



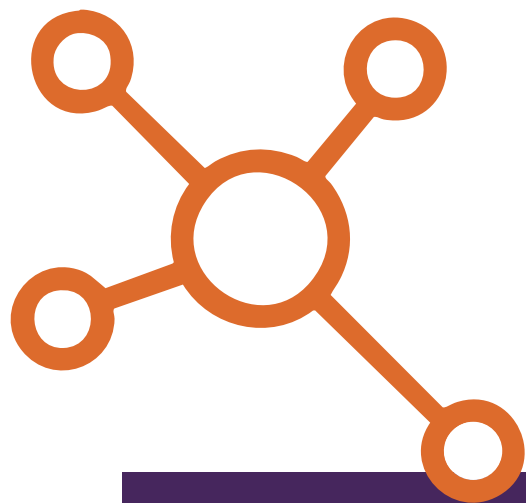
# KINTORE KONNECT

*Connecting our Community*



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

**ISSUE 61  
AUTUMN  
2025**



# KINTORE KONNECT

*Connecting Our Community*

## WELCOME TO YOUR KINTORE KONNECT

Deadline for next issue 7th November.

We hope you enjoy the new look of the magazine thanks to Becca Mitchell and Caroline Watters.

Thank you for your continued support.

### 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](mailto: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

## 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

4 per issues commitment –  
£72 x 4 = one payment of £288

### EIGHTH PAGE

£50 – one-off advert

4 per issues commitment –  
£40 x 4 = one payment of £160

### SIXTEENTH PAGE

£30 – one-off advert

£24 x 4 = one payment of £96

## 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.





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## 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 PNG or 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 PNG or JPEG format through email.

## CONTACT

- ☎ 07748 111165
- ✉ [info@kintorecommunitycouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@kintorecommunitycouncil.co.uk)
- f Search 'Kintore'
- 🌐 [www.kintore.org.uk](http://www.kintore.org.uk)

### Cover Photo:

Scene from Kintore,  
Happy Autumn. Thank you  
for your continued support,  
The KDCC Team.

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## What We've Been Up To

**R**ainbows completed a First Aid badge which included a demonstration from local First Responder Alan Milne, on how to use a Defibrillator. The girls also administered some first aid to our injured dolls, they did a great job, however the first aid kits required a big top up after the session. Rainbows also enjoyed Graham Lamb giving them a Rugby lesson.

Their faces were red and smiling at the end of that session. Brownies have been working on their Explore Skills Builder which included learning about maps, use of coordinates and compass work. The Guide unit enjoyed lots of fun stand up paddle boarding at Knockburn Loch for one of their sessions. A great experience. Gordon and Buchan MP Harriet Cross came

to one of the Rangers sessions. The girls asked some interesting questions, perhaps there's a few budding MPs in our midst!

On 21st June we had a Midmill and Kintore District event at Dunecht Park, to celebrate Kemnay Guides 100th Birthday. We discovered later there were very little pictures taken as it was a fully packed day of games,

# GIRL GUIDING KINTORE





music and crafts. We would like to thank all our parent helpers who attended. Without you the event simply could not take place. Also, a thank you to Ruby Mackay of Chalmers Mackay Music School for lending us an amp for the event as we realised the one we had was simply not loud enough in amongst 100 girls!

**The next event we will be involved in is the Kintore Street Party on 30th August. Hope to see you there.**



**W**e hope all of our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers are making the most of the summer holidays! There's lots of planning going on in the background for next term, when we'll see our young people move up to their next section and some new starts.

There has also been some training going on over the summer months for our leaders. A few of us did our two-day outdoor emergency first aid, equipping us for camps and activities, a really interesting course and as always great to brush up on these skills. There has also been paddle sports training going on, with several leaders taking part in a tour leaders' course for class B2 water, our young people enjoy water sports, so this means we'll have more qualified leaders to offer some better experiences.

Looking forward to the new term, there will be lots of plans

# KINTORE

## Scout Group

to once again offer all of our sections a variety of activities and continue teaching skills for life as well as having a lot of fun. We'll have plenty of camps for 25/26 terms, the winter camps are always popular, and the adventure camp was a huge success. The first camp we are looking forward to in September is the Gordon Gathering where Scout groups from all over the area gather, and all sections, so we'll be camping and doing activities all weekend. And we're looking forward to helping out at the Kintore Street Party at the end of August.

It takes a lot of work to keep everything going in Kintore Scout Group, we'll have our AGM at the end of August, and we are always looking for helpers and new leaders. If you are interested, please get in touch, no experience needed there is lots of training available.

So, if you want to learn new skills and help, while having a lot of fun then give it a go!

**Many thanks to all the volunteer leaders, parents and helpers who make it possible, we look forward to seeing everyone over the coming months!**

# KINTORE LIBRARY

Kintore Library is currently open 15 hours a week, on a:

**TUESDAY MORNING**  
9 – 13.30

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON**  
14.00 – 18.00

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON**  
13.00 – 17.00

**SATURDAY MORNING**  
9 – 11.30

**BOOKBUG SESSIONS** will be re-starting again soon. Updated times and dates will be advertised on Facebook, the website and in the branch. But parents and carers may attend any bookbug session

in city and shire or online. Book at [livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries](http://livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries).

**KNIT AND STITCH** is currently on a Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00, no booking is required but spaces are limited. For details **01467 532605** or email [kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**JIGSAWS** – there is a wide selection of adult's jigsaws available for borrowing.

**TOYS** – whilst these need to remain in the library there are a selection of toys and games to be played with including Lego and Duplo.

**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**.

It is intended that in addition to public open time library staff will undertake outreach activities, for instance 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](mailto:kintore.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

## FLY TIPPING AT KINTORE PUBLIC HALL

Recently items have been dumped at the Public Hall beside the locked bins, which are for hall users (hirers) and the hall cleaner's use. The bins are not provided by Aberdeenshire Council and are privately hired by the hall committee.

Glass has also been left by members of the public when the 2 Aberdeenshire Council glass bins are full although there are other glass recycling bins in Kintore.

Bags of clothing are also being left when the clothing recycling bin is full, again there are other clothing bins, for example at the school car park.

We would ask the public to use other facilities in Kintore when these bins are full and not leave rubbish/glass/clothing on site, as this is a littering offence.

We have young children using the hall and are trying to avoid injury to hall users.

*Kintore Public  
Hall Committee*

# BENNACHIE PARISH CHURCH

*Beautiful Kintore*

While considering a move to Kintore I decided to check out the town and see what the locals thought of it. I went to have my hair cut and while in the chair asked the barber, "So what is Kintore like to live in?" "I don't know", she replied, "I'm fae Thainstone." Coming from another continent myself I thought that a hilariously parochial response from someone just 2 miles up the road. Eleven years later, I think I finally get it. There is something about actually living in a town that gives you insights into its character that you could never guess from outside. I think it's worth reflecting on this as we face another influx of newcomers to all the new housing in our town: What sort of community are we? What sort of welcome do newcomers receive? How quick and easy will it be for them to feel at home with us? What I'm about to say won't appeal to every newcomer, and not every existing resident will have had the experience I describe, nevertheless allow me to offer my own perspective on what makes Kintore beautiful to live in.

