

Midmar Newsletter

Published by the Midmar Hall Committee
Autumn Edition - Sept 2012 issue 7



Dear Fellow Residents,

As we find ourselves at the start of the autumn season, we are left wondering what happened to summer? Well, although the Comers post box didn't get painted gold, we certainly enjoyed medal success in the North East.

Perhaps inspired by the Olympic spirit, there has been the introduction of a new group in Midmar. They don't really care what the weather brings, they are simply looking to get fit while enjoying the company of others. They go by the name of the 'Midmar Runny Mummies'. Read all about them on page 6, who knows, there is maybe a gold medal marathon runner in our midst!

Talking of new groups, the Yoga on a Wednesday night is proving to be a popular addition to the regular activities held in Midmar. The Film Club are holding a few movie nights in the Hall between now and Christmas, check out the details on page 3 for all the information. Save yourselves the cost of fuel driving into Aberdeen, not to mention the costly popcorn! The film club always have good food and drinks on offer as well as a great venue to watch a movie.

All these new groups together with those already established give Midmar residents the chance to join in and meet people living in the same community.

As there have been new families moving into the area recently, I would like to welcome them on behalf of all residents to our wonderfully friendly community. Whether you would like to join an exercise group, have an interest in books or bowling, want to watch a movie or simply want to meet people during our monthly community café, you can be assured of a warm welcome.

So, while we may not yet have that golden post box in Midmar, we do have something very special, a real sense of community. You are all very welcome to join in and be part of it.

Pamela Black

Vice-chairperson, Midmar Hall

STOP PRESS!
Playgroup now on Wednesday
instead of Thursday

Christmas Craft Fair
Friday 9th November
SAVE THE DATE!



The summer holidays are over and a new exciting school term begins...

A fond farewell to Under Fives graduates who are now venturing into P.1.....

Everyone here at Playgroup wishes all the boys and girls who are stepping out into the exciting world of school the very best of luck!

We look forward to a happy productive new term at Under Fives. *Playgroup is switching from Tuesday/Thursday to Tuesday/Wednesday* and Toddlers & Babies will now be on a Tuesday morning only. The

new representative for the toddlers group will be Judith Doherty. If you would like to join us, feel free to pop in on Tuesday mornings to the back room of Midmar hall from 9:30 - 11:30.

Our bi monthly Pub Quiz returns on October the 12th for our first quiz of the new session, so gather up your teams and get studying up on your general knowledge for an evening of laughs and brain teasers!

Our annual Christmas Craft Fair will be on Friday the 9th of November this year. More details to follow but a chance to put the date in your diary before the festive season begins!

A Reminder of Session Times

Mon - Rising Fives
10am-12pm

Tues - Playgroup/Toddlers
9:30am - 11:30am
Music Makers
11:30am - 12pm

Wed - Playgroup,
9:30am - 11:30am



Newsletter Cover Winner

Congratulations goes to Amber Johnston for this seasons cover photograph. The bales look great and Cody is very photogenic!

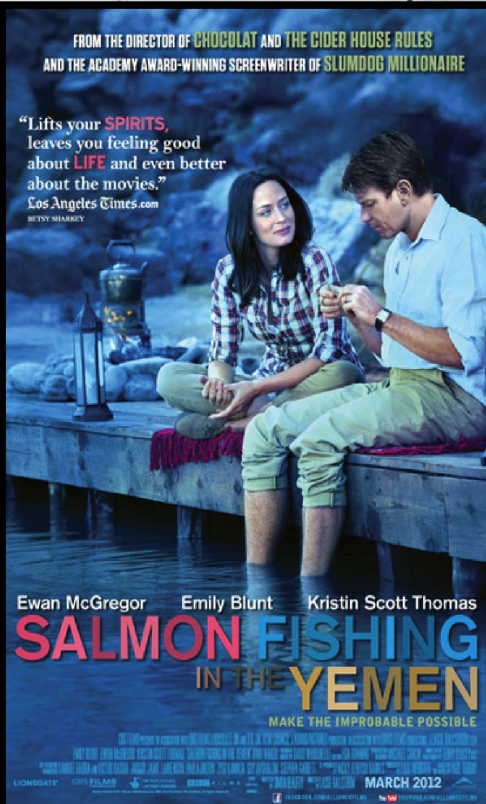
MIDMAR SHEET MOVIES

ARE PROUD TO PRESENT...



