

# Connect

monthly

July/August  
2019



for weddings  
and a  
funeral

**MORAY**  
council



JULY/AUGUST  
2019

## Contents

Heads Up	3
For weddings and a funeral	4
Long Service Awards	8
Keith & East Locality Project	11
Payslip, remember, remember	11
STAR Awards	12
Clean Air Day	13
Streets ahead	14
Parking Charges Update	15
Greenfingers	16
Buckie Gateway	19
Our achievements	20
Glenda's special	22
Leisure Link	24

## Editorial

Welcome to your July/August *Connect*!

This edition is a double-whammy for July and August, and will have to keep you going until September as the team take some time off over the summer holidays. I would say it's time for rest and relaxation, but with kids to keep entertained the chances of that are slim! It's good to recharge though, and spend quality time with the family when the working week can seem so rushed.

Speaking of quality time, that's exactly what our registration staff give to the many hundreds of families they deal with each year. Whether celebrating a new arrival or registering the death of a loved one, our caring colleagues are there to support each one through the best and worst times.

Ups and downs also reflect the course of the council over the last year. Despite the cutbacks necessary to balance the budget, there has been significant investment which will improve our families' lives now and in the future. New schools, affordable housing, refurbished nurseries – we note the achievements of the council during 2018/19, which wouldn't be possible without the hard work of staff.

Hope you have a great summer, let's hope the sun shines!



**Peter Jones**  
Communications Officer



**Sharon Dunbar**  
Media & Communications  
Officer



**Angus McNicholl**  
Designer



# HeadsUp

Liz Lambie, Senior Registrar

## Dear Colleagues

When I moved to Aberlour in 1995 and saw the wee cottage diagonally across the road which housed the local Registrar, I remember saying to my husband 'I wonder how you become one of those?'

In 1998, sadly, the Registrar passed away and the post was advertised in the local library window. I applied for the position and much to my delight got the job. The Registrar in Dufftown had retired the same year so I got that role as well! When Aberlour and Dufftown's offices closed in 2002 I came to the Elgin office, where I've been ever since.

Registration of births, deaths and marriages is a far cry from when I started my working life as a laboratory technician in a paper mill many moons ago, but is such a rewarding job. It's nice to be part of a special time in someone's life with the birth of a child or a marriage and to feel you have helped in some way at the time of a bereavement.

Well, I must have done something right because here I am - Senior Registrar for Moray 21 years later. The work of a Registrar is rewarding but can be quite challenging at times; just when you think you know it all and have heard

it all, someone will come in to the office with a query that stops you in your tracks. You're left thinking, 'well, no one's ever asked me that before!' Challenge is good, though.

That last comment brings me on to my family: one husband, two daughters and a son. All three children are grown up now and have homes of their own (one even has her own husband, a marriage which I had the pleasure of conducting). No grandchildren yet so I bought a dog!

When your children move out of the family home it does leave a massive void and I found myself 'missing' tripping over many pairs of shoes at the back door, rushing off to football training and the likes. So after moping about our empty house we sold up, downsized and moved to the coast. I often tell people the kids have left so we have run off to the seaside.

In my spare time, not that I have much what with all this DIY at our new house, I enjoy gardening and recently I took up running (I use that term loosely) with the council's Jog Scotland Group, and have been known to run a Parkrun now and again. My husband and I also enjoy spur of the moment

trips away in our camper van, when I find out where in the country the sun is going to shine.

There's always going to be a big change when a long-standing member of the team retires, so for now I am getting to grips with my new role as Senior Registrar and that's keeping me busy at the moment. The Registrars are a naturally compassionate and understanding team with the public - so hopefully they will be with me too!

**Best wishes**

Liz

# REGISTRAR of BIRTHS, DEATHS and MARRIAGES

for weddings  
and a  
funeral



*“Love is all around”* said Marti Pellow. No-one knows that more than our colleagues in the registration service, who share the ultimate highs and desperate lows of people’s lives. Chances are, at some point, you or someone in your family has met them and, given their role, they are well known in Moray.

This team really are on the front line, armed with tissues and empathy, as they share in the life experiences of thousands of folk each year.

We called in to the Elgin office to catch up with our colleagues based there. Thankfully they managed to squeeze us in between registrations for a chat about their extensive experience in

births, deaths, marriages and more.

They’ve just added to their team with a new Assistant Registrar, having said goodbye to Senior Registrar, Heather Greig, who retired last month after an impressive 31 years of service.

