



Midmar Newsletter

Published by the hall committee on
behalf of the Midmar community

Autumn Edition
Issue 44—Winter 2021



Harvest Festival – Families generously donated items for the South Aberdeenshire Foodbank who were very grateful to receive the donations.

Alford Rotary Shoebox Appeal 2021

A total of 27 shoeboxes were filled by families for this appeal. The shoeboxes are transported to Romania to support families there.



Tree planting – We will be planting a variety of trees as part of Her Majesty's Green Canopy project to mark her Platinum Jubilee. We have received rowan, cherry blossom and silver birch trees from the Woodland Trust. They will be planted in the school grounds over the next few weeks. We will also be planting apple and plum trees in an area at the top of the front playground, which was previously hidden by the portacabin. We intend this to become a community resource and invite people to come and 'help yourselves' to the fruit when it is ready for picking.



Toilet Twinning - We have managed to raise enough money to twin our final three toilets. So, all eight toilets in school are now twinned. The money was raised from two Rag Bag collections and door money at the recent Community Café. Thank you to everyone who supports the Rag Bag and came along to the Community Café. This initiative has enabled Midmar pupils to help other children get their Right to clean water and sanitation and also addresses Global Sustainable Goal 6 – clean water and sanitation. Did you know that 1.7 billion people do not have a somewhere safe to do the toilet?

Outdoor Learning – All children continue to access the outdoors as part of their learning. At the end of last term children in Primary 5 – 7 walked from school, round Bethlin and back to school. They picked up litter on the way. Unfortunately, they found a considerable amount, especially across from the bus shelter on the main road. This term Primary 1 – 4 created pictures using natural resources they found.



CIRCUIT TRAINING AT MIDMAR HALL

Every Monday and Thurs-
day 7:00—8:00pm



If you are wondering what to do during the long dark evenings, don't just make another cup of coffee, come along for some fun and fitness at our training classes. Currently we have around 7 – 10 people joining us every Monday and Thursday evenings from 7pm. We don't take things too seriously, we just want to get fit together whilst listening to some great tunes and enjoying a few laughs. The class is run by volunteers and costs £5 on a pay as you go basis. **For any further information please call Pamela on 07833 900620**



Another thrilling date for your 2022 diary!
Scottish Opera Touring Company 'Opera Highlights' return to
Midmar Hall
on Saturday February 12th, 2022.

Beat the crowds! Get your tickets now...
Tickets: £15 - now on sale.
Contact Sarah Kearns on:
07756968868



Midmar Hall 100 Club

Midmar 100 Club! And the winners of the November draw are...

First Prize - £100 - Liz Cook

Second Prize - £60 - Margaret Chapman

Third Prize - £30 - Lana Howitt

Fourth Prize - £25 - Robbie Simpson



There are still 2 draws left in the 2021/2022 draw so if you would like to grab a lucky number, download a form from the Midmar Hall website www.midmarhall.com or contact me through 100club@midmarhall.com. The form allows up to 5 members of each household to get a number. It costs £15 for each

Cluny, Monymusk and Midmar Community Council

The first open meeting of the Council (after several zoom sessions over the last months) took place on the 30th of September at Midmar Village Hall all Covid restrictions being observed. The Chairman, Richard Fyffe, welcomed everyone and asked Becky Baptie to give a brief talk about improving and maintaining paths around Midmar. The next topic was the Kirkwood Homes Sauchen application. Several Sauchen residents were in attendance and updated the Council on various aspects they were unhappy about. One of these being the lack of pavement facilities beside some of the new houses. This meant that there was no access for disabled users and also the narrow width of the road meant that when the Bin Men were emptying dustbins the road was blocked to any other traffic. There is also a strong feeling that the speed limit at both ends of the new path where the children have to cross should be further reduced but it was felt there would be a delay before this could be viable. The new Traffic Mirror at Monymusk has been very successful. Robin mentioned that she had cleaned surface dust /dirt off very easily. More information is still required from Aberdeenshire Planning and Enforcement regarding the Landscaping at Roadside of Corsindae, Midmar. Yet another request has been forwarded to Andrew Barron requesting an update. The next Community Council Meeting is to be on the Thursday 25th of November hopefully at Monymusk Village Hall assuming Covid restrictions allow.

