



# Midmar Newsletter

Winter Edition 2022—Issue 48

## **Newsletter News**

Thank you again to everyone who has taken the time to create and submit articles for this edition **before** the deadline, it is a FIRST!

In this issue some unusual pictures of the church and castle, what really did happen on our Apple Pressing and Produce day, Poems for the Season, more from the Farmer's wife, contributions of all sorts. The proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm is a topic that is of great relevance to all of us so several pages of articles from RES, HoFWIG, a local resident and an editorial to highlight the role of our Community Council are all included together, in the second half of this issue.



### **Our Cover Winner**



**Beate Allerton for capturing the joy of a Winter Exploration**

This Newsletter is for everyone in Midmar.  
Please send us your messages and contributions for the next  
edition by end of January;  
Photographs, Advertisements, Family News and Articles  
to our eMail address: - **newsletter@midmarhall.com**

### **"How do you like yours?" has changed ....**

In addition to a hard copy of the Newsletter which we distribute, you can download a PDF copy direct from Midmar Hall website using the URL **www.midmarhall.com/newsletter**

If you would prefer to only view the Newsletter electronically, let us know your home address so that we can remove it from our direct distribution list.

### **Sponsoring the Midmar Newsletter**

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter prices are:

£25 for a business card size

£45 for a half A5 page (landscape)

£80 for a whole A5 page (portrait)

The newsletter is non-profit making and where possible, distributed four times a year to about 230 homes throughout Midmar as well as being published on the Midmar Hall website, **www.midmarhall.com**

Dear Fellow Residents,

A few months ago, on a rare visit to town, I bumped into a former classmate who I hadn't seen in years. Although time had passed, our recognition skills were as good as ever. As we stood there, blethering, we recalled classmates and incidents from our schooldays. Then the conversation changed course as we caught up on what we had done in the years that followed. Employment, family, retirement and eventually – Covid! We spent no more than ten minutes in each other's company but as we parted it was evident that we were both uplifted by our chance meeting. As he walked away my former classmate turned and said; 'Bring back the good old days'.

'Bring back the good old days', now what did he mean by that? Was he referring to the time before Covid, or to our schooldays? It is a phrase that you often hear, but what exactly were the 'good old days?' Some today might agree that it was the time before Covid and lockdown, masks and vaccinations. Others might say that for them the 'good old days' were the days before Brexit. Of course the list could go on and on to include childhood, adolescence, the early years of adulthood, relationships.... No doubt you could add to the list.

Truth to tell we all take a trip down Memory Lane from time to time, when we revisit a moment in the past that was special. Certainly we are inclined to do so at this time of year, as the festive season approaches. Among my own memories are making decorations at primary school, the school concert, carol singing outside the local shops and Christmas parties. However, things were rather different then. No Christmas lights in Union Street, fewer presents and the build up to the great event taking place over a few short days other than a couple of months. How things have changed! Yet I still think of them as the 'good old days'.

Down through the years Midmar Hall has played its part in helping folk celebrate the festive season. School concerts, parties, dances and panto's have been a feature of the season for one generation after another. Many of you, I know, will look back through time to moments that were special to you. Memories that you will always treasure. The tradition continues, this year folk of all ages will gather at the hall to participate in celebrating the festive season. Who knows – perhaps in years to come their memories of this festive season will be referred to by them as 'the good old days'.

*Enjoy the season,*

*Alistair McRobb—Hall Chairman*



# Midmar from the Air



These pictures arrived in the Newsletter *Inbox* last month.  
What an interesting surprise! Our thanks to **Frank Miller** for submitting them.





Recently Midmar School has won another prestigious award, the **Digital Schools Awards Scotland**. Congratulations go to everyone, pupils, staff and parents, who worked so hard together to achieve this.



The use of digital technology is a fundamental part of Midmar School's vision and enables pupils to have choice, flexibility, control and independence in their learning. Pupil voice was cited as a strength in our digital journey and the validator was very impressed to see UNICEF's Article 17 embedded across our school. This states that - *"Every child has the right to reliable information from the media. This should be information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them"*..



## Duck Race

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone our Duck Race twice! The Corporate Big Ducks were eventually raced on the Dee with the Bogentassie Gravel sponsored duck winning. We held a 'Quacky Races' event for the small ducks. It was weather for ducks on the day – so wet we had to hold races indoors! Everyone had a great time. The owner of the winning duck was **Hana Forbes** (Primary 2).

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who bought ducks.



## Scots Verse Competition and Hamewith Concert

All pupils recited a poem as part of our Scots Verse Competition which was judged by Mrs Daisy Roger and Mrs Jane George. Winner in the Primary 1–4 section was **Katie Masson** (Primary 1) who recited 'Dubs'. Winner in the Primary 5–7 section, for a second year running, was **Edith Tierney** (Primary 7). **Edith** recited 'The Mobile Phone'. Six pupils then took part in the Hamewith Concert at Alford Heritage Centre; **Aiden Ligertwood**, **Edith Tierney**, **Elias Dickson**, **Struan Criggie** and **Ruairidh Masson** all recited poems while **Charlotte Worth** played the violin.

## **Football and Netball Tournaments**

Our football and netball teams participated in tournaments at Tullynessle and Cluny. All teams played very well. Congratulations to our netball team who were winners at Tullynessle.



## **Garden Produce**

We have had apples and tomatoes aplenty this year as well as other produce. Children have enjoyed cooking a variety of meals including tomato soup, smoothies, apple crumbles and cheese biscuits to go with the soup. They also enjoyed eating what they made developing cooking skills as well as learning about food hygiene and sustainability.



## **Harvest Festival**

We welcomed parents and family members to our Harvest Festival at the end of last Term. All children took part in the Festival which had the theme of "The Colours of the Rainbow". Families generously donated items for the harvest table which were then donated to South Aberdeenshire Foodbank in Banchory.



## **Judo Taster Session**

Our children enjoyed a taster session with Garioch Judo Club on the last day of Term 1. This was an excellent way to end the Term.



## Visit to Grampian Transport Museum, Alford

Primary 1–7 and staff visited the Museum in September as part of the children's topic "Journeys and Mapping". Everyone enjoyed a very interesting and informative morning which ended with the playing of the musical organ.



## Community Litter Pick

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October the whole school took part in a Community Litter pick which was organised by Eco Group. Children in Primary 1–3 checked the walk down the Glen to Comers and children in Primary 4–7 checked from Comers, through Tillybirloch, up to the main road, round Bethlin and back to school via the Hall. We found very little litter until we arrived at the main road. We found a considerable amount of litter in the 'layby' at the top of the road across from the bus shelter. We also found litter on the Bethlin road and towards the Hall. Our Group will write to both the Community and Aberdeenshire Councils, sharing their findings and asking that something can be done to put a litter bin in the space at the top of the road.



## Dates for your diary:

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Family Ceilidh, Midmar Hall, 7.00pm (*PTA Fund Raiser*)

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December – School Concert, Midmar Hall, 6.30pm

## **A Note from the Parents Council**

Another school year is in full swing and with this comes the parent council AGM a dreaded affair that takes all night and no parent wants to step up as an office bearer. Our previous chairperson had been in the position for the last 4 years and was retiring so as vice chair I was nominated rather quickly to chair, this was not due to my talent but more the fact that no one else wanted the job! I believe they are all still sitting at the school hall waiting for a treasurer and secretary!

