



Published by
Midmar Hall Committee
Spring Edition
Issue 29 - March 2018

Midmar Newsletter

Dear fellow residents,

Delays are something that we all encounter and when we do they tend to bring out the worst in us. Delays are, of course, inconvenient and we react to them impatiently. In fact if we are to be honest with ourselves they can create moments when we come close to losing our temper.

Many delays are associated with travel. Traffic jams on congested roads. Queuing for buses that never seem to appear, only to find that after a lengthy wait in the cold three or four turn up together. Airports where weather conditions can result in delays that can lead to lost connections and impact upon a long awaited holiday. Then there are the railways.....

A few years ago we spent a holiday in Germany travelling by rail. Everything went smoothly; the trains were on time, comfortable and the staff helpful. However, towards the end of the holiday we encountered a problem. Stormy weather had caused chaos on many routes, due to leaves on the tracks. We found ourselves, with a great many others, in a small rural station waiting for a couple of hours in pouring rain. As it was summertime very few people had raincoats or umbrellas. Consequently we were soaked as was our luggage that lay at our feet. Eventually a number of buses arrived to convey us to the nearest station where we could connect to our destination. That was some delay; what an experience! Frayed tempers, irritability and disappointment were the order of the day.

Then there are the delays we have to cope with daily over a fairly long period of time. Delays caused by long term projects and those that go over budget or where there is a problem between contractor and provider. This is what happened a few years ago when the tram system was being installed in Edinburgh. Nearer to home we have had to cope with diversions and slow traffic controls as the Western Peripheral Route is brought nearer to completion.

In recent years the Hall Committee have encountered a few setbacks and delays as we planned to upgrade the hall toilets. Fortunately it would appear that we are about to begin the work, thanks to the generosity of everyone who has supported the 'loo fund' and to the grant recently awarded by the MacRobert Trust. Let us hope that regarding this project delays are a thing of the past.

Alistair McRobb, Hall Chairman

Your Village Hall Loo Needs You!

Midmar public hall committee are delighted to have been awarded £10,000 by the MacRobert Trust to go towards our new loo project.

Along with £5000 given by Midmar Players and all those who have spared a penny to spend a penny the cistern is now full, although we'll always have room for a little more! It's a big job and plans have begun, keep everything crossed that work can begin in the near future.

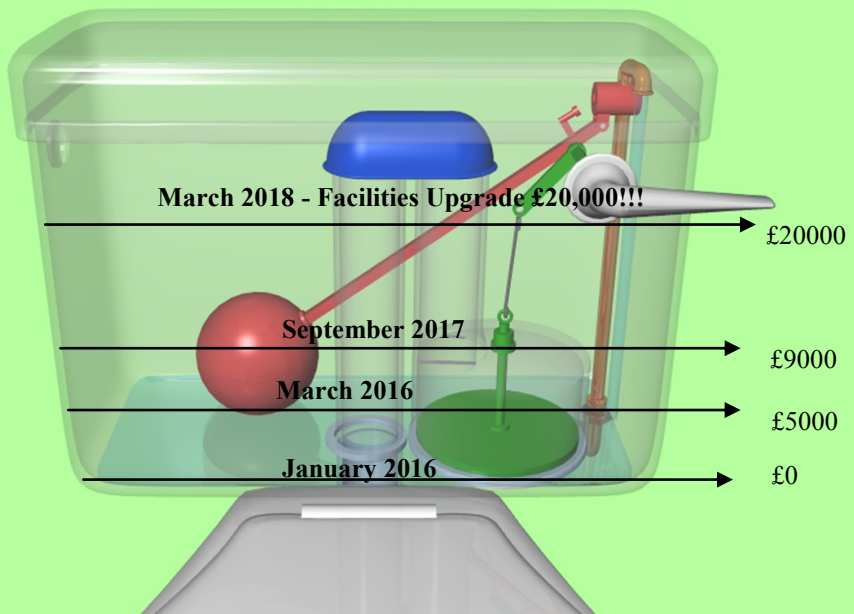


The MacRobert family first began its charitable legacy in India, where Sir Alexander MacRobert found his success. On his first wife's death, his support extended to his home city of Aberdeen and when he died in 1922, this ethos was carried on from Douneside House, Tarland by his widow, Lady Rachel MacRobert. Douneside had been purchased by Sir Alexander in 1888 and the Trust is still based in Tarland.

