

# TBC

Issue 73

Tarves and Barthol Chapel  
Quarterly Newsletter  
June 2025



## Barthol Chapel Kirk 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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## ***Hello everyone,***

Welcome to the June edition of our local newsletter and a welcome to those who have just moved into the area and are finding out a bit more of what goes on in Formartine Parish.

World/country 'news' over the past number months + weeks has been unsettling to say the least. Does this make you 'mindful' or is your 'mind full' and what can we all do to live a calmer life, and be thankful for it?

We have the luxury at this time of year to get outside for much of the day. Even looking at grass and trees can have a calming effect, reduce stress, allowing us to focus better and improve our mood. We have Haddo, 10 minutes away by car and for the uber fit and the brave, there are a couple of well signposted walking paths from the village to Haddo. Stroll up Tree Road, study a fabulous view and keep walking...

Going in the opposite direction, you can walk up to Tolquhon Castle from the village; down the Old Aberdeen Road, cross over at the start of Bede Way, and follow the trail up and over the hill. An OS map may help to navigate the odd field and trek and the views back to Tarves from the tree line are stunning.

During the school summer holidays many years ago, my son and his friends used to disappear up past the same tree line, and over this hill complete with a 'picnic' comprising of crisps, more crisps, Mars bars which melted in hot weather. All food (is that the correct word?) and was eaten and washed down with lukewarm fizzy juice within minutes of starting the walk. They would be away for hours, no mobile phones then, just a trust that they would look after each other. What brought them home late afternoon, was normally hunger for something more substantial than crisps or chocolate.

That childhood freedom has unfortunately been lessened over the years, but it is lovely to see families out for walks and kids playing safely in the village playparks. That is when the world news actually hits hard, when we see children who will never have the experiences of childhood by exploring nature, enjoying adequate nutrition and the safety and warmth of a family home.

Be mindful of what we do have and the freedom of what our children have in the lovely area we live in.

***Ruth, TBC Editor***





Dear Friends

## Change

“A person cannot step into the same river twice, for it’s not the same river and they’re not the same person.” This quote, attributed to the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, reminds us that change is constant. Rivers flow, people grow, and life moves on. We’ve all seen big changes lately—from the rise of the online world and AI tools like ChatGPT to global events reshaping politics and society.

Closer to home, change has touched our local church too. With the formation of Formartine Parish Church and our ongoing search for a new minister, we’ve also seen changes in leadership. Susanna Bichard, who had been Session Clerk for Tarves and then Formartine, has retired from the role. Her kind, insightful, and compassionate leadership has been deeply appreciated.

To carry things forward, the Kirk Session decided to form a Session Clerk Team during this time of vacancy. The team includes Susanna (continuing to coordinate worship), Rob Fryer (handling emails and general admin), and Ruth Nisbet (officially named Session Clerk, taking minutes and handling enquiries).

Other church teams—like Property and Pastoral Care—will continue to handle tasks in their areas, and we hope to soon have direct contact details available for each.

It’s a bit of an experiment, and things may change again when a new minister arrives. But change isn’t something to fear—it’s part of life. As people of faith, we hold fast to what doesn’t change: God.

As it says in the book of Hebrews: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

In a changing world, that truth is our steady anchor.

**Rev Alastair Bruce** Interim Moderator - Formartine Parish Church

## **Sunday Worship @ 10am**

All are welcome to our united services which alternate between Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks. For-up-to-date details see Formartine Parish Church website and notice boards. Refreshments are served after worship. Zoom links and large print Orders of Service are also available each Sunday. If you would like one please contact **07966 765815**







News from

# Barthol Chapel Community



## Hub

Become a member using this QR code or email  
[info@bartholchapelhub.org](mailto:info@bartholchapelhub.org)

### Regular Events – all welcome

**Music Cafe** – first Sunday of the month 2pm

**Community Cafe** – second Saturday of the month 10 – 11.30am

**Youth Cafe** – mid month on a Wednesday 3.30 – 5.30pm

**Book groups** – 2pm second Tues of the month, 7pm second Wed of the month

**Craft group** – 7pm third Thursday of the month

**Games group** – 7pm last Monday of the month

**Climate Action group** – mid month on a Wed or Thu evening

**Music group for playing together (Dotty Session)** – 2pm second Sunday of the month

### Occasional Events – all welcome

Currently being arranged are more Peg Loom Weaving workshops, a Saxophone Quartet concert, a Ukelele workshop and a talk about the Tall Ships Race by a participant.

We arrange extra events most months, for example, in May we had a visit from

The Bay chip van and a Plant sale. We publicise them by email to our members and on our facebook and instagram pages

### Progress of the project

Our application to The Scottish Land Fund (SLF) for the major funding to purchase the building and urgent repairs is now in. We have funds raised to cover the remaining cost of the purchase and to begin the process of refurbishment (including a generous donation from a member and one from the David and June Gordon Memorial Trust). We expect to find out whether we have been successful in our SLF bid in June. If we are, it will be 'full steam ahead' to secure funding to improve the building. Meantime, Awards for All funding is allowing us to continue expanding our events to reach a wider audience and we are also grateful to Fyvie Coop for donating refreshments for some of our events.

Thank you to the Church of Scotland for allowing us to use the building in the meantime. If you want to be sure to know about events, please become a member of the hub.



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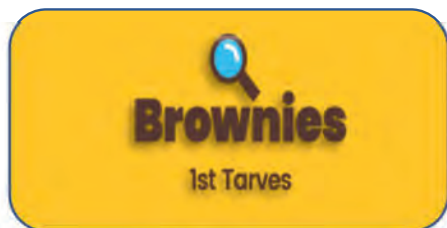
See our Facebook page for daily specials and occasional opening times

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Tarves Brownies had lots to celebrate recently! We were delighted to present Freya with her young leader award and are very grateful for all the time and effort she offers to our unit. Ruby, Beth and Blair achieved their Gold award: the highest award possible for a Brownie – well done girls, amazing effort. Special mention to Blair who

is our first Brownie to achieve all the Brownie interest badges.



We've been making the most of the lovely weather and light evenings by getting out and about: learning about the countryside code, practicing our map reading skills, cooking sausages and doing a village litter pick as part of World Environment Day.

