

# TBC

Issue 76

Tarves and Barthol Chapel  
Quarterly Newsletter  
March 2026

MEET 🍀 SHARE 🍀 LEARN 🍀 CELEBRATE



2026 is a pivotal year in the history of The Hub as the former church in Barthol Chapel is now in community ownership!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May : The Bay Fish & Chips**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May : Plant Sale**

## WHAT'S ON AT THE HUB

🕒 Date & Time:

**First SUN**  
of the month

14.00-17.00

**MUSIC CAFE**

Play, listen, sing, recite. Coffee, cake and craic!

🕒 Date & Time:

**First WED**  
of the month

AT 19.30

**GARDENING CLUB**

A club for anyone, expert or beginner, enthusiastic about gardening.

🕒 Date & Time:

**Second SAT**  
of the month

10.00-11.30

**COMMUNITY CAFE**

A friendly Community Cafe for all ages with a local producers market.

🕒 Date & Time:

**Second TUES**  
AT 14.00

**Second WED**  
AT 19.00

**BOOK GROUPS**

Share a love of books, tea, coffee and cake!

🕒 Date & Time:

**Second THURS**  
of the month

AT 19.30

**CLIMATE GROUP**

Come along to chat and plan actions for the climate emergency.

🕒 Date & Time:

**Second SUN**  
of the month

AT 14.00

**DOTTY MUSIC**

Play tunes together at a steady pace, suitable for all abilities.

🕒 Date & Time:

**WED**  
mid month

15.30-17.30

**YOUTH CAFE**

Monthly Youth Cafe for young people in P6 - S6. Games, snacks, crafts and a tuck shop!

🕒 Date & Time:

**Third THURS**  
of the month

AT 19.30

**CRAFT GROUP**

Work on your own project, join in a group project or simply enjoy crafting chat.

🕒 Date & Time:

**Last MON**  
of the month

19.00-21.00

**FAMILY GAMES NIGHT**

Bring your own game to share or choose one at The Hub.

🕒 Date & Time:

**Last SAT**  
of the month

AT 11.00

**UKULELE CLASS**

Beginners Ukulele Class. Spaces available. £15 pp. Please email to book.

Email: [info@bartholchapelhub.org](mailto:info@bartholchapelhub.org) for more information

**BECOME A MEMBER!**

- Get regular project updates.
- Be the first to hear about extra events organised!



📧 [info@bartholchapelhub.org](mailto:info@bartholchapelhub.org)

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# Hello everyone

**'Firstly, I hope everyone has managed the best they can since New Year time. The extra few minutes of late afternoon light makes such a difference, and it can roll off our tongues easier to say that the 'clocks change next month'.**

Yes, that is how my email started asking for articles for the March TBC. When we look outside now, even around 5.30pm there's still a bit of light around us just waiting for March and even the rain has stopped!

There have been changes in the Parish since the December 25 edition. Firstly, we must thank Gordon Woods of Artier for all his work over the last 6 years preparing and printing the TBC and creating the best front pages out there. Gordon has an article on page 22 where you can read and understand his decision to retire. We are now moving to 06 Media in Newmachar and that completes a trio of villages in the wider Formartine area using this print company; namely Methlick Matters, Pitmedden News and now our own Tarves and Barthol Chapel Newsletter.

Overleaf, you will also read an introduction from our new Formartine Parish Minister, the Rev Aquila Singh. She came from the Glasgow area in early December, settled into the Manse, and then became village bound from 1 January this year. It wasn't even 'walking to the shop' weather, the snow and resulting unsafe pavements and roads were not kind to walkers or drivers. However, after the recent rain, blue skies beckon for all of us and Aquila is now getting used to country roads thanks to her sat-nav, although passing through Hatton was not in her plan. Hatton, Peterhead or Hatton of Fintray – we don't know! I do know she is looking forward to leading Formartine Parish and bring in new ideas for this rural area.

So, at the start of 2026 and in no particular order – please support your local shops, your local tradesmen and businesses, your friends and neighbours if they need some help, be interested in the organisations and clubs in each village and then we're back to Aquila again – our new Minister. She'd be very happy to stop for a chat - when it's not raining.

Thank you for reading through this TBC and for managing these first difficult weeks of 2026.

**Ruth**  
**TBC Editor**





**FORMARTINE**  
Parish Church

Scottish Charity Number SC006056

## Greetings Everyone

Let me introduce myself. My name is Aquila Singh and I am the new minister at Formartine Parish Church. I arrived in Tarves on Friday 5th December - I must admit I was nervous. Would I fit into the village (I know it is now a small town) and importantly would people like me!

I guess many people feel that when they go somewhere new. We all want to fit in with the minimum amount of trouble. In the Bible, God often told people to follow Him. He called Abraham to move from his home in Haran to Canaan. It was a big ask. Abraham took his wife Sarah and his nephew Lot. It wasn't just the 3 of them, there were servants, animals plus everything they would need for their journey. Abraham was a faithful man but I suspect he never expected God to tell him to move to Canaan. This was not a short journey; the distance was approximately 400-600 miles!

God often calls us to work for Him. It can be something simple as putting a person into your thoughts, someone you haven't spoken to for ages. You then decide to give them a phone call and realise that this is exactly what they needed. A friendly ear to listen to them. At other times it can be something big, like God calling Abraham to move or telling Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

Whenever God asks something of you, He doesn't just leave you to get on with it. God always equips you for the task; He gives you exactly what you need. Sometimes you don't even know God has helped you until some time afterwards when you think about what you did.

God's fingerprints are all over your life; from the day you were born until now. God has always been in your life. He is your greatest cheerleader. Whatever life throws at you, God is there as your protector and shield.

And when there are days when you feel you have had enough and you do not want to take another step. In those moments, God will carry you.

Remember God loves you and He sees you. God never forgets you and always holds you in the palm of His hands.

Till next time, God bless and take care, Aquila

## Rev Aquila Singh

**Formartine Parish Church – Services are at 10am, alternating between Pitmedden and Tarves**

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**Online: Find us on Facebook and YouTube**

**Monday: Bible reading**

**Wednesday: Small talk**

**Friday: Friday prayer, you can reach me at - [Formartine.prayer@gmail.com](mailto:Formartine.prayer@gmail.com)**



## Aquila's Induction to Formartine Parish Church - 11 December 2025



Left to right:

Rev Stella McBurnie, Rev Shuna Dicks (Moderator), Rev Aquila Singh, Rev Katrina Blackwood

***Edith McClelland dip.USWA WSCI AAS***

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Blank Art Note Cards are available at The Murly Tuck Cafe, Tarves AB41 7GX

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## Final articles and advertising dates for 2026 newsletters

Reminders will be sent out two weeks and one week before submission dates.

Articles and any related photos should include your name/contact details and forwarded to **Ruth Nisbet** at [tbc.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:tbc.editor@btinternet.com) and to [dem.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:dem.brown@btinternet.com) - thank you.

### Advert lay out:

full page - portrait    half page - landscape    quarter page - portrait services/businesses.

