



# Midmar Newsletter

Spring Edition 2023—Issue 49

## **Newsletter News**

Starting from this Spring 2023 edition, we will be using a web site called “**Flipbook**” to host the Midmar Newsletter.

This will make it easier to read on-line and you can still download the original PDF file if you wish to do so

We will continue delivering hard copies of the Newsletter because we like you to have it handy on your kitchen table for the whole family to browse whenever they need to know what is happening in and around Midmar.



## **Our Cover Winner**



**Nigel Bennett** for capturing the joys of a New Bloom in Spring

This Newsletter is for everyone in Midmar.

Please send us your messages and contributions for the next edition by end of April;

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 access a the Midmar Hall website using the URL **www.midmarhall.com/newsletter**.

This links you to a website book reader to view online or download a copy.

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 one off 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,

I thought I would pick up where I left off in the last newsletter. You may recall that I was musing on '*the good old days*'. By the time you read this several weeks will have passed since we celebrated the end of one year and welcomed another, 2023. It is worth reminding ourselves, however, that at such a moment in time we pause to consider times past and recall individuals that are no longer with us but who, in their time, meant so much to us. It is a time of reflection, a time to look back and a time to move forward.

A recent visit to Aberdeen brought memories flooding back. Union Street once flourished with a host of shops including E&M's, Falconers, Watt & Grant, Galloway & Sykes, Ogilvies, Bruce Millers and so many more. Today Union Street is a poor shadow of its former self with boarded up shop fronts, a growing number of 'To Let' signs and guttering groaning with vegetation. Over the years much has changed and it is evident from comments overheard that change, in this case, is not always found to be for the better.

Over the years a great many changes have taken place here in Midmar. Steadings and cottages have been given a new lease of life and a scattering of new build houses have begun to appear. Our community has expanded as folk, like myself have moved to Midmar. Yet there is a downside, in recent years we have seen our only shop close and witnessed the long drawn out decline of the Midmar Inn. Change brings both ups and downs in its wake.

Change has impacted upon the hall these last few years. It has been reclad, extended and gained a garden. The interior has benefitted from a number of improvements including new toilets, heating system and lighting. Over the years change has taken place to ensure that the hall remains fit for purpose as a gathering place, a place of celebration, a theatre and concert hall, a venue for parties and dances.

No doubt many of you will recall far more changes within our community than I can. You will have memories that are more deep rooted than mine. Memories of people and places no longer visible but nonetheless very special. Perhaps you may feel inclined to share some of these memories?

If so, why not contact Rob Ferguson, the newsletter editor, or any member of the committee. Your memories can be passed on in the pages of the newsletter. All our memories are an important part of our community's collective story.

*Alistair McRobb*

*Midmar Hall Chairman*





*A Coronation Típsy Tea Party  
Midmar Hall, 6th May 2023, 2pm*

*Come along and celebrate the King's coronation.*

*Tickets £20 each*

*Includes sandwiches, cakes and cocktails*

*Raffle and games (additional cost on the day)*

*Tables of 8 - 10*

*Contact 07833 900620 for your tickets*

*All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of Midmar Hall*



## What Will You Do To Help Your Elderly Neighbours?

*Without public transport a bus pass in Midmar is not much use.*

We are all at risk of becoming isolated and lonely as we get older. I believe that communities have to help each other, if everyone contributes whatever they can, many small contributions will make a much larger one.

Please read the articles on this page, both of are charities working to compensate for loneliness in our local community.

### **Senior Citizens of Cluny and Midmar Fund**

This year (probably in November) we will be organising a lunch and entertainment for our local elderly folk giving them something to look forwards to and helping get them together for friendship.

We are very grateful to the Alford branch of the Rotary Club who have recently donated £500 to our fund making this possible.

More details will follow in the Summer newsletter, meantime....

**If you can help us with all our activities in some way it is never too late, please get in touch with :-**

**Isabel Birse : 01330 833209**

Also do you know an elderly neighbour or relative who can benefit?

### **Contact the Elderly - Charity**

*"Contact the Elderly"* is the only national charity solely dedicated to tackling loneliness and social isolation among older people

The charity organises monthly afternoon tea parties hosted by volunteers for small groups of older people who live alone.

Normally a small group of people with their drivers will go out on the same Sunday every month to visit the homes of different hosts

If you are interested to help you could choose to be a driver or a host. You do not have to commit to do this every month.

I began by hosting twice a year I have now hosted parties for several years and I can guarantee that hosting is **GREAT FUN!**

If you would like to volunteer too, please call me

**Susan Dutch : 07718 647706**

*or contact our local organiser Chis Gall via eMail : [j.gall@sky.com](mailto:j.gall@sky.com)*

# ***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***

# Midmar School News



*It has been a busy few months at Midmar School!*

## For Christmas

We were delighted to be able to perform 'Fireside Nativity' in front of parents and family members again. Santa paid a visit to our Christmas Party and our Christmas lunch was as delicious as ever.

The school was closed by "too much snow" on the date we originally planned to go to HMT to watch Peter Pan but luckily, we managed to get another date and thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

We wore our Christmas jumpers to school to raise money for Northsound's "Cash for Kids" charity and the children designed their own Christmas Cards which could be bought by family members.



