

PITMEDDEN NEWS



ISSUE 352
SPRING 2024

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Welcome to the spring edition of Pitmedden News – our round up of news and goings on from across the parish.

The **Pitmedden News gang** would like to say a very big thank you to Bob Bamlett who has been part of the team since he were knee high to a wheelbarrow and is now stepping down. **Thank you Bob for all your contributions to PNews** over the years and for your part in keeping Pitmedden's flowerbeds, tubs and borders looking so pristine.

As ever, we'd love to hear from you if you have news to share. **Our next issue will be out in the summer.**

Happy reading,

The Editor

cover photo, courtesy of Russell Craig

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PITMEDDEN NEWS - THE VOICE OF UDNY

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The newsletter is also available online at <https://pitmedden.wordpress.com>



You can contact our editor, **Jeannie Price** on **842065** or email at **pitmeddennews@hotmail.com**

Provisional deadline for next issue 10th May 2024

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PREPARING FOR PANTO

No sooner does the curtain fall on another side splitting family pantomime than it's time to begin planning for the next one.

Following the success of **"Beauty and the Beast"** in December 2023, **Pitmedden and Udney Panto Group** is holding an open meeting next month for anyone interested in being part of this year's production.



There are opportunities to get involved on stage, back stage and front of house.

No previous experience is required but there is an expectation that cast and crew will attend the majority of Monday night rehearsals, commit to learning lines and work as a team to bring the group's three performances to the stage in December.

Any children involved must be ten years old and over and accompanied to all rehearsals by an adult/carer.

The open meeting will be in the back hall of the **Dr Spence Memorial Hall** on **Sunday April 21st at 2pm.**



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Thankyou to everyone who supported our Gingerbread village displays at Christmas. I hope you found time to see them and agree that they looked amazing. Special mention to **Udny Boys Brigade, Udny Guides, Pitmedden Rainbows, Udny Brownies, Ricky Mackie Builders, Pitmedden Tiny Tots** and **Udny Primary School Eco Group**, for their fantastic contributions to the Pitmedden display.

Plans are well under way for our Easter activities with an Interactive Walk-Through Holy Week experience for the schools and Easter Garden display at Pitmedden church & Udny Green memorial. We invite the community to get creative and contribute – adding crafted flowers to make it even bigger and better than last year. Creations must be weather proof and can be added any time from 18th March - 14th April.

Big Shout out and thankyou to Sean Swindells who is running the **London Marathon** this April and has kindly offered to raise funds to support Formartine Youth Project. Money raised will go to Pitmedden Youth Café, Methlick Youth Café, Tarves Lunch Club, Barthol Chapel Youth Group, programmes of targeted support in the local primary schools, study support bags for those sitting exams and our popular summer holiday club. Details of how to donate will be available shortly. Please follow us on social media or contact carolinefyp@outlook.com for more information. Please give generously to support young people and families here in our local community.



Now in its second year Pitmedden Youth Café goes from strength to strength and we are delighted to regularly welcome almost 50 young people (P6 and older) on a Thursday afternoon 3.15 – 5.15pm: offering a warm and safe space to hang out with friends and enjoy sociable activities such as table tennis, pool, table football, air hockey, arts and crafts and snacks for free! We are delighted to have an enthusiastic team of young volunteers; Congratulations and thank you to Maisy for completing six months of volunteering with us as part of her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh and Charlie for completing 25 hours towards his Saltire Award which recognises and celebrates young volunteers.



Some of the youth café team in their smart new hoodies thanks to generous funding received from Udney Community Trust.

Our projects and activities can't happen without the commitment of amazing individuals who selflessly give their time to support the young people in our community and really make a difference. If you would like to know more about any of the projects mentioned or might be interested and available to give a couple of hours a week, month or just ad-hoc, please consider getting in touch: carolinefyp@outlook.com

Follow us on Facebook: Formartine Youth Project or Instagram: [formartineyouthproject](https://www.instagram.com/formartineyouthproject) for regular updates.

ON THE FLIP SIDE ...

Udney Boys Brigade annual pancake morning will take place in the Dr Spence Memorial Hall on Saturday March 16th from 10am – 12 noon. **Don't miss it!**

You are invited to get creative and add to our
Community Easter Gardens
at Udny Green, Pitmedden, Tarves & Methlick Kirks
18th March - 14th April



Finger knitting



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Pipe cleaner creations



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THREADS AND YARNS - LOCAL CRAFT GROUP

Did you know that a local craft group, Threads & Yarns, meets every two weeks on a Wednesday evening from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Dr Spence Memorial Hall in Udney Green? It is a small group of people, open to adults and young persons if accompanied by an adult, who enjoy catching up while working on their projects or occasionally participating in a group project. Last month, we all made Japanese knot bags, which was a great success for everyone, either hand sewing or using a sewing machine.

The group provides regular support to community projects. Last year, we collaborated with Udney Community Trust to assist in various children's workshops. We also participated in the September Fast Fashion Show with Udney Community Trust, a schoolteacher from Meldrum Academy, Formartine Fairtrade and Udney Climate Action. Additionally, we prepared 200 stockings for the Udney Community Trust to distribute gifts to children at their Santa event during Christmas.

We have upcoming community events that we'll be assisting with. These include a Valentine-themed craft session at Udney Community Trust later this month, a craft workshop and fashion show on September 13th, a Halloween workshop, and more.

Bring your dressmaking, embroidery, knitting, crocheting, or beadwork and join us over tea and coffee.