The parent council run various events throughout the year to raise money for the school, one of our main fundraisers is the Duck Race which raised a fantastic £4,000 this year, we help subsidise bus travel for school trips and swimming lessons at Alford, last year we paid for several I-pads, laptop computers and curling equipment, we didn't put in an ice rink, apparently the school hall sufficed.... **"PHEW"**.

£3,000 was given to the school at the start of this term to fund new sports equipment, Junior Librarian, the kids Christmas Party and tickets for the Christmas Pantomime at HMT as well as bus travel in. Mrs. Shepherd will keep us up to date on what the remainder of the money is spent on, hopefully not a girl's weekend away for the school staff!



## News from the Farmers Wife

We were blessed with good weather this summer, the barley harvest was extremely good, the lovely sunny days has helped to fill the grain, the quality and quantity has turned out to be excellent. Fortunately for us we managed to get the majority of our crops harvested just before the rain arrived in the middle of August. As I mentioned before, in the Autumn newsletter, if we have to do a lot of mechanical drying, it is all extra work and to keep the machines running for weeks they consume copious quantities of diesel fuel.



Prices for malting barley have also stayed high which is much needed to offset the ever escalating cost of fertilizer. I am writing this in November and the troubles in Eastern Europe show no sign of ending any time soon so the world market for arable supplies and products will almost certainly continue to be unstable, which increases the risk to farming businesses at home.

During Autumn our tups (rams) have been allowed in with the ewes to let nature take its course, hopefully we will see a full crop of lambs in the New Year, a sheep's pregnancy lasts about five months.



Now, with winter coming on we are preparing to take some of our cattle indoors for extra feeding because there is very little goodness and feed value left in the field grass now. If the weather gets very bad they will all stay inside, dry and warm, happily munching the silage that we made back in June, also they get bruised barley, once a day.

Our breeding cattle have started to calve so this is now a constant watch, it is extremely important that the new born calf is suckling from their mothers, the first milk, called colostrum, is full of antibodies which are vital for the continued health of the calf as it grows.

Calves get a unique ear tag, one in each ear, registered with ScotEID who issue an individual passport for each animal. The passport has all the information for traceability, from farm to your fork! ScotEID is an organisation that works closely with both government and farmers. For us, one of the most helpful aspects of their service is the reminders of what paperwork we are expected to fill in nowadays and when, there is so much to be done.

From now until early May our main daily job is feeding the animals, the fattening cattle that are destined for the food chain over the next months will go direct to slaughter accompanied along with their passport.

*Information for this article kindly provided  
by Isabel Birse at Cairndaie,  
any errors, blame the editor.*



## ***Midmar Community Cafe - run by the School***

Three times a year Midmar School runs the café and I went along to one of these occasions in November. **WHAT FUN!!** As soon as I crossed the threshold I was nailed for my £2 donation. Then I went across to the serving area and was politely asked my choice, I said COFFEE please, and was then served, very carefully, **TEA!**



No matter, the home-bakes were smashing and the place was stowed out with all ages.



For the other nine months of the year if you 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) or eMail [info@midmarhall.com](mailto:info@midmarhall.com). The cafe is open, 10-12am on the first Friday of every month. Come for a blether and enjoy excellent beverages and home bakes that are served in return for a donation, all proceeds go towards hall funds.

# Midmar Community Pub

**Always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of  
every month in Midmar Hall**

**Full Bar**

**Soft &  
non-alc drinks**

**Beers &  
Wines**

**Pool &  
Darts**

**Snacks**

**Music**

**Chat**

**18<sup>th</sup> November**

**Fish & Chips**

By 'The Bay' chippy van

**16<sup>th</sup> December**

**Festive Tipples &  
Nibbles**

Let's all get into the spirit!

**20<sup>th</sup> January**

**Speciality Gin Tasting**

With the 'Strong Water Company'

**17<sup>th</sup> February**

tbc

**17<sup>th</sup> March**

**PizzaBox returns!**

Wood fired pizza van

**'Themes' subject to  
change so always  
check latest on**

facebook.com/midmarcommunitypub



and



**We are cashless!!  
Please bring  
your cards**



# For ALL Dog Owners – Sheep Attacks

For all of us who are privileged to live and work in this beautiful and peaceful area, to maintain this tranquillity it is important that we all respect our neighbours.

It is hardly noticeable, but if we look around us at this time of year, after the summer there are many more sheep out in the fields, both ewes and rams initiating the next generation that will appear in the spring as lambs.

I reside at North Tillydaff, by Marionburgh, and recently heard about an incident of a ram nearby being found dazed and out of its field with severe bite injuries. The assumption is that his injuries were caused by a dog attack and that the ram stood his ground, presumably to defend the ewes. The ram recovered and it is fortunate that he defended the flock, from time to time a dog attack can result in real damage to an animal or several sheep dying.

In a separate incident, the ewe pictured did recover but there was a veterinary bill of over £400 involved, a lot of wasted time for the farmer, not to mention significant distress for the animal which nearly lost a leg. It also resulted in a court case for the dog's owner.



Injured Ewe after a Dog Attack

Recent revisions to the law in Scotland have now set the maximum fine for irresponsible owners at £40,000 with the possibility for up to 12 months in jail.

The Police Scotland website cites examples of livestock worrying including:-

- a dog chasing livestock in a manner that could cause injury or suffering,
- the stress caused to the animal by the presence of the dog, could, in the case of female livestock, cause abortion or miscarriage,
- livestock becoming desperate in their attempts to escape and injure themselves in so doing,
- dogs who chase ewes or lambs may cause them to separate from their mothers, later dying of starvation or hyperthermia.

You may think you have good control of your dog, but a long time ago I lived in Yorkshire, and our well trained male dog completely turned when he matured. This became a significant problem for us especially after we moved to this area. Long story short, we had to re-home him and I was fortunate that my parents who lived in Norfolk were surrounded mostly by arable fields and any livestock was big enough to kick back! He lived out his days happily chasing rabbits out of their garden, a bonus for my mother, a keen gardener.

*Article provided by Rob Ferguson: Tel 07767 317486 or eMail*

# ***Circuit Training at the Hall***

**Every Monday and Thursday**  
**6.45pm – 7.45pm**

## **BEGINNERS FITNESS AT MIDMAR HALL**

**\*\*NEW DAY\*\***

**Every Thursday**  
**5.30pm – 6.15pm**

Circuit training is ideal for people who wish to exercise at their own pace. Generally there will be eight different stations with one person at each station. We work for one minute then rest for 30 seconds before moving on to the next exercise.

For those who may be a bit nervous about trying circuit training, why not grab the opportunity to try out the new beginners' fitness group? This will be more of a gentle, low impact class where we do the same exercises at the same time. Always plenty of time at the end for stretching and chat!

***If you are interested in any of the classes, please contact  
Pamela on 07833 900620***

***Each class costs £5 payable by cash or transfer  
Every class is run by volunteers only***



**The Midmar Men's Shed** has been busy with repairs the last couple of months. A variety of items have been brought to the Open Repair Shed sessions and we have also received items during regular Shed hours.

The oak Carver style chair (pictured) with some structural issues has been repaired and reconstructed; a Flymo had it's blade straightened and sharpened; an electric hedge trimmer with mechanical and electrical challenges has been saved from the bin; a petrol strimmer is being resurrected.



