

Dear fellow residents.

It came out of the blue. No one was prepared for it. It hadn't been planned. It took us all by surprise but what an event it turned out to be! It happened a few days before Christmas. We had spent the afternoon putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the living room. The snow had arrived early that year and it lay so deep that no one ventured far from home. We had no television in those days, so I reckon that I could have been no older than nine.

It began with a knock at the door and being the family 'gofer' I was sent to answer it. When I opened the doorl was confronted by one of our neighbours. She asked if my folks were about and I led her into the living room. She came to the point very quickly and told us that she had decided that, as the weather was so miserable, she would have a Christmas party and that all were welcome. She asked if we were free to come along - you bet we were! All we were asked to do was to take whatever we could to help with food and refreshments. What happened that night is something I have never forgotten.

When we arrived our neighbour's house was packed full of people. They were everywhere; in the living room, the hallway and the kitchen. We knew everyone so we didn't have to spend time in idle chatter to break the ice. We had quite a feast that night. Sandwiches and sausage rolls, cake and jelly, tangerines and sweets. After everyone had eaten the fun began - and what fun it turned out to be! I was amazed at the antics of neighbours who I came to see in an entirely new light. One woman sang and a little later her husband performed magic tricks. Then another man grabbed hold of a doll and began a ventriloquist act. Later I was completely bowled over when my father started to play the spoons and was then joined by our next door neighbour on the mouth organ! And then to cap it all, two of our neighbours appeared, dressed in sheets and towels. Tables were moved and some grit was scattered on the linoleum and we were given the sand dance. What fun we had that night. It was quite simply 'unforgettable'.

We all have unforgettable memories associated with the festive season. Very often they are of impromptu encounters and events. Meeting people we haven't seen in years, a surprise gift or an unexpected invitation. Over the years people have gathered at the hall at this time of year. Perhaps to attend a concert or for a party or dance. More recently the hall has provided a starting or finishing point for carol singers and a meeting point for those setting off on a Boxing Day ramble. As in previous years there will be a fair amount of activity at the hall during the festive season. Details are to be found in the newsletter. Hopefully you will find something of interest in the programme of events.

Season's Greetings, Alistair McRobb Hall Chairman.



Pub Night Friday 6th December

Saucy Horse with have their catering van outside 6.30pm to 9pm Takeaway or eat in the pub!

Check out Saucy Horse on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/ thesaucyhorse/





Coming soon to Midmar Hall......a haven for birds, bees and butterflies.

With a heavy heart, but unanimous committee agreement, we have seen the last of the tall trees that sheltered the hall on it's windy hill top.

The trees were predominantly Sitka spruce, with a few poor quality pines amongst them, and had been planted over 30 years ago at a time when $\[\]$ much of Midmar's wilder spaces were being filled with plantations of this common commercial tree.

As the trees had reached maturity we had been presented with an exhausting problem due to the height of their canopy above the level of the hall guttering, needles were falling onto the roof with such rapid frequency that it was becoming impossible to keep the gutters clear and free flowing.

!!" Having replaced the roof above the entrance hall and had the rest of the roof returned to good order (thanks to a £7000 grant from the National Lottery Awards for All scheme and GD Slating and Tiling & Northern Asbestos) earlier this year we feel beholden to defend our water-tight lid vigorously!



In April 2018 one of the regulation and development managers from Grampian conservancy, a branch (pun intended) of Forestry Commission Scotland, came to asses the trees and offer advice which strongly recommended felling to reduce the risk of wind blow, particularly as the trees adjacent to the hall were in striking distance of the building.

He went on to advise on restocking with species that are more appropriate to provide longer term shelter, less maintenance and more value for wildlife.

After some tidying up we will scatter the area with wildflower seeds which have a reputation for thriving in unpromising situations. While the flowers establish themselves and bugs, birds, bees and butterflies move in we will organise our replanting in accordance with the planting scheme which was proposed by the Forestry Commission and approved by the planning department when they granted us our licence to fell. The space will be filled with a variety of taller shrubs eg dog wood, elder, holly & hawthorn and smaller trees such as rowan, birch and alder and a few larger trees, possibly oak at points furthest away from the building.

It is sad to see the tall trees go but it will be wonderful to enjoy the new variety of flora and fauna which soon be evolving on the windy hill top and isn't the view amazing!

Some important thank yous.....

Midmar Hall is enormously grateful to CT HARVESTING who undertook to fell and clear the trees at no cost. While this alone was an incredibly generous gesture, they have also put the proceeds from the sale of the wood into hall funds. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We are also grateful to the gentlemen of the Men's Shed who have enabled this project to happen. We hope that they too flourish and grow into their new premises which will eventually fill the site of the old playground.

And finally......thank you to Richard Fyffe into whose fields the trees have been felled and debris burnt.