We're sure you'll enjoy it, meet with like-minded crafters, and have an opportunity to learn more skills and meet new friends. We can't wait to see what you create!

Contact us on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PitmeddenSewing>

Email: UdneyThreadsandYarns@gmail.com



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UDNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

We want to say a heartfelt goodbye to Gina. Gina was the glue that held our Community Council together for so long and we will miss her positivity and her enthusiasm. She was such a great team player. Gina we wish you all the best in the next chapter of your journey - please don't be a stranger. We are now delighted to welcome Sue Hebenton as the new Chair of Udney Community Council. You will often see Sue walking around Pitmedden Village with her overly friendly Beagle – Penny. Don't be shy, feel free to speak to Sue about the Community Council.

We were lucky to have the Pitmedden Christmas lights put up this year. A special thank you goes to Paul Monahan and the Udney Community Trust for their support in making this happen. There was a little confusion as to when the village lights were going to be switched on and if there was going to be an event to mark the occasion. It is anticipated going forward that a coordinated effort is made to switch on the Pitmedden Christmas lights at the same time as the Udney Community Trust Community Christmas Fayre (the last Saturday in November). As a Community Council we will try and make this a reality.

We got through the Christmas period with a lot of local support and help. Firstly, thank you to the Udney Resilience Group and the Udney Community Trust who worked very hard in keeping us safe during the storms. An extended thank you has to go out to the local community as we know everyone pulls together and helps each other. What an amazing community we have.

We are delighted to report that the Bronie Bridge and Cairnseat repairs have been carried out. Sadly there continue to be issues with bus stops within the village and where buses do / do not stop. As a Community Council we do have a voice in this matter and we try to voice the concerns of residents and community groups.

We welcome members of the community to get in touch with us and we help where we can. The local Councillors attend our Community Council meetings and often leave the meeting with actions to investigate local issues. Two such issues at the last meeting included an issue with trees located on council property and a very major issue of a local road flooding with potholes. It is worth you getting in touch with the Community Council to see if we can help.

We are a very small but friendly team and we would dearly love some of you to join us. If you want a voice in the community, if you have determination and drive to see good things happen in the community then the Community Council is perfect for you. If you'd simply just like to get a flavour for what goes on within the Community Council then pop along to one of our hybrid meetings which are all held in the Medan Centre Quarry Room, 7.30pm, every 3rd Wednesday of each month. You can also join in with Teams.

If you'd like to find out more please get in touch udnysecretary@outlook.com



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ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Our junior coaching sessions and events will run from March to November. At the time of writing, there have been very limited activities recently due to the winter weather. We are looking forward to the arrival of spring and another fun and busy tennis season ahead.

Through the darker evenings this year, our floodlights have gradually been breaking one by one, so we tried to get replacement bulbs. However, they are now not replaceable so we've had to get new lights fitted, which is quite expensive.

With the fantastic help of a grant from the Udney Community Trust, we have now managed to install new LED lights which are much brighter and more energy efficient than our previous lights allowing us to play in the evenings and to continue evening coaching sessions.

NEW FOR 2024 – GIRLS ONLY TENNIS COACHING SESSIONS

Introductory Sessions - Girls Aged 5-8. Mondays starting 18th March 5 - 5.45pm

Introductory Sessions - Girls Aged 9-12. Saturdays starting 16th March 2-2.45pm

Our 2024 Coaching Programme:

- **Term time coaching sessions, on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings for children aged between 5-16 from 5.45pm on Mondays and from 9am Saturdays.**
- **Weekly sessions during the Easter, Summer, and October holidays – participants can enjoy developing new or existing tennis skills, outside in the fresh air, whilst making new friends along the way.**
- **Also in September, our junior members will compete in our Club Championship tournaments with titles and medals at stake.**

Also this year we will be running Junior Team Challenge events. With support from the Lawn Tennis Association, our junior members and coaching session participants can enjoy fun team events specially designed to get our juniors competing with their tennis friends. Themed events include Easter, French Tennis Open, US Tennis Open, and a Halloween Monster Smash tournament.

For further information please email udnycoaching@aol.com
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(continued overleaf)



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Our Adult members enjoyed a fun festive **Hogmanay Mixed Doubles** tennis competition where we were lucky with the weather, had great tennis, lots of fun was had and everyone left with some festive prizes.

Adult club sessions continue on Sunday mornings from 10am and on Thursday evenings from 7pm (weather permitting). If you fancy giving tennis a try, you are welcome to come along to a club session, meet our members and **“try a session”** before deciding to join. All abilities welcome, you will receive a very warm welcome and have lots of laughs.

There are ladies only tennis sessions on Wednesday evenings until the end of March, working on tennis skills and playing short fun games.

Udny Men’s and Ladies teams compete in our local **NESLTA** Leagues, men’s matches on Tuesday evenings and Ladies on Wednesdays starting Mid April. If interested in playing, pop down to a club session and meet some members for more info.

For more info / membership queries, please contact weepirie@hotmail.co.uk
Membership year starts from 1 April.

Udny Tennis Club will be hosting **“Play your way to Wimbledon”** tennis competitions with the winners having the opportunity to play at Wimbledon.