Any local problems for Midmar contact:

Richard Fyffe tel 01330 833295

Judith Stokoe tel 01330 833719

Ruth Wardle tel 07818290334

Put It In Your Calendar - Boxing Day Walk

Hello everyone, hard to believe but it will soon be Christmas, again, I am looking forwards to it. For those of you staying home over the festive period why not come and join in with a leisurely community walk around the village starting from the hall on Boxing Day. Gather at the Hall car park by 10:00 a.m. and we will set off soon after. Please let me know in good time if you might be late.

I have just been looking at my records of our previous walks which started in 2013, here is the group picture we took that day, look at that blue sky! Some familiar faces all looking a little younger, hmmm. Actually we have been remarkably lucky, most years have been dry, it has never been too soggy, let us hope for the same this year.



Even last year with the COVID-19 crisis in full swing we had appropriate weather, LOTS of WIND, certainly enough to dispatch away any nasty bugs. Unfortunately no conviviality inside the Hall afterwards with mulled wine, mince pies and other yummys, instead as you can see we were entertained by Duncan in the car park.



This year we plan to relax with refreshments in the warmth of the hall when we get back and maybe someone else will entertain us a song, who knows? Enough Mulled Wine (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and mince pies will be provided for all but please also feel free to bring any of your own leftovers that need eating up to share. Voluntary financial donations to Hall funds to help cover costs will be very welcome.

Article by Rob Ferguson : if you need more information, my contact details are Tel 07767 317486 or eMail rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk.

HOWDY Y'ALL!

REMINDER –

SEE DATE FOR YOUR LATEST
MIDMAR MURDER MYSTERY
FOR YOUR 2022 DIARIES!

**THE SHOW IS NOW ON SAT
MARCH 5TH 2022**

Further updates about bookings etc
after the New Year..



Watch this space!

Currently hoping to organize a Hogmanay ceilidh at Midmar Hall
Friday December 31st, 2021 8:00 -12.30 pm



To note interest or if you're interested in further info 'hot off the press'!

Contact: Sarah Kearns on sarahkearns50@gmail.com

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.

The Midmar Mens



Shed has been working quietly on a number of different little projects, with some having been the result of donations of either surplus, damaged or defective items. If you have any items that you would like us to have a look at repairing for you, or saving from the dump, do please get in touch.

Keep an eye on Nextdoor or the Shed website (www.midmar.uk) for items that are for sale or available on loan (for a donation).

The kitchen cabinets that were donated have been assembled into a cluster that will form the base of our main workbench in the centre of the Shed. A vast improvement over the previous arrangement; now much sturdier and providing good storage capacity.

A couple of large parts bin panels were received that have been installed along one side of the main work area to not only provide a fine storage solution, but also a good screen behind the wood turning lathe to help reduce the spread of shavings coming off the machine.

These are some of the items we have so far saved from the scrap heap:

- * Hilti disc cutter: would not run—after a partial strip down, and a fair bit of head scratching, we discovered that it was not getting fuel due to an earlier reassembly error. Kill switch requires attention, then it will be good to go

- * Bike rack: lights broken, joints seized—managed to fix up the lights using spare parts (and a bit of fabrication); thorough clean; lubricated threads, locks and hinges. Now almost ready for a new home



- * Pool table: old and ripped felt—a full strip down and re-felt of the cushions and the slate has been completed. Castor wheels have replaced the feet, to enable it to be rolled in and out of the Midmar Hall storeroom. The coin mechanism has been repaired, and ball trays cleaned.

We have also assisted a few people with offsite activities. We are always open to requests and will consider anything that may be too much for oneself (or perhaps just don't have the right tools), and too little for a tradesperson to be interested.

