

Dear Fellow Residents,

Long ago and far away, at the beginning of my teaching career, I recall being given a gift from a pupil. The reason why I can no longer remember, the name of the pupil is long forgotten but the gift itself remains firmly in the memory. It was a plant pot containing a lump of black earth. Nothing else. It sat on my desk for quite some time until I removed it and placed it on top of the filing cabinet. Out of sight, out of mind. Then one day everything changed.

It was a neglected gift. That is, until the day I noticed something beginning to emerge from the pot of earth. What caught my eye was the beginnings of a sunflower. From that moment onwards it was nurtured, not neglected. It was cared for; it was wanted and during the weeks that followed it grew and grew.

Prior to that metamorphosis I hadn't given the pot and its contents a thought. A pot of earth – big deal! That incident says something of human nature, I think. Very often we are impatient for things to happen. We want results now! We have little time for the waiting game.

Sometimes we need to have a longer perspective. We need to remind ourselves that things take time to mature. Many of the ideas and projects that we have, for our homes or community, evolve over time. They need to be nurtured and we need to be patient. As a Hall Committee we are well aware that our community daily reaps the benefits of the hard work and efforts that were made by residents in the past. We are also conscious that we have a duty to continue that process by planting ideas and initiating projects that will be needed in the years to come.

As we consider the points raised by those who participated in the recent survey we will do our utmost to ensure that they are included in our future planning. By doing so we shall hopefully plant the seeds of community. With patience these seeds will blossom and flourish in the years to come.

Alistair McRobb

Hall Chairman

A big thank you to all the helpers who gave up their time to fetch, carry, weed, plant up and water the Hall garden this year.



Midmar Manor Murder Mystery

Midmar Public Hall is to be the scene for an evening of fine dining laced with sleuthing, skullduggeryandmurder!

On Saturday 3rd October at 7pm, the clock will turn back almost 100 years when the Midmar Players in association with Lazy Bee scripts will join attendees at a house party given by Sir Hector McTavish of Midmar in 1926. Throughout the evening, guests will have the opportunity to mingle with the 'cast' and question them about their connection with the events that will unfold.

A delicious three-course meal with coffee will be prepared and served by caterers Harry Fraser of Inverurie. Diners will get to know more about the characters in role during arrival drinks and in scenes presented between courses. Each table of eight guests will be able to question the 'suspects' and deduce who the murderer is. Of course there will be a prize for the best deduction!

Co-ordinators John and Sarah Kearns are giving nothing away about the script, but opportunities for improvisation will be many allowing the cast to do what they do best – there is sure to be much laughter!

Tickets are £35 each and include a drink on arrival, meal, coffee and a full evening's entertainment. Guests will be seated in tables of 8 and are welcome to bring their own drinks for the meal. 1926 evening dress is purely optional, but may add to the atmosphere if guests wish.

Tickets are available from Angela Wilson on 833910 or ae.wilson@btinternet.com and are sure to sell quickly for an event that promises to be different, delicious, and deadly!

Cover Photograph Winner

Congratulations to Nina Bidwell for her front page photograph showing the fabulous progress made by volunteers at the hall with this year's planting. There are more photographs in the newsletter.

Where Have All Our Paths Gone - Part 3

In this issue there is new news on several fronts, it is great to see so many people taking an interest and turning out to help with the activities that have been arranged since the last newsletter was circulated. You know who you are, thank you!

Also our Community Council's application for funding support from Aberdeenshire Council, to improve or preserve access throughout the Midmar area, has been successful. It is of course still necessary for volunteers to do the practical work; the money will be used to defray the practical costs that will arise.

First to benefit has been **Comers Bridge** which is important to so many people. For any of you who have been that way recently you will have noticed that a large proportion of the treads have been replaced and that the central support has been strengthened.

