

Midmar Newsletter

Published by
The hall committee on
behalf of the Midmar
Community
Spring Edition
Issue 33 -March 2019



Highlights from the hall



Our fanfare news is the arrival of a big screen to the hall. With grateful thanks to Aberdeenshire council, who awarded us £5,000 through their capacity grant fund, along with top up donations from some of our stalwart sheet movie goers, we now have the technology to show movies like never before.



The days of safety pinning a sheet to the stage curtains are long gone and at the press of a button a 4 meter screen unrolls on which we are able to show DVDs and screen live events ranging from sport to Opera. Part of our award has been used to enable us to link up with The Royal Opera House to screen some of their performances live to an audience atop a windy hill in Midmar who will get the view of the best seats in the house and enjoy a full surround sound system.



Our new equipment & shiny new loos are soon to be kept safe from the elements under a roof that will be repaired, and replaced where necessary, as soon as the better weather can be depended upon. For this we are grateful to the National Lottery Awards For All scheme who have supported this maintenance work with an award of £7,800. This will also enable us to professionally dispose of asbestos roof tiles currently over the entrance hall and loos.



Once we have a newly water tight roof we need to make sure that it remains that way. The trees that have surrounded the hall for the past 60 years have sadly outgrown their location. The needles that they shed have caused several damp patches in the hall ceiling by blocking the gutters so frequently and completely. At our February meeting, acting on a report that we requested from the forestry commission, we took the decision to apply for a licence to fell the trees. We regard this as a replacement project and will develop an arboretum with an interesting variety of trees that will be more encouraging for wildlife and more sympathetic to the fabric of the hall. If anyone would like to see a copy of the forestry commission report please email me and I will be happy to forward it to you.



While we are acutely aware of the rather down at heel appearance of the kitchen we have prioritised our central heating as the next big project. The boiler has had its 17th birthday and we feel that it is time to organise a planned replacement to try to avoid an emergency renewal. Plans are coming together to change and add to the radiators in the main hall, to simplify the control panel while adding in some flexibility for heating different zones in the hall as required. You will all be the first to know when we begin fund raising in earnest!

Busy times but still plenty of fun to be had, details of events and performances are to be found throughout the newsletter, it would be great to see you!

Nina Bidwell

Midmar Hall vice chair, ninabidwell@gmail.com

Our regular columnist is taking a break and will be back for the next issue!

FAR SEAGULLS DARE

A Doric comedy by Derek Laing

Fleeman are returning this year with Far Seagulls Dare.

The story of Jean and Bob Raeburn and their son Ginger who live in a top floor tenement flat in Aberdeen. It normally leaks like a sieve but it's the rainless, hot summer of 1976 and the place is as dry as a bone.

However, as the rent Officer is due to inspect for setting the rent, it might give the wrong impression of the worth of the flat.

Ma Raeburn thinks they should "introduce" some damp and that "tinkering" with the slates would do the job. So Bob and Ginger set about making some alterations to the roof. Ginger finds himself on the roof, dangling 100 feet over the ground, just like Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood in "Where Eagles Dare".

However, it's not the Germans who are the enemy here but the nesting seagulls. Meanwhile, Jean's brother Alex and his family turn up for an unexpected visit and can't quite understand what's going on and wonder where has Ginger got to?

Derek Laing's domestic comedy was the winner of the Charles Barron Prize for Doric Drama in 2013 and was first produced by Fleeman Productions in May 2014.

The 2019 production will be directed by Liz Loggie and will feature Fleeman regulars of Jill Innes, Brian McDonald and Yvonne Morton.

SAVE THE DATE

26th June 2019
Midmar Hall

Tickets will be available from
Amanda Liddiard
07980 736499



Do you have a toilet in your home? Thankfully most of us (all of us?) are able to answer yes to this question, and we've been fortunate enough in this last 12 months to upgrade Midmar Hall's toilets to a fantastic standard. Tragically, too many in the world have no access to toilets – not in their home, village or wider community. **Toilet Twinning** is a UK based charity which works with communities and organisations around the world towards improving sanitation and hygiene in poor towns and villages. Through education programmes people are taught not just how to use a toilet, but why toilets can help reduce the spread of disease, and how to build them to benefit the community.

Visit the website for more information including some excellent short videos.

As well as the opportunity for individuals to twin their own home loo, either via the website or by contacting Helen Riach, we're looking at making Midmar a Twinned Community. Twinning a loo costs £60, and each twinning receives a certificate with information about the reciprocal lavvie. To date we have raised £216 - enough to twin 3 of the loos at the hall – a fantastic effort, through a toilet-themed pub quiz, sales of Toilet Twinning merchandise, and donations. Look out for more events and opportunities to donate to the community toilet twinning effort throughout the year, and if you do twin your loo, please let Helen know so we can get an idea of how our community twinning is growing.



