

Midmar Newsletter

Published by Midmar Hall Committee
Spring Edition - March 2014 Issue 13



Dear fellow residents,

As I write this I am only too aware that it seems to take off from where my last letter finished. Currently the Midmar Players are in the last lap of rehearsing their Panto. The production this year is 'Aladdin'. Among the characters on stage are an evil vizier, two genies, three crones, numerous youngsters, a beautiful princess and of course Aladdin himself. However, the story centres upon another 'star' - the lamp. Indeed the story is all about the lamp and its power to grant three wishes to whoever possesses it.

What would we wish for if we had the good fortune to have such a lamp? I'm certain that wealth and possessions would appear on our list. So might fame and fortune, promotion at work and perhaps a special luxury such as a second home abroad. From what we see again and again in the media, we live in an 'I wish' culture. Constantly we see this as folks try to outdo one another in accumulating material things and chase the rainbows of success.

Setting aside personal ambitions perhaps we might wish for a cure to disease, a more peaceful world or a fairer deal for all. There is much that could be added to any wish list we might put together. However, we need to keep reminding ourselves that we live in the real world where wishful thinking must take second place to what we can achieve by the means at our disposal. And as we consider what we have and what we have achieved there is much to be thankful for.

My one wish these last few weeks has been that we might see an end to the gales and torrential rain we have been experiencing. The problems they throw up can give real cause for concern especially for those working and living in rural communities. Certainly we have encountered a few problems of water ingress at the hall which fortunately have been remedied. This has been possible due to the support given to by the community to recent events at the hall and generous donations of time and money made by local businesses.

In a few weeks time we hope to enjoy the labours of young and old alike who have worked hard in recent months to make Aladdin a success. 'Wishes' will play an important part in the story they have to tell but if they truly work their magic they will, I am sure, appreciate that it is the result of what they themselves have done.

Alistair McRobb, Hall chairman

Opera Highlights



**Four singers and a pianist –
coming to a venue near you**

Thursday 20 March, 7.30pm
Midmar Village Hall
Tickets from: Mairi Black
Tel: 01330 833 371

Touring Scotland 25 February to 5 April 2014

For more information and to book online
go to **scottishopera.org.uk**

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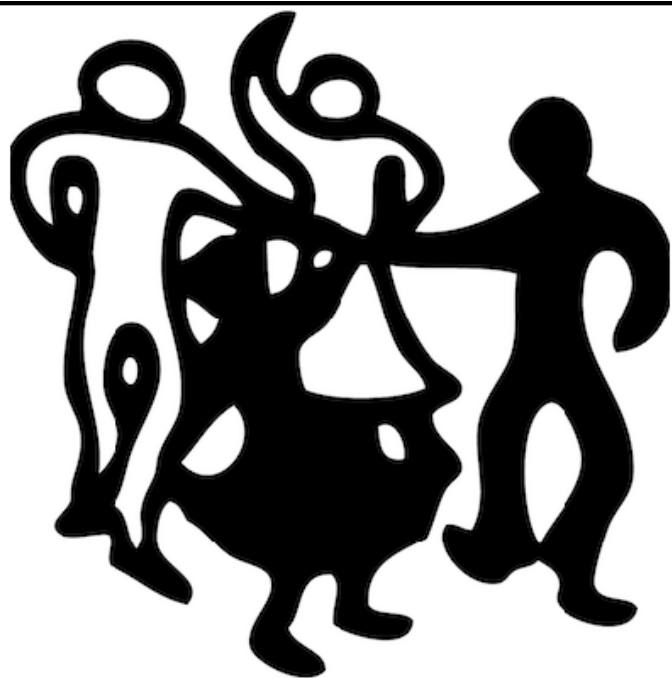


**GET 15 TIX
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UNDER 26**



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Newsletter Cover Winner—This edition's cover winner is Isabel Birse.
Congratulations Isabel a great photograph as ever!



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OR EMAIL - bhharr0166@aol.com

date

14/03/14

location

MIDMAR HALL

time

7:30PM

TICKETS £15

The Midmar Players presents

Aladdin

Thursday 6th March at 7.30pm

Friday 7th March at 7.30pm

Saturday 8th March at 2.00pm and 7.00pm

Midmar Hall

Tickets available from Jenny Begg

01330 833474

Look forward to seeing you there!



