

TBCI

Issue 72

Tarves and Barthol Chapel
Quarterly Newsletter
March 2025

**Formartine Parish Church
Thinking Day - Sunday 23 February 2025 in Tarves Kirk**



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Welcome to the first 2025 edition of the Tarves and Barthol Chapel Newsletter Tune in to BBC Sounds

As I am writing this, it's blowing a gale outside, it's cold and the thought of being outside is at the bottom of the 'to do' list.

Then the word 'but' comes in – how many readers use BBC Sounds for the huge variety of information there is, books to listen to, building a basic knowledge on subjects that you had never considered before? The joy of podcasts become a fixed source of sitting and relaxing to anything between 10 mins and an hour. This all links to the newspaper heading on the right – the natural world comes in the form of a podcast too. There are podcast examples of sounds of nature in a forest, in the jungle, sounds of the sea, and specific music matching the sounds of calming weather, and then verbal guides from those who are already connected to the natural world and sharing their thoughts on what you can participate in while you are outdoors. There is even one called the Sleeping Forecast with one episode a mix of restful music and readings from Shackleton's 1902 Antarctic expedition.

If you click onto a heading that sounds interesting, listen to the first episode, enjoy it but then decide – do I be indulgent and listen to all 15 episodes, which would take the whole afternoon or enjoy 2/ 3 episodes and know that once you have time to relax later, then the stories/musical pieces are a priority in unwinding from the day's events?

Further topic choices covered are vast – ranging from historical events that we were already knew a bit to events we are unaware of, there's politics for the brave, then some light laughter to take the sting out of these political issues, various aspects of catering and cooking, geographical topics – there is something for everyone. Listening to the voice of someone telling a story becomes personal if your surroundings are quiet and although this solitary voice is broadcasting to all listeners, it is also talking directly to you.

Although we want time to speed up from the long winter we've just experienced, allow yourselves short intervals of relaxation to unwind and reflect and be ready for the next commitment you have.

Best wishes to all for 2025

Thank you.
Ruth, Editor





Dear Friends

On long car journeys with my children (which can sometimes be Ellon to Inverurie) my children like to play a game called *Side Effect*. The premise of the game is that one person chooses a superhero power they would like to have and the others in the car choose a funny or absurd side effect connected to that super hero power. So, in one recent example I said that my superhero power was that I could, Star-Trek-esque, transport myself instantaneously from one place to another (a very handy superhero power for getting to meetings I thought). James then informed me that my side effect was that I could transport myself instantaneously from one place to another, but I wasn't all that accurate. So, I might be looking to travel from Ellon to Inverurie, but might land in Daviot instead and have to walk back to Inverurie.

It's a fun game and the more absurd the side effect, the more amused we all are. But it also got me to thinking how often we look for the side effect in people. How often do we write people off because they have some kind of character flaw, or how willing are we to look past some minor irritation to see the beauty of the person underneath. There's an ancient poem directed towards God that says: 'You have searched me Lord and you know me.' What the poet is saying that the God of the universe has looked deep inside him, has seen all his flaws and side effects, and still wants to know him, still wants to be associated with him.

At the heart of the Christian faith is a confidence that God knows everything about us and still chooses to love us. The challenge of the Christian faith is to then use confidence and bedrock to take that same level of love out to our communities and our world. The challenge is to love everyone with the same side-effect free love that God has loved us with.

Rev Alastair Bruce

Interim Moderator - Formartine Parish Church

Kirk News

Formartine Parish Church of Scotland

Formartine Parish Church of Scotland

Sunday Worship at 10.00am

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 available each Sunday. Let me know if you would like to receive these.

Advent and Christmas services

These were well attended especially the Christmas Eve all age service. We are very grateful to all those who helped with the Lessons and Carols at Pitmedden. Caroline Brown, Youth Worker, did a great job leading on Christmas Eve an evening enjoyed by many families.

Special services

On Thinking Day in February, we welcomed Tarves Brownies and Guides when they renew their promises and tell us more about the year's theme.

On Friday 7 March, the World Day of Prayer will be in Tarves Kirk. This is a service lead by Mid Formartine Guild.

3 April Palm Sunday service will be in Pitmedden Kirk

20 April Easter Sunday service in Tarves Kirk

There is a service in Methlick on Good Friday.

Vacancy matters

Unfortunately, we are still in a vacancy. Our sole nominee withdrew as she felt she was no longer called to our parish. Undaunted we will re-elect a Nominating Committee and seek God's guidance in the search for the right person to take us forward.

We are very fortunate in having Rev Alastair Bruce of Ellon Parish Church as our Interim Moderator. His advice and support has been invaluable.

