



Dear fellow residents,

Silence is golden. That's what they say. Certainly it can provide a welcome escape from the noise and clamour of our daily living. Silence creates space; it gives us time to think and reflect. Silence, for many, is part and parcel of country living and provides a welcome respite from the demands of the working day. Silence has its attractions.

Jed Porter was a farmer in upstate New York. Late at night, on the 29th March 1848, he went out for his constitutional along the banks of the river that bordered his land. As he walked he had a sense of unease. At first he couldn't understand why but as he continued on his way he realised what the problem was. There was no noise. He was surrounded by silence and that began to worry him. What was missing was the great roar of the Niagara Falls which was situated not far from where he stood.

An extraordinary series of circumstances had caused the Falls to cease their flow. The ice on Lake Eyrie had broken up and hundreds of thousands of tons of ice had dammed the entrance at the mouth of the river Niagara, the river that bordered Jed Porter's land. This was the cause of the silence and the farmer's unease. When he was interviewed later he spoke of his experience and of the moment when time stood still.

Silence proved golden in Midmar recently at the Silent Auction when some £1100 was raised for new curtains for the hall. We are indebted to those who organised and supported the event. Unfortunately I was on holiday and unable to be there. No doubt there was little in the way of silence on the afternoon in question. If past experience is anything to go by there had been plenty of activity and noise in evidence at the hall. Apparently it was a similar situation at the Falls when they were silenced. Crowds of people gathered to witness the unique event and many ventured on to the river bed where they retrieved artefacts such as tomahawks, bayonets and muskets from the 1812 war. There was a silence but there was also activity and the noise of people making the most of a unique moment in time. Silence has its rewards.

Alistair McRobb

Hall Committee Chairman

**the
smokin
bert cooper
band**

**"a little
bit of
what you
fancy
does you
good"**

**MIDMAR HALL
BAND and a BBQ
Sat 8th June
7:30pm 'til late**

Ticket includes delicious BBQ buffet

Licensed Bar (over 18s only)

<http://www.smokinbert.com>

**Tickets £15 (in advance only) from :
www.ticketsource.co.uk/midmarschool or 01330 833910**

Cover Winner

Congratulations goes to Jenny Begg for her cover photograph. What a great image of Midmar's past and if you look closely (near the letter box) you can see Jenny's bike, never far away from her!

I couldn't resist adding this little picture of the Fordyce's too.



MIDMAR HALL 100 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The Midmar Hall 100 Club raises funds to help maintain the Hall and now it's that time of the year again where you get the chance to be a 100 Club member. If you are unsure how the Club works and have never been a member before, then let me explain.

For a small annual subscription, currently £12, you will be allocated a membership number which will be entered into a monthly draw. These draws will take place each month from June 2013 to April 2014. Numbers will be drawn during a Hall user group session, this could be playgroup, bowling, badminton. Community café etc. The winners will be displayed on both the notice board at the Hall and at the School. You will be notified by e-mail if you provide your contact details on the membership form. Prizes each month will be £30, £20 and £10.

During May 2014, there will be an event at the Hall where the end of year draw will take place. Prizes for this draw are £100, £50, £30 and £20. As you can see by the prize awards it's well worth joining the 100 Club!

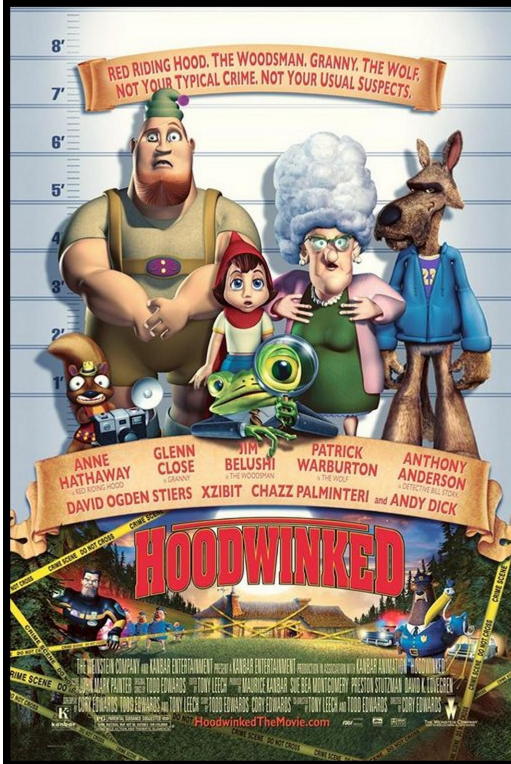
To have a form sent out please call Pamela Black on 01330 833682 or e-mail info@midmarhall.com. You can also download a form from our website www.midmarhall.com.