Wrapping  
the  
Mummy at  
our  
Christmas  
Party



Primary 7  
wearing  
Christmas  
Jumpers



## Goodbye Mrs Reid and welcome Mrs Perry

At the end of last Term we said goodbye to Mrs Reid, one of our part-time teachers.

Mrs Reid has retired from teaching and Mrs Perry has replaced her who we welcomed this current term.

## Primary 1- 4 Enterprise Project

Children in Primary 1- 4 designed and sold tote bags with the Midmar School logo and children's faces on them. They sold 60 bags, learning how to run a business along the way. They must now decide how they will spend their profits.



## Our Focus Charities for 2022-2023

Every year the children choose 2 or 3 charities to support. One will have a local (North East) focus and the second a Global focus. Our Rotakids leadership team researched



charities suggested by both children and parents. They then compiled a presentation and all the children voted.



This session the children have chosen to support Northsound's "Cash for Kids", the Scottish Air Ambulance and a Ukrainian charities.

We have already raised £100 for "Cash for Kids", from our Christmas Jumper Day and our share of the door money at the November Community Café. Our Rotakids team are planning a Pyjama Day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February to raise money for the Air Ambulance. They then plan to organise a collection of goods to support Ukrainians.

### **Burns Celebrations**

All children have been learning about Robert Burns, his life and his work. We enjoyed a Burns Supper in school on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Primary 7 pupils recited "To a Haggis" and **Perry** in Primary 5 said the Selkirk Grace. Primary 7 boys proposed a toast to the lassies with Primary 7 girls replying. Children in Primary 3 and 4 showed their portraits of Robbie Burns and told us some facts they had found out about his life (Immortal Memory). Children in Primary 1 and 2 wore mouse masks and recited the first two lines of "To a Mouse" with Primary 6 pupils reciting "My love is like a Red Red Rose". Primary 5 children recited "Up in the Morning Early" and "My Heart's in the Highlands".



We then all enjoyed some ceilidh dancing, finishing with Auld Lang Syne.

### **Code Club**

Our Technology Group have started running a Code Club on Wednesday lunch times, supported by Mrs Sutherland. Senior members of the Club are teaching computer coding to children using a programme called "Scratch".

### **Learning Focus this Term**

This term our *Focus Topic* is "Forces and Energy". If anyone has any expertise they can share with us we would be delighted to welcome you into school. **Please get in touch,** Tel: 01330 700390 or eMail: [midmar.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:midmar.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

Our children continue to learn daily about the Articles within the “Convention on the Rights of the Child” in all their classes and also at assemblies. This term parents and family members are also learning about the Articles through home learning activities. Learning “Through Rights” is about the ethos of our school and relationships within it.



Fairtrade Fortnight starts on 27th Feb so we will be learning about Fairtrade and the impact that it has on communities. Our Community Café on 3rd March will have a Fairtrade focus.

### **Cross Country Running**

A break in the winter weather allowed us to practise our cross country running in the field beside the school. We intend to organise several more sessions this term. Pictured is Mrs Sutherland leading some of our senior pupils.



### **Kurling / Curling**

Children in Primary 5 – 7 have been using our indoor “kurling” stone sets, that run on ball bearings, to learn how to throw curling stones before they visit The Curl in Aberdeen to learn how to curl on the ice.

### **Forthcoming School Dates for your dairy:**

Friday 3rd March, 10:00am – we will host the **Community Café** at Midmar Hall

Friday 3rd March, 7.00pm – **Beetle Drive**, Midmar Hall – everyone welcome

Saturday 20th May – **Fun Day**—never to be missed!

*Please note the change of weekend for the Fun Day due to the King's Coronation.*

### ***Monthly - Midmar Community Cafe***

Our community cafe is held 10-12am on the first Friday of every month, it is open to all. 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.

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) or eMail [info@midmarhall.com](mailto:info@midmarhall.com).



## A black and white photograph showcasing a variety of alcoholic beverages and their corresponding glassware. On the left, a bottle of wine stands next to a tall flute glass filled with a bubbly drink. Next to it is a tall, textured glass, possibly for beer. In the center, there's a glass with a drink and a lemon wedge, and another with a drink and a straw. To the right, a martini glass is visible, along with a glass containing a drink and a straw, and a bottle of wine on the far right. The arrangement is a dense collection of different types of drinks and glasses.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Feb 17th - Regular Pub Night

**Mar 17th – Pizza Van & St Patrick's Night**

- Pizza Box Van Returns. Guinness.

Apr 21st – Pub Night with Quiz

May 19th – Fish & Chip Van

- The Bay chippy van

Jun 16th – Midsummer BBQ

Prosecco   Wines   Spirits   Real Ale   Craft Beers

Pop along and catch up with your neighbours – everyone welcome!

Facebook: 'Midmar Community Pub'





## News from the Parents Council

One term with me as the Parents Council (PC) chair and Mrs Shepherd is retiring. I thought we were going to have a nice quiet year, but Liz had other ideas!!