Month	1st reminder	2nd reminder	Final submission date
June 2026 TBC	Friday 1 May	Thursday 7 May	Wednesday 13 May
September 2026 TBC	Saturday 1 August	Thursday 6 August	Wednesday 12 August
December 2026 TBC	Saturday 31 October	Friday 6 November	Thursday 12 November

Adverts should be sent to both

[tbc.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:tbc.editor@btinternet.com) and [dem.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:dem.brown@btinternet.com)

Thank you for using our newsletter to advertise your services/businesses.

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## Barthol Chapel Climate Group – Spring 2026 update

It has been a quieter few months for the Barthol Chapel Climate Group, mainly thanks to the snowy weather keeping us from meeting as often as we'd hoped. But with spring on the way, we're really looking forward to getting things going again.

Even with the slow start to the year, our usual bits and pieces at the Hub have carried on. The bags used to collect the recycling in the Hub and the book swap shelves are still there for anyone to use whenever they visit. And a big thank you to everyone who donated Christmas decorations — they brought a lovely festive feel to the Hub over the holidays. We were also delighted to repurpose some leftover natural foliage from Hen Hoose Creation's fantastic Christmas Wreath Workshop at the beginning of December.

Earlier this year, Vicky attended Udny Climate Group's consultation evening for the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan 2026–2040. It was a great chance to explore some big topics like energy, transport, jobs, land use and waste, and to share thoughts on what matters to communities like ours.

Meanwhile, Duncan joined an online session run by NESCAN all about building a network of Repair Cafés, while Bob visited the Repair Café in Pitmedden to learn more about how they run — including getting a copy of their 'House Rules' and understanding how they handle liability for repairs. We'd really love to get one started here at the Hub. If you've got a skill you would be happy to offer — sewing, fixing clothes, mending electronics (with the right qualifications), tinkering, or just being handy with repairs in general — we'd be delighted to hear from you.

As spring arrives, we'll be returning to our outdoor projects. This includes planning a BioBlitz record of local plants and wildlife, growing and sharing local produce, and participating in the Barthol Chapel Community Hub plant sale on 16th May. We are also starting to work with Formartine Youth in Action, and it's brilliant to hear their ideas and perspectives on climate change.



As always, everyone is welcome to join in — the more voices and ideas, the better.

We meet on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at Barthol Chapel Community Hub. If you are curious, keen to get involved, or just fancy popping along for a chat, you will be very welcome.

**Vicky Prendergast**

**07779 543822**





## Tarves Heritage Project news

Spring cleaning is well underway at the centre and displays are being created for our opening on Thursday 9th April 2026 1pm to 4pm.

We do have a couple of Winter talks to go before we open so keep your eyes peeled for posters of these events.

We have many new displays so please come and visit and have a trip down memory lane.

If you are involved in a group who would like to visit please contact by Facebook, website, email [tarvesheritage@outlook.com](mailto:tarvesheritage@outlook.com) or phone 01651 851883. We have access for wheelchair users too.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

## 100+ Club

Thanks to everyone who has supported 100+ Club this year and congratulations to all the winners. The last draw was in January, please see winning numbers below.

It is now time to renew your subscription of £12 per number by bank transfer as usual. We would welcome new members to join the 100+ Club by contacting a member of the committee, or leave a message on 01651 851883 and we will contact you.

### Final draw 15th January 2026

£100. No 127

£50. No 4

£50. No 115

£25. No 150

£25. No 47

£25. No 63

£25. No. 169

Tea, coffee and biscuits served in Tarves Kirk every Tuesday morning from **10 - 11am**.

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# **A.WALLACE**

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## The Hut Youth Project, Tarves – March 2026 update

For the past 28 years, The Hut Youth Project has been a constant and welcoming presence in our village, offering young people a safe, supportive and accepting place to belong.

Over nearly three decades, we've had the privilege of supporting countless young people as they've grown – helping them build confidence, learn new skills, form friendships, and simply have a place where they feel recognised, listened to, and valued.

None of this would have been possible without the many volunteers who have given their time, energy and care over the years. Some stayed for a term or two, others for much longer – and we truly appreciate every single one of them. The Hut Youth Project has always been, and continues to be, a community effort.

We're always keen to welcome new people who'd like to get involved. Whether you'd like to be hands-on as a volunteer youth worker at sessions, join our committee, help with fundraising, or support us in a more behind-the-scenes way – there's no pressure and no one-size-fits-all commitment. You can be as involved as suits you. We offer training opportunities, ongoing support, and the chance to make a real difference in young people's lives.

We're also excited to share some fantastic news – The Hut Youth Project has recently been awarded charitable status as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Achieving charity status in Scotland means we're now officially recognised as a charity, which will allow us to apply for a wider range of funding, strengthen our governance, and open new doors for the future of the project. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who helped us reach this milestone and are excited for the next chapter.

### **We are now officially known as The Hut Youth Project.**

To support the work we do, we'll be running a series of community fundraisers over the coming months – so please keep an eye out for details. Our first event will be an 80s-themed disco night in April, with more information coming soon. Dig out the leg warmers and neon!

### **Session times (during term time):**

- Mondays, 7-9pm – S1 and up
- Thursdays, 6.30-8.30pm – P7

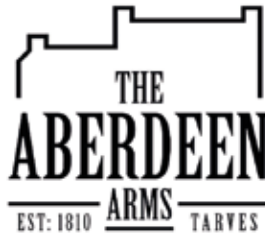
If you would like to learn more, get involved, or simply have a chat about what we do, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

[thehut youthproject@gmail.com](mailto:thehut youthproject@gmail.com)

The Hut Youth Project continues to be a place where young people can turn up each week, be themselves, and know they matter – and we are proud to be part of this community.



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10

Tarves & Barthol Chapel Newsletter - March 2026 - May 2026



## Presents... Exciting Events in 2026!



Our season starts on **Saturday 11 April** when renowned composer **Sir John Rutter CBE** directs a Come and Sing day, fun for singers of all abilities. **Places limited so early booking recommended!**

On **Sunday 12 April** **Opera Bohemia** return to Haddo for an early evening performance of their sparkling new production of **"Die Fledermaus"**.

Multi award winning violin & cello duo, **The Ayoub Sisters**, perform a diverse selection of folk music drawing on their Scottish/Egyptian heritage on **Saturday 16 May** and on **Sunday 17 May**, **Nigel Clayton & Imma Setiadi** offer a pot pourri of piano duets from France and Russia.



**June** brings Mexican guitarist **Morgan Szymanski** back to Haddo with Scottish violinist **Roo Geddes**; **August** offers a **family ceilidh** and a **Scottish Country Dance evening**; **September** sees **Nikita Lukinov** give a chamber performance of **Grieg's Piano Concerto**, and in **October**, historian & novelist **Sarah Dunant** shares insights into the life and times of a renaissance **Marchesa**.

Tickets for all events **on sale from 27 February!**

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# Barthol Chapel School

**Head Teacher: Mrs Gillian Newlands**

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**bartholchapel.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk**

**www.bartholchapel.aberdeenshire.sch.uk**

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What a snowy start to our term! Our pupils took full advantage of the week we couldn't get to school by using our online learning resource 'Learning Journals' to show what amazing skills for Learning, Life and Work they were using during this time. In an area of our School Improvement Plan we have introduced Mindfulness. It is part of two of our Key Priorities this year linking to Play throughout the school and ensuring wellbeing, equity and inclusion. It is also linked to The United Nations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 31, 'the right of the child to rest and leisure and to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child'



During our mindfulness sessions pupils are taught the tools they could use to help regulate their emotions. We do this at least twice a day so that pupils can understand how to use these techniques at other times should they feel the need.