Outside, the Shed has had a new coat of stain as well as a general tidy up. The roof was leaking, however, all of the holes have now been patched up, and the building seems to be water tight again. We continue of course to keep an eye on our neighbour, the Hall, performing occasional maintenance tasks as they crop up.

Inside, most of the donated tools have now been sorted through, with many having been hung on a large tool board for easy access. Should anyone happen to come across any metric spanners or sockets that could be donated, they would be welcomed. (We already have lots that are Imperial, BS and Whitworth!)

We have a couple of projects in the pipeline, though we are always looking for new ideas and opportunities, so please get in touch if you think there may be something that we can help you or the community with.

New members are always welcome, as are occasional visitors. Just pop in for a chat, tea or coffee? No problem, feel free to wander by when the Shed s open....

*We do have the following items awaiting a new home for those that want them:-*

- ◇ 50mm and 55mm wire nails (we have loads!)
- ◇ Electric lawn edger and lawn scarifier
- ◇ Petrol hedge trimmer
- ◇ Tow bar rack for 2 bikes

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*Dates for the Diary :-*

**Repair Shed** (14:00-16:00): Saturday 26th November

**Shed Social** (17:30-19:30): Wednesday 7th December

**Shed Hours:** Tuesday's 18:30—21:00, Friday's 09:30-13:00

**Web:** [www.midmar.uk](http://www.midmar.uk)

**Tel:** 07464 552550

**Email:** [midmarmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:midmarmensshed@gmail.com)

**Nextdoor:** [mensshedmidmar](#)



# Glazed Apple or Plum Cake

*This is a delicious and easy to make, moist cake, which is great for using up any left-over apple crop and we have had an abundance this year, it works well with plums too.*

This makes one cake, approx. 12 servings. Total time: 1 hr 30 mins

## **Cake Ingredients:-**

- 1) 200g softened butter, plus extra for greasing
- 2) Approx. 5 or 6 medium apples or 8 purple plums
- 3) 140g golden caster sugar, plus 1 extra tbsp
- 4) 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 5) Grated zest 1 large lemon
- 6) 3 to 4 drops of vanilla essence
- 7) 175g self-raising flour
- 8) 6 tbsp milk
- 9) A handful of flaked almonds

## **And ingredients for the glaze:-**

- 1) 6 heaped tbsp redcurrant jelly
- 2) 2 tbsp cassis or port
- 3) 2 tbsp water

## **Method:**

- Preheat your oven to 180 degC
- Butter the inside edge of a 23cm springform tin and line base with greaseproof paper.
- Beat butter and sugar minus the extra tbsp until pale. Beat in eggs, then zest. With mixer on low, beat in flour, vanilla essence and milk.
- Spoon the batter into the cake tin and smooth the top. For the topping peel and core the apples, then halve and slice into half-moon shapes. If using plums simply halve, stone and slice.
- Starting from the centre, lay the apples slices (or plum slices) on top of the batter overlapping them in circles. Keep going round until you reach the edge.
- Sprinkle with the extra sugar.
- Heat up a small frying pan on medium hot setting, add the flaked almonds and



toast until golden brown, stirring frequently as they can turn very quickly.

- Scatter over the apples.

Now bake in oven for 55 minutes to 1 hour then let it cool in the tin for a further 15 minutes then:-

- Remove cake from the tin. To remove the base and greaseproof paper, I carefully place an upside-down dinner plate on top of cake and quickly flip it over, take off paper and flip it back using another plate. Then move onto a rack.
- To make the glaze melt the redcurrant jelly and cassis with 2 tbsp water in a saucepan stirring frequently until reduced to a syrupy glaze, about 5 minutes.
- Brush the melted glaze all over the cake so there is a thick covering. Leave to set before serving.

*Serving : Great with whipped cream,  
pouring double cream or clotted cream.  
and is best eaten within two days.*

*Diana Henry originally published  
this recipe on the internet.*

**THANKS AGAIN TO  
BEATE ALLERTON  
FOR SUBMITTING  
THIS RECIPE**

## ***Musical Sessions - Any Interest?***

In 2023 we are considering starting a regular local musical group that would welcome all comers.

Initial suggestions are:-

- Meet once a month for a couple of hours
- Possibly the first or fourth Friday evening of a month
- Location, the back stage room at Midmar Hall
- Cost £3.00 per person

To express an interest please contact either  
John Kearns (kearns@btinternet.com)  
or Rob Ferguson (rob.ferguson@aiexps.co.uk)



**NEW**



**JOIN US FOR**

# **MIDMAR TOTS**

**GET TOGETHERS**

## **MIDMAR HALL**

**10.00-11.30 ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAYS:**

**17TH DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS PARTY)**

**28TH JANUARY**

**25TH FEBRUARY**

**25TH MARCH**

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

**£4 PER FAMILY. TEA AND COFFEE AND JUICE  
INCLUDED**

**PLENTY OF TOYS SUITABLE FOR ALL**

## 20th Century Poets - Thoughts for the Season

### "Stopping by woods on a snowy evening"

*Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch the woods, fill up with snow.*

*My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.*

*He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake  
The only other sound's, the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.*

*The woods are lovely dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.*

by Robert Frost 1923

*And so this is Christmas;  
And what have we done?  
Another year over; a new one just begun;  
And so Happy Christmas, I hope you have fun;  
The near and the dear ones,  
The old and the young.*

by John Lennon

Thank you to Ruth McRobb who suggested we publish these poems.



# Apple Pressing Day at Midmar Hall

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October was Midmar Apple Pressing Day and the weather was very kind to us. Along with many others around Midmar I was out in the week before with ladders and all sorts of different containers to collect apples. I had three laden trees of my own but I also harvested from my neighbour's burgeoning orchard. It did not take me any time at all to collect more than I needed; my principal problem was finding sufficient containers to hold the crop!

This year we had two sets of crushers and juicers all kindly lent by the Humberstone and Smith families. David Smith also came along with his pasteuriser to allow us to treat and bottle the final product. The rest of us were asked turn up with Apples, SHARP knives and chopping boards and so we did.

Ian, Jackie and others were at the Hall early to setup, thank you to them. I arrived at about 10.00am, as planned, to find a significant proportion of the Hall floor already covered with containers of all sorts overflowing with apples and there was more to come. If we had taken all the apples out of their boxes I am sure we would have easily covered the whole badminton court and then have nowhere to put our feet!



During the day I never counted the number of people there all together, but there were a lot, including welcome visitors from foreign parts like Aberdeen and Skene. All day long folks kept coming and going and changing jobs as needed to get the work done, coring, chopping, grinding, pressing, bottling and of course much cleaning of sticky material that spread everywhere. The mush and nasty bits went for compost and maybe a horse somewhere if I heard correctly.



At lunch it was so pleasant that we could utilise the Hall garden., Someone had made two huge pots of very tasty soup, and provided bread to go with it, whoever that was, thank you very much. For desert Morag Grimbley had made a lovely glazed apple tart on fancy pastry that went down a treat.

I got home in the late afternoon, tired but happy to share some of the product with my neighbours who had so generously donated apples earlier in the week.

