



Midmar Newsletter

Published for the Hall Committee on
behalf of the Midmar Community
Summer Edition 2022
Issue 46

Newsletter News

Thank you to all who let me know after the Spring edition reached you about the many and various errors, oversights and inconsistent spellings. All appreciated because now our advertisers, everyone who creates these articles and the all weather distribution team, know that **you read it !**

The worst error was that Winter News from the school was omitted. Image my chagrin when I received the enquiry as to where it was. What excuse? Maybe, "**homework is on the bus Mam**"? Nope it just got lost. To make amends, in this issue, both Winter and Spring School articles are published in full— read and enjoy.



Our Cover Winner

Everyone who uses Comers Burn Footbridge



This Newsletter is for everyone in Midmar.
Please send us your messages and contributions by end of July;
Photographs, Advertisements, Family News and Articles
to our eMail address: - **newsletter@midmarhall.com**

In the next issue we would like to re-start the Family News/Notices page.
All information welcome, i.e. **Births, Deaths, Engagements, Homecomings, Marriages, Graduations**, anything important to your family

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.

Sponsoring the Midmar Newsletter

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter prices are:
£25 for a business card size
£45 for a half page (landscape)
£80 for a whole page (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,

I've never had much success at keeping a diary. As a teacher I had to maintain one on a daily basis and I must admit that I found this a bit of a chore. However, I have always started each year with a personal diary highlighting important dates. Yet within a few short weeks it tends to be neglected. I also have difficulty in remembering where I put my diary and constantly forget to take it with me when I am attending meetings or catching up with folk.

During the course of the last couple of years, like many others, I have had little use for a diary; there was nothing to record, nothing to look forward to, no appointments to write down. No dates to highlight for meeting friends, attending a concert or visiting the cinema. Nothing eventful was taking place, one day was much the same as all the others

Yet, having said that, I did keep a diary or journal during the first fifteen months of the pandemic. It was not a day by day journal but I did manage to keep it updated on a weekly basis. I took a note of catch up sessions on zoom and facetime, of books read and films viewed. I recorded information regarding the number of cases, the ever growing list of restrictions and a variety of quotes and statements made by medics, scientists and politicians. I featured individuals who played a part in keeping our spirits up such as Captain Tom and those who posted songs, poems and jokes on social media. It gave me something to do. However, as our freedoms began to be restored the journal came to play a less important role and eventually was abandoned.

We have not needed an events diary at the hall for quite some time. However a few months ago the process was restarted with the visit of Scottish Opera and the Murder Mystery evening. As we think ahead and begin the process of forward planning the diary is once more assuming an important role in hall affairs. As user groups return, as birthday parties and weddings are planned and events are highlighted the diary informs us that Midmar Hall is back in business, the business of being an essential part of community life.

Alistair McRobb
Hall Chairman

Kemnay House- A Local Gem

I have been living in this area for more than 20 years but have never visited Kemnay House which is so near to us. The original house was established in 1630 and is located to the east of the golf course, off the main road. This historic home is not easily visible when just passing by however the entrance is clearly identified by a discrete plaque on one of the gate pillars.

As you approach, the shape of the house gradually emerges through a gateway of trees, shrubs and rhododendrons that were not yet in full bloom in April. Views of the turret and older parts of the building are then revealed when approaching from the parking area.

This wonderful place is open **occasionally** during the summer so take a look at their website if you wish to visit, <https://www.kemnayhouse.com>.

Our tour guides provided a fascinating insight into the history of the family members and their lives. What struck me was the international stage that many of them lived and worked upon, including ambassadorial and cultural positions both at home and abroad. This is illustrated by photograph albums featuring faded sepia pictures from expeditions and life in Africa, including a picture of the first motor car being driven by a family member in India, if I remember correctly.



There are also a great many documents on display, copies of letters from different centuries, receipts, invoices, that provide a good sense of the life of the house and family. It is easy to look at portraits on the walls which are interesting but, it can still be a distant and disconnected experience yet, seeing a hand written letter or note to order a particular roll of wallpaper sample adds a significant personal dimension.



What made me swoon, as you might expect from a surface pattern designer, were the original wallpapers, the tapestries over the doors to keep out drafts, the fabrics. In the sitting room there is a beautiful court waist coat worn by Alexander Burnett, an Empire dress worn by Elizabeth Burnett (1788-1806) and a Victorian bustle dress.





The bedroom featured a stunning wedding dress. Also on display were exquisite lace baby bonnets which the family had found, seemingly forgotten, in a box in the library of all places especially odd when this was the room gentlemen retired to after dinner.

The library is small but stunning with beautiful original patterned wallpaper and it houses around 3000 volumes of books, the majority of which were published before 1850. It was one of the rooms created when the North East wing was being remodelled.



