

Midmar Newsletter

Published by
Midmar Hall Committee
Spring Edition
Issue 17—March 2015



Dear fellow residents,

Valentine's Day! Already! It appears in memory's eye that Christmas was done and dusted only a few days ago. Yet here we are in the middle of February and the shops are full of it. Cards and balloons, gifts with a hint of romance about them and special meal deals for two including a red rose and champagne. Oh yes, romance is in the air.

Certainly that appeared to be the case as I settled to read the weekend paper. Several real life stories with a love interest peppered its pages. One in particular caught my eye. It concerned a couple who had been married for sixty five years. Record breakers? Maybe. Yet that was not the point of the story. What made the story appeal to the press was that the female had just received her first ever Valentine card from her husband. What made him do it? Why break the habit of a lifetime? Whatever the answer may be we can take a simple message from this story. Namely, that it's never too late.

I recall a conversation I had with a former colleague several years ago. He wanted to know why we had moved from the city to the country. Truth to tell he thought we were crazy. Isolation, price of petrol, length of time spent travelling, lack of amenities. These were some of the reasons he gave to justify his opinion. As we continued I made mention of the hall and all that it had to offer. He compared it to his local community centre and declared that he had never once been inside the building in over forty years. We parted company as he quipped that it was too late in the day for him to change no matter what the centre had to offer.

Over the many years of its existence the hall management committee has done its best to ensure that the hall provides opportunities for people in the community to meet and mingle. A few years ago we issued a survey/questionnaire in an attempt to involve as many people as possible in creating a programme of activities at the hall. Consequently a number of initiatives were embarked upon including the Midmar Sheet Movies and the Community Cafe.

As the committee considers the future of the hall we are looking at the possibility of another questionnaire. This may well appear later in the year and could provide an opportunity for suggestions and comments. Hopefully such an exercise may attract even more support for the ventures we undertake. Whether or not you have ever attended an event at the hall or have not done so for quite some time we would be delighted to see you.

Alistair McRobb, Hall Chairman



PUB QUIZ

MIDMAR HALL

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH - 7:00PM

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM AMBER ON
01330 833682 OR TEXT 07776 232 974**

£10 PER PERSON INCLUDES

**CHILLI OR MACARONI FOLLOWED BY
STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING**

BYOB

RAFFLE TICKETS ON THE DOOR

Midmar 2014 Hogmanay Community Party



Another successful year with over 150 residents attending, the dance floor was never empty!!

A profit of £206.00 has been donated to Midmar Hall.

Plans are now well underway for the Midmar Community Hogmanay Party 2015, disco by Road Runner Entertainments. More details to follow in the Autumn & Winter 2015 editions of the Midmar Newsletter.



The Midmar Players are ready to entertain you with their production of **'Robin Hood'**.

With a cast of almost 30 people with an age range of 7 – 70! Rehearsals are underway and will continue twice per week until show time! Not only do we have a great script, but also some wonderful music including adaptations of songs from Bonnie Tyler and Eric Clapton!! – Yes, only in Midmar!!

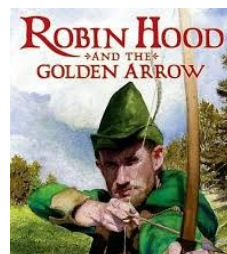
The show dates are as follows:

Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm

Friday 20th March at 7.30pm

Saturday 21st March at 4pm

Be prepared to have a great laugh, sing-along and perhaps even join in!! Get your tickets from Jenny Begg (01330 833474) Now! Look forward to seeing you there!



Burns Night

The Burns Night at Midmar Hall on Saturday 17th January turned out to be another massive success! 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, pupils at Midmar Primary School, gave a confident and accomplished demonstration of Highland dancing. Dougal and Finlay Humberstone gave us a sample of chanter playing. Clair Bellarby from Dunecht wowed us with her confident playing of the clarsach. George Wilson and Ally Black were just fantastic on the drum and bagpipes.

Our speakers this year were Alistair McRobb, who kept the evening running smoothly with his wit and enthusiasm and Ian Humberstone yet again succeeded in putting great energy to say nothing of sheer drama, into addressing the haggis! Malcolm Stewart kept us all amused with his board games stories in his toast to the lassies and Frances Millward had us doubled up with laughter with her 'kodak' story for the reply from the lassies. To finish off the evening, we were very fortunate to have a newcomer to the area, Thomas Laurie, who brought along his accordion and played the rest of the evening for us to enjoy some ceilidh dancing.