When Kintore suffered flooding, along with most of Aberdeenshire, 8 years ago and many homes were affected, there was an immediate outpouring of help from seemingly endless numbers of volunteers. People here are remarkably generous! It was fairly chaotic and haphazard though. On reflection, a resilience plan was developed and a Resilience Group established – a volunteer group that has just got better and

better each time a crisis has hit our town. The trouble was (and what a great problem to have!) that all these volunteers were raring to go, but crises don't happen every week. So, through the Community Council and others, this energy was channeled towards beautifying and restoring our town. We became part of Keep Scotland Beautiful's "It's Your Neighbourhood" initiative, and we have ended up with a town that is a real gem. As a church leader, I am very conscious that joining a church community is a great way to become part of a community when you move to a new town. The Parish Church and the Community Church are both excellent places to find a warm welcome and to get involved in community life. But there are also many other places and ways to get involved – the schools, the Scouts and Guides, Rotary, Kintore Konnect, the Community Council, volunteer groups like "It's Your Neighbourhood", not to mention all the sports, clubs and social and walking groups.

**To all our newcomers, we hope you will soon feel at home and come to be just as proud as we are of our beautiful wee town.**

*Grace and  
Peace, Rev  
Neil Meyer*



Following the massive success of last year's project the decision was made to "stick to what we know" and we entered into Beautiful Scotland's 'It's Your Neighbourhood' initiative for the second year running.

But this year was going to be even bigger and better than last.

The Kintore It's Your Neighbourhood Project 2025 had 6 Main Project Areas to support:-

- Provost Lawrence Court (purpose built raised vegetable garden and
- various goals)
- Kintore Park Pavilion
- Northern Road, ex Public Toilets site- (mass tidy up and purpose built seated area for all)
- Kintore Square & Surrounding Area (clean up)
- Kintore Kirk (painting of pavement)
- Explore Kintore Interactive History Tour (successful launch of local attraction)



# KINTORE

## *It's Your Neighbourhood*







All project areas were completed with the exception of the Kintore Park Pavilion, AND a bonus task in tidying the slipways into the town. We collected 70+ bags of rubbish and some surprising items. Massive thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time to make these transformations happen. With special thanks to SSEN Volunteers, KDCC Community Councillors, Kintore Fire Fighters, Kintore Floral Display Team, Jim Reid Vehicle Sales,

Aquaterra and the Co-op who provided food for the team and last but not least volunteers from our wonderful community.

On Tuesday, 29th of July, Floral Group lead Sue Parrott joined Jim Reid and Angus Cheyne of the It's Your Neighbourhood Project Team to show off the main areas of improvement to Beautiful Scotland judge Sandy Scott who was very impressed again at the level of enthusiasm and the quality and quantity of tasks taken on by the project and shared great words of praise

and encouragement.

We won't know until later this year if we have been successful with our certification, but we know that it's the people of Kintore and visitors to the town that are the real winners from it.

**WELL DONE  
KINTORE WHAT  
A FANTASTIC  
COMMUNITY  
SPIRIT.**

# Project 2025...

On the 26th of June we welcomed the beautifully designed 'Fit Like?' CLAN BookBench to the centre of Kintore as part of the CLAN BookBench Trail 2025.

It has been the centrepiece of some great photos over the last few months and been a colourful addition to the square.

Local artist Michelle Mann who designed the artwork met up with representatives of the Kintore & District Community Council and the 12 Kintore based businesses who have become collectively known as 'Benchmark Kintore' to have a picture taken to mark the

# Fit Like KINTORE?

event. The KDCC have even convinced CLAN to leave the BookBench in place until after the Kintore Street Party on the 30th of August allowing even more selfie opportunities. Lastly Kintore have been given the opportunity to make this a lasting legacy by purchasing the 'Fit Like?' BookBench before it goes to auction with agreements already in place from some of Benchmark Kintore sponsors

to support this and help make it a permanent attraction in Kintore...WATCH THIS SPACE!

## WHOS BEHIND BENCHMARK KINTORE?

OEG Kintore, Genny Hire, Jim Reid Vehicle Sales & Service, eGroup Kintore, First Photographics, Dossett Butcher, NOV, A&L Stronach, CRC Evans, The Square Kintore,

Brimmond Group, STATS Group Kintore who all gave generously to help raise the money to get the BookBench to Kintore. We are all very grateful.







## It's Time to Explore Kintore

**T**he brand new Explore Kintore Interactive History Tour has finally launched.

Using QR codes to help share the stories of Kintore's rich heritage is the brainchild of Community Councillor Ken McEwen who shared his vision with fellow councillor Jim Reid almost three years ago who has gone on and managed to help bring Kens' vision to life.

Local historian Alison McCall shared the workload with Ken by building the stories of the points of interest which voiceover artist Neil Weightman brought to life through his audio recordings. Neil also went above and beyond his remit and assisted with the whole project by making the audio files available online and building a webpage

of the Kintore website to host them.

The Explore Kintore Tour is free and available to anyone who owns a smartphone. You simply find the QR tiles close by the Historic building or site, scan it and simply press play when prompted to listen to the dramatic two-minute story of each place. You are then encouraged to visit other sites close by on the map shown on the same webpage on your phone. This is a great way to find out more about the town you stay in and help educate the young people of Kintore about the rich history and heritage we have.

The first 10 Historic Places to feature in the Explore Kintore Interactive History Tour are,



The Town House, The Kintore Arms Inn, Kintore Public Hall, Kintore Kirk, The Pictish Stone, The War Memorial, Aberdeenshire Canal, Tuach Hill, Hallforest Castle and Deers Den Roman Camp.

\*Explore Kintore Interactive History Tour was part of Kintore – It's Your Neighbourhood Project and partly funded by a Garioch Initiative Grant available through Aberdeenshire Council. Have you taken the tour yet?



# EXPLORE KINTORE

# KINTORE'S BEST KEPT GARDEN

## Best Kept Garden Competition

Kintore and District Community Council received an incredible response to this year's Best Kept Garden Competition, with 18 stunning gardens nominated for judging. The variety and vibrancy on display were nothing short of inspiring. We were delighted to welcome back Ian Mitchell as our judge. Ian brings nearly 40 years of gardening expertise, including 12 years as a competition judge, and his insights are always invaluable.

On Saturday, 26th July, we visited all 18 gardens. Each one was beautiful, unique, and thriving.

Choosing a winner was no easy task! One of our highlights was speaking with the gardeners, who shared how much joy and peace their gardens bring them. We could have spent hours in every garden!

We're thrilled to announce that the winner of the Best Overall Kept Garden is Val Milne! Val's garden truly stood out for its blend of vegetables and fruit, herbaceous and perennial plants. This created an abundance of flowers, filling her garden with a feast for your sight and senses! There is even a dedicated area called "the hospital" for plants which are struggling and need some specialised care. A true garden sanctuary. Val will be presented with the winner's trophy at the Kintore Street Party on Saturday, 30th August. A full list of the winners and runners up is listed on the right:

### BEST OVERALL KEPT GARDEN WINNER VAL MILNE

#### Best Small Garden winner

Anita Gauld

Runner Up

Ronnie and Mary Coutts

#### Best Large Garden winner

Val Milne

Runner Up

Lina Moles

#### Best Container winner

Harry Leil

Runner Up

Bob and Karen Spears

#### Best Low Maintenance winner

Sandra and William

Runner Up

Doug McDonald

Val Milne, ou

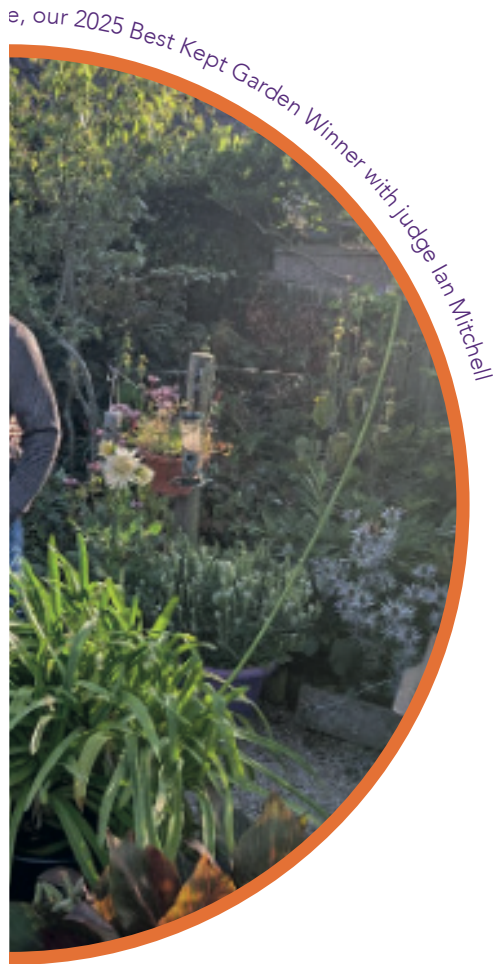


Thank you to everyone who participated. We look forward to seeing your gardens again next year!

