What’s On in February

**Available Daily**

**Ballater Author Ian Murray, FSA Scot, Salmon & Trout Fishing, Landrover Tours & Walking:** Rods, waders & casting skills included on private fishing, also coastal. Best-selling author, 5 books on history & folklore and qualified WML guide; Bespoke local Tours with 30% off. On and off-road in high spec vehicles & from Skye to Edinburgh, far High-lands. Guided walking trips. Night wildlife experience. Tel. 07771346650, ianlochnagar1@btinternet.com, www.lochnagar.net

**Glen Tanar Trout Fishing on Private Stocked Loch:** 9.00am-5.00pm Adult £30, Child £15 & 5.00pm-10.00pm (or until dark on shorter days) Adult £25, Child £10. Boats and lifejackets available. Please bring your own equipment. Booking is essential. www.glentanar.co.uk

**Hidden Deeside Tours:** Half or Full Day Tours of Royal Deeside with a Scottish History Honours Graduate as your personal Tour Guide. 25% discount for Craigendarroch residents. Collection time at your convenience and no booking fee or deposit required. Booking essential. 07920 801546, theaberdeenagency@btinternet.com, hidden-deeside.com

**Royal Lochnagar Distillery Tours:** Open Monday - Saturday, 10.00am-4.00pm. Open Sunday 12 noon— 4.00pm. Tours available throughout the day, located in Crathie. 013397 42700, www.discovering-distilleries.com/royallochnagar, www.totico.co.uk

**Yellow Welly Tours:** Luxury 5* bespoke tours of Royal Deeside. Well known local personality Simon Blackett will entertain you and help create wonderful memories of your holiday while you relax and enjoy the culture, history and countryside of this magical area. Contact 07971 1287366 to book. www.yellowwellytours.com

**Innes Carma Tours:** Bespoke Daily Tours visiting castles, distilleries and places of natural beauty. Tours include a local tour guide who will tell you all about Scottish culture and history. 10% discount for HGV Craigendarroch guests. Contact Tom Innes on Tel. 07767 851154, Email: tom.innes@innescarmatours.com or on Facebook at @innescarma.

**Crathes Castle & Walled Garden:** 16th century tower house with an intricate maze of turrets, towers, oak panels and painted ceilings, Banchory. Open Thursday-Monday 11.00am - 4.00pm. Tel. 013308 44525, www.nts.org.uk (search Crathes Castle)

**Joan Anderson:** local history with an award-winning heritage writer. Walks, talks, stories, research and guiding, including some accessible or easy routes. Tel. 07561834952. No job too small. In bad weather, we can find a cosy fireplace and do the whole thing over a coffee.

**Royal Deeside Winter Golf Ticket Offer:** Participating Golf Clubs include Ballater, Aboyne, Banchory and Peterculter. 3 day and 5 day winter tickets available. Simply download the ticket of your choice from any participating golf club website, take your ticket to the club of your choice and pay the fee. The pro/golf club with mark the voucher with the course that has been played. For more details visit: www.ballatergolfclub.co.uk

**Various dates throughout the month**

**Woodend Barn Events:** Films Exhibitions, Crafts & Live Performances at Woodend Barn, Banchory. Booking is essential. Tel. 013308 26520, www.thebarnarts.co.uk

**Braemar Highland Experience:** 20% discount for Craigendarroch residents on bespoke road tours in Land Rover discovery vehicles to explore your personal interest. Scheduled tours and guided walks also available. Visit the local glens and local gems that offer outstanding photographic opportunities. Bookings are essential. Tel. 07760 511111 or email info@bhe.scot, www.bhe.scot.

