Welcome to the Community of Finzean "The Fair Place".

You may already be familiar with the area, or you may have come to live here without knowing anyone. Regardless, we hope this welcome pack helps you navigate the first few steps to the wonderful things our community has to offer. Arriving in a new environment might feel as if there are lots of "rabbit holes" of information, aspects of the community not always visible to the naked eye. We have tried to pull these together but, just like our local rabbits, there are always new "warrens" being created! However, we hope that by signing up for some of our links and contacts, you'll always know what's happening in the community and how you can become part of it.

The History

The Parish of Birse, of which Finzean is part, was granted by King William the Lyon to the Bishops of Aberdeen in 1157. In those ancient title deeds are recorded the names of Percie, Clune, Balnaboth, Balfiddy, Tillyfruskie and Tillygarmond, all places recognisable in today's Finzean.

Finzean has come to mean many different things to many different people. The name originated from a house and the land surrounding it, first acquired by the Farquharson Family in 1609. The oil paintings of Joseph Farquharson R.A. (1846 to 1935), the 12th Laird of Finzean drew their inspiration from the beautiful local surroundings of Finzean and are now highly prized, and sought after, pieces of art.

Four hundred years on, stretching across 16 generations, the estate has seen many changes but the Farquharson family (Donald Farquharson in partnership with his brother Andrew Farquharson) still own and manage the estate. The community and its inhabitants are a central focus of the estate's activities. It aims to bolster the community's sustainability through support for local institutions such as the school and the church. The estate has regularly donated land for community woods, pathways and other recreational activities. There is a continuing policy of selling low-cost sites to young people who have grown up in Finzean.

Local Organisations and Useful Contacts.

1. Finzean Community Association (FCA)

A registered charity with a committee of volunteers and a paid hall keeper and cleaner which run Finzean Hall. Located in the heart of the village, this brilliant facility is available for private booking, as well as community meetings and parties. The current FCA chair is Roy Cowie, roy.cowie@btinternet.com. Find out what's happening at the Finzean Hall Facebook site, or consult the electronic hall diary at https://www.finzean-hall.co.uk. Bookings can be made via the website.

2. Finzean Community Council (FCC)

FCC represents local views to Aberdeenshire Council. They have a Facebook page where agendas and minutes are posted. The current chair is Guy Haslam. haslam@finzean.com

3. Communication

You'll always find someone to "have a news with", as the local Doric goes, if you're out for a walk or visiting the Finzean Farm Shop. But we have other means of letting you know what's happening:

- FCA distribute a newsletter bi-annually in the spring and autumn called the Rabbit. To be included on the electronic mailing list email wendy.hector@btopenworld.com. If you have any news or events you wish to share, let Emma know at dalsack@outlook.com.
- A WhatsApp community help group was formed during the pandemic to connect anyone needing help. To join or ask for help, email <u>melshand.artist@gmail.com</u> with your mobile number.
- Not everyone has access to the internet and our local weather can at times have an adverse
 effect on electricity supply and electronic communications. Community notice boards are
 situated at Farquharson Park and outside the Finzean Farm Shop. These publicise local events
 but are our communication lifelines when electronic contact is lost.

4. Birse Community Trust (BCT)

Finzean is one of four main parts of the civil parish of Birse, the other parts being the neighbouring rural communities of Birse, Ballogie and the largely uninhabited Forest of Birse. Everyone living in Birse parish and on the electoral register can fill in a membership form and become a voting member of the Trust (see BCT's website for details). The Trust was established in 1998 to promote the common good of the inhabitants of Birse parish and deliver wider public benefits, and amongst other things, it manages the Commonty Pinewoods and several A-listed buildings, including the Water Mills, on behalf of the community.

Local Facilities

<u>Finzean Farm Shop</u> is the heart of the community. Order your papers, use the post office (Monday 13.30 to 15.00 and Wednesday 11.30 to 13.00), buy your groceries, stop off for coffee, breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea. There is a generator at the Farm Shop so if we are unlucky enough to have power cuts the Farm Shop will still be able to make coffee, tea and serve hot soup and light food. The Shop, owned and managed by Finzean Estate, also holds special evening events. Check out their Facebook page/Instagram account for up-to-date events and subscribe to their newsletter either via their website or the QR code in the Farm Shop.

