

Welcome to the Spring time edition of Bothy Buzz!

We have seen some rather dramatic weather over the past few months but it has given us the perfect opportunity to plan what lies ahead. Here's hoping Spring time is just around the corner.

So far we have seen the beginnings of some fantastic new groups as well as some fascinating talks and music, with more coming up in the next few weeks.

Bothy Buzz

Spring '10

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Portsoy Salmon Bothy

ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

On 2nd March we had the utmost pleasure of hosting two performances by a quintet from the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. As part of their Community Outreach Programme, a woodwind ensemble provided a late afternoon 'rush hour' concert and a further full length concert in the evening. The excellent acoustics in the Bothy, coupled with highly talented musicians and well oiled instruments, made it a truly memorable event. Over 40 people shared the experience, adding to the magical atmosphere.



FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The first meeting of this new group took place on 6th February and was a real success. The Salmon Bothy were delighted to welcome over 20 people from around the area to listen to Genealogist Alison Smith give a seminar on Sources of Banffshire Family History Research. Over a cup of tea, the group discussed potential topics for future weeks including talks and practical sessions.

The group will meet for the second time on 6th March when John R Barrett will talk about Banffshire's clearances and deserted settlements. John is well regarded as a historian and has appeared on TV when 'Who do you think you are' researched Fiona Bruce's roots in Hopeman. He has also written several books, has contributed articles to the Knock News, and has been heavily involved in Scotland's Rural Past. Saturday sessions are open to anyone with an interest in family History. They start at 2pm and finish around 4pm. There is no membership fee but each session will be priced separately between £2-£6 depending on the activity or speaker- this includes refreshments.

THEATRE

Portsoy will welcome its first professional theatre company at the end of March. In association with the Salmon Bothy and North East Arts Touring, Shakespeare vs Shakespeare will be performed by the Charioteer Theatre Company on Friday 26th March at Portsoy Town Hall. A tale of two actors running a programme on Shakespeare, are stuck in a Scottish radio station after a terrible disaster that has affected the whole world and possibly the entire population – They don't know if there are any survivors... The audience will witness some classic scenes from the likes of Romeo and Juliet, Measure for Measure and Juliet Caesar. Tickets priced £8 adult, £6 conc. and discounts are available for groups. Available from Portsoy Ice Cream Shop and online at www.thebooth.co.uk.

YOGA

February saw the introduction of several new groups at the Bothy – Yoga with Lorna Summers which is now running on Tuesday's at 7.00- 9.00. Improve fitness and wellbeing. Bring your own mat and blanket.

SOFT FURNISHING AND SEWING

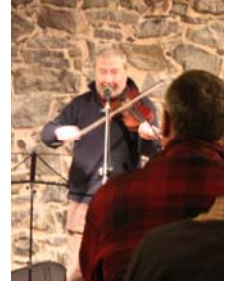
This is a new course that has started on Wednesday's 10.30 – 12.30 led by Trista McGarvey, experienced interior decorator. It is perfect for those who have a sewing machine locked away in a cupboard longing to be used! She starts with the basics and aims to finish with a completed product. She has been so pleased with the response that she plans to run a further two courses after Easter – beginners and advanced. For more details, contact Trista on 01261842357.

ONGOING – TALKS - CLUBS - ACTIVITIES

Our programme of talks kicked off with Fiona-Jane Brown giving a captivating talk on the folk beliefs and superstitions of fishermen in the North East. Much of what she spoke of struck a chord with many members of the audience and her use of audio clips of those she interviewed really brought her talk alive.

The second of our talks really drew the crowds with over 40 attending to hear George Boardman present 'Portsoy's Railway Century'. As a member of the Great North of Scotland Railway Association, George spoke of the 100 years of the railway in Portsoy and the surrounding area. He included some fantastic images, as well as an informative commentary with interesting anecdotes interspersed from start to finish.

There are several ongoing clubs and activities at the Bothy. The Craft Club returned on 25th Feb. running every second Thurs, the Camera club is going strong every second Wednesday evening. Knitting on a Monday and Art on a Friday as well as the ever popular and the Folk Club who are gearing up for a fully fledged music festival in May. They recently drew a great crowd for their special Ballads and Burns night at the Bothy on 26th February, traditional bothy ballads were sung by none other than Bill Gray, Euan McIlwraith, Tom Spiers, Barbara Ann Burnett to name but a few really bringing back memories of the good old days - the Bothy provided the perfect backdrop to some fantastic performances.



Museum Opening Hours: Open Saturday and Sunday 12-4pm until The 27th March when it will revert to daily opening hours. Look out for details of 1930-40's WWII exhibition over the May Day weekend and callings for memorabilia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 14th March 2-4pm

Jacque Aitkens: 'Brora's contribution to Scotland's salt industry' (With a little bit of help from Portsoy!) Salt pans were established in Brora, on the east coast of Sutherland and salt was made periodically here for nearly 230 years. The final venture was curtailed in 1828, when the tax on salt was abolished and the lure of cheaper foreign salt was more attractive. These early industrial ventures were initiated by the landowners of Sutherland Estate, together with other entrepreneurs, including merchants from Portsoy in the late 18th century.

Sunday 21st March 2-4pm

Harry Hawkes: Banffshire Field Club – Connecting with the natural features of Banffshire' Founded in 1880, the Banffshire Field Club has enjoyed enthusiastic membership for well over a century. This talk will tell you of the origins of Field Club as well as focusing specifically on investigating the natural features of Banffshire, and their connections to the environment.

Friday 26th March 7.30 pm – Portsoy Town Hall

Shakespeare VS Shakespeare

Tickets priced £8 adult, £6 conc. and discounts are available for groups.

Sunday 28th March 2-4pm

Janet McLeman: 'Rosehearty to Portsoy, a Botanical Walk' Join us on a journey round the unspoilt beauty of some of the Moray coast's natural floral gems. Illustrated talk with images and stories.

Look out for Easter events coming soon.

For more information on any of the above please contact the Salmon Bothy

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