We will be hosting an **open afternoon** for our community during World Book Day where our pupils will be using their Leadership skills to prepare and welcome you to this event.

As well as learning about our Context for Learning 'fits above oor heeds' there will be reading and craft activities throughout the afternoon and for our visitors to get involved. We strive to encourage a love of reading that is fun for everyone.

## Burns Celebrations



We had a fantastic time celebrating The Bard – Robert Burns and our local dialect of Doric. This was linked to Article 30 in the UNCRC. Our learners again developed their leadership and creativity skills by organising and leading our annual Burns Afternoon.



Pupils successfully recited poems, sang, addressed the Haggis, toasted the lassies and lads and showcased our love for Scottish dancing. It was fantastic to see the pupils excel and show their talents!

We extend a big 'Thank you' to all families and individuals who have supported the school this year. Your contributions really do make a difference!



## School Show



Our annual school show of 'The Jingle Book' was another example of our learners demonstrating their passion for learning new skills where they were able to showcase their learning in the Drama and Music curriculum.

We are so proud of all our pupils who put on such a fantastic performance of The Jingle Book. Their teamwork, communication and creativity were just some of the skills for learning, life and work they used and developed so a huge well done!

A BIG thank you to all who donated to our Christmas Draw and contributed to its success. Huge Thanks to our Parent Council office bearers and members for organising and overseeing this as it is one of the biggest fundraising events of the school year.



## 'Fits above our heads'



Our Pupils views (UNCRC Article 12) have again been taken for their latest Context for Learning when studying 'Fits above our heads'. Some of the topics pupils wanted to learn about are recording the moon cycle, exploring moons within the solar system, finding out about the sun in relation to light and heat and what planets are in our solar system.

There will also be time for pupils to reflect on how Space is linked to the Global Goal as we have aligned our learning to numbers 9 & 17 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and Partnerships for the goals.



## Rag Bag Recycling Scheme

A reminder that we have a Rag Bag Container in our school playground. The 'Rag Bag' recycling scheme has been developed to provide regular fundraising for schools in Scotland. The scheme increases awareness about textile recycling. Please think of us if you are having a clear out. We can accept clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts etc. **Just pop them into a bag and deposit in the container.**

A huge thank you to the community for supporting this important fundraiser. We have been amazed at how quickly it fills up. Due to the cost per kg decreasing, we now on average are receiving approximately £35 every three months!



## Tarves Graveyard Volunteer Group - update at March 2026



There isn't much to report from the volunteers at the cemetery at this time of year. We did enjoy a social evening in December when we met up for a meal at the Ythanview Hotel in Methlick.

Some of you may have seen that we are having problems with the handles/catches on the small gates. Apologies for the inconvenience but rest assured we are working on a solution and hopefully the gates will be back in normal working order soon.

We are, like most people I imagine, looking forward to springtime and drier days so that we can gather again to work on keeping the cemetery neat and tidy. If you would like to join our friendly group please message **Hilda** on **07711 358201** or **Moir** on **07800 953127** and you will be added to our WhatsApp group. We are grateful for any donations received via our collection box in the Tarves Pharmacy which will be used towards summer planting costs.

It is most encouraging to see the amount of people who have come forward following an appeal for volunteers to maintain the village flower arrangements and to keep Tarves beautiful. Community spirit is flourishing. This group are now working under the heading of **The Tarves Trowel Team**. If you would like to be involved please contact Hilda. In particular they are looking for volunteers with a towbar on their car to form a volunteer rota for flower watering duties.



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## Knitting has started already - Jan & Feb 2026

It didn't take long for knitting to start appearing on the tables in Tarves Kirk Community Corner from mid-January. It has layered up with bright colours since and everything has a future home, either in our own community or within the city and Shire. We have generous knitters out-with the Parish area too and all their donations are added to the organisations below.

**Aberdeen Maternity Hospital** – baby hats are welcome again but must be very pale colours and varied sizes. We have a large bag ready to hand over to a staff member who lives in the village.

**AberNecessities** are now well established in Dyce since their start-up in 2019 and provide children from baby to teenager with basics they should not be without. Knitting donations include many children's hats, scarves, warm blankets and knitwear for younger children.

<https://www.abernecessities.co.uk>

**Cyrenians** and **Street Friends** match each other's services in provision to those who are homeless or struggling with pressures of life. Adult hats/neck-warmers are much in demand along with larger blankets. <https://www.weareac.org>

'**Fish and Chip**' sets go across to Meldrum Parish and they kindly add them to their shipment for the long sea and overland journey from Scotland to Malawi.

**Friends of Anchor** - ARI's Anchor Unit welcome heart shaped cushions and post-surgery drainage bags. If you would like to sew a heart pattern or a drainage bag, please contact me for and I can forward the patterns. [tbc.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:tbc.editor@btinternet.com) F of A also appreciate the octopus; nervous patients enjoy the texture of the 'legs' and provide a distraction through treatment.

**Woodend Hospital's** Orthopaedic Rehab Unit, Stroke Unit and Morningfield welcome donations of twiddle muffs, octopuses and knee blankets.

**Rosewell and Crosby House Nursing Homes** are also recipients of knee blankets, twiddle muffs and octopuses.

**Nellie Rae - Hanover Court** - That's all the joint efforts of individuals and the groups, but tinged with sadness now as one of our most loyal and consistent knitters, Nellie Rae, died in January this year.

Twiddle muffs, teddies and hats were Nellie's specialities. She loved knowing the teddies had been shared round various agencies at Christmas, and said she could picture the smile of a child welcoming a new teddy of their own.

**Photo of Nellie meeting Prince Edward at Tarves Heritage Centre.**



Hanover Court Knitters meet in Hanover lounge at 2pm each Tuesday and new knitters are always welcome. If you have wool you no longer need, then the group would appreciate adding to their stock.

Your contact for Hanover knitting is **Jessie Simpson 851958**.

Thank you everyone for being such generous donors to all these organisations. You can hand in knitting to the Tuesday coffee morning in Tarves Kirk at 10am, plus Formartine Parish Church at Tarves on a Sunday morning at 11am but please check service venues on Formartine Parish website first.

**Ruth - on behalf of the Parish**

## **HHICOS** | Haddo House Choral & Operatic Society

Today is the first day of the rest of your life, so what better time to begin or restart your singing career. **Haddo Choral** welcomes singers of all ranges with no auditions and especially male singers.

We sing a variety of styles of music but are currently restricted in our choice due to lack of men, so why not come and join us.

The benefits of singing are well known as an aid to fitness, happiness and social and mental health, so if you are up for a painless challenge come and give it a try.

We rehearse in the **Peatyards Haddo** at **7.30pm on Thursday nights**.

As part of our **80th year celebrations** Haddo Arts are hosting a **"Come and Sing"** with **Sir John Rutter**, who is also the same age as the Choral.

In the spring we will be performing, under our **new Musical Director, Gordon Jack**, with the aid of our accomplished accompanist Harry Williamson, John Rutter's "Sprig of Thyme", "Six Folk Songs" collected by Holst, "Sure On This Shining Light" Barber and works by Copland.

