

# BUCKIE COMMUNITY NEWS

Autumn 2024

Keeping you informed

## A WORD FROM US

Welcome to the 2024 update from the Buckie Locality Plan.

Progress since our last newsletter:

- Letterfourie Park has been upgraded
- Ocean Winds have moved into their shiny new building at the Harbour
- Community Lunches have grown
- m.connect on-demand bus service is well established and popular
- Cycle racks and repair stations are all in place
- Dropped kerbs have been installed
- Reps from community groups took part in discussions to review the school estate in the Buckie ASG area
- The Hub has improved the Secret Garden and added an emergency food bank
- We have explored over a dozen buildings to check their potential to be transformed into a new multi-purpose community hub

See inside for more news ....

As independent volunteers, the Buckie Locality Plan Monitoring Group are always keen to hear from you. You can message our "A Better Buckie" Facebook page or email [abetterbuckie@gmail.com](mailto:abetterbuckie@gmail.com) , or drop a note into The Hub for our attention.

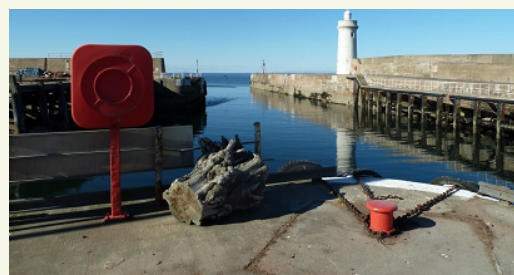
## BUCKIE HARBOUR

Over the summer much of the construction works for the offices finished with both Ocean Winds and the harbours team moving into those offices at the beginning of July. The new harbour office (located at the east end of the fish market where the coffee shop used to be) is a fantastic modern building which will serve the team well over the coming years. As well as that we had a lookout tower installed allowing full view of the harbour and out to sea which has already proved to be invaluable to us when it comes to planning and most importantly monitoring the safety and security of vessels and people.

The year also saw the first cruise ships coming to Buckie. While this was a relatively small vessel and that company won't be back next year, it has hopefully let other cruise operators see how viable an option Buckie is for their cruises. Let's face it we have the best distilleries on our doorstep for them to visit, amazing historic buildings, stunning golf courses and much more. Why wouldn't they want to come and experience first-hand what we are lucky to see daily.

The fishing in general hasn't been as consistent this year as in years gone by, hence we haven't seen as many visiting fishing boats. Despite this, the harbour has remained busy with other types of vessels such as the CTV's transporting people to the windfarms, general workboats carrying out various works in the Moray Firth and of course the various types of vessel arriving to be serviced by the team at Macduff Shipyards.

You may have spotted the green boxes on the piers, these are to accommodate the power being supplied by the new substation we had to get put in which will allow us to provide more power to the vessels. This of course means that less boats will have to leave generators running overnight which results in less air and noise pollution being generated. We also recently put up some new street light heads, these lights run at a reduced light intensity until you walk down the pier when they will come on to full brightness. This is partly to cut costs for running the lights but it also allows us to see when people are on the pier which increases the safety factor for anyone at night.



## FINDOCHTY AND BUCKIE DEVELOPMENT TRUST (FABDT)



Findochty and Buckie Development Trust [FAB DT] was formed in 2023 to benefit people living in the Findochty and Buckie area. We are a community owned organisation and our goal is "to enable social, economic and environmental renewal of our locality through capitalising on funding opportunities, income generation from trading for social purpose, and community ownership of buildings and land."

Since our establishment as a charity, we have:  
Supported Buckie Area Forum to establish The Hub advice centre and warm space.

Taken over the organisation of Buckie Community Lunches.

Contributed to the delivery of "A Better Buckie", the Buckie Locality Plan.

Carried out community consultation and fundraising activities.

Worked to develop FAB DT as an organisation.

We are currently exploring the possibility of purchasing a building which could become a multi-purpose community hub.

Contact us on <https://www.facebook.com/FABDevTrust> or [info@fabdt.co.uk](mailto:info@fabdt.co.uk)

## LINZEE GORDON PLAYPARK



We are delighted to have formed a group to provide a new community funded playpark at Linzee Gordon in Buckie. We kickstarted our fundraising at Buckie Classic Car Show where you could take the opportunity to contribute to our Survey. Paper copies are available from The Hub in Buckie and should be returned there by 18th October. The survey can also be accessed online at [Community Consultation on Linzee Gordon Park \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

We are currently making a Buckie Bakes recipe book to raise funds. We need recipes for cakes, bakes and anything sweet. If you have pictures of your bakes even better. Please send recipes and pictures to [linzeegordonpark@gmail.com](mailto:linzeegordonpark@gmail.com)

Thank you to residents and businesses for support and sponsorship to date. You can keep up to date on progress on our [Facebook](#) page;

Please get in touch with us at [linzeegordonpark@gmail.com](mailto:linzeegordonpark@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved in any way great or small.