A <u>fresh fish van</u> calls at the Farm Shop every Wednesday morning at 8.45 – 9.00 and at the Finzean Hall on a Thursday from approximately 8.05 to 8.20.

A takeaway <u>fish and chip van</u> calls at the car park opposite Finzean Hall on the first Sunday of every month from 16.00 until 18.30.

A <u>defibrillator</u> is located at the front of the Finzean Hall. Instructions on the front of the box are selfexplanatory.

<u>Emergency Facilities</u> – Living in a rural community, one "event" we must prepare for is a power outage, especially in winter. Following 2022's Storm Arwen, FCC formalised our emergency response, and an outline contingency plan is now in place. There is a generator to supply basic power in the hall. In the event of a major power cut, FCA will open the hall - everyone is welcome. Come to the hall if you need help (i.e. food, warmth, picking up prescriptions etc.). If you can provide help, we will try to use your talents. We have a bright new sign that will appear outside when the hall is open.

A small informal <u>book exchange "library"</u> is housed in the disused bus shelter opposite the church – please donate or borrow books at any time.

<u>Electric Car Charging</u> — There is an electrical car charging point in the Farm Shop car park. To use the charging point, you will need to download the EV Pro App from the Apple Store or the Google Play Store. In the app, you can scan the QR code posted on the charger to manage your charging session.

There are many facilities in nearby Banchory and Aboyne, including dentists, doctors, libraries, schools, nurseries, swimming pools, community centres, restaurants, cafes and farmers' markets.

Activities

There are lots of activities in the community, irrespective of age and inclination. Some are listed below but, like the warren to which we referred earlier, new ones are always being created.

Finzean Hall regular activities https://www.finzean-hall.co.uk

- Finzean Under 5's attracts parents/carers with children under 5 from the local area and not just Finzean – every Thursday from 10.00-11.30. More information can be found on their Facebook
 - Group or simply by turning up. Contact Wendy Milne wendyb 92@hotmail.com
- Feughside Amateur Football Club adults Billy Christie billy.christie2@btinternet.com
- Badminton club everybody welcome, Mondays in winter season at 19.30. Contact June Whyte
 jwhyte31@hotmail.co.uk
- Dance club Every Tuesday at 19.30 Contact Barbara McIntosh
 - bobbabsbanchory@hotmail.com
- Pilates and Yoga run by individuals, check notice boards for details of private classes.

There are also several events which are held over the year:

- <u>Rep Theatre</u> POOT (A Portrait Of Our Time) was a creative community project established in 2012 when Mel Shand, a local artist decided to make a photographic record of 220 of the residents of Birse, Ballogie, Finzean and Strachan. A large image of all the smaller images can be viewed within the church, copies of all the photographs are held in special folders within the BCT archive. As part of this project Mel became a network promoter for NEAT (Northeast Arts Touring) and regularly brings touring theatre companies to the Hall. Keep an eye out on the noticeboards and Facebook for forthcoming shows.
- <u>Community play</u> We all have a performer of some kind within us! Our community plays are held in Finzean Hall on an entirely ad hoc basis, and everyone is welcome to join. We have had three so far, "Another Idea", "Alter-Nativity", "Bee-Kind" and "Migration Nation", will be coming sometime soon. Tickets fly out the door! Everyone is welcome to get involved either on stage or behind it, car parking, baking, singing, budding thespian, no talent is wasted! Contact Melshand.artist@gmail.com. if you are interested.
- <u>Annual maintenance day</u> a social get together with the purpose of ensuring the hall is kept in pristine condition. Details are included in the Rabbit and the hall's electronic calendar.

- <u>Farmers' Ball</u> you don't need to be a farmer to attend! Held in late November/early December, the ball is a relaxed, sit-down dinner followed by a dance to a ceilidh band, run by a team of volunteers. Details of ticket purchase are available in the autumn edition of Rabbit.
- <u>Bonfire night</u> ALWAYS held on November 5th, in a field behind the Hall with hot food and drinks available in the hall.

Birse and Feughside Church

Birse and Feughside Church is part of the Church of Scotland and serves the communities of Birse, Ballogie, Finzean, Strachan and Glen Dye. Services are led by our Minister, Rev Amy Pierce (acpierce@churchofscotland.org.uk) and take place at 11.00 on Sundays.