NEW!!! Physiotherapy Led Pilates Classes starting 7th November 2019

Thursday 5.45-6.45pm Midmar Hall

Spaces bookable online at www.physiotherapilates.co.uk

Email laura@physiotherapilates.co.uk or call Laura 07734 312798 for more information

The Petroleum Women's Club of Scotland

Can you imagine what it is like to be constantly on the move around the world... finding yourself in a different town, a new country, perhaps with a new language and culture. It can be very hard when far from home and without the support of family and friends to make contact and settle in to the new posting. Or, it could be that you have been here for some years and suddenly find yourself with more time on your hands... children leaving home etc.

This is where the PWC comes in. For nearly fifty years now the Club has been providing support, friendship and social contact. There are women from 26 different countries who meet once a month for a general meeting where there is usually a speaker or demonstration. There are also many activities on offer... you can join the book club, join ladies who lunch, go ten pin bowling, go walking or play bridge/canasta. There are craft and gourmet groups, a dinner club... you can meet other women for lunch and a movie. Each year a local charity is selected, and over a quarter of a million pounds has been raised.

The PWC is open to women whose own, or partner's, income is derived from the

Oil & Gas Industry. Membership is now available for Associate Members - Women with no oil industry connection, but who would like to meet new people and try new activities. Anyone interested in knowing more can log on to the website – and contact us at www.pwcos.com or you can contact us via our e-mail address PWC4news@yahoo.co.uk.

Boxing Day Walk Starting at 10am, Midmar Hall Come along for what will hopefully be a crisp winter's walk. The walk typically last 1.5 to 2 hours max and is a lovely loop around the immediate surrounding area taking in Comers and finishing with a gentle walk up the brae past school to the hall for mince pies and refreshments. Feel free to just turn up on the day but a quick message to Rob Ferguson would help with catering, any donations of pies greatly received. Rob Ferguson—rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk.

Midmar in October- the golden month L.M. Montgomery "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

There is a certain melancholy about this month, as the trajectory of the sun 's rays cast longer shadows on the ground, and heat and light of summer gradually fade into temporary abeyance. The nights grow longer and the world becomes colder as winter's mantle descends.





But there are visual and auditory compensations. The mournful

cries of migrating geese alert us to the changing season. The bracken, colonising forest and heath takes on golden hues reflected in the foliage of the larch, birch and beech trees which grace our local milieu.

Within gardens, hedgerows, and forest, our eyes can indulge in the panoply of coloration in autumnal berries, fruits, and fungi.



The distant hillside takes on hues of ochre and tan, as the deciduous leaves succumb to their annual destiny.

The sunsets can be spectacular at this time of year, and highlight the silhouettes of trees, newly bereft of their foliage.

Friedrich Nietzsche "Notice that autumn is more the season of the soul than of nature."

Perhaps autumn is a season for reflection and contemplation; it reminds us of the natural cycles of growth, death, and regeneration. But the natural beauty of this season, may generate, within those who care to observe the phenomena around them, the capability of restoring the soul, or at least diverting it, meantime, from worldly pre-occupations.



Faith Mackenzie, October 2019

Midmar Men's Shed

Progress at the Men's Shed Midmar Men's Shed is almost open for business..

Many of you will have seen that we've erected the temporary Shed in the top car park at the Hall. We are now wind and water tight and starting to fit with workbenches and a bothy area. Activities within the Shed are driven by the Shedders and can be anything you wish, however we have a few starting points:

- a. Garden equipment fixing for those of you with limited knowedge of two-stroke engines, or who are still baffled by that strimmer or chainsaw that won't start or idle, then bring it along and we'll take it to bits, hopefully with a good result, and a bit of the mystery removed.
- b. Community projects we are gathering a number of projects for which we'll rally those with suitable skills, or possibly just time and enthusiasm, to resolve.
- c. Lathes wood turning lathes and equipment have been acquired and we aim to get these set up soon.
- d. Innovator's corner we are going to be looking at renewable energy projects to power homes and possibly the Hall. How, what, why, how much, and can we actually build them ourselves?
- d. Tea drinking a kettle will shortly be run by our generator and we expect copius amounts of tea to be drunk this winter. This is the only skill anyone needs to join the Shed the rest is just for fun and the banter.

Meeting times and dates - we have a diverse group of people including people who have dayjobs and those who are free during the daytime, so we have planned to meet up anytime after 19.00 on a Tuesday evening and from 10.00am on a Friday morning. The Shed can actually be open at any time, and we are happy to change times and dates to suit any groups of people- just come and discuss. We are planning an official starting date so please keep in touch

and view the website https:// midmar.uk However, we'll be there anyway just putting finishing touches to it.

So, now the dark nights are approaching, rather than hide away by yourself come and join us for some decent craic, and possibly use your skills, or learn some more skills, at the Men's Shed?

You'd be very welcome.





