



Midmar Newsletter

Published by the hall committee on
behalf of the Midmar community
Summer Edition
Issue 42—Summer 2021



Good Luck 7s.

We wish our five Primary 7 pupils continued success as they move onto the Academy in August. Here they are modelling their P7 Leavers' Hoodies, which have their names printed inside the number 21.



Outdoor Learning

It's spring and summer is just round the corner. The children have been busy growing things. Our new greenhouse is in full swing. We have been gifted seeds as part of the RNCI (Royal Northern Countryside Initiative) windowsill growing project. This project aims to teach children about growing and using their own food. Germination has gone well, despite the cooler weather. We have lettuce, onions, radishes, peas, beans, peppers, sweetcorn and tomatoes. We plan to cook with the vegetables in school. We have also been busy in our raised beds. Potatoes have been planted and carrots and peas sown.



Touch Rugby

Touch Rugby sessions have restarted on Wednesday evening at the school. Active Schools oversee the arrangements. Sandra Jaffrey, Kenny Criggie and Beth Smith run the sessions with the support of parents. The sessions can be booked through Active Schools.

Facebook Page

Midmar School now has a Facebook page. We share examples of children's learning on it. Why don't you pay us a visit?

CIRCUIT TRAINING AT MIDMAR HALL Every Monday 7pm – 8pm

FINALLY! We are getting started again with a bit of fun exercise.

The classes will resume on Monday 31st May and be held weather permitting. Please bring only a water bottle and your fee of £5.

We will not be using any equipment to begin with but will get started with some interval training.

REMEMBER this is a fun group run by volunteers who will show you what to do but you come along at your own risk! We don't like to take things too seriously!

Let's get rid of that lockdown belly together while listening to some great tunes. A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join.



Contact Pamela 07833 900620 or pablack311@gmail.com for further information and to book.
Class suitable for all ages and abilities



Midmar Hall 100 Club

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Midmar 100 Club is changing. The final draw for 2020/2021 took place on Tuesday 18th May 2021 the winners are shown below.



Now we are going to change how we do the draws. You still pay only £15 for annual membership but there will be 4 draws per year in August, November, February and May. Even though there is no increase to the annual subscription, the prizes each quarter are as follows:

First prize - £100
Second price - £60
Third prize - £30
Fourth prize - £25

Get your lucky number now. Have a look inside your newsletter and you will find a membership form. This allows up to 5 members of each household to get a number. If you need any additional numbers, please just let us know. It costs £15 for each number and this allows you to enter into 4 draws per year. Payment should be made direct to 100 Club account – details are on the form. If you have lost your form, please check the Hall website www.midmarhall.com where you can download one. Simply fill it out and forward a copy to the 100 club co-ordinator. That's it! If you have any questions at all, please contact us by email: 100club@midmarhall.com BE IN IT TO WIN IT!!

WINNERS OF ANNUAL DRAW:

**First prize £100 – Jessica Liddiard
Smith**

**Third prize £30 – David Falconer
Brown**

Second prize £50 – Ann

Fourth prize £20 – Anna

Calling all Bowlers!

.....or people who would like to try indoor bowling. Alan Blackie would like to hear from you to replenish Midmar Bowlers' friendly squad. Alan's number is 833 482.

Midmar Hall Garden

Hall Garden Happenings!

After a cold and wet start to Spring this year, at least the hall garden is well watered.

We've been gradually accumulating a lovely range of donated perennials. Please keep them coming! There has been a special request for rozone blue geraniums or pink geraniums - if anyone has any spare.

We will be weeding in early June and will be looking for volunteers. To make sure we stay within the current numbers allowed to meet outside (don't all rush at once!), we will organise weeding parties via the Midmar garden email address (Midmarhallgarden@outlook.com) and put updates on the Midmar nextdoor community. Please get in touch if you'd like to lend a hand - expert or inexperienced - all welcome with open arms.

Thanks again for Geoff's landscaping work on the beech hedge and beyond. Also the Mens Shed for the lawn mowing and willingness to help out with the more difficult jobs.

We are looking forward to some summer socialising in the hall garden, as the cafe, and who knows even the community pub, start to get going again gradually, allowing us to meet up with each other in the fresh air and the sunshine.



HOWDY Y'ALL!

The Midmar Players can now offer you a riproaring sidesplitting date for your 2021 Diary.

On Saturday 13th November 2021 get ready to meet the Good, the Bad and the Ugly in the new Midmar Murder Mystery.

Join the Midmar Players in a giant Wild West hoedown and help the Sheriff arrest the no-good varmint what's done the dastardly deed! Beans will be provided.

More info in next Newsletter.



Midmar Mens Shed - is **OPEN**

It's been quite the long hard slog making it through winter, but the calendar says that we are through it. We have been having Zoom sessions every couple of weeks to help retain a bit of momentum.