Forest of Birse Church

Owned and managed by Dunecht Estates. No services operate in the church, but it has a beautiful setting and an open-door policy.

Petanque – the Boulers of Birse

A club established in 2018 and part of the Scottish Petanque Association. You will spot them on a Saturday morning from 10.00 to 12.00 and on a Tuesday evening from 18.30 to 20.00 once the lighter nights arrive. The age range of members span from teenagers to some of the more mature members of our community. Everyone is welcome, just come along to the car park of the Birse and Feughside Church, borrow boules and get a bit of coaching if you've never played before.

The Tom's Cairn Trail race

A 1km, 5km or 10km race, depending on age and fitness. The race, organised by the Finzean Primary School Parent Forum, is held in September, starting from the Birse and Feughside Church, winding its way up to the top of Tom's Cairn, a summit on the north side of the Finzean valley.

Celebration of public events

Many public events are celebrated by the community. Recent examples include activities to celebrate the late Queen Elizabeth's 70-year reign and a picnic to celebrate the coronation of King Charles. We take as many opportunities as possible to get together.

Local walking spots

Royal Deeside has many beautiful walks and our community is no exception, ranging from the spectacular views from Peter Hill or Tom's Cairn to the short but beautiful stroll from Finzean School to the village. A map is included which shows some of the local walking spots.

Remember, even when using a public right of way, be aware of livestock sharing the space. Many of us are dog owners and we pride ourselves in ensuring the poo fairy doesn't have to follow us around (i.e. always carry poo bags). Have dog leads at the ready when required.

Tips From Locals (Feel free to send us your own)

- Keep up to date with what is going on by signing up to the local neighbourhood watch. You can join via Facebook search for Finzean and Ballogie Neighbourhood Watch.
- Bin collection is on Thursday mornings, make sure your bin is secure, it can be quite windy and its hard work recovering bits of refuse scattered through the fields!
- Glass recycling at Finzean Hall car park, but not too late at night to disturb the neighbours!
- Clothes recycling at the church, Finzean School and Finzean Hall car park.
- Make sure your postal address doesn't include "Kincardineshire", which can happen with certain website address finders. If it does, your Royal Mail parcels will go via Dundee rather than Aberdeen and will take longer to reach you.
- Internet and mobile signal vary from very good to poor. Check with your immediate neighbours for the best signal on offer. There is a planning application for a 4G mast in Finzean to improve the signal in the area.
- If you are looking to declutter, there are several charity shops in Aboyne and Banchory which will be delighted to receive donations. Alternatively type in Finzean, Banchory or Aboyne in Facebook to find the local marketplace Facebook pages.
- There are some good local Facebook groups if you are looking for trades people recommendations Banchory Rocks and Aboyne Local. But we also have some great local trades people so ask your neighbours.
- The Forget-Me-Not-Club is a registered charity based in Banchory providing dementia support across Aberdeenshire mailto:info@forgetmenotclub.co.uk or telephone 01330 822655.
- If you have friends or family coming to stay but you can't accommodate them all in your own home there are quite a few local holiday cottages and AirBnB accommodation, but they fill up quickly during holiday season.
- Glen Dye has started a community cinema club which is open to all. https://www.glendyecabinsandcottages.com/community-cinema
- The annual Banchory Scouts jumble sale is a must-visit to donate or to buy. Held on a Saturday in late April/early May every year just Google it!
- The tennis courts in Banchory are a great facility.
- Some websites to check regularly for events:

o https://neatshows.co.uk/ o

https://www.thebarnarts.co.uk/o

http://www.showsataboyne.co.uk/o

BCToffice@birsecommunitytrust.org.uk o

https://www.finzean-hall.co.uk/

Get Involved

The population of Finzean is very diverse, with all ages, wide ranges of backgrounds, skills and interests. We have families who have lived in the community for generations and recent incomers. With so much going on in the community, there are many ways of becoming involved. If you are interested in any of the associations, events or activities, simply get in contact with the relevant

person noted above. Volunteers are very welcome to support the various activities and it's a great way of getting to know your neighbours.

