

Raring 2go!

Aberdeen
City & Shire
Spring 2017

The definitive guide of what to do
and where to go with your children

Inside this issue

Love Local Life:
Nominate *NOW* in the
2017 Raring2go! Awards



Hop Along with
the Easter Bunny



Vantastic VW Adventures



Issue 39



www.raring2go.co.uk



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SCOTLAND

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Welcome

HELLO! This year is just flying by! It's the end of February already and my daughter is getting ready to go away with her school for their P6 ski trip to Glenshee. The weather seems to have suddenly got milder, so we've been doing a snow dance every night in the hope of bringing on the flakes. But I'm not worried if our efforts come to naught. Her teachers have planned lots of other fab activities for them to do, and I'm sure they'll have an amazing week in our wonderful Highlands!

Despite still being winter, February was an active month for Team Raring2go! For a start, we spent half term in lovely Perthshire. Who needs to venture out of Scotland for good fun and great food when it's all on our doorstep?

We also spent a lot of time Deeside way. It's all going on down there! We visited Claire Page – and her super-cool fleet of VWs – at Deeside Classic Campers, and met up with Andy from Balance Bikers to hear how the wheels of his new business turn. Of course, it would have been rude not to enjoy the local shops and cafés while we were out there, so you can say we made the most of our time away. But it wasn't all about us: we kept ourselves busy between cake stops noting down all the places you and your family can go this Easter to hunt for eggs or get crafty.

When we got back to Raring2go! Towers, we spoke with Head Teachers and Parent Councils about the

importance of getting involved in your child's school. We also stumbled across the Scottish Snowdrop Festival when we were putting together the Events Diary: who knew there was such a thing? Lots of places throughout Scotland are joining in the spirit of the festival from the middle of February until mid-March. I just love seeing the lovely white and green plants poking their heads up to tell us spring is on its way! Fyvie Castle here we come!

March will bring Easter, and Mother's Day too. Do something for your mum (whether she lives in New Zealand as mine does, or just around the corner) to say thank you for being there when you need her – as well as when you don't think you do!

If there's something you feel other parents should know about – a great café, park, soft play, shop or business – please get in touch with us (at aberdeenshire@raring2go.co.uk; FB: Raring2goAbz or tweet: @Raring2goAberdeen) and let us know so we can share it!

Happy Easter to you and yours,

Victoria
Victoria Withy,
Managing
Editor.



Photo: Portraiture

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Raring2go! Awards



Nominations now open!

IT'S our spring issue ... and that means the launch of the 2017 Raring2go! Aberdeen City & Shire Awards!

Help us celebrate all the brilliant family-friendly places to go and things to do throughout Aberdeen City and Shire by nominating and voting for your favourites in any or all of our 12 categories. To let you sing the praises of our local businesses even

more, we've added *three* new categories for 2017, including 'Best New Business Launched Between January and December 2016'.

You can nominate any business you like for any relevant category, but it must have a registered address with an AB postcode and be one that welcomes families with open arms!

Nominations will open on Wednesday

1st March 2017 and close on Friday

31st March 2017. Click on

W: smartsurvey.co.uk/s/r2goNominate

to submit your nomination

under the following

categories:

1. Best Baby/
Toddler Class

2. Best School-
Age Club or Class

3. Best After-School/
Holiday Club/Activity

4. Best Family-Friendly
Eatery/Café/Restaurant

5. Best Family
Retailer/Shop

6. Best Family Service
(Dentist, Garage,
Photographers,
Hairdresser, etc.)

7. Best Party Entertainer

8. Best Party
Place/Venue

9. Best Soft Play

Everyone who
nominates their
favourite local
business(es) will be
entered into a prize
draw to win a
family cinema
ticket.

AND NEW FOR 2017:

10. Best Family Attraction

11. Best Family Event of 2016

12. Best New Business
Launched Between January
and December 2016

It's Awards
time! Who gets
your vote this
year?

Shortlist: Nominations will close on Friday 31st March 2017 and will be counted and verified.

Voting: The three businesses with the most nominations in EACH category will be shortlisted. **Voting will then open on Monday 3rd April** at W: smartsurvey.co.uk/s/r2goVote and close on Sunday 30th April 2017.

The **winners** in each of the 12 categories will be those who receive the most votes.

Our 13th (lucky for some!) and final award for 2017, **The Reader's Choice Award**, will go to the business receiving the most votes overall!

Winners will be notified by phone or email by 30th April and trophies presented early May at a special Afternoon Tea at Hoodles Playbarn (the winner of the 2016 'Reader's Choice Award').

Winners' names will be published in the Summer 2017 issue of Raring2go! Aberdeen City & Shire.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and Twitter feeds. Promote your favourite on social media too with #Raring2go #LiveLocalLoveLocal

Hooray! It's Spring ...

time for some of our favourite places to come out of hibernation!

- Get a herring's eye view of life in Broch through the generations at **Fraserburgh Heritage Centre** (1 April)
- All aboard our heritage railways for another season of steam and diesel-powered fun! The **Caledonian Railway's 'Easter Eggspress'** (16 April) marks the start of the wee railway's season of journeys between Brechin and Bridge of Dun. The **Keith and Dufftown Railway** rolls out of Dufftown for the first time during its Grand Easter Opening on 14 March too!
 - The Braemar Community welcomes visitors to the stunning **Braemar Castle** again from Saturday, 1 April.
 - Get into gear for start of a new season of 'wheely' good fun at the **Grampian Transport Museum** on 26 March.
- The VSA's Café, Farm Shop and Garden Centre at **Easter Anguston, Peterculter** reopen to the public in the Spring (1 April).
- Learn about rare breeds without leaving the Granite City. **Doonies Farm**, Aberdeen, opens again for the season.
- Get down on the farm at the **Aberdeenshire Farming Museum** and **Hareshowe Farm** at Aden Country Park from early April, or at the Pitmedden Gardens **Museum of Farming Life** (1 May).
- Pump up the lilo and dig out the sun cream – the **Stonehaven Open Air Pool** reopens on 27 May!
- We can't guarantee the dolphins will be back, but the watchers certainly will be! The RSPB returns to the **Torry Battery** with their bins and telescopes for **Dolphinwatch Aberdeen**, Thursdays to Sundays from 6 April.





Loopty Lou's is Aberdeenshire's biggest and newest exciting children's indoor adventure play centre.

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1 April-28 May Lasers Roadshow
14 April Fun with Fossils day
24 & 25 June Silver City Stories

Hands-on activities, shows, and more!
Check out our website for more details on our range of exciting events.

Ahoy There: Tree Huts Arrive at Smugglers Cove!



WE'RE so excited! Codona's brand-new Smugglers Tree Huts Outdoor Adventure Play will bring all the fun of Smugglers Cove out into the fresh air!

"We've seen how much children of all ages love Smugglers Cove," company director Alfred Codona told Team Raring2go! "So this year we decided to take Smugglers Cove outdoors."

Codona's new 10,000-square-foot fun zone will include interactive activity frames, five slides and musical play. There'll also be three 30-foot interactive trees with nine levels of fun, a 20-foot snake slide, a 14-foot scoop slide and a seven-foot tube slide – all interconnected with ladders and rope bridges and perfectly designed to let kids and their imaginations run wild.

For Smugglers' Cove's smaller guests there'll be a new, fully enclosed 'Tiny Tots' area for them to crawl and toddle around in safely. With a giant log, a climbing mound with two slides and their very own

themed role-play street, the tinies will have just as much fun

at Codona's as their older brothers and sisters.