**Freedom Running:** Group Trail and Hill run with local running guide Nick Mardell. From beginners through to experienced runners, Nick will take you on bespoke short or long runs in the local area at a time, distance and speed to suit your individual wishes. For further information and to book please contact Nick on Tel. 07834512029 or email nick@freedomrunning.co.uk

**Free Activities Available Daily**

**Knock Castle Ruin:** 16th century four-storey tower house of the Gordon family, open year round for the public to explore, 1 mile outside of Ballater on the South Deeside Road heading towards Crathie, For details visit: www.deesidewalks.com (Under ‘All Walks’ click on Seven Bridges Trail)

**Burn o’ Vat on Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve:** A natural deep water carved stone bowl alongside circular walking trails between Dinnet & Ballater. www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/muir-of-dinnet

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What’s On in February

Free Activities Available Daily

Loch Muick & Lochanagar Wildlife Reserve: Home to a Red Deer Reserve, Stunning wildlife and scenery and the dramatic Glas Allt Waterfall, South of Ballater via Spittal of GlenMuick, Visitor Center & Parking (pay & display) www.walkhighlands.co.uk/cairngorms/loch-muick.shtml

Tonnaveirie Stone Circle: Recumbant Stone Circle surrounding a burial cairn just outside Tarland dated from around 4,500 BC. For this and other Historic Scotland locations visit https://members.historic-scotland.gov.uk/places

Tarland Trails: Mountain Bike Trails located in Drummy Woods on the Outskirts of Tarland Village. Trails with 3 levels of difficulty to suit all abilities. www.tarland.org.uk/tarlands-trails

Migvie Kirk: Built in 1770 this deconsecrated kirk had the interior completely refurbished by local Artists and Craftsmen into a unique exhibition space with a 9th century Pictish Symbol stone in the Kirk yard. In Migvie by Tarland. www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/tarland/migviekirk/index.html

Local Walks: For detailed local walking route information, we recommend the following websites: www.walkhighlands.co.uk & www.deesidewalks.com

Every Tuesday

Aqua Fit Class with Anna Blair: The Country Club, Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Craigendarroch. 9.30am – 10.30am. Booking is essential. Please visit the Leisure Desk or dial 013397 53435. With a mixture of cardio and body conditioning aqua work, this Aqua Fit class is a great way to build up strength and flexibility. Please note that access to the main pool is reserved for the Aqua Fit class participants during this time.

Tarland Traditional Folk Music Sessions: Starts 9.00pm, Aberdeen Arms, The Square, Tarland. Unplugged fiddles, accordions, bagpipes and guitars. Come along and enjoy or bring your own instruments and join in. We advise contacting in advance should there be changes to usual event dates, Tel 013398 81225.

Ballater Bridge Club: Tuesdays from 6.30pm – 10.00pm Improvers Class, Mike Sheridan Room, Victoria & Albert Halls, Ballater, For details Tel. 013397 55501, We advise contacting in advance should there be changes to usual event dates. www.victoriaandalberthalls.co.uk/calendar

Indoor Bowling: Tuesdays from 10.00am – 12.00pm, Victoria & Albert Halls, Ballater, For details Tel. 013397 55501, We advise contacting in advance should there be changes to usual event dates. www.victoriaandalberthalls.co.uk/calendar

Every Tuesday & Wednesday

Cairnton Farm Tours at Deeside Activity Park: 1 hour tours are available throughout the day at various times, followed by Afternoon Tea, located near Dass, Aboyne. Special rate for Craigendarroch residents of £16.50 per adult and £9.00 per child. Booking is essential. Tel. 013398 83536, www.deesideactivitypark.com

Every Tuesday & Thursday

Skipper & Wife Fish Van: Tuesdays from 10.30am – 12noon outside Glenmuick Church, Ballater and 12.30pm – 1.00pm outside the Deeside Deli, Ballater. Thursdays from 10.45am – 12.15pm outside Glenmuick Church, Ballater and outside Deeside Deli, Ballater around 2.00pm for 10 minutes, For details Tel. 07860 677602 or 07904 167825 or Email: skipperandwife@hotmail.co.uk