I love old books and I was particularly struck by one bookcase holding the ivory coloured collection of vellum bound books, mostly in Latin, purchased by Thomas Burnett 2nd of Kemnay and his father.

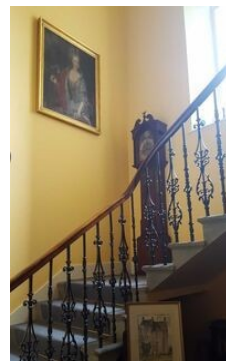
Fascinating too were the stacks of faded, frayed copies in the darker corners of the room leaning against the walls like tall, narrow chimneys, some evoking a medieval look, the way they were stitch-bound and tied together with ribbons.

I would love to spend time browsing through them, as with the letters and handwritten notes these books open a real connection and doorway to the past for me and my imagination. Another highlight in the library was a map that featured an etching of Dunnottar Castle before it turned into a ruin.



I am not so much into furniture however there are many beautiful items, including writing desks and a stunning intricate inlaid wooden Dutch tall freestanding clock at the top of the stairs and also this one (pictured) in the middle.

The tour concluded via the turret circular stair case with the offer of a cup of tea and homemade lemon drizzle cake in the panelled parlour which features beautiful decorative panels restored by Susan Burnett. For the past three generations artists have lived and worked here and it is great to see how the house is being utilised now to connect past and present - it certainly worked for me.



Article abstracted from Beate Allerton's website blog : <https://www.beateallerton.co.uk/>

Midmar School — WINTER Term News



The Queen's Green Canopy

We were delighted to welcome Lord Lieutenant Sandy Manson to school to plant apple and plum trees as part of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



The trees have been planted at the front of the school in the area that was previously behind the 'hut'.

The trees were purchased locally from **Springhill Nurseries at Dunecht**.

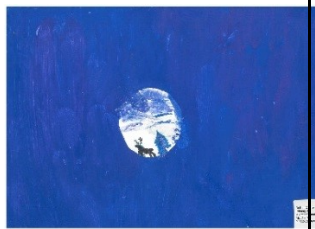


Plant 1000 trees in Midmar initiative

As part of this initiative, we have also planted a hedge along the school side of the car park and some trees at the front of the school. Children donned their outdoor clothes and spades. They were rewarded by a hot cup of chocolate and a 'smore' (toasted marshmallow between two digestive biscuits). The trees were donated by the **Woodland Trust**. Parents have also requested trees to plant and we are currently in the process of distributing orders.



Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust Art Competition

Congratulations go to **Danny Morrison P6**, **Alexander Copp P6** and **Delilah O'Brien P5** who all received prizes in this competition.

		
Delilah	Danny	Alexander

Christmas Concert

Covid mitigations prevented children performing live to parents this year, however, we videoed the performance of 'Children Around the World' and watched it 'together' virtually on 20th December.

Church Christmas Tree

Primary 7 pupils admire the tree they decorated in Echt Church. Children in Primary 1–4 made pom poms and children in Primary 5–7 made pom pom hats.



Primary 1 – 4 Enterprise



Children in Primary 1–4 ran a christmas enterprise; printing wrapping paper, making gift tags, making candy cane Rudolfs which was all included in a Rudolf gift bag. Their profit was £78. They donated half to SSPCA and have bought play mobile for their classroom with their share.

Well done P1-P4, **Ms Miller** and **Mrs Black**.

Burns Supper

We welcomed back our annual Burns Supper on 25th January. Last year it was held virtually with only Primary 6 and 7 children involved. This year Primary 7 children addressed the haggis with children in Primary 5 and 6 reciting Burns' poems. Children in Primary 1 – 4 learned about traditional Scottish dress – the kilt and accessories. They made their own paper kilts and enjoyed parading them in a wee fashion show.



MASC – Midmar After School Club Ends

Unfortunately, due to the falling school roll and changes in parents' working arrangements MASC closed on Wednesday 9th February. We will be eternally grateful to **Barbara Harrison**, who managed the club over the past ten years and **Laura Chrichton** who worked closely with Barbara to make the Club so enjoyable and fun for everyone who attended. We

must also say a huge thanks to **Robert Wade** and **Sula Humberstone**, both sixth year students at Alford Academy, who have volunteered at the Club this session, as well as everyone else who has worked and helped over the years.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at Midmar Hall— Friday 3rd June 2022

*Come along and
celebrate the
Queen's Platinum
Jubilee on Friday
3rd June*



*There will be
afternoon tea
from 2 - 4pm.*

*Then, in the
evening, come
along from 6pm
for fun at a
licenced BBQ.
All Welcome.*



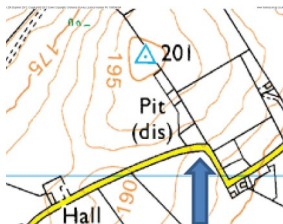
***No need to book, just come along.
Separate charge for afternoon teas and BBQ***

A Bonfire/Beacon to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II's Reign

Richard Fyffe is organising the erection of a bonfire at the Trig Point (Triangulation Pillar) on the brow of the hill in the field by the Midmar Hall.