**SAT 6TH OCTOBER
MATINEE - 4:30PM**

ADMISSION £5 (£15 FAMILY)



**SAT 10TH NOVEMBER
8PM**

ADMISSION £5

MIDMAR HALL

DOORS OPEN 20 MINUTES PRIOR TO PERFORMANCE

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

This session we have welcomed three new families to Midmar School. A special welcome to the Crossland, Dowell and Sewell families. Our roll is a healthy sixty pupils with seven children starting in Primary 1 and a twelve new pupils in total.

As a school we continue to look for ways to further establish community links. We will continue to run some of the Community Cafes but if there are other ways you feel the school could engage with and develop the Midmar Community please contact Mrs E Shepherd, Head Teacher

Tel. 01330 833244 e.mail: midmar.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Midmar Pupils success at Echt Flower Show

Many Midmar pupils won prizes for their entries in the Echt Flower Show, held on 18th August. Special congratulations to Kailey Maxwell, Primary 2 who won the Junior Trophy.

Pictured are some of the pupils with their winning entries.



Project Woolly

'Crackers' our lamb, visited at the end of last term. Norman Brown taught pupils how to hold him for showing. Children then helped out in the Education tent at Echt Show telling the public about our project.



DATE FOR THE
PIN BOARD!



BOUNCY CASTLE FUN & GAMES!

Thursday 25th October - 10 - 12pm - Midmar Hall

£3 per child, 35 places available.

Parent or guardian will be required to stay.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL AMANDA 833543

Thank you

The hall committee would like to say a special thank you to the ladies of the 'Super Club' for their donation of £250. This is greatly appreciated. Thank you ladies!

The Midmar Piano Fund

Following

a grant award of £2,000 from the Big Lottery Fund via the Awards for All scheme The Midmar Piano Fund has now raised £6,310 towards the purchase and maintenance of a new piano for the hall.

This means that we have exceeded our original target of £5,000 and are in a position to buy the piano. Many thanks, again, to those who made donations towards the fund.

We are actively looking for a suitable piano and should be making the purchase within the next few weeks.

Plans are also afoot for a "launch" concert in early November with the date still to be set.

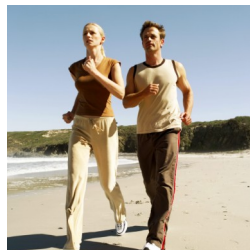


Midmar Runny Mummies

Do you fancy trying jogging but don't feel confident to go out on your own? Do you love getting out for some exercise but lack motivation? Are you training for an event and getting bored on your own?

Despite its name, "Midmar Runny Mummies" is not just for Mums, or just for women. We are a group of local people aged from roughly 16 to 60 who used to find it difficult to fit regular exercise around work and family commitments. Some of us have been running for a while, others wanted to start some form of regular exercise for themselves (and dogs) that wouldn't cost more than a pair of trainers. We meet once or twice a week – this is usually first thing on a Saturday or Sunday, and perhaps a weekday evening in the summer, at the small car park along the track opposite SunHoney Farm (approx 1 mile before Echt). The Forestry Commission tracks around Midmar Forest provide a wide range of routes, so there is something for all abilities. Some of us run for half an hour, others for over two hours. We each go at our own pace and do as much or as little as we want. Two things are certain, we always make sure we have enough breath to chat, and the usual routes get much easier quite quickly!

If you would like to find out more, or think you might like to come along, find us on FaceBook or phone Angela Wilson on 833910.