Laura Murrie,  
KDCC Vice Chair



# KINTORE FLORAL DISPLAY



## KINTORE FLORAL DISPLAY 2025

A long dry spell at the beginning of the year led to almost drought like conditions for the winter plants and the summer plants had a similar start. Despite this we have been very pleased with the quality of the plants this year, which is the first year in the history of our Floral Display Team that we've had to purchase 'every' plant.

Due to the Aberdeenshire Council cutbacks funds are no longer available to help with supplying the summer plants and flowers that we have had in the past. This has put a massive pressure on the Floral Display bank funds therefore we have had to request the help of our community

businesses and the kindness of the Kintore residents who really appreciate the displays and the hard work of the Floral Team volunteers.

We also recognise that as prices increase and belts tighten, we will find it more difficult to raise these funds in the traditional manner. We have reworded our 'funding flyer' to help raise the funds for the winter/spring and summer plants next year but fear that we will come up short.

We will continue to look for available grants that can help with this important community display.

Let us plant this seed.....

Here's a great idea to really get involved.

If you are green fingered, own or have access to a greenhouse and happy to help your lovely community, why not help us help Kintore by planting flower seeds, propagating and nurturing them to plant stage before handing them over to Sue Parrott and her Team when required for planting out in the display.

For more Information about this please get in contact direct with Sue on 07990891839.

**WANTED – A new Kintore Floral Group Team Leader.**

Yes, you have read that correctly. Next year Sue Parrott will celebrate 5 years of being in charge of the Floral Display Group and I'm sure

you will agree she has done an absolutely fantastic job. But like all good things her leadership is about to come to an end as she packs away her trowel and gardening gloves to help concentrate on her immediate family.

However, she is not leaving immediately, in fact she has agreed to help mentor the new leader(s) to show them first hand the whole process of planning, buying, planting, maintaining and watering the flowers all year round.

This would be an ideal opportunity for one or two people who love the outdoors, enjoy gardening and love being part of a great team.

Have you got what it takes?

If you are interested then please get in contact directly with Sue Parrott on 07990891839 or Jim Reid on 07787587422.

**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: 82-65-21 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

# KINTORE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL *Round Up*

KINTORE SO GOOD THEY NAMED IT ONCE.... IT MAYBE DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME  
RING BUT LIKE NEW YORK CITY IT SEEMS THAT KINTORE NEVER SLEEPS EITHER.  
THE KINTORE FOUNTAIN

Built to commemorate the coronation of King Edward the VII and Queen Alexandra in 1902 this special fountain has survived two world wars, many a drunken event spilling into the square and more lately a young lad trying to retrieve something personal from the top tier of the fountain resulting in the very heavy granite top cracking at a previous repair and toppling.

Thankfully no one was injured apart from some pride however it did leave us with a wounded fountain. However, Kintore wouldn't be Kintore without some heroics, and these came in the shape of Davie (Seagull) Gall and the Sharp Team from Tavelty. Armed with bonding material donated by Grampian Fasteners and Grampian Steel the Team went to work and came up trumps by getting the fountain back to it's former glory. We have pebbles donated by RoWebb Inverurie to fill in the gaps which will be done over the coming weeks. Well done folks.

Also, a special mention to Moira Moran for spending the



time meticulously cleaning the pebbles at the base to reveal the initials E & A and the year 1902 as proof of the fountain's origin.

Great teamwork!

PS Unfortunately, the water has been turned off to the fountain and it is not a simple case of turning it back on due to regulations, given it is turned off over the winter months it will be next Spring before it is working properly again.

## KINTORE GARDEN ALLOTMENTS

Following a Facebook post back in February to see if

there was a desire or need for Garden Allotments in Kintore a WhatsApp Group was quickly set up and discussions held and some great ideas shared about how this could work for Kintore. Although we have yet to successfully find a suitable piece of ground for these community allotments, we are hopeful that we can deliver this for the people of Kintore. For more information, please contact Moira Moran on 07748111165.

## KINTORE MEN'S SHED

Kintore & District Community Council were recently approached by Tim Green, Development Officer for Scottish Men's Sheds Association to see if there would be an interest to set up a Kintore Men's Shed. Again, we took to Facebook to get the opinion of the community and due to the positive response an initial well attended meeting was set up with a second meeting planned for September. If you would like more details about the Men's Shed in Kintore contact Angus Cheyne who is coordinating it 07541743565.



# Cycling Without Age

## SCOTLAND

15

CWAS Kintore are very pleased to be coming to the town. We have been cycling from Inverurie to Kintore to take anyone in the town who is disabled, has mobility issues or are just lonely out on an electric assisted trishaw to get some wind in their hair and do a bit of socialising. We are now in a position to start fundraising to get a trishaw to Kintore (£10,800). We have a loan of a trishaw from CWAS



Head Office so we can train new pilots and volunteers. If you would like to know more about our charity or want to know how

to get involved to help fundraise or volunteer with us, please contact. **Ambassador Graham Watson on 07999213599** or **Paula Cameron on 0779981244** for more Information.



## PATH UPGRADE

### We Need Your Help

The Bailies of Bennachie are undertaking their biggest ever project on Bennachie. At an estimated cost of over £100,000 a 1-kilometre stretch of the Timeline Trail is to be repaired. This is the main path up Mither Tap from the Bennachie Visitor Centre. It is severely eroded and was chosen as most worthy of our attention. The Bailies have worked with Forestry & Land Scotland (FLS) over the last two years on the scope of work and the way forward. FLS no longer has the budget for the large expenditure necessary for this work, so we felt that we had no option but to grab the baton and see what could be done for the hill and the walkers visiting it. We have obtained a cost estimate and appointed the

Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland to project manage the work on our behalf. The work is currently out to tender and we hope the work will be performed over the winter. The Bailies of Bennachie are seeking donations from individuals and groups to help finance the project whether it is sponsoring a metre at £100 or giving a smaller donation. Every donation will be gratefully received.

To contribute go to the website and look for 'Donate' <https://bailiesofbennachie.co.uk>

Alternatively, use the QR code and select 'support us'.

Contact us on [info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk](mailto:info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk)



# Thank you



# Claire's COPPATREK! JOURNEY

RAISING  
AWARENESS  
ONE STEP  
(AND STITCH)  
AT A TIME

In the Spring issue of Kintore Konnect, we introduced you to local lass Claire, who was preparing to take on CoppaTrek! Skye - a five-day, 100km hiking adventure to raise awareness of breast cancer and encourage everyone to regularly check their chest.