Remember, if you are not in it you won't win it, so get in touch now for your chance to be a winner!!!



MIDMAR SHEET MOVIES

ARE PROUD TO PRESENT...



HUGH JACKMAN RUSSELL CROWE ANNE HATHAWAY AMANDA SEYFRIED



SUN 30TH JUNE

10:30AM

ADMISSION £4 (£10 FAMILY)
REFRESHMENTS BY BROWNIES!



FRI 30TH AUGUST

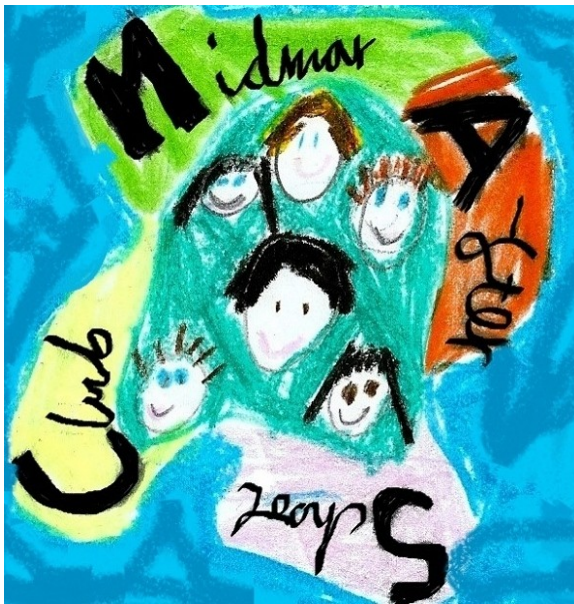
7:15PM

ADMISSION £5 (£15 FAMILY)
SING-ALONG ENCOURAGED!

MIDMAR HALL

DOORS OPEN 20 MINUTES PRIOR TO PERFORMANCE

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



Midmar After-School Club

Did you know Midmar School has an after-school club?

MASC is a fully-registered after-school club for pupils attending Midmar School. Based at the school, the club runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until 6pm.

Full sessions are £8.50
Reduced session (until 5pm) is £6
with snack

Places are available for regular days and for those who just need us on an ad-hoc basis.

The Club is managed behind the scenes by a parent committee, together with very experienced local staff for the day-to-day running of the club.

Whilst the club is less than a year old, we have firmly established ourselves in child-care, having just had our first (and very favourable) inspection! We're continuing to develop, so if you think you can help in any way, please let us know.

Please call **0750 3670454** to book a place or for further information.

Supported by the Scottish Government's Voluntary Action Fund Community Grant

MIDMAR UNDER FIVES



RAISING FUNDS FOR THE UNDER FIVES!....

Greig & Louise Hunter have been training to run the Edinburgh Half Marathon to raise funds for the group.

Greig & Louise Hunter have signed up to run the Edinburgh Half Marathon to raise funds for the Midmar Under Fives. The husband and wife team have joined forces in a pact to get fit and active and to get out there and run their socks off! Louise joined the local running group, 'Runny Mummies' back in October. With much support from the group she has got off the sofa on a Sunday morning and got out there to join the lovely ladies. So if you would like to sponsor us, please do

get in touch with louise at louisemidmarunderfives@gmail.com

Please note the changes to times below.

Mondays - Rising Fives
10am-12pm

Tuesdays - Musicmakers
9am

Toddlers/Playgroup
9:30am - 11:30am

Wednesday - Toddlers/Playgroup
9:30am - 11:30am



SATURDAY 1st JUNE

PLAYGROUND CLEAR UP DAY

Feel free to join us if you are at a loose end on the holiday weekend to do a spot of fence painting!

Contact Louise for more details!

Midmar School News

Rotary Quiz Success

Two teams completed recently in the Alford heat of the Annual Schools Rotary Quiz. Midmar 'Yellow' finished a close 3rd with Midmar 'Blue' finishing 4th.