Making a Home Fit for a Queen ... and Bee Friendly Zones

The 2nd Natural Beekeeping Conference was held in August at Emerson College in Sussex, with speakers from across Europe, and participants from as far away as Australia and New Zealand!

Honeybees are facing huge difficulties, and many conference discussions revolved around the causes. Bad weather, a shortage of forage plants throughout the season, contaminated water, pesticides and other toxins in farms and gardens, over-zealous hive inspections and honey-harvesting to name a few. Varroa mites are another challenge, which may be the last straw for a stressed bee colony, but strong, healthy honeybees which have access to a wide variety of natural food are much less likely to succumb to them.

In "Natural Beekeeping" the interests of the honeybee are the top priority, and the aim is to provide the best possible accommodation and support for the bees. Honey is a bonus, but is only harvested if the beekeeper is certain that the bees have more than enough left to satisfy their own requirements.



Many different types of top bar hive are being trialled to find out which is best for the honeybee. They allow the bees to produce beautiful natural comb to their own design, rather than trying to force the bees to build comb to a human-designed specification. Honeybees seem to have a natural affinity with straw skeps, such as the one on the left, which has been placed on top of two painted Warré boxes. You can see through the window that the bees have extended their comb building downwards into the extra space.

The "Sun hive", which was designed by sculptor Guenther Mancke, was introduced to the UK at the conference. It is made from wood and rye straw, rendered with dung, and suspended approx 8 feet from

the ground. The early signs are that British bees have taken to these enthusiastically, but – like skeps – they need added protection from the weather.

The horizontal top bar hive is perhaps more practical for wetter regions such as Scotland, but another which looks interesting is the "Perone hive" – a vast wooden cube in which the bees create their brood nest and food stores, never to be disturbed by the beekeeper. Much smaller boxes are placed above from which the beekeeper can collect honey if the bees thrive sufficiently to fill them.

Accommodation is one aspect, but without good food, our bees are doomed. In Denmark, there are now no wild honeybee colonies, due to the lack of forage. 65% of their land mass is covered by intensive bee-unfriendly agriculture. We must not let the same fate befall our Scottish countryside!



If you would like to help the honeybee, you can create a 'Bee-Friendly Zone' (BFZ) in your garden, a patio pot, allotment, farm, school grounds, or office landscaping. It needs to be pesticide-free, with clean water, and planted with bee-friendly plants, flowering over as long a period as possible. The tiny plot on the left has sunflowers, thyme and marjoram, and was covered in bees of all descriptions! You can print and laminate the BFZ Logo attached to a post to identify the plot and encourage visitors to do the same. You can even put your BFZ on the map! Just google "Bee friendly zone" and follow the simple instructions. At the time of writing, there are over 300 sites in the UK, but less than 30 in Scotland – can we fill Midmar with BFZs? What's particularly exciting is that BFZs are also HFZs ... where the "H" stands for "Human"! Between us, we really can make a difference.

Anne Taylor, North Tillydaff, Midmar, anne@vitalveg.co.uk



Our Cottage Bar – The Midmar Inn (2)

The Friends of Midmar Inn Community Company (FoMiCC) was formed after the Midmar Inn closed in September 2007. Even five years on, we still firmly believe that if the Inn were to be re-opened offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere and providing facilities that the Midmar community needs that there must be a future for the Midmar Inn as a vibrant local pub. Why should Midmar not have a successful local, just like Dunecht, Torphins, Monymusk, Alford, Echt?

The first step in achieving this ambition is of course that we need to buy the business and property. To this end, in 2008 we lodged an application under the terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 that provides for a Community Right to Buy (often abbreviated as CRtB). Very soon afterwards, the current owner lodged an application for "Change of Use" of the land and buildings to become a private dwelling; obviously had this succeeded then the opportunity to reopen the Inn on that historic site in Midmar would have been lost forever. Fortunately, after a protracted dialogue between the local planning authorities, the Scottish government, ourselves and the current owner, our Right to Buy (CRtB) was awarded and the planning application for Change of Use and its associated appeal were rejected.

