus in art show him aglow with holiness and perfection. We want him to look impressive. It's also the picture we imagine of what we should be like once we are saved / redeemed / become Christian / heaven-bound. It's funny though, because the Bible tells us that Mary, the one person who actually did see him at his Resurrection, mistook Jesus for the gardener. No disrespect to gardeners, but most gardeners are not resplendent in white robes, attended by hosts of angels. Maybe she mistook him for the gardener because he was still covered in the dirt from his own tomb.

Lutheran pastor, Nadia Bolz-Weber points out that the Easter story is not about Jesus becoming impressive and shiny, but about him becoming new. Similarly, the Good News of the Resurrection is not about us being made nicer, but about us becoming new. And, as anyone who has ever held a newborn baby knows, "new" is often messy and fragile. As Bolz-Weber puts it:

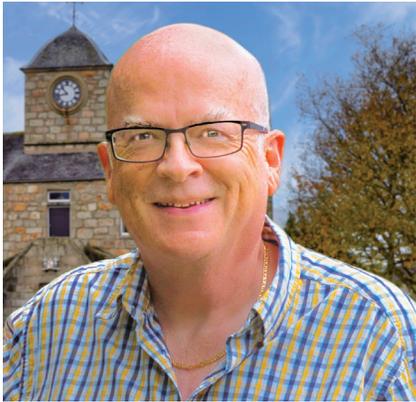
"New looks like recovering alcoholics. New looks like reconciliation between two family members - neither of which actually deserve it. New looks like every time I manage to admit I was wrong and every time I manage to not mention when I'm right. New looks like every fresh start and every act of forgiveness and every moment of letting go of what we thought we couldn't live without and then somehow living without it anyway. New is the thing you never saw coming ...never even hoped for, but ends up being what you needed all along and it happens to all of us. Because God simply keeps reaching down into the dirt of humanity and pulling us out of the graves we dig for ourselves through our violence, our lies, our selfishness, our arrogance, and our addictions. And God keeps loving us back to life over and over."

I hope that this year you will take the time to hear or read again the old, old story of God's love in Jesus. And, messy as it may be, I wish you the blessing of a new beginning – however you may be longing for it.

Grace and peace,
Rev Neil Meyer

KINTORE'S UNSUNG HERO

Meet Ken McEwen



Do you originally come from Kintore

No, my father moved the family from Edinburgh to Aberdeen to become a professor at the University of Aberdeen. Our move to Kintore came much later, in 1999.

Can you give us a bit of background on your Career?

My career has been dominated by communications and media. I started with the P&J and Evening Express, leaving to become press officer at the City of Aberdeen, then regional business development with NESDA.

That gave me the spur to set up my own PR business which grew to be one of the leading PR companies in Scotland. I was also chair of the Aberdeen branch of the Institute of Directors and a Burgess of Guild of the City of Aberdeen.

After 24 years, with retirement looming we sold the business to AVC in 2008 and I worked solo, from home for my final years in business.

What local Kintore Groups are you involved with now and have been involved with in the past?

When we moved to Kintore, I saw the need to raise the profile of Kintore. It was treated as part of Inverurie - a perception not helped by having "Inverurie" as part of the Royal Mail postal address.

I saw Kintore's history as one of Scotland's

oldest royal burghs, helping to overcome this "suburb" and "dormitory town" perception. Hansard confirmed we were free to continue using the historic royal burgh title. `So I set up the Royal Burgh of Kintore (kintore.org.uk) website and, later, the related Facebook page. (I transferred ownership of the website and Facebook to Kintore and District Community Council in 2021.)

I also got involved with the first Kintore Summer Festival, an initiative also intended to strengthen the sense of community.

Have you always been involved in the Kintore community?

Our first meeting with the Kintore and District Community Council was when it still met in the Town House in 2000. It was 2013 before I was co-opted onto Kintore and District Community Council, because Balbithan technically was not part of Kintore, as it is now.

I was elected vice-chair during Fiona Cooper's time as chair. When she, sadly, lost her battle with cancer in 2019 I took over as acting chair, until 2021.