However, if you simply want to enjoy peace and tranquillity, you will find it in Finzean. But if you do ever need a little help now and then, someone can always help, check into the Need a Neighbour WhatsApp forum. Never hesitate to reach out to anyone mentioned above, they will always point you in the right direction.

Contacts A-Z

ACTIVITIES

- Deeside Activity Park www.deesideactivitypark.com
- Den and the Glen www.denandtheglen.co.uk Indoor and outdoor play areas for kids including soft play, climbing wall, parks and outdoor playgrounds
- Cairngorms National Park www.visitcairngorms.com
- Knockburn Sports Loch http://www.knockburn.co.uk/
- Tennis https://www.banchorytennis.net/
- A Cappella Ladies Chorus Garlogie https://albacappella.co.uk/where-we-meet.htm
- Choir Banchory Singers https://banchorysingers.co.uk/
- Fishing for women River Dee Damsels https://www.facebook.com/Riverdeedamsels
- Clay shooting for women Glad Rags Clay shooting https://gladragsevents.com/
- Interested in the arts? Third Stage at the Woodend Barn in Banchory
 https://www.visitbanchory.com/things-to-do/events/third-stage-at-woodend-barn-onwednesdays/

ART AND CULTURE

- The McEwan Gallery <u>mcewangallery.com</u>
- Larks Gallery www.larksgallery.com
- Ballater Gallery www.ballatergallery.co.uk
- The Milton Gallery at Crathes <u>www.miltonart.com</u>
- Aboyne & Deeside Festival. Arts festival during the first week in August. Theatre, folk, classical music, talks, authors & more <u>www.aboyneanddeesidefestival.org.uk</u>
- Cambus O'May Cheese www.cambusomay.com
- Highland Games Centre www.highlandgamescentre.org
- Aboyne & Deeside Festival www.aboyneanddeesidefestival.org.uk

CASTLES AND GARDENS

Balmoral Castle www.balmoralcastle.com

- Braemar Castle www.braemarcastle.co.uk
- Craigievar Castle www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/craigievar
- Crathes Castle www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/crathes-castle
- Drum Castle www.nts.org
- Dunnottar Castle www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk
- Fyvie Castle www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/fyvie-castle
- Kildrummy Castle <u>www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/kildrummy-castle</u>
 National Trust for Scotland www.nts.org.uk

CHEMIST

- Davidsons, 61-63 High Street, Banchory......01330
 822542
- Charles Michies, 67 High Street, Banchory......01330
- Davidsons, Ballater Road, Aboyne, AB34 5HT01339 886445

CHURCHES

- Church of Scotland, Finzean <u>www.birseandfeughside.org.uk</u>, Birse & Feughside Church, Finzean
- Church of Scotland, Aboyne & Dinnet Parish Church, Aboyne01339 887267
- Scottish Episcopalian, St. Thomas', Aboyne......01339 755919
- Scottish Episcopalian, St. Ternan's, Banchory.......01330 822783
- Roman Catholic, St. Columba's, Banchory......01330 822835
- Roman Catholic, St. Margaret's, Aboyne......01330 822835

CYCLE – HIRE, REPAIR AND ROUTES

- Bike Station (Ballater) www.bikestationballater.co.uk
- Cycle Highlands (Ballater) Qualified and local mountain bike guides can show you the easy family trails, big mountain epics or the secret single tracks of Aberdeenshire and Royal Deeside. www.cyclehighlands.com.
- Deeside MTB. Offering bespoke guided rides, sculpted to suit your wishes, and guided routes showcasing their favourite trails. Beginner or expert, there's a ride for everyone with Deeside MTB. www.deesidemtb.co.uk
- Banchory Cycles (Banchory) <u>www.banchorycycles.com</u>
- REM Bikes (Banchory) www.rembikes.co.uk
- 20Twenty (Banchory) Enduro mountain bike specialist. www.20twentystore.com
- BikeMaps <u>www.bikemaps.co.uk</u> DAYS
 OUT

• Highland Games Centre In Braemar. Exhibition hall, gallery, archive, café and shop, exploring traditional Highland games, focusing on the Braemar Gathering (1st weekend in September) and its long-standing royal connections. www.highlandgamescentre.org.