Liz Lambie has taken the reins as Senior Registrar, bolstered by Kevin Cheetham, Mark Stevenson-Bramley, Heather Kellas and Charlie Simpson, who collectively have 77 years’ experience in registration.

Mark, who spent 28 years in the airline industry, is now enjoying a short commute to Elgin – a far cry from spending two hours on the M25 crawling to Heathrow Airport, and

**The tell us once service works particularly well for those who have experienced a death in the family.**



freeing up more time for his house renovation! He worked for Surrey County Council as a Registrar for a while and was delighted to see the post advertised after his move north of the border.

*"I've had the most lovely welcome and I can already tell it's a great team,"* he said.

*"What I love is that you don't know who is about to walk through the door and what you'll be dealing with. Plus, here – unlike when I worked in Surrey – we do all aspects of the job, including the admin, which gives you a better understanding of it all."*

An important part of the job is the 'Tell us Once' service, which is offered for births and deaths. It means families only have to let the registrars know of any birth or death, and our team contact a host of agencies. Ideal if you've a newborn – you've got your hands full with your bundle of joy, and also for grieving families as it saves the trauma of phoning round organisations retelling the news.

*"The tell us once service works particularly well for those who have experienced a death in the family,"* says Liz.

*"We tell so many agencies, for example the Passport Agency, DVLA to have driver's licence and the ownership of cars cancelled, or the Department for Work and Pensions and most public sector pensions."*

Deaths across the country are reviewed by a medical board,

which scrutinises the integrity of death certificates issued by doctors. It's a measure brought in after serial-killer medic Harold Shipman's crimes came to light, and means that families can be called in to the registrars' office more than once before the death registration process is complete.

*"It's random too,"* says Kevin, who has been an Assistant Registrar for 12 years, working out of the Elgin office for the last six.

*"Sometimes it's for a young person, other times for someone elderly. I once had a 101 year-old resident's death called for review, but it's legislation we have to follow."*

Dealing with death is, understandably, one of the trickier aspects of the job to navigate, but this experienced team know how to handle it sensitively.

*"You have to pick up on how families are feeling,"* says Kevin, a former policeman in West Yorkshire for 20 years, before he moved to a smallholding in Grange, near Keith.

*"Sometimes they don't want to talk; sometimes they've not had anyone outside of the family to talk to about it, so they take up the opportunity to have a chat. It's actually unusual for us not to have a laugh with the family."*

Speaking of happier occasions, the team are currently in the throes of wedding season, which runs all year but at its busiest from April until October.

**I've had the most lovely welcome and I can already tell it's a great team.**



Charlie conducted the Weiland-Jarvis wedding in late June. It was his 700<sup>th</sup> wedding – some of you may recognise the groom. Hi Barry!

Photograph by Jo Miller



*"Because we can now go into so many different venues – anywhere that isn't associated with religion – it really adds to the variety," says Liz, "I conducted a wedding a couple of weeks ago in a greenhouse!"*

Charlie, from Keith and a Registrar for 24 years, conducted his 700<sup>th</sup> wedding just days after we spoke, on Cummington beach. Mark, though, trumps the lot, getting into the spirit of the occasion at a Jedi wedding.

*"I wore a cape, that was my contribution. The bride was Princess Leia, the groom Han Solo, and we had Stormtroopers. It was very authentic but I did struggle to keep a straight face!"*

A perk of the job has to be the privilege of carrying out ceremonies for family members, which both Charlie and Liz have experienced.

*"I married my daughter, Gillian, and her husband last August", says Liz, "they had joked with*

*me beforehand about me marrying them, but when they sat me down and talked to me about it I knew they were being serious, and of course I was delighted to do it."*

Similarly, Charlie conducted the marriage of his nephew in Banff last October.

*"My sister had called me to say 'we've never seen you at work before' – so with all my family in front of me, there was no pressure...!"*

Unknown to many, the team are also responsible for holding citizenship ceremonies. Given the relatively small size of Moray, Charlie tells us that there are over 60 nationalities represented here.

*"These people have spent a long time and worked really hard to become a UK citizen, and you can tell they really want it," says Liz.*

*"So when it comes to them taking their oath or affirmation,*

*it can be emotional."*

Another task which the team undertake is burial administration.

Everyone agrees that it's the people that make the job, and the reason they turn up each day. That, and helping people whatever the circumstances.

*"I helped a 70 year-old man, who had been laying flowers on what he believed was the grave of his father, for the last 50 years," says Kevin, "it turns out it was the grave of his uncle, but we managed to help him locate his father, who was in a pauper's grave in Aberdeen. To be able to find his father's grave is a standout moment for me, I'll never forget it."*

Mark agrees, saying that he's thrilled to have the

opportunity to get back into the registration service.