To everyone who helped with the food preparation, serving and eating, we thank you all. Special thanks go to Jackie Humberstone for the most delicious shortbread (we all need that recipe!).

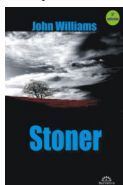
We managed to raise £1012 for the Hall, which will be put to good use in improving the Hall.

Were you there? Do you have any feedback on the evening? We are really keen to have your comments on the food and entertainment, or anything else, good or bad! How can we improve for next year? We would love to hear from you. Please e-mail your comments to midmarhall@btinternet.com. Please also get in touch if you would like to be involved next year. Would you like to be part of the entertainment? Are you able to address the Haggis? Wish to do the Immortal Memory? Or simply help set up? Please do get in touch, this is a fantastic community event and we hope to improve year by year.

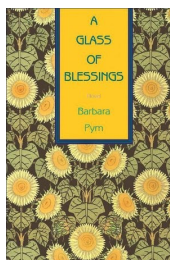
If you missed out this year, don't miss out the next!!! Remember, it was a sell out so get your tickets as soon as you see it advertised.

Midmar Book Club

March's book:
Stoner by John Williams



April's book:
A Glass of Blessings
Barbara Pym



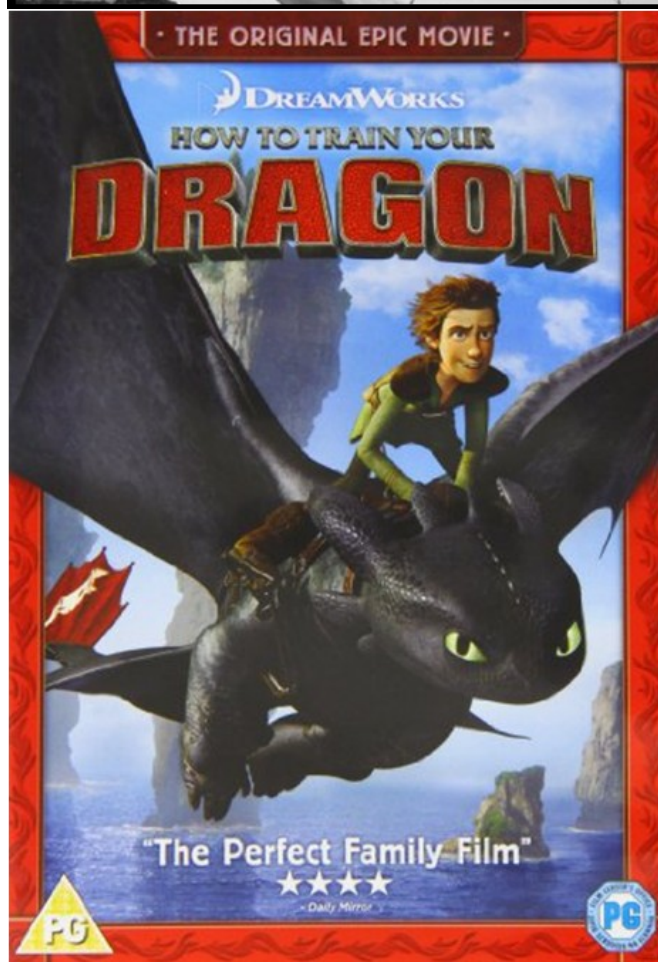
May's book: A Question of Loyalties by Allan Massie



Your contact for the book group is Alistair McRobb 833715

MIDMAR SHEET MOVIES

ARE PROUD TO PRESENT...



Saturday 28 March

5.30 pm

Movie Tea

Cert PG

MIDMAR HALL

DOORS OPEN 20 MINUTES PRIOR TO PERFORMANCE

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Midmar Boxing Day Walk 2014



Again we were lucky this year, the sky was blue, the sun shone and there was a gentle breeze to cool us down climbing Comers Brae. It was great to catch up with friends during the festive break and meet new people from near and far (including Canada).

About 30 people of all ages rolled up in good time and, when I blew my scary whistle tuned in to listen to where we might meet livestock, the pooper scooping rules and dog control at Corsindae woods. Thank you to everyone for paying attention, I did not need the whistle again for the rest of the day.