Ladies Doubles – 17th March, Men’s Doubles 23rd March and Juniors Singles U14 – 20 April (This is an open competition with non-members welcome to enter)

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2024 SWAP SHOPS

Open 10am - 3pm on:

Sunday 24th March

Spring Clean / Easter



Saturday 29th June

Summer / Back to Work / Back to School

Sunday 6th October

Halloween & Winter



Saturday 30th November

Winter & Christmas

Good Quality items to be dropped off into the Quarry Room the day before the Swap Shop ~ Swap is free ~ Swap will run to the Wednesday ~ Any items left over may be kept for future Swaps or be collected by the Charity Stella's Voice ~ **our aim is to be left with no items and have everyone SWAP their things!**



Café 48 will be open, 9:15am - 3pm



Udny Community Shelf will be open 9:15am - 1:30pm



See our Website and Facebook for more information.
Any queries please contact:
Vikki Jannetta, Community Engagement Officer
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“A BELL IS NOT A BELL 'TIL YOU RING IT”

As many of you are aware, we have spent much of the last year being very hands-on restoring the church at Udney Green and carrying out essential works to repair and replace windows, roofing, etc.

We have much more work to do and repairing the church bell is on our “to -do” list. However other work such as repairing the heating system and taking care of damage caused by damp is a higher priority.

Because many of you have asked about the church bell and expressed that it is sorely missed, I have set up an online fundraiser so you can help get it working again.

We have a quotation for the repair which is around £5k. The church is set up as a **not for profit** organisation and intended to serve the community so every penny of your donation will contribute towards the cost of repair.

We have set up a **GoFundMe** fundraiser <https://gofund.me/5fae23e9> which is intended for those in the village of Udney Green who enjoyed hearing the bell and wish to hear it again, for anyone in earshot of the bell and for those who wish to contribute from further afield.

As soon as we receive sufficient donations to cover the cost of the repair to the bell mechanism, we will immediately engage the specialists to come and do the work. Hopefully, with your help, it won't be too long until we can enjoy the bell again.

Thank you in advance and we will keep you up to date with progress.

Tony Eddison



CAN YOU HELP

We're looking for volunteers to help us work towards enhancing Udney Green Cemeteries. To find out more pop into the Quarry room at the Medan Centre Pitmedden on the 18th March at Open Doors from 1pm -4.30pm. **The kettle will be on.**

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OLUWASEUN ABIMBOLA

It was with great sadness we learnt of the sudden passing of our friend and colleague Oluwaseun (Seun) Abimbola on the 28th of January.

Dr Abimbola studied Medicine at Olabisi Onabanjo University in Nigeria, graduating in 2005. She went on to work in Nigeria for 4 years before arriving in the United Kingdom with her husband Abiola. Here she studied for her Master of Public Health qualification, achieving this in 2010 and then worked several hospital-based jobs before she settled in Aberdeen and started her GP training. Her time in practice was spent at Inverurie Health Centre, receiving her MRCGP qualifications in 2017.

Dr Abimbola continued to work in local practices including Inverurie and Macduff until she joined us, at Haddo Medical Group, initially as a locum in 2019 and then became a partner in 2020.

During that first year working with us Seun proved herself to be the passionate, hardworking and dedicated doctor she aspired to be, and we were lucky to take her on as a partner.

Quiet in manner, reserved but considerate, she soon became a valued member of our team. We benefited from her gentle humour, serene smile, beautifully decorated cakes as well as her clinical acumen.

A little over a year ago, after more studying, Seun joined the Diabetic Clinic in Aberdeen as a speciality doctor, a job she genuinely enjoyed and shared this experience in practice at Haddo.

Seun would occasionally tell us stories from her home life and as an only child took her responsibilities to support her parents, at home in Nigeria, with fortitude and grace. She enjoyed visits from family and friends exploring Aberdeen and its beautiful countryside. Seun also gained pleasure from spending time at home in her kitchen cooking and baking, watching old movies and vintage British comedy programmes. An active member of her church, she helped organise days out and meetings, this was very much a part of who she was. Although a private person Seun was sociable and would join us on nights out and kept up with other local Nigerian doctors and her close friends on a regular basis.

There is a Hippocratic quote “wherever the art of medicine is loved there is also a love of humanity” Dr Oluwaseun Abimbola personified this and will be greatly missed.

ELMA EVENTS – Dance Classes and Events

I have always been involved in health and exercise. I trained as a nurse, qualified and worked in hospitals for 7 years. I then went to work for Health Promotions, promoting health to schools and work places. I am a Level 2 Fitness instructor and been teaching Fitness classes and Line Dancing for 32 years. I am also a qualified Latin and Social Ballroom instructor.

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Pitmedden Primary School	Lyn McGibbon	01651 267460
Pitmedden Village Hall	<i>pitmeddenpublichall@gmail.com</i>	
Police	emergency call 999	For non-emergencies call 101
Udny Green Hall	Raymond	0746 495 5023
Udny Green Primary School	Emma Gibb	01651 267395

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

comBoy's Brigade 1st Udny	Colin Grant	<i>colin.grant@worleyparsons.com</i>
Brownies 1st Udny	Tiffany Kelly	<i>www.girlguiding.org.uk</i>
Formartine Sports Dev'ment	Colin Grant	843222
Good Companions Club	Anne Grant	842332
	Shona Pullar	<i>www.girlguiding.org.uk</i>
Pitmedden Tinytots	Aysha West	<i>tinytotscommittee@outlook.com</i>
Pitmedden Garden	Claire Masson	842352
Rainbows 1st Udny	Fiona Bramald	842568
Udny Tennis Club	Tim Gilpin	<i>info@udnytennisclub.co.uk</i>
Udny Bowling Club	Mike Mennie	<i>mgmutilitybrokers@gmail.com</i>
Udny Climate Action	George Allan	<i>climate_action_admin@udny.org</i>
Udny Community Council	Claire Woodward	<i>UdnyCCSecretary@outlook.com</i>
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	Tracy Gibb	<i>(facilities@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk)</i>
	Vikki Jannetta	<i>(engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk)</i>
Udny Resilience Group	Mike MacDonald	<i>mike.macdonald148@btinternet.com</i>
Udny Woodturning Club	Dennis McRobbie	07703 296821



SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

This is a list of local businesses who are currently advertising in the magazine. Their support in keeping us going year by year is gratefully acknowledged.

