



## **BURNETT GATHERING 2023**

### **Crathes**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August

### **Highlands and Edinburgh Tour**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August

The 2023 Burnett Gathering includes events and activities to appeal to Burnetts of all ages. Along with some popular activities, there will be some new events for those who have been to previous Gatherings.



For the first week, the Gathering will be predominantly centred around Crathes Castle with day trips to other areas of North-East Scotland. The second week will consist of a tour of the Highlands to finish in Edinburgh.

There will be charges for certain separate events. There will also be a single package charge to include many events and activities. Items marked (N) in the details will not be included in the package charge.

There will also be the option to attend certain individual events.

Visitors will need to make their own accommodation arrangements for the first week, but assistance can be provided if required.

Contact details of recommended accommodation in the Crathes area are below in notes.

## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July**

Coach transfer from Glasgow and Edinburgh Airport (N)

### **WEEK ONE**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **DAY ONE**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

**Northern Tour (N)**

Guided Tour to Ballindalloch Castle &  
Speyside Cooperage

#### **Evening**

Welcome Event & Family History Evening with supper

#### **DAY TWO**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

**Southern Tour (N)**

Scone Palace and St Andrews

#### **Evening**

Evening event with supper  
Family Genealogy and History

#### **DAY THREE**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

Guided Tour and Young Persons Tour of Crathes Castle  
Visit to the Crannog on the Loch of Leys  
Lunch with the Burnett Family  
Visit to Kemnay House (N)  
Battlegrounds Adventure Activity (N)  
Scottish Country Dance Workshop (N)

#### **Evening**

Evening supper and concert with  
The Banchory Strathspey and Reel Society

#### **DAY FOUR**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

Guided walk up Scolty Hill overlooking Banchory  
Journey on the Deeside Railway  
Guided Tour of Crathes Gardens  
Visit to Muchalls Castle (N)  
Croquet on the Lawn at Crathes Castle  
Leys Estate Tour  
Scottish Country Dance Workshop (N)  
Guided Archaeological Tour in the grounds of Crathes Castle

#### **Evening**

Inter-clan Croquet Match  
Ghost Tour of Crathes Castle

## **DAY FIVE**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**Choice of Local Guided Tours**

### **Tour 1: Royal Deeside**

Royal Lochnagar Distillery, Ballater  
Braemar Highland Games Centre

### **Tour 2: Southern Tour**

Dunnottar Castle  
Stonehaven  
Glamis Castle

### **Tour 3: Historical Aberdeen**

All visits optional and may include  
Old Aberdeen  
Aberdeen Art Gallery  
Tolbooth Museum  
Kirk of St Nicholas  
Provost Skene's House  
Aberdeen Maritime Museum

### **Evening**

Grand Traditional Ceilidh & Supper

## **DAY SIX**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

Aboyne Highland Games \*  
Lunch at the Burnett Tent at Aboyne Highland Games

### **Evening**

Farewell Barbecue

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August**

Coach transfers to Glasgow and Edinburgh Airports (N)

### **Everyday Activities**

Access to Crathes Castle, Gardens & Grounds  
Golf at Inchmarlo Golf Centre (N)  
Salmon Fishing on the River Dee (N)  
Evening Hunting with the Leys Estate Gamekeeper (N)

***(N) Events & Activities not included in package charges***

***\* Entry to the Aboyne Games field not included in package charges.***

The route and timings of trips may change for operational reasons outwith our control.

Any additions or necessary changes will be posted on the website.  
They will be available on [www.burnett.uk.com](http://www.burnett.uk.com) or can be forwarded as requested.

## **WEEK TWO**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

See separate paper for further details.

## PROGRAMME DETAIL

### Day 1

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July

Northern Tour (N)

Our Guide for Monday and Tuesday will be Elma McMenemy, a Blue Badge Scottish Tourist Guide for 30 years. She has a great interest in genealogy, has qualified in Ancestral Tourism and has guided very many visitors seeking their roots and wanting to follow in their ancestors' footsteps. She aims not only to interpret the countryside, towns and villages we pass through but also bring alive the history of the area and Scotland and to entertain with appropriate anecdotes.