Our **Haddo Voices junior choir** meets in **St Mary's on the Rock hall, Ellon** on **Wednesdays 7 to 8pm** for **all Primary 6 upwards**.

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Founders: David Gordon CBE KStJ and June Gordon GCStJ CBE DL FRCM FRSAMD FRSE

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## Tarves Allotments - update March 2026

We're all looking forward to getting back to the allotments when the rain finally stops and are hopeful we'll have a productive year again. At the moment, all the plots are taken and we have a short waiting list, but if you're interested in finding out more about the allotments, please contact Tamsin Morris by email at [tamsin\\_morris@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tamsin_morris@yahoo.co.uk).

**Thank you.**



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# Gordon Woods – Artier Design & Print

It is with great sadness that I announce by departure as the TBC Designer and Printer due to terminal ill-health.

I have been with the TBC for many years and despite having many personal issues at the time, I took on the challenge with great determination and would hope I have been a great asset to the Tarves and Barthol Chapel Newsletter team for the past 6 years or so.

For those unaware, I have also been battling 2 major courtroom challenges during the past 6 years in conjunction with running my business. Since August of 2019 I have been fighting for the safety of children in grass-roots sports and many other arenas in Scotland.

1 case, in the Inverness High Court, after 4 years fighting, I won convincingly in 23 April of 2023 sending Celtic Boys Club founder James Torbett to prison for 3 years. Other factors however, meant he would not see the outside of a prison again until at least November 2027.

The 2nd case took 6 years of doggedly fighting in the highest court in Scotland, Edinburgh's Supreme Court against that formidable giant Celtic Football Club which fought me and others viciously, tooth and nail doing everything and anything in its power to derail, delay and deny any or all responsibility for its inaction between 1967 and 1997 to safeguard children within its organisation. At the last minute just before the final courtroom challenge, after putting its accusers through hell, it stepped down and announced it wanted to settle out of court. A victory that meant so much to me and many other silent victims now coming forward with their own stories to tell. Not one has yet received a formal apology.

Taking on such a giant in such a very public way with the written media, TV and radio throughout the UK and abroad being interested in my progress meant I was in demand for interviews, statements and documentaries constantly in the UK and throughout Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and South Africa. I was the only accuser who waived my anonymity.

My activism over 6 years I hope, has resulted in and been the catalyst to major changes throughout sport and other arenas to ensure the safety of our children going forward. Many more changes demanded by me are hopefully being fast-tracked - a legacy I am proud of.

Sadly, the extreme pressure of that activism has seriously contributed to my ill-health that has now progressed to me currently receiving end-of-life palliative care.

My story can be read in a book that I authored in 2023 and updated with a second edition in last September 2025. **'Being Put Through Hoops' (not suitable for under 16s)** and is available on Amazon or can be found together with many other relevant media reports and articles on Google, by searching on-line **Gordon Woods Celtic Boys Club**





2025 finished with a visit from Santa (thank-you to Oldmeldrum and Bourtie Rotary for putting in a good word for us!) and a very enjoyable trip to see **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs** at Inverurie Panto. 160 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, leaders and family members had a fantastic evening.

This term is all about celebrating World Thinking Day – a very significant date in the Guiding and Scouting calendar, as it marks the joint birthday of our founder, Lord Baden-Powell and his wife, Lady Baden-Powell (the first World Chief Guide). World Thinking Day is recognised as a day of international friendship and we were proud to take part in the Thinking Day Service at Tarves Kirk on Sunday 22nd February, celebrating 100 years of this special day.

Church was followed by a fantastic, fun-filled afternoon in Tarves Youth Hall, celebrating with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from across the district. A great afternoon was had by all as we enjoyed crafts, a safari, s'mores, games, and finished with some enthusiastic campfire singing.

This term we've had great fun making a crazy golf course using recycled materials, trying armpit fudge and recognising the importance of both talking and listening to our friends when it comes to looking after our mental health.

We are looking forward to making hobby horses for Chinese New Year, celebrating International Women's Day, learning about inspiring female inventors and enjoying a much-anticipated trip to Haddo Children's Theatre's production of **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, starring many of our members.

1st Tarves Brownies (for girls aged 7-10) meet on a Wednesday evening 6.15-7.30pm at Tarves Primary School. Please email [Tarvesbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:Tarvesbrownies@gmail.com) for further information or check out <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>



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## ABERDEENSHIRE LIEUTENANCY

### The Lord-Lieutenant's Update



Congratulations to the following Aberdeenshire residents who were recognised for the outstanding contributions they have made across the county and beyond in the King's New Year Honours List. From highland dancing to historic building preservation, apprenticeships / catering, charitable work, tourism, cadets, medicine we are grateful to them and proud of their achievements. Peter Bruce (CBE) for catering/charity, Prof. Zosia Miedzybrodzka (OBE) for genetics, Claire Bruce (MBE) for tourism, James Buchan (MBE) for seafood, Paul Higson (MBE) for heritage, David Reid (MBE) for disability support, Adele Steel (MBE) for Girlguiding, Alison Milne (BEM) for highland dancing and Squadron Leader, Commanding 875 (Westhill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets Stewart Norris (BEM) for services to young people in Aberdeenshire.

### Commemorative Sycamore Tree Planting at Balmoral Castle



A very moving and special tree planting ceremony was held within the grounds of Balmoral Castle on Armistice Day in recognition of the 28 estate workers who fought in the First World War, of whom seven made the ultimate sacrifice. Rev Kenneth MacKenzie LVO DL, Minister of the Parish of Braemar and Crathie, led the short commemorative service which was attended by Balmoral estate staff, Gordon Highlander veterans and volunteers from The Gordon Highlanders Museum. The Lady Saltoun DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire and Kirsty Wilson, Head of Gardens for Balmoral and Birkhall, planted a sycamore tree in commemoration of all the estate workers who served. The new Resident Factor, Major Rob Whitson, welcomed everyone and made a commemorative speech which included a special message from His Majesty The King.

## Anniversaries, Birthdays

Myself, or one of my Deputies are always delighted to visit on the day of special milestones, 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th birthdays and present a card and personal congratulations. Please do look at our web site, details below, for further information.



## Honours

I had the great pleasure of presenting Keith Jensen with his British Empire Medal for his remarkable work over 30 years saving lives as a paramedic in the North-East of Scotland. Keith has also played a key role in supporting the impactful work of life saving charities such as Aberdeen Mountain Rescue, The Sandpiper Trust and BASICS Scotland. A truly exceptional contribution to our communities and so many families.

The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy would like to know of any individual or voluntary organisation who has made an exceptional contribution for the wider benefit of others in their community.

The Lieutenancy will assist in giving full consideration for appropriate recognition. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website.

## Would you like to learn more about the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy?

Myself, or one of my Deputies would be pleased to visit local groups and schools to share information about the Lieutenancy and the work we do. Please use the email contact below to get in touch.

Website - <https://www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk> or contact us [info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk](mailto:info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk)



You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram - '**Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire**'

Very best wishes to you all

**Sandy Manson, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire**



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## Thank you to everyone who supported our Gingerbread-style Village displays at Christmas.