Midmar Under 5's



Bags to School 11th March at the hall.....Please take along any unwanted clothes to the hall in bin bags if you haven't been given the bags to school bags. All donations are converted in to cash for the Under 5's so it's very worthwhile. No matter how old or tatty you think something might be, it doesn't matter, we're paid on weight!

Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council.

The next meetings of the Community Council are on Thursday 20th of February at Midmar Village Hall and then March the 27th at Monymusk Village Hall. Both meetings commence at 7.00pm

Everyone is welcome to attend and can raise any queries or problems regarding local issues.

Midmar Community Councillors are Richard Fyffe tel:01330 833295 and Judith Stokoe tel:01330 833719.

Sponsor the 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)

Please email Amanda at: Midmar.newsletter@hotmail.co.uk

Midmar S.W.R.I.

Midmar W.I. is now well into our programme for 2014. Going back briefly to 2013, November's meeting saw Jenny Laing enthusiastically instructing everyone in the art of decorating cup cakes. Jenny's cup cakes definitely rated 10 out of 10 whilst the majority of the rest would rate 3 or 4 for trying!

A most enjoyable Christmas Lunch was enjoyed in December at the Grant Arms, Monymusk with even the weather being suitably clement. Judith spoke in January of her 40 years in banking, from Junior to Retail Bank Manager. In February members waddled home after the ever popular 'Taste and Try' evening. Pamela Charles is our guest speaker for March the 12th and she is to demonstrate how she produces Candy Bouquets. The Annual Business meeting is to be held on April 9th and this is to be conducted by Monymusk S.W.R.I.. Another item of S.W.R.I. news is that our President, Michelle Paterson, is now a very proud Grandmother to Sally Elizabeth. Congratulations Michelle!. Everyone is very welcome to attend any meetings which are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Further information can be obtained from either Judith Stokoe Tel: 01330 833719 or Michelle Paterson 01330 833490.



Midmar After School Club

After School Club Playworker

required for our rural, committee run after school club.

Hours: 3pm - 6.15pm, various sessions available
(Tues/Wed/Thurs).

Applicants should hold a suitable qualification at SVQ level 3 or equivalent, or be willing to work towards this. Must be registered with the SSSC or be prepared to do so.

Attractive rates- dependent on experience.

This post is subject to successful PVG scheme registration and disclosure checks.

For all enquiries, please phone Fiona Shearer after 6pm on 01330 833945.

Gardening Group

Midmar Gardeners start the season with a talk from our own Wendy from Vital Veg.

Wendy is to take us through the vegetable seasons of the year spiced with a bit of their history. I am sure this will also be an opportunity for us all to share some favourite vegetable recipes. Members, non members, of all ages are welcome to join us in the hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd April.

Ruth McRobb this years group secretary-01330 833715.





**the
smokin
bert cooper
band**

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

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

Ticket includes delicious BBQ buffet

Licensed Bar (over 18s only)

**Tickets £15 (in advance only) from :
01330 833909 or 07771 856968**

Boxing Day in Midmar 2013

Well that was good wasn't it ! What was? The "Midmar Boxing Day Walk" of course!

The week before, Isabelle Birse, rang me to say that they would be there provided they had managed to feed their animals in time, so at least I knew there was a chance it would not just be me standing in the Hall car park in a blizzard at 10:00 am.

As it turned out, when I got there Isabelle, Charlie and Iain were already waiting for me, and there was NO blizzard, in fact we had bright sunshine and a blue sky, how lucky was that! I do not exactly recall what the rest of the weather was like Christmas week, but we definitely had the best of it. Anyway, soon after 10:00 it was still the four of us and I was just beginning to wonder, when suddenly, another 16+ adults with sundry kids and dogs appeared from all corners of Midmar. People from 7 to 80+ came, all families and friends.

Our route took us from the Hall down towards Corsindae via what Richard Fyfe tells me is called Green Lane and then across the Comers Burn, where Ian Wade kindly took the 2013 group photo, which is why you cannot see him too, but he was there, honest.



As we walked up through the rough ground behind the old Snow Plough station site, our esteemed editor took pictures of peoples backs and bottoms, as you can see there was lots of chat going on and still no clouds, our luck was holding. A prize goes to the first person to identify the guy in the silly red hat and coat...