## ADULT AND FAMILY LEARNING, MORAY COUNCIL



The team at Adult & Family Learning have been busy!

Adult Learners' Week, a national event that celebrates and promotes lifelong learning took place in May - curious learners signed up to a range of sessions ranging from feeling safe online to roman archaeology and map reading to food hygiene. I think it's fair to say that everyone who came along enhanced their skills and horizons were expanded.

Progress for Parents is now up and running at Lady Cathcart on Wednesday mornings. Providing parents with resources, information, and support to help them navigate barriers to employment. Whether you're looking to develop new skills, find resources, or connect with other parents, our program offers a variety of opportunities to help you thrive.

Buckie Conversation Café is open to anyone who requires support with speaking English. Offered every Tuesday morning from the Fisherman's Hall, sessions allow practice and sharing of cultures in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Another 6 week block of Driving Theory is planned to start on the 31st Oct, from 4-5.30 at the Fisherman's Hall.

We continue to offer 1:1 learning out of Buckie Library. This free service is open to all and includes literacy, numeracy and SQA awards covering a range of core skills. The learning is individually tailored to meet specific needs and help remove barriers for young people, adults and families. Here are some inspirational quotes from our recent learners:

"I'm more confident in myself",

"Learning makes me feel better. I look forward to it",

"I get the help I need. It helps me with my life".

Spaces are available for all our programmes.

If you would any information about any of our free services please email [Adult.Learning@moray.gov.uk](mailto:Adult.Learning@moray.gov.uk) or call 07584205897

GIVE YOURSELF A SKILLS BOOST FOR GETTING BACK TO WORK

WE CAN SUPPORT YOU TO REACH YOUR GOAL

COME ALONG AND JOIN US

- 6 WEEK BLOCKS
- NEXT BLOCK STARTS 21ST AUG
- WED 10 - 12
- LADY CATHCART
- CHILDREN WELCOME

Call 07584205897 or email [Gail.Duncan@moray.gov.uk](mailto:Gail.Duncan@moray.gov.uk) to register your interest



## BUCKIE LIBRARY LEARNING

We offer a range of computer courses at our Learning Centre in Buckie Library from beginners to advanced, so you are sure to find something to suit you.

These usually run in small groups of up to 6 learners and are a fun and informal. We offer a range of accredited IT courses, from beginner to advanced level, that cover topics like using the internet, creating and saving documents, emailing, creating a presentation and using spreadsheets. You can choose a classroom style course or if you prefer to work on your own we have self learn options too.

- SQA - PC Passport
- BCS - ICDL
- BCS - Advanced ICDL Word Processing

Rachael recently completed 2 accredited courses with Buckie Library and is progressing through her third. She has given us some feedback on her learning experience:

"Rachael and technology should never have been in the same sentence. When I first started the Basic Computer Skills course, I seriously was a nervous wreck, I had no idea even how to turn a computer on. Gail was fantastic, explained everything and it was easy to follow her instructions. Passing that course gave me confidence to do PC Passport. I enjoyed being in a small group for both classes. Gail again explained everything we needed to do and if we weren't sure she was more than happy to go over and show us again. I've now gained enough experience from doing both these courses to go on to do my ICDL. I would recommend anyone to give these courses a try, they have given me so much confidence I've gone on to college and doing essays on my laptop."

As well as traditional IT learning options for adults, we also offer a range of digital learning opportunities for children.

For more information on any of our courses/services contact:

Elgin Library on 01343 562600

E-mail: [getdigital@moray.gov.uk](mailto:getdigital@moray.gov.uk) or come in to see us at Buckie Library





## THE HUB

The Hub was established in November 2022 by Buckie Area Forum, supported by Findochty and Buckie Development Trust and volunteers from the community. Since then, we have recorded more than 9000 visits from local people.

Two thirds of those visits are for company and a chance to chat over a cuppa, with many regulars returning several times a week. If the door is open, the kettle is on, and we are always ready to offer a listening ear to anyone who is struggling.