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Video Editing	A.V.E.	873110 / 07717 454658
WoodrecyclAbility	Wood Shop / Jon Turnbull	842876



FORMARTINE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



BY COLIN KEENAN

It's a bit of a treat to be able to open with the news that Formartine are still having a very good season and remain in serious contention for the title of league champions. It would be going a bit far to claim that they are favourites to do that but as things stand they are in 3rd position on 45 points after 20 of the 34 games played. That puts them just 5 points behind current leaders and last year's winners Brechin City who have played the same number of games. In second, lie

Banks O Dee [managed incidentally by United's last manager Paul Lawson] 3 points ahead of us but who have played a game more than us.

However the ifs and buts about games played and yet to be played make for dreary reading, let's just say that the chances are still there, our form is good and maybe more importantly the club is in good heart. It is a strange season this because almost all the teams are good enough to take points off all the others and this year seem to revel in the fact that with exception of a few persistent underachievers, a lot of them do so on a regular basis.

So what are our chances? Given the likelihood of any team in the top 12 being able to pinch points off any of the front runners the best frame of analysis is to look at the influence of recent developments on the chances of the front runners crumbling [United included]. Two contenders, Buckie and Brora have a fair few games in hand- about enough, were they to win them all - to do serious damage to the hopes of others. However Buckie have other problems: their pitch is currently unusable with one part near a corner prone to waterlogging. The club has approached the league for permission to play designated home games away claiming the fault derives from faulty drainage piping external to the ground causing water to back up into it. We don't know whether or not it is sewage but hope attempts to remedy it are successful and restore ordure so they won't simply be going through the motions. Their away game to Nairn cost them a 3 goal defeat. Brechin recently lost their management team to premiersip St Johnstone and may not be quite the force they were when they had them. However if they win all their remaining games this season they will be champions, the only team in that position.

Banks of Dee still have a game to play against Brechin and one against Formartine. Formartine have played both home and away against Brechin [won one lost one in that order].

In short there is a lot to play for yet and although Brechin are in the best position at present there are presently plenty about who are good enough to get in their way. Curiously all the main contenders begin with B [right shower of B's them] :Brechin, Banks O Dee, Buckie, Brora and The "Broch". United stand alone as the only F among the B's.

A major cause for optimism is the arrival on temporary forms from the Dons is teenage striker star Aaron Reid He is a big powerfully built lad who created a sensation in his first game by scoring a "perfect Hat-trick". In a 15 minute spell early in the second half he scored one with each foot as well as a header. He is contributing enormously to the club's current run of form averaging at present over a goal a game.



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UDNY WOODTURNERS' CLUB

The Udney Woodturners' Club held its 2023 AGM in the Medan Centre and reflected on a good year. The club is flourishing with a few new members welcomed and some departing but with a healthy membership of some 30 men and women, all with similar aspirations and varying levels of skill. We have improved our facilities at Raitshill by installing new lighting (LED of course), a new woodburner, improved dust extraction, installed ridge tiles on our storeroom and fitted a new storeroom door. Not only that but one of our members, Bill McBain who sadly passed away last year, bequeathed us his very fine Stratos lathe and all his tools. It's now installed in "Bill's Corner" and is a great asset for demonstrations.



New lighting in the Udney Woodturners' Club

Members and their partners had a fine Christmas lunch at the Tarves Aberdeen Arms in December. We also enjoyed seeing many of you visit our stands at Apple Sunday and the Udney Green Frost Fair, which we hope to attend again this year. So with a few ideas for minor improvements and very regular attendance at Raitshill on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings, we turn confidently to the year ahead!

Jon Turnbull
Chairman Udney Woodturners' Club

WOODRECYCLABILITY

For WoodRecyclAbility 2023 was arguably the best of times and the worst of times, though not to labour the Dickens quote too much it thankfully was neither the age of wisdom nor the age of foolishness. The best of times was our fundraising. At the start of the year the prospect of raising £120,000 for a new chipper was like attempting to climb El Capitan whilst suffering vertigo. And yet by the time you read this, our new Scanhugger woodchipper from Denmark could be installed. This will improve productivity and importantly will lead to significant savings in maintenance costs of our aged chippers. Raising the funds through grants and donations has been described as being like gold panning and we found some large nuggets. Huge thanks go to The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation, The Clothworkers Foundation, The Social Enterprise Just Transition Fund and our local favourite, the Udney Community Trust. And the bad news? Well we are struggling to cover our operating costs and have been running at a loss that cannot be sustained. The reason is that our Trainee numbers have fallen from 30 to 22 and we are struggling to replace those who have left - as our many Social Enterprises and Charities like us for reasons we do not really understand. Some 70% of our income comes from the council payments for the Trainees (or Social Users as they call them) to attend so it is clear why we are losing money. Regrettably, we have had to reduce staff but as we raise our eyes to the year ahead we can see ourselves getting back into the black, keeping the Enterprise afloat and reaping the benefits accruing from our new chipper. So here's to a year with more of the best of times! And finally, if you have a little spare time and an interest in helping this wonderful enterprise then how about joining our Board? Just give me a call and I can tell you more!



new woodchipper

Jon Turnbull
Chair WoodRecyclAbility Ltd.