Just thinking about all that exploring is hungry work – and Codona's have planned for that too. The new Smugglers Tree Huts will have an outdoor eating area to allow parents and carers to have a coffee, snack or meal from the Smugglers Cove family restaurant – or just sit back, relax and watch all the fun nearby.

Smugglers Tree Huts opens this Easter and will be free with all Codona's wristbands. See you at the top of the tree!

Codona's, Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen, AB24 5ED. T: 01224 595910; W: codonas.com.



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The prize is for two adult tickets and two children's tickets (value £49.50) to visit the Highland Wildlife Park.
Ts & Cs apply (see p46). Competition closes 5 May 2017.

**To enter visit
raring2go.co.uk**

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www.HOODLES.co.uk
facebook.com/hoodlesplaybarn

Scene and Heard



We're very excited to be attending the first of **Fraserburgh's 2017 Super Saturdays** on 13 May in Saltoun Square (10am-3.30pm). There will be stalls selling hot and cold food, produce, crafts, accessories for the home and garden, a bouncy slide, local singers, entertainers and dancers plus much more! If you can't make the May date, other themed events are planned on 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September and 9 December.



There's lots going on! We headed out to take a look...

We'll be heading along to **The Gordon Highlanders Museum's** 20th birthday celebrations on Saturday 8 April. There'll be free entry for everyone, face painting and lots of other things for the whole family to see and do - including a new 'Then and Now' display. It's rumoured that their Regimental Time Traveller, may be on parade, along with the Gordon Highlanders Drums and Pipe band!



ABERDEEN ART GALLERY & MUSEUMS

Aberdeen Art Gallery is undergoing a major redevelopment, reopening Winter 2017.

During this time we welcome visitors to a programme of exhibitions, talks and events at Aberdeen Maritime Museum and The Tolbooth Museum.

Our art collections can also be seen at venues in the city and shire and in exhibitions at galleries in the UK and abroad.

To plan your visit check our website to find out what's on, where and when.

www.aagm.co.uk

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Easter Fun in Aberdeen City & Shire

Where IS that Easter Bunny?

MARCH

31 Children's Easter Craft: Boddam Library. 3–4pm.
Age 11 under. T: 01779 473479;
E: boddam.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. FREE!

APRIL

3 Children's Easter Craft: Stonehaven Library.
3.30–4.30pm. T: 01569 762136; E: stonehaven.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. FREE but booking essential!

4 Easter Egg Search: Fettercairn Library.
1.30–2pm.

7 Easter Craft Session: Aboyne Library. 10.30–11.30am. Ages 5–10 with adult. T: 013398 86004;
E: aboyne.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. FREE but booking essential!

12 Easter Activity Afternoon: Grampian Transport Museum, Alford. 1–4pm. T: 01975 562292;
E: Gtm.org.uk; W: info@gtm.org.uk.

14–16 Fyvie Castle Cadbury Egg Hunt: 10am–4pm.

14–16 Castle Fraser, Garden & Estate Cadbury Egg Hunt: 10am–4pm.

14–17 Leith Hall Garden & Estate Cadbury Egg Hunt: 10am–4pm.

14–17 Haddo House Cadbury Egg Hunt: 11am–4pm.

14–17 House of Dun & Montrose Basin Nature Reserve Cadbury Egg Hunt: 11.30am–3.30pm.



14–17 Crathes Castle, Garden & Estate Cadbury Egg Hunt: 10am–4pm.

14–17 Drum Castle, Garden & Estate Cadbury Egg Hunt: 11am–4pm.

14–17 Children's Easter Egg Hunt: Keith and Dufftown Railway. W: keith-dufftown-railway.co.uk.

15, 16 Easter Egg Specials: Royal Deeside Railway, Milton of Crathes. W: deesiderailway.co.uk.

15–16 Pitmedden Garden Cadbury Egg Hunt: 11am–4pm.

15–17 Craigievar Castle Cadbury Egg Hunt: 11am–4pm.

15–17 Brodie Castle Cadbury Egg Hunt: 11am–4pm.

15 DL Kids Annual Easter Party: David Lloyd Aberdeen. W: davidlloyd.co.uk/clubs/Aberdeen.

16 DL Kids Easter Egg Hunt: David Lloyd Aberdeen. W: davidlloyd.co.uk/clubs/Aberdeen.

16 Easter Eggspress: Caledonian Railway, Brechin. E: enquiries@caledonianrailway.com; W: caledonianrailway.com.

16 Mar Lodge Cadbury Egg Hunt: 10am–4pm.

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- 22/04 LIVE IN WESTHILL
- 13/05 LIVE IN STONEHAVEN
- 20/05 LIVE FROM GRANITE CITY COMIC CON
- 27/05 LIVE FROM UNION SQUARE
- 03/06 LIVE AT THE ENJOY MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 17/06 **ABERDEEN ANARCHY**

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www.millenniumchildww.com

Win!

A PAIR OF TICKETS TO ABERDEEN ANARCHY 2017

We're very excited to have two General Admission tickets to Wrestlezone's Aberdeen Anarchy 2017 event taking place at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 17 June. WWE Hall of Famer Rikishi, Hornswoggle and Melina are coming to town, wrestling alongside local favourites such as Scotty Swift, Zach Dynamite, Chris Archer and many more!

Ts & Cs apply (see p46). Competition closes 5 May 2017.

To enter visit raring2go.co.uk

Street Art-astic! arrives in Aberdeen!

WE heard that Aberdeen Inspired is bringing a new street art festival to Aberdeen in April and we wanted to find out more! We spoke to Kate Timperley, Project Manager at Aberdeen Inspired to learn more.

Kate told us that Nuart is an international contemporary street and urban art festival that could potentially have a transformational effect on Aberdeen city centre. Kate explains, "The original Nuart Festival has been held annually in Stavanger since 2001 and is widely considered one of the world's leading celebrations of Street Art. The Nuart team are experts in producing one of Europe's most engaging and constantly evolving public art events with community engagement and workshops for all ages a big part of their ambition to make art a part of people's everyday lives. Nuart Aberdeen will be the first time the festival has transferred overseas and we are looking forward to seeing how Aberdonians will respond to the events we have lined up over Easter Weekend!"

Kate added, "Working in partnership with Nuart, Aberdeen Inspired has invited a celebrated collection of internationally renowned artists to leave their unique mark on our city's walls. Production of art pieces will take place in early April with the official Launch Weekend running from 14-16 April 2017 including a range of street art tours, artist talks/debates, film screenings and workshops."

The Nuart Festival is one of the most ambitious of its kind across the globe and Nuart Aberdeen will give residents and visitors, inclusive of all ages and interest, a chance to engage with the project. Kate says, "Young people and families can get involved by coming along to one of our walking tours or taking part in our FREE workshops!"



Photos: Brian Tallman,
courtesy of Nuart Festival

Street Printing Workshop

11am-3pm (drop in sessions),
Saturday 15th April

Location
TBC

Street Printing is an experimental printmaking project that invites you to print on structures such as manhole covers, grids and other street level surfaces in order to create unique patterns and designs on clothes, fabrics and paper.

Everything is hand printed on-site using eco-friendly ink, water-based and 100% free from petrol. Participants should bring their own t-shirt or tote bag to print on. Just beware that the ink can of course stain clothing, so wear working clothes or be very cautious when printing!

The workshop is hosted by the Berlin-based art collective Raubdruckerin who have travelled the length and breadth of Europe but arrive in Aberdeen for the first time this Easter!