This year we set off towards Glenwood, and as Laura Wade immediately commented, bad planning on my part! Not being a dog owner I had not considered our four legged companions who all took this as the signal for a mass poo. Every direction I looked there were owners dutifully scooping.

Our route took us down past the school, over the burn via the footbridge towards Comers and then up the brae past the old Snow Plough station site. This year we carried on towards Ordiefork so we could stroll down the avenue of trees at Kebbatay. Before we reached the gatehouse we headed across the meadow towards Muirton and took this group picture that included **almost** everyone.



So what was Oliver Bidwell doing instead? A prize for the best answer



Having crossed Comers Burn again, from Muirton we headed towards Corsindae, up Green lane and past the disused sand quarry returning to the Hall via the field that has the Trig Point in it.

Back at the Hall we relaxed for convivial chat with the sun's warmth streaming through the windows and to revive us, a choice of either mulled wine or mulled apple juice with the mince pies. Thanks to everyone who brought along other goodies which included my home made brandy butter that Isabelle mistook for houmous and put it out with the crisps; that raised a few eyebrows for those who tucked in!

Thank you also to everyone who donated cash to cover the costs, we had £15 extra, so that has gone to Hall funds as a contribution to the heating bill.

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.

MIDMAR HALL 100 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

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

For a small annual subscription, currently £12, you will be allocated a membership number which will be entered into a monthly draw. These draws will take place each month from June 2015 to April 2016. Numbers will be drawn during a Hall user group session. This could be playgroup, bowling, Community café etc. The winners will be displayed on both the noticeboard at the Hall and at the School. You will be notified by e-mail if you provide your contact details on the membership form. Prizes each month will be £30, £20 and £10.

May 2015 is when we have our annual draw where the prizes are £100, £50, £30 and £20. As you can see, by the prize awards it's well worth joining the 100 Club!

This year you can enter as many as five names from the same household on one form. You will find a form on the next page of the newsletter. Please complete the details and send, together with your payment to Pamela Black at the address shown. If you require additional forms, you can download one from our website www.midmarhall.com or call Pamela Black on 01330 833682. Forms and payment may also be dropped into the Hall post box, where Pamela will collect them.

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





Midmar Hall '100 Club'

Prize Draw

Membership Form 2015 - 2016

Midmar Village Hall
'100 Club'
c/o Pamela Black
Conners Croft
Midmar
Aberdeenshire
AB31 7QB

For an annual subscription of £12 you will be entered in to the monthly draw from June to April

First Prize: £30 Second Prize: £20 Third Prize: £10

The annual '100 Club' event to be held in May 2016 will have prizes as follows:

First Prize: £100 Second Prize: £50 Third Prize: £30 Fourth Prize: £20

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

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

e-mail: _____

(your e-mail address will be used to advise you of the winners and to keep you in touch with '100 Club' and Hall events)

I enclose cash/cheque* for the annual membership of £12 per person (payable to Midmar Hall '100 Club').

*Bank transfer details: Sort Code: 82 61 00 Account No. 00396512 (Please use your name as a reference).

*indicate payment method

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return completed forms to the above address by 30th May 2015

Tear off slip will be returned to you with your Membership Number.

✂.....

Member Name(s): _____ Member No(s): _____

Member Name(s): _____ Member No(s): _____

Member Name(s): _____ Member No(s): _____

Member Name(s): _____ Member No(s): _____

Member Name(s): _____ Member No(s): _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Treasurer)

The purpose of the '100 Club' is to raise funds for the upkeep of Midmar Village Hall

Contact Details: Tel: 01330 833682 or e-mail: info@midmarhall.com

Where Have All Our Paths Gone?

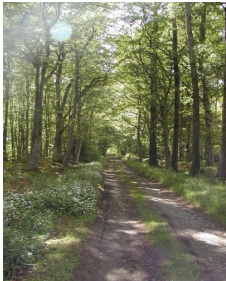
Once upon a time, and not so long ago, all children walked to school in Midmar and most adults would walk much more too. There were paths and tracks linking farms and cottages with the fields, the shops, the hall, the school and the pub allowing friends to visit each other easily by foot without the need for a vehicle. Some of these routes have evolved to be metalled roads whilst the rest continue as paths or tracks. Unfortunately, in recent years, a number of these traditional routes (that are not roads) have been blocked, often just due to change of land use.