*Article by Rob Ferguson, feedback welcome, 07767 317486*

# APPLE DAY IN PICTURES

**CORING &  
CHOPPING**



**CRUSHING**



**THE JUICY  
JUICERS**

**BOTTLING STATION**





# Midmar Hall 100 Club

And the winners of the November draw are...

First Prize £100 - Jenny Beetham

Second Prize £60 - Jim Simpson

Third Prize £30 - Charlie Birse

Fourth Prize £25 - Alistair McRobb

There are still draws left for 2022/2023 so if you would like to grab a lucky number, download a form from the Midmar Hall website [www.midmarhall.com](http://www.midmarhall.com) or contact us by eMail using [Midmar100club@gmail.com](mailto:Midmar100club@gmail.com).

The form allows up to FIVE members from each household to have a number.

It costs £15 for each number and this will enter you into all the remaning draws until May next year. Draws are normally made during the community café.



# Midmar School Boy plays Rugby for the All Blacks

Finlay Christie and his brother Gregor, attended Midmar primary school starting in 2001 when Mrs Glover was head. They lived at Meikle Midmar with their parents Chris and Liz, and then the family emigrated to New Zealand's North island around 2006.


Both boys were energetic athletics and rugby became their passion. Gregor has recently returned to Scotland and is now playing at a high level for Currie rugby team in Edinburgh and Finlay plays for one of the top teams in New Zealand, the Blues.

In 2022 Finlay, now age 27, was picked to play for the All Blacks and on the 13th November he played at Murrayfield as the number 9, which is amazing!



*This article was submitted by David Smith,*

## Church of Scotland—Christmas Services

	Christmas Eve	- 4.00 pm	Midmar Church will host a Family Christingle Service
		- 11.00 pm	Echt Church – Hospitality Served
		- 11.30 pm	Echt Church – Watchnight Service
Christmas Day	- 10:00 am	Chapel of Garioch a Joint Service	

For more information, please visit  
[www.echtandmidmarchurch.co.uk](http://www.echtandmidmarchurch.co.uk)



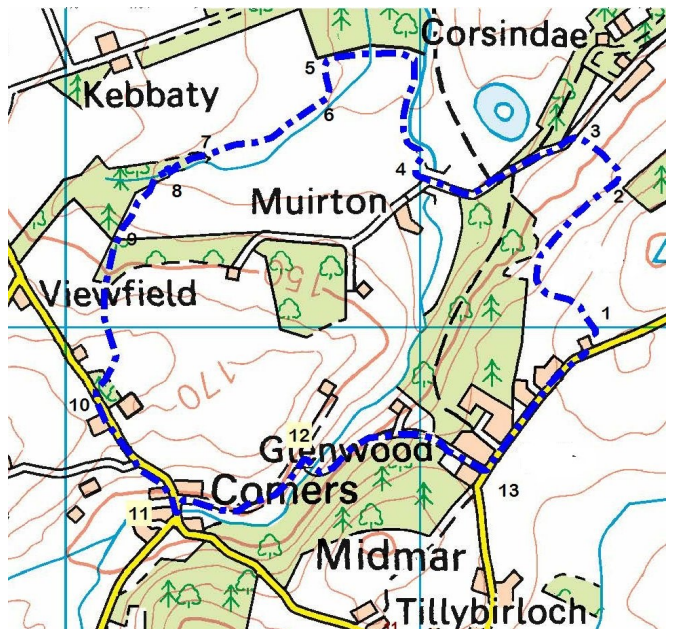
# Boxing Day Walk – This Year 2022 — Come Along

Pandemic or not, on Boxing Day for the last two years, some of us have met up with others at the Hall to walk around Midmar. Inevitably the numbers attending have been down, but this year I am hoping to see many familiar and also new faces again. **Please come and join us this year to blow away the cobwebs, get the kids out of the house and show your visitors what a lovely area this is.**

We meet in Midmar Hall car park at about 10:00 with the aim of setting off at about 10:15. When we return to the Hall there will be mince pies, mulled wine and any left-overs from Christmas that folk choose to bring along. Please contact Rob Ferguson **07767 317486** if you have questions.

Last year we discovered that what had been meadow down by Muriton of Corsindae had been ploughed but the farmer had left a very walkable strip around the field edge. I thought, *GOOD NEWS*, but it will probably be ploughed to the edge in the New Year however *NOT SO!* I went down to explore recently and the wide strip is now a well-established grassy path that is easily walked so I have decided to describe the walk, even if you do not come on Boxing Day you may want to try it some other time.

- 1) To start, head left (NE) out of Midmar Hall car park and then immediately turn left through the metal gate to enter the grazing field. In the field, keep the hall car park and fence on your left to pick up the vauge track that first heads NW and then curves to the right around the edge of the field to run in a NE direction. To your left you will have lovely views over the valley towards the Grampian Hills and Bennachie in the distance.
- 2) After about half a mile you reach a wooden gate on your left and a disused sand quarry in the hillside on your right. Turn left (NW) through the wooden gate to walk down slope along a grassy avenue known as "Green Lane". As the slope starts to level out turn left (SW) on to a well formed track, walking



down slope. You will reach a fork where you should continue to follow the main track, (right fork), leaving the yellow grit bin on your right and continue to walk down slope.

- 4) After crossing the Comers Burn on a well-made bridge the track swings left and there is a double metal gate on the right. Turn right (NE) through this double gate into the field to walk along Comers Burn which will now be on your right.

The landowner or farmer has very sensibly left a wide grassy strip that continues right around the field edge, I do wish this could happen more often.

At some point you come up to a deer fence and a mesh vehicle gate, do not go through this gate but turn west to continue on the grass leaving the fenced woodland area on your right hand.

- 5) At the westerly corner of the deer fence do not cross the wall but turn left (S) to continue on the wide grass track.

- 6) At the next field corner you come to a vehicle gate. Turn right (SW) to pass through the gate into a newly planted run of deciduous trees that were planted in 2021. They are growing well and starting to appear above their protective tubes.



- 7) The path continues into the mature woodland, cross the drainage ditches using the track and continue west.

- 8) You come up to a vehicle gate into an arable field that again has a lovely wide border to walk around, follow this field edge gradually heading in a more southerly direction.

- 9) In the south west corner there is vehicle gate in the deer fence that has wire net along the bottom, weighted down with stones. Walkers can open this gate just enough to slip through but **please, without** disturbing the netting and stones. What used to be the rough grazing in this area has been planted out with unprotected plantation conifer., hence the extra netting on the gate Stay by the westerly fence in the mature trees and bracken to walk up the slope towards the next field gate

- 10) Pass through the field gate and turn left (S) on to the metalled road walking first slightly up hill for about half a mile before the road drops down steeply into Comers

- 12) In Comers, at the corner with the Post Box in the wall of the old shop on your right and just before the bridge over the burn, turn left to head first E and then the metalled road gradually curves to run NE.

- 13) As you pass along the metalled road watch out for a simple seat and path off to the right leading to a wooden footbridge that crosses the Comers Burn. Take the path and then the footbridge to cross the burn. On the E side of the foot bridge the path rises steeply to join a metalled road and re-enter Midmar village. Go straight ahead to pass the school playing field on the right and village housing on the left.

- 14) At the 'T' junction, with water hydrant opposite, turn left (NE) to walk back up past Glenwood Park and return to the Village Hall.