So what does this mean? In summary, simply that the Friends of Midmar Inn (on behalf of the Midmar Community) have the right to buy the business, land and property at a fair and independently valued price if the current owner chooses to sell. Having formulated a viable business plan we hope to buy the premises before the CRtB order expires in July 2013. Should we not manage to conclude a deal before that, we will simply apply for the CRtB to continue.



Reopening the Inn, to the benefit of everyone in Midmar, is the right course of action. Whilst generating the business plan we have found multiple examples from all over the country of communities who have saved their local shop, football pitch, hall and pub. All these examples demonstrate one consistent feature; they are being successful because they put the interests of their local community first.

The record shows that at the time of closure our Midmar Inn was barely breaking even and so we understand that the business could not continue as it was, but we also believe that we can create the right conditions to generate a profit to be used for the benefit the Midmar Community. From the community survey that we conducted soon after our CRtB was awarded, the strongest response with regard to the question of how the profits generated should be used was, "For a Community Trust Fund to aid local organisations", (i.e. the Hall, School, Church etcetera), a recent example of such a good cause could easily have been the recent initiative to buy a quality piano for the Hall.



This article has been submitted by Rob Ferguson on behalf of FoMiCC: if you have any comments/feedback on the content of this article my direct contact details are Tel 01330-830038 or eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk.

You can also contact The Friends of Midmar Inn directly through our website www.savethemidmarinn.co.uk.

Midmar Gardening Group

Over the summer months we have had some interesting meetings, particularly one to Forrit Brae where the group of keen gardeners there showed us around their beautifully tended gardens - inspiring and very colourful. They even invited us all for a delightful afternoon tea in one of their homes.



On 6th September we welcome one of our own members, Ruth McRobb, to tell us about her second visit to Chennai in India. On 3rd October Mr. Gordon Thomson will be talking about Fyvie Castle Gardens.

We have our A.G.M. on 7th November, leading up to our Christmas meal in December. We shall be delighted to welcome anyone interested in coming along to any of our meetings.

We are sure you have all enjoyed the colourful display of flowers at the village hall. This is all due to the very hard work of two of our members, Margaret and Gordon Chapman. They have given much time and thought to making our hall look so attractive.



Midmar eve

Day	Activity	Location
Monday	Badminton (new start time)	Village Hall
	Rising 5's (for our pre-school children)	Midmar School
	Book Club (Last Monday of the month)	Various location in th
Tuesday	Playgroup	Village Hall
	Toddlers	Village Hall
	Musicmakers (under5's music Class) Starting Tuesday 17th April	Village Hall
	Bowling (October through to March)	Village Hall
Wednesday	Brownies	Village Hall
New Day	Yoga	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)	Midmar & Millbank V
New Day	Playgroup	Village Hall
Thursday	Midmar Melisma	Village Hall
	Mobile Library (fortnightly)	Hall car park
Friday	Community Cafe (1st Friday of the month)	Village Hall

Photography Session with Suzie Edge of Edge Photography

**Saturday 6th
October
Midmar Hall**

£5 a session

Contact Laura Wade
07973 770814

Page 15 for more details



Pub Quiz

12th October

7.30pm - 10.30pm

Midmar Hall

Page 2 for more details

ents at a glance

	Time	Contact Details/Further Information
	9am -11am	Amanda Liddiard 833543
	10am -12pm	Barbara Harrison 860421
e village	8pm -10pm	Alistair McRobb 833715
	9.30am -11.30am	Pamela Black 833682
	9.30am -11.30am	Louise Hunter 830061
	11.30am - 12pm	Louise Hunter 830061
	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Alan Blackie 833482
	6pm -7.30pm	Colleen Moir 833680
	8pm - 9.30pm	Jess Winstanley
	7.30pm -9.30pm	Judith Stokoe 833719
	7.30pm	Colin Stokoe 833719
illage Halls	7.30pm -10pm	Isabel Birse 833209
	9.30am -11.30am	Pamela Black 833682
	7pm - 8pm	Louise Hunter 830061
	9.45am - 10am	
	10am - 12pm	Next dates Sept 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 2nd

Back by popular demand.....