The ‘Look Out’: Wildlife Watching Hide at Glen Tanar. Traditional wooden cottage set on the edge of Glen Tanar’s towering Caledonian Pine forest. From the comfort of The Look Out you can view pine martens, badgers. And you might just get a glimpse of a wildcat. Adults £30 and Children (8yrs & over) £15. For booking and more information Tel.013397 86451 or Email: info@glentanar.co.uk

Every Wednesday

Torphins Market: Local Produce & Crafts. 10.00am – 2.00pm, Platform 22, Torphins. www.facebook.com/TorphinsMarket

Horseback Safari: 10.30am – 12.30pm, Glen Tanar Equestrian Centre, Glen Tanar Estate, Special rates for Craigendarroch residents of £50.00 per person, One and a half hour ride followed by hot drinks and shortbread, Booking is essential, Tel. 013398 86448, Email: gtec.t21@btinternet.com. See our event schedule for full details.

Yoga with Simon Spirit Spoon: The Craigendarroch Health Club & Spa. 3.45pm – 5.15pm and 5.45pm – 7.15pm. £5.00 per club member/resident and £10.00 per guests of club members. Yoga mats are provided as required. Booking is essential. Please visit the Leisure Desk or dial 013397 53435. Hatha Yoga is a traditional gentle yoga practice that uses meditation, asana postures & deep relaxation. All classes are suitable for both beginners & experienced practitioners, with mats, blocks & blankets provided for your use. www.spiritofthemoment.co.uk or call 07967 684 354.

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What’s On in February

Every Wednesday - Sunday


Cromar Health Walk: Short walks lasting up to an hour, open to everyone and welcoming all abilities. They’re friendly, fun, safe and led by trained volunteer walk leaders who will show you the way. No need to book – just turn up! 1.30pm – 2.30pm. Starting outside Logie Coldstone Village Hall, AB34 5PQ.

Dram at the Dam: a Unique Distillery Tour of Royal Lochnagar Distillery for Craigendarroch Residents. Starts 9.30am (lasts around 1.5 hours), £15.00 per adult includes 10 minute walk to the Top Dam, a taste of Royal Lochnagar 12 year old single highland malt and a specially selected mystery dram. Please show your lodge/suite key card on arrival. Bookings are essential. We request that you book your place by no later than 5.00pm on Wednesday. Tel. 013397 42700.

Family Quiz Night: The Keiller Lounge, 8.00pm – 9.00pm. Free event with no booking necessary. Relax in the Keiller Lounge and enjoy an evening of fun with quiz questions to challenge the whole family. Highest group score takes home the prizes.

Every Thursday

Freedom Running: Craigendarroch Main Reception, 8.00am - 9.00am. Group Trail and Hill run with local running guide Nick Mardall. Free to join. Starting from outside Main Reception, Nick will take you a on a lovely morning run. We request that you book your place by no later than 5.00pm on Thursday via text message on 07834512029.

Glen Tanar Health Walk: Short walks lasting up to an hour, open to everyone and welcoming all abilities. They’re friendly, fun, safe and led by trained volunteer walk leaders who will show you the way. No need to book – just turn up! 09.40am – 10.40am. Starting outside The Boat Inn, Aboyne, AB34 5EL.

Every Friday

Food and Farm Experience: Unique Highland Coo Farm Tours. 2.00pm. Lochton of Leys Farmhouse, Banchory, AB31 5Q8. £16.00 per person. For more information and booking please visit aberdeenshirehighlandbeef.com

Every Sunday

Events by Date

TUESDAY 4th: Ballater Lego Club. 3.30pm – 5.00pm, £4.00 per child. Call 013397 55243 to register.

THURSDAY 6th: Royal Deeside Cycling Tour: The Bike Station Ballater, Station Square. 3 hour tour Starts 9.30am, £30.00 per person (£10.00 supplement for an electric bike). Includes helmet, bike and tea/coffee home bakes. Bookings are essential. 013397 54004, clarewhitehead@hotmail.com, www.bikestationballater.co.uk

FRIYDAY 7th: The Jersey Notes at Ballater Golf Club, tickets £20.00, includes buffet meal. Booking advised, contact Ballater Golf Club, 013397 55567.