Chalk Don't Chalk

11am-3pm (drop in sessions), Sunday 16th April
Rooftop Garden, St Nicolas Centre

Chalk Don't Chalk is a participatory "Public Art" project where children of all ages will be given the "freedom of the city" to create their own chalk street art pieces, with professional artists on hand to teach and guide the children on their designs.

The project will encourage the re-imagining and re-purposing of a public space in a dynamic, participatory and creative manner. Drawing inspiration from the likes of Picasso to Banksy, Brancussi to Sir Ken Robinson, we hope children will embrace the project wholeheartedly and join in with this celebration of street art in Aberdeen.

For more information on the workshops and the festival, please visit W: nuartaberdeen.co.uk

Follow us on social media to keep up to date!

FB: [facebook.com/nuartaberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/nuartaberdeen/);

I: [instagram.com/nuartaberdeen](https://www.instagram.com/nuartaberdeen/) and **Tw:** @nuartaberdeen



NUART ABERDEEN

NUART FOR KIDS

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Street Printing
11:00 – 15:00
Saturday 15 April
location TBC

Chalk Don't Chalk
11:00 – 15:00
Sunday 16 April
Rooftop Garden,
St Nicolas Centre

All events are free and
open to children of all ages

For more information
visit nuartaberdeen.co.uk

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For the love of horses...

THERE are big changes afoot – or should we say a-hoof – at Hayfield Riding Centre!

After over 60 years at their current location in Aberdeen’s Hazelhead Park, Hayfield is getting ready for a change of location – and a change of direction. Still connected to the Park, the new Centre will be accessible by car, bus and cycle track, just off the road to Westhill.

Leading the Hayfield team forward is John Crawford. He tells Raring2go! “We will continue to do what we do best at Hayfield, but at the same time provide the wider community with a new and exciting future.”

John’s first task in the refocusing of Hayfield is the creation of the Countryside Youth Trust Scotland: a charity giving young people easier access to the sport of riding.

Using the proven Hayfield model of experienced horses, instructors and ride leaders, starting in Aboyne this May the Trust will offer tourists and visitors pony rides and longer rides every weekend,

in exchange for a donation. Funds raised by the Trust will give locals the opportunity to ride, sign up as volunteers or otherwise benefit the community. The keenest and most able local members will be able to train and qualify as ride leaders.



“This new venture will widen access to riding as well as training for young people,” John says proudly. “By the time the new Centre is finished, in 2018 or 2019 at the latest, Hayfield will offer a central training base for riding as well as countryside activities in Deeside as well as in Aberdeen City.”

To book your Deeside Trek contact Hayfield Riding Centre.

T: 01224 315703;

E: info@hayfield.com;

W: hayfield.com.



ACT Aberdeen Spring Festival 10th - 14th April 2017

A series of fun-filled workshops for young people designed to offer something a little different and creative for a week during the Spring Holidays

**For more information: www.act-aberdeen.org.uk or Tel: 01224 635208
ACT Aberdeen, 33 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5AA**



Hayfield Riding Centre
 Hazelhead Park - Aberdeen - AB15 8BB - +44 (0)1224 315 703 - info@hayfield.com

Horse Riding for Everyone

Paddock Hacks

Suitable for all beginner riders aged 5 and over. This one hour introductory session combines time spent in the sand paddock learning the basics followed by a gentle walk around the surrounding scenic woodland.

Walkies

These are 30 minute lead rein sessions designed as an introduction to riding for children aged 4 to 7 years. They will go for a gentle walk in the woods where they can start to learn some of the basic skills.

Hacking

Hacking sessions through the surrounding Scottish woodlands are regularly scheduled for riders confident in walk and rising trot. More experienced riders can also book onto a walk/trot/canter hack.

Lessons

We provide professional and friendly riding tuition for all abilities from beginners to advanced - ages 5 and up. If you have ridden in the past and would like to take up the reins again, the first step is to book an assessment lesson.



HACKING - DRESSAGE - SHOWJUMPING - WESTERN RIDING



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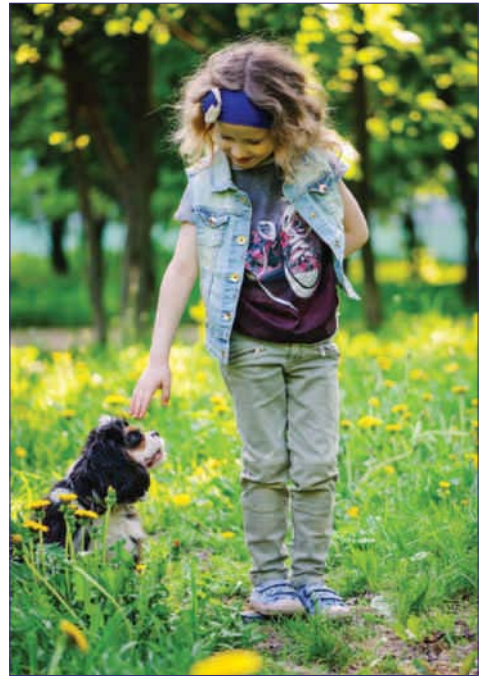
SUMMER SCHOOL
P4-7

MUSIC **IMAGINE TINY + TOTS**
Age 1-2 + Age 3-4

DRAMA **PLAY + CREATE**
P1-3 + P4-7

ABERDEEN PERFORMING ARTS
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youth theatre • youth music

Full details at aberdeenperformingarts.com/engage



Gardening School

SPRING is a great time to rethink your children's out-of-school activities – from the ground up.

“Children can start gardening at any age,” Joanne Evans of Aberdeenshire-based Gardening4Kids tells Raring2go! “Even children under the age of two enjoy the texture of soil, making mud pies and digging holes! Pre-schoolers can understand some basic principles of gardening, like which way bulbs should be planted. Primary-school kids can appreciate lifecycles and where their food comes from too.”

As Joanne explains, gardening with children encourages their interest in nature and enthusiasm early on. It also gives them invaluable basic life skills, an understanding of the world around them and encourages them to get outside. “Growing their own fruit and vegetables also means that children are less likely to be ‘fussy eaters’, as it helps them develop a healthy attitude to eating fruit and vegetables,” she says.

So what do kids get up to in a gardening class at this time of year? As it can still be quite cold

in March, Joanne focuses on what she calls ‘garden friends and foes’ and encouraging good animals into the garden. Come April and warmer weather, kids can get stuck into the vegetable patch. “Planting potatoes is a great activity,” Joanne says, “because children see quick results and get something to eat!” May’s all about sowing seeds and planting bulbs. “There’s always something to do in the garden.”



Photograph copyright © VisitScotland.

Gardening4Kids. T: 01651 873 565; E: info@gardening4kids.org.uk; W: gardening4kids.org.uk.

Scene and Heard

Raring2go!

There's lots going on! We headed out to take a look...

BREAKNECK COMEDY



The Raring2go! team are always up for a laugh and were pleased to hear that Aberdeen's Funny Man Naz Hussain from **Breakneck Comedy** is hoping to set up a full time comedy club in Aberdeen via a Crowdfunding initiative. If you also love a laugh pop over to see what Naz is doing at: gofundme.com/a-venue-for-breakneck=comedy. We hope to see kids' comedy events there in the future!

Inverurie's **Trendy Treads** has started stocking dance shoes and dance wear for the Garioch's dancers (young and old) -



adding to their already sparkling range of children's shoes!