Lady MacRobert is perhaps best known for the gesture she made to the R.A.F. Following the deaths of all three of their sons in flying accidents between 1938 and 1941, two in active service, she donated £25,000 to the RAF to fund a bomber that was named 'MacRobert's Reply'.

She also established a series of trusts reflecting the passions and interests of her family, and over the years, these have been amalgamated to form the MacRobert Trust, today one of Britain's largest and most respected charities.

Midmar Hall is grateful and proud to be the recipient of MacRobert generosity and looks forward to a 'cisterns' upgrade in our loos very soon!





19th May 2018 2pm
Right Royal Topsy Tea Party

Dress up in your best Royal Wedding outfit and join other ladies for a Right Royal Topsy Tea Party at Midmarhall.

Tables of 8-10, £20 per person

Price includes a teapot of cocktail, together with a selection of sandwiches and cakes.

Raffle and games on the day.

Contact Pamela Black 01330 833682 or email
pablack31@gmail.com

Community Pub – A Great Success

Some of you may have already been to the Midmar Community “Pop-Up” Pub, it has been running since September on the first Friday evening of each month.

If you have not visited yet, why not come along and give it a try? Nothing formal is planned, we just provide a comfortable space and a reasonable selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages with nibbles to enjoy. We have put up a dartboard and oche in one corner of the hall and recently acquired a small pool table and air hockey for people who want to do more than just chat.

Last month several musicians arrived to play informally which added to the atmosphere and in the future we are hoping to arrange for a mobile Pizza Van to come along early in the evening to feed us all. All profits we make at the bar are being donated to Hall funds.

Now we need additional volunteers to run the event occasionally so that we can spread the work load among as many people as possible. Formalised training will be given and we plan to arrange for people who have experience to work with new recruits. It is actually a great way to meet other people from the village because everyone wants to talk to the bar staff at some point and there is usually plenty of time for a chat. If you think you would like to help please contact Rob Ferguson (rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk), David Smith (dsmith@c-tecnics.com) or Pamela Black (pablack311@gmail.com).



Article by Rob Ferguson : if you have comments/feedback or questions, please contact me using Tel 01330 830038 or eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk

Bogindhu Woodland Opening – 21st April

In 2016 many people contributed to opening up the paths around Bogindhu woodland, last year Fountains Forestry completed their felling and re-planting work and just recently they confirmed that they have no heavy work to be done there now for several years. The good news is that much of the route, which was created in 2016, is still accessible and apart from a muddy stretch at the start, the north/south road that the foresters created is excellent.

On Saturday 21st April we are proposing to organise a social walk around the paths for anyone and everyone who would like to come along. As an added attraction there will be a treasure trail for youngsters to follow and prizes for everyone who can fill a bag with sticks picked up on the way around.

The plan is to welcome visitors anytime between 11:00 am and 01:00 pm and give any directions necessary, the starting point will be at the entrance on the bend in the road north of the Kirk, labelled “PARK HERE” on the inset map below.

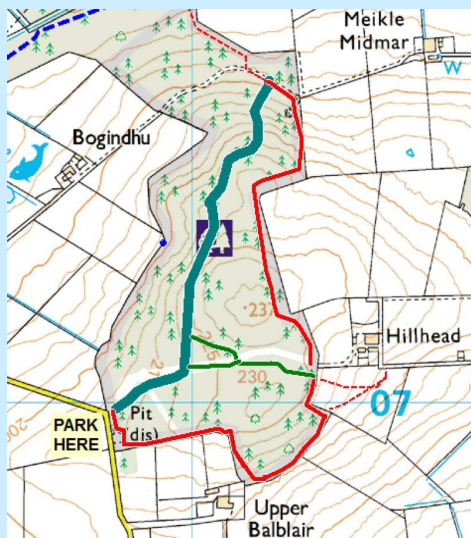
You can set off whenever you like, to walk either North, South or East using all or some of the paths, individually or in groups. If the weather is kind to us we will almost certainly set up a stall selling refreshments to help cover some of the costs.