As the end of lockdown came into sight, we poured over the expansive documentation from the Scottish Mens Shed Association regarding re-opening for activities. With the experienced eye of Chris Beetham a risk assessment was completed, and then converted into a set of guidelines for the Shed with respect to Covid-19. With the further easing of the guidelines and levels, we are due another review, but to keep it simple, we are Open for business every Tuesday evening (18:30-21:00) and Friday morning (09:30-13:00). Guidelines and hours are posted on the noticeboard at the Shed). Shed members are able to use the facility and equipment at any time, so if you have a small project to complete, but don't have the space, equipment or confidence, get in touch. (contact information at www.midmar.uk or on the Shed notice board).

We have been working on a shelter at the back of the building to provide some weather protection for storage of materials (no, it's not a sun deck). We have also had a significant clear out inside, and are well into re-discovering the floor, putting up shelving and created storage. Next we will be creating another workbench, and continuing to re-animate the band saw that was donated some time ago. This will all allow us to get cracking on some orders for compost bins and an honesty box.

There was a chance opportunity to liaise with the Westhill Mens Shed, when one of their team stopped by to say hello while they were in Midmar. A couple of us subsequently visited the Westhill Shed for a little machinery trading (for the benefit of the Hall lawn), and a tour of their Shed.

A few words of thanks:

To the lady from Corsindae that dropped off some items (sorry, I did not get your name)

Pamela for donating a couple of old mowers and some very handy furniture

Deeside Log Cabins for donating wood and fixings

Pete and Rob for the "Scrap to Cash" program...

To all those that have donated some trees to the community planting program

Jim for looking after the hall lawn and the equipment it requires, and conducting the electrical testing at the Hall

As we get to the point where we can conduct some workshops and other activities these will be posted on the website, Shed notice board and on Nextdoor.

Nigel Bennett

Midmar Church

Did you know that Midmar Church opens its doors every Wednesday between 11am – 12pm?

If you have ever wondered what it looks inside, just pop along and have a nosey!

Different opening times can be arranged too.

Please contact smitchell@churchofscotland.org.uk for further information.



BADMINTON ANYONE?

Before coronavirus made it's mark, we had a wee badminton group running in the Hall.

All the equipment is there, just waiting for people to come along and play a game or two.

If you would be interested in coming along, please contact the hall on bookings@midmarhall.com to find out the days and times available.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Dear fellow residents,

As I write this we are days away from moving out of lockdown and ushering in an easing of restrictions. Hopefully we will be able to do so with confidence and move on from the place we have had to inhabit for such a long time. This change in our fortunes has been made possible by the vaccine rollout. As we meet with family and friends indoors, enjoy a meal at a favourite restaurant and perhaps plan a holiday we are urged to be vigilant. We need to continue to wash our hands, keep our distance and wear a mask.

According to my rather outdated dictionary, a mask is 'a covering for all or part of the face, worn as a disguise, or to amuse or frighten others'. I would think that the dictionary definition of masks will be updated in future to include, 'the purpose of preventing infection'.

As a youngster the only occasions when I encountered masks were in comics, television programmes and the movies. For a time there was a surfeit of masked heroes and villains. In both instances they wore masks for the same reason; to conceal their identity. Among the good guys were the Lone Ranger, Batman and Robin and Zorro. The mask provided them with a disguise and gave them a mystique as they embarked on one escapade after another. Then there were the bad guys. The bandits and bank robbers who I encountered in the surfeit of westerns shown in cinemas during my childhood years. The masks they wore were of a more intimidating nature.

At secondary school I became aware of the gas masks issued to troops in the trenches during the First World War. Around this time I became an avid reader and I can recall two books that featured masked characters. 'The Man in the Iron Mask' told the story of a prisoner whose identity had to be kept hidden. 'The Phantom of the Opera' told of a man who wore a mask to hide disfigurement.

Masks have certainly come into their own over the course of the past year. We can't go anywhere without one. Public transport, supermarkets, restaurants; any place indoors where people gather. At first they weren't compulsory. Indeed we were told that they weren't necessary. Then it was recommended that we should wear them. In the early days when we forgot to wear them people turned a 'blind eye'. That is no longer the case. Today you forget them at your peril. They are compulsory - but they are a pest! They steam up your glasses, they slip down your face and they make it difficult to follow what others are saying. We all long for the day when we can remove our masks when we encounter others. We have been forced to hide behind them for so long.

During the last twelve months a number of major improvements have been made to the hall. Unfortunately they have been hidden away and 'masked' from 1 view. However, once the restrictions are lifted and the hall reopens all will be revealed. With your help and support the hall will come back into use and together we will help unleash its future potential for all to enjoy.

Alistair McRobb Hall Chairman

The enchantment of the forest.