Garioch Blend

**21st October
Midmar Hall**



DIARY DATE!!

**FAMILY
HOGMANAY
CELEBRATIONS**

**MIDMAR HALL
31ST DECEMBER
MORE DETAILS IN
NEXT ISSUE**



Midmar Parish Church of Scotland

Words of wisdom are thoughts to be treasured and shared. I wonder which words you've got squirreled away. Words of wisdom stay with us all our lives don't they? How about this? Is it wise or just plain daft? 'What do you call someone who used to be really keen on farm yard vehicles? Apparently it's an extractor fan. Is that wisdom or just a daft blast of cool air in the face? You decide. Back in 1980 I remember the wise words of Frank Muir at my graduation ceremony. To the rows of young excited scientists he simply said, 'Always buy a thermometer in summer, you get more mercury that way.' We laughed out loud and still, after 30 years, remembering those words makes me smile.

When you read the word summer above you probably thought about holidays before the physical attributes of old fashioned glass thermometers. As a minister holidays are great fun. I get to sit in unfamiliar pews and hear words of wisdom to consider, accept, modify or reject as I will. This year I went to three different churches. Firstly a traditional small Scots kirk service with CH4, children's' talk, prayers and a sermon-the whole package, but I wasn't in Scotland. I was worshipping in a small room of the large Anglican cathedral in Liverpool. Yes, the Church of Scotland has a congregation in Liverpool! It has a congregation but no minister. Everything they do, they have to do themselves and they do it so enthusiastically as they organise a service almost identical in style to ours at Midmar- even if their organist has to compete with the much larger organ of the cathedral blasting out well know hymn tunes next door. It was just a joy to hear their words of wisdom of what it meant to be church for them.

Others have shared words of wisdom about the church with me recently. Some of it has surprised me; like the person who told me 'I can't come to church, I don't believe in God.' It shook me because I'd simply never thought that a prerequisite for coming to church was 'believing in God'. In my life it was exactly the opposite. I started going to church to understand and challenge a bit more of what I didn't believe. In those days, I didn't believe in God but strangely found my self discovering not just a few words of wisdom but a whole new way of looking at the world that changed me. From the inside looking out, Midmar church sees itself as a community of people who meet each Sunday in the reassuring presence of God whether that word is defined as the supreme being outside the world but involved in creating and recreating the world or whether it is defined as Marcus Borg does in his recent book called 'Speaking Christian' as a sacred presence all around us and within us. We are all in God, he says, just as fish are in water. We don't

choose to be in God, what we choose is what God looks like to us-Christian, Muslim, Hindu, atheist.

We come to the church for many different reasons but all involve sitting with the source and summit of our lives as one elderly Roman Catholic priest described Sunday worship on the middle Sunday of my holiday. I know that there are many reasons people come to Midmar church. Some come to learn new things, others to know that God is with them in what they face while others come just to rest their head against the warm wooden wall after a fraught week. We offer a space outside time away from any demands of life where people can just sit and be or grapple with Biblical wise words if they want. When it comes to words of wisdom on a Sunday, the church holds many, but nowhere on my travels around churches on these last three Sundays did I once hear words of condemnation or words of moral judgement or ethical exhortations. What I did hear described and offered was reassuring, accepting, life affirming spirituality flowing from God to me.