Then onwards to Comers and across the Burn again, up through Glenwood, where Jenny Begg waved us all by and then back to the Hall for Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Thank you to everyone who donated extra goodies to the feast and also to those who made a donation to cover the cost, we actually had £20 extra so that has gone to Hall funds as a contribution to the heating bill. The refreshments were a last minute idea but just a great way to finish the morning.



Article by Rob Ferguson : if you have comments/feedback on the content, my contact details are Tel 01330 830038 or eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk.



Little Princess Trust

A charity to provide real hair
wigs for children suffering hair loss

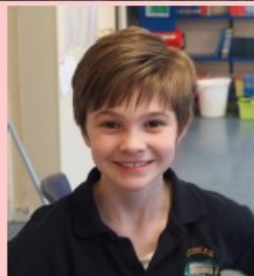


There goes my hair for the little princes
& princesses of the Little Princess Trust!
Thank you Morag!

A HUGE thank you to Mrs. Shepherd
and all of the students of Midmar
Primary for your support!



Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who supported my
fundraising effort for the Little Princess Trust!
With the help of this wonderful community and
my fabulous friends & family I've raised over
£1000 and still going!

If you'd like to support the Little Princess Trust,
you can find my fundraising page at
uk.virginmoneygiving.com/CharlotteRohays.



Car Boot/ Table top sale

Sunday 30th March
Midmar Hall

Free entry to buyers and browsers

Refreshments available

Set up from 8.00 Open 9.00 - 12.00

£10 per car boot / table

Tel 01330 833910 to reserve a space



For those of you who enjoy going to the movies we have heard that Midmar Sheet Movies will be showing the following film:

Saturday 29th March at 6pm

Singalong expected & costumes encouraged!

Entry & Snacks by donation.

Doors open 20 minutes before showing

Yoga Classes

Thursday 7.30 – 8.45, Echt Hall

Monday 1.00-2.30, Midmar Hall

£6 per class

Contact Hazel Connolly 01330 833455

hazel.connolly@btinternet.com



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Ceremonies*

Do you have a milestone in your life that you'd like to celebrate?

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- coming of age
- your wedding
- or do you want to renew your vows?

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Gaynor on 07591693602 or at

caledoniaceremonies@yahoo.co.uk

Burns Night a Great Success

Well, what a huge success the Burns Night at Midmar Hall on Saturday 18th January turned out to be! Over 80 people enjoyed the traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties and were ably entertained by a wealth of local talent. Lana and Kailey Maxwell, together with Sula Humberstone, all pupils at Midmar Primary School gave a



confident and accomplished demonstration of Highland dancing. A couple of songs from our own Midmar Singing Group had our feet tapping and 'To a Mouse', beautifully recited by our own Phyllis Baird brought home the skills of our Bard. To round off the evening, we enjoyed some wonderful piano playing by Jonathan Wilson



selection of songs from 'Alrika' who consist of Karen Ward playing the clarsach, Richard Ward on guitar and Alison Hester playing the whistle. I must just say a huge thanks to our speakers. Alistair McRobb kept the evening running smoothly with his wit and enthusiasm and Ian Humberstone yet again succeeded in putting great energy into addressing the haggis! Murray Douglas and his sister Pat Moir had us doubled up with laughter at the toast to the lassies and reply. We managed to raise £800 for the Hall, which will be put towards making next year's event even better with



the purchase of more table cloths and kitchen equipment. Thank you to all who attended and supported this great evening. If you missed out this year, don't miss out the next!!! Remember, it was a sell out so get your tickets as soon as you see it advertised.



Midmar School News

School Open Day – Saturday 22 March 2014

We are planning an Open Day to celebrate 50 years of education in the present Midmar School building and the completion of the extension. This event will take place in Midmar School, on Saturday 22 March from **10.00am – 1.00pm**. Old photographs will be on display, there will be a welcome cup of tea and home bakes and a chance to reminisce over old school memories. We look forward to seeing past and present members of the Midmar Community.