Midmar events

Day	Activity	
Monday	Book Club (Last Monday of the mon	
Tuesday	After School Club	
	Men's Shed	
	Bowling (October through to March)	
	Upholstery Class	
Wednesday	After School Club	
	Circuits	
	SWRI (2nd Wednesday of the month	
	Whist (4th Wednesday of the month	
Thursday	Mobile Library (fortnightly)	
	Upholstery Classes	
	After School Club	
NEW	Pilates	
Friday	Community Cafe (1st Friday of the month)	
	Piano Lessons	
	Pub Night (1st Friday of the month)	



10am Meet at the Hall

Walk

Hogmanay Party

Tuesday December

31st,8pm-1am

Midmar Hall

Midmar 2019

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

s at a glance

Venue	Time	Further Information
Various	8pm -10pm	Alistair McRobb 833715
Midmar School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
Midmar Hall	8pm	Dave Smith
Midmar Hall	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Alan Blackie 833482
The Little Byre	7pm - 9pm	Kay Hourston 833515
Midmar School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
Midmar Hall	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Duncan Sinclair 07872336309
Midmar Hall	7.30pm -9.30pm	Judith Stokoe 833719
Millbank Bowling Club Hut	7.30pm -10pm	Isabel Birse 833209
Hall car park	9.45am - 10am	
The Little Byre	10.30am-12.30pm & 12.30pm - 2.30pm	Kay Hourston 833515
Midmar School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
Midmar Hall	5.45pm - 6.45pm	Laura 07734 312798
Midmar Hall	10am - 12pm	
Midmar Hall	3.30pm - 8pm	Lucy Webster
Midmar Hall	6pm - 11pm	
	Various Midmar School Midmar Hall Midmar Hall The Little Byre Midmar School Midmar Hall Midmar Hall Millbank Bowling Club Hut Hall car park The Little Byre Midmar School Midmar Hall Midmar Hall Midmar Hall Midmar Hall	Midmar School 3.15pm - 6pm Midmar Hall 8pm Midmar Hall 7.15pm - 9.15pm The Little Byre 7pm - 9pm Midmar Hall 7.30pm - 8.30pm Midmar Hall 7.30pm - 9.30pm Midmar Hall 7.30pm -9.30pm Millbank Bowling Club 7.30pm -10pm Hut 9.45am - 10am The Little Byre 10.30am-12.30pm & 12.30pm - 2.30pm Midmar School 3.15pm - 6pm Midmar Hall 5.45pm - 6.45pm Midmar Hall 10am - 12pm Midmar Hall 3.30pm - 8pm

Midmar School News

Scots Verse Competition

Midmar School held its first Scots Verse recital competition on 20th September 2019. All children took part. Winners were Sophie Street, P1-P4 and Christopher Copp P5-P7. Sophie recited 'Mince and Tatties' and Christopher recited 'The Traffic Jam'. The competition was judged by John Matthews and Ken Smith.



Scottish Schools Dual Slalom National Finals A team of Mide

<u>National Finals</u> - A team of Midmar Pupils qualified at Alford and took part in the National finals. All skied very well and showed excellent teamwork.





Aldi's kit for Schools - We collected 300 stickers to complete our poster. We will receive an exclusive sports kit and will have a chance to win £20 000!

Rotary Shoebox Appeal 2019 – 27 boxes were filled.





<u>Harvest Festival</u> – donations this year went to South Aberdeenshire Foodbank.

<u>Macmillan Coffee Morning</u> – We raised an amazing £405 at our Coffee Morning is September. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Grant Arms Cafe and B&B opened in June of this year!

The previous hotel closed down 3 years ago and the lovely old building had sat empty all that time but not any more...

It now hosts a cafe downstairs and 6 B&B rooms upstairs, all with ensuite

shower rooms. We are loving welcoming visitors from all over the world already!

They use as much local produce, from local suppliers, as possible and are also trying hard to be environmentally kind by reusing and re-purposing as much as possible from the old hotel rather than purchasing new things.

There is a lovely courtyard with outdoor seating for fine days, plenty of room to store bikes and dogs are welcome out there too. There are lots of beautiful walks around Monymusk to enjoy before finishing your time in the Grant Arms.

Find them on:

Facebook: grantarmsmonymusk Instagram: grantarms_cafe www.grant-arms.co.uk
Tel 01467 651500









THE HEALTH CLUB AT DOUNESIDE HOUSE TARLAND ABERDEENSHIRE AB34 4UL WWW.DOUNESIDEHOUSE.CO.UK +44 (0)13398 81230 HEALTH-CLUB@DOUNESIDEHOUSE.CO.UK



Sharpen up with Piano Lessons from Jonathan Wilson

East Steading, Midmar 07598 127450 jl.wilson1145@gmail.com



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www.physio-therapy.co.uk

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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To make an appointment or for any further information please call Jane on:
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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 Spring Newsletter is 15th February, this covers March, April & May events.

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



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"What's on in and around Midmar"
We also have our website:
http://www.midmarhall.com
Our website is always up to date on events and

what's on at the hall and community.

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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