

Midmar Newsletter

Published by
The hall committee on
behalf of the Midmar
Community
Winter Edition
Issue 32 -Dec 2018



Dear fellow residents,

As a youngster I must have spent hours in the library reading reference books about Greek and Roman mythology. I can't remember why the gods and heroes of these civilisations caught my imagination but for quite a few years they did exactly that. Of course that was way back in the days before colour television and Harry Potter! Unfortunately much of what I once knew in detail has long been forgotten. Only occasionally do I recall an individual or an exploit and when I do, it tends to be fragmentary.

One god I do remember on an annual basis is Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings. Janus, the god with two faces who could look back into the past and forward into the future. Often referred to as 'two faced Janus', he was part of the Roman New Year celebrations. Each year on the first of January, which was named after him, Romans exchanged gifts in his honour.

Nowadays we tend to remember Janus in an entirely different way, when we make our New Year resolutions. After the festivities of December many people take the opportunity to look back over the year that is finishing and set themselves goals for the year that lies ahead. Looking backwards they may catch sight of shortcomings and dashed hopes. Looking forwards they tend to concentrate upon aspirations and new opportunities.

Every year at its AGM in November, the Hall Committee spends some time looking back at the year drawing to a close and gazing expectantly into the new year that looms ahead. As we look back on this particular year I think that we will find much to cheer us. The toilets have been refurbished and we are in the process of thinking through new projects and making applications for grant aid. Already the signs are promising and we are hopeful of carrying out work on the hall roof and bringing performances, via live transmission, of music and sport to the hall.

That's our starting point for the year ahead. We are in the fortunate position of being able to build on past achievements and so look forward to further success in the next twelve months. However, before we can do that we have to embrace the joys of the festive season.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alistair McRobb

Hall Chairman.

Midmar AGM news



This years AGM was held on Tuesday 27 November. We were pleased to have some visitors to join us as we reflected on a years achievements and a look forward to new goals for 2019.

A hope expressed by all committee members was that some new faces may be out there considering joining us, if this is you please come along!

The office bearers for 2019 are;

Chair - Alistair McRobb

Vice-chair - Nina Bidwell

Treasurer - Frances Milward

Minute secretary - Amanda Liddiard

Other administrative duties will be shared among the office bearers.



**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**

Every year 13,000 community groups receive funding from us. All thanks to players of **The National Lottery.**

Sign up to find out what we fund.

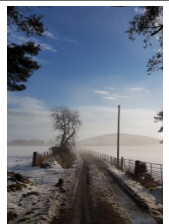


This year Midmar Hall has been fortunate to be awarded £7800 from The National Lottery Awards for All scheme. The money is for our 'keeping a lid on it project' which will see much needed repairs to the roof of the hall as well as the removal of some existing asbestos.

We are looking forward to work beginning in spring 2019.