I organise the cross-country running training for Midmar School and we are lucky to have safe and easy access to varied places for this activity. Thanks to Gordon Walker, we are able to use adjoining fields until ploughing starts, and again after harvest. After ploughing we scratch around a bit as there are only so many times you can inspire the kids to run down the glen..... and back up again! This year we plan to make more use of Tillybirloch woods and we will have to tackle the gorse, broom and brambles encroaching on the direct route linking from the school to Tillybirloch Cottages. Cross-country running is not really supposed to draw blood!

There are lots of other places around Midmar where I, and others have noticed that viable paths and tracks have become blocked. We would like to see that trend halted or even put into reverse. Our community needs to rediscover its legs! So many of the things we do involve travelling by car, we need to make a conscious effort to remember that we have legs that could be used for shorter journeys within Midmar.

Everyone can benefit from walking more. In addition to the health benefits, young people in particular need to be free to get safely to their school, the hall and visit friends' houses without ending up on the road or having to be chauffeured.



There are funds available from the local authority to improve access for rural communities by erection of stiles, signs etc. So far none of these funds have come to Midmar! If you would like to support a local working group that might make this happen please let me (Jackie Randell), Rob Ferguson or Marion Miller know.

To start, some of the actions the group will look at include:

- Reinstating blocked paths - in conjunction with farmers and landowners
- Identifying useful new linking routes - where this can be done without inconvenience to farmers and landowners and organise the erection of stiles and signs
- Request to local access officer to work out what funds are available to help improve access for walkers, cyclists and riders

Article by Jackie Randell: if you have comments/feedback on the content, my contact details are Tel 01330 830135 or eMail ianhumberstone@mac.com.



Midmar Parish Church of Scotland

Approaching Easter

As I am writing this, in the middle of February, we are coming up to Lent. Lent is the season of 40 days (not including Sundays) before Easter Day. It starts on Ash Wednesday which is on February 18th and runs to Easter Day on April 5th.

Lent is traditionally a time when people give something up to remind themselves of the sacrifice which Christ made for us. People tend to give up things such as chocolate, wine, coffee or late-night snacks.

I would like to offer an alternative – to take something up for Lent. This doesn't mean that you have to forgo your chocolate abstention, but rather, give something up to make room to take something up. The prophet Isaiah wrote:

*This is the kind of fast day I'm after:
to break the chains of injustice,
get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
free the oppressed,
cancel debts.*

*What I'm interested in seeing you do is:
sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.*

*Do this and the lights will turn on,
and your lives will turn around at once.*

Your righteousness will pave your way.

The GOD of glory will secure your passage.

Then when you pray, GOD will answer.

You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.'

(Isaiah 58: 6-7, The Message Translation)

For example, if you want to give up chocolate for Lent, then give up chocolate that is not fairly traded. It is now fairly easy to buy fair-trade chocolate – we have some at the back of the Church if you can't find any.

You could give up Facebook (this would be a very hard one for me!). Instead you could write letters to someone who is ill, a friend, a loved one or someone who is lonely.

You could give up oppression, and take up justice by ensuring that things such as the

clothes you buy are not from far away sweatshops, or you could give to the local food banks.

The 40 days of Lent are a great time to reassess commitments and priorities and to put them all back into perspective.

We have some extra services over Holy Week (the week before Easter Day) as well as on Easter Day itself. Everyone is very welcome to come along.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter!

Rev Elspeth McKay

Thursday 2nd April	Maundy Thursday Communion	Midmar Church	7.30pm
Friday 3rd April	Good Friday	Echt Church	7.30pm
Sunday 5th April Easter Day	Early Morning Communion	Echt Church	8.30am
	Easter Breakfast	Echt Hall	9.15am
	Easter Day Worship	Midmar Church	10.15am

Fund Raising Stories

The Midmar Hall Management Committee are always grateful for donations to help with the running and upkeep of the Hall.

The Boxing Day walk made a donation of £15 and the Community Hogmanay Party donated £206!

We are very grateful to everyone who attended these events, but especially the organisers who endeavour to create opportunities for community members to get involved and enjoy.

Please get in touch with us if you wish to arrange an event at the Hall to raise money to assist in the ongoing maintenance of the Hall.

Pamela Black
Vice Chairperson



Bowlers Needed!