DENTIST

- Fountain Medical Group, Fountain Lodge, Banchory, AB31 5YA......01330 822583
- Banchory Dental Practice, 9 Station Rd, Banchory, AB31 5XX......01330 823400
- Fountain Medical Group, Old Ballater Road, Aboyne, AB34 5HN......01339 886177

DISTILLERIES

- Fettercairn Distillery www.fettercairnwhisky.com
- Glen Garioch glengarioch.com
- GlenDronach Distillery www.glendronachdistillery.com
- Glenglassaugh Distillery <u>www.glenglassaugh.com</u>
- Glenlivet Distillery www.maltwhiskydistilleries.com/theglenlivet
- Royal Lochnagar Distillery www.malts.com/en-gb/distilleries/royal-lochnagar

DOCTOR

- Banchory Group Practice, Dee Street, Banchory, AB31 5XS......0345 013 0750
- Aboyne Health Centre, Bellwood Road, Aboyne, AB34 5HQ......0345 337 9955

EMERGENCY & MEDICAL

- Emergency Services (Police/Fire/Ambulance)999
- Accident & Emergency, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZG......0345 456 0000
- Children's A&E, Westburn Road, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZG......0345 456 6000
- Aboyne Hospital Minor Injuries Only, Bellwood, Aboyne, AB34 5HQ......01339 886433
- Out of Hours Non-Emergency Medical, NHS 24......111

FISHING

- Fish Pal The easiest way to book fishing on the River Dee. www.fishpal.com.
- Glen Tanar Tout Loch www.glentanar.co.uk
- Raemoir Trout Fishery <u>www.raemoirtroutfishery.co.uk</u>

GLIDING

Deeside Gliding Club www.deesideglidingclub.co.uk

GOLF

- Aboyne www.aboynegolfclub.co.uk
- Ballater www.ballatergolfclub.co.uk
- Banchory <u>www.banchorygolfclub.co.uk</u>
- Braemar www.braemargolfclub.co.uk
- Tarland www.tarlandgolfclub.co.uk

HILL WALKING AND RUNNING

- Walkhighlands Free-to-view detailed route maps and detailed descriptions for every walk.
 Download route files to use with your GPS or smart phone.
 www.walkhighlands.co.uk/cairngorms
- Cairngorms National Park. The UK's largest National Park, in the Scottish Highlands, offers
 masses of things to do including water sports, snow sports, wildlife watching,
 www.visitcairngorms.com
- Deeside Way. The Deeside Way is a 41-mile rail trail that follows, in part, the bed of the former Deeside Railway in Aberdeenshire. Forming part of the National Cycle Network the trail leads from Aberdeen to Ballater. www.deesideway.org

LIBRARY

- Aboyne, Bridgeview Road, Aboyne......01339 267701
 POST OFFICE
- Finzean, Pop-up in Finzean Farm Shop on Monday 13:30 15:00 and Wednesday 11:30 13:00.
- Banchory, Greens, 37 High St., Banchory, AB31 5TJ. Monday to Friday 9.00 -17.30, Saturday 9.00-13.00
- Aboyne, Unit 3 Northside, Station Square, Aboyne, AB34 5HX. Monday to Friday 9.00 13.00.
- Kincardine O'Neil, 40 North Deeside Road, Kincardine O'Neil AB34 5AA. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.00-17.00, Wednesday, Saturday 9.00-12.30

HIGHLAND GAMES

- Aboyne Highland Games www.aboynegames.com
- Ballater Highland Games <u>www.ballaterhighlandgames.com</u>
- Lonach Highland Gathering and Games <u>www.lonach.org</u>
- The Braemar Gathering www.braemargathering.org
- Dinnie Day at Potarch. Lifting and running with the famed Dinnie Stones https://ballogieestate.co.uk/

RESTAURANTS & CAFÉS

- Finzean Farm Shop (Finzean) www.finzean.com/farmshop Up the valley going west
- Potarch Cafe (Banchory) <u>www.ballogie-estate.co.uk</u>
- Love Laura Lane Kincardine O Neil www.facebook.com/LoveLauraLane/about
- Post Office Kincardine O Neil
- The Boat Inn (Aboyne) theboatinnaboyne.co.uk
- Blackface Sheep (Aboyne) www.blackfacedsheep.co.uk
- Deeside Nurtaj (Aboyne) <u>deesidenurtaj.co.uk</u>
- Spider on a Bicycle (Aboyne) www.spideronabicycle.co.uk
- Courie Courie (Ballater) ww.couriecourie.co.uk
- The Bothy (Ballater)01339 755191