Burns Supper

Everyone enjoyed a traditional Burns lunch in school on Friday 24th January. The haggis was piped in by Ewan Davies. Carrying the haggis, neeps and tatties were Hamish Munro, Fearghas Goodin and Callum Stewart. The Address to the Haggis was given by Maia Dowell, Ellie Miller, Chloe Crossland, Yvette Lawrence, Mia Millward, Sula Humberstone, Kirsty Macmillan and Lana Maxwell. Lewis Harper said the Selkirk Grace. Aaron Stewart and George Wilson gave the toast to the lassies and Beth Stewart, Chloe Lawrence and Christina Stewart replied. The Immortal Memory was written and read by Ben Morriss. Children in Primary 1 and 2 recited part of To a Mouse and Louise Stewart, Sula Humberstone, Sadhbh Goodin and Maia Dowell recited 'My love is like a Red Red Rose. Emily Wade and Fionn Sewell told Burns jokes.



Diary Dates

Friday 7.3.14

Community Café

Saturday 22.3.14

Open Day

Saturday 26.4.14

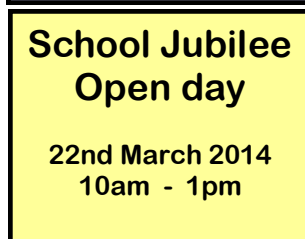
Race Night – Midmar
Hall

Saturday 10.5.14

Fun Day – Netball and
Football from
10.00am



Midmar events at



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

at a glance

Location	Time	Further Information
School	10am -12pm	Barbara Harrison 860421
Ball	1pm - 2.30pm	Hazel Connolly 833455
	8pm -10pm	Alistair McRobb 833715
Ball	9.30am -11.30am	Pamela Black 833682
Ball	9.30am -11.30am	Laura Wade 833810
School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC -
Byre	7pm - 9pm	Kay Hourston 833515
Ball	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Alan Blackie 833482
School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07503 670 454
Ball	6pm -7.30pm	Colleen Moir 833680
Ball	7.30pm -9.30pm	Judith Stokoe 833719
Ball	7.30pm	Ruth McRobb 833715
Bowling	7.30pm -10pm	Isabel Birse 833209
Ball	9.30am -11.30am	Pamela Black 833682
Park	9.45am - 10am	
Ball	9.45am - 10.45am	Angie Barclay 07796076445
Byre	10.30am-12.30pm & 1pm - 3pm	Kay Hourston 833515
School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC -
Ball	10am - 12pm	Next date 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May
Byre	10am – 12pm	Kay Hourston 833515

Quiz Night

22nd March
7pm

HEAT: JOSEPH, ENGLISHMAN, COLE, STEVEN, SCHWABER, DEE, LOONEY, JAMAL, CHRISTIE
CHIEF: WALTER, COOPER, DUFFY, GREAVES

MAMMA MIA!

THE MOVIE

A mother.
A daughter.
Three fantastic fathers.
A trip down the aisle
you'll never forget.



29th March
6pm
Singalong

SUMMER 2008

Race Night

26th April
Midmar Hall
7pm

the smokin bert cooper band

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

MIDMAR HALL BAND and a BBQ

Sat 7th June
7:30pm 'til late

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



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 support a family. All volunteers must attend a Preparation Course which takes eight to nine mornings spread over a couple of months.

Our next Preparation Course starts in the Spring. If you are interested in volunteering we would love to hear from you. Please contact us on the details below and we will provide you with more information.

Office – 01467 624801 or email:

mhairi@homestartgarioch.org.uk

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Midmar Community Hogmanay Party 2013



With last years event being a huge success, over 130 residents attending, the dance floor was never empty!!

Plans are now well underway for the Midmar Community Hogmanay Party 2014, disco by Road Runner Entertainments.

More details to follow in the Winter Edition of the Newsletter.

Dear Midmar Resident,

I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute an article to this excellent Midmar Newsletter. My name is Iain Thomson and I was appointed Interim Moderator and Locum Minister to Echt & Midmar when your last Minister, Alan Murray moved on. So that's three months that I've been helping the church here. Prior to retiring some 3 years ago, I was Minister of the Parish of Skene for 39 years.



My involvement with Midmar Church has so far been in conducting the services of worship each Sunday, some pastoral visiting particularly to elderly people, conducting both baptismal and funeral services, and chairing meetings of Church organisations. It is however both a part-time and temporary appointment until such time as a new full time Parish Minister is appointed. A committee of 13 members from Echt and Midmar has been formed and their remit is basically to find a suitable candidate for the post, which will very soon be advertised.