As the saying goes, the show must go on, Aberdeenshire Council along with the assistance of the PC are actively recruiting for Liz's replacement. We have big shoes to fill but we will get the right person, Midmar is a great school with a fantastic reputation and community, we will no doubt have plenty of candidates looking to join us.

Our Family Ceilidh was held in November, we had a great turn out of new and old families, the children certainly knew all the steps. We raised over £100 for school funds; I would also like to say a big thank you to band of musicians that came along on the night and kept us adults right.

Our Annual Fun Day will be held on **Saturday the 20th of May**, do come along to enjoy a burger or some delicious home bakes, we will have stalls and a chance to win a bottle of whiskey or gin. We have invited *Charles and Camila* to come along, it is the least they can do considering we had to change our usual date to accommodate his coronation!!

If any of you would like to join the PC as a co-opted member, please get in touch (MidmarPC@outlook.com), all help is helpful.

Kind regards Lana (PC Chairperson)

***Save the Date—Sunday April 2nd, 2-4pm Midmar Hall***

*(Liz STOP reading now).*

Midmar community is planning an Afternoon Tea for **Mrs Shepherd's Retirement**. We need volunteers to bake, make sandwiches, brew tea and just help in any way you can both on the day or with the preparation.

Also, we are composing a **Photo Montage** and would love you to send in any school photos that you are happy to be displayed at the tea.

*To offer Help or make a Donation please get it touch via eMail : **MidmarPC@outlook.com***



# INCA'S TRAIL PET PARK



Come and relax with your dog off leash -Private hire for £12/hr  
[www.petmind.co.uk/petpark](http://www.petmind.co.uk/petpark)

## MIDMAR STILLWATER FISHERY

Open Wednesday to Sunday



Tel. 01330 833298  
Mobile. 07766 242188

## ***Bees : to BEE or not to BEE ?***

Suzie and I are local beekeepers and would like to create a Midmar Bee Interest Group.

We are already in contact with other bee keepers locally, but are there others in this area? Do please get in touch if you are already bee keeping. We have been working jointly for a few years, it is a great hobby and if you love honey even better!



We envisage that our Midmar group will share knowledge, help during the busy season and any other support required.

To find out more, please contact us:-  
either **Fiona : 07785 551071** or **Suzie : 07718 647706**  
(Douglas&Dutch Honey)



## **Boxing Day 2022**

A few days before Christmas Mairi Black rang me to ask at what time I wanted the heating on for Boxing Day, for a moment I was confused then I realised Mairi was referring to the Hall.

The heating and its control system is an improvement that the hall (*with expertise from Men's Shed*) implemented during the pandemic. From the comfort of their home the Hall Manager can arrange to have the place toasty and warm for guests at the time they arrive and importantly switch it off again when it is not needed.

On Boxing Day itself it was lovely to welcome everyone who came along, here we all are by the Comers Burn as it flows past Corsindae. As you can see from this picture we had a beautiful clear sky, an invigorating chill temperature but little wind so it was very pleasant. The chill did not last long once we got back to the warmth of the Hall and heated up a very fruity mulled wine supplemented by Clouty Dumpling and sundry other good things to eat.



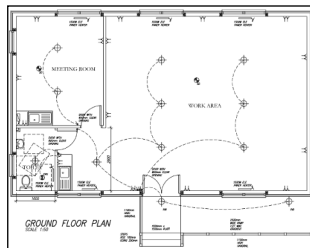
*This article submitted by Rob Ferguson : Tel 07767 317486*





We were due to have a visit from the Scottish Men's Shed Association during December, however this coincided with the extreme wintry weather and was called off. It would have been a good opportunity to meet the SMSA management, however we do expect another visit in the coming months.

The big news, confirmed at a Shed members meeting, is that we shall be starting work on the new Shed site nearer to the Hall. Planning and Warrant has been in place for some time and this year we shall start the creation process. The first step will be digging the rain water soak-away, then our hope is to secure funding to complete the foundation works this year. (If anyone has some *Heras Fencing* that we may rent/borrow, please let us know).



Recently we have started work on repairs to the shelter roof that was over the water pump (opposite Gate Lodge) and was blown into the adjacent meadow during the storms. The posts were very rotten and will be replaced. Thankfully most of the rest

of the wood is still serviceable and after a rub down and refinish will serve for a few more years.

Now that we are a bit more established, we have begun a basic training and awareness program to cover the static power tools, with further work on the hand operated power tools to follow. This will support a "Competency Matrix" for the Shedders and reinforce the safe working environment.



**Walking Group**: we are starting a Walking group which will meet once a month for a walk in the countryside nearby. If you are interested in joining in (all adults welcome), please get in touch to let us know (if you require transport, we can arrange it). Dates will be posted, along with the route on the usual





social sites and the shed notice board.

**Games Night:** We're going to run a couple of 'Board Games Nights' to gauge the interest - we hope that these will become a regular evening, if the appetite is there. The first of these will be held at the Midmar Hall on **Thursday 2nd March.**

We will be running a couple of classic board & card games, but feel free to bring along any favourite that you may have. Snacks will be provided, but please bring your own beverages.

