

Newsletter News

A huge thank you to Amanda who has collated our Newsletter for the past 10 years, organised the printing, contacted subscribers and a loyal army of volunteers has distributed it to us all, four times a year. Last year Amanda stepped back and for the last three editions Niel Jordan took on the publishing task but now he needs to concentrate on steading renovating, we wish him well with that endeavour.

Rob Ferguson will now attempt to fill their boots, he can be contacted using the newsletter eMail newsletter@midmarhall.com

Our Cover Winner

Congratulations to Wendy Seel from North Tillydaff

This Newsletter is for everyone in Midmar.

Please send us your messages and contributions;

Photographs, Advertisements and Articles
to our eMail address: - newsletter@midmarhall.com

For specific comments and queries regarding articles within the newsletter, please contact the authors directly because the Hall Committee does not take responsibility for content and accuracy of articles.

How do you like yours??

If you would prefer to receive a PDF copy of your newsletter please let us know. Send us a message citing the eMail address that you wish to receive the PDF file on and we will send it to you electronically.

It is also published on the Midmar hall website midmarhall.com and can be downloaded from there.

Sponsoring the Midmar Newsletter

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter prices are:
£10 for a business card size
£30 for a half page (landscape)
£60 for a whole page in colour (portrait)

The newsletter is non-profit making and where possible, distributed four times a year to about 230 homes throughout Midmar as well as being published on the Midmar Hall website, www.midmarhall.com

Dear Fellow Residents,

Last week the BBC celebrated the 80th anniversary of 'Desert Island Discs'. The programme has, throughout that time, been a mainstay of the radio. First broadcast on 29th January, 1942 it has clocked up more than 3000 episodes. The list of castaways is impressive, featuring individuals associated with the arts, politics, business and the world of entertainment.

The format of the programme is relatively simple. The guest is invited to imagine that they will be castaway on a desert island. To help pass the time they are asked to choose eight pieces of music, a book and a luxury. The music usually has an association with moments in their lives that are important to them. The books range from manuals and compendiums to a novel they would wish to read again or one that they have never got round to reading. As for the luxury there have been many diverse choices including a pillow, a toothbrush, a piano and a limitless supply of wine.

As a youngster the whole idea of being marooned on a desert island fascinated me. It was something I encountered when I read 'Robinson Crusoe' and 'The Swiss Family Robinson'. The idea of retrieving essential items from a shipwreck and foraging for anything to survive fired the imagination. Eventually reality kicked in, I realised that I didn't possess the skills required and I wouldn't be able to cope with the loneliness on a long term basis.

Isolation is something that we have all encountered during the last couple of years. Some have coped with it better than others. For some it may have had novelty value initially, providing the opportunity to slow the pace of life pursuing long neglected hobbies and enjoying exercise on a regular basis. However, for many the novelty soon wore off and the monotony of isolation kicked in. Over the months we began to long for face to face contact with family and friends. Eventually after several setbacks we were able to entertain, go to the cinema and visit a favourite restaurant. Progress has been slow but it does appear that things are on the mend.

The hall is open again for classes and activities; also a number of events are in the diary. Scottish Opera appeared in February and was a great success, a Murder, Mystery evening will take place in March and we plan to host a concert with the Aberdeen Strathspey and Reel Society in May. Hopefully these events will help our community as we collectively attempt to make isolation a thing of the past.

Alistair McRobb Hall Chairman



Midmar Hall 100 Club

And the winners of the February draw are...

First Prize £100 - Dale Millward

Second Prize £60 - Charlotte Worth

Third Prize £30 - James Bidwell

Fourth Prize £25 - Ann Smith

There is still ONE draw left in the 2021/2022 draw so if you would like to grab a lucky number, just download a form from the Midmar Hall website www.midmarhall.com or contact me by eMail through 100club@midmarhall.com.

The form will allow up to FIVE lucky members from each

household to have a number. It costs £15 for each number and this will enter you into the final draw to be held in May.



Closure of Comers - Glenwood Foot Bridge

Since the last edition of the newsletter was published several people have

volunteered materials, tools, practical and physical assistance to rebuild the Comers side approach to the foot bridge over the burn. What a great community response and much appreciated but we now have to "GET IT DONE"!

As many volunteers as could manage came to a general planning meeting at



the Men's Shed recently and after much discussion we realised that there is never a right time for the closer, unfortunately someone will always be inconvenienced.