The Midmar Bowling Club are in need of new bowlers to make up their teams. They are looking for four new recruits to join their evening sessions at the hall on a Tuesday night. If you are interested in trying this great social sport then please contact Alan Blackie on 01330 833482



Midmar School News

Visit to Midmar Church

The whole school visited Midmar Church on Tuesday 10th February. We were welcomed by Rev. Elspeth McKay, who told children about the various church artefacts. She then shared the baptism ceremony with us. Finally we all paid a visit to the Stone Circle in the Grave Yard.

Spring Show visit

Children in Primary 5 – 7 visited the Royal Northern Spring Show at Thainstone, Inverurie on Wednesday 25 February. The cost of transport was funded by RNCI (Royal Northern Countryside Initiative). An enjoyable morning was spent seeing round the show and taking part in a number of workshops.



Burns Celebrations

We held our annual Burn Supper on Friday 23rd January. The haggis was piped in by Ben Morriss on the chanter. Callum Stewart, Fearghas Goodin and Robert Wade carried in the haggis, neeps and tatties. The Address to the haggis was recited by Ellie Miller, Lyndsey Brown, Mia Millward, Lana Maxwell and Yvette Lawrence (all P7). Maia Dowell gave the Selkirk Grace. Following lunch of haggis,

neeps and tatties the toast to the Lassies was proposed by Hamish Munro and Chloe Crossland replied on behalf of the lassies. Primary 3 and 4 gave the Immortal memory. Children in Primary 1 – 3 recited Doric poems with children in P3-P7 reciting poems and songs by Burns'. The afternoon came to a close with an Ocadian Strip the Willow and Auld Lang Syne.

Purple Pinkie

Our Rotakids Group are supporting the Rotary Purple Pinkie appeal to eradicate polio. They have crocus lapel badges for sale and have grown pots of crocus bulbs. These pots will be on sale at the Community Café on Friday 6th March.

Rights Respecting School

We continue to work towards our Level 2 Award. We will have information about Children's Rights on display at the Community Café in March and June.

Date for your diary: Midmar School Fun Day – Saturday 9th May 2015.



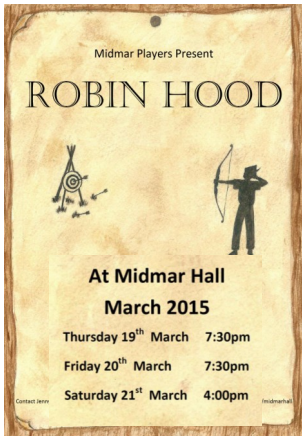
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MIDMAR HALL
FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 7:30PM

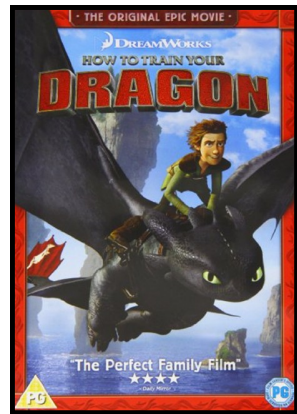
LICENCED BAR

Tickets £20, available from
Laura Wade on 07973770814 or 01330 833810
Laurawade78@yahoo.co.uk

Last year SOLD OUT!..and don't forget there are stovies!



27th March 7.30pm
Midmar Hall



28th March
5pm, Midmar Hall

You can find more information on our website at Midmarhall.com

Midmar even

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

PUB QUIZ
MIDMAR HALL

14th March 7pm
Raffle, BYOB

Starting from
Tamnagorn St
Sunday

Events at a glance



Due	Time	Further Information
School	10am -12pm	Barbara Harrison 860421
	8pm -10pm	Alistair McRobb 833715
Hall	9.30am -11.30am	Pamela Black 833682
Hall	9.30am -11.30am	Laura Wade 833810
School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
Byre	7pm - 9pm	Kay Hourston 833515
Hall	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Alan Blackie 833482
School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
Hall	6pm -7.30pm	Colleen Moir 833680
Hall	7.30pm -9.30pm	Judith Stokoe 833719
Bowling	7.30pm -10pm	Isabel Birse 833209
Hall	9.30am -11.30am	Pamela Black 833682
Park	9.45am - 10am	
Hall	9.45am - 10.45am	Angie Barclay 07796076445
Byre	10.30am-12.30pm & 1pm - 3pm	Kay Hourston 833515
School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
Hall	10am - 12pm	Next dates :

ded Walk
n Mains of Sheils to
one Cirlce and back.
29th March
11am

School Fun day
9th May
Midmar School

CLUNY PARENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

HEARTLAND

LIVE AT MIDMAR HALL

Friday 24th April 2015

7.30pm - 12.30am

Licensed Bar & Fish & Chip Van

Tickets priced at £10 ea are available from Cluny School

Tel. 01330 833204 or email cluny.sch@bedfordshire.gov.uk



Transport Available Back to Sauchen

This is an Adult Only Event



BBQ, Movie & 100 Club draw.