*"Taking part in the most personal events in people's life is very special. And I'm also enjoying the challenge of learning the Moray dialect – Charlie is a great teacher!"*

*"To be able to share key moments in people's lives is such a privilege. I look back through the archives and see the entries from 100 years ago – to think that in 100 years someone will be looking through our books and seeing my signature is mind-blowing."*

*"Actually at school I hated being pushed by my teachers to do joined-up writing – now I actually have a job where it pays off!"*

**Based on 2017 and 2018 figures, our busy team conducted and/or registered the following annually:**

- **171 Religious marriages**
- **178 Civil marriages**
- **841 births**
- **786 deaths**



# Long Service AWARDS

30 colleagues attended last month's long service awards in Elgin. Their service, combined with others who sadly couldn't be there in person to accept their certificate, have a total of 1,440 years of public service. Congrats to all of you, and thank you for your years of hard work!

Speaking at the ceremony, Leader of Moray Council, Cllr Graham Leadbitter, also paid tribute to the many years of dedicated service.

*"Sometimes it might not feel like it but I know speaking to people right across Moray that they value the work of council staff across all departments. Every member of staff I speak to cares about their job, cares about their community and cares about Moray as a whole and that is, in a nutshell, is what work in public services is about."*

## 20 years

Annette Burgess; Margaret Carr; Karen Cheshire; Karin Flett; Rhonda Geddes-Stewart; Sandra Goldie; Brenda Harvey; Diane Hershaw; Gail Imlach; Isobel Ker; Margaret King; Wendy Massey; June Mcintosh; Eunice Mckay; Lorna Mckerrell; Mark Richardson; Susan Shanks; Irene Smith; Tracey-Anne Young.

## 30 years

Alexander Burrell; Fiona Coutts; Shona Cowie; Allan Duncan; Linda Duncan; Norma Matheson; Eileen Riddell; Mandy Tough; Jean Wilson.

## 40 years

Margaret Grant; Moira Hendry.





# HR Noticeboard



email [connectnews@moray.gov.uk](mailto:connectnews@moray.gov.uk) to get Connect emailed to your personal email address, every month.

## School term dates

School term dates for the 2019/20 academic year, including the two additional in-service days which have applied to all schools in Scotland, are available on our website.

You can print off or save a printer-friendly calendar of dates from: [www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_55829.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_55829.html)

## Bright Ideas

Don't forget to tell us your Bright Ideas! You can submit them:

- electronically from our online form: [https://online.moray.gov.uk/site/wss/forms/int\\_brightideas](https://online.moray.gov.uk/site/wss/forms/int_brightideas)
- via internal mail to HR, if you don't have access to a computer

All ideas are welcomed, big or small! For more info about Bright Ideas, visit the page on the interchange: [nterchange.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file125868.pdf](http://nterchange.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file125868.pdf)

## Time for talking

Just a reminder of the confidential, 24-hour employee support programme – Time for Talking. It offers:

- structured telephone counselling
- face-to-face counselling
- telephone support
- live chat
- information and resources including links, podcasts and meditation exercises

You can speak to a member of the Time for Talking team at any time via the 24-hour confidential helpline.

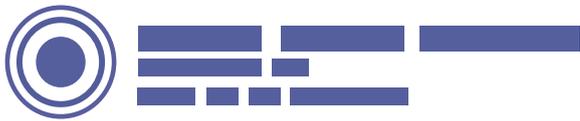
[0800 970 3980](tel:08009703980) (24/7, 365 days a year)

[www.timefortalking.co.uk](http://www.timefortalking.co.uk)

Live chat: Enter the website, click on 'Live Chat' and enter the password TftNow

If you would like to access the face-to-face counselling, you or your manager can make a request for this.

**NB:** Specialist advice on matters such as debt, legal and finance are available through our [Trading Standards service](#) and the [Citizens Advice Bureau](#).



# PAYSLIP

## REMEMBER, REMEMBER

As pay day approaches each month, our HR Admin team receive a high volume of enquiries from colleagues who have issues accessing the Employee Self Service (ESS) portal.