- * Installed several door tie backs and re-hung a couple of garden gates

- * Replaced rotten wood and molding on a portico. This required cutting the wood to shape, priming, and installing. The molding lengths were fabricated to be a close match to existing.

- * Transported a car/trailer load of rubbish to the dump, which required “downsizing” a few of the items to get them to fit

We are still meeting up on a Tuesday evening and Friday morning.

That said, if you have joined the Shed, the facility is available for you whenever you like, so if the general Shed timings and your schedule are at odds, don't feel that excludes you from joining us.

Please get in touch via midmarmensshed@gmail.com



JOIN US FOR

MIDMAR TOTS

GET TOGETHERS

MIDMAR HALL

MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER 10.00-11.30

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER - 1.30-3.30 (CHRISTMAS PARTY 🎅)

FRIDAY 21ST JANUARY 1.30-3.30

SATURDAY 29TH JANUARY 10.00-11.30

FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 1.30-3.30

SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 10.00-11.30

FRIDAY 18TH MARCH 1.30-3.30

SATURDAY 26TH MARCH- 10.00-11.30

INFORMAL GATHERINGS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN (0-5YEARS
OLD) AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS.

£2.50 PER FAMILY. TEA AND COFFEE AND JUICE INCLUDED
PLENTY OF TOYS SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES!

MESSAGE JONATHAN WILSON ON 07598 127450 FOR MORE
INFO AND TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE AT CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Dear fellow residents,

'Will things ever be the same again?' That's a question in the minds of many at the moment. It's been a long haul since March 2020. Things have changed. The entertainment industry, including theatres, night clubs and concert venues has suffered greatly. Restaurants and pubs have had to impose one set of controls after another upon their customers. Then there is the High Street in cities throughout the country with empty units and 'To Let' signs in abundance. A catalogue of casualties that make us think that things may never be the same again.

Last December doesn't bear thinking about. Remember how we were led to believe that we would be given the opportunity to celebrate Christmas for a few days with our extended families? For a short time there was hope. It really looked as if a moment of normality would be allowed to return. Turkeys were ordered, a dash to the supermarkets stocked up cupboards with festive trimmings and presents were bought and wrapped. Then came the blow. Christmas was cancelled or at least reduced to a mere 24 hours with restrictions upon meeting indoors. It didn't seem worth the effort and many chose to do the unthinkable; stay at home in glorious isolation.

Much has happened in the last 12 months. The vaccine programme has been rolled out, the lockdown is a thing of the past [fingers crossed!] and restrictions regarding who and where we might meet have been largely lifted. So now we can hopefully plan for a Christmas where we can engage with others, share a meal together and indulge in festive cheer. Theatres have opened and the pantomime season will soon be upon us. Restaurants are in the process of putting together their festive menus and shops are doing all in their power to tempt us away from the internet.

The hall has had a lean year. Nothing happened for many months. It lay dormant but fortunately those months were put to positive use and bit by bit the interior of the hall was improved and transformed. Things are returning to a level of normality. The Community Café has had a run of successful openings on the first Friday of the month. User groups have returned, bookings for weddings have been made and a number of

events are scheduled for the new year. Things are still quieter than usual and there may be less activity at the hall over the festive season. However there is light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully things will soon return to normal. Perhaps not this year.....but soon.

Enjoy the season

Alistair McRobb. Hall Chairman.

Midmar at the start of the Fall

“At no other time (than autumn) does the earth let itself be inhaled in one smell, the ripe earth; in a smell that is in no way inferior to the smell of the sea, bitter where it borders on taste, and more honeysweet where you feel it touching the first sounds. Containing depth within itself, darkness, something of the grave almost.” — **Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters on Cézanne**

At this time of year, when rambles in the local woods reveal so many varieties of fungi, it is difficult to avoid treading on them underfoot, and inhaling their aroma- a distinct earthy fragrance which smacks of decay and reminds us that the seasonal entropy as autumn approaches. For the mycologist, a treasure trove of specimens; for the hunter gatherer, who can recognise the edible varieties, a feast.