#### **Guided tour to include Ballindalloch Castle & Speyside Cooperage (N)**

Today you will travel through rolling Aberdeenshire farmland, the beautiful and legendary valley of the River Spey, part of the Cairngorms National Park, and one of the Park's 'snow roads' through the Eastern Cairngorm mountains. Although we don't anticipate any snow in August!

[Ballindalloch Castle](#) is the home to the Macpherson-Grant family since 1546 and is still their family home today. This gives it a very special 'lived-in' atmosphere. Among the antiques and family heirlooms are Scotland's largest collection of fine Spanish paintings, lovely china and many silver trophies won by the Ballindalloch Aberdeen Angus herd, the oldest in existence. There will be time to tour the castle, time for a light lunch and walk in the beautiful gardens.



[Speyside Cooperage](#): Enjoy a journey through the lifecycle of the cask, see the highly skilled coopers at work, try it for yourself with the mini casks or simply relax and enjoy the exhibition and knowledgeable guides.

#### **Evening**

#### **Gathering Welcome & Family History Evening with supper in Banchory**

An evening of Burnett history, heraldry and much more.

Charles Burnett, Gordon Casely and others

**Day 2**  
**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August**  
**Southern Tour (N)**  
**Scone Palace and St Andrews**



We expect this tour to depart at 0800/8am and return at approximately 1800/6pm  
Visiting;

[Scone Palace](#), where the Moot Hill was the site of mediaeval parliaments and the coronations of Scottish Kings. There will be time to tour Scone Palace and enjoy the Gardens.

[St Andrews](#), the Home of Golf, is also a historic town with an ancient, ruined Cathedral and Castle as well as Scotland's first university founded in 1513. Here you will have a short tour by coach with your guide, then free time to find your own lunch (with information from your tour guide), explore the university precincts and perhaps visit the Castle and Cathedral or the R&A World Golf Museum close to the famous Royal and Ancient Course.

This partly circular route passes close to the Queen Mother's childhood home of Glamis Castle and then through the Vale of Strathmore to Scone. Afterwards, it skirts Perth and passes through Dundee before crossing the River Tay and continuing to St Andrews. Return is also via the Tay Bridge, Dundee and back to Banchory.

*Entrance to Scone Palace will be included in the charge for the tour.  
Lunch and entry to St Andrews Castle venues will not be included.*

**Evening**  
Evening event with supper.  
Genealogical and DNA discussion led by our Genealogists,  
Terry Barwin and Lawrence Pearse.



## Day 3 Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

### Guided Tours of [Crathes Castle](#)

These will include a special tour for younger members of the Gathering.

### Visit to the Crannog on the Loch of Leys

An essential visit to the Loch of Leys to view the Crannog, the manmade island on which the Burnetts lived in the 14<sup>th</sup> century before they built Crathes Castle.



### Lunch with the Burnett Family





### [Kemnay House](#) (N)

Visit the home of the Burnetts of Kemnay where we will be welcomed by the resident family member, Alexandra Burnett of Kemnay



### [Battlegrounds Adventure Activities](#) (N)

Paintball battles with unlimited paintballs and marshal supervision at all times. Minimum 6 players. We will play games all afternoon. Guests can decide to either keep on playing paintball or try other activities including Archery, Laser Tag, Axe and Knife Throwing.