# At A Glance : Midmar Weekly

## COMMUNITY CAFE

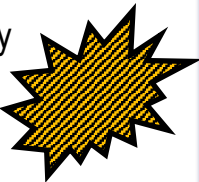
**FIRST Friday every  
Month  
10am – 12pm**

## Community Pub

The pub is open at  
Midmar village hall  
on the **THIRD Friday**  
of each month from  
7pm until 11pm.

## Midmar TOTS - Meet Monthly

Last Saturday  
of the Month  
10-11.30am



Day	Activity	Venue
Monday	Circuit Training	Midmar Hall
	Violin Lessons	Midmar Hall
Tuesday	Men's Shed—Activity	Shed by Hall
	Upholstery Classes	The Little Byre
Wednesday	Beauty at Eden	Hall Upstairs
	SWRI (Women's Institute)	Midmar Hall
Thursday	Beauty at Eden	Hall Upstairs
	Upholstery Classes	The Little Byre
Friday	Circuit Training	Midmar Hall
	Men's Shed—Activity	Shed by Hall
	Music Social (Proposed)	Back Stage Room

## LONDON CALLING

An evening of popular music from stage  
shows and well known composers ...

Midmar Hall – Thursday Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at 07:30pm

Tickets from website ....

[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/AOC-PRODUCTIONS](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/AOC-PRODUCTIONS)

At the Men's Shed — **Mid**  
2nd Wednesday of a month  
5:30 pm — 7.30 pm.  
Often Nosh—Yum Yum!  
***These sessions are open***

# Monthly and Notable Events

Time	Further Information
6.45pm - 7.45pm	Pamela Black 07833 900620
	Ruth Hardie 07920 715438
7pm - 9pm	Nigel Bennett 07464 552550
7pm - 9pm	Kay Hourston 01330 833515
	Jane Aiken 07715 692444
7.30pm -9.30pm 2nd Wed of Month	Judith Stokoe 833719
	Jane Aiken 07715 692444
10.30am-12.30pm & 12.30pm - 2.30pm	Kay Hourston 01330 833515
5.30pm - 6.15pm and 6.45pm - 7.45pm	Beginners then Experts Pamela Black 07833 900620
10am-1pm	Nigel Bennett 07464 552550
7pm - 9pm 1st/4th Fri of Month	John Kearns 07808 070176 or Rob Ferguson 07767 317486



**SWRI**  
**SECOND**  
**Wednesday**  
**of Month**  
**7.30-9.30pm**  
**Judith Stokoe**  
**01330 833719**

**BOOK CLUB**  
Last Monday of  
Month 8-10pm  
Contact Sarah  
Kearns  
01330 833638

**Boxing Day Walk**  
**Meet at the Hall**  
**10:00 for 10:15am.**  
**Mulled Wine, Mince**  
**Pies to follow..**

**Week Social.**

th .

n to all.



## Hogmanay Party at Midmar Hall

*Ceilidh Band, Open Mike*

*Own drinks & food*

Adults and Over-12s £5,  
under 12s free

To book contact Sarah Kearns  
01330 833638 or 07756 968868  
sarahkearns50@gmail.com





# News from our local Church of Scotland Parish

The Church of Scotland has been going through a process of thorough review and reform, and is currently undertaking a significant level of restructuring. By 2025, the Church of Scotland will afford only to pay 600 full-time equivalent staff posts. This is compared to the around 900 posts that exist currently – including ministers, deacons and other full-time staff in ministry-related work. Some of the proposed reductions – though not all – will be achieved through the retirement of ministers.

At the same time, a national review of church buildings has been taking place, and as part of that review, the Kirk Session of Echt and Midmar Church determined that very regretfully, Midmar Church should close. This decision was ratified by the Presbytery of Gordon in June 2022. The process towards closure however, is lengthy, and for the foreseeable future Midmar Church will remain in use as usual for weddings, funerals and for the services on the first Sunday of every month.

Looking to the future, the congregation of Echt and Midmar Church of Scotland is now part of an exciting and imaginative collaboration of local church communities called *Bennachie Churches Together*. The Bennachie Churches Together group consists of the congregations of Echt and Midmar, Cluny and Monymusk, Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch, Kemnay and Kintore Churches. The churches are working actively towards a union between these parishes, with the existing four ministers, Rev Euan Glen, Rev Neil Meyer, Rev Joshua Mikelson and Rev Sheila Mitchell forming a team ministry. Within five years, the national plan is that the joint parishes will be served by a reduced staff of two ministers and by a part time Ministry Development Staff member.

## Christmas Period Services

Christmas Eve	-	4.00 pm	Midmar Church will host a Family Christingle Service
	-	11.00pm	Hospitality will be served at Echt Church
	-	11.30pm	Echt Church there will be a Watchnight Service
Christmas Day	-	10.00am	Joint service will be held at Chapel of Garioch

For more information, please visit [www.echtandmidmarchurch.co.uk](http://www.echtandmidmarchurch.co.uk).

Article submitted by Rev Sheila Mitchell



## Midmar and the S.W.R.I. at 95

Midmar S.W.R.I is now well under way with our 2022-2023 session. In September we had a talk and slides by Charlie Hunter on behalf of Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team. We saw how the Team has progressed from earlier years through to the present time. There were some beautiful pictures of the mountains in winter and we were all very surprised to learn that there was a high propensity of calls for help from Bennachie.

Our October meeting was rather special as Midmar S.W.R.I. was officially **Ninety Five** years old! Our speaker for the evening was the Reverend Sheila Mitchell who explained to the ladies exactly what the position of a Hospital Chaplain had entailed and also her present



position as Minister of Midmar and Echt Churches.

Isabel Birse being the longest serving member cut the cake and an excellent supper was enjoyed by all.



Genevieve Jones is to be the guest speaker for November explaining the ins and outs of living with Alpacas. Unfortunately, there will not be any Alpacas in attendance!

The last meeting for 2022 is our Christmas Lunch which is to be held at the Garlogie Inn on **Wednesday 14th December**. In January 2023, Malcom Stewart is to give a talk on "The Life of a Childrens Dentist and then in February it will be our annual Taste and Try evening.

Meetings are held in the back room of the village hall on the second Wednesday of each month. Anyone is invited to come and try a "Taster Session" at any time.

*For further Information please contact our Secretary Beverley Mackinlay (tel: 01330 833513) or President – Judith Stokoe (tel: 01330 833719).*

## Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council

These highlights are reported from the meetings held in **August and October**.

**Police Report :** In previous 6 weeks there were no assaults, no housebreaking, 1 public nuisance, 4 road traffic incidents and 1 low level drug related item.

**Hill of Fare Wind Farm :** There were initial discussions with interested parties at the August meeting and it was clear there are a lot of major concerns. The size, impact and noise that could be generated is concerning to nearby residents. As this is a major construction project a national decision will be made by the Scottish Government having had a full consultation with all parties. A presentation by RES was held on the 9th of October when interested parties were invited to view the proposal. The Community Council attended the presentation and had prepared a questionnaire for attendees to complete so that an idea could be ascertained as to the general thinking in the community.

**Sauchen Update :** The questions regarding road design safety, emergency access and flooding potential have still not been satisfactorily resolved in the new Sauchen development. There are also ongoing problems with the maintenance of the recycling centre and also the re-installation of the climbing frame beside the new houses.