My period in the hot seat included the Covid pandemic and I'm proud to say that - despite having to establish new remote ways to meet - we didn't miss a single meeting. It was also during this period that a consultation was held into whether Thainstone - which had been part of Kintore Parish, then Kintore District, for 300 years - should be handed over to Inverurie. At the same time the consultation asked if Balbithan should become part of Kintore. I was delighted that the public's verdict was that Thainstone should remain in Kintore. It also concluded Balbithan should become part of Kintore.

My involvement with the Action Kintore charity began with handling PR for the opening of the new building for The Bothie in 2013. Since then, I have become a Trustee with a particular interest in the plans to bring our magnificent 18th century Town House back

into community use.

The sad state of the old Torryburn Hotel shows what can happen to a disused building even in a strong community like Kintore. My recurring nightmare is that something similar might happen to the Town House if it is not brought back into community use. But raising the funds and motivating volunteers needs the community to come together to make it happen.

Would you recommend readers to get involved with the community and what would success look like for Kintore in your eyes?

Kintore is a remarkable community. You only have to look at the number of volunteers who volunteered when the community council and churches were formulating plans for Lend a Hand Kintore in response to Covid. Or, more recently, the amazing response for the Kintore Resilience Group during the October flooding. Success would be that sort of involvement and support replicated across all community activities.

How long have you been married?

Lesley and I got married, in her home state of California, in 1996. She loves living here and is even quite at home with the Doric dialect!

Can you tell us a bit more about MND, your personal challenges and living with the condition?

The first sign something was wrong was when I developed a bit of a limp in 2020. After initial tests and scans, the consultant told me that he was most keen to rule out motor neurone disease. After a year of further tests and scans the news was not good. In February 2023, I was diagnosed with PLS, a variant of Motor Neurone Disease.

The late Doddie Weir said of his MND diagnosis that it: "put a wrecking ball through our dreams, our plans, our future". I now know only too well what he meant. MND is a terminal disease that interrupts the signals from the brain to the muscles, which get weaker and weaker, until they stop working. That progressively affects the limbs, speech, swallowing and, ultimately, breathing.

I am now reliant on a wheelchair, which means I have a focus on accessibility. Most recently MND has started affecting my voice, which is so frustrating for someone who has always enjoyed lively conversation.

The MND Scotland charity paid for the University of Edinburgh spin-off Speak Unique to take recordings of a radio programme I used to present and recreate my voice electronically. Trouble is I have type (or use eye gaze) to input what I want to say... by which time the conversation will have moved on!

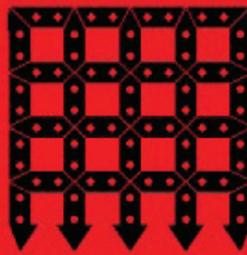
My MND affects both of us, because Lesley finds herself being my carer and having to do the household chores we used to share. But despite all these many frustrations, laughter still dominates the soundtrack in our house.

There is, currently, no effective treatment and no cure for MND. Kevin Sinfield - who has raised an incredible £15 million with his friend and former teammate Rob Burrows - says "MND is not incurable, it's just underfunded".

To learn more about MND, look for the two main Scottish MND charities: MND Scotland and My Name's Doddie Foundation. Please, for me and the other 450 MND patients in Scotland, give them your support.



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KINTORE SCHOOL PARENT GROUP SCHOOL GARDEN PROJECT

This school year we amalgamated the Parent Council with the Parent Teachers Association to form the Kintore School Parent Group. This has been a great success so far and we hope this continues and goes from strength to strength.



The Parent Group has been delighted to support the school with funding school trips, Christmas parties, purchasing new Netball Kits amongst other items, through various fundraising events. However, our main goal is to help the school with the huge project of rejuvenating the school garden.

We were very grateful to receive a donation of some Spring bulbs from Greenspace through Kintore Community Council that were planted by some of the parents and pupils of Kintore School. We are very much looking forward to them bringing some welcome Spring colour to the garden. The children all love spending time in the garden, despite its' current state.

However, the school has some very exciting plans for the area and we would love this space to be used and enjoyed by the whole community as well a great learning space for the children at Kintore School.

We are therefore keen to involve the whole community with this project...

- Do you feel you have any spare time to help with the manual labour required?
- Do you or your business feel you could support us with raising some much need funds?
- Do you or your business have any materials that could help us refurb the garden?

Such as ground cover, sleepers to make raised beds and materials to help us make paths.