The beacon will be lit, weather permitting, on the evening of **Thursday 2nd June at 9.15pm** or very soon after. It is planned for all nearby beacons to be well alight and visible by 9.45pm. The most obvious neighbouring beacon will be on Bennachie but there may well be others that become visible in the surrounding area.



All are welcome to attend but because there will be livestock in the field, leave dogs at home on this occasion. The gate into the field with the shortest access to the trig point over the rough ground will be opened. To reach this walk from the Hall carpark to the bend in the road as highlighted by the blue arrow on the insert map.

Tillybirloch — Windblow Update

Following the extensive winter storm damage regrettably it is taking a considerable time to plan the inevitable clear-fell of what remains of Tillybirloch Wood. Much of the timber is Scots Pine which has succumbed to blue stain, since being windblown.

For your own safety I would ask that everyone stays clear of the woodland meantime because many of the standing trees have been weakened or are propped by others and it won't take much to bring them down unexpectedly.

The harvesting of trees will happen as soon as a contractor becomes available and the emergency felling licence, which has been applied for, is in place. At this stage I cannot give a definite date for the work because as you can imagine all the local contractors continue to be extremely busy.

In due course the whole area will be replanted, incorporating a new planting scheme complete with a sensible path layout.

Something for the community to look forwards to.

Article by Richard Fyffe - Corsindae

On Our Farm – Summer 2022

In recent months the arable and livestock farmers around Midmar have been preparing the land, sowing crops, calving and lambing. After that brief period when the weather was warm at the end of March, the spring snows and cold northerly winds that followed delayed planting plans but in May we have been catching up.

Our sheep are still enjoying the occasional snack of neeps, straight from the ground, but soon they will be grazing on fresh grass.

Now we are looking forwards to the summer, which is when the growing crops are tended, before they are harvested, stored or sold on.



June is when we start the process of making Silage and Hay. A good period of dry weather is needed to cut the grass that will become Hay once it has dried. Hay is stored as bales.



It can be wetter for the Silage harvest. Silage is animal fodder made from preserved green foliage crops, around Midmar this is usually grass. After we have cut the grass, on our farm, we place it into a pit and cover it to

exclude oxygen so that it will start to ferment, this preserves it until we need it later in the year to feed to the animals.

The alternative to using a Silage pit is to create those large tightly packed cylindrical bales you often see in the fields wrapped in plastic which excludes oxygen and this stimulates the fermentation. The baling method creates a problem later on however disposing of the plastic.

July is not so hectic, all animals will be out to graze but still inspections out in the fields every day are important to check for lameness or illness. If we do discover problems then the animals need to be caught and treated accordingly. All drug administration is recorded with drug name, dose, withdrawal period and ear number of animal. The local Echt Show (9th July this year) is a time for *“fairmers ti get tae gither ti compete and hae a dram and a blether, get aff their wellies and boiler suits, forget all the problems for a day!!”*

Come August our grain drying stores will be thoroughly cleaned. We will be keenly watching the weather hoping for the promise of a reliable warm and dry period to start the harvest, the winter sown barley will be first and then the spring sown crop follows, normally in late August or September. Once gathered in, all is then stored and dried.

If we have to harvest the barley in wet weather the moisture content can be as high as 25% and we need to reduce this to about 14% without overheating it, wet grain may go mouldy when stored.

From our harvest we retain what we need as seed for the next year and the rest is sold or used as cattle feed.

The barley we sell goes to Maltsters to make Whisky and Beer however only some varieties are suitable for this purpose and the buyers will test the grain before we ship it to ensure the majority will germinate. What then remains of our barley crop is used as cattle feed in the winter and spring, bruised of course, not whole grain. The bruising process cracks open the grains so that the nutritious kernel is exposed, the broken husk is retained in the feed as roughage.

As illustrated by these pictures the method of collecting in the harvest has changed hugely in the last



**Threshing at Cairndaie in 1969
All Neighbours Present**



**Baling the Straw from the
Threshing Mill in 1969 to make haystack**

fifty years. Back in the seventies there was some mechanisation but a lot of the work was still

done by hand with neighbours from farms all around coming willingly to help cut, thresh and bale everyone's crops.

*Information for this article kindly provided by Isabel Birse at Cairndaie,
any errors, blame the editor.*

**Always the 3rd Friday of
every month in Midmar Hall**

**Midmar
Community
Pub**

20th May

17th Jun Quiz night

15th Jul Pizza & Prosecco

19th Aug Pub Games tbc

16th Sep tbc

21st Oct tbc

& on...