**Midmar Update :** If Midmar community feel strongly enough about the planning decision to build more houses next to the Village Hall this could be a subject for a "Community Right To Buy".

The next meeting will be at Monymusk Village Hall on the **23rd November 2022** and then on 4th January 2023—venue to be decided

*Community Council Contacts : Richard Fyffe 01330 833295, Judith Stokoe 01330 833719, Ruth Wardle 07818 290334 or Frank Murray 07552 37903*



## Senior Citizens of Cluny and Midmar Fund Can you help ?

Since 1970 the Senior Citizens of Cluny and Midmar Fund has been ongoing for fifty two years, always operated by volunteers.

The purpose of the Fund is to raise money by various means i.e. Whists, Sale Tables, Concerts, Treasure Hunts etcetera and we are also very fortunate to receive an annual donation from the Rotary Club (Alford Branch) so that money is available to take senior citizens, resident in the our community on summer bus trips and either a Christmas or Saint Andrew's Day meal with entertainment.

Over the years many folk have taken the opportunity to enjoy those get-togethers. Some of the trips, to mention a few:-

- Discovery Dundee
- The Royal Yacht,
- Our Scottish Parliament,
- Secret Bunker,
- Wildlife Park Kinussie
- various Distilleries and Gardens.

In 2020 a trip to The Speyside Cooperage was planned and the St Andrew's Day social event was to have been at Kemnay Golf Club. Unfortunately lockdown precautions prevented all of this taking place.

[illegible]

Now that it is safe for Senior Citizens to meet and socialise again we want to get our work restarted as normal but our committee has shrunk to just four members.

We have the knowledge but we urgently need the help of younger volunteers who will have new ideas and the energy to continue the mission of the fund's work. *Could this be you?*

**Your help will do so much good for our older folk, giving them something to look forwards to and keeping them up to date with what is going on round and about.**

If you think you want to help please speak to any of our committee members who are, Isabel Birse 01330 833209, Margaret Matthews 01330 833454, John Milne 01330 833574 and Margaret Ogston 01339 883572



# Hill of Fare Windfarm Proposal – Editorial

The news that a wind farm development has been proposed for the Hill of Fare started to emerge in August, just after our summer Newsletter was printed but before it was distributed. Hence our local action group HoFWIG, which formed impressively quickly, requested permission to add a factual sheet to the summer edition. As local news it made sense to me for this to be done. There cannot be many folk now, in and around Midmar, that have not heard about the proposal.



In the interest of balanced commentary, I decided that this is a matter of such importance to everyone that our Newsletter must publish sensible articles in the Winter edition from anyone that wished to submit on this subject.

Hence the following eleven pages are given over to the three contributions that we have received from:-

- ◇ Faith Mackenzie, Faith is one of our regular and valued contributors.
- ◇ RES (Renewable Energy Systems), the developer
- ◇ HoFWIG (Hill of Fare Information Group), local residents

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Like many others I attended the RES open day at Midmar Hall on Wednesday 12th October, it was extremely well attended. Well constructed feedback forms were readily available from both the Community Council and RES, giving everyone the opportunity to record their views, questions and concerns. Speaking to several other attendees, everyone had an opinion whether it is for, against or undecided. The animated discussion was being conducted in a civil manner by all.

As I mention above and is also evident from the summary of their recent meeting published on page 28, our Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council are actively canvassing opinion from all so that they can correctly reflect residents views to the final decision makers in 2023. One of our local councillors (Richard Fyffe) tells me that our council is also meeting with other local councils so that they can jointly decide on a communal way forwards.

The Community Council are encouraging anyone who wants to submit their view to do so now and they also have a website page with a dedicated sub-section regarding this Hill of Fare proposal, please refer....

[www.cmmcommunitycouncil.co.uk/hill-of-fare.html](http://www.cmmcommunitycouncil.co.uk/hill-of-fare.html)

Other sources of information are the Scottish Government website, for example in July this year they published their report regarding the *“Analysis of the consultation responses received to the draft Onshore Wind Policy Statement between 28 October 2021 and 31 January 2022”*.

# The Winds of Change

*"We are kept keen on the grindstone of pain and necessity."*

## H.G Wells – The Time Machine

In my last commentary, I referred to the forces of change in our lives, with particular reference to the local environment. Change is of course a necessary concomitant of 'Nature', of our existence; it is within ourselves, the seasons, and society. Adaptation to change is therefore intrinsic in our lives - how well we adapt to preserve our own wellbeing and that of our planet.

Change, can be managed either sensitively and thoughtfully or not. We may find ourselves bulldozed into acquiescence by higher authorities, or in a more likely scenario, having to adapt to small or larger changes impacting on our lives, day by day, until incrementally, months later, the world seems a very different place.

Some might say we have faced such forces in the last few years, and are still adapting, with optimism, in some cases, or pessimism and weary acquiescence, to societal and environmental factors over which we as individuals have limited capacity to influence. Perhaps the COVID era, which is still with us, can be perceived in that way,

Of course, some changes can be viewed as 'good', i.e. beneficial to the quality of our lives, and some as detrimental.

In such circumstances where a large development is planned, as on the privately owned land on the Hill of Fare, there are protocols of communication one can follow, to express one's views, as outsiders who may be affected by such a development, either positively or negatively.

Inevitably there will be divergences of opinion, regarding 'the 'pros and cons' of any such development. Rationales will be made, should the project be seen to be in the 'national interest', and views expressed by local residents, whose lives may be impacted upon in various ways, will no doubt follow the agreed channels of communication.

At the end of the day, the landowner, as appertains to others who seek to develop a 'site', will have certain rights, but will also be subject to some constraints, relating to environmental impact concerns, inter alia, regarding planning permissions e.g. *'What about the otters?'*

Reviewing historical 'David and Goliath' precedents, of which there are many, both nationally and globally, the evidence seems to indicate that the views of individuals in the locality of such developments do not often triumph over the

forces of commercialism, particularly when rationalised as being in the national interests.

In respect of our local hill, the Hill of Fare, such matters are in the balance.

This Hill can be viewed from many vantage points in Midmar and presents a tranquil backdrop to our lives.



Should the proposed Wind Farm development go ahead, this view from Tillybirloch Woods towards the main area of the development will look very different.

At the very least, my own perspective is that environmental aesthetics, the benefits and drawbacks to the local community, now and in the future, should be weighed up, as well as putting into the equation national considerations. There should be transparency of the commercial interests at stake, in the context any forthcoming decision making process regarding this proposed development.

History reveals that the forces of change, in whatever context, are not necessarily benevolent, unfortunately.

In this particular circumstance, each individual at least, has the opportunity to express his or her view via the relevant channels and protocols.

A poem by Pastor Niemoller comes to mind, last viewed in person, engraved on a head stone in a cemetery in Brooklyn, New York City.

Admittedly, this poem does not refer to parallel circumstances, however perhaps it may act as an incentive for individuals to speak up at the appropriate time, in the timeline of events.