A fifth of our callers are looking for information, advice or help. This might be to speak to one of our visiting organisations or to get help from one of our volunteers to fill out a form, book transport for a hospital appointment, sort out a glitch on their phone, find out the times for buses, get contact details for agencies, etc.

We are hugely grateful to the local businesses and individuals who have supported The Hub by donating to us. This enables us to help those in our community who are struggling. More than 500 people have benefited from free warm goods, pre-loved school uniform, hygiene parcels, food vouchers, food parcels, etc.

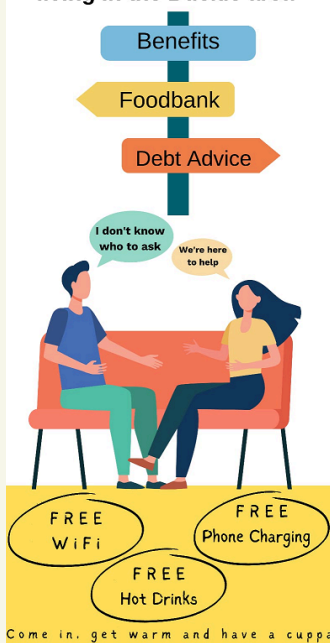
We couldn't do any of this without our army of volunteers. If we had to pay the Real Living Wage for their services so far, the bill would have exceeded £150,000.



## THE HUB

BUCKIE AREA FORUM  
WITH  
FINDOCHTY AND BUCKIE  
DEVELOPMENT TRUST

A community hub for anyone  
living in the Buckie area



## BUCKIE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Buckie Community Lunches continue to be very popular, with many regular attendees who can't get enough of Dave the Chef's famous rice pudding and special spin on traditional soups [where else will you get ghost shaped croutons or haggis topping on your broth?!!]

Thanks to generous donations from our diners, we can continue to provide these lunches free for anyone who can't afford to pay.

Lunches are held in The Fishermen's Hall, normally on the last Monday of the month [December's is earlier], from noon until 1.15pm.

For up to date information, see <https://www.facebook.com/abetterbuckie>



2019 Buckie Locality Plan launched

2021 Buckie Locality Plan Reviewed

2022 The Hub opened at 17 East Church Street

2023 Findochty and Buckie Development Trust (FAB DT) established

2023 Secured funding- NBPlanning appointed to produce a Scoping Report

2024 Secured funding - NBPlanning appointed to produce an Options Appraisal

## NEXT STEPS

Autumn

2024 Public Consultation re Multi-purpose Community Hub  
2025 Acquire a building for the Buckie Community Hub





## BUCKIE SKATEPARK

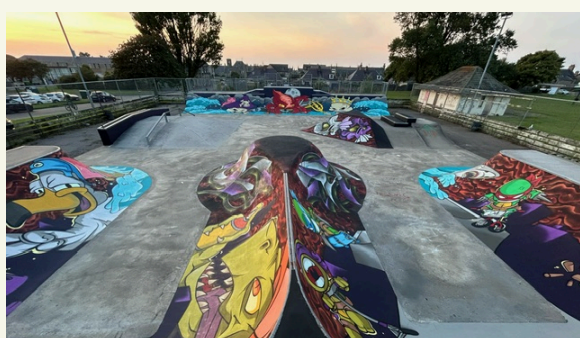
Contrary to what many may believe, the skatepark is not a council run facility. It is overseen by a small but very dedicated committee who are responsible for ensuring that the liability insurance and maintenance costs are paid for at the minimum.

Thanks to a recent funding grant, we have been placed into a fortunate position that we are now able to implement some substantial improvements.

One of these projects being the recent re-painting of the skatepark.

Over the last month we have been working with Rabb graffiti to bring some much needed life back to the skatepark. Working alongside his fellow artists DLAone and Reckless, they have absolutely transformed the park into a seriously impressive work of art.

As well as revamping the skatepark itself, the perimeter walls have been changed into 'legal graffiti' walls in order to encourage other artists to showcase their work. Finally, the skatepark will be holding a fundraiser event on the 7th September to celebrate the completion of the re-dec. we have events for all ages and groups. All are welcome to attend.