## HERE'S HER UPDATE:

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported my CoppaTrek! Adventure - whether you donated, bought glass flowers or lucky duck eggs, or simply cheered me on. Together, you helped me raise an incredible £4,149, with an additional £1,001 in Gift Aid through JustGiving. The total raised by the CoppaTrek! Skye group reached a whopping £505,674!

## MORE THAN JUST A HIKE

While the stunning scenery and tough hikes across Skye took my breath away (in every possible way!), it was the stories shared among fellow trekkers that left the deepest impression.

Speaking to others on the trek really highlighted just how vital CoppaFeel's work is. As the UK's only youth-focused breast cancer charity, they're on a mission to get every 18-24-year-old checking their chest as part of their regular self-care. Knowing your 'normal' and being confident to speak up when something doesn't feel right can lead to earlier diagnoses and better treatment outcomes. Early detection, quite simply, saves lives.

**COPPAFEEL! HAS A RANGE OF FREE POSTERS AND LEAFLETS ONLINE. DOWNLOAD YOURS AT [WWW.COPPAFEEL.ORG](http://WWW.COPPAFEEL.ORG).**





## CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE: THE POWER OF THE KINTORE KNIT & STITCH COMMUNITY

Raising awareness was just as important as raising money - and that's where the creative minds of the Kintore Knit & Stitch group came in.

In March, I approached Carole and her amazing team with a slightly unusual request: to knit small, soft 'boobs' to use as conversation starters. Not only did they accept the challenge, they created over 200 mini masterpieces, which we turned into keyrings to help spread the message far and wide!

News of their unique creations spread with Kemnay Library, the Peterhead Knitters, and Banchory Crafting Quines joined in the effort. On June 1st, I distributed 100 of these keyrings at the Aberdeen Kiltwalk, where they sparked countless conversations around CoppaFeel!'s 'Feel It On The First' campaign.

## SPREADING THE WORD – ONE KEYRING AT A TIME

At the Kiltwalk, I found many people were unaware that breast cancer can affect people of all genders - with nearly 400 men diagnosed in the UK every year. That's why CoppaFeel! encourages everyone - guys, gals, and non-binary pals - to check their chests monthly.

In July, I handed out the remaining keyrings to the Jim McPherson Memorial Match between Culter FC and Nairn St. Ninians, using the opportunity to chat with supporters and raise even more awareness.

200 keyrings = 200 conversations started. With every conversation, there is hope, and that is priceless. Thank you once again to everyone.



## Do you live in Kintore?

Yes, we moved to \*The New Manse in Kintore from Cove after becoming Minister at Kintore Parish Church following my move from Craigiebuckler Church about 11 years ago.\* Called the New Manse because there have been several Manses over the years in Kintore, Goosecroft House, behind the Townhouse, The Manse in the Square, even the Overdon Care Home was a Manse at one point, I believe.

## Have you always lived in Scotland?

No, I was born and brought up in the winelands of the Western Cape in South Africa and was a minister in this area around Cape Town for thirteen years before grasping the opportunity to join the Church of Scotland ministry.

## Have you always been a Minister?

My dad always wanted me to be an accountant so when I left school, I attended University and gained my accountancy degree and worked for a printing firm in Cape Town for about 3 years before moving to the church. However, my dad was likely the reason why I also moved into the ministry, he always said "you spend a good 40 years in your career so make sure it's something you love doing". I took this advice to heart as I had never really loved

# Neil Meyer

## KINTORE'S UNSUNG HERO

accountancy, but I did love my time at the Church and what it stands for and to me it is the best job in the world!

## Tell me a bit about your family.

I'm married to Michelle who many of the readers will know as the local librarian at the school. Before this she worked at the school and as part of the Royal Voluntary service. We have two daughters, Christine 21 who is studying at Manchester University and Brigid who is 19 and at Abertay University in Dundee.

## What do you do with your time off?

I absolutely love cooking! In fact, we love cooking as a family. There is no better experience than us all in the kitchen together laughing, joking and chatting about everything whilst making a pizza and listening to U2. It's simply the best, kitchen time is family time. I also love woodwork, making wine, and building Lego because I can complete and finish all these things unlike my work as a minister which deals with people and their stories – so there are no finished products.

Keeping on the food theme, what is your favourite meal and where would you go out locally?  
We love

staying in so we would normally make either a pizza or a Malaysian or Indian style curry. Again, if we were going out maybe an Italian or Indian however my real go-to is Brew Dog in Inverurie because it's such a simple menu, great food and drink and we love the buzz and atmosphere of the place.

## Do you enjoy a tippie?

I couldn't grow up in the wine regions in South Africa without some of that rubbing off on me. I do enjoy both white and red wine from various regions, Italy, New Zealand and course South Africa with my go-to being a lovely Shiraz.

## What is your highlight and low point of this year?

A very difficult question to answer but I feel that the bringing together of the union of the churches in the area has been somewhat of a stressful and hard time for us all but at the same time one of the highlights is how the congregations have adapted so quickly by going that extra mile with my two colleagues, Euan and Shiela leaving. It just shows how resilient we can all be in times of hardship and change.

So here's the big question and something I know you are passionate about. As a Community how do you think Kintore is faring? I think Kintore is a fantastic place to live and to bring up your family and it has proven over and





over again how well it works as a community. All we have to do is look at the work that has been done by the It's Your Neighbourhood Team which was really the Flood Resilience Team channelling its energy back in the community to make change in another way. The Street Party, the work The Bothie is doing, these are all fantastic things within our community. I'm lucky to be (in my words) an avid supporter if not a terribly active member of the Resilience Group, the IYN Group and of the Street Party Team along with all the Church activities which are designed to assist the community.

However real community is not all about grand gestures. I feel that community is really much simpler, it's about making sure we speak to our neighbours to make sure they are not lonely so if they need help they know they can rely on you to be there for them.

In South Africa we have a worldview based on community spirit which is different from the West, called Ubuntu. In Western culture human identity starts with the idea: "I think, therefore I am". Ubuntu starts from the idea: "We are, therefore, I am." So, we understand ourselves firstly in community. That means that everyone is the community, and you carry out work in the community because you understand that at some stage in your life the community will be there to help you too.

**L**astly and we couldn't finish this interview without asking this really important question..... are you solely responsible for picking an Orange Electric Car ?

The EV part was simple; we worked out what I used it for and the miles I needed to cover so electric made complete sense also because I can charge it from home. And YES my youngest daughter Brigid and I picked the bright Orange colour, which is pretty stand out and best of all it's a bit of FUN.

# HADDO ARTS

## Presents... Upcoming events!

Our 2025 season continues on **Sunday 29 June** when **Ryan Corbett** brings us classical music old and new arranged for accordion. Ryan will be joined by **Neil Birse, piano**, and **Matthew Kilner, saxophone**, who return to Haddo's programme after their super concert at the Cowdray Hall last year.



On **Sunday 24 August**, Hollywood glam and glitz come to Haddo! **Nova Quartet** and friends from **Orchestra Nova** entertain with an evening of iconic movie music including everybody's favourite singalong, *The Sound of Music*!

**Enjoy informal music** in the Courtyard at Haddo on the **first Sunday of every month** from now to 5 October, from pipes and fiddles, to guitar, singers and a flute choir. Presented in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland.



Scan the QR code to keep up to date with events, get details, buy your tickets and sign up for our newsletter. Follow us on social media **@haddoarts**



# HARRIET CROSS MP

*Gordon and Buchan*

It was brilliant to visit the Kintore's It's Your Neighbourhood Project at Provost Lawrence Court sheltered housing complex recently. Part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful program, this project looks to enhance and rejuvenate parts of towns through planting, painting, weeding and landscaping.