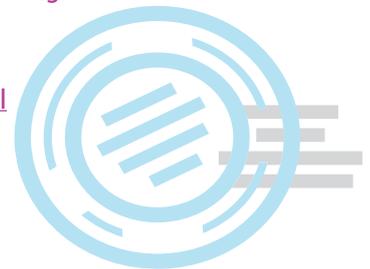
The team are happy to help, but because of the volume of requests received, they're not always able to respond before to the deadline for checking payslips – this means you may not be able to advise payroll of any corrections before the final pay run is actioned.

However, if you've set up your memorable information on the ESS portal, you can reset your account yourself by clicking on the 'forgotten username' or 'forgotten password' links – but these links will only work if your memorable information has been set up.

Once this is done, it makes it much quicker to access your pay information and you won't need to ask HR for help if you forget your login details – this could prevent any potential delays in being able to check your pay is correct and allowing

you time to contact payroll if you need to.

Next time you're in your account why not take a couple of minutes to set up your memorable information, if you've not already done so. Guidance on ESS can be found in the HR section on interchange [interchange.moray.gov.uk/int\\_standard/Page\\_108763.html](http://interchange.moray.gov.uk/int_standard/Page_108763.html)



# KEITH & EAST LOCALITY PROJECT

If you live in or near Keith, you'll be interested in Health & Social Care Moray's project to improve the health and wellbeing of those in the area.

The project focuses on securing a new, purpose-built, health and care hub, to replace the present Keith Health Centre

building and other facilities.

The voice of the community has a vital role to play in shaping its future. What would a hub look like? What services could be brought together under one roof? How can the community benefits be maximised?

There are lots of ways to get involved with the conversation, which will be promoted locally.

For more info and project updates, visit the Health and Social Care Moray website ([hscmoray.co.uk/keith-east-locality-project.html](http://hscmoray.co.uk/keith-east-locality-project.html)) or follow @hscmoray on Facebook.



Do you know a colleague or a team who stands out from the crowd? Someone who goes that extra mile or makes a difference at work and deserves to be recognised for it? Then why not nominate them for a STAR Award?

Choice vote and awards will be presented in conjunction with the long service awards at a special ceremony in November. So get your thinking caps on now and let us know who you think deserves to be recognised!

Nomination forms and guidance will be available from early August and we'll be accepting nominations from Monday 26 August until Friday 13 September.

Look out for further information on the interchange under Improving Workforce Culture > Employee Engagement, or you can call HR on (01343) 563261 or email at [hr@moray.gov.uk](mailto:hr@moray.gov.uk). Additionally departmental admin teams will also be able to assist with information on the awards scheme.

Nominees and winners will be notified later in the year following the Colleague's

### STAR Awards 2019 schedule

Nomination window opens	26 August
Nomination window closes	13 September
Judging takes place	mid-late September
Finalists notified and invitations to award ceremony issued	early-mid October
Colleagues Choice vote launches	21 October
Colleagues Choice vote closes	8 November
STAR Awards ceremony in conjunction with long service awards	November (TBC)
Includes the announcement of Chief Executive's Award	



# CleanAirDay

Clean Air Day was on the 20 June and you may have seen some events and information on our social media feeds – if not we've some tips on how we can improve air quality and look after our and others health.

## **What is air pollution and where does it come from?**

Air pollution is an umbrella term for lots of different types of pollution in the air around us. All these pollutants can be inhaled and absorbed into your body. For the most part, air pollution is invisible to the naked eye so just because you can't see it doesn't mean it isn't there.

Simple steps can have a big impact on the air you and those around you breathe:

Give your car the day off – walk, cycle or take public transport to work or school where you can.

Discover the side streets – use quieter streets when you're on your bike or walking to avoid busier main roads.