The temporary repairs affected last summer are holding up well but the supporting structure is gradually failing so, when the weather starts to warm up and the days get longer, we shall get on with it. We have decided to make a start on Saturday 26th March so that we have as much time as we need in the following week to complete what needs to be done. We hope that the work will take no more than four days all together.

To all bridge users please expect the wooden foot bridge over Comers burn to be:-

CLOSED between Saturday 26th and Wednesday 30th March

We also agreed that if the weather is completely against us the fall-back date to start would be 2nd April but that we sincerely expect that this is unlikely. It would



have to be deep snow or blasting gales to stop us although given the amount of wind we have had in the last few months maybe this is possible!

Notification signage will go up on the approaches to the bridge at least a week before hand as to exactly when things will happen; we will also circulate information on Nextdoor, using Plastic Post and on the notice boards around the village.

Article by Rebecca Baptie & Rob Ferguson: if you need to know more **or WANT TO VOLUNTEER** our contact details are Tel 07767 317486 or eMail to either
<u>rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk</u> or <u>rebeccajbaptie@gmail.com</u>

Force Majeure - Storm Arwen

As a long-standing resident of Midmar, I have experienced a variety of weather phenomena, over the years, snow-storms, blizzards, incessant rain and drought. To be endured, although maybe not enjoyed.

Storm Arwen, which hit us in late November 2021, was however perhaps the most frightening of all in its ferocity and in terms of the damage wrought to property, forests, and power supplies. Many of us I conjecture, live our lives hoping that, for most of the time, (Scottish winters notwithstanding), nothing too terrible in terms of weather, will happen. This storm perhaps shook our complacency about climate change, and our ability, as individuals or communities and society, to deal with such a phenomenon.

Certainly the societal infrastructure failed, in terms of replacing lost power speedily, and many homes locally were left without electricity for days on end. Perhaps, one hopes, there are lessons to be learned.

Local forests were devastated; adjacent roads were blocked, inhibiting normal communication links. Fallen giants now bedeck the hillsides, and it will take some time for forestry paths to be cleared, if ever.



'Sic transit gloria mundi'
[Thus passes the glory of the world]

The local landscape is altered forever with woodland paths blocked by log jams, unless the experience of a natural assault course in desired.

Perhaps hope remains, for the less adventurous. In time the local creatures inhabiting the woods, for instance deer, badger, as well as their human counterparts, will pioneer new pathways, circumnavigating the debris.

Life goes on.

The sun will return, and cast its benign rays upon the earth.

Not all is lost; in some places the enchanted forest still beckons.



"The weather is nature's disruptor of human plans and busybodies. Of all the things on earth, nature's disruption is what we know we can depend on, as it is essentially uncontrolled by men."

— Criss Jami, Killosophy

Article by Faith Mackenzie, January 2022





Midmar Community Pub

3rd Friday of every month

> **Mid**mar Hall





Does Your Family Have a Similar Medal?

Andy Martin, who lives at Mill of Kinnernie, recently came across the medal shown in these photographs whilst going through his historical family papers. Andy's grandfather was William Abernethy and he was born at Mains of

Corsindae in 1893.

The medal is silver, about 35mm long and inscribed on one side with 'WA' his grandfather's initials. On the other side there is an inscription 'MIDMAR 1920' and two crossed arrows.

1920 is round about the time that William moved away from Midmar to take over a pharmacy business in

Alness by Invergordon in Ross and Cromarty.



None of Andy's family knows anything about the history or significance of the medal so it is a mystery. Maybe it was awarded for some activity in Midmar or a contribution to the community, what might be the significance of the crossed arrows?

If you know anything that may be related or indeed have something similar in your family, Andy Martin would be very pleased to hear from you.

Get in touch with Andy using either Tel 07768 564796 or eMail andy.kinnernie@gmail.com.

Circuit Training at Midmar Hall

Every Monday and Thursday 7.00 – 8.00 pm

NEW BEGINNERS FITNESS CLASS

5.30 – 7.00 pm – Monday evenings from 7th March

Our circuit training classes are well attended by people of all ages. Anyone is welcome to come and join us for some fun and fitness while listening to some great music and enjoying a few laughs.



We don't take things too seriously, we just want to get fit together.

For those who may be a bit nervous about trying circuit training, why not grab the opportunity to try out our **new beginners'** fitness group? This will be more of a gentle, low impact class without any equipment to scare you!

Our classes are run by volunteers and cost £5 each session on a pay as you go basis.