We hope you found time to visit and agree that they looked amazing. A special mention goes to **Tarves Brownies, Tarves Guides, The Hut, Barthol Chapel & Tarves Primary school, Hygge childminder** and **Tarves Heritage Centre** for their creative contributions to the Tarves display.

Our **Walk Through Nativity** for P1-3 pupils was a huge success, and planning is now well underway for our Easter activities, including an *interactive Walk-Through Holy Week* experience for local schools. **Our Easter Garden** will be outside Tarves Kirk from 27th March and we invite you to get creative, add to our display and share the joy of Easter.

**Barthol Chapel Youth Café** run in partnership with Barthol Chapel Community Hub is held once a month (3.30-5.30 for P6 and over on the second Wednesday of the month). It is well attended and provides a warm, safe space for young people to hang out with friends and enjoy sociable activities such as table tennis, pool, table football, air hockey, arts and crafts — plus snacks! Thanks to the support of **Formartine Parish Church, Formartine Rural Partnership** and fundraising activities the youth café remains free to attend. Did you know we also sign off **Duke of Edinburgh** and **Saltire Awards**, recognising and celebrating young volunteers? Please feel free to get in touch for more information.

We are proud to work closely with local schools to support young people's wellbeing and are delighted to once again offer the **Emotional Rollercoaster Programme** — an emotional wellbeing programme designed to help children and young people explore emotional health, develop emotional awareness and learn about 'emotional first aid.' Next term, thanks to generous funding from **Granite Heart**, we will also be running **Transition Support sessions** to help P7s prepare for their move to academy, including a mini-bridging group in partnership with **Meldrum Academy**.

We recently launched **Formartine Youth in Action** for young people in Primary 6 and above across the Formartine area. This youth-led group provides a platform for young people to share ideas, build confidence, speak up about issues that matter to them and develop key life skills such as leadership, teamwork and responsibility. We meet once a month on a Saturday afternoon 4-6. The group has had a very positive start, offering creative feedback to the **PUTS Skate Park Sub-Committee** and the **Just Transitions Community Project Regional Assembly**. We also enjoyed a fantastic day hosted by **Youth Scotland**, centred around the *I-Lead Engage* programme. Through fun team challenges, interactive activities and confidence-building games, our young people learned how to work together, speak up and lead. **Udny Community Shelf** was pitched as the local community project the group would like to support, and we are excited to take their ideas forward.

An amazing job by everyone involved — a truly inspirational group of young people. If you would like to find out more please contact [carolinefyp@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefyp@outlook.com)

Formartine Youth Project is proud to provide opportunities for young people to **Be themselves, Believe in themselves, and feel they Belong and are valued.**

At a time when finances for the project are particularly challenging, we are incredibly grateful to have been selected by the **Co-op as a Community Cause** (registered under Formartine Parish Church) for their October 2025–26 funding round. Please choose us as your cause the next time you swipe your Co-op card: <https://coopapp.onelink.me/ftOk/g7n2shjd>

You can also support us by signing up to **easyfundraising** — a simple way to raise funds every time you shop online, at no extra cost to you:



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/formartine-youth-project>

And if you want to support us and enjoy a family night of live music with a fun bingo twist in **Tarves Youth Hall** put **Saturday 2nd May** in your diary. Tickets on sale soon... Contact [carolinefyp@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefyp@outlook.com) for more details or follow us on **facebook/Instagram**.

If you would like to know more about any of the projects mentioned, or if you might be interested in volunteering for a couple of hours a week, a month, or on an ad-hoc basis, please get in touch:

[carolinefyp@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefyp@outlook.com) or follow us on Facebook: **Formartine Youth Project** and Instagram: **formartineyouthproject** for regular updates.





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## Mid Formartine Guild – March 2026 update

### “Whose we are and Whom we serve”

Greetings to everyone from the Guild. Hope you are all surviving the snow, rain, wind and floods. At least here up the hill beyond Fyvie we are immune from floods but have endured the rest.

The Guild is immersing from its winter hibernation, and we are busy organising our Summer Syllabus. This year’s World Day of Prayer is being organised by our neighbouring Guild at Methlick and will be on **Friday 6 March at 7pm in Methlick Church**. All are welcome and not just Guild members.

So, for our own Guild members we are organising an Afternoon Tea as part of our first meeting in April, venue and date still to be decided. Then our next 3 meetings as are follows:

- **Thursday 14 May – in Pitmedden Kirk**

Our new Minister Rev Aquila Singh is coming along to give us a talk.

- **Thursday 11 June – Tarves Kirk**

We are to have a talk on one of the Guild Projects, Operation Hope, which is an organisation giving help and support to the persecuted Christian Minority in Egypt.

- **Thursday 9 July – Tarves Kirk**

Alexander Manson is to tell us about his duties as Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire.

All these meetings will start at 7pm and further meetings will be arranged for August and September.

We have also organised 2 fund-raising events in support of Guild Projects. The first will be a Musical Evening with wine and nibbles on **Thursday 18 June at 7:30pm in Tarves Kirk**. Entertainment will be by some of our very talented local musicians. (**Wilf did try Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones but they were unavailable!!**).

Then on **Saturday 18 July from 2 – 4pm in Tarves Kirk** (which I have just realised is my birthday. **But at my age please forget the presents!!**) we will hold our very popular Strawberry Cream Tea.

We would be delighted to see you at any of our meetings or events. You will be assured of a very warm welcome.

**Further information from Jean on 891081 or Doreen on 851040**



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## Tarves Tennis news - March 2026

The twang of gut on felt may not be reverberating around our community court over the colder months, but members have kept themselves limber with our winter schedule.

It has been a season of firsts for the club, as our aces swapped their rackets for bats. Don't worry — no one is attempting to hang upside down from the umpire's chair. Instead, the club has been running table tennis championships at the Highwayman Hall in the Aberdeen Arms Hotel. Saturday afternoons have been given over to open sessions, where players young and old tested their ping-pong skills, sheltered from the dreich start to 2026.

Taking the number one spot was the Boatswain of Bede Way, Kris Dear, who was undefeated at the table. Runner-up was the Shetland Smasher, Paul Monaghan, who was delighted to bring the silver medal three miles south to his home in Pitmedden.

While these two topspin titans tussled it out for the championship, many members were simply grappling with an agreed set of rules. Spectators noted that matches were taking an inordinate length of time, but it transpired that 25 years ago games were reduced from 21 points to 11 — perhaps indicating the vintage of our paddle pack.

Hot on the heels of the table tennis success, the club felt it was time to run its first social event. What started as an intimate Burns supper at a bungalow on Pringle Avenue for fewer than a dozen soon developed into a banquet for close to 100 people. The village pub was once again an excellent host as they dished up the haggis, neeps and tatties for the revellers.

The chieftain of the pudding race was piped in by local optician Gerry Friel before Methlick member Liam Robinson provided a rousing Address.

After the meal, Jessica O'Donnell (P6), Minnie Robinson (P4), Rosa Friel (P1), Erin Mitchell (P4) and Zach Quirie (P5) recited their Scots poems. The audience was then treated to Boater Bisto's rendition of **The Wounded Hare**, which was second-placed in the Angus region inter-school competition in 1990. I delivered the Immortal Memory, warmly aided by Colin Massie in fine singing voice, accompanied by Alison Spence and Max Schneider reading some choice stanzas.