The inset map shows what are currently the passable walking routes around Bogindhu, if we use them regularly then they will stay open. My top tips for everyone to contribute to the maintenance are:-

1. if you feel a stone or stick under foot, lift it and move it to the side, lay sticks down, aligned parallel to the route, as a guide for others
2. have some sharp secateurs in your pocket, snip off any gorse “whins” that grab at your clothes, it is quick and easy to do as you go by.

On 21st April, or if you try the routes yourself, please wear strong footwear because the ground is still rough in some places, this will gradually improve with use over time. Dog walkers are welcome all year round because all the paths are within the woodland area and away from fields that are used for livestock. In total there is about 3 miles of paths.

Article by Rob Ferguson : if you have comments/feedback or questions, please contact me using Tel 01330 830038 or eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk.



Big Thank You to Rob Ferguson!



A round of applause for Midmar's own Rob Ferguson. He has been responsible for mending the picnic benches in the hall garden, replacing broken treads on Comers bridge (with the help of his team, Pete, Grant, Frank,

Jonathan) and clearing gorse and broom from the paths around Bogindhu.

To show appreciation for all of his hard work please could anyone using the Comers bridge scrape off a small piece of moss or other vegetation as they cross it in the future! And don't forget to join him on 21 April for the Bogindhu open day.



We continue with our monthly get together with activities and fun for pre schoolers. Please come along and catch up with other mums and children. We will be having Easter fun on Friday 23rd March.

We are still on the lookout for new mums (or dads) to help us with the running of the sessions. If we cannot find other helpers for these then the group will not be able to continue. Lesley, Lynn and Pammy took over the group 18 months ago as it is affiliated to the Rising Fives at Midmar Primary School which runs on a Monday morning for those children due to go into Primary 1. It's a great facility and the kids get to know each other and the school. If is therefore important we have some more help to ensure both groups can continue. Please contact us on lesley.tierney@icloud.com or 07739350129

Dates for the rest of the year:

23 March, 27 April, 25 May, 22 June, 24 August,
21 September, 26 October, 23 November, 21 December

We look forward to seeing you soon. Lesley, Lynn and Pammy



AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MIDMAR

Dear residents of Midmar

We are on the point of replanting the trees which were felled in what was called "The School Wood", just to the west of Midmar school car park. It has however come to my attention that this area would be looked upon favourably by the policy planners, as an extension to the Midmar settlement. I would propose a small development of highly sustainable, low carbon, affordable housing, assuming all the normal planning issues are dealt with satisfactorily. The trees will be planted elsewhere. Part of the reasoning is that the school roll is due to fall and we need an injection of young families into Midmar. This might also help to support the economics of our village hall. The idea would be to submit an application into the next development plan, which requires to be in by the end of March 2018, so not long. I would welcome constructive feedback to richard@corsindae.com

Regards
Richard Fyffe

100 CLUB FAMILY BINGO EVENING

Midmar Hall
Sunday 13 May
4pm

Sandwiches and cake will
be on sale between bingo
rounds

The 100 club annual
£100 prize will be drawn
BYOB

SAVE THE DATE

Fleeman Productions Presents
Skirlie

A Doric comedy by Charles Barron
Set in a school dining room, somewhere in
Aberdeenshire, characters survive as best
they can in the dangerous world of school
kitchens!