07766 603983



A warm welcome is extended to any of the following Easter services:

Palm Sunday 24 March

9.30am Walk from Tarves to Pitmedden over the Drove Road starting the Square in Tarves. 11.00am Worship in Pitmedden preceded by coffee

Maundy Thursday 28 March

7.00pm Supper followed by Communion at Pitmedden

Good Friday 29 March

7.00pm Tarves

Easter Sunday 31 March

10.00am Easter Celebration Tarves



UDNY GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB

The Club held their Christmas Party at **Cafe48** at the beginning of December. 48 members enjoyed a lovely meal in the cosy surroundings of the Quarry Room.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 21st February at 2pm in Pitmedden Public Hall** when **Stuart Anderson** will make a very welcomed return to entertain everyone.

Further meetings:

20th March - Pitmedden School Pupils

17th April - Bill Gray and Forbes Davidson

15th May - Games Afternoon

5th June- Outing, destination unknown as yet!

If you would like any further information regarding the Club, please contact **Anne Grant** on **842332**.



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Medan Centre - Udny Community Trust Ltd Round Up

WHAT'S ON THIS YEAR AT THE MEDAN CENTRE

We will be publishing a programme of events between now and June 2024 so please do keep an eye on our website and Facebook page and we will also print out a copy for the notice board at the Medan Centre. All our events take place in our Quarry Room. The door to the Quarry Room is just opposite the Udny Community Shelf (beside our garage).

We are delighted to announce **Open Doors** is back, **every 2nd Monday afternoon 1pm-4.30pm** (term time only, children to be accompanied by an adult). You have slightly more time to use the space as we are now opening the doors at 1pm. This is your community space; we have a mix of people using the space. The mums and babies make use of the play area and we are delighted to welcome the local walkers in to play Rummikub. A lot of you just pop in for a cuppa and a chat. We were lucky to have Hayley Yule, our Co-op Community Champion, join us one week to promote "Time to Talk". Hayley took along some games. Chinese Chequers was a hit and she kept the supply of biscuits topped up resulting in lots of happy little faces when the kids arrived in at 3.15pm from school. It's such a lovely comfy cozy space. Sandy has the fire on. Sue has the kettle on. It's a joy to see you all relax, kick off jackets and shoes and have a good catch up with each other. We always have the games, craft supplies and lego box out. Everyone is welcome, so please do pop in.

Conversation Cafés are back. This year we'd like to host even more. We have been engaging with the community regarding topics and are always happy to hear your feedback. We will be mixing things up and covering a variety of topics from the Menopause to Dungeons and Dragons and we will be hosting different days and times to try and suit a wider audience.

Our first Conversation Café will be with local guys Bill and Bert who are going to share their memories about Pitmedden and the local area. We can't wait to hear their story on Wednesday 13 March at 2pm. Any suggestions on any topics or better still if you'd like to facilitate a Conversation Café, then get in touch.

Our **Baby and Toddlers Stay and Play** group has grown from strength to strength. It is so well supported by the local mums, grannies and grandads. You do know dads are most welcome too and we are so lucky to have two amazing volunteers Denise and Kathleen who run Baby and Toddlers. They are always on hand with a cuppa for the mums.



The group will now run every 2nd **Monday from 1-3pm** (alternate Mondays from Open Doors – term time only) please do pop in, you are very welcome.

We plan to run **Crafting Workshops** this year. Morgan, one of our young volunteers, approached us and asked if she could facilitate a Valentines Craft Workshop in February, this was a massive success and we were delighted to help Morgan with this. Threads and Yarns group and Udney Climate Action help facilitate four of these workshops and together we plan to do a mix of days and times for the craft workshops so hopefully maybe some folk who might have wanted to attend in the past could now attend. We are also delighted to work with local artist Steve Murison who will facilitate our Christmas Creature Card workshop again this year – thanks Steve.

Our **Weekly Health Walks** take place **every Tuesday** up to the end of November. If you want to join in with gentle exercises before the walk then pop into the Quarry Room at 9.45am. If you want to just join the walk meet in front of Café 48 at 10am and if you just feel like a cuppa and catch up that day then pop into the Quarry Room from 11am. Everyone is welcome. We do often get asked about taking dogs on this walk but this walk is not suitable for dogs. Please see PawPalz who host dedicated dog walks. We are so lucky to have a core group of ladies who volunteer their time to lead and facilitate this walk every Tuesday. The ladies would love some more helpers on their team so if you would like to find out more about becoming a Health Walk Walk Leader please get in touch.

Waist Watchers is on **every Thursday, 9.15am** in The Quarry Room, this is a group set up by local mums who want to offer support to people looking to lose weight or simply improve their health. It offers a discreet weigh in with your own personal weight loss tracker, a library of recipe books to borrow for free and a reward for being the ‘biggest loser’ of the week. This is a free friendly support group, just pop in, you are most welcome.

We are working closely with Udney Climate Action, Threads and Yarns and The Udney Community Shelf to host four **Swap Shops** this year. The first Swap is **Sunday 24th March**. Udney Community Shelf and Café 48 will also be open. Please drop off items to the Quarry Room on **Saturday 23rd March between 3-5pm**.

We need to be strict with drop off as you are all so generous and we get inundated. If you can drop off direct to the Quarry Room this helps our volunteers greatly when setting up. Also it is really helpful if you could bag clothing by age as we get loads of clothing. Remember we cannot accept electricals, paint, CDs, DVDs or dirty or damaged goods. Please only donate items you think someone can reuse.