And we've just heard that a trampoline park in Inverurie has taken a huge jump forward with **Skyline Trampoline Park's** application for a new site at Highclere Business Park!



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For more information and to book, call Joanne on: 07961 907662 or Email: info@gardening4kids.org.uk

www.gardening4kids.org.uk

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Crafty Inspiration for **LIVE LOVE CRAFT** Lovely Birthday Parties

THEY say you can never have too much of a good thing, and that's certainly true of Live Love Craft as far as the Leighton family is concerned.

"Live Love Craft is my girls' favourite place to go to each holiday, so it was the obvious choice for their birthday parties," mum Katherine Leighton tells Raring2go!

To celebrate Daisy's eighth birthday last November, she and six of her friends painted owl candle light holders, then had a break for hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream (in beautiful teacups) and a snack. Tummies full, they then painted a Christmas tree decoration. At Millie's party just two months later in January, she and her six guests painted owl mugs, put their brushes down for hot chocolate, and then crafted decoupage hearts.

Each Live Love Craft party is individually designed – right down to the length of the party and the timings for breaks. "About a month before each party the girls

and I popped in to plan the party with the owner Natalie and choose which crafts they wanted to do," Katherine tells us. "The girls loved this choosing session and it built up the excitement. Natalie is so flexible too."

Katherine says both girls loved doing what they love best – art – in a relaxing, beautifully decorated and inspiring environment. "Natalie is great with children and obviously has a passion for art. The girls were all very proud of their pieces and they now serve as lovely memories of two lovely parties."



Live Love Craft, 70 Market Place, Inverurie.
T: 7745 354175; E: create@livelovecraft.co.uk;
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A Wheely Good Idea!

GREAT business ideas sometimes come from the least likely places. For keen cyclist Andy McDonald, founder of Deeside's Balance Bikers junior cycling school, inspiration came from his son Ewan, now four.

"We had a couple of false starts with heavy and uncomfortable balance bikes when we were trying to teach Ewan to ride," Andy tells Raring2go! "But we were third time lucky with a Strider balance bike."

Like his dad, Ewan soon caught the cycling bug. As his son's confidence grew, Andy searched high and low to find him a class to improve his skills – but there were none to be found. With a gap in the market for toddler-specific bike classes duly spotted, Balance Bikers was born. "I'd been working in oil and gas for nine years, but I'd always wanted to run a business where my passion lies," Andy explains. "Having children definitely changes your perspective in what you want to achieve in life."

Less than a year on from its launch, Balance Bikers now offers public sessions for children aged 18 months to four years at indoor locations all around the City and Shire – including Danestone, Newtonhill, Portlethen and Crathes.

The courses his wee bikers follow are suitable for all levels of ability and change every week. Ramps, cones and other obstacles add to the interest –



Bikers into nurseries and hopes to branch out into other locations around the City and Shire. He's also planning more public sessions and developing additional activities for his existing nursery, private party and event bookings. Longer-term, Andy hopes to offer pedal-bike sessions which could lead nicely into a more structured youth-development arrangement.

The positive feedback he's had from families over the last year and seeing the children's skills and confidence develop keeps Andy going. "Seeing every Balance Biker grow in confidence by learning real life skills, trust and friendship as well as develop great coordination, balance and technique is the most special aspect of our business."

"I'd love to think that in time I'll help create a future World Champion or Tour de France winner, but when it comes down to it, I just want to inspire all toddlers to have their own two-wheeled adventures." With Andy and Nicola behind them, that should be as easy as riding a bike!



and the challenge. The aim is to help young bikers develop their sense of balance, teach them how to adjust their speed and focus – and have fun.

With a former business colleague, Nicola Watson, now on board and running most of the classes, Andy concentrates mainly on business development. He's currently working on ways to take Balance

**To bring Balance Bikers to your nursery or local venue call T: 07736321668;
E: balancebikers@outlook.com;
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Getting involved in your child's school

GETTING involved in your child's school brings benefits to your children, your community and you!

- What kids get up to after the school bus pulls away or we drop them at the gates can sometimes be a bit of a mystery. Volunteering for an in-school role gives you the very privileged view of seeing how the school runs during the day. Meeting teachers regularly and informally, even ones not teaching your own children, can offer a real insight into your child's daily experiences. Maybe the lasagne on a Tuesday lunchtime really does smell gross after all!
- Interacting with other pupils also gives parents a better understanding of their children's peers in their natural habit, which can, in turn, help them understand their own. You can see for yourself whether all the other kids really do wear trainers to school or have their ears pierced!
- Many parents don't realise that if it weren't for volunteers, some of the activities their children enjoy wouldn't happen. Government schemes like Bikeability are often entirely dependent on parents working with just one or two key teachers, and don't happen without volunteers. The same goes for school trips. Giving up some of your time for activities that suit your skills and available time frees up others to contribute in their own way. Other parents give up their time to help your children: if you can, you should give up some of their time to help theirs.
- Children love seeing their parents at school, and love to know their mum or dad has a special skill that's valuable to others; helping others is a good example to set for them, too. Giving up your time also shows your children that what happens at their school is important to you as well.
- Getting involved doesn't have to mean meetings in the evening: schools need volunteers for many different roles, including working in the library or classroom during the day, coaching sport after school or helping with a school fair at the weekend.
- Just because you may not be able to contribute a lot of time doesn't mean you shouldn't contribute any time. Schools appreciate any time parents can spare, even if it's just an hour a week or a set event like sewing costumes for a play.
- Parent Councils often have a large say in how money is spent, especially money raised by volunteer activities like fairs and fancy dress days. Joining the Council lets you have your say on where you think resources should go – as well as how they can be raised.
- From a personal point of view, volunteering and taking on responsibility is always good for your confidence, networking and CV. Taking on a volunteer role can be an important first step into re-entering the world of work for many mums with young children.

Speak to your local school about how you can get involved.

Allergy Testing at The Aberdeen Clinic



The Aberdeen
Clinic

Allergic Rhinitis

Allergic Rhinitis is a common problem - significantly affecting everyday, work and school life. It is a risk factor for the development of asthma, and can be the presenting symptom of a severe systemic illness, e.g. sarcoidosis or Wegener's granulomatosis.

Allergic rhinitis may be categorised into:

Seasonal allergic rhinitis/hay fever: this occurs at certain times of the year. When due to tree pollen or grass it is known as hay fever. Other allergens include mould spores and weeds.
Perennial rhinitis (persistent): this occurs throughout the year. Allergens commonly include house dust mites and domestic pets.

Typical symptoms may include:

- Sneezing.
- Rhinorrhoea and nasal congestion:
- Itchy nose and/or palate.
- Symptoms tend to be bilateral, and worse on waking.

A survey of adults found that about a third of allergic rhinitis sufferers found that symptoms affected their work, home life and social life.

In children, symptoms affected their schoolwork and caused sleep problems. Persistent blockage of intranasal passages occasionally results in rhinosinusitis. In adults, a strong association exists between nasal polyps, asthma and sensitivity to aspirin - Samter's triad.

Call 0333 0143488

or email allergy@theaberdeenclinik.co.uk
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Investigations

History and examination are important in trying to identify the causative factor. A questionnaire is initially sent out electronically for completion, depending on the responses further testing would be indicated in the form of:

Skin prick testing

A small drop of allergen is placed on your forearm and a lancet used to 'scratch' the skin a weal will develop if an allergy exists. Evidence from controlled trials shows the high sensitivity and specificity of skin tests. They are important if avoidance measures are to be considered.