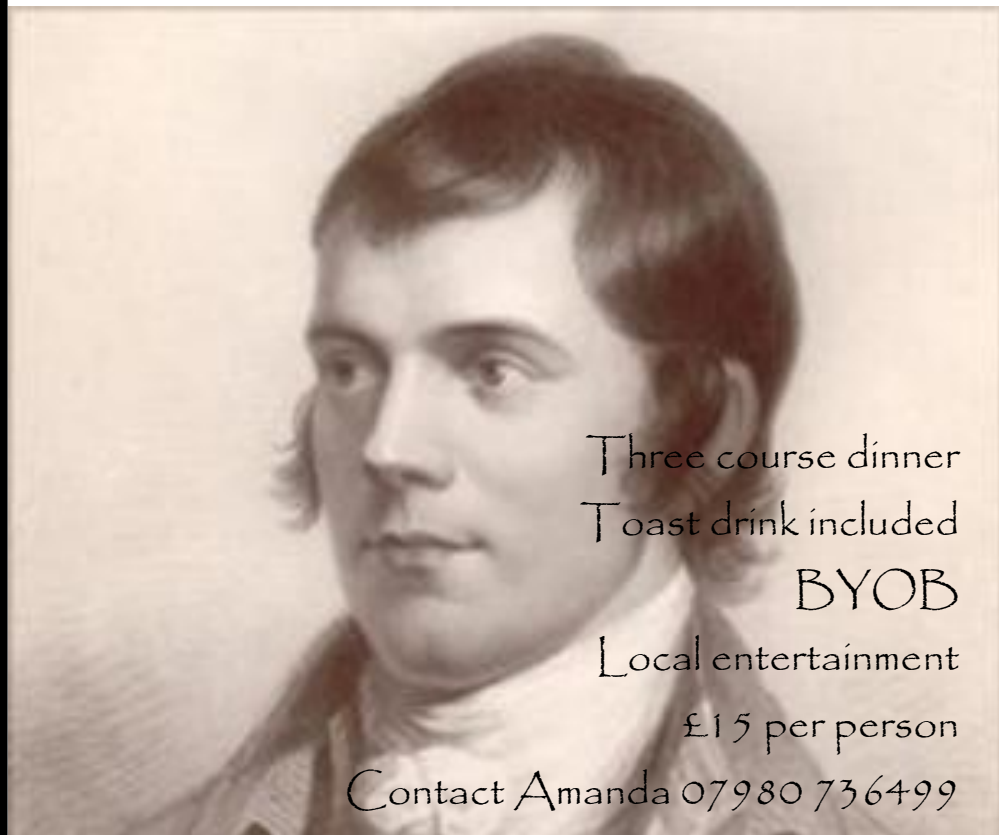
Newsletter Cover Winner

This edition's cover winner is Jonathan Wilson, capturing the feel of winter beautifully.



Burns Supper 2019

Midmar Hall



Three course dinner

Toast drink included

BYOB

Local entertainment

£15 per person

Contact Amanda 07980 736499

Saturday 26th January

Doors Open 6.30pm

Midmar Darts Ladder

The Community Pub would like to get a Darts Ladder started for Midmar. A Darts Ladder is a simple way for people of all abilities to get involved and play each other on a semi-formalised, fun and relaxed way.

We plan to get the Ladder started in January and prize(s) will be awarded at the June Pub Night (Friday 7th June). To enter, you fill out your name on a 'T' Card in the new rack by the dart board in the Hall and put this card in the slot below the lowest person's card in the rack. It would be helpful if you can write your contact details on the card too. You are then eligible to challenge the person directly above you to a game of darts; if you win you swap places with the person you have played, if you lose nothing changes.



Simple as that!

The rules for the individual darts games played should be agreed between the players before you start, i.e. you might agree choose to only play one game of 301 and double out or, for a longer session, play best of three games of 501 doubling in and out, the choice is yours. Please however be considerate if there are other people waiting to use the board.

The only other rule is that when you are challenged you must agree a time to play the game within the following 5 weeks (35 days), if this cannot be arranged the challenger will swap places with you on the ladder. Because Midmar pub night only runs once a month this might seem a little impractical but games can be played anytime you are at the hall or at any other venue. You will need to bring your own darts but the hall oche mat will be available to be rolled out when you need it.

One other suggestion, the sooner you sign up, the closer to first place you will be to start!

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

Garioch Blend 10th year sell out!!

Annual Garioch Blend Concert was once again a sell out, this was the tenth year and is still as popular as ever.

Thanks to everyone who helped before during and after the event and to the many restaurants; hotels and individuals who donated very generous prizes for our lucky tickets and raffle.

The grand sum of £1037 was made on the day



Now close the door.....

2018 has been the year of the loo in Midmar Hall, it is a great relief all round that the new toilets are all completed. To celebrate this momentous occasion we were delighted that Alison Donaldson and Midmar's own Gillian Currie, both from the MacRobert Trust, who so generously supported the toilet fund, were able to join us for a grand opening 'Wee tea' party celebration.



To share some of our own good fortune the community pub allowed us to hold a lavatorial themed pub quiz during November's pub night and we were able to raise the £60 needed to 'twin' one of our new loos with a toilet funded by the charity toilettwinning.org. 'toilettwinning.org' raises money to help fund projects in poor communities that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives.

Boxing Day Walk – Come and Join Us

Hard to believe but Christmas 2018 will soon be upon us so for anyone who will be home this year why not come and join in with the Boxing Day walk to work off a few of the calories gained on Christmas Day.

We will leave from the Hall at about 10:00 am on the 26th December and get back at about midday where there will be refreshments like mulled wine and mince pies to enjoy. Please feel free to contribute any surplus goodies to the feast that you might have.

Article by Rob Ferguson : if you have questions, my contact details are Tel 01330 830038 or eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk.



Window on the World – Cinema Project

Would you like to see Live Opera but not travel? Or watch the 6 Nations on the big screen with your friends? How about movie nights in the village with great sound? Well, the time is coming where this will be possible at the Midmar Hall!