Please keep an eye on usual socials and the Shed notice board for further details of the event.

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The Shed is open to New Members, who are always welcome as are visitors.  
Just want to pop in for a chat or a coffee?

No problem, feel free to wander in when the Shed is open.

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*We have the following items awaiting a new home:*

- ◇ **NEW: Kindling** in small or large sacks (£3 / £10)
- ◇ 50mm and 55mm wire nails (we have loads!)
- ◇ Electric lawn edger and lawn scarifier
- ◇ Petrol hedge trimmer

**WANTED:** Old washing machines (for making fire pits)

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**Repair Café:** 26th February (14:00-16:00)

**Games Night:** 2nd March (19:30-)

**Morning Walk:** 9th March (0930-1200)

**Repair Café:** 29th April (14:00-16:00)

**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

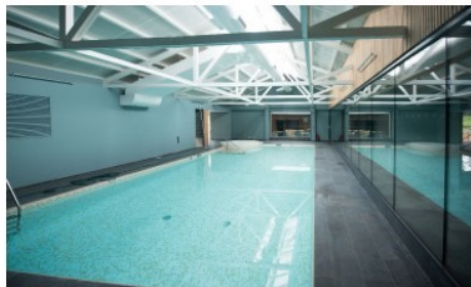
**Email:** [midmarmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:midmarmensshed@gmail.com)

**Nextdoor:** [mensshedmidmar](https://www.nextdoor.co.uk/invite/mensshedmidmar)



# DOUNESIDE HEALTH CLUB

ROYAL DEESIDE



The Douneside Health Club, located in Tarland, near Aboyne offers a range of excellent facilities. These include a 12.5 metre swimming pool, sauna and steam room, state-of-the-art gymnasium, games room and all weather tennis court. In addition, there is an extensive range of fitness classes, all run by our team of fully qualified personal instructors.

If you would like to find out more about our memberships and some of the benefits, from a lunch for two at Douneside House, personal 1 to 1 inductions (including fitness plan) and more.

Please contact us now or pop along for a guided tour of the facilities.

THE HEALTH CLUB, TARLAND, ABERDEENSHIRE AB34 4UL

[WWW.DOUNESIDEHOUSE.CO.UK](http://WWW.DOUNESIDEHOUSE.CO.UK) 013398 81030 [HEALTHCLUB@DOUNESIDEHOUSE.CO.UK](mailto:HEALTHCLUB@DOUNESIDEHOUSE.CO.UK)



# Does the Hill of Fare Wind Farm Development Pose a Threat to Private Water Supplies?



The simple answer is **YES!** Construction of the proposed wind farm does pose a significant threat to all our Private Water Supplies.

In answer to the question *“If my water supply is damaged by the actions of the wind farm developer what are their responsibilities?”* **The answer is shocking,** apparently the developer has NO responsibility in law.

The Chief Planner of the “Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division, Scottish Government” said:-

*“I have to advise that there is nothing in planning legislation that requires a person carrying out development on their property to prevent or correct potential contamination of water on their land and that may subsequently enter another person’s water supply. Under Scottish law, any damage to a person’s property is a private legal matter between the parties involved. In the event that damage was to be caused to your property, it would be open to you to take the matter to the Scottish Courts”.*

Residents of Midmar and beyond, if you were not worried about your private water supplies before, you should be now. As the law stands the wind farm developer can ruin your lives and businesses then walk away. It is up to you to take a major company to court, what are your chances of winning? Also courts can take years to deliver a verdict, in the meantime you have no water!

There are many homes, farms and businesses clustered around the Hill of Fare. On behalf of the Cluny Midmar and Monymusk Community Councils (CMMCC) and HoFWIG (Hill of Fare Windfarm Information Group) a survey was carried out in December 2022. The purpose of the survey was to establish how many farms, homes and businesses relied on the Hill of Fare for their water supply. The initial survey was conducted along the eastern end of the Hill of Fare beyond Echt and along the northern side towards the west.

Forty-one homes, six businesses and three farms were visited, of these all are reliant on natural well and spring water. Thirty-eight homes and all of the farmers responded with concerns about disruption to their supply. The responses from the businesses surveyed was mixed, the majority had grave concerns, one was ambivalent and another was positively in favour of the proposed Wind Farm development.

The construction of the Hill of Fare wind farm will require the strengthening of existing roads right across the hill and the construction of completely new ones. In several areas we anticipate that there trees will have to be felled just to accommodate “turning sweep” such that the long turbine towers

and blades can be manoeuvred into position. Construction of the turbine foundations will require tens of thousands of tons of peat, rock and shale etcetera to be removed in order to cast the massive concrete foundations.



It is likely that explosive blasting or hydraulic rock breaking methods will need to be used. Water in the rock formations is contained in cracks and fissures. From the centre of the blast, shock waves travel outwards like ripples on a pond. Blasting and hydraulic rock breaking can make new cracks, close existing ones and catastrophically change the course of water supplies.