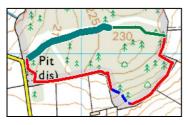
Late in July, good things happened too, along the historic right of way route from **Midmar Kirk to Balblair**, as you can see from this picture, the rubble that had appeared there has been pushed aside. Our appreciation goes to whoever caused that to happen. It will not be difficult for those of us who use the route regularly to flatten out the remaining earthy lump with spade and pick axe.



The path between the **school car park** and the back of **Tillybirloch** has been tidied up and as many rocks as possible removed making it possible for users to avoid detouring through the farmer's field. Please be respectful of the residents who live at the Tillybirloch end of the track, pick up dog and horse mess and remove it when it happens. We found more than one bag hanging from tree branches when we were working there which is not acceptable, to help alleviate the problem of disposal we will be asking the council to install an extra bin at one end of this route.

In the last issue we were reported that the locked gate at **Mains of Shiels**, had been unlocked allowing riders, cyclists and farm vehicles to pass through the gate without hassle. Unfortunately the lock has been reinstated so we shall be taking this up with the council's part time access officer again. Nothing except direct action seems to have had any success in the years since this problem was first reported to the council

At Bogindhu, we have made a good start on creating a circular walking route for



everyone to use around the southern area of the woodland, there is still a difficult 100 yard section to complete (blue dash on map) which we plan will be ready after the foresters have finished felling in September. The route is marked by canes with yellow tags on them, it is quite rough in places but it will improve with use. Give your dog a change next weekend and give it a try!

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

Midmar Players - In association with Lazy Bee Scripts presents...

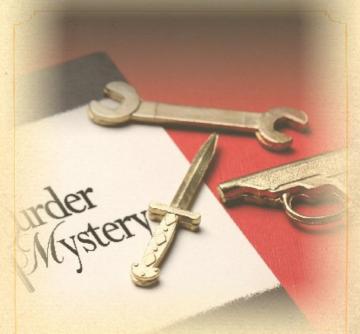
A Midmar Manor Murder Mystery SATURDAY 3DD OCTORED

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

7PM



£35



SILVER SERVICE 3 COURSE MEAL + COFFEE WITH COMPLIMENTARY DRINK ON ARRIVAL
(BYOB FOR DURING THE MEAL)

THE EVENINGS ENTERTAINMENT IS SET IN THE 1920'S YOU ARE ENCOURAGED BUT NOT OBLIGED, TO DRESS IN THE FORMAL 20'S

AN EVENING OF SKULDUGGERY, SLEUTHING & FINE DINING AT MIDMAR HALL

The hall will be arranged with tables seating 8. Each table will have the opportunity to question the suspects, deduce who the murderer(s) are and to justify the basis of their deduction

FOR TICKETS CONTACT ANGELA WILSON ON 01330 833910



Midmar Hall Committee

Annual Cancert to be held in Midmar Hall on Sunday 18th October 2015 2pm

Garioch Blend, Bill Gray and the Star from Pitlochry, Eddie Rose

Refreshments served and Raffle

Tickets £10.00



Midmar Playgroup

Tues 9.30-11.30am Wed 9.30-11.30am 2.5 to 5yrs

Come meet other local mums & kids, Contact Frances; frankie19701@live.co.uk Get Involved, Get Chummed Up!!





Midmar 2015 Hogmanay Community Party

on Thursday 31st December 2015 at Midmar Hall 7.30pm – 2am'ish

Disco by Road Runner Entertainments

Bring your children!
Bring your own bottles and snacks!

Adult Ticket £5

Primary School Children and under £2

(includes Soup, Butteries/Hot Dog)

All profits go to Midmar Hall

Tickets available from 1st November 2015

please call

Donna Miller 01330 833996 / 07801 815383

Midmar Parish Church of Scotland



Probably when you read this, your holidays will have long been passed and you will be settled in well back into the rhythm of your daily life. However, I am writing this at the beginning of August when people have either just come back from a time away or are just about to go.

I have just come back from the Island of Coll in the Inner Hebrides after having two weeks off. The weather wasn't brilliant but we did manage to have a couple of walks on the beach whilst we were there and plenty of other outings too. We even managed to go on a day trip to the neighbouring island, Tiree, for a different view. The great thing about Coll is that it is quiet (most of the time). The place of life is slower and even the cars drive much slower because the roads are so narrow.