I recognise that not all who see this newsletter will be members of Midmar Parish Church but realise you may still be interested in what is happening in your local Church. Hopefully it won't be long before the vacancy for a Parish Minister is filled. So in the meantime, I am happy to help out. My thoughts after 3 months are:

- What a friendly, supportive group of people there is here in Midmar.
- The welcome offered at Worship is very warm but not 'over the top' and there's the opportunity for a cup of tea/coffee and a 'news' after the service.
- What a supportive neighbourliness there is in Midmar- a real community caring. I've come across this regularly over these months.
- There is real potential for Midmar Church to continue to contribute positively to the lives of people here and to grow in sharing the Good News of God's love for each and all.
-

Yes, I'm enjoying getting to know people in Midmar (and Echt) and conducting the Sunday services.

With kind regards,
Iain U. Thomson

Our Church calendar events include a sponsored **Christian Aid Walk in May**, with lunch first at Midmar Church, then walking to Echt Church where afternoon tea will be served.

Come and enjoy the exercise and food! – all in a good cause.

MARCH 2014	Midmar & Echt Church Calendar 2014		
Sunday 2 nd	Morning Worship	Midmar Church	10.15 a.m.
Friday 7th March	World Day of Prayer: from Egypt	Midmar Church	7.00p.m .
Sunday 9 th	Morning Worship	Midmar Church	10.15 a.m.
Sunday 16 th	Morning Worship	Midmar Church	10.15 a.m.
Sunday 23rd	Family Worship	Midmar Church	10.15 a.m.
Saturday 29 th	Daffodil Tea	Echt Hall	2.00-4.00
Sunday 30 th	Morning Worship ASM	Midmar Church	10.15 a.m.
APRIL 2014	School Hols. 7 th - 21 st April		
Sunday 6 th	Morning Worship ASM	Echt Church	10.15 a.m.
Sunday 13 th	Morning worship – Palm Sunday	Echt Church	10.15 a.m.
Thursday 17th	Maundy Thursday	Skene Church	7.00pm
Friday 18th	Good Friday	Trinity Westhill	12 noon
Sunday 20 th Easter Day	Early Morning Communion Easter Breakfast Easter Day : Family Worship	Echt Church Echt Hall Echt Church	8.30 a.m. 9.15 a.m. 10.15 a.m.
Sunday 27 th	Morning Worship - Communion	Echt Church	10.15 a.m.
Sunday 27 th	Evening Worship – Traditional Service	Midmar Church	6.30 p.m.
MAY 2014	Christian Aid Week 11 th -17 th May		
Sunday 4 th	Morning Worship - Communion	Midmar Church	10.15 a.m.
Sunday 11 th	Morning Worship	Midmar Church	10.15 a.m.
Sunday 18 th	Morning worship	Midmar Church	10.15 a.m.
Sunday 25th	Family Worship – Christian Aid Walk	Midmar Church	10.15 a.m.

Walk up an Appetite (11)

STOP PRESS for everyone living near to Barmekin Hill, maybe you have already discovered this, but for me it is NEW NEWS! A path has been cleared through the gorse on the north side and now connects the access track up to Hillside Farmhouse and the path from the saddle to the north of the hill. What a bonus, this means it is now possible to walk all the way round in comfort, the woods on the east side I find a real joy.

New fences have appeared, the landowner, I think, is going to plant trees to the north, but there are gates at all places you would want to enter or leave the area which is excellent.

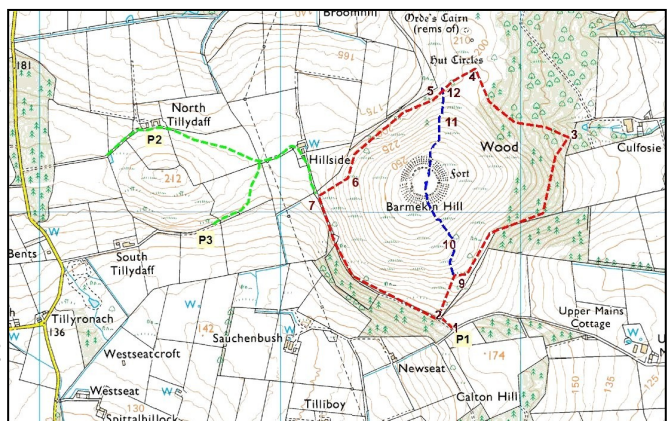
So to celebrate, this article describes this new path with walks both around and over Barmekin Hill. For those who have not visited the Barmekin before, at the top, there are the remains of an ancient hill fort that was defended by two walls of stone and three of earth that are still evident on the ground.