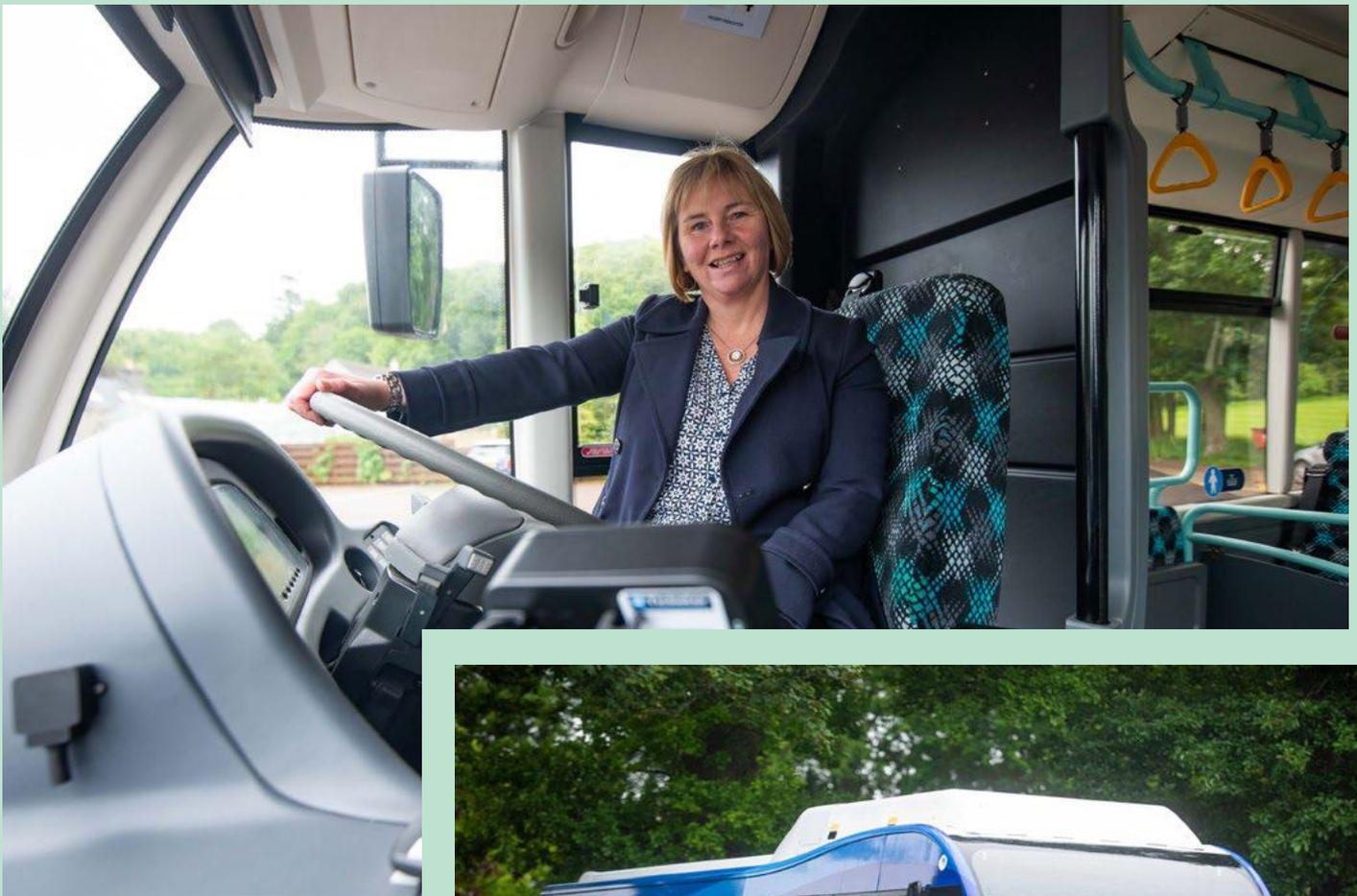
Don't idle – if you drive, turn off your engine when your vehicle is stationary and it is safe to do so.

Regularly service your boiler – make sure your boiler is serviced each year to help keep it burning fuel cleanly.

Ventilate your home – open windows and use extractor fans when cooking or using cleaning products, but close windows near busy roads during rush hours.

Only burn dry well-seasoned wood or smokeless fuel on your stove, open fire or BBQ.

For more information you can visit [www.cleanairday.org.uk](http://www.cleanairday.org.uk)



# streets ahead



Last month we officially launched our new m.connect electric bus service. Great news if you live on the route between Aberlour and Forres and want to leave the car at home, and still great news if you're ever dropping in for a day out.

It's a fully-funded project, with money coming from the Scottish Government's green bus fund and ERDF funding, which means that although we're operating the bus

service on behalf of HITRANS – it's not actually costing the council anything.

Drivers David and Sharon were involved in the launch activity, with David manoeuvring the bus for its first photoshoot, showing off its colourful design against a backdrop of stunning rural Moray.

Then it was Sharon's turn at the wheel the following day for the official launch with councillors and reps from

HITRANS.

If you fancy trying it out, you can download a trial voucher from our website ([www.moray.gov.uk/mconnect](http://www.moray.gov.uk/mconnect)) and enjoy the ride through Aberlour, Craigellachie, Knockando, Archiestown, Dallas, Rafford and Forres.

Don't worry about finding a bus stop – just signal to the driver and they'll pull over at the next safe spot for you to hop-on and hop-off – bonus!