At the site of each turbine, a substantial hard standing will need to be formed adjacent to each location to support the gigantic cranes needed to lift the turbine components into place. For turbines of the size proposed each of the nacelle units (blade hub and generator at the top of each tower) alone will likely be in excess of 500 tons. To gather materials to form these hard standing pads local “Borrow Pits” will be created, shattered rock, shale etcetera in massive quantities will be extracted, leaving holes in the landscape.



The present water courses, wells and springs that supply the homes and farms and businesses have been established over eons of time. They are robust and most importantly reliable. Nothing can survive without that life giving water. The probability of some if not all of the traditionally established sources of water from the Hill of Fare being disturbed and lost has to be high, given the enormity of the civil engineering works proposed to construct the wind farm. One of our local residents, who has worked for a major civil engineering company on large scale projects is very aware of construction works of this magnitude disrupting long established sources of water.

Serious questions that we believe RES must be required to address now are:-

- Have they given any thought to the hydrology of the Hill of Fare?
- What happens when the hydrology is disturbed?
- What contingency plans have do RES have in place to remedy any water supply problems faced by residents during the construction phase and provide adequate support?

- What plans do RES have in place to remedy long term problems and how long might they take to implement?
- Who will pay for remedial works?



Many of us on private supply will have experienced occasional disruption to our own water systems so we all know that supplying water in bottles is not a solution for us at home let alone farmers with livestock. Nor would it be of any use to mothers with young children for bathing, clothes laundry and toilet flushing.

The nearest mains water is three miles away in Echt, can Scottish Water guarantee sufficient water to supply the extra farms, businesses and homes if this becomes the only long term solution? Also it is important that RES are required to pay for the installation and the supply of water in perpetuity. Residents presently enjoy free, pure water from the Hill of Fare. Why should they be inconvenienced and also bear additional costs because of this wind farm development?

All these concerns should be addressed with credible solutions, thought through and a robust action plan put in place which is acceptable to all residents before any disturbance on the Hill of Fare commences.

This is urgent and you need to act now, please do not prevaricate or it will soon be too late. You can express your concerns about water supplies by writing directly to the owners of Dunecht Estate, they are the principal actors in this matter:-

**Messrs George and Charles Pearson**

c/o :- **Dunecht Estate Office, Dunecht, Aberdeenshire.**

You can also express your opinions to the following public figures:-

**Andrew Bowie**

**MP**

[andrew.bowie.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.bowie.mp@parliament.uk)

**Alexander Burnett**

**MSP**

[alexander.burnett.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:alexander.burnett.msp@parliament.scot)

**Richard Fyffe**

**CCMCC**

[richard@corsindae.com](mailto:richard@corsindae.com)

RES Project Manager is Gavin Shirley (RES are Principal Contractor – their website is [hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk](http://hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk)), he can be contacted on **07570 812231** or by email at [gavin.shirley@res-group.com](mailto:gavin.shirley@res-group.com), alternatively please write to him

c/o :- **Hill of Fare Wind Farm Project Team, R.E.S.,**

**Third Floor – STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.**

*For further detailed information from HoFWIG regarding the Hill of Fare Wind Farm Development you can look at our web site [www.hilloffare.org](http://www.hilloffare.org) or contact myself, a long term Midmar resident, Frank Murray (CCMCC& HoFWIG) using eMail [frank.murray1@googlemail.com](mailto:frank.murray1@googlemail.com)*

# 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



Aberdeen Folk Orchestra at  
Midmar Hall

**Sunday May 14th at 2pm**

**Free Admission** with a  
voluntary collection to be

shared equally  
between the  
Orchestra and  
Midmar Hall



Day	Activity	Venue
Monday	Circuit Training	Midmar Hall
	Violin Lessons	Midmar Hall
Tuesday	Men's Shed—Activity	Shed by Hall
Wednesday	Beauty at Eden	Hall Upstairs
	SWRI (Women's Institute)	Midmar Hall
Thursday	Beauty at Eden	Hall Upstairs
	Circuit Training	Midmar Hall
Friday	Men's Shed—Activity	Shed by Hall



**Thursday, 2nd March.  
Board Games Night at the Hall.**

Open to all, other dates will follow.

Contact Paul via

**"paul.thain.abz@gmail.com"**



**A night with Kevin Littlejohn  
Saturday 22nd April  
19:30—Tickets £10**

**Celtic Classics, Musical Anthems  
and everything in between  
Book online at website  
[www.righthereproductions.com/kevin](http://www.righthereproductions.com/kevin)**



# 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
	Jane Aiken 07715 692444
7.30pm -9.30pm 2nd Wed of Month	Judith Stokoe 833719
	Jane Aiken 07715 692444
5.30pm - 6.15pm and 6.45pm - 7.45pm	Beginners then Experts Pamela Black 07833 900620
10am-1pm	Nigel Bennett 07464 552550

The ice was too thick at Christmas, Aquaplay (paddle-board trainers) will now hold their annual social event at the Fishery on **8th April**. All funds raised for Grampian Disability Sport contact Tom via **"tom@aquaplayscotland.com"**

## Midmar Celebrates the King's Coronation with Afternoon Tea

**£20 per person**

To book yours call 07833 900620

**6th May at 2.00pm**

**all proceeds to Hall funds**



**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**

**Music Social**  
Back Stage Room  
**7pm - 9pm**  
**1st Friday of Month**  
Contact  
John 07808 070176  
or Rob 07767 317486

## School Events

3rd March— Beetle Drive

2nd April — Retirement  
Tea at Hall

20th May — Fun Day

# News from the Farmers Wife

The weather is a frequent talking point amongst farming folk, since my last news we have had flooding, snow, frost and LOTS of ice, this makes all our activities extremely difficult. With all that the ice and the ground very hard, the cows that are heavy in calf object to walking down the field.