Blood Tests

A range of blood tests are available for adults and children under 2 years old. 'Blood tests are a good alternative test for anyone whom skin prick testing would prove difficult to read for example anyone that has active eczema on the arms can make it difficult to identify if a reaction has taken place. In these circumstances we would always recommend a blood test. Skin prick testing is also not accurate in children who are under 2 years old as false positives can occur.' Alena Duncan CEO. 'Furthermore carrying out a blood test can allow for a number of different reactions to be tested particularly if symptoms are present continuously throughout the year rather than seasonally'.

Our dedicated team of Allergy specialists will work with you to improve your symptoms and identify the causes. A range of treatments are available from changing anti-histamine tablets and inhalers to demonstrating correct inhalation techniques and for those with extreme reactions desensitisation therapy.



Considering Fostering?

FOSTER carers, also known as foster parents, provide a full-time, safe and nurturing family environment, investing time and energy for the wellbeing of a child or young person.

Fostering brings great benefits to the children being cared for, but also for the carers too.

Sonia Evans from Portlethen, is a single foster carer with two daughters and two foster children – a boy and a girl. She has been a foster carer with the National Fostering Agency for six years.

“There are no negatives to fostering,” Sonia Evans tells Raring2go! “Fostering widens your family unit and everyone learns so much.”

Sonia says that her birth children have had their eyes opened by fostering, and now think about others in ways they would not have done before. Her daughters have welcomed the family’s foster children to mix with their own friends, and have even learnt Makaton.



Sonia feels that one of the best things about fostering is what she calls the ‘sheer satisfaction of making a difference in a child’s life’. Fostering has shown her how happy a child can become with some patience and support.

“Over the years of my fostering career, I’ve learnt that every day is a learning day, and seeing kids blossom and thrive is what keeps me going,” Sonia says. “I love my job, and even though many challenges come my way, the training and support offered by the NFA keeps me on top.”

“Each day I wake thankful for making a difference in the children’s lives. Overcoming struggles takes time, but providing a safe, happy, loving home is key to a bright future.”

To learn more about becoming a foster carer contact the National Fostering Agency. T: 0800 044 3030; E: YDonnelly@nfa.co.uk; W: nfa.co.uk.



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We have a copy to give away!

Ts & Cs apply (see p46). Competition closes 5 May 2017.

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Raring2go! goes to Perthshire

Time for another road trip! This time Team Raring2go! headed for Perthshire ...

FOR a city with a population of only around 50,000, Perth certainly has a lot of names. Over the years it's been known as a Royal Burgh, 'The Gateway to the Highlands', 'The Fair City' and the 'Perfect Centre' – but we know it as a great base for a fun-filled family weekend!

Nestled on the banks of the River Tay, Perth itself is a beautiful, walkable city with loads to see and do. Looking for a bit of culture and local knowledge to start our visit with, we headed to the **Perth Museum and Art Gallery**. With everything from portraits to natural history, this beautiful building houses something for everyone.

“...a great base for a fun-filled family weekend!”

If galleries aren't your family's thing, or you've got army-mad boys – like we do – **Balhouse Castle**, home to the five-star **Black Watch Castle and Museum**, is also near the city centre. Make sure you leave enough time to explore the gardens and grounds after immersing yourself in the history of this glorious Highland regiment. There's a great gift shop and coffee bar too.

But it's not all culture and history in the Fair City. With pools and flumes, **Perth Leisure Centre** is a great rainy-day option. It's also next door to the **Dewars Centre**, home of Scottish curling and an Olympic standard ice rink. If you're planning your trip in advance, keep an eye on what's on at the **Perth Concert Hall** – a stunning, modern venue hosting music, theatre, dance and comedy all year round. We just missed a few good shows, but that'll teach us not to plan in advance!

Perth is also a great base for exploring further afield. Last time we were here, we headed for **Blair Atholl** – home of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl and Europe's only private army, the Atholl Highlanders –



just a 45-minute drive north on the A9, past Pitlochry. The house itself is amazing – our kids were fascinated by the narwhal tusks (sorry, unicorn horns) on the main staircase – but the recently restored eighteenth-century walled garden really took our breath away. Exploring nine acres of such a beautifully designed landscape left us hungry, so we diverted north on the way home for a pit stop at **House of Bruar**. With amazing food halls, country clothing and gifts, it's really a destination in itself. We will be back when Blair Atholl House and its lovely gardens open again in April!

Also just north of Perth are the historic **Stanley Mills**. It's hard to believe these imposing late eighteenth-century water-powered cotton mills on the Tay only closed in 1989! **Scone Palace** – the place where Scotland's kings were crowned for centuries – is also a must-see. Just north-east of Perth, the home of the Stone of Scone until the end of the 13th century – is well geared up for families, with an adventure playground, outdoor maze and 'I Spy' trail through the main rooms of the house. Not far from the Palace

is **Perth Racecourse**, famous for being the most northerly circuit in the UK. Their Family Race days – with racing for the adults and free 'Action Glen Extravaganza' activities for the kids – are a blast. The next one will be held on 16 July, so get your diary out now!

“...there's so much to do we will be back again!”

There's no shortage of places to stay in and around Perth, but Team Raring2go! stayed at **Crieff Hydro**, a few miles to the west of the City over

February half term. Our pony-mad girls enjoyed a short trek and the boys tried archery while we relaxed in the adults-only Victorian spa. The next day's adventures were duly planned from our sun loungers, but we came up with so many ideas for things to do, we also started planning our trip back!



Teeing off for a great lunch!

IT'S easy to arrive at a place like Trump International Golf Links with more than a few preconceived ideas. With no one from Team Raring2go! knowing the difference between a five-iron and an ironing board and three hungry kids, we swept along the drive – through the immaculate grounds, past the beautifully restored MacLeod House and then towards the dunes – wondering if this really was the place for us. It only took a few seconds after arriving at the door of the Brasserie to realise that this really was just the place for us.

All five members of our party were warmly greeted by the Brasserie's front of house staff. It's not necessary to be a member of the golf club to eat at the Clubhouse, but the welcome we were extended made us feel like we were.

We noticed straight away how comfortable all the staff were with the children, something quite rare in places that aren't explicitly 'family' restaurants. In fact, all through our visit our children – ages 11, 11 and 8 – were treated like mini adults (save for the offer of colouring pads and pencils!). Items

from the children's menu arrived on the same plates and with the same flourish and attention to detail as those for the adults. Fraser's melon starter wasn't just chopped honeydew in bowl. It was delicate slices of fresh fruit, served with a scoop of tangy cherry sorbet and precisely ten dots of passion fruit coulis – exactly the same number the boy at the table next to us had, he pointed out.

When we asked the waiter whether we should order the burger from the children's or the adults' menu for a post-rugby training Fraser, he assured us that the children's version would be plenty. He wasn't wrong! Other adult-menu items were cleverly adapted for children, too: Natasha's haggis balls were identical to Victoria's, but served with ketchup rather than whisky mayonnaise. In the end Lucy couldn't get past the

braised beef on the main menu, and her request for it to be served with different sides was no problem at all.

That drive at Trump International Golf Links to be inclusive and accommodate everyone means that even the littlest guests can enjoy a meal there too. "We're very

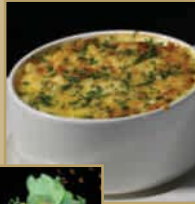
happy to provide high chairs and feed babies off-menu," Food and Beverage Manager Mhairi assured us. "If parents just want a few carrots, or mash, or chicken, it's not a problem. Likewise, we're happy to make up half portions of any of our meals if they prefer.