Helen Riach, helenriach@gmail.com, 07801 166228, 01330 860380

Calling all Gardeners

Calling all gardeners, have your trowels on standby. If you can spare any help to plant out the hall garden would be greatly appreciated. Plants usually arrive towards the beginning of June. Keep an eye on Facebook and the Nextdoor app.





23rd March 2019

7.30pm

BYOB

£5 adult & £3.50 concessions/students



**BE VERY AFRAID! MURDER WILL SOON STRIKE AT
THE MIDMAR PANTO AFTER ALL!
HURRY TICKETS SELLING FAST!**

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!

Boxing Day Walk 2018

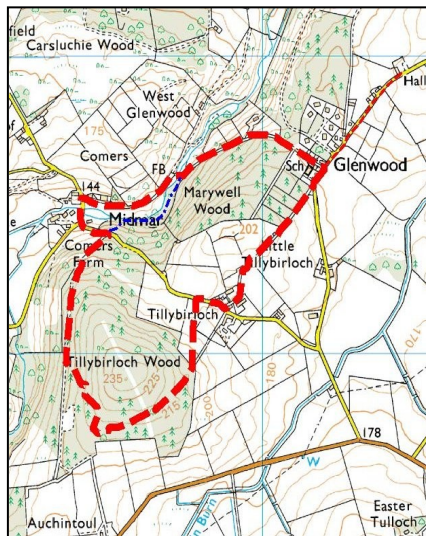
Good weather for our walk from the Hall around Glenwood, Comers and Tillybirloch in December 2018 on Boxing Day, it was overcast but dry both underfoot and above, except for the 10 minutes when we stopped to take a photograph by the stile into Tillybirloch woods. I felt some drops of rain but not nearly enough to put anyone off!



Everyone was there in good time so we set off this year to walk down past the school and over to Tillybirloch woods using the shortcut path from which we cleared of boulders, lumps of metal and overgrowth a couple of years ago now. It is good to see it is still being used and staying clear.

When we returned to the Hall warm mulled wine, mince pies and other welcome donations were all waiting for us, many thanks to Marion for turning out to make these preparations while we were out enjoying ourselves on the walk.

Here is a sketch picture of our route if you want to try it yourselves sometime. Without the link from the hall the loop it is a little over 2 miles long across various terrain so sensible footwear is recommended. If there is livestock in the field by Tillybirloch you can divert around the south and western edge to get back to the road. Also another variation that some of our group took, (shown in blue dash), is to stay on the south east side of Comers Burn using a feint path through Marywell Woods rather than use the metaled road.



*Article by Rob Ferguson : if you have comments/
feedback on the content, my contact details are
Tel 07383 100966 or
eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk.*

Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council

The Community Council have held meetings in December 2018 and January and March 2019. A lot of work has been done on preparing a report for the Local Development Plan in all three communities and this is almost ready to be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council. Community input has been welcomed. A lot of work has been done on locating a suitable site for a hub/meeting place for residents in Sauchen and this is still ongoing. A pop up library has now been installed in the old telephone box at Sauchen and will hopefully be well used. A speed survey has now been completed for traffic passing the playpark and a speed sign has now been installed. Some trees have now been felled just past Cluny/ Sauchen school crossroads and it is hoped that the tree root bumps will eventually be eradicated. The footpath from Sauchen is still ongoing. The Community Council are awaiting some resolution from Aberdeenshire Council regarding the unlicensed recycling site at Mill of Lyne. There are vacancies for Community Councillors at Midmar and Monymusk.

For more information on these or any of the above and any local queries or problems please contact Richard Fyffe tel :01330 833295 or Judith Stokoe [tel:01330 833719](tel:01330833719)

Midmar S.W.I.

The annual Christmas Lunch for Midmar W.I. was held at Maryculter House Hotel on the 7th of December and was a great success. A wonderful lunch was supplied by the Hotel and there was no hurry to return home. I do not think much cooking would be done for husbands that evening! On a rather wild night in January 2019 Gordon Middleton from Comers gave a guided tour around the stars using both computer and posters. We all enjoyed this very much and various members can now be spotted peering up at the night sky from their gardens. The February meeting was "Taste and Try" and a wonderful range of main courses, sweets and fudge afters were provided and sampled. The date for March has been altered to the 27th as our guest speaker had double booked. This is to be a talk on Complementary Mindfulness.

For further information please contact either Michelle Paterson tel: 01330 833490 or Mrs Judith Stokoe tel: 01330 833719



World Book Day

Everyone dressed up on Thursday 7th March as a character from their favourite book or as their favourite author. They shared information about their character and book. All children also took part in paired reading; sharing reading with their buddies.

Visit to Spring Show – Thainstone – Wednesday 27th February

Children in Primary 4- 7 enjoyed a visit to the Spring Show at Thainstone. The visit was organised by the RNCI (Royal Northern Countryside Initiative) and supported by the Royal Northern Agricultural Society who organise the Spring Show. The weather was glorious! Children took part in a number of workshops and demonstrations. These included learning about milk, cereal crops, meat and wool.