27th June , Midmar Hall



Midmar Boxing Day Walk 2017

Despite the inclement weather during the Boxing day walk in 2016 it did not seem to have put people off because this year (2017) I counted nearly thirty who turned out in good time and spirits, evidently Midmarians are hardy folks. Most of us who came along live locally but quite a few others had come from other parts of the UK to be with friends and family over the festive period.

Everyone was there in good time so we got a little more organised in the kitchen than in previous years (good idea Isabelle), getting the mince pies out ready for heating and the mulled wine mix made to properly soak up the aroma of the spices while we were out.

We set off north from the Hall car park through the field heading down towards Corsindae and then, after crossing Comers Burn, we headed across the flood meadows towards Kebbaly. With the fields being in stubble at this time of year it is a great opportunity to vary the route although someone's lovely blue footwear did get a little muddier than expected.



Next, back to civilisation, on the metalled road leading up to the old snow plough station where we managed to get pretty much everyone into the group picture, spot anyone you know?

And here is a small sketch picture of our route if you want to try it yourselves sometime.

It is a little over 3 miles long across various terrain. In the summer you can carry straight on past Kebbaly Manse and Mains, rather than turn through the fields, to walk out to the road on the track past Ordiefork.

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 School News

It's been a quiet Term so far here in Midmar School but that is about to change! The second half of the Term is shaping up to be a very busy one.

Create and Celebrate

All children took part in this event on Thursday 8th February. There was a wide range of achievements on show. These included: skateboarding, singing, dancing, gymnastics, showing models, baking, violin, chanter, piano, juggling, skiing and being read to. Everyone performed confidently and showed how proud they were of their achievements.

Sport Scotland School Award

Health Group continue to lead the school towards achieving Gold in this award.

They have planned a variety of events and activities. These include; table tennis



taster sessions during March to help develop pupils' skills and their use of our school table tennis table. Children in Primary 5- 7 will travel to The Curl Aberdeen to watch the junior curling championships. They will also take part in indoor curling sessions in school (no ice though!)

Two netball teams recently took part in an Active Schools Fun5z Festival at Alford with both teams playing very well.

Community Café - Friday 2 March and Friday 1 June 2018

We will be hosting the Community Cafes on these events and look forward to seeing you there. We will run a Traidcraft stall at both cafes.

Careers Fair

Our school cluster is planning a Careers Fair for Primary 7s which will be held in Midmar Hall on Friday 9th March. We are grateful to the all the people who have volunteered to come along and share their job with the pupils; giving pupils an insight into the huge variety of jobs in the workplace.

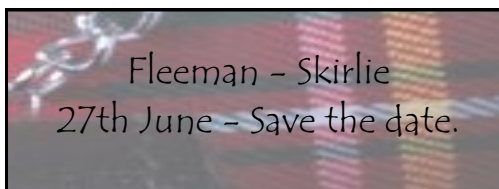
Code Club

Mrs Cameron, P4-P5 teacher runs a code club on Mondays after school. Children learn how to code produce instructions for a robot or piece of technology. Generation Science will also lead workshops for all pupils in coding in the next few weeks.

A date for your diary -

Fun Day - Netball and Football Tournaments - Saturday 12th May 2018

Midmar events



Day	Activity	Venue
Monday	Book Club (Last Monday of the month)	Various
	Circuits	Midmar Hall
Tuesday	After School Club	Midmar School
	Upholstery Classes	The Little Theatre
	Bowling (October through to March)	Midmar Hall
Wednesday	After School Club	Midmar School
	Circuits	Midmar Hall
	SWRI (2nd Wednesday of the month)	Midmar Hall
	Whist (4th Wednesday of the month)	Millbank Bowling Club Hut
Thursday	Mobile Library (fortnightly)	Hall car park
	Upholstery Classes	The Little Theatre
	After School Club	Midmar School
	Rhythm Box music lesson	Midmar Hall
	New Gym Night	Midmar Hall
Friday	Community Cafe (1st Friday of the month)	Midmar Hall
	Under 5's (Once a month)	Midmar Hall
	Pub Night	Midmar Hall