We are planning on hosting two **Turbine Visits** this year, one for the Medan Centre and Café 48 staff and volunteers and the other for the wider community. If you've never been to the turbine and would like to learn a little more about how the turbine supports our community, then please do join us for the visit.

We are excited to work with Udney Climate Action to host the **Create from Waste Kids Reuse Competition** this year – entries to be dropped into the Quarry Room by **Friday 15 March**.

Our **Monthly Guided Walks** will start back on **Thursday 28th March** and thereafter the last Thursday of each month up to October. We are very lucky to have support from our walk leaders and also from Carol. These ladies volunteer to lead the walk so thank you. We would welcome help if anyone else feels they would be happy to guide a monthly walk.

Every Friday at 2.30pm you can pop down and get your fish from the lovely Stephen from **Peterhead Fish Company**. It's also fantastic to see **Udney Community Shelf open every day**, located in the trailer in our car park. As if all that was not enough, **Café 48** is open **Wednesday – Saturday, 9.15am-3pm**. There's a play area available for the kids and the Café prides itself in homemade, local food and offers a Soup & Sweet Wednesday special and also daily / weekly specials.

For all the dates and details for all our events, please do keep an eye on our website, Facebook page (Udney Community Trust) and our notice boards at the Medan Centre.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

This year we have some exciting opportunities for community groups to get involved in the Medan Centre. Firstly, through **Open Doors**. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to as many as 50 people in your community. If you have an idea you want to pitch to the community, if you are a community group looking to promote something, if you need feedback for something just get in touch. Previous examples of groups using Open Doors are Friends of Pitmedden School (FOPS) who did a drop in for new P1 parents to find out about FOPS. A group of lovely folks from the area investigating how they can help look after Udney Green Cemeteries met with the Ellon Cemetery Group at Open Doors to take the conversation further.

If you have an idea for a **Conversation Café** please get in touch. If you are a local community group who could facilitate a Conversation Café we'd be happy to host it. Conversation Cafés can cover any topics.

We welcome around 30 Walkers into our Quarry Room every Tuesday morning at our **Weekly Health Walk** so if you'd like to liaise with our walkers for anything then give me a shout.

Would you like to get involved with our **Community Summer Fayre Saturday 29 June** or our **Community Christmas Fayre Saturday 30 November**? Look out for information on having a stall, perhaps do some fundraising or promotion. We were absolutely delighted with the amount of community groups engaging with these events last year and we were bowled over with the amount of people who came along to support the events.

We also have a community notice board in the Quarry Room so please feel free to take in any posters, flyers or leaflets. In addition we have screens in the Quarry Room and the Café. This year we will be reaching out to community groups for a powerpoint slide from each group so we can advertise using the electronic screen. We also have a community calendar on our website so if you have an event you would like us to advertise just email the details to Jill Watt, Project Administrator admin@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk

We are always happy to share your Facebook posts so just tag us and make sure the right permissions are on your post and we'll happily share. As ever if you can think of any ideas / ways of how we can further support you - this really is your community space - we'd be delighted to hear from you.

VOLUNTEERS

We can only run the Medan Centre with our amazing volunteers. We are so lucky at the generosity you show the community. We have a lot of volunteers who not only volunteer at the Medan Centre but for various other groups and also individually within the village. We have many volunteering opportunities here at the Medan Centre. If you'd like to find out more please don't hesitate to pop in. You'll always find me (Vikki Janetta) every Monday (term time only) from 1pm-3pm in the Quarry Room. I'd be happy to chat through volunteering opportunities or just give me a shout any time.

Currently we are looking for anyone interested in walking who may consider becoming a walk leader, for someone who might help Wullie with our amazing garden and we'd love some more volunteers for Open Doors to help with the catering, setting up and tidying up – it can get pretty busy. We'd love a bit of help with the catering for Conversation Café's. The ideal situation would be to have a wee group of volunteers to call on when we host events and if you can help then great. We are also planning a volunteers evening on Friday 7 June featuring Bingo and Buffet. This is an opportunity for us to say "thank you" to you all.

UDNY COMMUNITY GRANT FUND

I've had the pleasure of speaking to some community groups over the past few weeks and you've been asking about the Udney Community Fund. The aim of the fund is advance community development in the Udney Parish. The fund is open to voluntary organisations and community groups (individuals and businesses are not eligible to apply). We are delighted to be offering you three opportunities to apply for large and small grants this year. Small grants can be up to the value of £1000 and large grants up to the value of £10,000. See our poster for full details on grant deadlines.



HIRING OUR SPACE

We are very lucky to have a space we can hire to individuals, organisations and community groups. If you need to hire our space for anything please do get in touch. We have the Quarry Room, the conference room, meeting room 1 which has desk space and internet access and a comfy, cozy space - meeting room 2 - to hire. For any queries about hiring our space please contact Tracy Gibb, Facilities Manager, email: facilities@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk

If you have any questions / queries or ideas we'd love to hear from you. Contact Vikki Jannetta, Community Engagement Officer, email: engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk or Tracy Gibb, Facilities Manager, email: facilities@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk or Jill Watt, Project Administrator admin@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk

Pop in and see us any Monday (term time only), the Quarry Room between 1pm-3pm. We are always delighted to hear from you.