16th May

6pm—7.30pm

followed by movie.

Band & BBQ

Live music with

HEARTLAND

Sat 13th June

7:30pm 'til late Midmar Hall

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

Tickets £17 (in advance only from 2nd April) from:

01330 833722 or 0796465767

www.facebook.com/theheartlandband



Midmar Hall 100 Club



Midmar Hall 100 Club and Midmar Sheet Movies
invite you to join us for
A Movie & A Meal
to celebrate the
100 Club Prize Draw
16th May 2015

BBQ served from 6 - 7.30 pm, followed by Sunshine on
Leith

Tickets for BBQ £5

Available from Pamela 833682 / pjchild-

care@btinternet.com, Nina 860956 / ninabidwell@gmail.com

BYOB

Band & BBQ

Live music with

HEARTLAND



Sat 13th June

7:30pm 'til late

Midmar Hall

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

**Tickets £17 (in advance only from 2nd April) from:
01330 833722 or 07986455767**

www.facebook.com/theheartlandband

Fleeman

Fleeman Productions returned to Midmar Hall on Wednesday 28th of January 2015 with their two plays entitled 'Nicht Shades' and 'Not with a Whimper'.

Fleeman attained their usual high standard and the Dark Doric comedies were thoroughly enjoyed by a receptive audience. Congratulations to Fleeman , we look forward to your next visit in May.



Midmar S.W.R.I.

The host for our November meeting was the photographer Ellis Milton from Kemnay. A wonderful tour of the surrounding area and local wild life unfolded and was enjoyed by all the members. December was our Christmas Lunch which was held at the Tor -Na-Coille hotel Banchory. This was a delightful experience, the food was excellent, our table quiet in a lovely dining room with a log fire. Everyone was very reluctant to leave but nobly departed to hurl something very basic on a plate for spouses and family for their evening meal. January saw one of our members , Bev, giving a fascinating ,amusing talk on her days as a chalet girl. It was a horrible evening weatherwise but everyone became so enthralled it was a shock to go out and find wind and snow. February was our annual feast when members provide a sample of their favourite dishes for everyone else to 'taste and try'. What a choice of dishes! A lot of very well fed ladies staggered home happily. Our next meeting on 11th March is to be hosted by the Scottish S.P.C.A. and then our annual business meeting is on April 15th. Midmar S.W.R.I. are delighted to welcome new members or anyone coming for an evening that interests them. Further information from Judith Stokoe tel:01330 833719 or Michelle Paterson Tel:01330 833490.



Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council.

The first meeting of the Community Council was held on 5th of February 2015 in order to accommodate the local election of Midmar Community Councillors. The election was held on the 22nd of January 2015 in Midmar Village Hall and there was an unprecedented turn out. The results of the election were 1.Richard Fyfe = 66 votes. 2.Kay Hourston = 50 votes and Judith Stokoe with 42 votes. The next public meeting of the Community Council is on March 19th and is to be held in Monymusk Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.Anyone is welcome to attend meetings and can raise any queries or problems regarding local issues.

Midmar Community Councillors .Richard Fyfe tel:01330 833295. Judith Stokoe Tel: 01330 833719 and Kay Hourston tel:01330 833515.

CLUNY PARENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

HEARTLAND

LIVE AT MIDMAR HALL

Friday 24th April 2015

7.30pm – 12.30am

Licensed Bar & Fish & Chip Van

Tickets priced at £10 ea are available from Cluny School

Tel. 01330 833204 or email cluny.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Transport Available Back to Sauchen

This is an Adult Only Event

Walk up an Appetite (14)

I am sure you all missed a new walk appearing in the last Newsletter so to compensate, this walk takes a little longer than usual. It is a circular route that I have described starting at Mains of Sheils but you can easily join it anywhere, or even walk up to the start from Bogend using the much discussed Public Right of Way there!