We celebrated 80 years of VE day by finding out how Brownies helped during the war effort collecting cotton reels (which were used to pass on secret messages!), rolling bandages and keeping spirits up in the bomb shelters. We were delighted to receive a letter from Bombardier Tom Jones aged 103 and very interested to learn first hand what life was like for those on the front line and the relief and celebrations on returning home after VJ day. The girls then spent the evening doing some typical Brownie activities from 1940s.

As part of Mental Health Awareness week we enjoyed an evening understanding how powerful music is to lift our mood and the difference a smile and a kind word can make to brighten someone's day. We followed up with a great night of Yoga with Kristy from 'YogawithKristy'. We are looking forward to joining groups from all over Gordon county later this month for an all section Race Around the World themed day in Ellon.

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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# Barthol Chapel School

**Head Teacher: Mrs Gillian Newlands**

St Katherines, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, AB51 8TD

01651 267440

[bartholchapel.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:bartholchapel.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

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[Twitter: @BartholChapSch](https://twitter.com/BartholChapSch)



What a glorious term we have had with the weather. It has again been a busy term with lots more to accomplish before the summer holidays. Our pupils have again been developing their skills for learning life and work by leading their learning with an Open Afternoon during World Book Day and a Community Café to celebrate VE Day.

## World Book Day



As always, we have aligned our learning to the 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". Our Global Goal of the month was Global Goal 4 – Quality Education. We linked this to our World Book Day so our parents and carers could share what we had been learning about in our Play Journey which is one of our Priorities in our School Improvement Plan.



Our pupils again led the organisation of the afternoon, designed the play/discovery areas, World Book Day stations and their Business Brain Stalls for the afternoon showing their Leadership qualities such as Teamwork, Creativity and Problem Solving all linked to our Learning, Life and Work skills.



Pupils were asked their views as linked The United Nations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Articles 12 & 13 about what they would like to improve their experience in play or as we call it 'Discovery Time'. From the pupil views we have invested in items that they have asked for such as a



marble run, more items for the water play area, sand, kinetic sand, magnets and magnet construction sets.

These will develop skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, co-operative play, memory, creativity, emotional regulation, wellbeing, language and communication.



## Community Café & VE Celebrations

We had an absolutely amazing turn out for our very first Community Café. Our pupils wanted to continue their journey on using their business brains and set up a café for the community to enjoy. As part of this they felt it would be appropriate to also celebrate VE Day.







This was linked to Articles 29 & 31 in the UNCRC. Our learners again developed their leadership and creativity skills by organising and leading the café. Pupils successfully made home bakes, decorated plant pots and planted seeds to sell and showcased their singing and singing in Makaton. It was fantastic to see such a fantastic community turn out and we want to say a huge thank



you to all those who came along to support our school. From all their hard work the pupils managed to raise £337.64. Our pupils will now get to discuss and decide on what the money will be spent on.



Congratulations to both our Teams who took part in the Rotary Quiz at Meldrum Academy. Our pupils did a fantastic job representing Barthol Chapel and we are all so very proud of them!

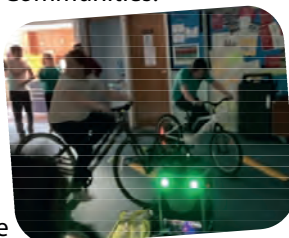


Congratulations also to the winning school, Pitmedden who went on to represent our Cluster in the regional finals!

### Sustrans Pedal Cinema

Our Pupils had a brilliant afternoon learning about creating energy and energy transfer from Mary from the Sustrans Team. This linked to our Global Goals 3 & 11, Good Health and Well-Being and Sustainable cities and Communities.

Pupils had to cycle the bikes in order to create the energy needed for the cinema to work. A great way to also stay fit, songs were also able to be played from cycling the bike so others could dance along to the music we



were generating. Linking to our UNCRC Articles 24 & 31.

### 'Fae Heed te Tae'

Our Pupils views (UNCRC Article 12) have again been taken for their latest Context for Learning when studying 'Fae Heed te Tae'. Pupils wanted to learn about how does the brain work? How do we see different colours and others don't? Why do germs infect your body? Why are veins blue but carry red blood? How does the heart pump? How does the body work?

The Context for Learning links to our Global Goal 3 Good Health and Well-being and also Article 24 of the UNCRC. We have also had the opportunity





to talk to several people in our community about the human body, differences and their experiences. Thank you to Susanna Richard & her guide dog Jack, who discussed visual impairment and the importance of guide dogs, Laura O'Donnell for her expertise in the dental field and Rachel,

Rosie & Archie Innes who let the pupils spend time with a baby and discuss how their needs are similar and different to older children.

### Rights Respecting Schools



As a school we are currently working on achieving our accreditation at Bronze and then Silver Level for Rights Respecting Schools. Part of this is to inform the whole school community that we are working on RRSA (Article – Everyone must know Children's rights).

The Rights Respecting Leadership Group as school is made up of a mixture of pupils from P1-7. The pupils in this groups have made a PowerPoint presentation to discuss how the convention works (Articles 43-45) which they have shared at our Open afternoon, our Community Café and at Assembly.



### 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. On average we are receiving approximately £75 every three months!



### Indoor Bowling – June update

The indoor bowling held in the Youth Hall has stopped until September, so watch for a further update in the September TBC.

John Dickson 01651 851317



## **Cybersecurity Handy Hints**

### **Staying Safe Online: Protecting Yourself from Scams and Cyber Threats**

We are sharing some practical steps to help keep your personal information and accounts safe. Please take a few moments to review these tips and share them with others.

#### **1. Recognising Suspicious Emails**

- Check the sender's email address – fraudulent emails often come from addresses that look similar to legitimate ones but have small differences (e.g., '@bt-support.com' instead of '@bt.com').
- Beware of urgent requests – scammers often pressure you to act quickly, such as buying gift cards or sending personal information.
- Look for poor spelling & grammar – many phishing emails contain errors that genuine companies would not make.
- Do not click suspicious links or attachments – These can install malware or steal your login details.
- Verify unusual requests – if you receive an email from someone you know asking for money or personal details, call them directly to confirm.