For any further information please contact Pamela either via WhatsApp or on call 07833 900620





Midmar School ShoeShare Collection Monday 21st February until Friday 19th March 2022



Midmar School Pupil Council are organising a ShoeShare Collection. We are asking families to gather old and unwanted shoes from around the house and bring them to the school. Please ensure that:-

- 1. the shoes are paired with a rubber band to make it easier to sort and pack.
- 2. the shoes are in relatively good condition so no holes or broken soles please!

Your shoes can be handed in to the school from Monday 21st February until Friday 19th March.

ShoeShare is a campaign in partnership with UNICEF UK and Clarks Shoes.

The campaign collects old or unwanted shoes, which are sent for re-use. For every tonne of shoes collected, a donation is made to UNICEF UK which goes towards education programmes around the 🔈 🕮 world.





The aim of **ShoeShare** is to reach even more children and improve their access to an education. More than 59 million children of primary school age are still not in education. This is just under the population of the UK. Clarks Shoes are helping UNICEF UK to provide basic resources such as pens and pencils so that children have the right tools to learn, and also support training teachers and work with governments to ensure the quality and standard of education remains high and children are leaving school able to read and write.

Midmar Weekly and Upco







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Day	Activity	Venue		
Monday	Circuit Training	Midmar Hal		
	Violin Lessons	Midmar Ha		
Tuesday	Beauty at Eden	Hall Upstair		
	Men's Shed—Activity	Shed by Ha		
	Indoor Bowling (October through to March)	Midmar Ha		
	Upholstery Class	The Little By		
Wednesday	Beauty at Eden	Hall Upstair		
	SWRI (2nd Wednesday of the month)	Midmar Ha		
Thursday	Beauty at Eden	Hall Upstair		
	Upholstery Classes	The Little By		
	Circuit Training	Midmar Ha		
	Men's Shed—Social	Shed by Ha		
Friday	Piano Lessons	Midmar Ha		
	Men's Shed—Activity	Shed by Ha		

Starting **Sunday 20th March** we will be conducting a bi-weekly **Repair Shed**, see our article on Page 14 or more details. These sessions are open to all.



Midmar TOTS - 18th

Further information, se our advert on Page 16

ming Events At A Glance

	Time	Further Information
II	5.30pm - 7pm and 7pm - 8pm	Beginners then Experts Pamela Black 07833 900620
II		Ruth Hardie 07920 715438
s		Jane Aiken 07715 692444
III	7pm - 9pm	Nigel Bennet 07464 552550
II	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Alan Blackie 833482
re	7pm - 9pm	Kay Hourston 833515
S		Jane Aiken 07715 692444
=	7.30pm -9.30pm	Judith Stokoe 833719
s		Jane Aiken 07715 692444
re	10.30am-12.30pm & 12.30pm - 2.30pm	Kay Hourston 833515
II	7pm - 8pm	Pamela Black 07833 900620
II	5.30pm - 6.30pm	Nigel Bennet 07464 552550
l	3.30pm - 8pm	Lucy Webster
II	10am-1pm	Nigel Bennet 07464 552550



BOOK CLUB Last Monday of Month 8-10pm Contact Sarah Kearns 01330 833638





Our summer edition will be published in late May so if you are organising an event of any sort in and around Midmar area between June and September, let us know and we can promote it for you on these pages.

Contact our eMail: newsletter@midmarhall.com



Midmar Men's Shed is open, and planning for the year ahead. We have several new initiatives that we hope will provide some interest within the community, as we diversify our activities.

Our sincere thanks go to all the kind ladies and gents that have donated tools and other items to the Shed recently. They are gratefully received, and always welcomed.

Our regular Tuesday evening (19:00-21:00) and Friday morning (09:30-12:00) sessions continue and we welcome anyone that would like to pop in, even just for a chat and a coffee.

Midmar is such a geographically spread community, if anyone has needs transport getting to an from the shed for any of the regular sessions, or special events, do please get in touch. We can easily arrange to offer lifts and share transport as needed.

We regularly sell items that we have repaired or are just surplus to requirements, for example in the last few months we have sold a Table-Tennis Table and Bricky's Mate Tool providing a valuable contribution to Shed Funds. We currently have a renovated letter box and two car cycle racks for sale see our website or Shed notice board for other bargains in the future. Also we are planning a **Seed & Plant Swap Table** when the time is right.