UDNY COMMUNITY FUND
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Grant Deadlines 2024

For consideration at **March** Board Meeting
Large Grants - £1,000 - £10,000, **Monday 26 February**
Small Grants - up to £1,000, **Monday 18 March**

For consideration at **June** Board Meeting
Large Grants - £1,000 - £10,000, **Monday 27th May**
Small Grants - up to £1,000- **Monday 17th June**

For consideration at **September** Board Meeting
Large Grants - £1,000 - £10,000, **Monday 26th August**
Small Grants - up to £1,000, **Monday 16th September**

For a grant application form or if you have any questions or queries regarding the grants process please contact:
Vikki Jannetta, Community Engagement Officer, Tel: 01651 843 776 E: engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk

To keep up-to-date on everything happening within The Medan Centre, please see our Website and Facebook page
Udny Community Trust Company Ltd.



The Udny Community Fund's aim is to advance community development in the Udny Parish.

The Udny Community Grant is open to voluntary organisations and community groups.

Please note that individuals and businesses are not eligible to apply.



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MID-FORMARTINE FAIRTRADE GROUP

We are delighted to announce that as a community we are beginning to embrace Fairtrade school uniforms. Pitmedden primary is now offering the option to buy fairtrade uniform to all the pupils, and Meldrum Academy and Udney green schools are welcoming lessons and discussions from the Koolskools Company in March.



Fairtrade uniform uses

- **Organic cotton-great for the environment and our skin**
- **No child labour—making sure other children aren't kept out of school so ours can go**
- **Provides healthy, safe and fairly paid work for cotton producers, dyers, weavers, and sewers**

As a fairtrade group we are delighted to see such a positive approach from our schools. School uniform is such a large part of our children's wardrobes. Giving an option for that to be fairly traded gives our kids a chance to have the best sustainable clothes that care for our environment and each other.

We can never grow cotton in Aberdeenshire, but we can make sure that others who do it for us, are treated fairly.

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■ UDNY CLIMATE ACTION (UCA)

Our purpose is to develop and support initiatives to combat climate change and reduce its harmful effects on the environment. What does that actually mean for the community of Udney? It means we are a group of local people who care about the environment we live in. We care about the impact of the climate crisis and about climate change. But more importantly we want to help combat climate change and we take action! Each of us involved in UCA has our own passion and interests. For some it is reduce, reuse, recycle, for others it might be renewable heating systems, or perhaps seed collections, trees, transport or agriculture and food miles.

We were founded in 2018 by our Chairperson George Allan and we are a Subgroup of PUT Community SCIO. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to George who is stepping down as Chairperson of UCA. George has really put his heart and soul into UCA over the past five years and as a result our group has gone from strength to strength – thank you George. George is not getting away that easily though, he will still be involved with UCA - he has way too many actions in the last set of minutes to escape! George will be dedicating his time to work on other Climate Action initiatives including progressing NESFIT - North East Scotland retroFIT Hub, a community led retrofit cooperative, helping householders achieve warmer, healthier, emissions free homes. Steve Baguley is our new Chairperson. We are delighted to have Steve leading the group and we look forward to working together over the next year.

■ CLIMATE WEEK NORTH EAST

We are looking forward to all things Climate Action again this year! We are engaging with Climate Week North East (CWNE) 15-24 March. CWNE 'showcases a fun and illuminating series of events packed into 10 days in March. There is bound to be something for you!' We are delighted to bring back our '**Create from Waste - Kids Reuse Competition**' for a 2nd year. We want to challenge how children think about waste - can waste materials be reused / repurposed? We had over 50 amazing entries last year from individuals, local schools and community groups including Girl Guides and Boys Brigade. We had magnificent Kelpies made from egg boxes, functional flip flops made from milk cartons and the most beautiful flowers made from recycled paper. We would love to see your entries for this year. We have 3 age categories Pre-School, P1-P3, P4-P7 and we are delighted to have received funding from Udney Community Trust for the prizes - either vouchers for Macduff Marine Aquarium or Aberdeen Science Centre or Cafe 48. We have 3 brilliant local artists Steve Murison, Chris McGeachie and Annie Grant who will judge and will award a certificate for every entry.

To enter, take your creation to the Medan Centre by **Friday 15th March**. Winners will be announced and prizes handed out at Open Doors on **Monday 18th March, 3.30pm**, in the Medan Centre, Quarry Room.

Also, for CWNE we have organised a '**Plant and Check Trees**' in the local area, if you can help with this please meet us in Pitmedden School carpark on **Saturday 23rd March at 1pm**. For more information on CWNE check out their website: <https://climateweeknortheast.org>

■ SWAP SHOPS & CRAFTING WORKSHOPS

Udny Climate Action are delighted to collaborate for a 2nd year with other community groups - Threads and Yarns, Udny Community Shelf and Udny Community Trust to run **Swap Shops** and **Craft Workshops** for 2024. We plan on running four Swap Shops and four Craft Workshops, one during each school term. The first Swap is **Sunday 24th March**, items can be dropped off at The Medan Centre, Quarry Room on **Saturday 23rd March between 3-5pm**, items must be of the best quality and genuinely items that can be reused by other people in the community. We are just delighted at how the Swap Shops have become embedded in the community. We get so much positive feedback and people are always asking when the next one is. If you've never been, please pop in, you don't need to take any items to swap, you are welcome to just take items away. The idea is that we share what we have within the community and we avoid waste. Future Swap Shop dates for your Calendar are **Saturday 29th June, Sunday 6th October and Saturday 30th November**.