**‘Themes’ subject
to change so
always check
latest on**



and



**Let us
know what
you want at
your pub
night!!**

facebook.com/midmarcommunitypub





Midmar Men's Shed have tried a few new activities in the past couple of months. We had hoped for more interest in the Midweek Social and the three workshops. Not to be deterred we will continue, though at a reduced frequency.

These events are open to **anyone** in the community.

We have **Items for Sale** (see website and Shed notice board) and we have a **Seed & Plant Swap** table.

Mid Week Social (17:30pm till 19:30pm)

We will continue this once a month, on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month (deliberately between the Community Café and the Community Pub). Come along for a blether about whatever takes your fancy on the day. The views over to Pitfichie and Bennachie are cracking in the evening. Did anyone mention a BBQ? ***Dates for the diary: 8th June, 13th July, 10th August***

Repair Shed

We have done garden machines, technology and wheels.

Open repair sheds for the next period, so anything that you require some help with, please come along and we will hopefully be able to assist. Mechanical, electrical, wood, plastic. ***Dates for the diary: 26th June, 24th July, 27th August***

For the community: we have provided compost bins to the Hall (which are already nearly full), replaced three raised beds for the school (credit to Jim Allan), and provided a load of support with muscles and machines for the replacement of the Comers half of the footbridge.

We would welcome any suggestions for future projects.

midarmensshed@gmail.com, or Tel. **07464 552550**

Website: **www.midmar.uk**

**Jubilee Café on June
3rd starts 14:00**

Midmar Community Cafe

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

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 or eMail info@midmarhall.com).



Hire Midmar 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.



Hourly Hire			
Space	1st Hr	Hrly	8 Hrs
Main Hall	£15	£12	£87
Upstairs Room	£9	£7	£51
Backstage Room	£7.5	£6	£43.5
Whole Facility for 24 hours—£250			
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"

The History of Comers Footbridge

A few years ago Comers footbridge users started to notice that the treads were breaking, especially on the Comers side. Nobody we asked knew who was responsible for the bridge, who built it or why multiple tread failures had suddenly started, a real mystery!

For the past eight years we have been patching the structure up with larch pieces donated by Richard Fyffe. However at the end of March the Comers side of the bridge was completely renewed and while we were doing the work we were visited by Gordon Adam. Gordon is now 85 and retired more than 10 years but it turns out that it was his grandfather who built the original bridge, probably before the first world war, more than 100 years ago.



Gordon's grandfather was Robert Elrick, a joiner who served his apprenticeship in Banchory, walking to and from Banchory over Hill of Fayre every week. On completion of his apprenticeship, grandfather started a joinery business based at Nether Shiels. Gordon's father (William Adam from Ordhead) was apprenticed to Robert Elrick and of course met and married Jeannie Elrick, daughter of his boss.

The first footbridge was a single span but this design was not strong enough to withstand a high spate and at some point it was washed away. His grandfather was then commissioned to replace the first structure with the dog leg design that we see today. This reduces the span lengths and utilises the rocks at the edge and middle of the stream for extra support when the water rises. Gordon's father and grandfather both maintained the bridge as required up until about 30 years ago when Gordon himself was commissioned to replace the bridge.

At the bridge re-opening a ceremony this picture recorded the moment, from left to right the people in the foreground are:-

- John McGregor (Councillor)
- Gordon Adam (Bridge Builder)
- Alice, Virginia & Richard Fyffe
- Mrs Fordyce (last shop owner)
- Kevin Adam (assisted Gordon)
- Mavis Wainman (Councillor)
- Commander Wilson (Kebbaty)



So mystery solved! The Fyffe family almost certainly paid for the original bridge(s) to be built, it was then rebuilt circa 1990 by Gordon and probably paid for by the community council. During all that time the Elrick and Adam families have quietly maintained the bridge until Gordon retired a few years ago.

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

Midmar School — SPRING Term News



Easter Celebrations

Following an Easter Assembly the children rolled their decorated eggs in the play park, also the children had decorated eggs at home, Winners were P1-P4 **Perry Tierney** and P5-P7 **Alexander Copp**. We all also enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt.



Fairtrade Fortnight and Rights Respecting School

We continued our Fairtrade work during Fairtrade Fortnight. This year's focus was the effect of climate change on farmers which was also linked to work children had done during COP 26.

Learning was linked to The Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 13 Climate Action, Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities) and Articles in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular article 24 (a child's right to food, water, health care and a clean environment) and articles 28 and 29 (children's right to education).

A display of their work at the Community Café in March



Primary 7 Ski Trip

Primary 7 pupils from Midmar, Echt, Dunecht, Cluny, Tough and Craigievar enjoyed four days skiing at Glenshee in March. As well as learning and improving their skiing this was a fantastic transition activity for these pupils moving to Alford Academy in August.