*First they came for the Communists,  
and I did not speak out,  
because I was not a Communist,*

*Then they came for the Socialists,  
and I did not speak out,  
because I was not a Socialist,*

*Then they came for the trade unionists,  
and I did not speak out,  
because I was not a trade unionist,*

*Then they came for the Jews,  
and I did not speak out,  
because I was not a Jew,*

*Then they came for ME  
and there was no one left,  
to speak out for me.*

---

*Information and Pictures for this article by Faith Mackenzie, Comers*



# Hill of Fare Wind Farm Proposal

## Project Background

RES is exploring a potential wind farm and energy storage proposal, in partnership with Dunecht Estates, at Hill of Fare. Based on initial feasibility work the project design comprises an early-stage layout of 17-turbines at a tip height of around 250m, resulting in an overall installed site generating capacity of around 122MW, and a proposed energy storage facility which will help maximise generation capability and efficiency of the site.

## The Need for Onshore Wind

Scotland currently has 8.4GW of installed onshore wind capacity and the Scottish Government is currently seeking to secure an additional 8-12GW of installed onshore wind capacity by 2030 in order to help meet the legally binding net zero target and help tackle the climate change emergency. This is a substantial increase and will require a significant deployment of new onshore wind projects across Scotland to meet this demand for green, low-carbon electricity.

Onshore wind, together with large scale solar, is now the cheapest form of electricity generation and can be deployed quickly and delivered at lower costs than offshore wind, hydro, marine technologies and nuclear. It also increases energy security by reducing reliance on imports and builds our resilience to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations and the uncertainties of global markets.

Turbine technology has also advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of renewable electricity per turbine. These modern, taller turbines provide more electricity which helps address the climate emergency, costs of living crisis, and security of energy supply.

## Public Exhibitions and Consultation

RES held four public exhibition events in the local area in October to provide people with the opportunity to learn more about the project, discuss any questions with the project team, and provide feedback on the initial design.

The exhibitions were well attended, and RES would like to thank everyone who took the time to come along and provide feedback. Copies of the exhibition information boards are available to view

on the Hill of Fare Wind Farm project website at [www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk).



**RES Information Boards at Midmar Hall  
(before the event started)**

## **Commenting on the Proposal**

The exhibitions initiated a four-week consultation period to gather written comments on the proposal. The closing date for feedback was Friday 11 November.



## **Maximising the Local Benefit**

RES believes that onshore wind should provide direct, lasting benefits to local communities and as part of the public exhibitions and consultation RES is seeking written feedback via the consultation 'comments form' from the community on ideas, local priorities, and community projects that people would like to see supported. This feedback will help RES to deliver a tailored package of community benefits, aligned with the priorities of the local community, which could, for instance, provide funding for projects that sit outside the parameters of a traditional application-based fund.

We are also seeking feedback from the community on RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), which offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating wind farm, to understand if this is something that people are interested in as a potential part of the tailored community benefits package. To find out more, please visit the project website at [www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk) and refer to the exhibition information before submitting a comments form with feedback.

RES has a strong track record for working with the local supply chain around its projects and in order to maximise the opportunities from Hill of Fare Wind Farm we are looking to build our knowledge of the local skills and capabilities within the area. If consented, the project is predicted to deliver approximately £4.7 million of inward investment to the area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services during the development, construction and first year of operation. In addition, approximately £1.1 million in business rates will be payable each year to Aberdeenshire Council during operation (based on the current 17-turbine 122MW design).

## **Next Steps**

RES will take time to review the feedback received from the community and key consultees, together with the findings from the environmental and technical studies, and consider this in relation to the design development over the coming months.

We will hold a second set of public exhibition events closer to submission of the planning application (which is currently scheduled for spring 2023) to update people on the proposal and present the final design. People will have the opportunity to speak to the project team again at these events and provide further written feedback to RES. These events will also explain any changes made to the project design in response to feedback from the October exhibitions.

# Hill of Fare Windfarm Proposal Questions and Some Answers



Following the presentation made in Midmar Hall (by RES), local residents have responded via the Community Councillors with a ratio of 75% against the development of the windfarm as the visual and environmental impact will be enormous to Midmar.

We have established our group using the acronym name HoFWIG, Hill of Fare Windfarm Information Group. HoFWIG's aim is to present a case against the development to the Planners and Scottish Government through the appropriate channels as to why this is a totally unacceptable development in terms of its massive industrial scale and the effect on the landscape and environment. Please refer to our website for more information, [www.Hilloffare.org](http://www.Hilloffare.org).



## Viewpoint WP51

From North Bannock/Cromers Road

OS Reference 36614E 808963N  
Eye level 188.7m AOD  
Direction of view 154.8°  
Nearest turbine 3438(1)

Horizontal field of view 27° (wider projection)  
Principal Distance 812.5mm  
Paper size 420 x 287mm (A5)  
Printed image size 360x265mm

Camera Canon EOS 5D Mark II  
Lens Canon 50mm  
Camera Height 1.55m  
Date & time 15/06/22 12:38

Note the size of the two existing turbines at the Thomson's farm (highlighted), they are barely visible against the side of the hill. We all know that we need more renewable energy and that wind power, both onshore and offshore is a prominent strand, in both the UK and Scottish Governments' energy strategies.

Primary questions that HoFWIG have are .....



### How much is energy is required?

- Scottish Government target for onshore wind generation is a further 8-12 gigawatt by 2030
- There is already 10 gigawatt either in the planning/consenting process, awaiting construction or under construction
- It seems there are enough projects in the pipeline already to meet or nearly meet the government targets.

### Is the Hill of Fare the right place?

Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Natural Heritage commissioned a study in 2014 to evaluate appropriate sites for onshore wind generation on the Grampian Outliers, of which the Hill of Fare is one. The study concluded the Hill of Fare has :-

*“a high value, high visual sensitivity and high wilderness qualities, forming islands of wild land within the surrounding farmland. These areas would be unsuitable for wind turbine development beyond a domestic scale, less than 15m associated with farm buildings or tourist facilities and turbines should be sited at the base of slopes.”*

The sense that one gets from the ‘facts’ above is that there is no real case for pressure on sensitive sites. The motivation for this site may have more to do with attractive annual payments to the landowner than any independent ranked technical evaluations or local, national or global interest.



View from the Torphins Road



**Humanity is facing two crises which means that we must reduce our carbon emissions whilst minimising the impact on local flora and fauna:-**

- 1. increasing climate change**
- 2. catastrophic biodiversity loss.**

So, if we need renewable energy to help replace fossil fuels why are we so against this huge development?

- Offshore wind is now cheaper and more efficient than onshore wind – so stop development on land and move it offshore where there is better efficiency and no effect on our countryside
- Scotland's onshore wind generation targets for 2030 will already be met by windfarms awaiting construction or under construction.
- The Hill of Fare windfarm is proposed to have 17 turbines, each 250m tall; this would be the largest onshore windfarm in UK (no doubt to be extended in the future with even more turbines)
- The development also requires wide roads, battery storage and pylons
- There would be a significant loss of wild landscape, habitats and amenities on the Hill, including peatland
- The Hill of Fare stands 250m-300m above surrounding land, and these turbines would double the height of the hill
- A 2014 Aberdeenshire Council review of onshore wind farm locations ruled out the Hill of Fare as a suitable site for turbines taller than 15m
- All turbines will be visible, 360 degrees around the hill and for up to 25km away, affecting many homes in over 20 community council areas, as well as road users, cyclists, walkers etcetera
- Visual flicker, noise and vibration effects will be noticeable
- Any compensatory payments will be spread thinly over many Communities

The key questions people have been asking are:-

1. **Why have they chosen the Hill of Fare?** This is indeed surprising as an Aberdeenshire Planning document from 2014 states that this area has 'no capacity' for additional windfarms, and ruled out the Hill of Fare as suitable for turbines taller than 15m. An industrial-scale development like the one proposed will totally change the landscape and rural environment.