We would love to hear from you if you feel you can help in any way! You can contact us by email kintoreparentgroup23@gmail.com

In order to complete this project we will be organising lots of events ourselves, the first one being our Spring Fayre on Saturday 16th March at Kintore School. We will have lots of stall with local businesses selling their products, fun activities for children to take part in, food stalls, a scavenger hunt in the garden and many more fun activities. So come along and have some fun and in turn raise money for the School Garden project!

Many thanks and we hope to hear from you.

Kirsten Morrison

Chairperson Kintore Parent Group

KINTORE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Your Community Council can only exist with the time generously given by our members. We are funded entirely by money raised at our fundraising events like the Fireworks, donations, and the money from advertisers in this magazine.

We have been very fortunate in recent months to receive several generous donations to continue our work. We received a donation of £1000 towards the maintenance of the defibrillators which KDCC own around the town. We also received a sum of £781 from a local family in memory of a loved one and £350 from local residents towards our flood resilience fund. We are extremely grateful for these donations, and they will be used to benefit the residents of Kintore.

We will be able to assist quickly in future flooding events with the donation from SSEN of three high volume pumps which will be readily to hand in case of a flooding event. We are grateful to SSEN for their donation.



In December we received over 1000 spring bulbs from Greenspace, part of Aberdeenshire Council to plant around Kintore. We had to postpone the original day for planting because of Storm Gerrit but happily managed to get them planted a couple of days later on a sunny but cold morning, we are very grateful to the volunteers who turned out to plant the bulbs in Gauchhill woods, along the verge heading to the Kemnay roundabout and the areas both sides of the entrance to the Railway station. We also gave some of the bulbs to Kintore Primary School which the pupils planted in the school garden. We have also been given perennial plants from Greenspace to plant in suitable areas around the town, these will flower every year.

What does the year ahead hold for Kintore, we have been thinking of ideas that would make Kintore a better place to live in and welcoming for visitors. Several ideas have been listed including;

- Community Litter Picking
- Community Weeding
- Best Kept Garden Award which was last held in 2017
- Keep Kintore Clean and Tidy

Which of these or all of these should we move forward with; we would value your opinion and of course we will be looking for volunteers for any of these projects to help improve our Town. Please email info@kintorecommunitycouncil.org.uk with your thoughts.

Volunteers are essential in our community and many local groups like the Community Council, Action Kintore, the Summer Festival, and the Floral Display group are in danger of folding without your support. Events organised by these groups rely entirely on people stepping forward.

Community Council Fireworks Display Further to the cancellation of last year's event we have confirmed with the suppliers that we will be going ahead this year on Sunday 3rd November, and we look forward to welcoming some new faces onboard to help out, planning starts in the summer so get in touch as soon as possible. This event requires a lot of planning and the work on the day is not just for the couple of hours of the event, it requires several hours work to set up the gazebos etc. and then tidy up. We would like to hear from volunteers who can help with the planning and organisation, set up and safe running and the clean-up of the event.

Regardless of how much time you can commit to this important event in Kintore's Calendar it will be very welcome.

ROTARY CLUB OF KINTORE, BLACKBURN & KEMNAY

2024 is promising to be a busy year for the Rotary Club, with various events organised and plenty to get involved with. As always, if you want to get out and about in the community please get in touch, we welcome new members. We have had several interesting talks over the last few months, ranging from local charities to talks on local history, a wide range.



At the end of last year, we helped Charlie House with the Car Raffle, selling tickets from the Autumn right through to Christmas. The car was won, and the money raised was outstanding, a total of £33,500 was handed over to Charlie House from Rotary Clubs throughout Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Rotary have worked closely with Charlie House for many years, and a room in the new development will be named in recognition of the efforts of the clubs.

We have also kicked off our own funding during January, with our funds4U applications being opened, by the time we go to press we will have allocated this year's funding, a total of £2,500 for local community organisations, with several applications we will be supporting as many as we can.

Over the coming months we have various local events that we'll be assisting at, small fundraisers and events where we help with stewarding or bar staff. Our normal Spring Topsy Tea Party won't happen, mainly due to our numbers being low and not having the people to put it on. But we are focussing our efforts on the golf competition in the Summer, at the start of June. This is always a popular event, and we will release more details soon, but if you know any local companies or organisations who would want to put a team together it's a great day of competition!