Some of our Spring calving cows are eating the swedes in the field. We control the beasts' access to the swedes by a method called "strip grazing". The strips are quite narrow, just the width of a drill and they are defined using electric fencing with insulated, white stick posts every few yards. Once the cattle have finished everything in a strip we just move the fencing over and they start again.

The autumn calving cows and heifers have all had their babies and are doing well, soon the Aberdeen Angus Bull, name Balantyne, will join them to do his important business so that more calves will be born later in the year.



Into the New Year and our Ewes have started to give birth too. We had a bad start, twins born dead but the next ewe had triplets so one was fostered on to the first ewe. To encourage the foster mother to adopt the lamb one of the dead lambs was skinned and their "jacket" put on to the triplet chosen to be fostered. This ruse is usually successful but not always, fortunately this time it was.



We are now into January and the fields are rather wet, ploughing is well behind, muck from the sheds is being spread now giving the atmosphere rather a nasty smell.

We do get some lovely days though look at the colour of the sky in this picture with the lens of white cloud hanging right across it.

Our home grown barley will be dressed for seed, all ready to be sown end of March or April if conditions are favourable. This is when all the farm vehicles appear back in the fields and on the narrow roads, sowing machines, lime spreaders, rollers etcetera the motorists nightmare!!!!

Meantime we are selling some of our fat Aberdeen Angus cattle for slaughter, some is destined for Marks and Spencer market.

One recent highlight was on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January when we had a visit from a Kazakh family, dad Alim and his two daughters Assem and Aliya.

This all came about because Aliya was attending Aberdeen University and a local gentleman, Colin Stokoe, met her when he was also studying there too. She told Colin that back in Kazakhstan her Dad is a Vet and that he was coming to Scotland for a visit with her sister and he would dearly love to see a farm, especially one with Aberdeen Angus cattle. Apparently the breed had been imported to his country but sadly it was too cold for them to thrive.



Colin asked us if we could help, we do have two pure Aberdeen Angus bulls and all our calves are a cross Aberdeen Angus, they are far easier calved with very little assistance required.



What a super day we had, Alim did not speak English or the Doric!!!! But fortunately his daughters were excellent translators. They all walked amongst the cows and small calves and saw our fattening cattle, of course wellies had to be provided!!!!

Tea was served with "Cloutie Dumplin", a great treat indeed.

Now roll on the spring days when the grass will be growing, the lambs can be seen jumping and playing, a glorious sight in the countryside.

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



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# Poetic Thoughts – Daffodils for Spring

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er Vales and Hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host of golden Daffodils;  
Beside the Lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the Milky Way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margins of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced ; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee :-  
A poet could not but be gay  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed-and gazed-but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In cant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude,  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,

And dances with the Daffodils.

William Wordsworth

*Thank you to Ruth  
McRobb who  
suggested we  
publish these &  
Beate Allerton for  
the background  
picture of  
daffodils at  
Castle Fraser*

*for the youngsters*

A.A. Milne

*She wore her yellow sun - bonnet  
She wore her greenest gown ;  
She turned to the south wind  
She curtsied up and down.  
She turned to the sunlight  
And shook her yellow head,  
And whispered to her neighbour ;  
"Winter IS DEAD."*



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## **'IN OUR BACK YARD'**

I come back to a place that time forgot,  
A land of ice, earth and rock.  
Created tumultuously, long ago,  
(As far as I presume to know!).

Aeons later, I 'trespass' on this silent scene,  
And leave my impress in the snow,  
Along with pheasant, badger and roe,  
Briefly - until kissed by the sun's warm glow.

Then imprints vanish, and are gone,  
As will we, when our journey's done,  
Evanescant; but the land stays on.

**Poet : Faith Mackenzie  
December 2022**





# Midmar Hall 100 Club

And the winners of the FEBRUARY draw are...

First Prize £100 - Angela Wilson

Second Prize £60 - Jenny Begg

Third Prize £30 - Robbie Simpson

Fourth Prize £25 - David Cook

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.







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## Could you fill this space?

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter one off prices are:-  
 £25 for a business card size  
 £45 for a half A5 page (landscape)  
 £80 for a whole A5 page (portrait)

Our Midmar newsletter is non-profit making and is normally distributed four times a year to over 200 homes throughout Midmar as well as being published on the Midmar Hall website, [www.midmarhall.com](http://www.midmarhall.com)

## Aberdeen Folk Orchestra Concert at Midmar Hall

### Sunday May 14th at 2pm

We play a variety of Folk Style Music, specially arranged for the orchestra, from UK, Sweden, Eire, Mexico, Ukraine, Hungary and many more countries.