 <p><b>LASER TAG</b></p> <p>Perfect for Players who are concerned about Paintball and for younger guests. Laser Tag from 6 year old. We can run game with 4 players and accommodate up to 26 players at one time.</p> <p>We will keep on playing Laser Tag all afternoon, players can join for as many games they would like to.</p> <p>Below you can find link to our promo video for Laser Tag at Battle Grounds</p> <p><a href="#">Laser Tag PROMO video</a></p>	 <p><b>PAINTBALL GAMES</b></p> <p>Paintball Games last 15 to 20 minutes, after the games group will come back to safe zone for break and reload their ammunition. To play Paintball Player has to be 12 years old and above. We can accommodate up to 60 players at one time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Paintball Mask</li><li>✓ Camo Overalls</li><li>✓ Unlimited Paintballs</li><li>✓ Game zones (<a href="#">link to gallery</a>)</li><li>✓ Minimum 6 players to run Paintball Game</li></ul>	 <p><b>ARCHERY</b></p> <p>Guests can join the session any time during all afternoon. From 6 year old. 2 to 12 participants per session. Session last 30-45 mins</p> <p>Below link to Archery at Battle Grounds <a href="#">Archery PROMO video</a></p> <p><b>AXE AND KNIFE THROWING</b></p> <p>Guests who would like to do Axe and Knife Throwing experience have to be 16 years old and above. Axe and Knife Throwing will be offered all afternoon, we will rotate guests depends on interest in the Activity.</p> 
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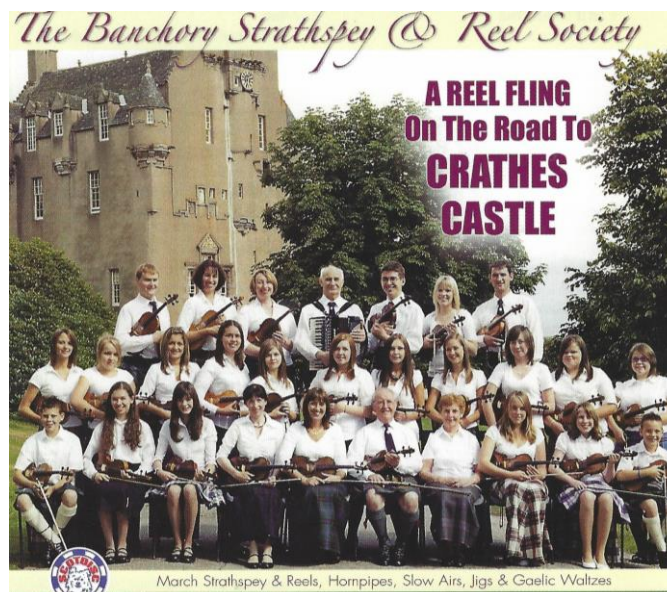
### Scottish Country Dance Workshops (N)

Isobel McMillan will provide tuition for some well-known ceilidh and country dance routines which you will then be able to put into practice during the grand ceilidh on Friday evening.



### Evening

Evening supper concert with the Banchory Strathspey and Reel Society with accompanying artists.



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### Day 4 Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

#### Guided walk up Scolty Hill

Scolty Hill is a small hill with a magnificent view overlooking Banchory. The special feature is the tower which was built in 1840 as a memorial to General William Burnett.



### **Journey on the [Deeside Railway](#)**

The Royal Deeside Railway is a standard gauge steam and diesel hauled heritage railway, in a beautiful setting running alongside the River Dee and is of historical significance. The return journey lasts about 20 minutes. At the Milton of Crathes, there is a railway carriage tearoom and a shop with ice cream in addition to the Milton Art Gallery, restaurant and shops.

### **Crathes Gardens Tour led by the Crathes Head Gardener.**

#### **Guided visit to Muchalls Castle (N)**

Muchalls Castle is an important tower house which was built in 1627 by Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys. The current owners, Michael and Janet Hogan are kindly allowing us to visit this most interesting historical property with its magnificent plaster ceilings.



#### **Croquet on the lawn at Crathes Castle and annual Inter-clan Match**

The famous Crathes Castle Croquet Lawn will be available during the day with guidance and tuition from the Aberdeen & Crathes Croquet Club and maybe with assistance from Bob Burnett, former Scottish champion. A team will be selected for the annual Inter-clan match in the evening. Refreshments will be provided for players and spectators.

#### **Leys Estate Tour**

There are a number of projects and historical sites on the Leys Estate which may be of interest to visitors. A list of these will be made available on arrival and interest established

#### **Scottish Country Dance Workshops (N)**

As for Wednesday. Tuition for some well-known ceilidh and country dance routines.

#### **Crathes Archaeological Tour led by a National Trust archaeologist.**

#### **Evening Inter Clan Croquet Match**

#### **Guided Ghostly Tour of Crathes Castle.**

Young and old will thoroughly enjoy this chance to explore the castle and hear of the ghostly activities of the past.