Of course there is beauty to be found in the shape, structure, colouration of these forms, and indeed awe in the existence of all these manifestations of Nature. One day there is nothing - the next, these forms have grown from under the earth, to adorn the environment. An autumn day may be melancholic, in that it indicates winter, with its cold and darkness is approaching, but there is a tranquillity to be found within the woods and local pastoral scenes.



In September the leaves have not yet fallen, but splashes of gold indicate the turning leaf: although pretty, they forebode a colder season to come.



There are other signs of the changing season. The local rowans are at their most colourful at this time. Blackberries can be picked on the roadside verges. Many plants, wild and cultivated, have ‘gone to seed’, reminding us of the cycles of germination, growth and death in Nature. It is reassuring to me, for one, that Nature has this amazing facility to perpetuate itself, and create future generations. In such an environment, it may be possible to cast into oblivion, temporarily, worldly preoccupations. **Faith Mackenzie September 2021 ‘Something told the wild geese, it was time to go.....’ Extract from :Poem-Rachel Lyman Field**

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 from Cairndaie for this editions cover photograph..

Midmar Womens W.I

Wednesday the 10th of November was the first open meeting in Midmar Hall for Midmar W.I. ladies the since the start of lockdown. The ladies met up a couple of times in the hall garden during the summer months and then when things began to open up we twice had an evening meal at the Garlogie Inn.

However, on the 10th we had a representative from Lost Loch Distillery who gave a very knowledgeable talk on the necessary ingredients and the making of Gin. There were 24 attendees all eager to taste the different offerings and possibly make purchases (gentlemen as well as ladies!). The gin tasting was followed by rather more mundane tea, coffee , sandwiches and cakes.

Many thanks to everyone who came and very generously supported the raffle. Following on from this the Post Lady knocked on our door on Monday the 15th of November to deliver a beautifully packaged bottle which she was rather concerned was not broken. She wondered what had been happening as she had delivered several of these packages on her round!

Our next meeting is the Christmas meal which is to be arranged. **Please contact Bev on 01330 833513 or Judy on 01330 833719.if you wish more information about the W.I.**

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.

Please email newsletter@midmarhall.com

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!



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 833371 or email her at - bookings@midmarhall.com





**Midmar
Community
Pub**

Welcome Back!

**Midmar Hall
3rd Friday of
every month
7-11pm**

**Next one
21st Jan**

facebook.com/midmarcommunitypub



nextdoor



Midmar Community Pub

We're back! After 20 months away the Pub was back at Midmar Hall in November. And things will only get better in 2022 with a new regular slot on the third Friday of every month. Appropriate covid measures will be in place as required by the Scottish Government



We've gone cashless!

We now accept card payments
Easier for you, easier for us



Regular Events

We'll put on special events throughout the year such as food nights, quizzes, games nights, bingo, or big sporting events. For details of upcoming events, follow us on facebook or nextdoor. If you have any suggestions, please let us know!



Games....we now have a real pub pool table along with air hockey and darts



Bar staffour

Community Pub only runs because of volunteers. In particular we need bar staff (with the intention of only needing to do bar duty once a year). If you would like to help **behind the bar, please** let us know. Full training given.

Children

....are welcome till 8.30pm, or later if they're well supervised and not too noisy. This is to ensure everyone can enjoy their evening fully.

Midmar events at a glance..