So, it was great to see and hear about the transformation of the ground at the back of Provost Lawrence, which was once overgrown and unused. This project has transformed the ground there with saplings, planters, vegetable boxes and seating areas, making an excellent place for residents to relax and enjoy the summer weather.

These improvements would not have been possible without the work of local volunteers and residents, who have made a tremendous difference to Kintore in recent years, and I truly believe a model for other communities to follow. From my time as MP, the importance of having an active community council, like Kintore's, has become clear to me. So, I want to pay tribute to the community council and volunteers who give up so much of their time and effort for the town. I look forward to seeing this project grow and supporting further such projects across Kintore over the coming years.

Turning to some local concerns and how I have raised these in Westminster. I am fully aware that there is considerable concern regarding the various energy infrastructure plans surrounding Kintore. I have raised these concerns on numerous occasions in Parliament

about the over-industrialisation of rural areas across the constituency and specifically Leylodge.

Across Scotland, communities are being overwhelmed by large-scale energy infrastructure projects, from towering pylons and Battery Energy Storage Systems to hydrogen plants and expansive onshore windfarms. While there is no question that we need to expand our renewable energy capacity, these developments must be properly planned, appropriately located, and subject to meaningful consultation with local communities.

That is why I recently proposed an amendment to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill that would have introduced a statutory duty for public consultation on energy infrastructure projects in Scotland. Disappointingly, the Government rejected this proposal without providing a reasonable justification. Those most impacted by new energy infrastructure projects need to have a proper say in consultations and be given a statutory voice in the planning process. Yet, under both the Scottish Government in Holyrood and the UK Government in Westminster, this simply is not happening. It is especially frustrating that Labour chose not to support this amendment, despite the clear benefits it would have brought to communities across Scotland.

Finally, in my last contribution to this magazine I wrote about the concerns many residents raised with me and other elected representatives about the review of 17 sheltered housing facilities in Aberdeenshire,

that put the future of many of these facilities at risk. Throughout the review, I closely monitored developments, met with residents across the constituency, and raised serious concerns with the Council about the consultation process, which in my view fell far short of what should be expected in a decision of this scale and sensitivity.

Thanks to an outstanding grassroots campaign led by sheltered housing residents, including in Kintore, I'm pleased that the worst-case scenario has been avoided. Crucially, no sheltered housing schemes in or around Kintore will be closed. This is a significant and hard-won outcome, and I want to thank everyone who took part in the campaign.

That said, I recognise that residents remain understandably anxious about some of the changes that have been announced, particularly the transition of several facilities, including Airlie House, to an "enhanced housing" model. On the surface, this may appear to be a reasonable compromise, but I believe it's essential we get clarity and assurances on what this will mean in practice.

I am actively seeking detailed information about how "enhanced housing" will operate, especially regarding future rent levels, maintenance and repairs, eligibility for new residents, and what protections current tenants will have going forward.

As ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have specific concerns you would like to raise with me or if you would like a meeting.



# AUTUMN ACHES:

## Spotting and Managing Arthritis in Pets

As the golden leaves begin to fall and the chill sets into the air, many of us feel a familiar stiffness in our joints—and our pets are no different. Arthritis is one of the most common chronic conditions affecting dogs and cats, and autumn is often when signs become more noticeable. Unlike humans, animals can't tell us they're in pain, and many pet owners assume their pet is "just slowing down with age." However, often, there's much more going on beneath the surface.

### WHAT IS ARTHRITIS?

Arthritis (or osteoarthritis) is a progressive joint disease that causes inflammation, stiffness, and pain. It most commonly affects older pets, but we're now recognising it much earlier—especially in dogs. Recent studies




suggest that up to 20% of dogs over one year old already show signs of osteoarthritis, often due to developmental joint conditions or undetected injuries. In senior dogs, the incidence rises significantly, with over 80% of dogs over the age of 8 affected to some degree.

Cats are also commonly affected, but their signs are usually more subtle and easy to miss.

### SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

Pets are masters of hiding discomfort. That's why it's so important to watch for subtle changes in behaviour or movement. You might notice:

- the car
  - Difficulty with stairs or getting in and out of the litter tray
  - A change in grooming habits— especially in cats
  - Licking or chewing at joints
  - Changes in mood or increased grumpiness
- If you're seeing any of these signs, it's worth booking a check-up. Early intervention can make a real difference.

### THE GOOD NEWS: WE CAN HELP

There have been big developments in the treatment and management of arthritis in recent years. Gone are the days when joint supplements and anti-inflammatories were the only tools in our kit. Today, we have a wide range of options tailored to your pet's individual needs, including:

- Modern anti-inflammatory medications – safer and more targeted
- Pain relief combinations – including new drug classes suitable for long-term use
- Injectable joint treatments – providing protection and relief directly into the joint
- Physiotherapy and hydrotherapy – especially beneficial for mobility and strength
- Laser therapy and acupuncture – increasingly used for reducing pain and inflammation
- Weight management plans – even small reductions in weight can

- Slowing down on walks or reluctance to go
- Stiffness after resting, especially in the morning
- Hesitation or refusal to jump onto furniture, beds, or into

significantly reduce joint strain

- Tailored exercise routines – gentle, regular movement is key to maintaining joint health
- Home adaptations – soft bedding, ramps, rugs on slippery floors, and raised food bowls


If you're unsure whether your pet is in pain, we often recommend a short trial of pain relief. It's a simple and effective way to assess whether arthritis is affecting their quality of life—and many owners are amazed by the results. After just a few weeks, dogs and cats who seemed "old" or "slowing down" are suddenly playing, jumping, and moving with ease again. It's one of the most rewarding transformations we see at Donview.

We'll work with you to create a treatment plan that suits your pet's lifestyle, condition, and comfort level.

### CATS GET ARTHRITIS TOO

It's a common myth that arthritis only affects dogs. In fact, studies show that over 60% of cats over the age of 12 have evidence of joint disease—and most of it goes undiagnosed. Cats don't usually limp or vocalise pain, but if they're not jumping as high, grooming less, or hiding more than usual, they may be silently struggling. An autumn check-up is a great opportunity to catch it early and intervene before their quality of life declines.

### HELPING PETS AGE GRACEFULLY

 Arthritis doesn't have to mean the end of walks, play, or comfort. With the right care, many pets continue to live active, happy lives for years. Whether your pet is showing early signs or already has a diagnosis, we're here to help ease those autumn aches and keep tails wagging and paws padding through every season.

*Charlie, Donview Vet*

## APPOINTMENT OF NEW VICE LORD-LIEUTENANTS AND SIX DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS FOR ABERDEENSHIRE

I am delighted to welcome The Lady Saltoun as my new Vice Lord-Lieutenant following the retirement of Joanna, The Marchioness of Aberdeen DL. I am also very pleased to appoint six new Deputy Lieutenants, each of whom brings a unique set of skills, experience, and service to Aberdeenshire. From charitable and community leadership to military service and commercial expertise, they have already made a significant contribution to our communities throughout the county. The newly appointed Deputy Lieutenants are: The Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair Bt DL (George), Mrs Sarah Bell DL, Major (Retd) Nicholas Champion MBE DL, Mrs Laura McNeil DL, Major (Retd) Toby Rider MC DL, Commodore Hector Robert (Bob) Sanguinetti RN(Retd) DL. Aberdeenshire is a wonderfully diverse and beautiful county with an enormous number of individuals and voluntary groups who work tirelessly to enhance the quality of life and cohesion in our communities. As a Lieutenancy we try and amplify the work of His Majesty The King by encouraging, supporting and recognising such selfless contributions.



### ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

One of the Lieutenancy's roles continues to be to ensure that messages of congratulations are delivered from Their Majesties, The King and Queen to those celebrating their 60th, 65th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th Birthdays. My Deputies and I are also delighted to visit on the day of such special milestones and present a card and our personal congratulations. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website. <https://www.lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk/> Clare Thorogood DL had the great pleasure of visiting Jim and Ray Walker of Kintore recently on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding.

*The Lord Lieutenants Update*

# ABERDEENSHIRE LIEUTENANCY



## HONOURS

The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy is keen to know of any individual or voluntary organisation who have made an exceptional contribution for the wider benefit of others in their community and assist in giving full consideration for appropriate recognition. Please contact us at the email address below, in confidence, should you have any suggestions. Please do look at our web site for further information: [www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk](http://www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk) or contact us on [info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk](mailto:info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk)

*Sandy Manson, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire*

## GARIOCH PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

I was delighted to attend the inaugural Garioch Pipe Band Championships in Inverurie recently. This major new event saw 14 pipe bands from the North-East of Scotland and as far afield as Edinburgh compete in front of large crowds. The day concluded with a display of the massed pipes and drums playing down Inverurie High Street. I had the great honour of being the Chieftain of the event and taking the salute on the steps of the Town Hall. Hopefully these championships will become an annual event, so we have the pleasure of enjoying more spectacular performances from some of the finest pipe bands in the country. Thank you to all involved especially Inverurie BID, Inverurie Events and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@ABERDEENSHIRELIEUTENANCY

OR ON FACEBOOK @ LORD-

LIEUTENANT OF ABERDEENSHIRE





CLLR. GLEN REID  
COMMUNITY CHAMPION -  
LGIU SCOTTISH COUNCILLOR  
AWARDS  
EAST GARIOCH (WARD 12)

# COUNCILLOR GLEN REID

## GRIT BINS – LETTER TO DIRECTOR

Every single Administration Councillor (Tories, Lib Dems and Aligned Independents) should hang their heads in shame re this decision. Lives may well be put at risk, elderly people will be more socially isolated as they will not be able to get out during winter and the NHS will be put under greater strain with an increase in admissions from slips, trips and accidents - all because they CHOSE to cut this most basic of services. I have written to the Director of Infrastructure Services to express my dismay at this decision and to ask that it be reconsidered:

"First and foremost I urge you to rethink the decision to remove 1,200 grit bins. It's not too late. The council decided to close the libraries, but public outcry forced a change in the process and the ultimate decision saw this reversed. You were

going to close 17 Sheltered Housing schemes, but public outrage saw this reduced to six schemes. The general public, my constituents and I are furious about this latest plan and the council's reputation is at an all time low. Some communities, such as Hatton of Fintray, are losing EVERY single grit bin. Please reverse this decision, or at the very least, reduce the scale of the removal of bins. If you are steadfast and will not change your mind, then please do NOT remove the grit bins. It makes no sense to me to pay personnel to visit 1,200 locations and remove these bins as it will cost the council in time and resources. I have heard that it may be done whilst they are rolling out the 20mph speed limit changes in communities, but it will simply make that exercise take much longer and there ultimately will be a financial cost to this. You will then need to store all 1,200 bins. I'm sure that the

council never planned for this and therefore we do not have this level of 'spare' storage space. If we do, then we obviously need to review our depot strategy as we shouldn't and have clearly been spending too much money on unused storage capacity. Our communities have adapted brilliantly to the continual withdrawal of the council from providing the services that they have done before. In a drive to save money, you asked them to be more resilient, to do more for themselves, to 'step up', and they have in so many ways. With this in mind, please give our communities the opportunity to step up again and take over the stocking of these lifeline bins. It may be that some can be 'adopted' by community groups and we must explore this option before forcing this unwanted decision onto communities. Any such bins that remain, but are to be filled by the community, not the council, can be marked so as to stop any public confusion about the stocking of it.



Speak to them and see what can be done as once they are gone it will be too late. I also believe that there has to be an urgent review of the ownership of these bins as I have had multiple reports from my constituents that some of these bins that are earmarked for removal, do not actually belong to the council. They were either paid for by developers or by communities and therefore any removal would be illegal. I have listed some examples below and I would be seeking an assurance that the ownership of these ones specifically, and the other bins in general, will be thoroughly looked into before any removal. If, as believed, they belong to the community, they must remain where they are:

**Wimpey housing estate, Newmachar (purchased by developer)**  
**Henry Catto Place, Kingseat (purchased by residents)**

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks and best regards."

To my constituents and our community, I say YOUR opinions matter, YOUR voices count – WE won the fight to save OUR library services, WE saved some of OUR Sheltered Housing schemes and now WE have to go again. Your local councillors, who are in the Administration that took this decision, can be contacted as follows:  
 Councillor Jim Gifford  
 (cllr.j.gifford@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
 Councillor Trevor Mason  
 (cllr.t.mason@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

## AIRLIE HOUSE - SHELTERED HOUSING REVIEW

At June's Garioch Area Committee (GAC), councillors were asked to provide comments to go forward to Communities Committee who will decide this matter next week. 17 schemes from the 56 Sheltered Housing facilities across Aberdeenshire have been considered for review, with closure as a potential outcome subject to further consultation. In September 2023 Communities Committee agreed to adopt the framework for the review with the criteria consisting of four factors: finance, demand, place and alternative provision. I said to officers,

"I can understand the rationale overall, but I must admit that there are questions about the two schemes under review in Garioch. It says in the paper that the review is largely due to low demand, but both these schemes have had over 97% occupancy over the last 10 years so why are we looking at closing them when they are so popular? There is a £135 million capital shortfall over the next 30 years for the 56 schemes, which means that the average Net Present Value (NPV) is approx. £2.4 million per scheme. 17 locations are proposed to close, leaving 39 operating. 28 of those 39 staying open have a worse NPV than Airlie House. When you take into account all four factors; finance, demand, place and alternative provision, you arrived at an overall score.

There results, ranging from 2.0 to 4.5 with the higher being the better, are astounding. Airlie House is rated at 3.9. Only 5 of the whole 56 schemes are rated higher. In the top 15 of your ratings, ALL will stay open bar one, Airlie House (under review) which is the 6th best. Kintore has an aging population, demand is high and constant here, the average NPV is £2.4m and Airlie House is £1.8m and it scores the 6th highest score overall."

With all of this, and having heard from one of the residents, I opposed the closure of Airlie House and proposed that the Garioch Area Committee state to Communities Committee that, based on the evidence that has been presented to us today, we (the GAC) do not understand why these two facilities (also Nether Davah House, Inverurie) have been earmarked for potential closure and are opposed to it. I am pleased to say that ALL of my colleagues supported this comment, as well as Cllr. Neil Baillie's comment that this should be decided by ALL of the council and not just the Communities Committee.

These comments went forward to the Communities Committee the following week who listened to us, and the public, and decided not to close Airlie House.