Another event back this year is our Primary Schools Quiz, we will hold the local heats for the 6 schools in our district at the end of March, in Kintore School. This will be followed by the regional finals and then nationals. We are looking forward to the night and hope the teams all do well.

We are looking forward to our summer events, and the good weather that will bring after a stormy Winter. If you want to come along to a meeting, hear one of our speakers or help with events please get in touch via Facebook or email kbk.rotary@gmail.com

Our meetings are normally at 6.45 on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month.

Jamie Grant
President, Rotary Club of Kintore, Blackburn and Kemnay,

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Dates for your diary

Sunday afternoons

Please check Messy Church Kintore
Facebook page for details.

10 March

31 March Easter Day Mini Messy

12 May

9 June

We start at 3.30pm with refreshments at
Kintore Church

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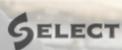
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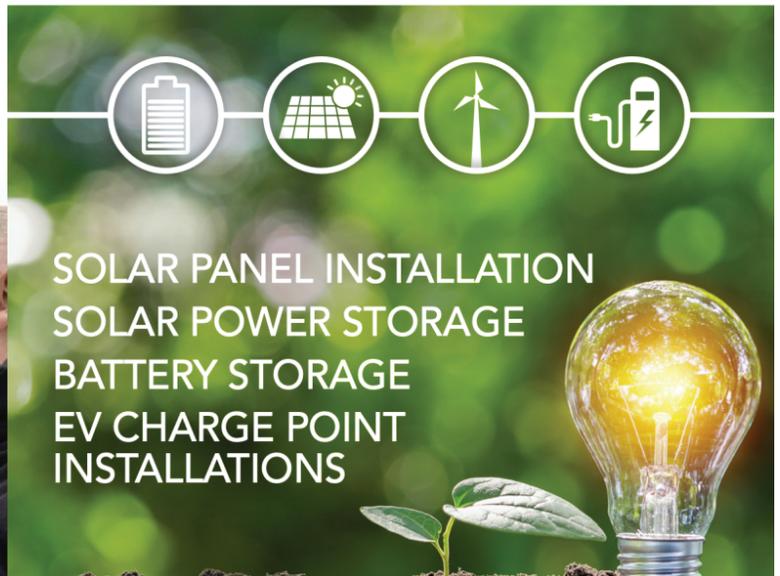


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HISTORY - COUNTESS OF KINTORE

An Aberdeen clipper of 1866. The ship and its owners had connections to Inverurie, Kintore, Monymusk and Kinaldie, as well as to Aberdeen and New Zealand.

A three masted wooden vessel, rigged as a 'Ship' with square sails on all its masts, it had a main deck, a forecastle and a poop, with a three-quarter female figurehead on the bow.

Not 'Fittie' built, as you might expect from the builder's name, but at the William Duthie yard on the Inches in Aberdeen. It was launched into the Upper Dock on the 2nd of March 1866. Designed as 'clipper' for fast sailing, the 182-foot vessel was built at a cost of £11,888 (£1.1m today) to carry passengers and cargo to New Zealand.



This photograph, taken at Gravesend, is held in both New Zealand and Victoria state libraries and appears to be the only image of the vessel which remains.

As with all British ships, even today, ownership of the Countess was divided into 64 shares and while John Cook, the managing agent, owned 24 of these, George Milne of Kinaldie also owned 24 and his son-in-law, the Rev. Thomas Dawson, minister at Monymusk, owned 4. The other shares were owned, 4 each, by the vessel's master and the two owners of the Shaw Savill Line, which was later to take over the famous Aberdeen White Star Line of George Thompson.



Portrait by Sir Francis Grant

The vessel would have been named in honour of

Louisa Madelaine Hawkins,
1828 - 1916

Wife of the 8th Earl of Kintore, but this lady did not act as the vessel's sponsor at its launch, the vessel being named by 10 year old Martha Duthie, daughter of the builder.

A month after the launch, the ship was registered at Aberdeen and in the next 13 years made 11 voyages to New Zealand and 2 to the Far East. General cargo was carried out to New Zealand, as well as hundreds of passengers. Also emigrating to New Zealand on the ship were 50 rooks, carried in 1870 and 13 live salmon in 1876. As this was before frozen cargo, return voyages carried mostly wool, but in 1869 a Griffiths safe costing £7 was installed for bullion and in 1872 this was filled with £24,500 of gold (worth £2.3m today) from Auckland to London.