NEW: Mid Week Social

From **Thursday 24th March** we will be starting a Mid-Week Social session. No tools required (other than a tongue for a blether). Stop in on you way home from work for a chat, a bit of grub, and a drink (we have tea/coffee, otherwise BYOB). Doors open at 17:30, and the idea is to chat around the wood stove, or on the sofas. It'll most likely be chilli or soup and rolls from the slow cooker for food. Come the warmer weather we will probably fire up a BBQ and enjoy the views towards Pitfichie and Bennachie while putting the world right!

NEW: Weekend Repair Shed

Starting **Sunday 20th March** we will be conducting a bi-weekly **Repair Shed** from 14:00-16:00, which is open for <u>all</u> in the community. Bring along anything that you would like help with (we can either show you how, help you do it yourself, or do it for you). We would like to have a different theme each time, with the first three identified as:-

<u>When</u>	What	<u>Host</u>
20th March	Petrol Power Clinic (garden things with small engines.	Nigel Bennet
3rd April	Technology Surgery (How to do things with electrons or t' interweb)	Gareth Brown
24th April	Fix-a-Bike Basics (things with one, two or three wheels)	T.B.A

All are welcome to get in touch using either eMail midarmensshed@gmail.com, or Tel. 07464 552550 Website: www.midmar.uk

Sunday May 8th – 3:00 pm at MIDMAR HALL Aberdeen Strathspey & Reel Society



the Sun will be shining for sure so come and enjoy an afternoon of Celtic Music



Tickets: £10 are on sale now

Contact Rob Ferguson, tel 07767 317486 or eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk



Despite Storm Eunice - Epic Community Pub Night

Since November last year we have had several storms blow through causing damage, discomfort and disruption for many. It has been inspiring to see news reports from all over about how people have pulled together to overcome these difficulties. I also think that we all appreciate the teams of workers, from all over the UK who turned up to effect repairs, were working in extremely difficult conditions and doing their very best.

Storm Eunice arrived on Friday 18th February, fortunately for Midmar, all it did was to dump the deepest snow fall in one day that I have seen since I moved here in 2010 from the town. I know it caused power disruption for some but this time only for a few hours in the afternoon, what is a few hours compared to days!

Friday 18th February was a day many of us had been looking forwards to because it would be only our second Community Pub event in the last two years. Late on Friday afternoon, not to be put off by a mere foot of snow, Pete Woodhead said he was determined to open up if the power came back at the Hall, which, duly it did just in the nick of time.



Amazingly, as many as 25 hardy souls turned up too, determined not to be put off either, they arrived by foot, on skis, or using either two or four wheels. Our thanks to ALL these loyal customers who made it through the snow and generated a few pounds in aid of Hall funds, you know who you are.

Article by Rob Ferguson, any comments or feedback please contact him:- 07767 317486.



Historic Midmar

One of our readers, Michaela Marocchi, recently sent us a web link to an effusive article, written about Midmar in 1966, by the then P&J journalist Cuthbert Graham who was well known for his weekly travel column called "This Is My Country". Another Newsletter reader, that I told about this article and has lived in Midmar all their lives, thought they maybe remembered it and might even have an original cutting of it somewhere! The P&J article is too big to re-print here in full but it did contain some interesting pictures and information that I have summarised, direct quotes from the article are highlighted using "italics".

"Only 14 miles west of Aberdeen, A974, the Tarland road, enters the parish of Midmar, a little kingdom of enchantment in which nature and man have woven together a marvellous tapestry"

"We who live in the north-east are more fortunate. We can sample the noble prospects of Midmar with the greatest of ease. Come with me along the road which runs straight as a die through the village of Echt, past the old toll house, with the rounded hump of the Barmekin on your right and the long pineclad slopes of the Hill of Fare on your left.

A mile beyond the village of Echt, at the fourteenth milestone, we pass on our right the homely farm of Sunhoney. You can't see it from the main road, but on the tree-ringed height above the farmhouse, in the hummocky enclosure within a rough-stone dyke stands one of the grandest stone circles in Britain. With its huge recumbent stone of bluish-grey diorite, its jagged flankers and nine splendid pillars of Hill of Fare granite, it is one of the best-preserved monuments of its kind in the country."



Maybe in 1966 you had to hike across the field to reach this stone circle but today there is a fenced path behind Sunhoney farm to reach it quite easily.

The article goes on to describe various other historic buildings around Midmar, the Castle, Corsindae House, the New Kirk with its much more accessible stone circle, the Old Kirk and the mysterious mound just to the north of this

"and the great green mound of the Cunnigar Hill – on which a Norman fortress stood"

.... the present parish church is out of sight among its trees at the top of the hill, and the two main population centres – Midmar hamlet, with post office, parish hall and a sizeable cluster of houses below the fine new school opened in 1963, and the hamlet of Comers to the west, are away to the north.