## BUCKIE MEN'S SHED

Buckie Men's Shed formed in March 2023, and we currently have 32 members. We signed a 20-year lease on premises at 19a High Street Buckie in July 2023, however they were to require substantial renovations. We applied to various organisations for funding. We were successful in getting funding from the Moray Beatrice Community Fund, Gordon & Ena Baxter Foundation, Common Good Fund, Co-op, National Lottery Community Fund, Parklands Pathway Fund and Tesco Stronger Starts. We have already replaced an asbestos roof, replaced windows and doors and are currently having the rotten wooden floor replaced with concrete. Once the building is complete, we are going to have areas for woodwork and metalwork along with a craft room, a kitchen and separate seating area and a meeting room. We currently meet on a Thursday afternoon between 1 and 4pm where we sit and have a blether and a cup of tea. If you would like to know more about the shed, please feel free to pop along or you can email [lesforman@btinternet.com](mailto:lesforman@btinternet.com)





## BUCKIE ROOTS

Buckies Roots have been so busy this year even though our summer has not been so good. Our beds, planters and craft display celebrated the RNLI colours this year. Visitors to the square have increased with loads of excellent comments and photos being taken. We have been working on the speyside way and now have a plaque beside the Tree Of Trees, edging has been tidied up and notice board been tidied up.

Litter pickers have been busy in all areas with group picks on going during the year.

Facebook is very busy and Steven Seagull has been such a hit with many people asking where he has been on his travels. We continue to promote Buckie through our interactions with tourism groups on Facebook. As always some of our volunteers support the community lunches and we have excellent support from the community and business community. Volunteers are always welcome.

We also had a very successful Summer Gala which along with a yummy afternoon tea, helped to promote/raise awareness of many of our local charities. It was such a success we are going to hold another event next summer.

Watch this space !!!





## THE FISHERMAN'S HALL

The Fishermen's Hall in Buckie began the process of a Community Asset Transfer back into the ownership of the people of Buckie in 2018 and is now a thriving, busy, community hall that continually strives to be a sustainable, open and inclusive facility for generations to come. The hall hosts monthly Community Lunches along with the FAB Development Trust as well as being a weekly meeting space for the Buckpool B.A.L.L. group, a craft group and various exercise groups. Recently a newly formed over 50s Walking Football group has begun on Monday evenings in the main hall and a hearing clinic now works out of one of the smaller rooms every Friday, providing a much needed service for a lot of Buckie residents.

After a lot of fund raising and refurbishment, the hall is now proving a popular, and beautiful, venue to host Weddings as well as the many charity events that have been successful due to the hall being the second largest in Moray and therefore able to welcome large numbers of guests. The hall has also been busy beginning new community groups that can go on to become self sustaining - such as a Friendship Group, a Men's Shed, and most recently, an English Conversation Cafe that aims to help refugees and immigrants settle into the community. All these new funded groups have proved successful. Now the hard working Trustees are turning their attention to fund raising efforts to replace the ancient heating boilers so that the hall can continue being a vital resource for the people of Buckie and surrounding areas. If you're interested in the activities of the hall or becoming a volunteer then please check out their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/fishermenshallbuckiemoray>





## BUCKIE ACTIVE SCHOOLS

### Buckie Sport Kit for All

A new project coming to Buckie in the coming weeks is the Buckie Sport Kit for All!

Buckie Community High Sport Committee and Young Ambassadors have been working on creating a Sport Kit for All in the Buckie area over the last 12 months with the project now ready to be launched! They have partnered up with Buckie Active Schools Coordinator Danny Simpson and a variety of local clubs/schools across the Buckie area who have agreed to hold a donation bin in their locations. Over the coming weeks donation bins will be delivered to:

Buckie Community High School

Buckie Thistle FC - Function Hall

Buckie Thistle Development - Merson's Park

Buckie Ladies FD - Gordon Park, Portgordon

Strathlene Golf Club

Cullen Primary School

These bins will be open for the community to donate sports equipment suitable for children and youths. Suitable items include sports trainers & boots, strips, t-shirts, socks, athletic jackets and other associated items. These items will be made available to families who would benefit from the support and improve their accessibility to take part in sport. Please make sure all clothing/equipment placed in the bins are clean, in good condition and in a tied/sealed bag.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL [SPORTANDCULTURE@MORAY.GOV.UK](mailto:SPORTANDCULTURE@MORAY.GOV.UK)

### Cullen Sea School - Mental Health and Wellbeing Paddleboarding Project

Buckie Active Schools are delighted to be working with Cullen Sea School on a new Mental Health and Wellbeing project for the Buckie Community.

In partnership with Cullen Sea School, we will be welcoming referrals for any individuals in P5-S6 from the Buckie area who may be struggling with any Mental Health or Wellbeing concerns. After the individuals have been referred they will be invited along to attend 2 sessions with Cullen Sea School & Blue Coast to take part in Paddleboarding! These sessions will be free of charge for all participants! All participants must be referred via an organisation or local school, where we will continue to take referrals for future sessions. Our aim is to get as many participants accessing this opportunity as possible with groups starting before the October Holidays! We hope to also open this out to the wider Moray community longer term too!