Bringing the national poet's story to life were Wren Friel and Thomas Sleigh, who acted out the ploughman's journey during proceedings. A special thanks to the Heritage Centre for lending the Tennis Club some costumes to get the children into character.

This was followed by the marital double act of Paul and Karyn Friel, toasting and replying on behalf of the Lassies. The vote of thanks — alongside tales of his sheepdog Norman — was provided by Tolquhon farmer Andrew Sleigh Snr, before everyone joined hands to sing **Auld Lang Syne**, accompanied by Kirsty Quirie on the piano.

The jam-packed event was crowned a success by all who attended, with plans already under way to celebrate the Bard of Ayrshire again next year.

Lang may yer rallies run!

**Yours  
John Sleigh**

**Tarves Tennis Club VP.S. As always, if you would like to borrow the tennis net or attend our regular Thursday nights, please do not hesitate to get in touch on 07921 863682.**



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# 1st Methlick Scout Group update - March 2026



Here's a flavour of what we were up to towards the end of last year ...

## Squirrels (age 4 - 6)

- We had a hike around Haddo House and invested some new Squirrels.
- We celebrated Diwali by making some Diya lamps and Burfi (Diwali sweets with coconut).
- We did some activities around Remembrance and joined the rest of the group at the Methlick Remembrance service in November.
- We did some building models with Lego, and some junk modelling – re-using old boxes.
- Some of the Squirrels helped at a Methlick community bulb planting.
- Continuing on the builder theme, we made some dens to play in
- Again, we took part in the annual "Jambowtree" event – winning the Squirrels District trophy for the second year running!
- At the end of the year, we made some Christmas crafts and took part in the group Christmas party with all the other sections.

## Beavers (age 6 - 8)

- We did a dusk hike from Haddo to Methlick.
- We celebrated Halloween with some spooky games and activities, followed by activities around bonfire night.
- We did some badgework on "Health and Heart".
- We visited the Inverurie Community Campus to learn how to play badminton.
- We had a visit from the "Critter Keeper" at the hut – where he showed us and let us handle different creepy-crawlies!
- We had a film night in the hut before making some Christmas crafts and attending the group party.

## Cubs (age 8 - 10.5)

- We made the news! Cubs picked a news story to report on, wrote a news bulletin script and acted out the story for others. Great fun!
- We also had great fun with our patented(!) reverse-curling. Instead of pushing blocks on ice, we push blocks of ice along the floor.
- We had our usual Halloween party where everyone was dressed up and we played lots of games.
- We had a session of DIY where the Cubs all made a coat hook for their wall. This involved measuring, drilling, screwing and decorating.
- We attended the Remembrance service in the village.
- We did a spot of gardening - putting bulbs into the planters around the hut.
- We also took part in the annual Jambowtree event – we are eagerly waiting to see our ranking of all Cub packs in the world who participated...
- We celebrated St. Andrew's Day by making shortbread and designing our own tartan.
- Finally, we met with all the other sections for the group Christmas Party, to end the year.

## Scouts (age 10.5 – 14)

Scouts were hit by a few weather issues, meaning they had to cancel a couple of nights. They still managed to do some great stuff though.

- We created Halloween decorations from recycled materials before holding our Halloween party. All dressed up and had loads fun and games.
- We reminded the Scouts of some of the basic skills that they should know – including some skills which could be handy around the house.
- We were in attendance at the village Remembrance Service.
- We created and decorated some cardboard houses for the community display in the Church.
- We organised a trip to the curling centre in Aberdeen where we all learned about and played some curling. Brrr!
- Finally, we ended the year at the Christmas party with all the other sections.

## Explorers (age 14 – 18)

- Explorers held a Halloween party with lots of fun and games. Some spooky costumes too!
- We did a spot of backwoods cooking on open fires, and held a wide game at Haddo.
- We also attended the Remembrance Service at the Church.
- We had a day at Tesco, collecting donations for the local food bank. We managed to fill 12 crates of food!
- On the same theme, we organized and hosted a quiz night in the Scout Hut. No admission price, but donations were accepted for the food bank and raffle. On the night, we received an additional 7 crates of food and raised £183 on the raffle. All proceeds going to the foodbank.
- Finally, we attended the group Christmas party to have fun with all the other sections. It's great to mingle with the younger members from Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels.

With more of our sections requiring to introduce a “parent helper rota”, we are always looking for volunteers to join our fabulous team of leaders!

**If you are interested in volunteering as a leader or in any other capacity, and want to know more, please get in touch by emailing [methlickscoutgroup@gmail.com](mailto:methlickscoutgroup@gmail.com) or visiting our website at [www.methlickscouts.org.uk/join-us](http://www.methlickscouts.org.uk/join-us)**





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## Haddo Musical Theatre School - March 2026 update

If you've passed by the Melvin Hall in Tarves on a Wednesday or Friday afternoon recently, chances are you've heard music, laughter, and the happy sounds of children discovering the magic of musical theatre. That's our popular **Tiny Talents** class in full swing — a vibrant and welcoming session designed for children aged **4 to 7**.

These classes are all about building confidence, imagination, and teamwork through playful singing, movement and performance. It's been wonderful to see the sessions become such a hit with local families — a real midweek treat for our tiniest performers! These classes take place 4.45-5.45 each Wednesday and Friday

At **Haddo Musical Theatre School**, we pride ourselves on creating a nurturing and inclusive environment for children of all ages and experience levels. Our aim is to help each child find their voice, grow in confidence, and most importantly — have fun.

This year, we're thrilled to be expanding our offerings with a brand-new **Development Class** for ages **8 to 14**, which takes place on **Tuesdays at the Youth Hall**. This class is ideal for young performers who are ready to take their theatre journey to the next level. With a focus on acting, singing, and stage technique, it's a fantastic way to build skills and friendships in a creative, supportive setting.

We are running our famous summer camps for both age groups – The Gruffalo for 4-7 year olds and a topical musical called 'Bully' for the 8-14 year olds. We are also running day workshops during the summer holidays – Please see our website for details.

### **Coming This September: Matilda Jr at Haddo Hall!**

Get ready for something truly magical! Our talented young cast is already hard at work preparing for **Matilda Jr**, a high-energy, heartwarming show full of courage, cleverness, and cake (of course!).

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It's a show full of energy, empowerment, and a touch of rebellion — and we can't wait to share it with the Haddo community. Performances will take place in 25th to the **27th September at Haddo Hall**, and tickets are available from

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/haddo-musical-theatre-school](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/haddo-musical-theatre-school)

This is one not to miss!

To find out more about our classes or the upcoming production, contact us at [www.hmtschool.co.uk](http://www.hmtschool.co.uk)

---

## About Haddo Musical Theatre School

Haddo Musical Theatre School offers weekly performance classes for children aged 4-14, providing a fun, safe and nurturing environment to build confidence through musical theatre. Classes are held in Haddo Hall and the Youth Hall, welcoming children from across the region.

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## Hanover Court update - March 26

### Hello everyone

Well, we haven't started off the year in good spirit as we lost one of our dear friends Nellie Rae. She will be greatly missed by everyone.

The knitting group are going on with their projects of baby hats, adult hats, blankets and scarves.