Thanks to a grant received from Aberdeenshire Council together with some generous donations from the community, we are about to upgrade our movie equipment (including a bigger, motorised screen and surround sound).



A programme of events will be announced in the New Year.

We'd love to know what movies/events you would like to see so get in touch and we can look to adding them to the programme.

Funds are still required to add the finishing touches to make our evenings a great experience .

Contact Frances Millward at frankie19701@live.co.uk





**BE VERY AFRAID! MURDER WILL SOON STRIKE AT
THE MIDMAR PANTO AFTER ALL! (Postponed from
November 17th)**

Come and join the drama and mayhem behind the scenes of a truly thrilling pantomime! Midmar Public Hall is once again to be the scene for an evening of fine dining laced with sleuthing, skulduggery, cross-dressing, general silliness and of course.... **murder!**

Now on Saturday 11th May, 2019 at 7pm, you will watch the shenanigans of the Midmar Players backstage during their annual pantomime. See the plot of Snow White turn red with blood!

A delicious three-course meal with coffee will be served as in previous years by caterers Harry Fraser of Inverurie. The audience will get to know more about the characters in role during arrival drinks and in scenes presented between courses. Led (or misled?!) by a well-known detective each table of eight guests will then be able to question the 'suspects' and deduce who the murderer is.

Tickets are £40 each (proceeds to Midmar Hall) 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. Music will be provided throughout the evening and the party may well continue after the show has ended!

Please feel free to dress up as your favourite panto characters!

Bookings are available now from Sarah Kearns on 01330-833638 or sarahkearns50@gmail.com. Don't wait too long!



HOGMANAY FAMILY PARTY

31st DEC 2018

Midmar hall

8pm - 1am

£5 per person (Under 12s free)

Live ceilidh music, games for all ages

Please bring your own food and drinks

To buy tickets please contact Sarah Kearns as soon as possible on 01330 833 638 or sarahkearns50@gmail.com

Autumn to winter in Midmar

With declining temperatures, and longer nights, as the vestiges of leaves and berries cling to tree and branch, Nature signals the approach of winter. This can be a nostalgic time, when the exuberant colours of the summer are, meantime, past.



This short verse captures the the moods of the seasons:

*“Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.
Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.
Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.
Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance.”*

— **Yoko Ono**

Now that the autumnal equinox is behind us, for Midmar residents, winter encroaches- with longer nights, snow, hail, blizzard, ice and frost to come. This prospect can be daunting, but there are compensations, even at this time of year. The changing season, at this latitude, yields spectacular sunrises and sunsets, etched in memory, and in the camera lens:



Country meanderings , even at this time of year , can deliver their share of surprises and delights. Light dustings of snow highlight the contrasting colours in the late autumn environment.

There is an ephemeral beauty in the frosting on wayside plants;



Sounds are muted with the first snowfall, accentuating the background birdsong, as they, and other wild creatures conduct their daily ritual of survival. The quotation below encapsulates this experience:

“It was a black and white day of frost, which crawled along the dark trees and outlined twig and branch. The air was misty, and distant objects assumed a mysterious importance. Slight sounds, too, suggested infinite activities to the mind. Robert S. Hichens

In the hectic modern world of activity, noise and crowds, it is a privilege to be able to be able to enjoy a tranquil stroll, within the local environment, and absorb the manifestations of Nature around us.

‘When winter comes, can spring be far behind?’

Faith Mackenzie
November 2018

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Midmar events



1st Friday of the month



Day	Activity	Venue
Monday	Book Club (Last Monday of the month)	Various
	Circuits	Midmar Hall
Tuesday	After School Club	Midmar School
	<i>New</i> Men's Shed	Midmar Hall
	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
	Gym Night	Midmar Hall
Friday	Community Cafe (1st Friday of the month)	Midmar Hall
	Piano Lessons	Midmar Hall
	Pub Night (1st Friday of the month)	Midmar Hall

Murder Mystery
11th May
7pm Midmar Hall

B

s at a glance

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

ue	Time	Further Information
	8pm -10pm	Alistair McRobb 833715
all	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Duncan Sinclair 07872336309
chool	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
all	8pm	Dave Smith
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@theyrthmbox.co.uk Tel:01467 642026
all	5pm - 9pm	Duncan Sinclair 07872 336309 sinclairduncan@hotmail.co.uk
all	10am - 12pm	
all	3.30pm - 8pm	Lucy Webster
all	6pm - 11pm	Except September