#### **2. Strengthening Your Security**

- Use strong passwords – a good password is at least 12 characters long and includes a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols. Avoid using obvious words (e.g., 'password123').
- Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) – this adds an extra layer of security when logging into accounts by requiring a second step (e.g., a text message code).
- Keep your software updated – ensure your computer, phone, and apps are regularly updated to fix security vulnerabilities.
- Use secure Wi-Fi – avoid logging into sensitive accounts on public Wi-Fi without using a VPN (Virtual Private Network).
- Backup important data – store important documents and files securely, either using an encrypted USB drive or a trusted cloud service.

#### **3. What to Do If You Receive a Scam Email**

- Do not reply or engage with the email.
- Do not click on links or open attachments.
- Report the scam email by forwarding it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) (UK Government's National Cyber Security Centre).
- Mark the email as spam in your inbox to prevent future messages.

#### **4. Protecting Personal Data**

- Be cautious when sharing personal information – only share details with trusted individuals and organisations.



- **Dispose of old devices securely** If you replace your phone or computer, ensure all data is wiped before selling, donating, or recycling it.

### 5. Where to Get Help

- If you think you may have been the victim of cyber fraud or cyber-crime, you should report it to **Police Scotland (Call 101)**
- Visit [www.cyberaware.gov.uk](http://www.cyberaware.gov.uk) for more safety tips.
- By staying alert and following these simple security measures, we can protect ourselves and our contacts from cyber threats.

## **TARVES PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Term 4 is in full swing at Tarves Primary School.

The children had a successful Sports Day on Friday, when the sun shone, and the children enjoyed the opportunity to compete with their classmates in a variety of flat races.



We are looking forward to welcoming our new Primary 1s into school for exciting transition events and our Primary 7s are off on their Residential trip next week with the children from Barthol Chapel before their visit days at Meldrum Academy.

We are also excited to welcome the parents of P2/3 and P6 into school this term for an opportunity for the children to share their learning and we will finish the term with our whole school show in the Melvin Hall.

It has been wonderful to get to know the children and their families since I started at Tarves in January and I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to lead such a vibrant group of children in their learning and be part of a dedicated team.

We look forward to exploring exciting learning opportunities for all both in school and in the wider community.

**Mrs Dlugonski**  
Head Teacher





# TOLQUHON GALLERY



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## Tariffs, trump, trade, terror !!!!!

But for the Formartine Fairtrade group—it is business as usual –and here's why!



Crazy times we live in and it is so hard to understand what is going on.

Yet, all of us know what trade means. And most of us, since swapping football cards in the school playground know what trading fairly means and the outcomes when there is bullying and no fair deals.

As we can see in our world events, bullying isn't confined to the playground and those in power can bully and cheat –and it seems often do!

Much is said about free trade and tariffs. Fairtrade has a different emphasis. Fairtrade works to ensure that those who produce goods in poorer countries are not given a poor deal. In other words—no bullying at the expense of the weaker and a fair, level playing field for all.

Trade tariffs are taxes on imported goods, while Fair Trade focuses on ethical and equitable trading practices, such as fair prices and working conditions along with good social and environmental standards for producers.

Last month, Scotland renewed its status as a Fairtrade Nation, first achieved in 2013. At a recent debate in the Scottish Parliament, Angus Robertson, External Affairs Secretary, made the following points...

"Being a Fairtrade Nation is about more than just a title; it reflects our values as a country that champions ethical trade, supports producers in the Global South, and takes real action on poverty and inequality."

"As good global citizens, we remain dedicated to raising awareness, driving change, and ensuring Fairtrade remains at the heart of Scotland's global outlook."

So, it is good to know that despite the current trade chaos and rising prices, as a nation we still value the principle of a fair wage for fair work.





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Thank-you to Udney Boys Brigade for helping create our Easter Garden display in Tarves and to everyone who contributed and added to the displays both outside and in Formartine Parish Church (Tarves Kirk). Special mention to Tarves Brownies, Udney Brownies, Udney Guides, The Hut Youth Project



and pupils from Barthol Chapel Primary School. We hope that you found time to admire them and reflect on the love and hope in our world.

Our Interactive Walk-through Holy Week Experience' for schools was incredibly successful; 3 Kirks, 163 young people and an amazing team of volunteers. The event allowed us to connect with local schools, engage with young people, welcome them into the church buildings, and share the amazing Easter story, whilst taking part in fun interactive activities and learning. We were delighted with the support and positive feedback received.

This is a busy and challenging term for many of our young people with several having sat exams in May and those in P7 facing transition to the academy. We are delighted that our 'study support kits' were so well received and are grateful to Coop Pitmedden for their generous donations for this project. We are proud to be running transition support sessions for Tarves and Barthol Chapel Primary 7s: fun sessions with a variety of activities to discuss feelings, answering questions, provide practical coping strategies, looking at support networks available and encouraging them to look at change as an opportunity.

Barthol Chapel Youth Café in Barthol Chapel Hub (2nd Wednesday of the month 3.30 – 5.30pm for those in P6 and older) continues to be well attended; providing a warm, safe space for young people to hang out with their friends and enjoy sociable activities such as table tennis, pool, Wii and crafts. We welcome volunteers of all ages – and sign off on Duke of Edinburgh and Saltire Awards specifically to celebrate our young volunteers. Our Youth Club continues to run on the last Friday of the month 7-9pm in Barthol Chapel Primary school with two hours of games and activities.

Plans are under way for our Summer Holiday Club and we look forward to welcoming families every Tuesday morning 10-11.30 throughout the summer holiday (July 8<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>) in Pitmedden, Tarves and Methlick for free, fun, sociable sessions of songs, games and activities for pre and primary school age. Follow us on social media for more information or email [carolinefyp@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefyp@outlook.com). We are also offering the opportunity for young people of academy age to develop their teamwork and leadership skills and gain an accredited Dynamic Youth Award by helping with these sessions (minimum of three over the summer). Please register interest by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Fancy a fun night out? After last year's sellout success, we're delighted to be hosting another night of Live Music with a fun bingo twist for all the family at The Aberdeen Arms in Tarves on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June with local band The Late Breakers: raising vital funds for the project. Tickets £7.50 adult, £5 child from [carolinefyp@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefyp@outlook.com). Can't join us? Maybe you would like to donate to the raffle or buy some tickets to show your support

😊 Follow us on Facebook: Formartine Youth Project  
and Instagram: formartineyouthproject for regular updates.