They're also very welcome to join us for our special baby brunches during the week, where we bring out toys and games for toddlers."

All five of us enjoyed our Saturday afternoon lunch at the Clubhouse very much. The atmosphere was sophisticated but in no way stuffy or exclusive – quite the opposite of what we expected. It was a perfect place for relaxed family dining, especially for those whose children enjoy being in a slightly more 'grown up' environment. We're very keen to return later in the season when we can make proper use of the sun terrace and head out onto the dunes for a post-lunch stroll. And who knows, we might even be tempted to learn how to play golf!

Children's menu £9.50 for three courses. Keep an eye on social media for seasonal family events and free golf tuition for children.

The Brasserie at Trump International Golf Links, Balmadie, AB23 8YE. W: trumpgolfscotland.com.





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All you have to do is tell us why you think your Dad deserves a treat this Father's Day

Text your answer and your name to 07711837800 by Friday 2nd June

The winner will be drawn on Monday 5th June

Porterhouse Restaurant and Coffee Bar Thainstone Centre, Inverurie, AB51 5XZ




CLAN Café Tempo Tempo

Time for you

IF you've visited the Lower Mall of Aberdeen's Bon Accord Centre recently, you might have stumbled across one of the latest additions.

Tempo is a new concept in today's café culture, offering both time and space to relax.

But that's not what makes Tempo different. Everything you'll

find inside Tempo is free to enjoy: the only cost is your time. At 10p a minute and with 100% of the proceeds going to CLAN Cancer Support, we think it's time and money well spent.

The café is equipped with a kitchen where you simply help yourself to refreshments and snacks, cereal and toast, heat up children's food or enjoy soup at lunch. There are plenty of phone/laptop/tablet charging points, Wi-Fi, comfortable chairs and tables, too. A dedicated children's area also makes Tempo a very

family friendly space.

Whether you're looking for a space to meet friends where your children can play, somewhere to work,

or just a place to have a few minutes of 'me time' with a book and a coffee, Tempo and its friendly staff will make you very welcome.



CLAN provides wellbeing and support services to anyone affected by cancer, free of charge, in the heart of communities throughout north-east Scotland, Moray, Orkney and Shetland. Their team of professionals also offers support to children, teenagers and their families.

Tempo, Bon Accord Centre, Aberdeen. Open 7 days a week, 9am–6pm Monday to Saturday, 9am–8pm on Thursdays, and 10am–5pm Sundays. For further information follow Tempo on Facebook and Twitter or visit clanhouse.org.



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Greetings from the Farm



RECIPE

CHEF TIM SPOONER FROM THE STORE AT FOVERAN'S STUFFED BURGERS

It's not that complicated; minced beef, a good bun, bacon and any topping you like!



FARM CHAT

I can't believe Spring has sprung already! It's my favourite season and I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

After a hectic Christmas, the first few months of the year have just flown by. January is usually New Product Development Month for us at The Store, which usually entails the butchery or the kitchen trying something new. That something new can either be an improvement on an existing recipe or an entirely new adventure with different products or flavours. The hardest part of all this is clearly the sampling – a laborious job that I reluctantly take on (as all those who know me will attest to!). This year, as well as Tim developing some new chef-prepared meals, we've improved our hotdog recipe and reduced our minimal salt content even further without affecting flavour.

On the farm itself we've got a couple of exciting new projects on the go. We'll be devoting a large part of our crop area to producing energy crops. The aim is ultimately to feed an anaerobic digester, which in turn will produce methane gas for the national grid. In theory, some of the gas you'll be using in your homes may well be coming from our fields soon. We're also embarking on a new gluten-free project, but I'll tell you more about that in the summer issue.

Back at The Store, the Farmer's Grill will be firing up again on Easter Weekend, with some new additions to the menu. Keep an eye on our social media for details of what we've got cooking, as well as our plans for Open Farm Sunday (11 June)!

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Visit raring2go.co.uk or The Store's Facebook page for the recipe!

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Open Farm Sunday



LEAF Open Farm Sunday is the farming industry's national open day. It's a fantastic opportunity for everyone, young and old, to discover first hand what it means to be a farmer and to see for themselves the great work they do producing our food.

Open Farm Sunday is also one of the industry's biggest success stories. Since the initiative began in 2006, over 1.8 million people have visited farms hosted by 1,500 host farmers. Last year alone nearly 400 farms across the country – from Kent to Orkney – threw open their gates to the public.

This year's Open Farm Sunday will be held on 11 June. A full list of local farms taking part will be available on their website closer to the date.

Running alongside Open Farm Sunday are the LEAF Open Farm School Days – a nationwide initiative to get schoolchildren out onto farms.

Throughout the whole month of June, many local farms will be opening their gates and hosting educational visits for children to learn about how their food is grown and where it comes from. Schoolchildren will also have the chance to meet the farmers themselves.

If you'd like to arrange a visit for your school, drop LEAF a line on the email address below! Thanks to support from their sponsors, there's no charge to take part in either Open Farm School Days and or enjoy an Open Farm Sunday visit – so get down on the farm this June!

Open Farm Sunday. W: farmsunday.org;
E: openfarmsunday@leafuk.org.



© LEAF 2006-2017 Open Farm Sunday is run by LEAF, a registered charity (no. 1045781)

Mother's Day around the World



OF all the dates not to forget, Mother's Day has to be top of the list. But it's not easy! Mother's Day is celebrated on different days and in different ways around the world.

In the UK, 'Mothering Sunday' is always the fourth Sunday in Lent. As the date of Easter changes every year, the date of Mothering Sunday does too. According to the Gregorian calendar, which the UK follows, Easter is always the Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring – which places Mothering Sunday three weeks before Easter. That means Mum's special day can fall anywhere from early March to early April.

Things are simpler Stateside. In 1914, the US Congress



and President Roosevelt issued a proclamation declaring Mother's Day to be the second Sunday in May. This calculation of the date of Mother's Day has become widely adopted around the world, even in other Commonwealth countries like Canada, New Zealand and Australia – possibly because it's easier to remember! Celebrations vary throughout Europe, however, but many countries have adopted the American date. France and Norway are notable

exceptions, with the former celebrating their *mamans* on the last Sunday in May (or first Sunday in June) and the latter their *mors* on the second Sunday in February. But no matter when your own tradition's Mother's Day falls, some things remain the same: it's best never to forget it!

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Vantastic adventures with Deeside Classic Campers



ALL business owners tell potential customers how wonderful their products are – but we'd never met one who warns people setting off on holiday that they might just come back with faces sore from smiling all the time before!

"I'd always dreamt that I'd run my own business one day," Claire Page, the driving force behind Finzean-based Deeside Classic Campers and mother of two girls, tells Raring2go! And one night in March 2014, over wine with her husband Martin, her 'light bulb moment' came.

She remembers that evening's conversation well. "As we're an outdoor and energetic family with interests in motorsport, camping and classic cars, I thought to

myself, 'why not combine all of these interests with my own passion for VWs?'

And with that, Deeside Classic Campers Ltd – a thriving business renting out fabulous vehicles for holidays, weddings, festivals and special events – was born.

Not one to hang around, Claire launched her business a few weeks later at the Scotland Great Outdoor Exhibition at the AECG with their first camper, 'Hamish VW'. Successful marketing quickly produced the demand and bookings, and a second camper was commissioned soon after. 'Fergus VW' joined the family in June 2014, and three more purchases since then have brought the fleet to five.