Millennium Garden and Vegetable Raised Beds

We had a very productive Sunday morning in late March, when families gathered to tidy the Millennium Garden. Children in Primary 5 – 7 then spent several afternoons laying woodchips / bark over the beds to keep the weeds down. Thanks also to the Men's Shed and **Jim Allan** in particular, who repaired three of our vegetable raised beds. A great community effort by all.

Shoeshare Collection – A Great Success



A total of 48 pairs of shoes were collected for this initiative. They have already been delivered to a Clarks shop who give money to UNICEF for the shoes. UNICEF then uses the money to support and provide education for children who would not otherwise get it.

(Pictured are Primary 1–4 members counting and bagging the shoes).

Primary 5 – 7 Enterprise ‘Busy Bee’ company



Children in Primary 5–7 have been running a sustainability enterprise. They have made bug hotels, seed bombs and assembled wildlife boxes. The kits for the wildlife boxes were purchased from Wood RecyclAbility, a social enterprise company near Pitmedden.

Our children learned to use a screwdriver as they assembled the **bird**, **bat**, **bumblebee** and **butterfly** boxes.



Orders were taken from parents and the school community.



We have also been growing some plants from seed, i.e. tomato plants. All these plants and boxes will be on sale at the school Fun Day on Saturday 7th June.

**mary's
meals**

Profit from the Busy Bees enterprise will be donated to Mary's Meals. **Mary's Meals** is a charity which serves nutritious food to children living in some of the poorest countries in the world. The promise of good meals attracts these children into the classroom, giving them energy and hope for a better future. It cost £15.90 to feed one child for one year. For more information their website is : <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

Jubilee Café
June 3rd starts 14:00



Midmar Weekly and Upcoming

COMMUNITY CAFE

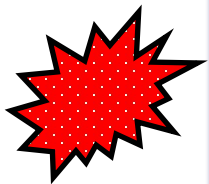
**FIRST Friday every
Month
10am – 12pm**

Community Pub

The pub is open at
Midmar village hall
on the **THIRD** Friday
of each month from
7pm until 11pm.

Midmar TOTS - Meet Monthly

Last
Saturday of
the Month
10-11.30am



Mid Week Social, 2nd Wednesday
of the month at the Men's Shed.
5:30 pm — 7.30 pm. Often Nosh.
These sessions are open to all.



Our autumn edition will
be organising an event
in the village hall area between Septem
ber and July and we can p
lease contact
Contact eMail : n

Day	Activity	Venue
Monday	Circuit Training	Midmar Hall
	Violin Lessons	Midmar Hall
Tuesday	Beauty at Eden	Hall Upstairs
	Men's Shed—Activity	Shed by Hall
	Upholstery Class	The Little Byre
Wednesday	Beauty at Eden	Hall Upstairs
	SWRI (2nd Wednesday of the month)	Midmar Hall
Thursday	Beauty at Eden	Hall Upstairs
	Upholstery Classes	The Little Byre
	Circuit Training	Midmar Hall
	Men's Shed—Social	Shed by Hall
Friday	Piano Lessons	Midmar Hall
	Men's Shed—Activity	Shed by Hall

Coming Events—At A Glance

Time	Further Information
5.30pm - 6.15pm and 6.45pm - 7.45pm	Beginners then Experts Pamela Black 07833 900620
	Ruth Hardie 07920 715438
	Jane Aiken 07715 692444
7pm - 9pm	Nigel Bennet 07464 552550
7pm - 9pm	Kay Hourston 833515
	Jane Aiken 07715 692444
7.30pm - 9.30pm	Judith Stokoe 833719
	Jane Aiken 07715 692444
10.30am-12.30pm & 12.30pm - 2.30pm	Kay Hourston 833515
6.45pm - 7.45pm	Pamela Black 07833 900620
5.30pm - 6.30pm	Nigel Bennet 07464 552550
3.30pm - 8pm	Lucy Webster
10am-1pm	Nigel Bennet 07464 552550



SWRI
SECOND
Wednesday
of Month
7.30-9.30pm
Judith Stokoe
01330 833719

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

**June 2nd celebrate the
Platinum Jubilee.**
**Midmar Bonfire at the
Trig Point by Hall.**
**Livestock in field, so
please no dogs**

will be published in late August. If you
want of any sort in and around Midmar
November and December, let us know by
email to promote it for you on these pages.
newsletters@midmarhall.com



**CLACHAN
YELL**
September 10th,
Contact: Sarah Kearns on
sarahkearns50@gmail.com, or
07756968868 (m)



JOIN US FOR

MIDMAR TOTS

GET TOGETHERS

MIDMAR HALL

LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 10-11.30

NEXT DATES:

28TH MAY

25TH JUNE

30TH JULY

27TH AUGUST

INFORMAL GATHERINGS FOR LOCAL
CHILDREN (0-5YEARS OLD) AND THEIR
PARENTS/GUARDIANS.