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# THE HUT

## TARVES YOUTH PROJECT

In May 2025, The Hut Youth Project celebrated 27 years of creating a fun, safe supportive space for the youth of our community and the Meldrum Academy catchment area. We run two sessions; currently Monday 7-9 for S1-S6 pupils and

Thursdays 6:30-8:30 for Primary 7, with both sessions being run by volunteers.

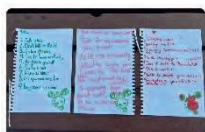
Since beginning the Primary 7 sessions on a Thursday we have had a very good turn-out each week. We have also been doing some work with this current P7 group aimed at supporting them in their transition to S1 after summer.



This success led to us inviting the current Primary 6 moving into Primary 7 to come for a taster session 6:30-8:30pm on Thursday 29th May. Parents will then receive a membership form via the school email system and asked to return this after the taster session and before the end of this term. Responses will allow us to gauge the numbers we hope will attend after the summer holidays.



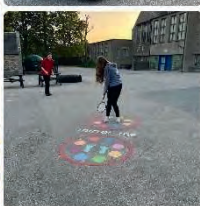
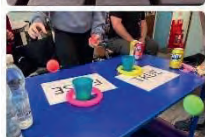
Other news - we have had some upgrade work done to the hut new flooring was installed in the Easter break and a few other alterations around the building. We will also be having the outside of The Hut treated and painted during the summer break.



The Tarves School summer fete is at the beginning of June and we will have our own tables outside The Hut, hoping to raise funds to continue to support our youth over months/year ahead.



We recently had our annual AGM and have now a full committee but are still actively looking for parents / volunteers to join our fundraising team. Please contact us if you are interested in getting involved.



We always feel fully supported by the community of Tarves and we would like to thank you all for your continued support and thank our current

volunteering team for their commitment to The Hut and the youth in this area.

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# Ythan Singers

What a wonderful year: September 2024 – June 2025

The Ythan Singers have had a wonderful year with three main concerts and a make-over of our uniform! Our Christmas Concert, "Joy to the World", raised £1000 for Crossreach and our "Spring Fling" concert raised £1000 for Ellon Civic Pride. Our final concert "May Music Extravaganza" on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Aberdeen Music Hall, featured Emeli Sande. The programme, which was full of exciting music, combined several local choirs and music groups. The concert opened with "Sway" which also featured Glen and Jennifer Strachan dancing to the Latin American rhythm, followed by all the ladies of all the choirs "Flying Free".



Of course, the star of the concert was Emeli herself singing "Next to Me" and "Clown". We were also joined on stage by local singer, Iain Milne, from Inverurie, who has recently been singing with Zurich Opera. Morag's children group "Musical Midgies" and her two piano students, James Adam and Matthew McClelland, also stole the show with their singing and playing. We were all thrilled to accompany Emeli in her song "Roots" which was the final item of the concert. The concert was conducted by our Musical Director, Morag Simpson. The Master of Ceremonies was Gordon Hay and our accompanist was Rachel Mackison.

We have one final concert this session on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June in Inverkeithny Church. Monies raised will go to the Inverkeithny Kirk Preservation Trust.

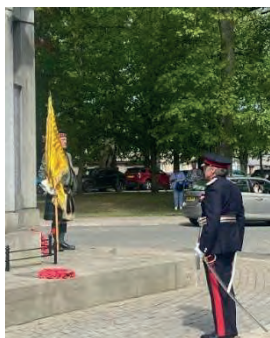
We are now closing for the summer but did you know that singing is so good for your well-being. We are an Ellon-based 4-part choir (SATB) with members coming from Ellon, Tarves, & surrounding districts. Rehearsals are on Mondays 7.30-9.30pm, Ellon Parish Kirk Centre, (next door to Greens). We start again in September, so why not come along and have fun singing with us. New members are always welcome - all you need to bring is a pencil and your voice! Check out our website and Facebook page for start dates: [www.ythansingers.co.uk](http://www.ythansingers.co.uk) or Facebook [@ythansingers](https://www.facebook.com/ythansingers) or contact us by email at [ythansingers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ythansingers@yahoo.co.uk)  
We look forward to welcoming you.





# Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy

## VE Day 80 Commemorations



I had the honour of laying a wreath at the war memorial in Huntly to commemorate VE80 in the presence of veterans of The Gordon Highlanders. The ceremony remembered those who served, sacrificed and secured peace. In Rhynie, Mrs Dilys Jordan, a member of Churchill's secretarial staff and Rhynie's oldest resident, laid a wreath at Rhynie War Memorial on



her 98th birthday and on the 80th anniversary of VE Day in memory of The Gordon Highlanders and the 51st (Highland) Division, with which her father served. Also pictured are Gordon Highlander veterans with Aberdeen Gordon Highlanders Association Chairman Major Grenville Irvine-Fortescue MBE DL in front of the Gordon Highlander Memorial at the Castlegate, Aberdeen.

## Cadet Force Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle



I recently had the great pleasure of attending the Cadet Force Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle. The wonderful performance involved Cadet pipers, drummers and musicians from all parts of the country. Also enjoying the evening were Judy Whyte, Provost of Aberdeenshire and Ron McKail, Deputy Provost of Aberdeenshire.

### SSAFA Big Brew

I had the pleasure of attending the SSAFA

Big Brew at Bridge of Don Barracks, Aberdeen where I heard first hand more about the remarkable work the charity is doing in Grampian to support armed forces veterans.



## Act of Remembrance

Fiona Kennedy OBE DL represented the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy at a very poignant service in Johnston Gardens, commemorating the men who lost their lives in the North Sea on the 1st April 2009 in a helicopter crash. They had been returning from BP's Miller oil platform when their helicopter crashed about 11 miles northeast of Peterhead. Eight of the victims came from



the Northeast of Scotland, seven from Liverpool, Norfolk and Worcestershire and one from Latvia. All 14 passengers and two crew lost their lives in when the Bond Super Puma came down off Peterhead.

### Anniversaries, Birthdays and Honours

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. Myself, or one of my Deputies are always delighted to visit on the day of special milestones, 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup> or 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries and 100<sup>th</sup> and 105<sup>th</sup> birthdays and present a card and personal congratulations.