Forthcoming Events

Saturday 8

June 2013 –

Band and BBQ
with Smokin Bert
Cooper Band,
Midmar Hall

Monday 10

June 2013 –

School Sports,
9.45am

Car Park and Extension

Work has started on the school car park and we are amazed at the space that has been created! Work on the school extension starts on Monday 20 May. Added at the back of the school will be an Office, Staffroom, Store and disabled toilet. The work is expected to last approximately four months.

Golden Jubilee – Calling all past pupils

The present Midmar School building was opened to pupils in August 1963 with the official Opening being held on 14th November 1963. We intend to organise a celebration, to be held in October or November when all the extension building work has been completed. We would like to hear from anyone who attended Midmar School.

Did you attend the old school or the new school? Do you have any photographs from your school days? Do you have any other memorabilia or stories you may wish to share? We would like to hear from you. Please contact Mrs E Shepherd, Head Teacher Tel. 01330 833244

Echt Show Schools Competition

The theme for this year's schools competition is 'Poultry its place in Food and Farming'. Children in Primary 6 and 7 are compiling a cookery book of poultry recipes, including cooking and baking with eggs. This book will be on sale in June 2013. Any profit will go to support our partner school in Uganda purchase a school bus. The purchase of a bus will allow all pupils to go on trips, not just those who can afford to pay.





Midmar Parish Church of Scotland

Top Quiz question:
how often does the word
blue appear in the New Tes-
tament?

Dear Friends, I'm celebrating. I have a story to tell and it is some story. Last weekend I

finished my 4th 10k. Running is not just a pastime that takes you all over the country; it's a very sociable way of life too. The same faces appear week after week with the same dogs and garish outfits. Maybe one day you're at Aberdeen beach then the next week you're in Edinburgh while looking forward to a planned outing to the stunning scenery around Benromach distillery; all this and the running. Confession time; in my family Norma is the runner. My role is to sit in the car park living every minute of the race while reading my kindle, checking on the suitability and quality of radio broadcasting and readying myself to be available at the finish line with, towel, water and words of encouragement. I mark every mile of Norma's progress in Twix bars and by sharing her successes with her followers on the family 'Whats App' page. The point is I know Norma is running. I know she will reappear, but until that time I rely on the messages broadcast over the loudspeakers and the breathless tales from the first runners' home of puddles negotiated, traffic tamed and hills climbed to tell me something of what Norma is experiencing. Last week as I sat there, I thought this must have been what the first days of the church were like. Ok they didn't have cars, kindles or Twixes, but they had to share a roller coaster story that depended very much on trying to describe an absence. Jesus had been with them, he'd told them so much, they'd seen so much and then he died only to leave an empty tomb, appear to many of his followers and then disappear again leaving a promise that sometime he would be back. Until then he said, play nicely and enjoy the party when the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost. What a celebration Pentecost was, so much so that we know it now as the birthday of the church. Suddenly, a confused group of Jesus friends discovered that far from their faith slipping through the cracks between the world and the promises of their teacher, following Jesus was going to be the next big thing. So excited were they that they spilled out into the streets and started making speeches. Often the church is seen as dull or uninviting or boring, but the story we have to tell is every bit as exciting as any page turner you've ever picked up or seen serialised. If you don't know the story or you think you know it, I can guarantee that there is more. Why not ask either me or an elder a few questions, we may all be surprised by the answers we find together.

Your minister, Alan Murray

What a night!

A crowd of around 100 gathered to celebrate the 100 Club annual draw for 2012 - 2013. Congratulations to Shona Bain, this years lucky winner of the grand prize of £100.

The evening also celebrated the contribution of all hall committee members past and present with a whistle stop tour of the Hall's history from it's beginnings in 1903 until the present day.

Alan Baird, Alan Blackie & Bert Wilson were the guests of honour for the evening as they are now standing down from the hall committee after nearly 100 years of combined service.

Music & laughter filled the hall as people enjoyed the many hundreds of reasons get together.

Thanks to everyone involved in the planning, baking, preparing and donating to this event, it is very much appreciated by all.



Above is Bert Wilson entertaining us with funny stories of the past.

On the right is Alistair McRobb who's fine accolades to Alan, Alan & Bert were greatly received.