£2.50 PER FAMILY. TEA AND COFFEE AND
JUICE INCLUDED
PLENTY OF TOYS SUITABLE FOR ALL

Midmar S.W.I. is up and running again. At our meeting in May we enjoyed a talk on bees and were also hoping to see an actual bee hive.

The ladies meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the back room of Midmar Village Hall. At present, Bev, the secretary, is busy finishing next year's syllabus which will start September 2022 and run through to May 2023.

The first meeting of our next session will be Wednesday 14th September starting at 7.30pm. Our September talk is being given by **Charlie Hunter from the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team**. Anyone is invited to come and try a "Taster session" at anytime.

For further information please contact our Secretary, Beverley Mackinlay (tel: 01330 833513) or President, Judith Stokoe (tel: 01330 833719).



AGM : Calling ALL Bowlers, Past, Present and NEW !

Midmar Indoor Bowlers meet from October through to March, on Tuesday evenings. Midmar is so lucky to have all the equipment we need for as many as 16 players to participate at one time . It is an enjoyable way to spend an evening in good company during the dark Autumn and Winter months.

**New members are needed,
both Ladies and Gents welcome.**

Tuesday October 4th will be the first meeting of the new season starting at . 7.00 pm.



To register your interest Contact Alan Blackie Tel : 01330 833482.



Midmar Hall 100 Club

The winners of the final of 2021/2022—100Club draw held at the May Community Café are :-

First Prize £100 - SOPHIA BIRSE

Second Prize £60 - LYNDSEY BROWN

Third Prize £30 - FREYA FOWLER

Fourth Prize £25 - MARGRET CHAPMAN

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone who has joined in this past year

On the adjacent page is your membership form for the next year. The form has space for up to 5 members from each household to get a number. If you need any additional numbers, please just let us know.

It costs £15 for each number and this enters you into 4 draws per year. Payment should be made direct to 100 Club account – details are on the form. If you loose your form, please check the Hall website www.midmarhall.com where you can download another. Simply fill it out and forward a copy to the 100 club coordinator.

That's it!

If you have any questions at all,
please contact us by email:
Midmar100club@gmail.com

BE IN IT TO WIN IT!!





Midmar Hall '100 Club'
Prize Draw
Membership Form
2022 - 2023

'100 Club'
C/O MEIKLE MIDMAR
MIDMAR
INVERURIE
AB51 7LS

For an annual subscription of **£15** you will be entered in to the quarterly draw taking place in

August, November, February and May

First Prize: £100 Second Prize: £60

Third Prize: £30 Fourth Prize: £25

(This form allows up to 5 members of the same household to enter)

Name 1 : _____

Name 2 : _____

Name 3 : _____

Name 4 : _____

Name 5 : _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

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Calling all Gardeners to Assist



Our hall garden is in a wonderful location and is much admired by visitors. Summer weddings and other events often make use of the garden and last June we even hosted an outdoor session for Aberdeen Strathspey & Reel Society to rehearse together for the first time in months after all the lockdowns.

As with all gardens, maintenance is ongoing. If you have time to spare you are welcome to come and pull a weed or two.

This year the council has provided perennials as a more sustainable alternative to their usual bedding plants. We will still be given some bedding plants to share with the school and the Kirk, which we will be using for tubs. Please let us know if you or a neighbour wish to plant up a tub at the roadside in Comers or Glenwood, and we will pass on the plants.



ALL help will be greatly appreciated to finish the weeding and planting at the hall garden, to join in the fun please contact us using the hall eMail "info@midmarhall.com".

Bug Houses/Hotels

During the lockdown and also this term, one of the school learning themes was to create Bug Houses/Hotels.

Recently Morag and Jason Grimbley have sent us this picture of the magnificent new Bug House/Hotel they have built in their garden.

In the surrounding bed they have also sown wild flower seed.



Morag says "It is a great way to attract pollinators for gardeners fruit and veg and for farm land too" - - - - -

Midmar Murder Mystery – March 5th, 2022 – Memories

This show, set in the **Annual Convention of the Midmar Wild West Appreciation Society** (!), had been long in the planning. It had been postponed twice due to COVID-19 constraints since the original date, way back in November 2020.

So it felt very special (if rather scary) to start rehearsals again for real, in January 2022. However, on the night of the show, initial fears soon gave way to excitement and enjoyment, largely due to our dynamic audience of 60 local folk, who played their part enthusiastically (and very vocally!) as the members of the Convention.