“Nature always wears the colours of the spirit.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson.

In this locality we the inhabitants are privileged to be able to experience the ‘wonders of nature’ on our doorstep, or as the Americans would say, in our ‘back yard’.

We do not have to go far to explore pathways and tracks through pleasant afforested areas. It would be naive to identify such places as ‘wild woods’ – indeed, the fantasy of a childlike mind. In fact these areas are owned, managed, and by virtue of tradition, good will on the part of landowners, and the precepts of the law the freedom to roam we can enjoy them, in most seasons.

No, these woods, and forests are not ‘wild’ in the purest sense, but nevertheless they do have a life of their own. Deforested areas, which look like a wasteland in the immediate aftermath of timber harvesting, generate, after only a few short months, anew environment, in which saplings take hold, shrubs flourish, and other plants large and small take hold. Nature , it appears, has an amazing power of recovery, and creates its own ‘wild garden’. The proliferation of foxgloves is evidence of that.



During this pandemic year, particularly, many may have sought spiritual solace in these woodland areas, which take on different complexions in each season.

In the autumn the magnificent arboreal colouration provided a theatrical backdrop to our local excursions.

In the winter snow, wanderers could follow the distinctive tracks of deer and badger, as well as their two footed counterparts!

In the spring the tapping of the woodpecker can now be heard, and the cooing of the dove. New grass and blossoms bedeck the landscape. The aroma of gorse flowers assails the senses. Primrose and celandine add colour to the fresh greenery underfoot.

The summer is to come. We welcome the transformation of parts of the landscape from brown to green. The hues of the forest are signs that summer will have arrived, with its verdant exuberance , which may carry reassurance for better times ahead.

“The most beautiful gift of nature is that it gives one pleasure to look around and try to comprehend what we see.” – Albert Einstein

Faith Mackenzie March 2021



Midmar Community Cafe

We will be running the community cafe 10-12am on the first Friday of every month.

Hopefully outside at the picnic tables - or inside the hall (masks until seated and with the tables more spread out than they used to be).

It will be table service only, until government COVID restrictions permit us to return to the old ways of doing things.

If anyone would like to get involved, help out occasionally with home bakes or ask any questions about how we are making sure we run the cafe safely, please get in touch with Hazel (01330 833280) or Jackie (07505 936271, knockfullertree@icloud.com)

Newsletter Cover Winner

Congratulations to Isabel Birse for this editions cover photograph, entitles "I'm watching you"..



Following our success in finding a secretary, we are now recruiting for a treasurer.

Would you be confident in handling the Hall finances? Do you have a background in accounts? We would be delighted to welcome you into our team.

Contact us for an informal chat.
Email info@midmarhall.com



Joe's Gardening Services
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JDDGardeningServices@gmail.com

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AB24 4ND



Stand Up Paddleboarding on your doorstep!

Aquaplay Scotland are delighted to announce we now have stand up paddleboarding (SUP) sessions at Midmar Stillwater Fishery on a Monday and Tuesday every week during the season.

SUP is fun, whatever your age, gender or experience, it is so good for you both physically and mentally providing an all over body workout and incredible mental stimulation. Why not try SUP with your friends, family or come along and meet new friends. Our sessions are very much tailored to the individual, so whether it's your first time or you want to progress to the next level, we can coach you in a safe and atmospheric environment with a choice of three ponds to paddle in.

We provide all the equipment, you just need to turn up and be ready to soak up the ambience whilst having fun and lots of laughter!



To book a session at Midmar
please contact Tom on 07393 993621 or

hello@aquaplayscotland.com

Sponsoring 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 where possible is distributed four times a year 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 June 2021 edition is May15th.

This covers June, July & August events.

Please email newsletter@midmarhall.com

Hall for hire

Party timeShow time.....Tea timeMeeting room

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 & washroom there is an upstairs meeting room, back stage room and a kitchen.

We can offer a projector and screen in the main hall and the piano is available to musicians on request.

For bookings please call Mairi Black on - 01330 83337 or email her at - mairiblack@hotmail.co.uk



Are you a Landlord?

The Scottish Government's Energy Efficiency Regulations for the Scottish Private Rented Sector (PRS) that were due to come into force in October 2020 have been further postponed due to Covid. They will now be implemented by the next Scottish Parliament and at earliest April 2022 (to be confirmed).

The originally proposed regulations will also be amended and now required require private rented properties in Scotland to achieve at least a Band D Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating at change of tenancy when the Regulations come into force.

Midshore EP

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Domestic Energy
Assessor
(for EPCs)



Want to know more, need some impartial advice or an EPC renewal please contact your local Domestic Energy Assessor (DEA):



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Web: www.millerplant.com

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Find us on:
facebook®

"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: newsletter@midmarhall.com 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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