For further information, please contact Danny on [danny.simpson@moray.gov.uk](mailto:danny.simpson@moray.gov.uk)




The Buckie Sports Kit For All project is accepting donations of sports clothing suitable for children and youths. Suitable items include sports trainers & boots, strips, t-shirts, shorts, socks, athletic jackets and other associated items! These items will be made available to families who would benefit from the support and improve their accessibility to take part in sport.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL CLOTHING PLACED IN THE BINS IS CLEAN, IN GOOD CONDITION, AND IN A TIED/SEALED BAG.**

**Drop Off locations**

Buckie Community High School	Buckie Thistle FC	Mersons Park Buckie Thistle Development	Gordon Park Portgordon Buckie Ladies FD	Strathlene Golf Club	Cullen Primary School
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For further information please email [sportandculture@moray.gov.uk](mailto:sportandculture@moray.gov.uk)



## SUPPORT AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

Healthpoint Buckie: Confidential advice and information. Seafield Medical Centre every Friday 08.30 to 12 noon. (closed TEMPORARILY)  
Walk in service. 01343 567842

Moray Wellbeing Hub: free information about services available to you. At The Hub once a month, Tuesday afternoon. Check times on 07721 526141 or [hello@moraywellbeinghub.org.uk](mailto:hello@moraywellbeinghub.org.uk)

SONAS: Support for children and young people aged 5 to 26 who are experiencing emotional health difficulties and need support to improve their wellbeing. [sonas@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:sonas@actionforchildren.org.uk)

LATNEM: safe, free peer support group for mums and birthing people in Scotland. Weekly face to face groups, zoom meetings, online chat and special events. [hello@latnem.org](mailto:hello@latnem.org)

Discover Pathways to Wellbeing in Moray: an online tool to help you find support.  
<https://discoverpathwaysmoray.org.uk/>

Feeling Blue: Buckie based charity providing counselling sessions for those affected by suicide or who are feeling suicidal. [feelingbluecharity@gmail.com](mailto:feelingbluecharity@gmail.com) or text us on 07907134480

Mikeyline: Inverness based charity who support people of all ages at the most difficult and vulnerable points in their life. Just text 07786 207755. <https://www.mikeyline.co.uk/>

Breathing Space: A confidential phoneline for anyone in Scotland over the age of 16, feeling low, anxious or depressed. 0800 83 85 87 <https://www.breathingspace.scot/>

Samaritans: Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 for free.







Step by Step in Moray is coming to Portessie. The charity, which has been supporting families in Moray for 16 years, will run 2 sessions every Tuesday from 24th September. Our aim has always been to help parents develop friendships, confidence and skills which will improve their wellbeing and resilience, enabling them to give their children the best start in life. We welcome families with babies and toddlers under the age of 3.

Our groups are free and all follow the same format to provide structure and routine for our families - a warm welcome from the staff and volunteers, free play, arts and crafts, story time, snack time and song time. Out with group sessions our staff offer 1:1 support, regularly signposting or referring to other agencies.

Anyone interested can self-refer and we also accept referrals from health and social care practitioners. With your help we hope to reach out to those who could benefit from support the most.

## THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB



The friendship club is a social group for young people and adults with special needs and mental health challenges, the club meets every 2nd & 4th wed of the month from 6-8pm in the towns house.

If you'd like to find out how to join or volunteer check out our Facebook page or email [buckie.friendship.group@gmail.com](mailto:buckie.friendship.group@gmail.com).

## BUCKIE ASG SUSTAINABLE LEARNING ESTATE REVIEW UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2024

The Sustainable Learning Estate Engagement for Buckie ASG in February/March this year was followed by a Buckie Focus Group workshop on the 15 May 2024, the information gathered from the session was analysed to identify emerging themes and opportunities as identified by the Buckie ASG Focus Group members.

The emerging themes from the session were then used as the basis for the Head Teachers Focus Group for Buckie ASG held on 22 August 2024 at Cullen Primary School. The analysis of this session will be used in the next stage of the Sustainable Learning Estate Engagement.