Held in the collections of the Aberdeen Maritime Museum, the John Cook papers include the Countess's ledgers, a fascinating history of the commercial side of ship management in the late 19th century. Unlike a ship's log book, which records voyage details, these books document debits and credits, including the four stage payments made to the shipbuilder as work progressed, £11.13.8 paid to a London firm for 'arms and armour' and £3.1/- to Mitchell & Muil who supplied the bread for the maiden voyage.

By 1879, iron ships were taking over the New Zealand trade and Cook auctioned off the Countess at Birkenhead, realising only £1,800 from a William Thomas of Anglesey. The vessel remained registered at Aberdeen, but now traded to the Far East carrying coal out and rice home. On its 3rd voyage for the new owner, it sailed out to Buenos Aires with coal, then crossed the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans to Rangoon (Yangon) in what is now Myanmar, where it loaded 940 tons of bagged rice. At Rangoon fire started in the cargo and after this was extinguished, some cargo had to be unloaded and replaced before the ship sailed for home on the 26th May 1882, reportedly, "very heavily laden".

On the 13th August 1882, a call was made at St. Helena for stores and water and the Countess sailed on the 15th, meeting the Earl of Dalhousie at sea on the same day. This was the last ever heard of the Countess of Kintore, which, with Captain Roberts and an English crew of 16 men, disappeared without trace. The Earl of Dalhousie encountered a severe gale on the 1st October, suffering heavy damage, and it is thought that the Countess of Kintore may also have been caught by this gale and overwhelmed.

John Cook & Sons, Aberdeen were shipowners and managers and carried on in business as stevedores in Aberdeen into the late 20th century. John Cook was married to his cousin, George Milne's oldest daughter Margaret.

George Milne (1794 – 1871) born at Inverury (sic), was a successful road contractor and shipowner who bought the Kinaldie estate beside Fintray and developed its agriculture. He either owned outright, or had shares in, over 20 vessels.

Mary Milne (1838 – 1926), George Milne's second daughter, was born in Ferryhill, Aberdeen, married Rev. Thomas Dawson in 1861 and they had 3 children. The witnesses at their wedding were John Cook and Robert Catto junior, both important Aberdeen shipowners. After being widowed in 1867, Mary married again in 1873 to Provost George Jamieson of Rosebank (1808 – 1893), an Aberdeen tea and wine merchant and they had a daughter. Mary inherited Rev. Dawson's shares in the Countess of Kintore at his death, but in her own right, she owned shares in the ships Beautiful Star and Lochiel.

Thomas Henry Dawson (1824 – 1867) was born the son of a farmer at Culsalmond and was parish minister at Monymusk. As well as the Countess of Kintore, he owned shares in the Harmonia and the Rifleman. In November 1867, Rev. Dawson received £100 dividend on his shares in the Countess for its first-year trading, a sum which must have nearly equalled his stipend as a minister.

~ Thanks To Mr George Wood ~



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Example Timetable:

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9am	Fly & Chat		
10am	Sing-a-long	Knit & Natter	Quiz
11am	Who's Who	Crosswords	Dominoes
12am	Lunch		
1pm	Bingo	Cards	Shuffleboard
2pm	Fly & Music from the decades		

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Youth Program 2024

Monday

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

Tuesday

Mind Yer Heid- Aged 15+
Life skills, mental health, employability support
5.30pm-6.45pm

Thursday

Young And Free To Speak - Aged 12+
Games, pool table, hang out
7pm-9pm

Walking Group - Aged 12+
Resumes in March 2024

All youth groups are FREE and run term time by our fully trained staff and volunteers. For more information, contact our Youth and Bothie Development worker, Rachel, on

Rachel.Lewis@actionkintore.co.uk

Or check out our Facebook page
The Bothie Kintore



The Bothie is the youth initiative of the Action Kintore community charity.