Download your free trial voucher at:  
[www.moray.gov.uk/mconnect](http://www.moray.gov.uk/mconnect)



Hop on and off at any safe point along the route.

# Parking Charges UPDATE

A staff car parking permit scheme at HQ/Annexe will not be pursued, after councillors voted in favour of a £1 per day, pay-as-you-go parking system Greyfriars Street and the Annexe car parks in Elgin.

This decision, taken at Full Council this afternoon, will be subject to another consultation.

More details will follow.

## m.connect

### Timetable - Monday to Friday

#### Aberlour to Forres

Aberlour Square	0720
Craigellachie (Hotel)	0725
Archiestown	0734
Knockando (Cardhu Distillery Road End)	0738
Upper Knockando	0742
Dallas (Primary School)	0754
Rafford	0805
Dallas Dhu	0810
Forres (Grantown Road)	0816
Forres Railway Station	0824
Forres (Tolbooth)	0830

#### Forres to Aberlour

Forres (Tolbooth)	1710
Forres Railway Station	1716
Forres (Grantown Road)	1724
Dallas Dhu	1730
Rafford	1735
Dallas (Primary School)	1746
Upper Knockando	1758
Knockando (Cardhu Distillery Road End)	1802
Archiestown	1806
Craigellachie (Hotel)	1815
Aberlour Square	1820

# Greenfingers

## Training Project



For this month's 'meet the team' we introduce Emma Ritchie, Training Service Support Worker and Driver. Emma supports the trainees on a practical level daily to meet their outcomes and practice their learning.

I've been at Greenfingers for almost five years and I've loved every moment. I know I'm very lucky to have a job I enjoy that allows me to spend as much time outdoors as possible, with a fantastic bunch of people. I studied the HNC in Social Care and, attended Greenfingers for my work experience in 2011 and I've been involved with the service ever since, either as a student, volunteer or member of staff.

In my spare time I enjoy a variety of activities: bush craft, yoga, aerial silks and beekeeping to name a few!

Honeybees are just one of many of the bees we have in Britain. There are 24 species of bumblebee and about 240 species of solitary bees! July is a busy month for the

honeybees, which have just come out of the 'June Gap'. There can often be a lack of forage for bees in June so they will be busy collecting pollen and nectar in July.

As bees are such good pollinators, we can help them out by avoiding spraying harmful chemicals on our weeds and either hand pulling them or, even better, leaving them for the bees to make the most of! Himalayan Balsam is popping up everywhere at the moment and it's an excellent source of nectar. Clover is also great for the bees in July, so if you have it growing amongst your grass, you can leave times between cutting it longer than usual to allow the bees to get the use of it. Other readily available forage for bees in July includes rosebay willow Herb, lime trees, bell heather, and brambles.

"If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live" So let's help them out!

## Anne's quirky plant: Campanula (Bell flower)

As June moves into July our Campanula look stunning. Even amid June's poor weather their large white bells have appeared to gleam and chime in the rain.

The name Campanula is Latin for 'little bell' and there are over 300 plants in this group, which includes our Scottish bluebell. In contrast the English or British bluebell is part of the group Hyacinthoides ('like a Hyacinth').

In past times bluebells were regarded with an element of fear. Folklore said that fairies lived in the bells and to walk through a clump would ignite their wrath; they would cast spells on any unfortunate individual who happened that way.

Hares are often seen where bluebells grow, and it was also told that witches used the milky sap to transform into hares; in this way they could cause mischief undetected. Hence the common name Harebell.

Another common name is 'Dead Man's Bell' and if you are unfortunate enough to hear the bells ringing it may be that they are tolling for you. Finally, and in complete contrast to this, the Campanula is the flower associated with constancy and compassion.

Greenfingers will be taking a well-earned break and are on holiday from Monday 1 July for two weeks, returning on Monday 15 July, all refreshed and raring to go! See you all in September for our next feature.



## Meeting royalty!

We were invited to a tea party, to join in the celebrations for the 200th anniversary of Dr Gray's hospital. We were invited by The Friends of Dr Gray's, because we plant up and maintain the sensory garden located in the hospital, and also we were asked to do some additional planting of the Dr Gray's site in preparation for the visit of HRH Princess Anne on 3 June. Four of our team attended: Pam, Keith, Ronny and Thomas, and we proudly represented Greenfingers. The Princess stopped to have a chat with us about our work, asking Ronny and Thomas if they enjoyed being trainees, and speaking with Keith about his voluntary role with us. We had a wonderful afternoon and something we will all remember for a long time.