Free Admission with a voluntary collection to be shared equally between the Orchestra and Midmar Hall Funds





## Midmar S.W.R.I.

A very interesting meeting was held in November when Genevieve Jones gave us an illustrated talk on looking after Alpacas. This was enjoyed by all the ladies who would all have liked to take an Alpaca home!

In December it was a big disappointment that our Christmas lunch had to be postponed due to extreme weather but we were all in agreement that this would take place at a later date.

Our first event in 2023 was a visit from Malcolm Stewart, the children's dentist. Malcolm explained the details of his everyday work and in particular the improvements in children's dentistry. When I remember back to visits to the school dentist, if a tooth was to be extracted the unpleasant smell of the black gas mask, it all seemed to stay with you for days. It was good to hear how every effort is made nowadays to ensure children are comfortable and at ease.

January 25th dawned bright and clear for our second attempt to partake of our Christmas Lunch at the Garlogie Inn. Eight ladies attended, one cycling to the event! A beautiful lunch was enjoyed by everyone and we finally departed the premises at 3.30pm vowing to find an excuse for another visit. I don't think husbands would get much of a meal that day.

The annual "Taste and Try" was our next meeting in February. The ladies took a preferred dish to the meeting. These were duly sampled and recipes exchanged. This is always a good evening.

Michela Marocchi is to give a demonstration on **March 8th** on "Making Pasta The Italian Way". This will be an open evening where other Institutes and interested parties are invited to attend.

**April 12th** is the Annual Business Meeting and this will be followed on **10th May** with a talk and demonstration by Scott Baptie on food for fitness. There will then be a break until September when a new syllabus will be announced.

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).*

# A letter from Grampian Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre to “Jenny and Friends”



Grampian Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Limited  
Unit 1 Saxbone Centre, Howe Moss Crescent Kirkhill Industrial Estate, Dyce, Aberdeen AB21 0GN  
Tel: 01224 771105 - Email: eileen.matthew@grampianms.org

24<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Jenny & Friends,

Thank you for all your hard work organising the afternoon tea event. The amount you helped raise with the help of your local friends and businesses has blown us away. Without the generosity of people like you we couldn't survive

Thank you again for all your support.

Kind regards

*Eileen Matthew*

Eileen Matthew  
Centre Manager

For & on behalf of  
Grampian Multiple Sclerosis  
Therapy Centre Ltd



Grampian Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Ltd. is a company limited by guarantee.  
Charity Number SC007647 • Reg No. 126417 (Scotland) • Registered Office: 252 Union Street Aberdeen AB10 1TN



# Afternoon Tea at Midmar Hall

## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2-4 pm

To aid the Grampian Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre  
A thank you to you ALL from Jenny Begg



I was overwhelmed, as was the Grampian Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, by raising **£3,000**. I would never have been able to raise this fantastic amount without the help of the Midmar Hall Committee members, Liz Shepherd head teacher of Midmar School, along with the mums, dads and children, Amanda Liddiard, Pamela Black, Church of Echt and Midmar and individual Midmar residents, who all offered not only help before, during and after the event but also making a massive amount of home bakes, sandwiches and savouries.

Also, the thirty local businesses that I cycled around, who generously provided a phenomenal quantity of raffle prizes and made generous donations. Despite the weather conditions on the day and the financial turmoil at present, the Hall was filled to capacity, and I could not get over everyone's big-heartedness.

*I thoroughly enjoyed the event as did everyone who attended. A social, happy occasion which I will never forget to help raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Centre where I attend on a regular basis. I am very fortunate to live in such a wonderful community. A big THANK YOU to you ALL. What better way to celebrate one's Golden Wedding Anniversary!!*

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# Hogmanay 2022!



Well, three years after the last bash, Midmar finally got round to putting on a Hogmanay party ....

Unsurprisingly, this event was held on Saturday 31st December and all tickets sold out beforehand.

We are extremely lucky in that Midmar is a hotbed of talent on the music front, and the “Midmar Occasionals”, as they have become known, put on a fantastic Ceilidh set which kept the dancefloor packed all night long.



On stage were Aly Lyon (bass), Donald Grassie (accordion), Beate Allerton, Rob Ferguson and Fionn Sewell (fiddle), John Kearns (ukulele and spoons) and Helen



Lynch (whistle) with Paul Thain as the sound technician. These loons and quines played for us because they really enjoy it, but it does mean they do not get to spend all of Hogmanay with their own friends and family and this sacrifice is very much appreciated.

A splendid raffle was held (thanks to all who donated prizes) as well as other games so along with ticket sales we generated around £700 for the hall coffers. Thank you all for your enormous generosity.

A few technical issues like the balloons not releasing and lack of “The Bells” added to the entertainment, and will give us something to improve on for next year! The balloons were soon released by “a man with a ladder” and the kids rapidly dispatched them with a Snap, Crackle and Pop!

Special mention must go to Sarah Kearns who was the lynchpin of the organising ‘committee’, and to all others who helped before, on the night and afterwards. If the Hogmanay bash is a portent for the rest of 2023, the year should be a good one!