Midmar event

the smokin' bert cooper band

"a little bit of what you fancy does you good"

MIDMAR HALL BAND and a BBQ

Sat 8th June

7:30pm 'til late

Ticket includes delicious BBQ buffet
Licensed Bar (over 18s only)

Tickets (in advance only) from :
www.ticketsource.co.uk/midmarschool or 01330 833910

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ANNE HATHAWAY GLENN CLOSE SALLY BELUSHI PATRICK WARBURTON ANTHONY ANDERSON
DAVID OGDEN STIERS XZIBIT CHAZZ PALMINTERI AND ANDY DICK

HOODWINKED

SUN 30TH JUNE
10:30AM
ADMISSION £4 (£10 FAMILY)
REFRESHMENTS BY BROWNIES!

Echt Show

13th July

Full information available
on www.echtshow.co.uk

Day	Activity	Location
Monday	Rising 5's (for our pre-school children)	Midmar School
	Book Club (Last Monday of the month)	Various
Tuesday	Playgroup	Village Hall
	Toddlers	Village Hall
	Musicmakers (under5's music Class)	Village Hall
	After School Club	Midmar School
	Upholstery Classes	The Little
	Bowling (October through to March)	Village Hall
Wednesday	After School Club	Midmar School
	Brownies	Village Hall
	SWRI (2nd Wednesday of the month)	Village Hall
	Gardening Club (1st Wed of the month)	Village Hall
	Whist (4th Wednesday of the month)	Millbank Bo Club Hut
	Playgroup & Toddlers	Village Hall
	Toddlers	Village Hall
Thursday	Mobile Library (fortnightly)	Hall car park
	Upholstery Classes	The Little
	After School Club	Midmar School
	Singing Group	Village Hall
Friday	Community Cafe (1st Friday of the month)	Village Hall
	Sewing Classes	The Little

s at a glance

ion	Time	Further Information
chool	10am -12pm	Barbara Harrison 860421
	8pm -10pm	Alistair McRobb 833715
ill	9.30am -11.30am	Pamela Black 833682
ill	9.30am -11.30am	Judith Doherty 07843 377 768
ill	9am - 9.30am	Louise Hunter 830061
chool	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07503 670 454
Byre	7pm - 9pm	Kay Savoury 833515
ill	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Alan Blackie 833482
chool	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07503 670 454
ill	6pm -7.30pm	Colleen Moir 833680
ill	7.30pm -9.30pm	Judith Stokoe 833719
ill	7.30pm	Phyllis Baird 833586
owling	7.30pm -10pm	Isabel Birse 833209 First whist 25th September 2013
ill	9.30am -11.30am	Pamela Black 833682
ill	9.30am -11.30am	Judith Doherty 07843 377 768
ark	9.45am - 10am	
Byre	10.30am-12.30pm & 1pm - 3pm	Kay Hourston 833515
chool	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07503 670 454
ill	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Louise Hunter 830061
ill	10am - 12pm	Next dates 7th June, 5th July & 2nd Aug
Byre	10am – 12pm	Kay Hourston 833515



Community Cafe

7th June
10am - 12pm
Delicious homebakes,
teas, coffee, juice and
a great catch up with
friends!



Silent Auction Success!

When the doors opened at 2pm we had over 130 items for auction. Kindly donated by businesses, tourist attractions and individuals were a huge variety of items from gas barbeques to bottles of wine, bicycles to recliner chairs, power drills to family days out. Something for everyone including the compulsory cuddly toy or two!

While people of all ages scribbled their numbers frantically hoping for a bargain, others enjoyed a 'fine piece' with their tea served by our lovely kitchen ladies, Marion and Isabel.

Entertainment was provided by some of the children from Midmar School together with some members of Melissma, singing well known songs chosen and taught by Louise Hunter.



All in all we enjoyed a great afternoon of enjoyment and bargain hunting. One of the highlights being a much fought over sourdough loaf made by Brian McKernan!! All this fun resulted in the raising of over £1100 to provide blinds for all of the Hall windows.

The Hall Committee would like to say a huge thank you to Kerry Bryant for her excellent organisation both before and during this event. Kerry has only recently joined the Committee and has already proved herself to be a great asset. Thanks Kerry!

New additions!



Here we have Oscar, at just 8 weeks and 2 days old he's the new addition to Anne Taylor and Wendy Seel's family. He is a Tonkinese kitten and I'm told he's keeping 'Auntie' Tizzy on her toes!