The 'oohs' and 'aahs' in response to the two murders were very convincing! At the conclusion only one group guessed the murderer – and that was largely due to one of the youngest members of our audience, aged 17, who duly received a bottle of Prosecco (supervised of course by his father!) as well as jars of chocolate/coffee beans to reflect one of the main themes of the show.



For the cast, it all seemed very successful and we had a blast. Subsequent feedback from the audience confirmed their enjoyment of the evening, including of course the excellence of the 3-course dinner provided by **Harry Fraser Caterers of Inverurie**.

Last but not least, significant profits were made for Hall funds – many thanks to everyone who supported us.

Circuit Training at the Hall

Every Monday and Thursday : 6.45pm – 7.45pm

In circuit training we work our whole body through the period which also includes a 15 minute warm up and cool down stretch. Booking is not required, just turn up with a full water bottle, £5 and some enthusiasm!

For beginners we run introductory sessions from 5.30pm – 6.15pm on Mondays.

For further information please "WhatsApp"
or call Pamela on 07833 900620

Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council

These highlights are reported from the meeting of Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council held on the **20th of April 2022** at Cluny Church Hall.

Police Report : This highlighted that there had been no serious crimes in the area although fuel thefts were rising and a quad bike had been stolen from outside a house.

Sauchen Development : There are still several issues involving Aberdeenshire Planning and Kirkwood Homes. The Community Council have had one meeting with the relevant parties to discuss the problems and are to request a follow up discussion.

Post Winter Storms : The Chairman, Richard Fyffe, asked if there had been any feed back regarding the electricity and accommodation claims/payments. It would appear that residents have received some re-imbursements.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: Robin Worsman had applied for funding for Monymusk Community and had been successful, there are to be beacons lit on various hilltops in the surrounding area, Midmar and Cluny are deciding how to celebrate.

Comers-Glenwood Footbridge: The Comers side approach has been renovated. Grant funds were applied and received from Aberdeenshire Council and the Community Council will provide any extra monies required. A big thank you to all involved who assisted in this for successful project.

Community Council Elections: Nominations are being sought for the election of five vacancies for Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council. Posters are displayed on the notice boards in the village clarifying how to apply and a ballot will take place on the **18 May 2022** if the nominees outnumber the spaces available.

The next Community Council meeting is the AGM and will be held at
Midmar Village Hall on the **1st of June 2022.**

*For Midmar Community Council related queries/problems contact
Richard Fyffe 01330 833295, Judith Stokoe 01330 833719
or Ruth Wardle 07818290334*

Seasonal Veggie Tray Bake

This is an incredibly versatile dish and can be adjusted to suit the seasons.

As a main course the veggie tray bake is light yet filling at the same time. For extra protein add cubed goats cheese, feta, or sliced grilled Halloumi before serving. For the extra hungry, a side dish of lentils or grains would go well with it too, alternatively, the veggies can be eaten as a side accompaniment for any meat or fish course.

Serves: 2 — Cooking time: 30 mins

Ingredients:

- 1 small pumpkin, peeled, deseeded and cut into chunks
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into thick wedges
- 2 regular potatoes, peeled and cut into thick wedges
- 2 peppers (any colour), deseeded and cut into chunky slices
- 1 large courgette, thickly sliced
- 2 onions, cut into chunks
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- ½ tbsp whole grain mustard (more if you like mustard)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 200ml chicken or veggie stock
- Salt & pepper
- Handful of fresh parsley roughly chopped



Tip: If using different vegetables, depending on the season, always make sure that the hard or root vegetables go in for the first 10 minutes.

Method:

1. Preheat standard oven to 220C or 200C with fan.
2. In a bowl mix pumpkin, sweet potato and potatoes with 1 tbsp olive oil and seasoning then transfer the mix to a roasting tin and put into the oven for 10 mins.
3. In a bowl mix together onions, peppers, courgette, chopped garlic with 1 tbsp olive oil, whole grain mustard, lemon juice and seasoning. Mix well to coat evenly.
4. Add this to the pumpkin potato mix once these have cooked for 10 mins, making sure all veggies are spread into a single layer.
5. Pour in enough chicken stock to cover the base of the roasting tin. Depending on size you may not need all the stock.

Roast for a further 20 minutes or until the veggies are lightly browned/ caramelised and cooked. Then Scatter over the chopped parsley and serve.

I Hope you enjoy it! - Article by Beate Allerton

Winter becomes Spring

*"The first fall of snow is not only an event, it is a **magical event**, You go to bed in one kind of world and wake up in another, quite different".*

J.B. Priestley

Winter always holds plenty of meteorological surprises; this one [*Storm Eunice*] no less.

Since November we have experienced a succession of wintry storms, bringing devastating winds and now [*in February*] blizzards, to a part of these small Isles, which is one of the first land masses downwind of the ferocity of prevailing Atlantic westerlies.