 **Greenfingers**  
Training Project

Continued  
Over page



## Moray Resource Centre Open day

Moray Resource Centre had their 25th anniversary and we went along and held our first plant sale there. We set up beside our shed and the path that we laid to aid in the access to the area. We're going to be working at Moray Resource Centre regularly and plan to hold our plant sales there. We'll also be working in partnership with the volunteers and staff at MRC to help maintain and develop their lovely grounds.

## Planning ahead!

We have recently conducted a local site visit for potential tree planting works due to start early in the New Year. We do like to plan ahead! Watch this space for updates!

## In the garden this month

Grass cutting once or twice weekly. Beware of cutting too short during very hot and dry spells.

Feed hungry plants like roses and tomatoes.

Continue dead-heading flowering plants to maintain flowering season. Cut herbaceous plants which are past flowering down low, to encourage a second flush.

Weed, weed, weed!

Watering: manage it according to weather. Water early morning and in the evening during dry spells. If available, use cleaner waste-water from dishwashing and baths. Young establishing plants and new lawns will need more water.

Look out for, and deal promptly with, pests and diseases.

Now is the time to harvest and enjoy summer fruits and vegetables.



# Buckie Gateway

Have you seen the ideas for the newest gateway feature to Buckie? Have your say before 13 July and your comments will be considered by the panel, made up from ward councillors, planning colleagues, an independent artist and Tesco – who are funding the creation and installation of the feature from their developer obligations.

Here are the models created by the artists, with an explanation of what each one represents:

Carn Standing's design is called 'Buckie's Darling', a 3D sculpture which would be handmade in Portsoy, from stainless steel bars, sheet and tubing.

Carn drew inspiration from the origination of the town's name.

*"I was also inspired by how Buckie grew as a town and a community and the importance of fishing."*

*"I started to see the herring within the body of the deer as a composition to unify the two things, and a symbolism for the uniting of the several villages which led to the Buckie we know today."*

*"The silver darlings merged into the body of the deer would be arranged as a turning shoal of fish to maximise the movement of the sculpture, to bring it alive."*

Emma Crawford has created 'Fishing for Flowers', a metal structure capturing the heritage of Buckie with creels and flowers.

*"This artwork has been inspired by the rich fishing heritage of Buckie, along with the history behind the town's nickname, 'Little Norway'."*

*"The floral details within the design will be made out of metal and are inspired by the National flowers of Scotland, Norway and Denmark; thistles, purple heather and marguerite daisies. These reflect the growing community and offer*

*a welcoming entrance to both visitors and locals."*

Maggie Clyde's feature would see five freestanding stainless steel panels erected, powder coated in various attractive colours. The final design will be influenced by community engagement carried out by the artist.

*"Each is aimed to represent cultural and historical aspects of Buckie's past, present and future including Doric text, fishing, shipbuilding, lifeboats, football and the origins of Buckie."*

*"Buckie in Steel will convey the indomitable spirit of the Buckie community far into the 21st Century."*

Tell us what you think by filling out the comment form at [www.moray.gov.uk/buckiegateway](http://www.moray.gov.uk/buckiegateway)

# Our achievements

After the positive feedback from our 'what has the Council ever done for us' feature back in March, we're trying to keep up the positive momentum.

At a time when, admittedly, many of us aren't having the easiest time at work (did someone mention grass cutting?) it's good to reflect on the achievements of the council – and the part we all play in making these happen.

Here are some milestones from 2018/19 which we put together for the annual accounts, before they went to Audit Scotland to be scrutinised – looks pretty good, eh?

**5 April 2018** – We welcome Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell MP, to learn about Moray's vision for the future through our Growth Deal bid.

**11 April 2018** – Portknockie residents to benefit from £1.7m landslip repair scheme.

**15 April 2018** – Diversity in Moray gets thumbs-up from Audit Scotland.

**20 April 2018** – Business and tourism leaders in Moray back plans for Cultural Quarter – flagship project in £200m Growth Deal bid.

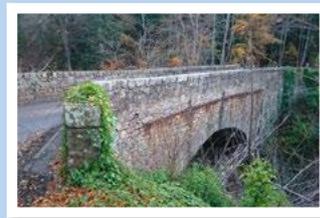
**4 May 2018** – Logie and Glenernie Bridge works completed ahead of schedule.