The point I suppose I'm stumbling you slowly towards is hardly a new thought, it's certainly not my own, but it does distil words of wisdom. How we see ourselves in the church is just not how we are seen outside it. How did we get to that state? I'm not sure. Is there an 'outside' the church? Are there any words of wisdom that might bridge any gaps? Are there a few words that I can leave you with to consider and mull over that may draw you to step over the threshold of Midmar church more often? If you do, what you'll find is much more than just a happy laughter filled place. What more you might wonder? Well my last Sunday away was spent in an unfamiliar church in Edinburgh and as I sat before the service, I felt the same warm, calming, caring, reassuring presence wash over me that oozes over the congregation in Midmar church. That is the basics of the wisdom the church has to offer. Not words at all really, but the abiding presence of Jesus felt as the Holy Spirit-God with us, every one of us-whatever we are facing. That is putting it in theological terms, but for the church on a Sunday it is what focuses a community of people not just on being religious or believing, but on the idea that God, however we define him, is simply here with all of us; like a fish is in water so we are in God.

Over 30 years ago Frank Muir urged me not to heed false promises. I urge you to take some time to think wisely about the church today. Ask around. Find out why people come to church or settle in a pew on Sunday or during the week and try it. Are any of these words from me wise or just a daft blast of cool air in the face? You decide,

Alan (alan@midmarechtparishchurch.org)



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Have Your Say

If you would like to be a regular features writer or have an article published/ event advertised in the Midmar Newsletter then please email or write and we will do our best to ensure you are in the next edition (December 2012) We are on the lookout for stories, articles and issues that you feel would be of interest to the residents of Midmar. please email Amanda at : midmar.newsletter@hotmail.co.uk or write to Amanda c/o Midmar Public Hall, Midmar, Inverurie, AB51 7ND



BROADBAND – UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the call for information regarding your broadband status / connection speed – it's not too late to supply the details : visit www.myruralbroadband.net to find out more, or contact Steve Craig (860550) or Helen Riach (860380). Much is happening in local and national government circles to progress Superfast Broadband – our aim is to speak to the right people, be armed with statistics, and not miss the boat... To that end, if everyone registered on on BT's www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen/asp website as well, we may move a notch or two up the list for exchange upgrading.

Look out in the next edition for a further update...



For girls age 4 to 7

Rainbow Leader Vacancy

If you are interested in becoming a Rainbows leader there is a vacancy available from December.

Rainbows is 6pm -7pm every Monday during term time at Echt school.

Please contact
Katrina Beange for
further details
07919 658131



Photography Session with Suzie Edge of Edge Photography

**Saturday 6th October
Midmar Hall**

Booking £5

(No obligation to buy photos)

Spaces available from 9.30am

Contact Laura for details

07973770814

Email: Laurawade78@yahoo.co.uk

Would you like to volunteer for Home-Start Garioch?



**Home-Start Garioch is part of a
national network that offers
friendly, informal support to
families with young children.**

The daily stresses of bringing up a family can often become overwhelming and as a result parents are exhausted and discouraged. Home-Start can help to alleviate some of the challenges that families face, through regular home-based support from volunteers.

Home-Start depends on committed volunteers who give of their time, energy and experience as parents to support families who are going through difficult times in their lives. Volunteers visit families, who have at least one child under five, in their own homes, for two to three hours a week.

This offer of regular, flexible support can go a long way to helping families get back on their feet. Parents grow in confidence, strengthen bonds with their children, recharge their batteries and regain a sense of the value of themselves as parents.

Home-Start Garioch has been working in the Garioch area since 1995. Our volunteers are the backbone of the service we provide, and we would like to meet anyone who would be interested in finding out more about volunteering for Home-Start. We ask only that you have experience of being a parent and that you are able to commit 2-3 hours a week to supporting a family. All volunteers must attend a Preparation Course which takes eight to nine mornings spread over a couple of months.

We look forward to hearing from any volunteer interested in finding out more about Home-Start.

If you are interested we have a big fundraising event coming up:

Autumn Fair, Inverurie Town Hall – Saturday 29th September 2012

Please contact the office on 01467 624801 or email maryf@homestartgarioch.org.uk if you would like more information.

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Friday 7th September, 5th October & 2nd November

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