*Thanks also go to Duncan Sewell and family for all their work on the night and this article too.*





# COVER PICTURE COLLAGE

Thank you to **Beate Allerton, Beckie Baptie, Duncan Sewell, Faith Mackenzie, Isabel Birse and Nigel Bennett** who all donated cover pictures in response to my appeal for help when I realised that I had no submissions. With a spare page to fill I thought why waste an opportunity to show as many as possible in this collage because any of them could have been selected for the cover.





## Tillybirloch Woodland Path has Reopened

The worst of Storm Arwen blew in from the north on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. The following day the exposed NE corner of Tillybirloch Woods looked as though a giant had dropped their box of matches and one of our favourite waking paths was well and truly blocked. During the last few months, Richard Fyffe has arranged to have all that fallen timber cleared away, a dangerous job, and I am sure it is very much appreciated by everyone.

Recently, on a Sunday, I parked by the school and then headed South East towards Tillybirloch using the footpath, it is encouraging to see that this is still being well used at least five years since it was reopened. When you reach Tillybirloch, the robust stile lets you into the field leading up to the woods entrance in the field corner. At this point be aware that this grazing field will often have sheep in it so be prepared to put all dogs on a lead.

Once into the woodland there are plenty of sticks lying on the path. Every time you use this route **YOU** can help improve it, just pick up at least one stick and lay it parallel with the path. This does two things, most importantly it stops the stick being somewhere that the summer growth will tussock over and secondly it will emphasise the route direction encouraging both animals and humans to tread the same track. For the well organised, take loppers or secateurs too to knock back the scratchy gorse when you pass it.

The map insert shows the general route, you can choose to go either North (blue) or South (red) of Comers burn. The red route is steeper in part so only use this if your knees are up to it!

*Article by  
Rob Ferguson  
07767 317486.*

*Any comments or concerns about this article  
please contact him*



## Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council

This is a summary of the meeting held on 23rd November 2022.

**Police Report :** Although no one was present from Police Scotland a report was submitted outlining the main issues. Two teenagers were seen smoking dope in Sauchen and in a separate incident a resident had to take his dog to the vet when it became ill after eating a substance on the path beside the burn. The vet believes this was drugs. Incidents such as these should be reported to the local Community Policeman Andrew Pierless or reported via 101. It was noted that due to the volume of complaints about speeding from communities, the Garioch Community Policing group have ring fenced resources to carry out speed checks as a priority.

Sauchen village was impacted by the recent flooding issues with the main A944 being affected. Community Council are still awaiting a response from Aberdeenshire Council in relation to the infill material along the burn zone which has impacted the flood plain. There was also flooding on the Cluny/Ordhead road and Cluny crossroads to Monymusk due to blocked drains.

The river at Monymusk was also badly impacted resulting in a tragic incident, our thoughts go out to the family and persons involved.

**Hill of Fare Windfarm Update :** The first consultation meeting was held in October and we have joined in working with other Community Councils to assess the almost 300 responses that were collected. This is an ongoing situation and Community Councils will carry out further Community engagements. Frank Murray (SMMCC councilor) is our nominated lead/link person who will continue to update our group.

There were no new planning applications although the proposed Benachie Pods have received a lot of objections.

**Sauchen Update :** A new climbing frame is to be re-instated by Kirkwood homes after a contractor has been appointed. The drainage ditch is on hold meantime until on-going planning applications are resolved

**Kemnay Surgery Appointment Issues :** As other Community Surgeries were experiencing similar problems it was decided to escalate this to Humza Yousaf Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.

**Cluny Update :** The remaining hardwood trees, which are outside the plantation at Ordhead, are being investigated by SSEN as to their ownership. There was a lot of concern regarding the deep flooded ditch at Woodend. This has been raised with Brian Strachan , Head of Roads. At this point in time warning signs are now in place but this does not alter the fact that this stretch of road is dangerous.

**Midmar Update :** All parties involved in the horse riding and paths have been notified of the situation. Blockage remains.

**Monymusk Update :** A Resilience Committee has been formed and are establishing what requirements are necessary. Some funding will be needed which the Community Council is happy to provide. Compensation payments are still an issue for some residents.

Some other items raised as A.O.C.B.

- 1) The possibility of a flood depth sign at the Lords Throat area.
- 2) Whilst Openreach have been installing fibre in Lords Throat area the road has been closed off at various points leaving the bin men unable to empty the bins.
- 3) Sodium lights at Cluny school could be changed to LED which are more cost effective.
- 4) The sandbag stock in Sauchen, as in Monymusk require to be stored in an appropriate area during non usage times.
- 5) Midmar Hall is looking for resilience funding to support generator equipment.
- 6) Query as to who should be approached about upkeep of Millbank tennis courts.
- 7) Inverurie and Westhill recycling centres continue to use a booking system whilst Alford and Banchory no longer do so.

Because of the extreme weather conditions the Community Council meeting of the 4th of January 2023 was conducted by Zoom. The next meeting will be notified using public notice boards in the district

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

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