26th Jan 2019
6.30pm

NEW
Men's Shed
Tuesdays
8pm
Midmar Hall

Hogmanay
8pm
YOBB and snacks



Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council

Meetings for Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council were held in September and November. The Community Council are still waiting for some clarity and resolution from Aberdeenshire Council in connection with Mill of Lyne. There have been further meetings regarding The Local Development Plan for Sauchen. This is part of an ongoing planning process that the public will have the opportunity to individually respond to in January 2019. The "Pop up Library" is on hold as the BT phone box is not an ideal outlet due to damp and discussions are ongoing for a hub/ cafe/meeting venue. Dawn Brown of Garioch Partnership is to help facilitate this. Sauchen residents have also discussed various options for new equipment in the playpark and also some general upkeep of the existing items. There is a concern amongst residents that there are still too many cars speeding through the village and past the park. It is hoped to install a defibrillator at a central point in Sauchen in the near future. Unfortunately, the proposed path to Sauchen School is delayed as more land needs to be purchased from the farmer. The next Community Council meeting is to be held in Monymusk Village Hall on the 13th of December commencing at 7.00pm. For more information on any of the above or any local queries or problems please contact Richard Fyffe on tel: 01330 833295 or Judith Stokoe tel: 01330 833719.

Midmar S.W.I.

Midmar S.W.I. are nicely into the swing of things again after our summer break. The felting evening directed by Claire Bell was a great success. Claire had kindly brought sufficient materials along so that everyone could attempt a necklace in felted wool or a keyring. As usual a lot of hilarity ensued but there were some very creditable results. Suzanne Brownrigg hosted a cookery demonstration in October for our open evening and Gemma Pegram also had a stall showing Aloe Vera products. The evening was very successful, everyone was given the opportunity to taste Suzanne's cookery and the black preserved eggs were certainly something different to taste and try. Jim Fiddes gave a really interesting talk in November relating "Tales, Legends and Scandals of Craigievar Castle". We all came away at the end of the meeting knowing a lot more about the Sempil Forbes family, including the good, the bad and the ugly! The annual Christmas lunch is arranged for Friday the 7th of December and is to be at Maryculter House Hotel. For further information please contact either Mrs Michelle Paterson tel: 01330 833490 or Mrs Judith Stokoe Tel 01330 833719

Midmar School News



Sport Scotland Gold Sports School Award

Midmar School has achieved a Gold Sport Scotland School Award. We are only the second Primary School in Aberdeenshire to be awarded this award. Ian McGregor, Project Manager, Sport Scotland presented the award on Tuesday 27th November.

Poppy Scotland Enterprise

Congratulations to Katie Woodhead (P5) who has raised £189 for Poppy Scotland by selling knitted poppies. Katie ran the business and her mum and aunt knitted poppies which Katie sold for £1.

UNICEF / Clarks – Shoe share Collection

Pupil Council have collected 102 pairs of shoes for this campaign. By donating shoes we have contributed to funding children's education. Donations of shoes will change children's lives by buying educational equipment such as a 'School Box'. A school Box can transform any space into a learning area, with enough resources to educate 40 children, allowing them the chance to learn, no matter where they are, or what disaster has struck them.



Children in Need

This year Community Group organised a Bring and Buy Sale in school. We also received some donations. A total of £114.06 was donated from Midmar School.

World Toilet Day – Monday 19th November 2018

Children donated 1p (pee) and 2p coins for World Toilet Day. A total of £52.34 was collected and will go towards our final donation to the Life Straws charity. This project is part of our focus on clean water and sanitation, which focuses on Sustainable Global Goal 6 and Article 24 of Children's Rights.

Midmar Men's Shed



Over the summer a small group of people started thinking about developing a Men's Shed in Midmar. For those of you who don't know much about this organisation I suggest the fastest way to explore the possibilities of what it does, and can do, is to review the official website - <https://menssheds.org.uk>

However, I can give an overview of what it is all about here, with some of the information taken from the website, and hopefully it will answer most of your questions.

However, before I start, can I clearly state that it is open to men and women, although you will have a better understanding of how the movement started, and why, when reading the website and the brief article below taken from the Men's Shed website:

a. What is a Men's Shed?

They're community spaces for men to connect, converse and create. The activities are often similar to those of garden sheds, but for groups of men to enjoy together. They help reduce loneliness and isolation, but most importantly, they're fun.

Men's Sheds are similar to garden sheds – a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They're about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter.