Fairtrade Fortnight

The focus for Fairtrade this year has been chocolate. We have learned about cocoa farming in West Africa and the impact Fairtrade is making. Investigations found that the Co-op is the best supermarket for stocking Fairtrade goods. We hosted the March Community Café and made all the food in school. We also sold Crunchies and Freddos, which are both Fairtrade, at tuck shop. We raised £50 in total for Fairtrade. This was door money from the Community Café and profit from selling the chocolate goods at tuck shop.

Touch Rugby

Active Schools are currently setting up Touch Rugby training sessions which will be held at Midmar School on Monday nights from Monday 13th May. These session will be open to children from Midmar and the neighbouring schools. If anyone is interested in helping please contact Midmar School.

New telephone number – Our new number is 01330 700390.

A date for your diary – Fun Day – Netball and Football Tournaments – Saturday 11th May 2019, 10.00am – 2.00pm

Midmar events



1st Friday of the month

Far Seagulls
Dare

A Doric
comedy

26th June
2019

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 Boat 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

Don't
P
Prizes

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



23rd March 7.30pm

NEW

Men's Shed

Tuesdays
8pm
Midmar Hall



t forget to fill in your 100 Club form
rizes of £30, £20, £10 each month
of £100, £50, £30 & £20 in the big draw!



Update on what is happening in the Midmar Men's Shed

If only things were easy we'd already be fettling, whittling, fixing, inventing and have our 'good works' program for the Community well under way, along with drinking copious amounts of tea.

However, we do have some excellent progress to report.

We are now a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), and we also have a bank account. This now means that we can commence fund raising to suit the needs of the Shed, and conduct our business clearly with Community aims in mind.

The Hall Committee has proposed we put our Shed at the back of the hall, which will be perfect for connections to services.

The next challenge is to find and erect a suitable shed. We have been kindly offered ex-accommodation units/portacabin type buildings, which seemed ideal. However the Council seem to have a problem with the use of such unless they have a Structural Engineer's Report. For older units this is impractical and so any rapid progress seems to have been halted. So, we now need to get quotes for another building, and this may well lead to a pretty hefty change in our budget requirements. This is a real shame as we had made good progress.

We are looking for temporary accommodation in the area so we can at least get some continued camaraderie and activity whilst the alternatives are considered, so if you have an old barn or outbuilding, and you are happy for us to use it, then we would be appreciative.

If anyone wishes to join us and has ideas and input that may assist, then please come and meet us at 8pm in the back room of the Hall on Tuesdays. Please do contact us via mensshed@midmar.uk

Inside every problem lies an opportunity....



Midmar Hall '100 Club

Prize Draw

Membership Form 2019 - 2020

Midmar Village Hall
'100 Club'
c/o Lynne Street
Auchintoul Steading
Midmar
Inverurie
AB51 7NL

For an annual subscription of £15 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 2018 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 £15 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 as soon as possible

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

X.....

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: _____

(Organiser)

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

Contact Details: Tel: 07751 799840 or e-mail: info@midmarhall.com

Midmar in early spring

**'There is pleasure in the pathless woods; there is rapture on the lonely shore'.
Lord Byron**



Following the rigours of midwinter, when icy blasts and other climatic discouragements deter even the most intrepid soul to explore the great outdoors, it is pleasurable to be able to take the occasional stroll again.

Of course, as many residents will know, strolls in Midmar can be a little 'on the wild side', and are not always for the faint hearted, particularly if one veers off the beaten track. Negotiating the hazards of bog, fallen or felled trees, bracken, burn crossings, for instance, can prove challenging.

However, I personally have discovered the rewards within Nature, of exploring the less frequented corners of this area- at all times of year.

In early spring the visual rewards compensate these drawbacks. Along the banks of the local burn, it is snowdrop season, and these beautiful patches of blooms, perhaps planted decades ago, illuminate the landscape. The humble snowdrop reminds us that the worst of winter may be behind us and that we that can look forward to springtime.



Of course, other plants and flowers are making a timid appearance, and promise to brighten the landscape, in due course; bluebells, primroses, celandine, rhododendron, and gorse. Such plants remind us of the reassuring annual cycle of Nature, within this small but attractive corner of the world, and offer us moments of reflection and tranquillity in this noisy and turbulent world.

"The more civilized man becomes, the more he needs and craves a great background of forest wildness, to which he may return like a contrite prodigal from the husks of an artificial life". —Ellen Burns Sherman



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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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12 Bennachie Gardens, Sauchen, AB51 7JG

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 May 16th 2019. This covers events June, July & August.

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

Thank you, Amanda



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Find us on:
facebook®

Midmar Hall & Community
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 you wish to provide and you can start receiving it electronically.

It is also published on the Midmar hall website midmarhall.com and can be downloaded from there.

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