Although going on holiday does sometimes feel as if it is a luxury, it really isn't. We all need time to rest and recuperate from our busy lives. Sometimes people want to go somewhere busy with lots of nightlife and entertainment, but rather, for me, I prefer to go somewhere quiet with fewer distractions and just sit and be. I once went on a silent retreat (for those of you who know me this comes as a great surprise as I am not known for my silence!) in Glen Esk and it was probably the best break that I have ever been on.

The same feeling as we have of the need to get away also applied to Jesus. So often in the Bible we are told that Jesus took himself away to a mountaintop or the other side of the Sea of Galilee just to get a break. Sometimes he went alone and sometimes he went with his disciples. For example, before Jesus chose who the disciples would be, he took himself off to a mountainside to pray; after a time of being very busy, Jesus took the disciples to a quiet place to pray and get some rest, and when he had had enough of being with people Jesus hid away in a friend's house to find seclusion. Being by yourself or with your close friends is something that was needed in Jesus' life just as it is in ours.

Sometimes we need time away from the stresses and strains of daily life, to be quiet, to be in God's presence and recharge our batteries. So, go on, when you are feeling stressed and overwhelmed, stop and just sit and wonder at God's creation all around us.

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

Thank you

The hall committee is very grateful to all who completed the questionnaire in the last edition of the newsletter and it's not too late to still give feedback. Having consulted the community we are now in a position to consider and take forward the suggestions made. More about that in the next newsletter! Meanwhile if anyone is interested in evening sewing get togethers for all abilities where those attending can help each other, please Marion Miller contact via email marion@millerfarms.co.uk and she will try and bring you all together.

Also a men's shed, Pilates classes and a youth group for older children have all been mentioned so please get in touch if you are interested in those.



Guided Walk
Sunday 29th Nov
11am
Starting at Bankhead

Midmar events

Day	Activit
Monday	Rising 5's (for our pre-so
	Book Club (Last Monday
Tuesday	Playgroup
	Toddlers
	After School Club
	Upholstery Classes
	Bowling (October throug
Wednesday	After School Club
	SWRI (2nd Wednesday
	Whist (4th Wednesday o
	Playgroup
Thursday	Mobile Library (fortnight)
new	PiYO
	Upholstery Classes
	After School Club
Friday	Community Cafe (1st Frid



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		Town Street, or other transferred to the street, or other transfer		

ty	Venue	Time	Further Information
chool children)	Midmar School	10am -12pm	Barbara Harrison 860421
of the month)	Various	8pm -10pm	Alistair McRobb 833715
	Midmar Hall	9.30am -11.30am	Frances Millward Frankie19701@live.co.uk
	Midmar Hall	9.30am -11.30am	
	Midmar School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
	The Little Byre	7pm - 9pm	Kay Hourston 833515
h to March)	Midmar Hall	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Alan Blackie 833482
	Midmar School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
of the month)	Midmar Hall	7.30pm -9.30pm	Judith Stokoe 833719
f the month)	Millbank Bowling Club Hut	7.30pm -10pm	Isabel Birse 833209 Starts 23rd Sept at Millbank
	Midmar Hall	9.30am -11.30am	Frances Millward Frankie19701@live.co.uk
y)	Hall car park	9.45am - 10am	
	Midmar Hall	9.30am - 10.30am	Angie Barclay 07796076445
	The Little Byre	10.30am-12.30pm & 1pm - 3pm	Kay Hourston 833515
	Midmar School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
day of the month)	Midmar Hall	10am - 12pm	
	11/2	SELVIC A A 3	

nor Murder Mystery
AY 3RD OCTOBER

Hogmanay Party
Midmar Hall
31st December
7.30pm til 2am ish

Walk up a Smaller Appetite (16)

A shorter walk this time, avoiding fields that may have livestock, starting at Bankhead, passing through Knockfullertree Woodland and then going via Nether Shiels, Bogend, Scottiestone, Dryburn, Kebbaty and Ordiefork with no fences to climb over for a change, unless you want to!