We had a haggis lunch in January, then a lovely afternoon with entertainment by John Dickson. Our coffee mornings are open to everyone on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10.30am - please come along and join us.

### Jessie Simpson

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## Ythan Singers - update at March 2026

As the landscape (and our spirits!) become increasingly waterlogged, we're all in need of a little light to chase away the gloom. For the Ythan Singers, that light comes from throwing ourselves into rehearsals as we prepare for this season's concerts. Our repertoire reflects the lift in mood, with toe-tapping favourites such as **Mamma Mia** alongside rousing numbers like **You Raise Me Up**. With a new bounce in our step, we find ourselves ready once more to face the rain!

Following a hectic yet wonderful December of concerts — including the honour of performing at the National Trust for Scotland's carol service — we now have time to focus on perfecting our 2026 repertoire. You can hear it at our **Concert of Popular Music** on **Friday 27th March at 7.30pm** in **Ellon Parish Church**.

By popular demand, we're also delighted to announce the return of the **May Music Extravaganza** (Facebook: [@MayMusicExtravaganza](#)) at **Aberdeen Music Hall** on **Saturday 23rd May at 3pm**. This talent-packed afternoon will feature performances from some of the very best choirs and musicians in north-east Scotland, including the local children's choir **The Musical Midges**, Cults Academy, and pianist **Joseph Long**. All proceeds will be raised in support of local charities. Tickets are available through Aberdeen Music Hall, and you can follow our rehearsals and updates via [@MayMusicExtravaganza](#).

If you'd like to be part of our friendly group, we'd love to welcome you. We rehearse every **Monday at 7.30pm** in the **Ellon Parish Kirk Centre**. There's no need to audition — just bring your enthusiasm and a smile.

You can find out more about us here:

**Facebook:** [@YthanSingers](#)

**Website:** [www.ythansingers.co.uk](http://www.ythansingers.co.uk)

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## Ellon and District Men's Shed: February 2026

What a start to the year! After the Christmas/New Year break we had to delay the opening of the Shed because of snow. Since then, it's been non-stop rain and cloud. Hopefully, by the time you read this the sun will have reappeared. Fortunately, though the Shed buildings have not suffered any weather damage.

In late November we held our annual pre-Christmas open day selling tools and items made in the Shed. We had a very successful day raising funds and taking orders for house signs, plaques, bird tables and laser engraved coasters (wood and slate).

We received news of two excellent 'Christmas presents' for the Shed. We received a generous grant from the Government's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund to cover our core running costs for 2 years.



We also received a grant from the MacAskill Family Trust to fund the purchase and installation of a 12m x 4m Polycrub "polytunnel". These awards were fantastic news helping secure our financial position for the medium term and allowing us to greatly improve our indoor growing space in the garden. We are hoping to install the Polycrub in mid-March - ready for the growing season.

In the run-up to Christmas, we helped Arnage Primary School with their Christmas project. We renovated, supplied and helped the children assemble picture frames for their art work.

In the mechanical workshop the guys are continuing to work on a Norton Commando (a complete rebuild from parts in boxes)! For someone wanting to learn about refurbishing motorbikes, this is a great opportunity to get involved. Push bike refurbishing is also progressing well - but we could do with more help. If you are interested in bike or motorbike maintenance and would like to get involved, please contact us - we can potentially put you through pushbike maintenance accreditation courses.

In the woodworking workshop we have finished refurbishing the last of 4 benches from Udny Green church yard. For the Council we are making wooden putlogs (used to carry coffins to the grave side). The guys are also making the usual array of planters, bird tables and bird boxes. We have had a specific request from a carer to make bird box kits for the children in her car - we will then help the children assemble the kits.

The Shed's Pétanque Club continued meeting on Thursday afternoons. We plan to relay the petanque piste in the spring. Two members are also going to Macduff to join in with them to develop their skills and understanding of the sport. Please see our Facebook page for announcements about future meeting times. If you are interested, please get in touch.

We want to increase the social activities in the Shed - we have started a cribbage group meeting on a Tuesday morning and we are having 'breakfast roll mornings'.

In collaboration with Aberdeenshire Council Community Learning and Development team, we are holding 'Digital Skills' drop-in sessions on Monday afternoons from 1.30pm. If you need help with your phone, laptop or computers please come along.

We ran a winter café from November to end February.

The Wednesday sessions of the developing Women's Shed have been very well received by the attendees. The induction and training process is a key part of this journey and will take time to work through to fully establish a stand-alone Women's Shed. The women attend DIY, woodworking, 3D printing, laser engraving, picture framing, bike maintenance and two women have attended a CNC training programme.

The Men's Shed will carry on being run as a social/hobby place for men. The underpinning need for a dedicated men's shed hasn't changed. If you are interested, please contact us on either [ellonmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:ellonmensshed@gmail.com) or [ellonwomensshed@gmail.com](mailto:ellonwomensshed@gmail.com).

If you are interested in visiting the **Shed**, or becoming a member, we would love to see you - we are open **10am-4pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**. Please check our website ([www.ellonmensshed.org](http://www.ellonmensshed.org)) and Facebook ([facebook.com/EltonMensShed](https://facebook.com/EltonMensShed)) for updates on opening times etc.

"This Project was supported by the Scottish Government's Rural Community Led Local Development Fund 2024/25"



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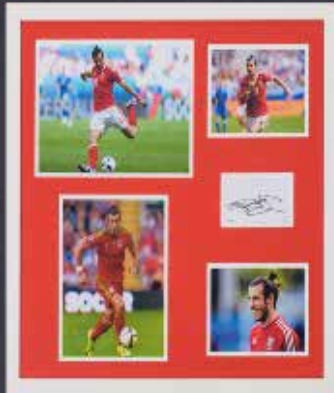
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# Updates from activities in the Medan Centre, Pitmedden – March 2026



## Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan

Udny Climate Action, along with a couple of other North East groups, was approached by North East Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCAN) to run an event to sound out the views of local people on the Scottish Governments draft Climate Change Plan. Nearly thirty people, from Udny and beyond, gathered at the Medan Centre on a stormy January night to explore a wide range of proposed actions. These included:

- both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to a changing environment.
- how managing a Just Transition away from oil and gas might be achieved, along with the implications for employment: the latter being particularly important in the NE.
- decarbonising homes and transport.
- the implications for land management and farming.
- reducing/recycling waste.

NESCAN has added our communities' views into its response to the Scottish Governments consultation.

## Interested in visiting homes with renewable energy heating systems?

In spring, we will be arranging another of our popular evenings visiting homes in Pitmedden with heat pumps or biomass systems. Informal, stimulating debate, with refreshments, are always guaranteed. Keep an eye on our Udny Climate Action Facebook page for the date.

## The Repair Cafe

**Repair Cafe** is working with Circular Communities Scotland to explore how we can grow a network of repair groups across the North East. We are hosting a planning session on 19 February to explore this further. You will find us at the Udny Repair Cafe, **3rd Monday of every month, in The Medan Centre, Quarry Room from 6pm-8pm** if you have anything that needs repaired please just pop in and visit us. Some of the items we can help repair include cuddly toys, computers, bikes, clothing and PAT testing items.