Parking on the main road at the entrance to the access tracks is impractical but I can suggest you either use the unsigned track between West Mains and Sun Honey to drive into the point P1 (on the map) or you park by our houses at North Tillydaff at the location P2, or the South Tillydaff sand quarry P3 and then, walk in via Hillside Farm along the appropriate dashed green route shown on the map to join the circular walk at point 7. From the East side, again there is no easy place to park on the main road and the track beyond Upper Mains Cottage is not for the average road vehicle.

The circular route is easy to do in about 1 hour, it is less than 2 miles over easy ground and tracks so given the season, just dress for the conditions on the day. If you choose to go up the hill the ground is rougher but the single-file path, as long as you stay on it, is not difficult. If you stray off the path over the hill you so have to contend with rough heather and boulders over much of the area.

1) To start from position P1 (by Newseat) head (NW) along the sandy track that if you look carefully on this corner is signed towards Hillside.

2) As you come up to a gate on your right at the fence corner turn right (NNE) through this and start walking up slope on the well-defined grassy track. After about 200 yards the path levels out and jinxes right then left, this is marked as point 9 on our map, it is the start of the path up Barmekin from the south. For the circular route continue in a NE direction following the obvious path and keeping the fence to your right.



- 3) When you reach the burn and valley leading down to Culfosie, stay within the fence, and turn left (W) up the hill. Almost immediately there is a path junction do not take the right turn across the burn, keep walking up hill. To your left (S) the trees are largely mature Beech and to the right side (N) Birch.
- 4) As you climb out of the trees the ground starts to level off and the path bends NW and almost N. When you reach the first corner of the deer fence do not proceed through the gate ahead but turn immediate left (SW), downslope, so the deer fence is on your right.
To identify the place the track from the north over the hill starts (point 12), count 20 fence posts from this corner as you go, i.e. about 80 yards, then looking up the hill, the gap in the heather is fairly obvious and beyond this there is a single-file path.
- 5) As the fence ends do not turn right (NNW) but carry straight on SW.
- 6) As you crest this rise turn sharp right (SW) down slope towards a gate in the fence.
- 7) Pass through the gate and turn left (SE) on the Hillside track to walk past an old sand quarry (to your left) and back down to the starting point of this walk.
- 8) No description
- 9) This is the starting point to ascend Barmekin from the south. It is marked by being on the first obvious bend in the track as you ascend from point 2, the point to turn off lies between two clumps of gorse. Also, on the far side of the valley, if you can identify the electricity pylons going up through the forest you should be standing (more or less) on a line between these and the top of Barmekin Hill.
- 10) Wind your way up the slope as the foot path twists and turns, the bigger trees are an obvious guide in all conditions.

If you are walking North, leave the plateau in the direction of Craigenlow Quarry which can be seen in the distance; if you walking South, as a marker to the start of the path from the top use the pylons going up through the trees on the south side of the Echt-Midmar valley as a marker.

- 11) On the North side, as you descend the slope there is a clear single-file path leading downhill that is visible in normal conditions and the occasional Scotts Pine tree (spaced about 100yds apart) that would be a useful guide when there is snow lying.
- 12) As mentioned previously the start/end of the path to/from the top on the North side is about 80 yards (20 posts) from the new deer fence corner. Coming down (walking North) the path simply meets up with the circular route. To identify the start when ascending (walking South) look for the wide grassy break in the heather running SSW for about 75 yards uphill with small solitary Rowan trees on both sides (see inset picture).



Our route map is not scaled so take OS Landranger Map 38, with you for additional reference information. The total area is enclosed by Eastings NJ72 to NJ74 and Northings NJ06 to NJ08. Article by Rob Ferguson : if you have comments/feedback on the content, my contact details are Tel 01330 830038 or eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk.

QUIZ NIGHT

MIDMAR HALL

22ND MARCH 2014

7.00pm

£10 PER PERSON

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Inverurie Branch
Highclere Business Park
Inverurie
AB51 5QW
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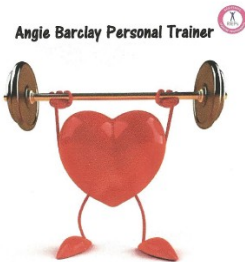
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