Please do look at our web site for further information:

[www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk](http://www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk) or contact us on

[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

### Summer Tennis in Tarves

I'm writing this as spring lobs us into summer, and the tennis season truly begins in earnest. So far, we've only had two Thursday evening sessions at the Tarves court, but plans are in motion to serve up a summer packed with smashes and rallies aplenty.

The AGM on 6 March at the Aberdeen Arms was a hit, with fresh faces joining our growing membership. Special thanks go to local publican Colin Fowlie for his continued support and sponsorship as the club develops.

As ever, new members are welcome, as are those wishing to borrow the net for a game at any time.

There is a village tennis WhatsApp group open to all. It's ideal for organising games when players are short and is helping build links across the village. We've even had some international matches, with players from Barthol Chapel and Methlick pitting themselves against 'Tarvesarian' locals.

If you'd like to join the WhatsApp group or find out more about borrowing the net, please give me a buzz on 07921 863682 or knock on the door at 2 Pringle Avenue. Alternatively, feel free to come along on Thursday evenings when we'll be playing on the court. All are welcome.



John Sleight, Vice President, Tarves Tennis Club.



# Haddo Musical Theatre School

---

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!).

Inspired by the beloved Roald Dahl story and packed with unforgettable songs, Matilda Jr follows one extraordinary little girl who proves that even when you're small, you can do revoltingly big things. Expect bold choreography, powerful performances, and plenty of Matilda's trademark mischief.

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 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> 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



**HADDO MUSICAL  
THEATRE SCHOOL**  
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ROALD DAHL

# Matilda

THE MUSICAL JR.

## Haddo Hall

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Music & Lyrics  
**TIM MINCHIN**

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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 19.00  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 14.00\*  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 19.00  
\*(Relaxed Performance)

Directed by Graham Wilson  
Choreography by Amelia Osborne  
Musical Director Toto Jones  
Assistant Director Ava McWhinnie

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**For Tickets visit [ticketsource.co.uk/haddo-musical-theatre-school](https://ticketsource.co.uk/haddo-musical-theatre-school)**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International  
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[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)







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## Tarves Folk Club

The 10th (and possibly last!) Tarves Rant was held on Saturday 5th May and was a great success. The free session in the Heritage Centre on Saturday afternoon was well attended, despite the hard seats in the schoolroom, and we are very grateful to the Heritage Centre for allowing us to sing and play music there. The free session in the Aberdeen Arms was jam packed

Saturday evening was our Concert and what a great line-up of guests we had. The Ythan Fiddlers got everyone's feet tapping to well-known tunes and Sir-Reel Clarks amazed us with their melodeon and Guitar playing and singing. They were ideal warm ups to the brilliant Ian Bruce and Kev Green who entertained us with a variety of songs, some well-known and some new compositions Ian had written, accompanied by stories for each one. Feedback from the audience was very positive.

The Club would like to thank Colin and the Aberdeen Arms Hotel for their continued support of the Rant and of the Club throughout the year.

The Folk Club continues to meet on the last Friday of every month in the Aberdeen Arms from 8.30pm till 11ish and always welcome all singers, musicians and listeners, so come along and join the fun!

**John Dickson 01651 851317**



### Volunteering with The Tarves Heritage Project

I moved to Tarves around three and a half years ago from Aberdeen, having grown up in Fraserburgh. I was working at Mintlaw Academy as a Social Subjects teacher and my partner worked from home, so the move made sense. A big relocation is one thing, but what I did not

anticipate was the meaningful friendships and opportunities that would result from this. This is the first home I have owned, and I felt like I struck gold with Tarves and being part of the Heritage Project. I never felt like an outsider and was welcomed unquestionably. This had afforded me a closer connection to the village, and I have met so many lovely and interesting people. Tarves is a genuine community where folks love to see the village flourish and friendship is offered freely. I could not have asked for more. I adore the uniqueness of rural Aberdeenshire, with its rich culture and heritage and the opportunity to learn more about my adopted home and give back in some way was wonderful.

From the start, I have been made to feel valued and was encouraged to use my skills as a teacher in any way that might benefit the Heritage Project, which has given me an enormous sense of purpose. The Heritage Project is a truly valuable resource and in lots of ways is like a community hub. I've had the opportunity to create resources, participate in school visits, help with events, as well as finding out a great deal about the history of the village/Parish, and of course, facing the great public. Flinging in the occasional fine piece also helps!

**Charley Buchan**







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## News from the Square

What glorious weather we have been having and I do hope that there's more to come.

You may have noticed I'm not in my usual stance but I'm away to get spruced up for the summer, so I will be back hopefully by the time you read this.

The village may not look as colourful as normal this summer as Aberdeenshire Council have decided they are not giving out any more plants so we are having to buy our own. We are very grateful to have received a grant from Ellon Rotary which will help us buy plants etc but not so many as we would have had in the past. However, we will do our

best to make the square look nice for locals and visitors alike.

We are still on the lookout for someone to take over as my current 'worker' is definitely retiring once the summer bedding has finished flowering and removed. So if you feel able to take this on and would like more information on what is involved, please get in touch on 01651 851040. Otherwise there will be no flowers in the Village.

## *The Tarves Plooman*

### Tarves Graveyard Volunteer Group

The weather so far has been much more favourable than last year and our volunteers spent a few days raking up grass cuttings. Our thanks to them and all who helped by transporting the bags of cuttings to the tip in Ellon. It was good to see their efforts applauded in a social media post.



Our plan going forward is to improve the unedged paths, continue weeding around the gravestones and, of course, keep up with the grass raking. We have also agreed to take over the flower containers outside the cemetery and are delighted to have been awarded a grant by Ellon Rotary to help us with our efforts.

If you would like to help with the voluntary effort and feel the benefit of companionship working in the open air and making a difference in your community, please contact



**Hilda Bruce on 07711 358201 or Moira Minty on 07800 953127.**

Alternatively, if you would like to make a donation to help with materials and tools, we have a donation tin courtesy of the Tarves Pharmacy. Thank you.





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The background work of the whole THP committee carries on almost invisibly regardless of season, weather and other commitments.

The real workers meet on a Monday and Thursday, setting up new displays, cataloguing and generally being hands on.