Guided Walk - Sunday 29th November, starting at 11:00.

Sorry it is so late but this is my first free date in the Autumn. We will start from Bankhead where there is parking on the rough ground (NJ 6610 0816) opposite the cottages (see note on map) on the road down to Applegrove and Kebbaty Manse. Please let me know in advance if you are coming so we can run a proper head count.

Most of the route uses well-made tracks and metalled road but there is a steep descent in Knockfullertree woodland to Nether Shiels so everyone must have good mobility, a walking stick for balance and robust footwear is essential. The length of the walk is about 3 miles so allow at least two hours to complete the circuit.



 Start by walking NNE into Knockfullertree woodland using the track adjacent to the modern bungalow.

- 2) As you emerge from the dense plantation trees on both sides, you reach the southern apex of a deer fence protecting more plantation. Turn slightly N by E and leave the fence on the left hand side. There are high ferns in this section so ensure your legs are protected from bugs taking a nibble.
- 3) At the end of the deer fence carry on (NW) for another 50 yards where you will cross a "log" bridge making the path. After the bridge you can turn down hill (90 degrees to the right, i.e. NE) and either follow the obvious zig-zag path or descend directly down the gap in the trees, whatever you feel comfortable with.
- 4) At the bottom of the slope carry on NE and follow the cleared track to walk out of the woodland through the Nether Shiels gate, this is the one that is not kept locked, please close it after passing through.

Note: When walking this route in the opposite direction to this description (i.e. anticlockwise), you will be presented with three directions at this junction. The one to your left (SE) is obviously wrong. The one opposite you, i.e. to the SSW, is directly up the contour and is hard work. My recommendation is to set off west (i.e. take the route to the right) and within about 5 paces, to your left, you will see faint traces of the end of the zig-zag path. Either follow this if you see it, or walk up the wider grass covered access till it ends (150+ yds), then ascend the hill, straight up the contour, until you get to some wind blow where you can turn south to walk for about 130 paces and pick up the path across the "log" bridge described above.

- 5) At the metalled road turn left (NW) towards Bogend and just follow its route around the sharp right hand bend so you are heading almost east again.
- 6) After passing the Scottiestone Farmhouse track entrance, if you prefer to walk through grass you can swing off the road for 200 yards to walk through the triangular field that is currently being used as a quad bike circuit. There are no gates.
- 7) Leaving the metalled road, turn right (S) to take the track towards Dryburn and Kebbaty, Dryburn is clearly labelled on one of the bins standing at the corner. Carry straight on past the cottages to cross the burn and walk up the beautiful avenue of beech trees on either side.
- 8) At the tee junction turn right (WSW) and then follow the track with several bends, this will take you past Ordiefork, the house with a partial turf roof.
- 9) Reaching the metalled road again, turn right (NW by N).
- 10) On the metaled road junction take the first turn left (WSW) up towards Bankhead.
- 11) About two thirds of the way up this steep road, after you pass the cottage on the right, you can elect to leave the road to the left, cross the field gate and walk back up to the start of the walk avoiding the dangerous 'S' bend on the road ahead of you. Alternatively if you prefer, or if there are livestock in the field, just stay on the road.

Please take OS Landranger Map 38 with you for additional reference information. The total area is enclosed by Eastings NJ65 to NJ67 and Northings NJ08 to NJ10. Article submitted by Rob Ferguson: if you have comments/feedback on the content or wish to join the guided walk on 29th November, my contact details are Tel 01330 830038 or eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk.

Cluny and Midmar Senior Citizens Committee

The summer bus trip took place on Saturday 6th June, travelling to The Kelpies with a stop at The Horn for the famous Bacon Roll!!

It was a successful day with 48 people on board, the only downside was the gale force winds.