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WHAT'S ON

Get involved with your community

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	TIME
Kintore SWI	First Tuesday of every month	Kintore Public Hall	19:30
Kintore Community Council Meeting	Third Tuesday of every month	Kintore Primary School	19:00 - 21:00
Kintore, Kemnay & District Rotary Club	First & Third Thursday of every month	Ask for location	18:45
Messy Church	Second Sunday of every month	Kintore Church	15:30 - 17:30
Kintore Parent Group Spring Fayre	16th March	Kintore School	11:00 - 15:00
Dyslexia Awareness Fair	21st June	Kintore Main Hall	18:00 - 20:00
Senior Citizens Morning Coffee	11th May	Kintore Church Hall	10:00 - 12:00



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WHAT'S ON - WEEKLY CLUBS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	TIME
Junior Group - P5, P6 & P7	Every Monday	The Bothie	15:30-17:00
Girl's Brigade Groups (P1 up to and including S6)	Every Monday	Church Hall	17:00-19:00
3rd Kintore Brownies	Every Monday	Kintore Public Hall	16:00-17:15
3rd Kintore Brownies	Every Monday	Kintore Public Hall	16:15-17:15
2nd Kintore Brownies	Every Monday	Kintore Public Hall	18:00-19:00
1st Kintore Brownies	Every Wednesday	Kintore Public Hall	18:15-19:15
1st Kintore Guides & Brownies	Every Thursday	Kintore Public Hall	19:00-20:30
Kintore Scouts - Cubs (8-10 years)	Every Monday & Wednesday	Kintore Scout Hut	18:30-20:15
Kintore Scouts - Beavers (6-8 years)	Every Tuesday & Thursday	Kintore Scout Hut	18:00-19:00
Kintore Scouts - Scouts (10-15 years)	Every Tuesday & Thursday	Kintore Scout Hut	19:30-21:00
Young & Free to speak (YAFTS) (All kids S1)	Every Tuesday	The Bothie	19:00-21:00
Health Walk	Every Wednesday	The Square	10:00
Kintore Community Church	Every Sunday	Kintore Public Hall	10:30
Toddlers' Group - Kintore 0-3 Group	Every Monday & Friday	Kintore Public Hall	09:30-11:30
Bumps & Baby - Kintore 0-3 Group	Every Wednesday	Kintore Public Hall	10:00-12:00
2's Group - Kintore 0-3 Group	Every Tuesday & Thursday	Kintore Public Hall	09:30-11:30
Kintore Golf Club Non-profit Community Sports	All week	Kintore Golf Club	10:00-20:00
Kintore Taekwon-Do School	Every Monday & Wednesday	Kintore Parish Church	19:00-20:30 19:30-21:00

KINTORE LIBRARY

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

Kintore Library is open 15 hours a week, on a Tuesday morning 9 – 13.30, Wednesday afternoon 14.00 – 18.00, Thursday afternoon 13.00 – 17.00 and Saturday morning 9 – 11.30.

- You will be able to access the public computers and print from your own/ 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 – correct change please).
- Of course you will be able to choose your own books.
- You can also pick up NHS hearing aid batteries /distance aware badges and lanyards /dog poo bags/ food caddy waste and battery bags.

What else can you do at the library?

Bookbug sessions - on a Tuesday at 10.30am and a Friday at 9.15 – booking is advisable but subject to space we are happy to accept people walking in, see below for booking details

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 01467 532605 or email kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

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 adult's jigsaws available for borrowing.

What can you do at home?

Livelifieberdeenshire 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.

We are keen to do additional outreach, if you would like library staff to visit your group or place of work please be in touch at kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or by phone **01467 532605**.

For further information or to book a Bookbug place or Click and Collect slot at any Aberdeenshire Library please visit the website <https://lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries> or phone **01467 532929** during office hours. This is also the phone number for Live Life Aberdeenshire Leisure sites.

Please like our Facebook page Kintore Library and/or Aberdeenshire Library and Information Services.

Contact Kintore Library direct on 01467 532605 or email Kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. for further information. Or to book a Bookbug place or a Click and Collect slot at any Aberdeenshire Library, please visit the website <https://lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries> or phone 01467 532929 during office hours. This is also the phone number for Live Life Aberdeenshire Leisure sites.

For more on Princh printing see: <https://www.lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/princh-printing/>

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KINTORE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Paths For All Health Walk

Meeting in the Square on Wednesdays at 10 am, commencing:

APRIL: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

MAY: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

JUNE: 5th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 26th



ALSO

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