Community Cafe
1st Friday of the month
10am - 12pm

s at a glance

ue	Time	Further Information
	8pm -10pm	Alistair McRobb 833715
all	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Duncan Sinclair 07872336309
chool	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
Byre	7pm - 9pm	Kay Hourston 833515
all	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Alan Blackie 833482
chool	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
all	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Duncan Sinclair 07872336309
all	7.30pm -9.30pm	Judith Stokoe 833719
owling	7.30pm -10pm	Isabel Birse 833209
ark	9.45am - 10am	
Byre	10.30am-12.30pm & 1pm - 3pm	Kay Hourston 833515
chool	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
all	3.30pm - 7pm	info@therythmbox.co.uk Tel:01467 642026
all	5pm - 9pm	Duncan Sinclair 07872 336309 sinclairduncan@hotmail.co.uk
all	10am - 12pm	
all	9.30am - 11.30am	Next dates: 23 March
all	6pm - 11pm	1st Friday of the month

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



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6pm
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BYOB



March 23rd, 27th
April, 25th May

Midmar School Fun Day 12th May

Scottish Opera comes to Midmar



Audiences were again enthralled by Scottish Opera's visit to Midmar hall in February. Using pieces from several operas to tell their story (this time about vampires!) in a way which the audience can easily follow and enjoy.

Our fantastic singers were Catherine Backhouse, William Morgan, Maire Flavin and Benjamin Lewis and thank you to Tommy Ga-Ken Wan for the photographs.

You never can tell an opera lover and we had an unexpected guest enjoying the evening in Midmar Hall. While Midmar Hall is obviously a 'go to' destination in its own right a connection with the pianist performing with Scottish Opera explained Mr Corbyn's visit.



If you missed out this time but would like to be on our mailing list for their next visit (in 2 years time) please drop me a line via Midmar.newsletter@hotmail.co.uk



Newsletter Cover Winner

Congratulations to Gareth Brown for his aerial shot captured on his flight back to Aberdeen recently. I've pointed out the hall so you can get your bearings. The original photograph covers a larger area, and if anyone wants a copy please email me.
Midmar.newsletter@hotmail.co.uk



Burns Supper 2018

Here's a little of what you missed at this year's Burns Supper....



Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council

The annual AGM of the Community Council was held at Monymusk Village Hall on the 23rd of November 2017. The Chairman, Mr Richard Fyffe summarised the highs and lows of issues raised over the year. Action is still proceeding regarding Mill of Lyne and the Quarry Wood Traveller site application. Unfortunately the Community Council has had limited success with the gritting of school bus routes first thing in the morning due to restraints in Aberdeenshire Council funding. Meetings are to be held in Sauchen on the 27th of February in order that residents can have their say on Place Standards and the siting of a meeting place or hub for village events. There is to be an afternoon meeting at 3.15pm followed by an evening meeting at 7.00pm. It is hoped that both meetings will be well attended. Anyone with local problems or queries is welcome to attend Community Council meetings. Midmar Community Councillors are Richard Fyffe tel.01330 833295 and Judith Stokoe 01330 833719.

Midmar S.W.I.

Now that all the Christmas festivities are over thoughts are turning the bi-annual bulb show held at Echt Hall on the 10th of March 2018. The theme for this year being "A walk on the wild side". A most enjoyable 90th birthday celebration lunch was held at Maryculter House Hotel on the 16th of November and this was followed in December by fellow S.W.I. member Mrs Anne Stephen showing the Midmar Ladies how to create a Christmas decoration for the tree. This caused a lot of hilarity as the Midmar ladies did not seem to be as nimble with their fingers as primary school children. Mr Alistair McRobb then entertained Midmar in January 2018 with an illustrated talk on "When I was a nipper". This was very well received and we are all on tenterhooks awaiting the follow up episode. February is the annual "Taste and Try" evening and then in March Mr Ian Lord is to give a talk on the Dolphin statutes in and around Aberdeen. Everyone is very welcome to attend any meeting. Contact details: Mrs Michelle Paterson 01330 833490 or Mrs Judith Stokoe 01330 833719

The stones of Midmar

'A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots'. Marcus Garvey

As a long standing resident of Midmar, and one who has wandered its highways and byways for many years, I was intrigued to come across an historical article about Midmar, written, very eloquently, by Cuthbert Graham, in the 1960's.