## MIDMILL EARLY LEARNING CENTRE – COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Following the recent U-turn on mothballing of four Early Learning Centres (ELC) by the Conservatives and Lib Dem Administration, I replied to the Director of ECS as I was unsatisfied with his response:

*"Thanks for your reply although I am confused by the outcome.*

*It has been established that the Council did not follow Scottish Government guidance, whether clear or not, on mothballing the ELCs following the December meeting of your committee. Full Council agreed on this and provision will now continue at Ballogie, Crossroads, Glass and Sandhaven.*

*However, the exact same process was followed for Midmill in Kintore just a couple of months earlier and therefore it must also not have been in accordance with Scottish Government guidance. Can you please explain the difference?*

*In my opinion there is none, other than the parents of Midmill have not began legal proceedings against the Council, and therefore the decision surely needs to be revisited now.*

*I look forward to your reply."*

He in turn replied, "We have numerous settings which have already been mothballed in Aberdeenshire; Kinneff School, Dunnottar Nursery, Tullynessle School and Nursery and Midmill Nursery. In addition, we have been planning to mothball three other settings from this August; Logie Coldstone School, Slains School and Fintry School. Our priority is those three as the mothballing is imminent and there has been engagement with families for some time in respect of these, but we are

*working through these with Legal colleagues at present.*

*The instruction from Council last week was to pause any further mothballing activity, but as I flagged in my previous reply we will be looking at previous decisions again once we have undertaken the priority work around work planned for this August in respect of the three schools I have mentioned above."*

I am as frustrated as parents, and no doubt staff, and have again written to him saying,

*"Thanks for the reply, but can you please answer the following questions:*

*Why can't the recently closed settings be looked at the same time as the three that are being considered for mothballing? Imminent mothballing is of course a pressing issue, but so is the incorrect mothballing of other ELCs.*

*What can parents do to address the recent mothballing of their ELC which has been proven to contravene the Scottish Government guidance on mothballing and therefore should not have been mothballed?*

*The Council has erred and the delay in rectifying this error may well open us to costly legal proceedings which we clearly cannot afford."*

I will do all that I can on this matter, however parents may wish to write to the two ward councillors who are in the Administration (contact details in previous article) who run this council and ask that they apply pressure too as I am only in opposition.

## \*\*\* KINTORE STREET LIGHTING COLUMN REPLACEMENTS \*\*\*

Following the replacement of two columns last year, I promised the community that I would continue chasing further replacements from any new budget that became available.

I have written many emails and raised the matter at committee, pressing the concerns for people walking in the evening.

During a recent committee questioning, it was revealed that there would be just seven new columns erected in all of Garioch (Insch, Inverurie, Kemnay, Westhill, Kintore, Blackburn, Newmachar etc) this financial year.

I immediately wrote to officers again to raise the fears and concerns of Kintore residents, pressing that we see our columns replaced to ensure the safety of the public at night, especially along Northern Road.

I can confirm that two of those seven columns will be located in Kintore, but I have not had any response as to the action that will be taken with regards to unsightly remaining cut and capped columns, although I will continue seeking action.

**Cllr. Glen Reid,  
Community  
Champion - Lgiu  
Scottish Councillor  
Awards East Garioch  
(Ward 12)**



# COMMUNITY Group Notices



## 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





## 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.

<b>MONDAY - FRIDAY</b> 9 am - 3pm	<b>ADDITIONAL DAYS</b> 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





## Christmas switch on

*Kintore town square*  
CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON



MEET SANTA | KINTORE PIPE BAND | FREE ENTRY  
Festive sing-along at the church at 4pm  
Performed by Kemnay Academy Concert Band

REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE 2ND OF NOVEMBER!

## KINTORE FAMILY FIREWORKS NIGHT

6-8.30 PM, KINTORE PLEASURE PARK

### SAVE THE DATE

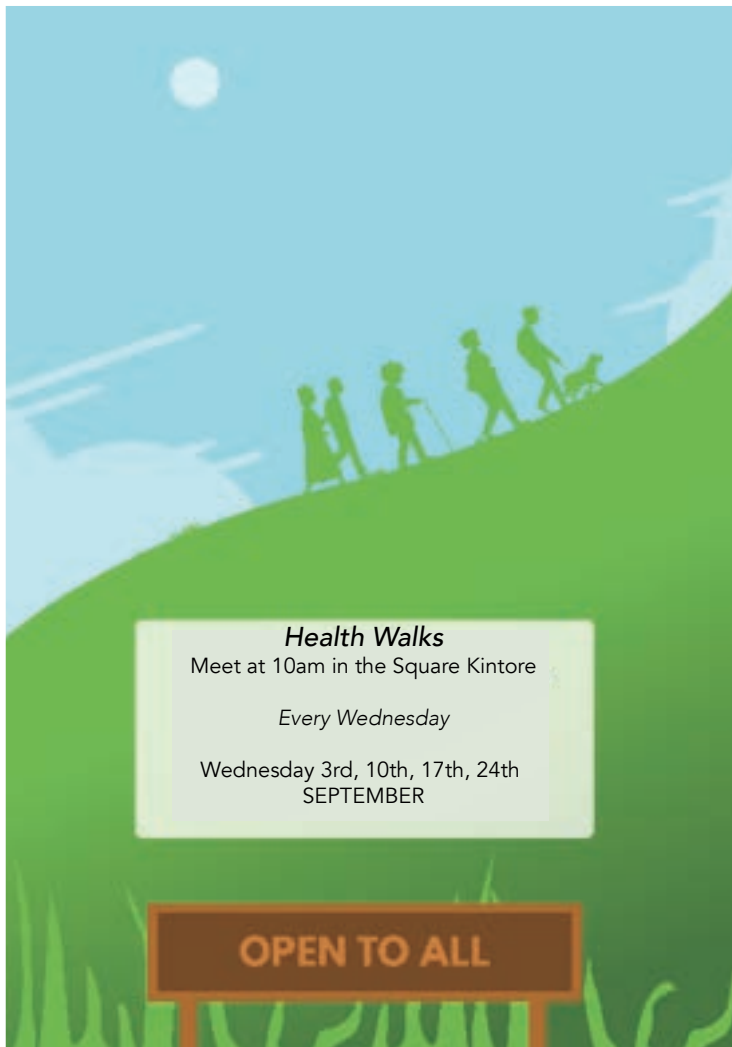
**SUN 2ND NOVEMBER 2025**

MUSIC | BURGERS/HOT-DOGS STALL | SWEET STALLS | FIRE SPINNERS

FREE ADMISSION - DONATE ONLY WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD  
FREE PARKING - IF YOU ARE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE PLEASE LEAVE YOUR CAR AT HOME, FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T THERE IS LIMITED FREE PARKING AT KINTORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SEE YOU THERE! SUN 2ND NOV 2025





**THE BOTHIE**  
Young People's Project

**Youth Projects**

**Action Kintore**

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

**Mind Yer Heid Youth group**  
Tuesdays 6pm-7pm  
Age 12+

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

All groups 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 and Linktree 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](mailto:Thebothiekintore@gmail.com)

**Allandale Gardens  
KINTORE AB51 0UT**

**If you're waiting for an Ambulance in Aberdeenshire**

- Turn on your outside lights if dark
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the road
- Ask someone to safely flag us down
- Gather your medication
- Secure your pets in another room

**FIRST RESPONDER**

**Scottish Ambulance Service  
Inverurie First Responders**

@ the heart of your community





### TALL SHIPS UPDATE:

A few months ago, we had Sail trainee manager, Hollie Weatherhead, come to The Bothie and other Kintore groups, to promote the Tall Ships and the exciting opportunity for young people aged 15-25 to be part of the crew, sailing either Dunkirk-Aberdeen or Aberdeen-Kristiansand. From that meeting, I was asked to be one of 8 chaperones, taking 145 young people to Dunkirk to embark on their sailing experience. Following that, I

was involved in the Aberdeen Tall Ships weekend, working closely with the media team and the sail trainee team, checking in and supporting the 145 young people coming home, and the 85+ ones heading off to Kristiansand. To top off the whole experience, I was invited to speak to the First Minister and talk about the young people we work with, why youth work is so important and why we need more opportunities like the funded Tall Ships places to help change young people's lives. Out of 230+ young people from across Aberdeenshire

and City, there were 3 sail trainees from our beautiful wee town of Kintore, and I'd like to congratulate them all for the hard work and effort they put into being part of this awesome experience. Leaving your comforts at home, being part of a crew with people you've never met, exploring new parts of the world and grafting hard to make your ship sail fast, you've all been amazing. From the Bothie and the Tall Ships team, we're proud of you.