That fleet – two 1960s split-screen wedding buses, two 1970s classic Volkswagen Campervans and one brand new modern T6 campervan – is now managed by Claire's husband Martin, who retired from the Police in October 2016. It's his responsibility to clean and service the campers throughout the year – and make sure every single camper is presented in 'show condition' to every single client.

Such attention to detail and the desire to create a brand which customers recognise and trust is a founding principle of Claire's business. After having hired classic VWs herself in the past, she knew she could provide the high-end products and customer service that she felt were lacking in the marketplace.

"My campers have been subtly modernised with the likes of power steering, much improved brakes and engines," Claire explains. "They're probably the best you can hire in the UK."

It's clear that Claire's passion for VWs led her into this business, but her drive to deliver extraordinary customer service is what's taking it forward. "From that initial customer contact via e-mail or phone, to greeting them when they come to collect their campers for their road trip, or chatting to brides and grooms at wedding exhibitions, I just love interacting with my customers," she says. "I also warn them that they *will* relax on their holidays, they'll do a lot of laughing and waving – and their faces will ache from smiling all the time."

Passionate about being part of creating lasting memories for her customers, nothing is too much trouble for Claire. She regularly suggests routes and campsites for her clients' VW adventures, and goes out of her way to help brides and grooms personalise their special days. In this business, Claire says, "it's all about making dreams come true."

To make her clients' holidays or honeymoons as stress-free as possible, Deeside Classic Campers

offers a collection service from the airport or train stations. They can also provide an astounding selection of 'essential optional extras' for the journey. Who doesn't need a luxury hamper full of local delicacies from Finzean Estate Farm Shop, a luxury down duvet and mountain bikes?

In fact, Claire can provide so many high-quality camping items that holidaymakers can just arrive with their clothes and personal items and leave her to supply the rest. "I believe I've set a new standard

for my vehicles and customer service, and the feedback we receive from customers backs this up," Claire says proudly. "It's essential that you love what you do in business. That's the key to making your business a success and is reflected in the quality of the service you provide."

Claire's vision for the future is to grow the business and develop premises with a reception area for customers to collect their campers, a shop to sell VW merchandise, a service area for her own campers, and space to be able to give others' classic VW campervans a "health check".

With nearly three years of running her own

business behind her, Claire says she's learnt many lessons. "You need to have a passion for your business, the determination to succeed and to have that balance between work and home life. It's important to make time to be a wife and mother, as well as an entrepreneur!"

"it's all about making dreams come true."



Deeside Classic Campers is ideally located on the edge of the Cairngorm National Park in Finzean, in the heart of Royal Deeside. This makes it a fantastic starting point for any camper adventure! T: 01330 850555; E: office@deesideclassiccampers.com; W: deesideclassiccampers.com.

EVENTS

MARCH

1 Before There Were Books: Airyhall Library, Aberdeen. 4.30pm. Ages 8–12. *W:* aberdeencity.gov.uk/LibraryEvents. FREE, but booking essential!

3, 4 Madagascar – A Musical Adventure: ACT Aberdeen. *W:* boxofficeaberdeen.com.

4 Aberdeen FC v. Partick Thistle: Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen. 3pm. *W:* afc.co.uk.

4 Aberdeen Boat Race: River Dee, South Esplanade West, Aberdeen. Races from 4.05pm. *FB:* [facebook.com/aamboatrace](https://www.facebook.com/aamboatrace). FREE!

6 Tiddlers' Fun Time – Sharks: Macduff Marine Aquarium. 11am–2pm. *W:* macduff-aquarium.org.uk.

7 Nature Nippers – Fight of the Seasons: Crathes Castle. 11am–12noon. *T:* 01330 844810; *E:* crathes@nts.org.uk; *W:* nts.org.uk. Booking essential.

10 Aberdeen University Glee Club Spring Concert: ACT Aberdeen. 7.30pm. *W:* boxofficeaberdeen.com.

10 British Science Week: Accelerate! RGU Garthdee. 6–7pm. Age 11+. *W:* physics.ox.ac.uk/accelerate@accelerate_show. FREE!

10–12 The Wee Wish Art Trail & Auction: various locations around Aberdeen. Maps are available from Facebook page (RGU in Support of Make-A-Wish). *E:* makeawish.rguevents@yahoo.com; *W:* eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-wee-wish-art-trail-auction-tickets-32126657698. FREE!

10–19 British Science Week 2017. *W:* abdn.ac.uk/engage/bsw.

11 Aberdeen FC v. Motherwell: Pittodrie Stadium. 3pm. *W:* afc.co.uk.

11 Spring Fayre: Danestone Congregational Church. 10am–12noon. *E:* revamrobertson@gmail.com.

12 Affa Fine Artisan Afternoon: Lochter Activity Centre, Oldmeldrum. 12noon–4pm. *W:* www.facebook.com/rgu4archie.

13 Tiddlers' Fun Time – Counting in the Sea: Macduff Marine Aquarium. 11am–2pm. *W:* macduff-aquarium.org.uk.

14–18 Aberdeen Gang Show Unwrapped: ACT Aberdeen. Various times. *W:* boxofficeaberdeen.com.

15–19 Aberdeen Jazz Festival: *W:* aberdeenjazzfestival.com.

16–19 Buggy Malone by Haddo Children's Theatre: Haddo House. *W:* nts.org.uk.

17 St Patrick's Day

18 Family Fun Day – Exhibition Explorers: Woodend Barn, Banchory. 2pm. *W:* woodendbarn.co.uk. FREE drop-in session!

18 The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra: Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen. 7.30pm. *W:* boxofficeaberdeen.com.

18 Aberdeen FC v. Hearts: Pittodrie Stadium. 12.15pm. *W:* afc.co.uk.

18 British Science Week Discovery Day: Aberdeen Science Centre. 10am–4pm. *W:* aberdeensciencecentre.org.

18 Wrestlezone Regal Rumble: *T:* 07855 121777 *W:* wrestlezonescotland.co.uk.

19 Mother's Day Country Fair: Aden Country Park, Mintlaw. 11am–3.30pm. *W:* adencountrypark.org.uk. FREE!

19 Seedy Sunday – Seed Food & Drink Festival: Aden Country Park, Mintlaw. 11am–3.30pm. *W:* adencountrypark.org.uk.

19 MACBI Fun Run: Aden Country Park, Mintlaw. 12noon. *W:* adencountrypark.org.uk.

20 Tiddlers' Fun Time – Pirates! Macduff Marine Aquarium. 11am–2pm. *W:* macduff-aquarium.org.uk.

25 Earth Hour: Delgaty Woods, Turriff. 7.30–9.30pm. *T:* 01358 726417; *E:* formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

25 Bennachie Cycle: Bennachie Visitor Centre. 10am–1pm. *T:* 07786 021781; *E:* bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; *garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. Booking essential!*

25 Little Scientist Days – Weather: Aberdeen Science Centre. *W:* aberdeensciencecentre.org.

25 Mother's Day Craft Session: Portlethen Library. 10.30–11.15am. Ages 4–12. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult. *T:* 01224 786190; *E:* portlethen.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. FREE, but booking essential!