Crathes Castle café (licenced) will be open in the evening.



**Day 5**  
**Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> August**  
**Choice of Three Guided Local Tours**

**Tour 1: Royal Deeside**

**Royal Lochnagar Distillery & Braemar Highland Games Centre**

The tour includes part of the Cairngorms National Park and is designed to explore Royal Deeside as well as the very different countryside of the watershed between the Dee and Don valleys.



[Royal Lochnagar Distillery](#) was granted the Royal title by Queen Victoria. The distillery is a close neighbour to Balmoral Castle, which is closed to visitors in August as Queen Elizabeth takes her Balmoral holiday at this time.

[Braemar Highland Games Centre](#) will allow you to explore the background to Highland Games ahead of attending the Aboyne Highland Games on Saturday. Braemar is the location of what is believed to be the world's earliest games, in the 1000s, organised by King Malcolm Canmore.

You will then enjoy free time in Braemar and Ballater to choose your own lunch venue independently, for shopping and to visit the Old Royal Station in Ballater.

**Tour 2: Southern Tour**

**Dunnottar Castle, Stonehaven and Glamis Castle**

The tour travels across the Grampian mountains and includes both the coast and inland countryside of the Mearns and Angus areas.



[Dunnottar Castle](#) is a ruined medieval fortress located upon a rocky headland near Stonehaven. The surviving buildings are largely of the 15th and 16th centuries, but the site is believed to have been fortified in the Early Middle Ages. Dunnottar has played a prominent role in the history of Scotland through to the 18th-century Jacobite risings because of its strategic location and defensive strength. Owned for centuries by the Keith Earls Marischal. Dunnottar was also held briefly by the Burnetts. The visit is an unforgettable experience in a truly stunning setting. Visiting Dunnottar Castle requires a degree of fitness, however, it can be viewed easily from the clifftop viewpoint.

[Stonehaven](#) is an attractive town on the coast of the North Sea. We will pass through the town on the way to Dunnottar Castle and, after the castle visit, you will have free time to find your own lunch here and perhaps visit one of the town's attractions. Your guide will point out where these and various lunch options. These will be in the town centre, where there are cafes and pubs as well as mini markets and local shops for takeaway sandwiches or traditional fish and chips. A short, attractive walk along the seafront takes you to Stonehaven's picturesque harbour, with pubs and other food outlets as well as the Tolbooth Museum, housed in the town's oldest building, dating from 1600.



[Glamis Castle](#) is the home of the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, and has been the home of the Lyon family since the 14th century, though the present building dates largely from the 17th century. Glamis was the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, wife of George VI.

### **Tour 3: Historical Aberdeen**

The tour will include the lovely granite buildings of Aberdeen's West End, Old Aberdeen with the medieval St Machar's Cathedral and university King's College Chapel, the beach and harbour areas and the city centre, where the coach tour will terminate in the city centre at the newly refurbished and extended Aberdeen Art Gallery. A guided tour will be planned of the Gallery, which reopened in November 2019 following extensive remodelling to allow up-to-date displays of paintings, sculpture, silverware, glass, craft and artworks both historical and modern. Following the Gallery visit, you will have free time to enjoy some shopping or lunch in a wide range of pubs, cafés and restaurants. During your coach tour, your guide will have highlighted a number of optional visits which you may choose to return to during your free time. Most are within easy walking distance of the Gallery and include:

**The Kirk of St Nicholas**, Aberdeen's 'mither kirk' or mother church, parts of which date back to at least the 1100s and it has a strong Burnett association.

The Seabury Memorial Plaque in Marischal College and, possibly, the Seabury Memorial in St Andrews Cathedral - both of special interest to American Episcopalians.

### **Aberdeen Maritime Museum, Tolbooth Museum. Provost Skene's House**

The tour will include the lovely granite buildings of Aberdeen's West End, Old Aberdeen with the medieval St Machar's Cathedral and university King's College Chapel, the beach and harbour areas and the city centre, where the coach tour will terminate in the city centre at the newly refurbished and extended Aberdeen Art Gallery. A guided tour will be planned of the Gallery, which reopened in November 2019 following extensive remodelling to allow up-to-date displays of paintings, sculpture, silverware, glass, craft and artworks both historical and modern. Following the Gallery visit, you will have free time to enjoy some shopping or lunch in a wide range of pubs, cafés and restaurants. During your coach tour, your guide will have highlighted a number of optional visits which you may choose to return to during your free time. Most are within easy walking distance of the Gallery.