On the right is Rolo a 4 month old Sprocker Spaniel, a cross between a Cocker and a Springer and what a beautiful chocolate colour he is too! He lives with the Jiggins' and is a new pal to their poodle Hugo. High five Rolo!



Midmar Hall Website

Don't miss out on what's going on at the hall, visit our website.

- What's On
- Special Events
- Hiring the hall
- Download copies of the newsletter
- 100 club membership forms
- How to contact the hall and committee

Go to Midmarhall.com and see it for yourself!



Bowel Cancer

DON'T GET SCARED, GET CHECKED.

The earlier bowel cancer's found, the easier it is to treat.

Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in Scotland. The older you get, the higher your risk of developing it. It's more common in people over 50, especially men. And what lots of people don't know is that the early signs are often hidden. Even your doctor can't see it in its early stages, but when it is found early, bowel cancer's much easier to treat. In fact, 9 out of 10 people beat it. The best way to find it is to do a home screening test.

A FEW SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Screening won't catch every bowel cancer as not all cancers bleed. It is important to look out for some tell-tale signs and symptoms of bowel cancer whether or not you do the screening test.
- Repeated bleeding from your bottom or blood in your poo.
- A recent change in your poo that continues for more than six weeks without going back to normal.
- Watery poo on its own or with constipation (constipation on its own is less likely to be serious).
- Severe pain in your stomach that won't go away, especially after eating.
- You've recently lost weight without trying.
- You feel tired all the time and people keep telling you "You look a bit pale."

Please remember that these symptoms don't necessarily mean you've got cancer. But they could indicate that something else is wrong. So, it's still important that you talk to your doctor anyway.

These symptoms can be caused by a few conditions, not just bowel cancer. But if you've noticed any of them yourself, you need to tell your doctor right away.

Some people are too embarrassed to do this or they think their doctor's too busy. That's just not true. Your GP wants to hear from you. So if you're worried about anything at all, even in between screenings, you should make an appointment as soon as you can. You're not wasting anyone's time and you could be saving your own life or the life of somebody you love.

For more information on signs or symptoms and signposting to local cancer support organisations contact your local NHS Grampian healthpoint, call the free healthline on 0500 20 20 30 or log into [nhsinform.co.uk](https://www.nhsinform.co.uk)

Preparing for Summer

As we look forward to what we hope will be a perfect growing season, we're wondering if, in reality, it will ever get warm! The Beechgrove Garden compared their spring bulb flowering dates this year with last year, and estimated that this spring was five weeks later than last. That's quite a chunk out of the short growing season already!



Fortunately, we have an insulated greenhouse and Keder house in which to give the young plants a head start, before sending them out into the vagaries of whatever passes for summer this year. Even so, we needed to use supplementary heating to make sure the seedlings didn't freeze as the night time temperatures stayed obstinately low. The heaters were on a thermostat, which worked brilliantly well for providing heat only when essential to stop the temperature plummeting into dangerous territories. We had a fright one night though, when we lost power for a few hours, and the temperature dropped to 1 deg C briefly ... fortunately our Midmar-grown veg are surprisingly hardy, and even the tomatoes, aubergines and peppers lived to tell the tale!

At least we had a good sunshine harvest in April – our second best month for generating solar electricity in the past 18 months, which pushed the daytime temperatures in the protected crops well above the wind-chilled outside temperatures! The sunshine and strong winds dried out the soil, meaning it was at last possible to bring the digger onto the veg field. Duncan made some major improvements to the drainage, which meant that Wendy could bring the tractor out to prepare the soil for planting. It's always a battle against time and weather, but this year everything has had to be done in a particularly tight time-frame!

Happily, the potatoes were planted out in late April, and the parsnips and beetroot sown in early May. The first of this season's cabbages, kales and assorted brassica plants went into the field in mid-May, on a cold day with an icy wind. The cold weather meant there was no chance of any cabbage white butterflies or cabbage root fly finding them before the crop cover was pulled over the plants. The fine mesh cover acts as a physical barrier to keep the young plants safe from flying insects and birds, but also acts as a bit of a wind-break too. It's a lot safer for the environment than using chemical sprays, but 100 metres of mesh is extremely heavy, so it takes a lot of physical effort to pull the covers on, and take them off again for weeding – especially if they're wet with rain or dew. It's a great all round body workout, if anyone would like to come and join our 'outdoor gym'!