The fact is that in the past 15 years [since 1950] Midmar has had quite a rejuvenation. Eight families have been housed in a fine group of County Council houses, many old farmhouses have been completely modernised, electricity has penetrated to the remotest corners of the parish, and farming has prospered.

The Forestry Commission, with a hamlet of its own at Craigshannoch on the slopes of the Hill of Fare, and a large acreage of plantations on the hill, has revitalised a whole sector along the southern borders.

Now that things have improved, we can take pride in Midmar as a parish where the whole story of human settlement, from the later Bronze Age to the present day, is attested by visible links with the past illustrating virtually every phase in 4,000 years of progress."

One of the pictures in the article that I found most interesting was taken from the hill to the north east of Comers, you can just see the petrol pump outside the shop and bridge etcetera...



Midmar Community Cafe

The community cafe is running again, 10-12am on the first Friday of every month as before. It is open to all, with excellent beverages and home bakes being served in return for a donation, all proceeds go towards Hall funds.

It is organised following the current government COVID guidelines, i.e. masks until seated and with the tables more spread out than they used to be and table service only. Maybe soon, the weather will be fine enough, we can sit outside too and the COVID restrictions are relaxed permitting us to return to the old ways of doing things.

If anyone would like to get involved, help out occasionally with home bakes or ask any questions about how we are making sure we run the cafe safely, please get in touch with Hazel (01330 833280) or Jackie (07505 936271, knockfullertree@icloud.com)



Badminton Anyone!

Before coronavirus made it's mark, we had a wee badminton group running in the Hall. All the equipment is there, just

waiting for people to come along and play a game or two.

If you would be interested to restart this activity please contact us using eMail bookings@midmarhall.com to find out the days and times we have available.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Hire our Hall

Whatever event are you planning, Exercise, Lessons, Party, Show, Meeting, Wedding or any other activity, Midmar Hall has a variety of spaces for you to use, i.e. the main hall area, back stage



room, an upstairs meeting room and a well equipped kitchen.







Other reasons for choosing Midmar Hall are our lovely garden, WiFi, a spacious car park for your guests, a projector and screen (in the main hall), a quality piano (available to musicians on request), speakers, microphones and amplifier.

Hire Charges:-

- £40 for half a day
- £75 for evening hire
- £500 for weekend hire

User Group Charges

£10 per hour (This is for regular groups meeting a minimum of once a month.)

Deposit: a discretionary deposit of £250 may be requested for some functions.

To book please contact Mairi Black on 01330 833371 or via eMail "bookings@midmarhall.com"

HOWDY Y'ALL it's MURDER MYSTERY TIME

Last chance for tickets to a 'WILD WEST' themed production by Midmar Players. Come and join the drama as Midmar Hall is once again the scene for an evening of fine dining, laced with sleuthing, skulduggery, general silliness and of course MURDER!

Saturday March 5th, 2022 @ 7 pm

A delicious three-course meal with coffee will be served while you participate in the entertainment, all for £40 per person.

To book contact Sarah Kearns on

07756 968868 or sarahkearns50@gmail.com.

Now go shake out your Wild West gear, see you at the show "PARDNERS".

Are you a Landlord?

The Scottish Government's Energy Efficiency Regulations for the Scottish Private Rented Sector (PRS) that were due to come into force in April 2022 have been further postponed due to Covid.

The original intent had been for properties to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band D. The Government now intends to land regulations to require PRS properties to have an EPC Band C at tenancy change in 2025 and for all PRS properties to have an EPC Band C by 2028. Want to know more, need some impartial advice or an EPC

renewal please contact your local Domestic Energy Assessor (DEA):

Also available to carry out EPC

Midshore EP

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epmidshore@btinternet.com

surveys to support Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Applications and any Home Energy Scotland Loan applications.





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"What's on in and around Midmar"
Also we have our website:

https://www.midmarhall.com

The website is kept up to date with events and what is on at the hall and in the community.

You can also download extra copies of our current and historical newsletters.

If you have questions about the hall, i.e. its use, hiring etcetera, contact details are on the website. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fill this space in our next Newsletter Edition out in June 2022

Newsletter sponsorship prices are:

£10 for a business card size

£30 for a half page (landscape)

£60 for a whole page in colour (portrait)
Contact eMail: newsletter@midmarhall.com



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