- Rothesay Rooms (Ballater) <u>rothesay-rooms.co.uk</u>
- Darroch Learg Hotel & Restaurant (Ballater) darrochlearg.co.uk
- The Fish Shop (Ballater) https://fishshopballater.co.uk
- Tarmachan Cafe (Crathie) <u>www.tarmachancafe.com</u>
- Highlanders Bakehouse (Crathie) www.visitscotland.com
- The Bothy (Braemar) www.instagram.com/bothy braemar
- The Flying Stag (Fife Arms, Braemar) thefifearms.com

Down the valley - going east

- Banchory Lodge (Banchory) <u>www.banchorylodge.com</u>
- Birdhouse café (Banchory) http://www.birdhousecafe.co.uk/
- Buchanan Bistro (Banchory) www.buchananfood.com
- Higgledy Piggledy (Banchory)18 Dee Street https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083666831399
- Mamma Mia (Banchory) <u>www.mammamiabanchory.co.uk</u>
- Raemoir garden centre and café http://www.raemoirgardencentre.co.uk/
- Ride Coffee House (Banchory) <u>www.facebook.com/ridecoffeehouse</u>
- Scolty Cafe (Banchory) https://www.duncansofbanchory.co.uk/pages/coffee-shop
- Scott Skinner restaurant and Bar (Banchory) https://www.scottskinners.com/scott-skinners
- Tease Coffee Bar (Banchory) http://www.teasecoffeebar.co.uk/
- The Chatterbox (Banchory) http://www.thechatterboxcoffeeshop.co.uk/
- The Cowshed Restaurant (Banchory) www.cowshedrestaurantbanchory.co.uk
- Tor-Na-Coille Hotel (Banchory) http://www.tornacoille.com/
- Platform 22 (Torphins) www.instagram.com/platform22

SKIING

- Glenshee Ski and Snowboard <u>www.ski-glenshee.co.uk</u>
- The Lecht Ski Centre www.lecht.co.uk

SWIMMING POOLS

- Aboyne Swimming Pool. Facilities include a 4 lane 25m swimming pool, gym, full size synthetic pitch, squash court, sports hall, climbing wall, theatre.
 www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk
- Banchory Sports Village. Facilities include a 6 lane 25m swimming pool, teaching pool, 3 court sports hall, 2 squash courts and gym. www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk
- Stonehaven Open Air Pool Seasonal but you can combine it with fish and chips from The Bay and an Ice cream from Auntie Betty's next door. www.stonehavenopenairpool.co.uk
- St Cyrus Beach and Balmedie Beach and Nature Reserve both within 30 miles of Finzean.
- Knockburn Loch, Strachan www.knockburn.co.uk

TAXI		
•	Davro Taxis, Banchory01	330 825251
•	Marlo Taxi079	939 462721
•	Home James Taxi07	380 802480
•	PLS Taxis (Drumoak)013	330 811999
•	Banchory Taxis01	330 444444
•	Taxi Aboyne07 VETERINARY	7872 067693
•	Kirkton Veterinary Centre, Kirktown of Fetteresso, Stonehaven, AB39 3UP01	569 764140
•	Woodside Veterinary Group, 17 Kinneskie Road, Banchory, AB31 5RQ01	330 820452
•	Woodside Veterinary Group, Woodside Road, Torphins, AB31 4TR01	339 882556
•	Woodside Veterinary Group, 6 Station Square, Aboyne, AB34 5HX013	339 887474
•	Town and Country Veterinary Group, 14A Bridge St, Banchory AB31 5SX013	30 822648

This welcome pack has been collated and issued on behalf of the Finzean Community Association. It will be updated as required and we anticipate a soft copy will be available on the Finzean Hall website in the coming months. In the meantime, if you wish a soft copy, please email mailto:e.p.craig@hotmail.com. Similarly, if you feel we have missed anything, or a new activity/event is planned, please let Eleanor Craig know at the above email address.

May 2024