**Projected View from Midmar Church**

2. **Why are they so big at 250m tall?** These massive turbines are the largest in the world and have been selected to produce maximum power. The Hill is approx. 300m high as seen from Midmar and they will nearly double the height. It is difficult to imagine.
3. **Can we see realistic illustrations of how they will look?** See the photos in this article. The ones shown by RES were wide angle and not indicative of the view you will actually see as a human. We have had a professional photographer with knowledge of the right field of view to take the photos from key points in Midmar which are more realistic.
4. **Where will the pylons go as they are not shown on the Plan?** Apparently this does not have to form part of the Planning application and the information is not currently available, which seems absurd as the massive pylons required to export the power will cause huge disruption,

possibly compulsory purchases, and be another eyesore. The route could possibly be north across Marionburgh to Kintore, or south to Fetteresso.



5. **How noisy are they?** We are currently investigating this. Practical visits to other windfarms indicate that they are heard in a similar way and consistency to being near a busy road.
6. **Will we be affected by ‘flicker’ – the strobing effect of the turbine blades and the sun.** Midmar faces south and the turbines are along the ridge of the hill so there is likely to be a flickering effect at certain times of day when it is sunny.
7. **Why are they not developing these windfarms Offshore instead of destroying the landscape in Deeside?** A good question. Currently there is not the infrastructure in terms of adequate power cabling to export the excess power currently produced to England. We do not understand the rush to develop more Onshore wind power when Offshore wind power is developing quickly, and by the time the power cables are upgraded then Offshore can fulfil this. Arguments about Offshore being more expensive than Onshore are quickly being overturned. Offshore is more efficient and new information indicates that the price will soon be less than Onshore. Tourism will take a real hammering if Scotland loses its natural beauty and wilderness.
8. **Will such industrial developments in Royal Deeside affect tourism and the rural environment?** We live here because it is a tranquil and beautiful environment. Residents in one Highland village have already been told that their objection to another windfarm on the ground of ‘spoiling wilderness’ is invalid because it has already been spoiled and ‘it is no longer wilderness’. How long before there are so many onshore windfarms in Aberdeenshire that ‘there is no longer countryside’?
9. **Will the windfarm be made bigger in the future?** Very likely. MidHill near Strachan has just been granted an extension for another 10 turbines – no argument. Other windfarms across the country are being increased in size. Once they are built they simply make them bigger. Another 17 on top of the Hill of Fare? We speculate total 34, *imagine!*
10. **How much disruption will there be on the roads and on the Hill during construction?** Major road widening will be required so the large machinery can get on to the Hill. The nacel, the main gear box and control system at the top of the tower, is 500Tons in weight. This will require enormous cranes to

get onto the Hill and a large, permanent road capable of taking these vehicles will be needed.



11. **Will it save the planet?** The turbines are designed to produce a theoretical 7MW of power x 17 which gives a total output of 117 megawatt. However the efficiency of onshore turbines is estimated at 34% meaning that they will only produce 40 megawatt – quite a difference from the headline figure promoted. Offshore turbines are substantially more efficient due to significantly stronger and consistent winds being offshore and having uninterrupted airflow (i.e. no turbulent airflow caused by buildings, trees and hills which reduces onshore turbine efficiency). Surely it makes sense to build them there rather than destroy our countryside? New figures show that electricity from offshore windfarms will soon be cheaper too.
12. **Will we get compensation and how much money will the developer get?**

If the value of your house is affected you get nothing. The Communities affected by it have been offered up to £610,000 per year. Banchory would likely lay claim to the majority of this as it has the largest population. But whatever this bunfight could turn into, ask yourself if you would prefer an undisturbed rural environment or a handout?

It is estimated that the developer will receive some £40 Million per year, you have to ask why? Local Communities have not been charged with developing their own windfarms to allow them to benefit substantially and for the long term, agree on suitable scales of development: after all it is us who will have to live with it!

Meetings have now also taken place with the other local Communities who could be affected by the development. This will reduce duplication of effort in representation and fact finding and create a larger group of people when making representation to the Council and government. We have estimated over 45,000 people within a 15k radius will be affected.

*This article submitted by HoFWIG, If you would like to offer any assistance with the objection to this inappropriate, industrial-scale development please contact us via [info@hilloffare.org](mailto:info@hilloffare.org)*





AOC PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

# LONDON CALLING

IN CONCERT

FEATURING SONGS FROM  
ME & MY GIRL • HALF A SIXPENCE  
SWEENEY TODD • LES MISÉRABLES  
MARY POPPINS • OUR HOUSE

AND MUSIC BY ELTON JOHN  
GEORGE MICHAEL • DUFFY  
DAVID BOWIE • RALPH MCTELL  
CARLY SIMON

**At Midmar Hall : Thursday, Feb 9th 2023**

**Tickets from Website ..**

**[www.ticketsource.co.uk/AOC-productions](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/AOC-productions)**

**WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY | STONEHAVEN TOWN HALL | 7:30PM**

**THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY | MIDMAR PUBLIC HALL | 7:30PM**

**FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY | DALRYMPLE HALL, FRASERBURGH | 7:30PM**

**SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY | THE CRAIG CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS,  
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# At last! Midmar 2022 Hogmanay Party

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December 8 pm – 1 am  
at Midmar Public Hall

Dancing to Live Ceilidh Band,  
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Pieces from the Floor

Pre-paid entry only  
Adults and Over-12s **£5**,  
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All profits donated to Hall

Make sure of your booking now -  
contact Sarah Kearns  
Tel: 01330 833638  
or 07756 968868  
email: [sarahkearns50@gmail.com](mailto:sarahkearns50@gmail.com)



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## Are you a Landlord?

The Scottish Government's Energy Efficiency Regulations for the Scottish PRS (*Private Rented Sector*) that were due to come into force in April 2022 have been further postponed due to COVID-19 constraints.

The original intent had been for properties to achieve an EPC (*Energy Performance Certificate*) band D by April 2022. The Government now intends to land regulations that 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.

### Midshore EP

**Jim A Allan** C Eng, M I Mech E

The Schoolhouse  
Midmar  
Inverurie  
Aberdeenshire AB51 7PQ

☎ 07747 170707  
✉ [epmidshore@btinternet.com](mailto:epmidshore@btinternet.com)



Domestic Energy  
Assessor  
(for EPCs)



Want to know more, need some impartial advice or an EPC renewal?

Please contact myself, your local DEA (*Domestic Energy Assessor*.)

I am also available to carry out EPC surveys in support of Home Energy Scotland, loan and cashback applications.





## Midmar Hall for Hire

Whatever event are you planning, **Exercise, Lessons, Party, Show, Meeting, Wedding** or any other **activity**, Midmar Hall has a variety of spaces for you to use, i.e. the main hall area, back stage room, an upstairs meeting room and a well equipped kitchen.

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Upstairs Room	£9	£7	£51
Backstage Room	£7.5	£6	£43.5
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Deposit : a discretionary deposit of £250 may be requested for some functions			



To book please contact Mairi Black on  
01330 833371 or via eMail "bookings@midmarhall.com"



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