## Regular Swap Shops

We look forward to welcoming you back to our well-established Swap Shops. They run with the school terms and we will be hosting 1 a term. **Our next Swap Shop is Friday 20, Saturday 21, Sunday 22 February.** All Swap Shops are held in the **Pitmedden Hall**. How does the Swap Shop work? On the Friday between 12noon and 7pm please feel free to drop off items, you are also welcome to pick up items at the same time - only visit us on the Friday if you have items to drop off. The Saturday and Sunday are strictly for picking up items only, anytime between 10am and 2pm, but please note you cannot drop off any more items on the Saturday and Sunday. The aim is to not waste and reuse as much as we can within our community.

We encourage you to pick up items for yourself, friends and family and for local community groups, organisations, charities, schools etc. Perhaps you are involved in a panto and need some supplies? Maybe you'd like to update your outdoor play toys for your kids? Maybe your kids are finished with some clothing and need the next size up? Just pop along to the Swap Shop! Items we accept are: clothing, toys, crockery, accessories, books, jigsaws, pet stuff, china and footwear.

Have you heard about the Swap Shop and would like to volunteer - if so please get in touch. There are loads of ways you can help to volunteer and support the Swap Shop. I often get asked what happens to the items after the Swap Shop? We try our best to reuse every item! We try to distribute locally first - so when the Swap Shop is over we have partners we work with. We often have local people from local groups popping in on the Sunday of the Swap Shop looking for particular items left over e.g. last swap shop Tiny Tots were donated all our left-over hats, gloves, scarves for the children to practice putting on as part of their Xmas theme. We used leftover Christmas decorations as an arts and crafts project at the Trust Christmas Fayre. We are happy to accommodate any local groups we can - just pop along and help yourself or speak to us at any time. We also have regular partnerships - a massive thank you goes to Teresa at the Trust who always takes our leftover men's clothing for Aberdeen Cyrenians. Louise always takes home any leftover children's clothing and lovingly washes and sorts into sizes to give away to AberNecessities, Bairnecessities and for free on the market place. We are looking for someone locally to help us redistribute the leftover ladies clothing after the Swap Shops. Please get in touch if you have a wee bit of time and space and are willing to take home a couple of bags of ladies clothing to sort into size then give away for free on the local Facebook pages. The Swap Shop is one initiative that helps contribute to UCA's purpose of addressing climate change. Please direct all Swap Shop related enquiries to [vikkiannetta@gmail.com](mailto:vikkiannetta@gmail.com) or through our **Udny Swaps** Facebook page.

### Swap Shop dates for remainder of 2026 – Friday Saturday Sunday each time

<b>June 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>September 25, 26, 27</b>	<b>November 20, 21, 22</b>
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### Table Top Sale

Some of you have been asking for a table top sale and Udny Climate Action along with Pitmedden Amenities Trust are hosting a **Table Top Sale on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 April**. Tables will cost £10, if you are interested in hiring a table please get in touch with Vikki Jannetta.

### Volunteer with Udny Climate Action

We have lots of volunteering opportunities within UCA. Perhaps you might want to help at our Repair Cafe or lend a hand every once in a while to look after our orchard or maybe volunteer at our Swap Shop. Or maybe you have your own thoughts on an initiative you want to get off the ground, UCA can help support you. If you are interested in fighting climate change in your community or are passionate about the environment then please get in touch or feel free to pop into our next Udny Climate Action meeting and find out more. All our meetings take place in The Medan Centre, Quarry Room.

Contact: [climate\\_action\\_admin@udny.org](mailto:climate_action_admin@udny.org)



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## Udny Community Trust Update: Spring 2026

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In 2026, our focus is on looking after what matters most: the health and wellbeing of our community and the 'health' of the Medan Centre - a much-loved, but ageing, community asset that needs plenty of TLC! Keeping the Centre warm, dry, secure, safe and fit for the future is a priority, and focussing on this means we can continue to use the Centre to support people and offer space for the community to come together for years to come.

### Warm Space at the Quarry Room

The Quarry Room at the Medan Centre is available as a warm, welcoming space for anyone who needs it. It's a comfortable place to sit by the fire, enjoy a cuppa on the house and have a blether, and it's been great to see people dropping in. Providing a warm space is part of the Trust's commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of community residents, helping people feel connected and supported—and providing an accessible place to come to when you just need to get out of the house!

If you know someone who might want to use the Warm Space, details can be found on the Warm Welcome Spaces website: <https://www.warmwelcome.uk> or contact us via the details at the end of this update. **The Quarry Room is open as a Warm Space from Monday to Saturday, 10am - 3pm.**

### Conversation Café: All About Libraries – 9th March

Our next Conversation Café takes place on Monday 9th March, 3 – 4.30pm and everyone is welcome. We'll be joined by Kirsty Hoey from Ellon Library who will be chatting about Libraries — and it's not just books! Libraries offer many more services and facilities than some people realise. Come along for a relaxed conversation and find out things you never knew about libraries, or share your own library experience!

### Upgrades at the Medan Centre

UCTC is currently focusing on necessary upgrades to the Medan Centre. This includes insulating and refurbishing the upstairs meeting rooms, working through them one by one. The UCTC team are looking forward to how cosy their office will soon be! The flat roof will also be replaced in the next few months. We're still working out how this will impact regular activities and events, but we'll keep everyone well informed as plans develop.

### Friends of Udny Green Cemeteries

If you haven't read it yet, please do take a look at our article on the *Friends of Udny Green Cemeteries*. It's a lovely and inspiring story and may just make you want to pick up a spade and help the group as they move on to tackling the old cemetery at Udny Green!



Read the article at

<https://udnycommunitytrust.org.uk/room-to-bloom> or scan the QR code. If you've received a grant from Udney Community Trust and would like to share the story of your project, please get in touch with Ruth.



## Grant deadlines 2026

Our grant programme for 2026 is open and the remaining deadlines for the year are as follows:

### Round 2 deadlines (May Board Meeting)

- Large Grants: Monday 27th April
- Small Grants: Monday 18th May

### Round 3 deadlines (August Board Meeting)

- Large Grants: Monday 27th July
- Small Grants: Monday 17th August

### Round 4 deadlines (November Board Meeting)

- Large Grants: Monday 26th October
- Small Grants: Monday 16th November

If your community group or organisation has a project in mind, we'd be delighted to discuss your ideas and support you with an application. We always love to hear from you, whether its about anything we've shared here or other Trust-related matters, please do get in touch!

With warm wishes,

**The Udney Community Trust Team**

**Ruth Cluness**

[manager@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk](mailto:manager@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk)

01651 843776

07436 811759

**Teresa Constanza**

[admin@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk)

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E Watson Joinery	Quality joinery solutions	49	07854 105608

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Ellon Men's Shed		01358 725849
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Inverurie Foodbank Centre		07967 364600
Melvin Hall Bookings	J Reville	07807 280913
Tarves Brownies	tarvesbrownies@gmail.com	
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Tarves Development Trust	tdt@tarves.org.uk	07717 564607
TBC Articles & Advertising	tbc.editor@btinternet.com	
Udny Climate Action	climate_action_admin@udy.org	
Royal Voluntary Service - for transport to appointments		01224 937110
		07971 962428
Udny Community Council	Ruth Cluness	01651 843776
		07436 811759
Udny Climate Action	climate_action_admin@udy.org	
Youth Hall Bookings	S Bichard	01651 851345

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