This particular one which was dignified by a name, Storm Eunice, brought heavy snowfall, in this area, which effectively stopped many in their tracks, and will no doubt take some time to recover from.



Of course, many will see this snow fall as a 'plus'. It will no doubt replenish local water supplies and nourish crops. Apart from that, there is beauty to be found in the crystalline landscape. The structure and form of tree, branch and twig is emphasized by its snowy coverlet.

As Aristotle said, "To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand in the cold".

Without a doubt, this latest 'fall' will have brought, at the very least inconvenience, delays to communications, services, logistics, and possibly in the wild animal and avian world, loss of life. Nevertheless, this phenomenon is part and parcel of seasonal change, possibly exacerbated in intensity, some would say, by climate change.

.....Continued...

This extract below offers an explanation of this [stormy] phenomenon.

Guardian article (18/Feb/2022)

‘Two major storms in a week may have come as a shock, but trouble has been brewing for some time.

*The Pacific around the equator is in the throes of La Niña, when the seas turn cooler than normal towards South America. Even though thousands of miles away, La Niña often brings a wet and windy end to winter in the UK, with a powerful jet stream driving depressions across the Atlantic and as the core of the jet stream powered to more than 200mph this week, Storm Eunice rapidly exploded into a **ferocious storm**. Not only that, but the vortex of winds whirling around in the stratosphere high above the Arctic are unusually strong this winter, helping drive westerly weather across the Atlantic.’*

To paraphrase Yoko Ono –
‘Winter is about endurance’.

We can hope though, that:

‘No winter lasts forever; No spring skips its turn’. - Hal Borland.



Post script to Storm Eunice

‘When winter comes, can spring be far behind?’

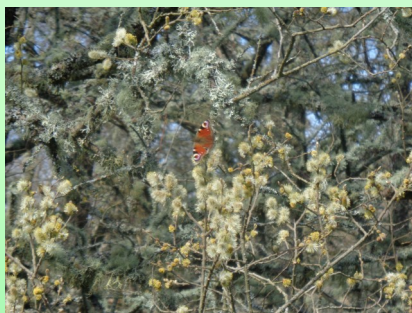
Woodland walks again lend enchantment.

The nascent foliage of deciduous trees: birch, beech, willow and larch, assault the senses and distract, meantime, from worldly preoccupations.

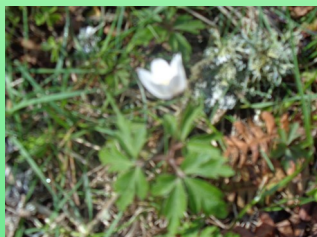
The new season makes its presence felt in the warm air, verdant growth and the heady blossoms.



Insects, birds and other fauna emerge from hibernation to feast upon the emergent pollen.



At ground level the delicate anemone makes a timid appearance. A lot may have changed, locally and globally, since the last spring, but it reassures us that, indomitably, life goes on.



From two articles submitted by Faith Mackenzie : February and April 2022

Are you a Landlord?

The Scottish Government's Energy Efficiency Regulations for the Scottish PRS (*Private Rented Sector*) that were due to come into force in April 2022 have been further postponed due to COVID-19 constraints.


The original intent had been for properties to achieve an EPC (*Energy Performance Certificate*) band D by April 2022. The Government now intends to land regulations that 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 myself, your local DEA (*Domestic Energy Assessor*):

I am also available to carry out EPC surveys in support of Home Energy Scotland, loan and cashback applications.

Midshore EP


Domestic Energy Assessor
(for EPCs)



Jim A Allan C Eng, M I Mech E
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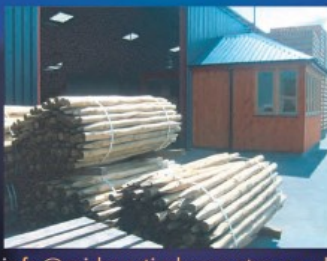
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Stand Up Paddle Boarding on your doorstep @ the Fishery!

Aquaplay Scotland are delighted to announce that we are running stand up paddle boarding (SUP) sessions at Midmar Stillwater Fishery on Monday and Tuesday every week during the season.

SUP is fun, whatever your age, gender or experience, it is so good for you both physically and mentally providing an all over body workout and incredible mental stimulation.

Why not try SUP with your friends, family or come along and meet new friends. Our sessions are very much tailored to the individual, so whether it's your first time or you want to progress to the next level, we can coach you in a safe and atmospheric environment with a choice of three ponds to paddle in.

We provide all the equipment, you just need to turn up and be ready to soak up the ambiance whilst having fun and lots of laughter!



To book a session at Midmar please contact

Tom on 07393 993621 or eMail: tom@aquaplayscotland.com

Also visit us on Facebook at Aquaplay Scotland.