**STEP BY STEP**

**IS COMING TO  
PORTESSIE**

FROM 24TH SEPTEMBER

**EVERY TUESDAY,**  
**9.45AM-11.15AM**  
**12PM-1.30PM**

**PORTESSIE METHODIST  
CHURCH HALL**

*FREE weekly groups for families with babies and toddlers under the age of 3. Parents come together to improve their own wellbeing and give their children the best start in life.*

*Snack provided*

**Booking essential. Call 01343 544628;**  
**[email.info@stepsmoray.org](mailto:email.info@stepsmoray.org)**

[www.stepsmoray.org](http://www.stepsmoray.org) SCIO SC042246



## FREE OR LOW-COST ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

#whatsonbuckiearea on Facebook for local groups, clubs and events

Board games or jigsaw puzzles - scour charity shops for new ones

Chalk drawing, hopscotch, etc on garden slabs

Cinema at home - cuddle up with some crisps, sweets and watch a movie together

Decorate plain biscuits with icing, sprinkles, mini sweets, melted chocolate

DIY pizzas on wraps or basic naans; DIY ice lollies with diluting juice

Drawing, painting - #DrawWithRob on YouTube

Free or by donation events, eg Community Lunch, Warm Wednesday at Salvation Army, etc

Glow stick walks in the dark; stargazing on a clear night

Go to a park - Letterfourie, Buckpool Harbour, Ian Johnston, etc

Go to the beach - build sandcastles, collect shells and pretty stones, explore rock pools, litter pick

Have a picnic - indoors on a rug if it's bad weather

DIY Ice cream shop - cheap ice cream, sprinkles, sweets,

Joe Wicks workout on YouTube.

Library free events - Book Bug, reading challenge, lego, etc

Make an indoor tent or den with blankets and cushions, and play shadow figures with torches

## Make chocolate crispies with cheap cereal and chocolate

Make collages or paper chains from free supermarket magazines or junk mail

Make forts, houses, spaceships from boxes from the supermarket.

Map read to walk to a specific area. [local maps available free from The Hub.]

## Nature spotting walks through the woods

Pamper afternoon with face masks, foot scrubs etc - find recipes online

Pick some wild flowers and press them, make some cards or pictures with them.

Plant carrot tops, slices from old tomatoes, strawberries etc in some soil in a plastic fruit tray.

Play ball games - football, rounders, catch, cricket, tennis

Play I-Spy, charades, hide and seek, hang-man, dots-and-squares or other old-time games

## Rock painting

Save and use recycling - eg fill bottles with water and use them as skittles, create bird feeders, make models.

Scavenger hunt - find a coin, a leaf, a daisy, a pen etc.

Science day - make homemade bubble mixture, playdough, paper mache, volcano lava

See who can get the most for £1 in the charity shop or car boot sale

Treasure hunt for a small prize - clues hidden around the house or garden, each clue leading to the next clue

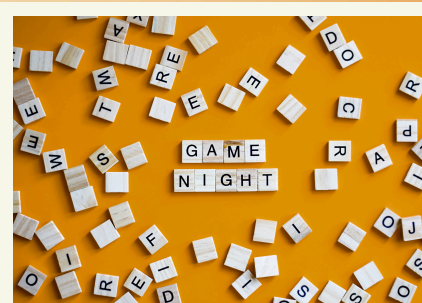
Try origami, or make paper airplanes, or paper fortune tellers

## Visit Buckie & District Fishing Heritage Centre

Walk, scoot, skate, cycle along the Liney

Wash the car, or wash their outdoor toys with water and bit of bubble bath or wash up liquid

Wooden sculptures for the garden - collect sticks, pine cones etc on a walk and tie or nail them together







## SEALS OF CRAIGENDROAN

The rocks in front of you are called Craigendroan. This is a very special place for all types of Scottish wildlife.

Here you can see Litter ducks, Gulls, seagulls, Shags, and various Gulls. Seals are also seen here, especially in summer and winter, making them a very special place for all types of Scottish wildlife.

Seals can be seen along the tide line. Climb on them and watch them swim in the sea. But take a closer look at the rocks when the tide is in, or watch them for movement in the water.

If you're lucky you'll catch sight of the 304 Atlantic Gulls that breed here on the rocks along the north and south side of these rocks. Take time to stand at these fantastic mammals.

**SEALS**  
There are two species of seals in Scotland: the Common Seal and the Grey Seal. Both are found in the Firth of Clyde, and both are protected by law. Seals are important to the local economy, and their presence is a sign of a healthy environment.

**SEAL SPOTS**  
Seals are often seen on the rocks at low tide. They are usually seen in groups, and they often come ashore to rest or to feed. Seals are also seen in the water, and they are often seen swimming.

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