26 Mother's Day

26 British Summer Time Starts

26 Mothering Sunday Event: Royal Deeside Railway. *W:* deesiderailway.co.uk.

26 Head in the Clouds: New Pitsligo Public/Village Hall. 2pm. Ages 0–5. *W:* neatshows.co.uk.

29 March–1 April Pirates of Penzance: The Tivoli Theatre. *W:* boxofficeaberdeen.com.

31 Garden Tot's Spring Special: Woodend Barn, Banchory. 10am. *W:* woodendbarn.co.uk. Booking essential.

APRIL

1 April Fool's Day

1 April – 28 May Lasers Roadshow: Aberdeen Science Centre. *W:* aberdeensciencecentre.org.

1 Aberdeen University Dance Society Annual Showcase: ACT Aberdeen. *W:* boxofficeaberdeen.com.

2 Green Suitcase Jazz Band: Aden Country Park, Mintlaw. 6–8pm. *T:* 01771 624268; *E:* thefriendsofaden@gmail.com; *W:* adencountrypark.org.uk.

3 Puppet Animation Festival – Moonbeam on a Cat's

Ear: The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen. 2pm. T: 01224 641122; W: boxofficeaberdeen.

4 The Tin Forrest: MacRobert Memorial Hall, Tarland. 2pm. Ages 3+. Tickets on the door or from the Spar, Tarland. T: 07825 813929.

4 Aberdeen FC v. Inverness Caldeonian Thistle:

Pittodrie Stadium. 7.45pm. W: afc.co.uk.

4 Nature Nippers – Budding Explorers: Crathes Castle. 11am–12noon. T: 01330 844810; E: crathes@nts.org.uk; W: nts.org.uk. Booking essential.

5, 6 Room on the Broom: His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen. W: boxofficeaberdeen.

5 Bushcraft Skills for Young People: Haddo House & Country Park. 10.30am–12noon & 12.30–2pm. Ages 7+ with adult. T: 01651 851041; E: haddo@visithaddo.com; W: visithaddo.com. Booking essential.

5 Harlem Globetrotters: AECC. 6.30pm. W: boxofficeaberdeen.

6 Puppet Animation Festival – The Tin Forest:

The Lemon Tree. 2pm. W: boxofficeaberdeen.

8 Puppet Animation Festival – Jack and the Beans Talk:

The Lemon Tree. 2pm. T: 01224 641122; W: boxofficeaberdeen.

8 Wrestlezone Live in Fraserburgh: T: 07855 121777

W: wrestlezonescotland.co.uk.

9 Palm Sunday

9 Aberdeen FC v. Rangers: Pittodrie Stadium. 12.30pm. W: afc.co.uk.

11 Willie the Wicked Wolf: Bettridge Centre, Newtonhill. 2pm. Ages 5+. T: 01569 731320; W: neatshows.co.uk.

12 Puppet Animation Festival – Dinosaur Detectives:

The Lemon Tree. 2pm. W: boxofficeaberdeen.

14-17 Easter events: see P11.

14 Fun with Fossils Day: Aberdeen Science Centre. 10am–5pm. W: aberdeensciencecentre.org. Drop in!

14 Good Friday

16 Open Day: Mar Lodge Estate. 10am–4pm. T: 01339 720164; W: nts.org.uk.

16 Easter Sunday**17 Easter Monday**

21 How Many Left? Grampian Transport Museum, Alford. 12noon–4pm. W: gtm.org.uk.

22 Funbox Present Highland Fling: Portlethen Academy Theatre. 1pm & 3.30pm. W: boxofficeaberdeen.

22 Wrestlezone Live in Westhill: T: 07855 121777 W: wrestlezonescotland.co.uk.

23 Justin's Party: His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen. 11.30am & 2.30pm. W: boxofficeaberdeen.

29 Little Scientist Days – Senses: Aberdeen Science Centre. W: aberdeensciencecentre.org.

MAY**1 Early May Bank Holiday**

2 Nature Nippers – Magic Mammals: Crathes Castle. 11am–12noon. T: 01330 844810; E: crathes@nts.org.uk; W: nts.org.uk. Booking essential!

2 Nature Nippers – Sow the Seeds! Mar Lodge Estate, Braemar. 10–11am. T: 01339 720164; W: nts.org.uk. Booking essential!

3–6 Junior Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre

Seussical: The Tivoli Theatre. T: 01224 641122; W: boxofficeaberdeen.

4–27 Annie: ACT Aberdeen. W: boxofficeaberdeen.

6 Wild Adventures – Family Workshop: Woodend Barn, Banchory. 11.30am. W: woodendbarn.co.uk. FREE!

6 Fantastic Mr Fox (PG): Woodend Barn, Banchory. 1.30pm. W: woodendbarn.com.

6 Hit the Road: Haddo House, Methlick. 11am–4pm. W: nts.org.uk.

13 Super Saturday 'Best of Buchan': Saltoun Square, Fraserburgh. 10am–3.30pm.

13 Wrestlezone Live in Stonehaven: T: 07855 121777 W: wrestlezonescotland.co.uk.

18 Bookbug's Big Giggle: Alford Community Campus Library. 9.30am. T: 019755 63333; E: alford.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. FREE but booking essential!

20 Wrestlezone Live from Granite City ComicCon:

T: 07855 121777 W: wrestlezonescotland.co.uk.

20, 21 Little Scientist Days – People Who Help Us:

Aberdeen Science Centre. W: aberdeensciencecentre.org.

20, 21 Gordon Castle Country Fair and Highland Games:

Gordon Castle. W: gordoncastle.co.uk.

21 VSA Sing, Sing, Sing: ACT Aberdeen. 7pm.

W: boxofficeaberdeen.

26 Bucksburn & District Pipe Band: Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen. 7.30pm. T: 01224 641122; W: boxofficeaberdeen.

27 Wrestlezone Live from Union Square:

T: 07855 121777 W: wrestlezonescotland.co.uk.

27 Start of Ramadan

27, 28 Bush Craft Taster Weekend: Mar Lodge Estate, Braemar. Overnight 4pm–4pm. Ages 5+. T: 01339 720164; W: nts.org.uk. Booking essential!

27 Coastal Fringe Festival: Various Venues in Banff & Macduff.

28 Survival - the concert: Ballroom, Beach Promenade. T: 07886 039021 W: milleniumchildww.com.

29 Spring Bank Holiday

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Winter 2016 Competition winners

Macduff Marine Aquarium Diving Santa

Hayley Keane, Rhynie
Nicola Smith, Aberdeen

Porterhouse Steakhouse Valentine's Day Dinner

Dana Liston, Huntly



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Competition Rules

1. Entry to the competitions is restricted to one entry per person please.
2. Multiple entries will be disqualified.
3. Automated entries, bulk entries or third party entries will be disqualified.
4. Competitions are open to UK residents only.
5. Employees, contractors, staff and their families of the supplier of a prize are not eligible to enter that specific competition.
6. Prizes can only be sent to a valid UK address.
7. Winners will be the first correct entry chosen at random from all valid entries.
8. Winners will be contacted via email and their names published in a subsequent issue of the magazine.
9. The Judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered in to.
10. The competition will run until the closing date stated in each individual competition.
11. There is no cash alternative to the prize/s available.
12. Raring2go! Magazine is compliant with the data protection act. Personal details will be used for the purposes of notifying outcomes of the prize draw.
13. Our policy is that we will not pass on your details to any third party without your prior consent apart from the provider/s of the prize who may contact you in the future, nor will it be shared with any third party.




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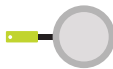
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Match up these little things with the room they belong to

How to play: Draw a line to connect the items below to the room where you would find them

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