As well as sowing, pricking out, potting up, hardening off, and planting out veg, we continued our ongoing tree-planting programme on the farm in May, and added some oaks, which we grew from seed, around Stone Park. They're in tall tubes with tall stakes to give them protection from rabbits and deer. This should help them to grow fast and tall, at least until they reach the top of the tubes. We had one oak tree which grew at right angles once it arrived at the top of the tube, and sulked for two years until it decided it may as well carry on growing vertically into the weather! May all your gardens grow and prosper through 2013!

Join us at facebook.com/vitalveg, and share your gardening stories with us!
Anne Taylor, Vital Veg, North Tillydaff, Midmar, anne@vitalveg.co.uk

First image is of salads growing in the Keder House. By Wendy Seel, Second image is Jason & Duncan pulling on the crop cover, by Wendy Seel, and the third image is Wendy planting Oak trees, by Anne Taylor

Midmar Gardening Group

At last Spring has sprung and don't the weeds appreciate it! Still the daffodils are excellent this year, perhaps due to the very long winter - just a joy to see them brighten up all the gardens.

Our evening at the beginning of April with the "Squirrel Man" was a great success, informative, amusing and it was delightful to see all the slides of red squirrels feeding in their boxes.

Then Saturday 4th May we visited Glen Tanar and had such an interesting "walk and talk" from the Ranger, Eric Baird. Weather not brilliant, but it did not rain! A number from the group went to the Boat Inn at Aboyne for a meal following the walk and that rounded off a very successful outing.

Our next meeting is on 4th June when we visit the Fyvie Castle Gardens in the afternoon. The Head Gardener visited us last year and gave a very interesting slide show of the work in progress there, so when we visit we shall see it all "in the flesh".

On July 3rd we welcome the gardeners from Forrit Brae, Bucksburn. This is our third meeting with them - two years ago they visited us and gave a very interesting slide show and talk about the gardens they have built from nothing to a wonderful prize-winning project. Last year we visited the gardens (both private and public) so this year we are returning the hospitality beginning with the Hall Garden, then some of our own gardens and tea etc.

The Echt Horticultural Society is having a very exciting year to celebrate its 80th anniversary. September 27th looks like a date not to be missed when the Beechgrove Gardeners, Carole Baxter and Jim McCall amongst others will be at the Echt Hall with a Gardeners' Question Time. Meantime we hope to get our own hall gardens weeded and planted up to give a good display during the summer and autumn.

From all the Midmar Gardening Group, happy gardening to all.

Midmar S.W.R.I.

Well, that's the W.I. over for two months. There are no meetings in June and July, this is to accommodate helping and bringing in the harvest!

We have however, enjoyed a good year in spite of encountering various vicissitudes. Mr Bob Laing was unfortunately struck down with a tummy bug and was unable to attend the March meeting but an extra long blether with a lovely fly was enjoyed by everyone. April's business meeting went off without a hitch being conducted by the Ladies of Kemnay S.W.R.I. May should have been Miss Laura Downie giving a résumé of her career in welding but this had to be postponed until October. We were rescued by our Knight in shining armour, Mr Bob Laing, now fully recovered, who gave an interesting talk on British Birds. Isabel provided a splendid fly and so all's well that ends well. Our meetings re-commence in August with hopefully an outing. Meetings are normally held in the village hall at 7.30pm. Please feel free to sample one of our evenings, everyone is very welcome.

Midmar, Monymusk and Cluny Community Council

Community Council meetings were held in March and May and have been very well attended due to local Wind Turbine proposals. A meeting was arranged with Aberdeenshire Council on the 18th of April at Millbank Hall to discuss Wind Turbine applications. This was a successful meeting with over 100 people turning up and with a question and answer session. Minutes of meetings and a list of dates and venues are displayed on the notice board outside Midmar Hall. Anyone may attend meetings and can raise questions about local issues and problems. Midmar Community Councillors are : Richard Fyffe 01330 833295 and Judith Stokoe 01330 833719.

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Opening times
Thursday & Friday
mornings 9:15am -
12:15pm

Location

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baking.

The money raised goes
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charitable causes.



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residents having their say and
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in colour.

Please email Amanda
at:

midmar.newsletter@hotmail.co.uk

For any comments and queries regarding articles
within the newsletter please contact the writer as the
Hall committee does not take responsibility for content
and accuracy of articles. Closing date for submissions
to the September newsletter is 14th August 2013

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