#### **Evening**

#### **Traditional Ceilidh & Supper at Woodend Barn, Crathes**

Highland Dancing, Piping, Singing, fiddle and Accordion music and Scottish Country.  
Dancing for all with traditional ceilidh fun.

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#### **Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> August**

[Aboyne Highland Games](#) & lunch at the Burnett tent



#### **Evening**

**Farewell Barbecue**



## Everyday Activities

### **Access to Crathes Castle, Gardens and Grounds.**

Visitors have access to Crathes Castle, Gardens and Grounds at all opening times.



### **Salmon Fishing on the Dee (N)**

Monday to Friday, Salmon Fishing will be available on the River Dee. Ghillies will be on-hand to give expert guidance as is required. All fishing equipment and transport between Crathes Castle and the river can be provided. Those who are interested, please contact for further detail and availability.



### **Evening Hunting with the Gamekeeper (N)**

Subject to availability, hunting parties of up to three persons will join Gamekeeper, Craig Henshaw. Roe Deer will be viewed and, if suitable, maybe shot from a tree platform. Evening hunting usually includes rabbiting with a lamp. Lamping can also include calling foxes which are regarded as vermin. Badgers may also be seen at night but are protected. Viewing expectancy is high but cannot be guaranteed.



### **[Golf at Inchmarlo Golf Centre](#) (N)**

Throughout the week, Inchmarlo Golf Centre's 9-hole course, driving range and facilities, including clubs and trolleys, will be available at special rates. Coaching is also available by prior arrangement. If there is interest, a Burnett competition could be arranged.





## WEEK TWO

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August

Highlands & Edinburgh Tour

Drive through Cairngorms National Park before visiting Fort George & Culloden Battlefield with accommodation in Inverness.



Loch Ness Beauty Priory and Glen Ord Distillery.



Eilean Donan Castle, The Isle of Skye and Armadale Castle. Back to the mainland by ferry to Mallaig to catch Jacobite Steam Train to Fort William.



The Trossachs National Park, Stirling Castle, Falkirk Wheel and The Kelpies, staying in Edinburgh area for three nights.





**Historic Edinburgh and the Edinburgh Tattoo**



**The Palace of Holyrood and a visit to the Scottish Parliament.  
Scone Palace and St Andrews from Edinburgh.**

**For further tour details, see separate sheet.**

Reservation for the Edinburgh & Highlands Tour will be with the Reservation Sheet as an addition to the first week programme. After the tour has been confirmed, all communication will be with the tour operator, Abbey Group.

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> August Day Tour - it will be noticed that the visits for Scone Palace and St Andrews will have already been enjoyed by those who will have been on the day tour for Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August. For those who will have been on the 1<sup>st</sup> August day tour, there is in St Andrews much which it will not be possible to see on that day and Abbey will be aware of this.

## Notes

1. **Transport** will be from **Glasgow and Edinburgh Airports** on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July** and returning to **Glasgow and Edinburgh Airports** on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August** for those not taking part in week two (N). Taxis are available for transport to and from Aberdeen. (N)
2. Full details, passes, maps and other information will be provided on arrival. Assistance will be widely available during the programme.
3. **Tours**  
It is not practical for those who have their own vehicles, to accompany guided tours. However, assistance can be given to those who wish to make their own tours of the area independently.
4. **Charges**
  - a. There will be a single package charge for many events and activities. Items marked (N) in the details above will not be included in the package charge. All events can be enjoyed without incurring the package charge and individual event charges will be shown on the reservation form. Payments made by Bank Transfer will receive a discount of 2.5%.
  - b. Other than where indicated in the detailed programme, the package charges include local transport between Banchory, Inchmarlo, and Crathes, charges for all events and activities, meals where indicated, tipping and guides.
  - c. There will be reduced package charge for those aged 10-16 inclusive. There will be no package charge for those under 10 years old. There may be charge reduction or exemption for certain non-package events and activities. The package charges will not include accommodation.
  - d. Meals will be included only where indicated. Cafés/Restaurants will always be available for normal meal times.