All essential work. Our centrepiece Victorian classroom has been well used in the last twelve months thanks to Catherine for communicating through web sites and hosting whole schools! Those who attend to the wild flowers on the glebe path, do research, quietly keep an eye on the fuel tank, sweep up leaves or maintain the building or equipment - you are not forgotten. That is essential work too.

We have had a large enough pool of volunteers so that there has been a five-week break between 'duties'. This is not too onerous, with a bit of flexibility if cover for 'absence' is required. Everyone brings their own unique strengths and interests to volunteering and, if we could, I would like to share a rota with any of you - if it were a busy day, one would see a different style of helping the public, and if it were quiet, get to know each other better.

Summer opening hours are an important regular commitment for visitors from near or afar but individual events such as Doors Open or the Scarecrow competition are a great way to interact with locals. Winter talks have been well attended even if weather worries limit the number we can offer.

Thanks to all of you helping the Heritage communicate with the public. Remember that our mission is something that should be passed on - encourage participation by new faces. We shouldn't ask too much of anybody, but it is fine to ask if they are interested.

Why don't you come along and introduce yourself on our opening days, Thurs, Fri and Sunday from 1 – 4pm, or drop us an email at [tarvesheritage@outlook.com](mailto:tarvesheritage@outlook.com) asking how you can help with the Centre's work.

**Lindsay J Mathewson**

Chair of Tarves Heritage Project

## Tarves Heritage Project 100+ Club

Congratulations to our winners in the first draw of the season 2025-26

Draw 1 on Thursday 8th May 2025. Thank you for your support.

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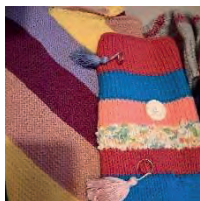
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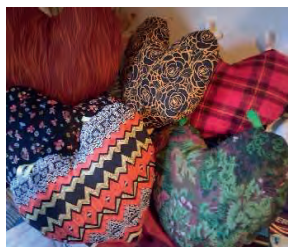
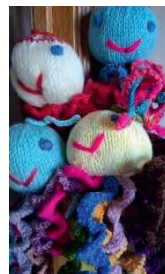
# Knitting and sewing news



It's never too early to knit blankets, woolly hats and neck-warmers and recent donations of all of these were recently delivered to the Cyrenians at their Torry warehouse. The staff there didn't think it was strange at all, in fact, they welcomed weather/temperature specific knitting for 6 months ahead. This knitting is also shared with Street Friends another Aberdeen organisation who Monday until Saturday, supply a choice of hot drinks, soup and sandwiches from a trolley, to those who are on the streets of the city.

AberNecessities in Dyce have had a number of very large bags of cardigans, jumpers, hat/scarf sets, bright blankets, octopuses and of course, the ever-welcome teddies. You can access their website to see what they do for children and for any specific appeals to top up their warehouse stock.

The twiddle muffs and the curly octopuses are already well known in some Woodend wards, but recently, staff from Cornhill Hospital asked if they could have some for specialist wards in their hospital. A big thank you from these wards and patient's families.



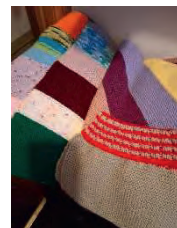
Friends of Anchor in ARI support patients in ARI's Anchor Unit in several ways. One popular item for post breast surgery patients is a heart shaped, polyester filled cushion and recently some of the young people from Formartine Youth Project helped to fill the hearts in this photo. They enjoyed what, and why they were doing this, and once the hearts were filled, they could see that the shape and softness would be a source of comfort to patients. Thank you to the young people at the FYP Youth Café

in Pitmedden for their help. If you would like a heart pattern, please contact me at [tbc.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:tbc.editor@btinternet.com) and I can give you a pattern and contact details for dropping them off at FoA.

We have had knitting donated by folk from across the City and Shire: Huntly / Peterhead/ Kintore and Aberdeen areas, many of these knitters have friends/relatives in this area and know that their knitting will be welcomed by a wide range of organisations and individuals.



Hanover Court Knitters meet in their lounge at 2pm each Tuesday. New knitters are always welcome, and if you have wool you no longer need, then the group would appreciate adding to their small stock. Your contact for Hanover knitting is Jessie Simpson 851958.



Thank you everyone for being such generous donors to all these organisations.

Ruth, On behalf of Formartine Parish Church





# STRUCTURAL INTEGRATION

## Rolfing

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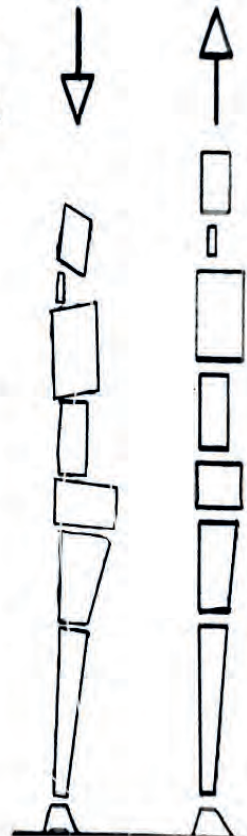
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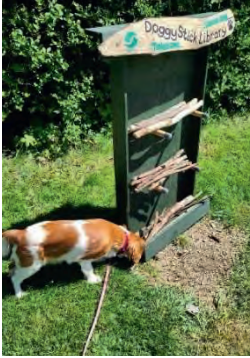
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# Udny Community Trust update



From new clubs to community grants; a new community space to a stick library for four-legged friends it's been a season of fresh ideas and growth at Udny Community Trust. Whether you're keen to get creative, lend a hand, or connect other people in your community, there's plenty going on at The Medan Centre. Here's what we've been up to in the last few months – and what's coming next!

Left: A happy customer at our new stick library.

Photo credit: Vikki Jannetta.

Udny Community Fund: Grants Awarded and Funding Opportunities

We're proud to have supported a range of local projects so far in 2025, awarding a total of £13,452 in grant funding to help bring wonderful ideas from the community to life. Projects funded in 2025 to date include:

- Udny Green Parent Council – Better Technology for Better Outcomes
- Pickleball Udny Green – Boccia
- Formartine Youth Project – Emotional Rollercoaster
- Pitmedden Tiny Tots – Tiny Tots Paperless System and Website
- Udny Climate Action – Swap Shop Start Up Costs
- Udny Station Pre School and Playgroup – IT in Learning

## Creative Connections: Hobby Club Launch

We've launched a new Hobby Club at The Medan Centre, offering a relaxed space for anyone wanting to pursue their hobby in a social environment. Bring your own project and materials and have a creative session in the company of others. You can share your hobby, see what others are doing and try new things with a bit of guidance from our enthusiastic volunteers! Hobby Club takes place fortnightly on Fridays, 3.30-5.00pm. Upcoming dates: 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June. For more information on the Hobby Club or any of our regular activities, please contact Teresa Constanza.

## Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for regular volunteers for some of our much-loved community activities. If you enjoy spending time with young families, you'd be a great fit for our Baby & Toddler Stay and Play group. If you're all about community and getting to know your neighbours, you'll love our friendly Open Doors sessions! We're also looking for leaders for our Long Walks – a great opportunity for those who love the outdoors and good company.

Scan the QR code with your mobile phone camera to apply, or come and speak to any member of the Trust team at The Medan Centre.




## Calling All Bookworms

We're gauging interest in starting a Book Club in Pitmedden.




Whether you're a fan of fiction, memoirs, or just enjoy a good natter about what you've been reading, everyone is welcome! If this sounds like your cup of tea, you're invited to a short meeting at The Medan Centre at 7pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June. We'll chat through ideas and hopefully get the pages turning!

Not long now... Udny Community Summer Fayre!  
Our Community Summer Fayre takes place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, from 11:00am – 3:00pm at The Medan Centre, 14 Oldmeldrum Road, Pitmedden. Come along for family fun, games, pony rides, a bouncy castle, community groups and crafters, local elected representatives, Aberdeen Science Centre and much more... We hope to see you there!




# WHAT'S ON at the Medan Centre

## ~ DAY-TO-DAY ~




### - UDNY COMMUNITY SHELF -

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### - CAFE 48 -


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**MONDAY - SATURDAY, 9.00am-3.00pm**  
Get cosy by the fire with free hot drink.  
Board games, books and blether included.

## ~ MONTHLY ~




### - CONVERSATION CAFE -

**SECOND MONDAY, 3.00-4.30pm**  
Conversations on various topics with a cuppa and a chat!




### - GUIDED LONG WALK -

**LAST THURSDAY, 10.30am-12.30pm**  
A 3-5 mile walk in the Udny area, often visiting a place of local interest.




### - UDNY REPAIR CAFE -

**THIRD MONDAY (exc. December), 6.00-8.00pm**  
Repair, don't replace. Bring along broken items for repair at our monthly repair cafe and learn some repair skills at the same time!




Udny Community Trust Company Ltd  
Cafe48




[udnycommunitytrust.org.uk](http://udnycommunitytrust.org.uk)

This schedule may be subject to change. Keep an eye on our social media and posters around the Medan Centre for up to date information.




### - BABY & TODDLER STAY & PLAY -

**MONDAY, 10am-12noon**  
Pop in for a cuppa while the kids play.




### - HEALTH WALK -

**TUESDAY, 10.00am**  
Meet at the front of Cafe48, everyone welcome. All welcome for a cuppa and a chat in the Quarry Room at 11am.




### - QUIET GAMES AFTERNOON -

**TUESDAY, 1.30-3.00pm**  
Join us for a game of Rummikub or perhaps dominos or cards!




### - OPEN DOORS -

**TUESDAY, 2.30-4.30pm**  
Pop in, games out, kettle on. Everyone welcome.



### - WAIST WATCHERS -

**THURSDAY, 9.15-9.45am**  
Run by local mums, a support group for those looking to lose weight or simply improve their health.



### - FISH VAN -

**FRIDAY, 2.30-2.45pm**  
Stephen from Peterhead Fish Company is here every Friday selling local fish.

## Contact Us

As always, we'd love to hear from you – please get in touch. With warm wishes,  
The Udny Community Trust Team

<p>Ruth Cluness <a href="mailto:manager@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk">manager@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk</a> 01651 843776    07436 811759</p>	<p>Teresa Constanza <a href="mailto:admin@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk">admin@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk</a> 01651 843776</p>
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Tarves & Barthol Chapel Newsletter : June - August 2025

40





# Free Summer Holiday Fun with Formartine Churches



Every Tuesday morning over the summer holidays.  
Everyone welcome. No need to book.

10 - 11.30am

8 <sup>th</sup> July	Methlick Kirk
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Tarves Youth Hall
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Pitmedden Kirk
29 <sup>th</sup> July	Methlick Kirk
05 <sup>th</sup> August	Tarves Youth Hall
12 <sup>th</sup> August	Pitmedden Kirk

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Formartine Youth Project



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**Edith McClelland dip.USWA WSCI AAS**

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# **MID-FORMARTINE GUILD**

Are hosting a  
**Strawberry Cream Tea**  
from 2pm -4pm on  
**Saturday 14 June in**  
**Pitmedden Kirk**

**All ages welcome**

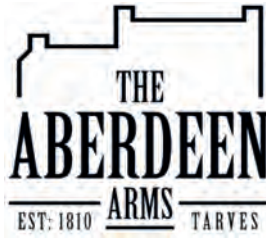
**Cost: £5**

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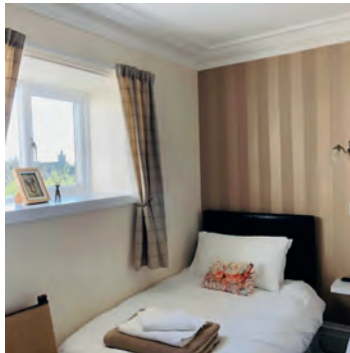


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**Sunday • Noon-8pm**



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**Eat      Drink      Stay**





# Tarves Bowling Club

---



Tarves Bowling Club opened for the 2025 season on Sat 12 April, with the hope of good weather and good bowling forecast over the coming months.

There has been a lot going on at the club over the winter months, the inside of the clubhouse has been totally refurbished and the green (the grass!) has seen continued maintenance which appears to be showing great reward early on in the season.