Each of the **Craft Workshops** will focus on reusing and reinventing items left over from the Swap Shops, the dates and themes for the Craft Workshops are Easter Workshop – **Monday 25th March**, 3.30-5pm, Fashion Workshop – **Monday 1st July**, 6-7:30pm, Halloween Workshop – Monday 7th October, 3.30-5pm, Christmas Workshop – **Wednesday 4 December**, 3.30-5pm. Everyone is welcome to come along. We do require that adults stay with children and because they are so popular you will need to book a space! We'd like to extend a special thank you to Threads and Yarns. The skills these ladies have with their sewing machines and the encouragement and help they offer everyone is just fantastic. Thanks also to Udny Community Trust for working with us and hosting the crafting sessions. It's very much a team effort.

■ TREES

Are you a local land owner? Are you interested in tree planting? If so contact UCA, we work with the Woodland Trust to plant trees in Udny.



■ WANT TO KNOW ABOUT UDNY CLIMATE ACTION?

See our website or Facebook Page. We have a short leaflet you can pick up from the Medan Centre. Feel free to speak to any of the Udney Climate Action Members - Steve Baguley (Chair), George Allan, Emma Liddell, Gary Bruce, Richard Aspden, Stuart Boyle, Karina Emslie, Liz Palmer, Chris Bodington, Jamie Cole or Vikki Jannetta.

■ INTERESTED IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Are you passionate about the environment? Do you want to take action against climate change in your community? If so please get in touch or feel free to pop into our next Udney Climate Action meeting and find out more about how you could get involved in the fight against climate change. All our meetings take place in the Medan Centre, Quarry Room, our next meeting is Monday 4th March.

Contact climate_action_admin@udny.org

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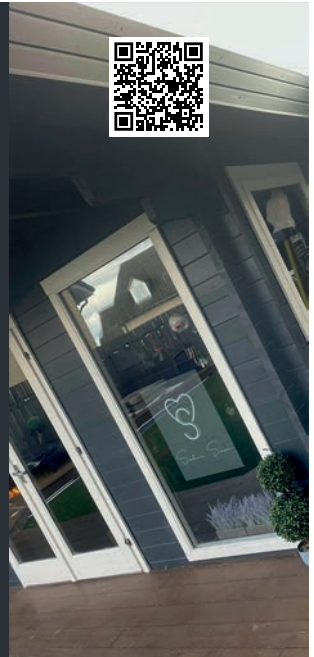
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SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Co-op is committed to promoting mental well-being in communities. On February 1st, **TimeToTalk Day** was held, which encouraged friends, family members, and colleagues to discuss their feelings. People often find it easier to say they're "fine" than to express their true feelings.

At the local level, the Co-op supported several community organisations hosting events encouraging individuals to talk about their feelings. We also shared resources with local schools and groups to facilitate open discussions about mental health.

On February 5th, refreshments and extra board games were provided to support the Udney Community Trust's Open Doors event. The event was attended by adults and pupils from the local primary school and Meldrum Academy, and it was lovely to see everyone chatting, playing board games, and enjoying scones, shortbread, and hot drinks. The Co-op table set up at the event promoted the benefits of #TimeToTalk24 and offered activities and various board games.

As a Member Pioneer for the Co-op, I am delighted to have supported various community groups and organisations, such as schools, community cafes, Girl Guides, youth clubs, nurseries, community fridges, and others during my first year in this role. I've been able to provide themed activities, refreshments, fresh flowers, and set up food share partnerships.

Contact me at hayley.yule@co-op.co.uk to learn about support for your local group from the Co-op.

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Udny Brownies Badge Success

Udny Brownies have been working on their First Aid badge this term. We were very lucky to have **Ray Still** (who some of you may know as DJ Ray) of the **Pitmedden First Responders** team come in to teach the girls about coping in an emergency situation, incident response and casualty care. Ray helped the girls learn to spot the signs of a stroke or cardiac arrest and we all got a chance to practice giving CPR. Our First Responders are an incredible team of volunteers trained to attend medical emergencies until an ambulance arrives. We are so lucky to have them and we are so grateful to Ray for giving up yet more of his free time to come and help our Brownies develop their skills.

We managed to complete our badge with a visit from another local hero, **Hazel Gunnyeon**, a PE teacher with a passion for developing First Aid skills with young people. Hazel taught the girls about first aid kit preparation, the recovery position and how to help someone who is choking, all through hands on practice which was a lot of fun but will also mean the girls should now have the confidence to help in a real emergency situation if ever faced with one.



(continued overleaf)



Udny & Pitmedden have a Rainbows (5-7 yrs old), Brownies (7-10 yrs old) and Guides (10-15 yrs old) Unit and are always on the look out for volunteers to come in and share their skills. If you have a skill that you think we would be interested in and you'd like to volunteer 1 hour of your time, drop us a line to discuss.



We'd love to hear from you
(udnybrownies@hotmail.co.uk).

UDNY RESILIENCE GROUP

Given the stormy weather in recent months it has been a busy season for the volunteers who make up Udny Resilience Group. Responding to requests for help from local householders, sandbags were filled and distributed, flood waters pumped and assistance given in clearing blocked roads.

Watch this space (and local Facebook pages) for updates from the group or for more information about how you can be involved, contact **07771 846225** or email udnyresiliencegroup@gmail.com



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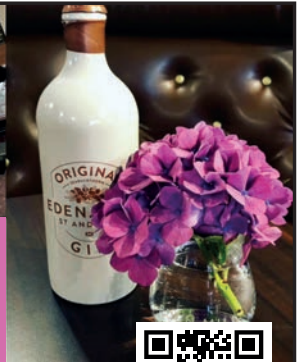
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