### Package Cost (Week One)

Adult	£465
Aged 10–16 inclusive	£350
Under 10	Free

### Package Cost (Week Two) excluding Edinburgh Tattoo tickets (Optional Extra)

£1745 (Single Supplement £470)

5. The programme includes some optional activities and events which are not included in the package charge. To assist with transport and other arrangements, and when the number of gathering guests is known, all guests will be contacted to establish individual interest in the options. Further events for younger visitors may be possible when numbers and ages are known. Further details of events and charges will be available on the website - [www.burnett.uk.com](http://www.burnett.uk.com)
6. The programme is provisional and if there are changes to the programme, appropriate amendments to the charges will be advised. There are a number of buildings for which accessibility has been changed over recent years for different reasons. We will endeavour to enable access to those which we consider to be of interest, but this cannot be guaranteed.
7. The reservation form includes the opportunity to propose additional events and activities. Consideration of these will be given but will be dependent on demand and practicability.



8. The Burnett Gathering is a not-for-profit event. Any surplus arising from the Gathering and Burnett merchandise is used to support the National Trust for Scotland for Crathes, the promotion of the name of Burnett or local Heritage projects through the Leys Charitable Trust. Currently the principal project and one with which it is intended to mark the 700th anniversary of the arrival of the Burnetts in 1323, is the restoration of the Loch of Leys.

9. **Accommodation** can be arranged through ourselves at Inchmarlo in the 2 & 3 bedroom self-catering villas (subject to availability). [www.inchmarlo-resort.com](http://www.inchmarlo-resort.com) or 01330 827080 option 1. These are very limited.

There is also accommodation suitable for a group. Sleeps 11 and close to Crathes Castle [Kashentroch](#)

Because free transport is planned from Banchory and Inchmarlo for most events, it will be more convenient to stay in Banchory. It will be for visitors to make their own accommodation arrangements, but we will be pleased to assist if there are any issues. Details of taxis will be provided.

[Banchory Lodge](#) : [enquiries@banchorylodge.com](mailto:enquiries@banchorylodge.com)

[Legion Scotland](#): [info@banchorylegion.com](mailto:info@banchorylegion.com)

[Burnett Arms](#): [burnettarmsbanchory@gmail.com](mailto:burnettarmsbanchory@gmail.com)

[Tor Na Coille](#): [www.tornacoille.com](http://www.tornacoille.com)

[Douglas Arms](#): [enquiries@douglasarms.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@douglasarms.co.uk)

There is also Bed and Breakfast accommodation in and around Banchory

[www.booking.com/b&bs-banchory](http://www.booking.com/b&bs-banchory)

[www.airbnb.co.uk/banchory/bed&breakfast](http://www.airbnb.co.uk/banchory/bed&breakfast)

[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

Transport can also be arranged from Westhill to Banchory (13 miles)

Premier Inn Westhill [www.premierinn.com](http://www.premierinn.com)

#### 10. **Coronavirus**

We have had to make assumptions with regard to Covid and other issues which might affect your tours and transfers, both financially and on a practical level. Prices will be based on being permitted to operate with full coaches/buses at the time of the Gathering and on estimated fuel costs in July/August 2023.

Should physical distancing again be required at that time, and/or should the cost of diesel fuel rise substantially, we reserve the right to charge a supplement for tours and transfers; we will of course keep this as low as possible and advise you of the amount as soon as practical.

We also reserve the right to insist that participants in tours and transfers comply with any UK and Scottish Government Covid guidance in place at that time, for example with regard to physical distancing, wearing face coverings, allowing temperature checks and complying with any testing required.

11. For information or assistance with any of the above, please contact:

Fiona Lees (Burnett Gathering)

Banchory Business Centre

Burn O' Bennie Road

Banchory

AB31 5ZU

Email: [burnettgathering@leysestate.co.uk](mailto:burnettgathering@leysestate.co.uk)