If one ventures beyond the beaten track, one becomes aware that this landscape reveals evidence of bygone eras, and communities, dating back to the Stone age, and earlier, with standing stones, and stone circles in several locations. One of the most accessible, and best preserved is that at Sunhoney, but there are others to be found by the intrepid Rambler, including the stone circle adjacent to the present Midmar church. Apparently these stone circles were used in Neolithic times, for partying. Nowadays, thankfully, the Community Hall fulfils this function!

Nearby, in proximity to the old church and graveyard, a rather large but unremarkable mound of earth and stones, bears witness, apparently, to a former Norman fortress at Cunnigar Hill, on the south side of the Hill of Fare.

I am impressed that the Normans made it so far North! I hope they found the natives friendly! These intrepid journeymen, appear to have been in the vanguard of the 'incomer' revolution!

There are also a number of standing stones or menhirs in the area, which are believed to have been used, in olden times, for astronomic observations, ritual ceremonies.

Certainly, Midmar is a very stony place- as my family experienced, some time ago, when trying to clear ground to seed a lawn. Plenty of rocks for stone walls though, and edifices- great and small, for that matter. Ancient legend, perhaps by way of an explanation of a volcanic eruption, has it that an enraged giant, based on the summit of Bennachie, hurled stones into the air. My conjecture is that many boulders-ended up in Midmar!

There is evidence on the ground, in many a remote spot, of old stone dwellings which have fallen into 'rack and ruin', but whose foundations may yet give rise to more modern dwellings-by grace of the council's planning policies. For sure, there have been many demographic changes over the centuries, and particularly in recent times. The article above makes reference to the rather pitiable state of housing in the community in 1950. To quote: *'In the last 50 years, no fewer than 30 houses have fallen into ruin, and many of the farmhouses are quite out of date, harbouring diseases, and in deplorable condition'.*

Since then, regional developments based upon the oil and gas industry have infiltrated the agrarian/trading/manufacturing economy (as indicated in the first Census of 1801). Furthermore, factors appertaining to European integration have impacted upon local demographics, and the human and domestic landscape is much transformed.

Today, Midmar is a thriving a heterogeneous rural community- at a slight remove from the 'madding crowd'. The urban sprawl has not yet impinged upon this area. It is a pleasant and a fairly tranquil place in which to live. As a former 'incomer' myself, from South of the border, where many lead much less tranquil lives, I would definitely not concur with Dr Samuel Johnson, a rather biased man of his time, who, rather disparagingly pronounced,

'I believe the noblest prospect a Scotsman ever sees, is the road which leads him to England'. Faith Mackenzie, January 2018

NATACHA O'BRIEN, COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIST

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<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.

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)

The newsletter is non-profit making and is distributed to 230 homes throughout Midmar as well as being published on the Midmar Hall website
Midmarhall.com

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 Summer newsletter is the May 15th 2018. This covers events June, July & August. Please email Amanda at midmar.newsletter@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you, Amanda

Hall for hire

Party timeShow time.....Tea time.....Meeting room

Midmar Public Hall is available to hire....

Rates - £40 for half a day

- £75 for evening hire

- £500 for weekend hire



User group rates - £10 per hour for regular user groups meeting a minimum of once a month.

Deposit - a discretionary deposit of £250 is requested for some evening functions.

Facilities - Aside from the main hall & loos there is an upstairs meeting room, back stage room and kitchen. We can offer a projector and screen in the main hall and the piano is available to musicians on request.



Bookings - call Mairi Black on - 01330 833371
or email her at - mairiblack@hotmail.co.uk