Sheds are whatever the members want them to be. Although labelled sheds, they often aren't sheds at all. They can be empty offices, Portakabins, warehouses, garages. Some Sheds are purpose built workshops, but they rarely start out that way. Many don't have premises at all in the beginning and instead form a group that meets regularly for the social connection, company and camaraderie until they can find somewhere to kit out with tools (this is where Midmar is now).

Many Sheds get involved in community projects too – restoring village features, helping maintain parks and green spaces, and building things for schools, libraries and individuals in need.

Activities in Sheds vary greatly, but you can usually find woodworking, metalworking, repairing and restoring, electronics, model buildings or even car building in a typical Shed.

Sheds typically attract older men, but many have younger members and women too. Whatever the activity, the essence of a Shed is not a building, but the connections and relationships between its members.

b. Why are they needed?

For a long time research has shown the negative impact of loneliness and isolation on a person's health and wellbeing. Recently we have seen more evidence come to light that shows loneliness and isolation can be as hazardous to our health as obesity and excessive smoking. Surveys from mental health charities are finding that millions of people report feeling lonely on a daily basis.

Men typically find it more difficult to build social connections than women, and unlike women of a similar age, less older men have networks of friends and rarely share personal concerns about health and personal worries. It is not the case for all men, but for some, when retirement comes, it can feel like personal identity and purpose is lost. Men's Sheds can change all of that.

Sheds are about meeting like-minded people and having someone to share your worries with. They are about having fun, sharing skills and knowledge with like-minded people and gaining a renewed sense of purpose and belonging. As a by-product of all of that they reduce isolation and feelings of loneliness, they allow men to deal with mental health challenges more easily and remain independent, they rebuild communities and in many cases, they save men's lives. Men's Sheds are vital.

c. What are we going to do in our shed?

Westhill Mens's Shed has been going since 2013 and is now a vital part of the Community. Some of our ideas have been inspired by their successes and it is well worth looking at their website: <https://westhillmensshed.co.uk>. They had a great idea in recycling garden tools such as broken strimmers and lawnmowers, rebuilding them and selling them to raise funds for Community and projects.

In Midmar we've already had a shed-load of ideas...Community projects are high on the interest list and can include repair of the walkways and bridges and assisting with school projects. But we also have a 'recreational' theme to bring together people to set up sub-groups looking at hill-walking, backcountry skiing, fishing etc. The Shed could become the place to plan such adventures assisted by copious amopunts of tea and coffee.

d. Where will it be based?

We need to build, buy, beg or rent a suitable venue. For now we plan to meet in the backroom of the Hall at 8pm every Tuesday evening. In essence these meetings will be to plan the future of how and who run a Shed. We'll need volunteers with a wide variety of skills from architect, financial, legislative, organisational through to practical folks who can help us fit out, and possibly build a shed.

We've already been offered some temporary building which we could site near the hall - with the Hall's approval of course. Discussions are taking place over their suitability, aesthetics, foundations work, roofing and much much more. If you think you would like to get involved please just turn up on a Tuesday at 8pm.

e. The Future

We noted that many of the Men's Shed are open mainly during the day, which we presume is to suit retired folk wishing to get involved with other community people to carry out their interests during the daytime. We hope this does indeed develop once we've got a shed. However, there has been some enthusiasm by the people still working to get together on the evenings to pursue their hobbies and interests, and perhaps just to get out of the house during these long dark nights. As mentioned, there is no fixed plan so we'll make it up to suit everyone.

First actions are to incorporate and affiliate with Men's Shed UK, and to work on getting some premises.

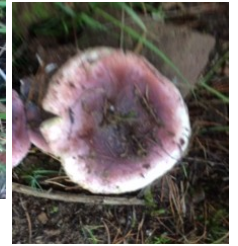
All are welcome to get involved. We'd love to see you in the backroom of the Hall at 8pm every Tuesday evening.

Regards
David Smith



Fascinating Fungi

Take a look at these beauties photographed by Liz Cook spotted this year around Midmar





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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



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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
Spring newsletter is February 16th 2019. This
covers events March, Apr & May.

Please email Amanda at
midmar.newsletter@hotmail.co.uk .

Thank you, Amanda



16 NOV to 24 DEC

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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.

How do you like yours??

If you'd prefer to receive a PDF copy of your newsletter please let me know.
Email Amanda at midmar.newsletter@hotmail.co.uk with the email address
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It is also published on the Midmar hall website midmarhall.com and can be
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