FRIDAY 7th: Cinema at Aboyne presents Playing with Fire (PG). Film starts at 5.30pm. Tickets £5.00. For more information please visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/aboynetheadartsdevelopmentgroup

FRIDAY 7th: Pop up restaurant. Kincardine Castle, Lunch 12.00pm – 2.00pm, Afternoon Tea 3.15pm. Visit www.kincardinecastle.com for more information.

WEDNESDAY 12th: Mini Kickers in the Squash Court. Test your skills with a variety of drills, 2.00pm – 2.45pm, £2 per child. Booking is essential, call Leisure reception on ext #435

THURSDAY 13th: Royal Deeside Cycling Tour: The Bike Station Ballater, Station Square. 3 hour tour Starts 9.30am, £30.00 per person (£10.00 supplement for an electric bike). Includes helmet, bike and tea/coffee home bakes. Bookings are essential. 013397 54004, clarewhitehead@hotmail.com, www.bikestationballater.co.uk

THURSDAY 13th: Craft Club at Leisure Club, 2.00pm, £5.00. To book a place call Leisure reception on ext #435

THURSDAY 13th: Cromar History Group Talks. 7.30pm. The Three Incarnations. Shona Donaldson will consider the three eras of bothy ballad tradition. From more information please visit https://www.cromarhistorygroup.org.uk/

FRIDAY 14th: Pop Up Soft Play for Under 5s, 10.00am – 12.00pm. Mike Sheridan room, Ballater. £3 for first child, £1.50 thereafter, Carers free. Includes tea and biscuits.

FRIDAY 14th: Cinema at Aboyne presents 1917. Film starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50. For more information please visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/aboynetheadartsdevelopmentgroup

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FRIDAY 14TH: Treasure Hunt at Craigendarroch Health Club & Spa, 3.00pm–4.00pm. £4.00 per child, booking is essential. Call Leisure reception on ext #435

SATURDAY 15TH: Banchory Farmers Market, Local Produce & Crafts. 09.00am – 1.00pm, Bellfield Car Park, Banchory.

WEDNESDAY 19TH: Mini Kickers in the Squash Court. Test your skills with a variety of drills, 2.00pm–2.45pm, £2 per child. Booking is essential, call Leisure reception on ext #435

THURSDAY 20TH: Royal Deeside Cycling Tour: The Bike Station Ballater, Station Square. 3 hour tour Starts 9.30am, £30.00 per person (£10.00 supplement for an electric bike). Includes helmet, bike and tea/coffee home bakes. Bookings are essential. 013397 54004, clarewhitehead@hotmail.com, www.bikestationballater.co.uk

FRIDAY 21ST: Treasure Hunt at Craigendarroch Health Club & Spa, 3.00pm–4.00pm. £4.00 per child, booking is essential. Call Leisure reception on ext #435

THURSDAY 27TH: Royal Deeside Cycling Tour: The Bike Station Ballater, Station Square. 3 hour tour Starts 9.30am, £30.00 per person (£10.00 supplement for an electric bike). Includes helmet, bike and tea/coffee home bakes. Bookings are essential. 013397 54004, clarewhitehead@hotmail.com, www.bikestationballater.co.uk

FRIDAY 29TH: Ballater Films presents Yesterday (PG13). Film starts at 7.00pm. Entry by Donation. For more information visit www.ballaterfilms.co.uk

For a wealth of local area information we recommend visiting www.visitabdn.com/what-to-do/royal-deeside/ & www.visitarngorms.com, or visiting the Ballater Tourist Information in Station Square, Ballater. Please visit our team at Resort Reception if we can be of any further assistance.