Our fundraising treasure hunt on 27th June attracted 30 cars which was unexpected but the committee were delighted that nearly £500 was raised on the night for our funds.

The monthly whists will begin on Wednesday 23rd September, 7.30pm at the Millbank Bowling Club Hut, everyone welcome.

Saturday 28th November, Kemnay Bowling Club is again the venue for a meal & entertainment 1pm to 5pm approx.

Over 60 is the age bracket for those living on the Cluny & Midmar areas. Please give your names to any committee member. Isabel 833209, Gordon 833591, Margaret M 833454, Margaret O 01339 883572, Jock 833574

Echt and district Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and Residents' Forum

If you are interested in being kept informed by email of local news, events, meetings and issues that concern Echt and district, please contact Paula Houston of Echt and district Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and Residents' Forum (ENWRF) on ipca1001@gmail.com

She has just under 100 email addresses registered already (some outwith the Echt village boundary) with new residents being added every month or so. Paula is the email database co-ordinator co-opted to the forum that is chaired by George Glennie, Email: g.glennie603@btinternet.com Wendy Duncan is the minutes secretary, Email: duncanrod7@aol.com

Paula's role is to keep a confidential email database of local residents and business owners who have expressed an interest in being kept up to date with, among other things:

- News of local social and charity events (especially Echt Hall activities);
- Neighbourhood Watch Scotland newsletters (including Action on Fraud);
- Local community council issues (including local planning notifications);
- Distribution of forum minutes and meeting notices;
- Other relevant council notifications such as local road closures etc...

If, on the other hand, you would like Echt and district to be informed of local news, events, meetings and issues that concern Midmar, please email Paula. She has the Midmar Hall link.

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NEW CLASS—MIDMAR HALL
THURSDAYS 9:30-10:30AM

CONTACT ANGIE 07796076445 BARCLAY.SAUCHEN@BTINTERNET.COM

Inverurie Physiotherapy and Podiatry Clinic

Podiatrist: Kevin Cole BSc (Hons)., DPodM., MChS



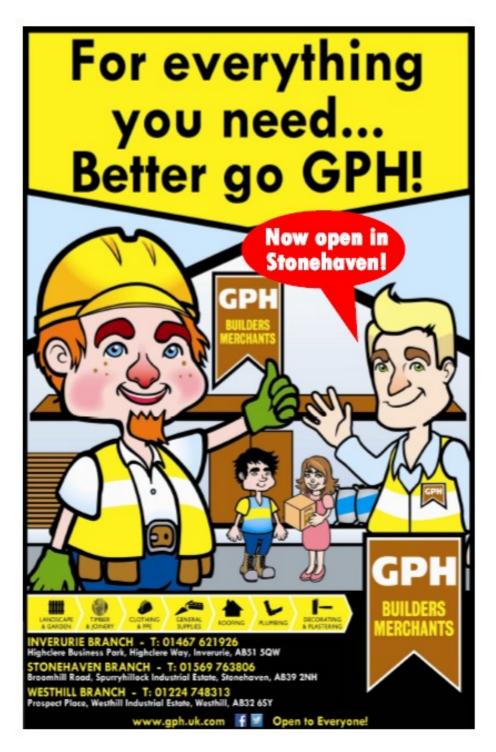
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If you would like to sponsor the newsletter prices are:

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





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Work undertaken includes: boiler services; heating upgrades and maintenance; natural gas, oil and LPG appliance installation/maintenance; wood burner installation and bathroom upgrades.

For any comments and queries regarding articles within the newsletter, please contact the writer as the Hall Committee does not take responsibility for content and accuracy of articles.

Closing date for submissions to the Autumn newsletter (which covers events September, October & November) is the 17th August.

Please email Amanda at midmar.newsletter @hotmail.co.uk. Thank you, Amanda





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We're also have our website: http://www.midmarhall.com

Our website is always up to date on events and what's on.

You can also download extra copies of the newsletter.

Through the website you can contact us with any questions you might have about the hall, its use, hiring it etc.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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