Guided Walk – Sunday 29th March, starting at 11:00.

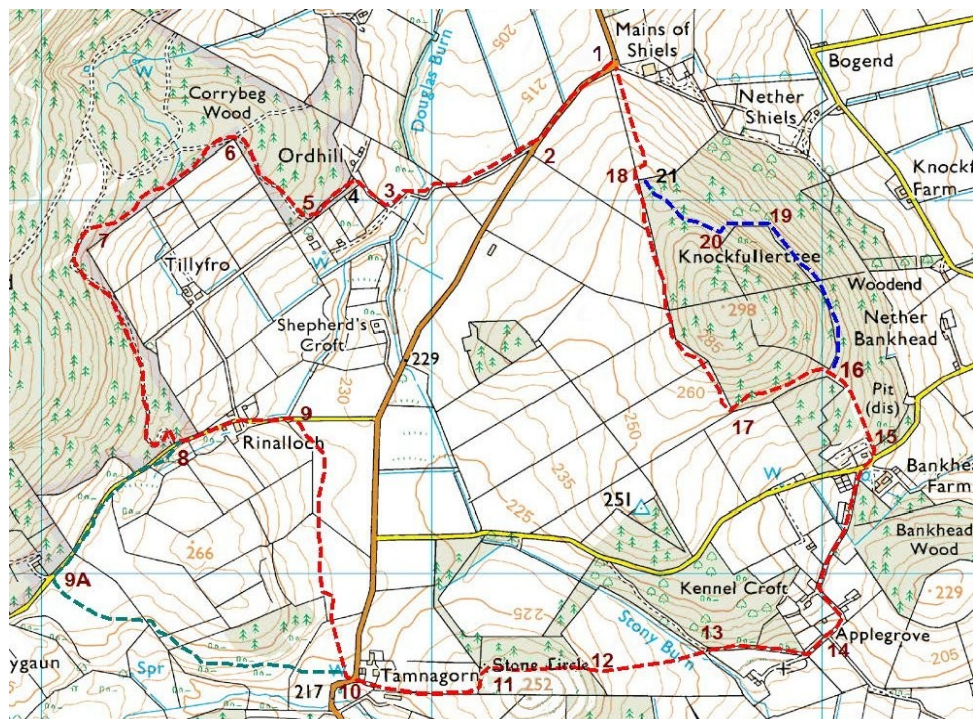
A friend, who helped me scout this route, on one of those really miserable days last weekend, has suggested it would be a fine idea to offer this as a guided walk.

We will start from Mains of Sheils with the aim of having a snack at Tamnagorn Stone Circle and then return via Bankhead to the start by mid-afternoon.

Please let me know in advance if you are coming so we can run a proper head count and arrange sensible alternate parking if necessary.

The route covers all types of terrain and there are several gates to be climbed (because it is not realistic to open them) so everyone must have good mobility, robust footwear is essential and preferably a walking stick for balance in the rougher ground.

The length of the walk is 4.5 miles so allow at least three hours to complete it.



- 1) From Mains of Sheils, head (SW) on the metalled road for about 150 yds
- 2) Turn off the road (WSW) on to the track into the valley at a set of bins that are held securely against the wind by a magnificent wooden construction.

- 3) After crossing the stream and walking up hill a little way you come to a junction. Turn right (NW) and you will almost immediately notice a red letter box, walk by this another 50 yds.
- 4) When you reach the trees turn left (SW), you can enter the woodland with a short scramble up the earth bank where you will quickly pick up an obvious path.
- 5) Follow the path to the SW corner but do not go as far as the field wall, instead turn 90 degrees right to head NW, up slope using an overgrown vehicle track. As you go, drift over towards the boundary wall on your left following animal paths, the ground underfoot is easier there.
- 6) At this corner, turn left (SW). You will immediately find another vehicle track to follow but I only used this for a short distance the walking is more even by the boundary wall.
- 7) As you approach the next corner swing away from the wall slightly to join the forest road that is running first NE/SW before turning to lead you south.
- 8) When you reach the metalled road you can turn either right (SW) or left (ENE) towards Rinalloch. The easiest and normal route is left (ENE), but if there are cattle in the fields between (9) and (10), the options to go round them are either to walk on the road to Tamnagorn or use the option described at (9A) below, shown as the green track on the map.
- 9) After passing Rinalloch Farm, as the road levels out you will come up to a field entrance on the right (S). This entrance is closed by 2 gates, overlapped and tied together so it is not practical to open them; I climbed over into the grazing field and walked on south, following the line of the power supply poles that run through these fields.