## A NOTE FROM

*Youth Development Worker for The Bothie*





## 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!



Dates for your diary...

14th September 3-30-5-30

12th October 3-30-5-30

9th November 3-30-5-30

7th December Mini Xmas Messy

3-30-4-30pm

## 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 academic year starting, now is a great time to reach out for much-needed support and guidance. Perhaps, your child is just starting school or you are facing a tricky transition to a new stage or place. 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](mailto:janinecracknell@outlook.com) for further information.







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Don't be confused! We are still Aberdeenshire North Foodbank, working hard across Aberdeenshire to support families living in food poverty. But our logo has been updated (at no cost to our charity, thanks to the generosity of one of our corporate supporters) and the old familiar logo with the leaves (above right) will eventually be replaced everywhere by the new sharper logo on the left. You will see both for the coming months as we use up supplies that are already printed with the old logo (no waste!).

We often tell you that we cannot continue to provide the help for households living in food poverty without your ongoing support and that is so true. Whether you donate items of food or make donations of money (details provided on our website <https://aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk>), your goodwill and generosity is what keeps us going. In the first seven months of this year, our food bank in Inverurie supplied 411 households with food parcels, feeding 528 adults and 278 children. In the same period, across our whole Aberdeenshire network of 5 food banks (Inverurie, Ellon, Huntly, Peterhead and Fraserburgh), we provided a total of 2160 food parcels, providing for 2847 adults and 877 children. We really do depend on your donations to continue providing this support. We are always short of tinned meat and fish, litre cartons of UHT milk, tinned vegetables and litre boxes of long-life fruit juice and are regularly now having to buy these items to make sure that our food parcels meet the nutritional standards required.

We volunteers are just so grateful that we are surrounded by communities who truly care about their neighbours and are willing to help in whatever way they can. We long for the day when the existence of Food Banks is no longer necessary but, until that happens, we can just say a heartfelt ...

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**Juliet**

### Inverurie Branch Manager/Lettings Manager

Inverurie Branch Manager Juliet has several years' experience in the lettings industry and is fully Letwell-qualified. She oversees the smooth running of our landlord portfolios, ensuring that best practices are always met.



**Nicole**

### Operations Director

Living locally, Matt has a particular connection with the Inverurie property market and has helped many people throughout the North-east with their property journey. As Operations Director, he works closely with the property managers to ensure customer satisfaction.

**Matt**



### Property Assistant

Nicole, who also lives locally, knows the property market inside out and assists Matt and Juliet with all things property in our Aberdeenshire offices. Pop in to meet her for help with your property journey.

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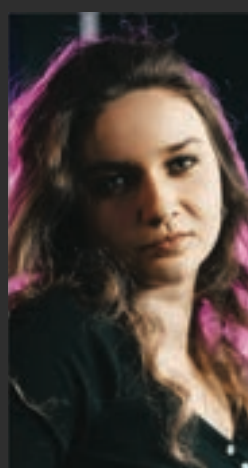
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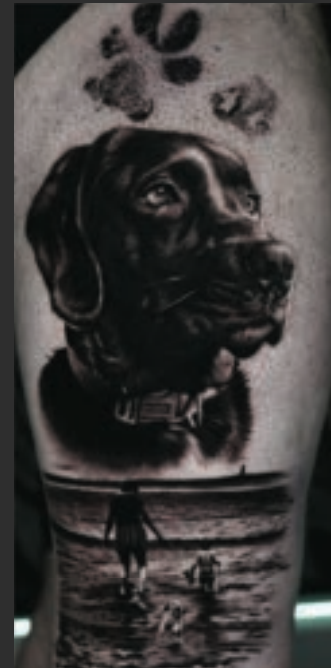
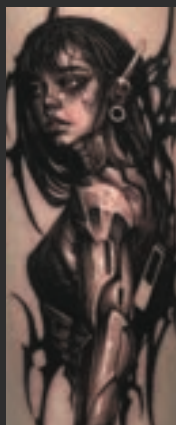
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# WHAT'S ON



	DAY	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
WEEKLY CLUBS	MONDAY	Junior Group (P5, 6 & 7)	15:30–17:00	The Bothie
		3rd Kintore Brownies	16:00–17:15	Kintore Public Hall
		3rd Kintore Rainbows	16:15–17:15	Kintore Public Hall
		Kintore Scouts – Cubs (8–10 years)	18:00–19:00	Kintore Scout Hall
		Kintore TaeKwon-Do School	19:00–20:30 19:30–21:00	Kintore Parish Church
		Kintore Golf Club non-profit Community Sports	10:00–20:00	Kintore Golf Club
	TUESDAY	Community Church Open House	10:00–12:00	Community Church
		Kintore Scouts - Beavers (6–8 years)	18:00–19:00	Kintore Scout Hut
		Kintore Scouts – Scouts (10–15 years)	19:30–21:00	Kintore Scout Hut
		Young & Free to Speak (YAFTS) All kids S1	19:00–21:00	The Bothie
		Kintore Golf Club non-profit Community Sports	10:00–20:00	Kintore Golf Club
	WEDNESDAY	Senior Citizens Club (Winter Months)	14:00–16:00	Church Hall
		1st Kintore Rainbows	16:15–19:15	Kintore Public Hall
		Kintore Scouts – Cubs (8–10 years)	18:00–19:00	Kintore Scout Hall
		Kintore TaeKwon-Do School	19:00–20:30 19:30–21:00	Kintore Parish Church
		Kintore Golf Club non-profit Community Sports	10:00–20:00	Kintore Golf Club
	THURSDAY	Kintore Church Drop In (Winter Months)	10–14:00	Church Hall
		1st Kintore Guides & Rangers	19:00–20:15	Kintore Public Hall
		Kintore Scouts – Beavers (6–8 years)	18:00–19:00	Kintore Scout Hut
		Kintore Scouts – Scouts (10–15 years)	19:30–21:00	Kintore Scout Hut
		Kintore Golf Club non-profit Community Sports	10:00–20:00	Kintore Golf Club
	FRIDAY	NKI Kintore Karate	16:30–17:30	Kintore Primary School
		Kintore Golf Club non-profit Community Sports	10:00–20:00	Kintore Golf Club
	SATURDAY	Kintore Golf Club non-profit Community Sports	10:00–20:00	Kintore Golf Club
	SUNDAY	Kintore Community Church	10:30	Community Church, Forst Road
		Kintore Golf Club non-profit Community Sports	10:00–20:00	Kintore Golf Club

	DAY	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
MONTHLY CLUBS	First Tuesday of every month	Kintore SWI	19:30	Kintore Public Hall
	Third Tuesday of every month	Kintore Community Council Meeting	19:00–21:00	Kintore Primary School
	First & Third Thursday of every month	Kintore, Kemnay & District Rotary Club	18:45	Ask for location
	See poster on p.12	Messy Church	15:30–17:30	Kintore Church
	First Wednesday of every month	Kintore Additional Needs Support Group	10:00–12:00	Ask for location

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