Day	Activity	Venue	Time	Further Information
Monday	Book Club (Last Monday of the month)	Various	8pm -10pm	Sarah Kearns 833638
	Circuit Training	Midmar Hall	7pm - 8pm	Pamela Black 07833 900620
	Violin Lessons	Midmar Hall		Ruth Hardie 07920 715438
Tuesday	Beauty at Eden	Midmar Hall - Upstairs		Jane Aiken 07715 692444
	After School Club	Midmar School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC - 07856732341
	Men's Shed	Midmar Hall	7pm - 9pm	Nigel Bennet 07464 552550
	Bowling (October through to March)	Midmar Hall	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Alan Blackie 833482
	Upholstery Class	The Little Byre	7pm - 9pm	Kay Hourston 833515
Wednesday	After School Club	Midmar School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC 07856732341
	SWRI (2nd Wednesday of the month)	Midmar Hall	7.30pm -9.30pm	Judith Stokoe 833719
	Whist (4th Wednesday of the month)	Millbank	7.30pm -10pm	Isabel Birse 833209
Thursday	Beauty at Eden	Midmar Hall - upstairs		Jane Aiken 07715 692444
	Upholstery Classes	The Little Byre	10.30am-12.30pm & 12.30pm - 2.30pm	Kay Hourston 833515
	Circuit Training	Midmar Hall	7pm - 8pm	Pamela Black 07833 900620
	After School Club	Midmar School	3.15pm - 6pm	MASC 07856732341
Friday	Community Cafe	Midmar Hall	10am - 12pm	1st Friday of the month
	Piano Lessons	Midmar Hall	3.30pm - 8pm	Lucy Webster
	Men's Shed	Midmar Hall	10am-1pm	Nigel Bennet 07464 552550
	Midmar Community Pub	Midmar Hall	7pm-11pm	3rd Friday of the month

Comers – Glenwood : Foot Bridge

Who did build the footbridge across Comers Burn? It would be interesting to know and also when it was erected? If you know the answer to these questions please get in touch. Presumably, before the bridge appeared, the location was a ford that could be crossed on a horse, with a cart or by rolling up your skirts and trousers, I am sure all pedestrians and cyclists will agree that we do not want to have to start doing that again!



The Comers Burn Bridge is a vital component of the safe route, away from traffic, between Glenwood and many other parts of western Midmar. It is there for everyone to use, especially our children, walking, riding and cycling. It is vital that the bridge remains safe, open and available to

all to reach the school, the hall or just to socialise with friends and family.

Bridge users in the past six years will certainly have noticed that first chicken wire was laid to give a better grip in the wet, and since then, particularly on the Comers side, the treads that have failed have been regularly replaced. This has all been achieved by donation of materials and a miscellaneous group of volunteers. This summer, so many treads had failed and having run out of the donated Larch to make new ones, we used some of the Community Pub profits to buy board materials, in June these were laid down, again by volunteers.



Over the summer we have made a plan to replace the whole structure on Comers side approach, tidy up the area below it and make a separate access to the burn crossing for horse riders. The Community Council applied for and has been awarded funds by the council to procure the majority of the materials according to a cutting list that we created.



The rebuild will take about four days to implement, we propose that this will happen in April 2022. Please get in touch if you are able to help or can donate materials and equipment. Starting in January we will get everyone who can help organised so that we are all involved with the plan and ensure that the bridge is closed for the minimum time necessary.

Article by Rebecca Baptie & Rob Ferguson : if you need to know more or want to volunteer our contact details are Tel 07767 317486 or eMail to either rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk or rebeccajbaptie@gmail.com

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 April 2022 have been further postponed due to Covid.

The original intent had been for properties to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band D. The Government now intends to land regulations to require PRS properties to have an EPC Band C at tenancy change in 2025 and for all PRS properties to have an EPC Band C by 2028. Want to know more, need some impartial advice or an EPC renewal please contact your local Domestic Energy Assessor (DEA):

Midshore EP

Jim A Allan C Eng, M I Mech E

The Schoolhouse
Midmar
Inverurie
Aberdeenshire AB51 7PQ

☎ 07747 170707
✉ epmidshore@btinternet.com



Domestic Energy
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(for EPCs)



Also available to carry out EPC surveys to support Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Applications and any Home Energy Scotland Loan applications.



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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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