**3 June 2018** – Home-grown teachers boost Moray's schools.

**7 June 2018** – Councillors praise Buckie harbour investment plans.

**7 June 2018** – We set out our £17.5 million Early Learning and Childcare expansion plans.

**29 June 2018** – Pupils cut ribbon at Milne's Primary as £2 million extension is completed.



**July 2018** – Community Asset Transfer process for seven town halls and two community centres under way and leases agreed.



**23 July 2018** – Council project which cuts £3 million in annual costs takes top spot at Paperless Awards.



**16 August 2018** – Speyside Way gets £0.8 million grant-funded, low-carbon cash boost.



**20 August 2018** – Housing Minister opens Forres affordable housing development.



**1 October 2018** – £0.67 million refurbished nursery opened by Minister under Early Learning & Childcare expansion project.



**23 October 2018** – Moray's latest £30 million new-build High School formally opened by Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney MSP.



**5 February 2019** – £8 million investment in affordable housing in Moray announced.



**19 February 2019** – Scale of economic development investment in Moray is revealed to be worth £4.5 million.



**8 March 2019** – Contract awarded for £150 million Energy from Waste facility serving Moray, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire councils.



**17 March 2019** – Construction of new £12.8 million Linkwood Primary gets under way.



**26 March 2019** – Councillors approve building of 30 new affordable homes in Mosstodloch.



# Glenda's



What do most of us get up to in our spare time? Catching up on tv, playing with the kids, reading a book? Or being a Special Constable? Yep – that's what keeps West End Primary's Depute Head Teacher, Glenda Collis, busy during her not-so-free time.

We were delighted to see Police Scotland shine a light on Glenda's extra-curricular activity during Volunteers' Week, and even more thrilled that we get to share her story in *Connect*.

*"My name is Glenda Collis. I'm 49 years-old and work full-time as a Depute Head Teacher in a primary school. For the last nine months I have also been a Special Constable and during my weekends and holidays I volunteer as a Special at one of my local police stations.*

*"As a young child I had always wanted to join the Police as my mum had been a constable, before she left to get married. It was a career that had always interested and appealed to me, but by the end of school I decided that I would pursue a career in education. I went off to train as a teacher and after*

# special

*graduation I had once more considered joining up as a Special. However, as I was just starting my career, my priority was towards that and it was not the right time for me to join.*

*"After many years working in education, a recruitment advert appeared on social media about a year ago. As I read it, I noted that there was no age limit for joining, so at that point I decided to attend the information evening being offered at Elgin Police Station. The evening proved to be very informative and confirmed to me that this was something else I wanted to do with my life. I felt the time was right in terms of family commitments and holidays. I felt I could contribute to the community I live in and would have opportunities to meet and work with other people while doing a job I had always considered.*

*"The application process to join the Specials was straightforward and the whole procedure ran smoothly and quickly. Within a couple of months, I had my first fitness test, followed by an interview a week later. A month after that I had a further fitness test, a*

*medical and I was also being fitted for my uniform! Training took place in Aberdeen over six weekends with an additional week at Tulliallan Police College. The training was intense but great fun too, and I made quite a few new friends and contacts in the process.*

*"I was sworn in during the Specials Oath Ceremony in October 2018. Since then I have worked in several local police stations, teaming up with regulars and being involved in many areas of police work. Some of my duties have included looking for missing persons, taking statements, corroborating interviews, attending road traffic collisions, directing traffic, investigating crime, protecting crime scenes as well as working at events such as music festivals. My skills that I use in teaching, such as communication, working as part of a team, leadership, using initiative, being resilient and other interpersonal skills have been transferable to my new role as a Special Constable.*

*"I thoroughly enjoy working as a Special. No two shifts are ever the same and the regulars you work with are so supportive*

*and welcoming. I am able to choose where and when I want to work and I can fit it around my work and personal life. I would highly recommend considering volunteering as a Special."*

Inspired by Glenda? We are! Kudos to her for her commitment to her local community, having been teaching since 1992 and a Depute at West End since 2004. With that and her police work, she's certainly got her hands full!

# LeisureLink

Partnership

## Got a Fit Life card?

Don't forget you can use your card to access leisure facilities in Highland, Argyll & Bute, Orkney and the Western Isles at no extra cost.

The Leisure Link partnership sees us working with other councils to widen access to fitness and leisure facilities, which means if you're visiting these areas for business or pleasure, you can enjoy the gym, a swim, or a fitness class without putting your hand in your pocket.

Make sure you take your FitLife card though, as you won't be granted free access without it.

Check out which facilities are included at:

[www.leisurelink.org](http://www.leisurelink.org).

# FIT LIFE?



## highlife

highland  
na gàidhealtachd