There are three more gates; each becomes obvious as you walk on. The first opens but the bolt is tricky to close, you must align the tangs correctly to fully extend it or it will not catch in the post when you close it. The second is tied again but is sturdy enough to climb over safely; the third is just a normal gate!

- 9A) The green track is an alternative route if the preferred route from (9) to (10) is not possible. When you reach Corrennie Cottage turn left (SE), off the road, into the field through the gate and then hack your way towards the south west corner of the woodland you can see over the rise ahead of you. When you reach the woodland, look for gap in the trees, see inset picture. This is the start of a machine track in the forest that will lead you through to Tamnagorn. You will have to negotiate your own way, carefully, round some significant obstructions including two barbed fences.



- 10) **This field gate is dangerous** because it opens straight on to a busy road, please ensure dogs and children are fully under control as you approach. Firstly check for traffic coming round the blind bend from the south before you do step through, secondly do not let the open gate swing into the road. If you opened the field gate, after firmly re-securing it, cross into the farmyard.

You will now see signs showing the way to the stone circle up the south and then east side of the field behind the farmhouse, this is via three small gates (two of which need to be stepped

- 11) The last time I walked this way the route east of the Stone Circle was mature, open woodland with easy walking, now it has been felled and the area is a debris field of discarded branches and unused timber. Fortunately the route from the Stone Circle gate (along the south edge of the dense plantation to the north) is still clear and not difficult. As you go you will cross a new machine track, ignore this and keep walking east.
- 12) You will reach a stone wall border that drops into the field. Just now it is being used for sheep grazing but later in the year it may be planted so either cross directly or go round the border in the direction of Kebbatay Manse and Kirk that you will see in the valley below you.
- 13) Cross the burn at the ford just north west of Kebbatay Manse to walk east again on the track.
- 14) The track becomes a metalled road, continue to follow this in a NE direction, uphill, till you get to the Bankhead saddle where you turn right (NE) to walk for no more than 50 yards.
- 15) Just to the east of the modern bungalow, on the north side of the road, turn left (NNW) on to the clearly defined track that leads into the Knockfullertree woodland. Walk uphill into the woodland, ignoring the gated track to your left (W) where some new trees have been planted.
- 16) As you exit the tunnel through the trees, ahead (north) is the corner of a new plantation that is entirely enclosed by a deer fence, to your east is a lovely area of mature deciduous trees and to the west is more mature plantation. The recommended route is to turn left (W) passing between two distinctive wooden posts (see inset picture) and proceed walking very slightly up-slope, around the contour.
- 17) As you approach the woodland corner stay on the path in the trees until you are about 10 yards from the west wall and then look to the wall corner (SW), where there is a clear passage through to the wall and an easy place to cross into the field. You can now walk up slope from here between the field fence and wall along the whole length of the woodland with lovely views to the west of the walk that you have already done. Only one gate on this stretch!
- 18) Use this last gate to walk back, downhill, on the fallow ground to the start point.



Alternate route in Knockfullertree Woodland

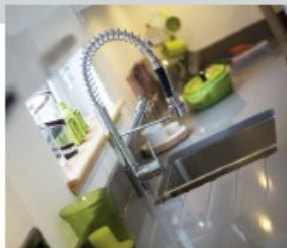
Another way back to the end of the walk from (16) is to stay in the woodland. If you wish to do this, from (16), do not turn left but walk on NE leaving the deer fence on your left (W).

- 19) As the deer fence turns abruptly left (W) follow it up slope. This is a steep climb.
- 20) When the ground starts to level out and then drop away again you need to turn right off the easy path to head NW, pushing through more dense tree growth till you reach mature and openly space trees where you can walk easily down the ridge line.
- 21) You will find a gate to leave the woodland from which point you can walk out to the end point.

Please take OS Landranger Maps 37 and 38, with you for additional reference information. The total area is enclosed by Eastings NJ64 to NJ66 and Northings NJ07 to NJ10. Article by Rob Ferguson : if you have comments/feedback on the content or wish to come on the 29th March for the guided walk, my contact details are Tel 01330 830038 or eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk.

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