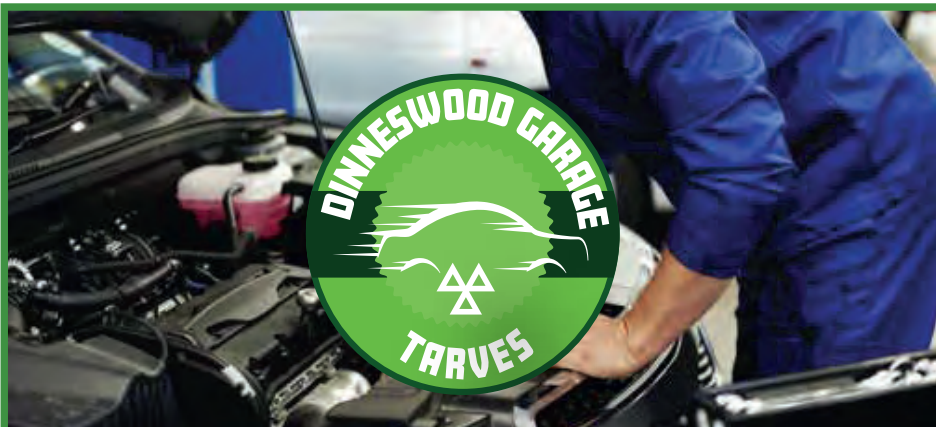
We have secured some sponsors through Neil Massie Decorating (07917 872722) and A1 Taxis Methlick (07909 231485) for new T-Shirts. We hope these new T-Shirts will bring some winning fortune throughout the season and our appreciation goes out to these sponsors.

Our membership has increased again this year as we welcome back some old faces as well as new.

As ever, we welcome anyone interested to come and give it go. Don't just stop and have a look from the road, come in past, ask some questions and have a game (maybe even a beer!). Monday nights are best, its where all members have started over the years. Come along for 6:45pm for 7pm start, all you will need is a pair of trainers, we will sort you out with a set of bowls.

Please keep a look out for our news on the "Tarves Bowling Club" Facebook page or get in touch with us by email on "[tarves.bowls@outlook.com](mailto:tarves.bowls@outlook.com)".





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## Keep this date for your diary

### 75<sup>th</sup> Tarves Flower Show - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August in the Melvin Hall



Hopefully if this fine weather continues flowers/ vegetables and fruit will be bumper crops this year, so why not put an entry into the show to celebrate your achievements. Maybe your talents may lie in a different direction, i.e. baking/home produce/sewing/knitting/floral art/hand crafts and not forgetting the children's section. All are most welcome.

Schedules for the Flower Show are available in the Spar shop, through where the magazines are on display. There is also a copy on the Tarves Community website page.

Now this is a heartfelt plea, anyone interested in volunteering the use of their time for the following:

- ✚ Thursday night – quite manual work setting up the tables and stands
- ✚ Friday night – setting up the tea tables
- ✚ Saturday morning – Admin work, Lunch provided
- ✚ Saturday afternoon – taking in admission monies, helping with the raffles, handing out money to the winners, serving teas
- ✚ After the show is finished – dismantling tables/stands/and stacking chairs in the storeroom.

I do realise that with work commitments everyone's time is precious, but even if you were to volunteer for all three days, your total time commitment would be 12/13 hours and you would have the satisfaction of knowing that your help had saved this community organised Flower Show for another year. Please give me a call. Thanking you in advance.



**Sheila Ewen, Chairperson**

Tel: 851766





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

A great way to meet up, make new friends and have

a blether for a suggested donation of just **£2 per adult.** All ages made very welcome.





# Mid – Formartine Guild

*“Whose we are and Whom we serve”*

We began our new Session with a lunch at the Redgarth, Oldmeldrum when we also took the opportunity to explore our theme for this year: Living Stones which is a part of the 3-year Guild strategy “Let us Build a House. These themes and strategies help us focus on the praise part of our meetings.

Then we had an evening of excellent entertainment from the Granite City Chorus which, after expenses, raised over £480, much of which will go to the various projects that the Guild is supporting as well as contributions to the upkeep of our 2 churches, Pitmedden and Tarves, which covers Barthol Chapel, Pitmedden, Tarves and Udney areas.

One of the projects this year is far reaching and ambitious aiming to provide every pre-school child in Scotland with a “Bible for Bairns”. We will be contributing to this and are having a speaker coming to talk to us on this very worthwhile project on 4 September in Pitmedden Kirk

We are having another fund-raiser on 14 June when we are holding a Strawberry Cream Afternoon Tea in Pitmedden Kirk from 2pm – 4pm and the cost will be £5.00. Under 5’s will be free.

We appreciate all the support given to our fund raisers and particularly thank all who helped us make such a fantastic total at our recent musical event.

Our other meetings for this session are as follows:

- Thursday 5 June - a talk on “The Footsteps of St Paul” by Mrs Patricia Dunn
- Thursday 3 July – a talk on Stella Maris with Pam Millar
- Thursday 7 August – our speaker will be our own Alison Hepburn on the “Ups and Downs of Life”.

These meetings will be held in Tarves Kirk at 7pm and you will all be made very welcome. There’s always a cup of tea or coffee and often home baking so please come and join us.

Further information on the Guild and meetings can be had from Jean 891081 or Doreen 851040.



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## Presents... Upcoming events!



Our 2025 season continues on **Sunday 29 June** when **Ryan Corbett** brings us classical music old and new arranged for accordion. Ryan will be joined by **Neil Birse, piano, and Matthew Kilner, saxophone**, who return to Haddo's programme after their super concert at the Cowdray Hall last year.

On **Sunday 24 August**, Hollywood glam and glitz come to Haddo! **Nova Quartet** and friends from **Orchestra Nova** entertain with an evening of iconic movie music including everybody's favourite singalong, *The Sound of Music*!



Enjoy **informal music** in the Courtyard at Haddo on the **first Sunday of every month** from now to 5 October, from pipes and fiddles, to guitar, singers and a flute choir. Presented in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland

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# TBC

Tarves and Barthol Chapel  
Quarterly Newsletter

### **Final article and advertising dates for 2025 newsletters**

<b>2025 TBC editions</b>	<b>Chaser dates</b>	<b>Final copy date</b>
September	6 + 13 August	Monday 18 August
December	5 + 12 November	Monday 17 November

Please ensure all articles/photographs and adverts have your contact details attached and 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.

All adverts will be in colour, black and white welcome too - price is the same for all; thank you for using this newsletter to advertise your business/services.

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