Retirement

Alvan Milne has retired after 31 years of service as Church Officer in Pitmedden. He has served diligently, with his wife Muriel's support, carrying out the task much of which is unseen. Alfie Marr spoke eloquently about Alvan's dedication to the job one that may need a team of folk to do what he did! Rev Stella Campbell, presbytery clerk, presented Alvan with a long service certificate and Muriel received a bouquet of flowers. We are very grateful to Alun and Margaret Walker who have stepped to fill the gap.

W G Massie Funeral Director

Many of you will know by now that our community is losing one of its long-standing family businesses. The business was established in 1945 by Billy Massie's father. Billy took over from his father, ably supported by his wife Helen. Their daughter Maureen joined them and the family continued to provide the compassionate, discreet, and efficient service that we became accustomed to. Many of you will have had to use their services and will know from experience the couthy way they took grieving families through this difficult process.

I have had the privilege of working with them over the years and I always knew I could rely on their professional, calm demeanour.

Formartine Parish Church wishes to extend our sincere gratitude to the Massies. I am sure you will want to join us in wishing them every blessing at what will be a time of mixed feelings as this family business closes.

Big Breakfasts

We plan to restart these in both Pitmedden and Tarves. It's a great outreach to members of the community and attracts a wide age range. Please look out for more on Facebook and the website. You will be most welcome to come along for breakfast and a blether!

Tarves Youth Hall

The large Hall is available to folk in the community to book. It has been used for a variety of things – family parties, small groups, meeting and soup and sweet etc. It is a very comfortable space with a well-equipped kitchen. Please contact me for more details.

The website and Facebook pages are up and running so you can keep up-to-date with what's going on.

www.facebook.com/FormartineParishChurch

www.facebook.com/formartineyouthprojectfyp

www.formartineparishchurch.org.uk

We are here for everyone in the Formartine Parish, not just members, so please get in touch if there is anything we can do to support you or someone you know...

Susanna Bichard – Session Clerk:

01651 851345 or smbichard@aol.com

Davie Williamson – Bequests to Tarves Organisations

It is two years since the passing of David G. Williamson who many of you will remember from his time as the owner & postmaster of the local general store 'Adam Duthie & Co'

Davie had a great love for Tarves having been the Captain of our BB Company; he also taught many of the then village youth to play the bugle, the bagpipes or possibly both.

In addition to personal bequests, Davie directed that funds be passed to eight local organisations, Tarves Parish Church, Tarves War Memorial Fund, The Melvin Hall, Tarves Heritage, Tarves Bowling Club, The Hut Youth Group, The Flower Show and Tarves Christmas Lights fund. As with many estates, it has taken some time to finalise the collection of all funds and for these to be distributed to the worthy causes he wished to support. In the main this has now been completed and the majority of the funds were distributed to the recipients at the end of last year.

Tarves Community Council on behalf of the residents of Tarves place on record our thanks to the late Davie Williamson for his generous gifts to these organisations. Rest assured the custodians will ensure that they will be used wisely.



News from

Barthol Chapel Community



Hub

Become a member using this QR code or email at the bottom of the page

Regular Events - all welcome

Music Cafe - first Sunday of the month 2pm

Community Cafe - second Saturday of the month 10 - 11.30 am

Youth Cafe - mid month on a Wednesday 3.30 - 5.30 pm

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 and Music group for playing together being set up

Occasional Events - all welcome

Late March, date TBC - Talk by local person about diving adventures

Saturday 26th April - Sheena Blackhall in concert - Doric verse, stories and singing

Saturday 17th May - Plant Sale - please donate your seedlings, cuttings etc of both indoor and outdoor plants and come to buy others

Progress of the project

Many thanks to Awards for All for funding which has allowed us to continue expanding our events throughout the winter months and to

Fyvie Coop for donating refreshments.

We will be putting our application in to The Scottish Land Fund for funding towards the purchase of the building in March. We have now had all the relevant surveys done (thanks to a generous donation from a trust that wishes to remain anonymous) and are just putting the finishing touches to the business plan, that we have to submit along with our application. We expect to find out whether we have been successful in June.

Thank you to all who came to the consultation or gave us feedback online to help with this. We are also looking for other funding to complement this.

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, more are always being planned, please become a member of the hub using the QR code above or message us at

info@bartholchapelhub.org



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2024 finished with some enthusiastic carol singing at Hanover, a visit from Father Christmas and a very enjoyable trip to see Robin Hood at Inverurie Panto: 160 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Leaders and family members had a great evening.

This term is all about celebrating 'World Thinking Day' – a very significant date in the Guiding and Scouting calendar as it is the joint birthday of our founder Lord Baden Powell and his wife Lady Baden Powell (First World Chief Guide). World Thinking Day is recognised as a day of international friendship and we were proud to be part of the Thinking Day Service in Tarves Kirk on Sunday 23rd February looking at all that has changed regarding uniforms and badges over the years but the strong values and our promise that remain at the centre of Girl Guiding and link us with our Guiding sisters around the world.

We have spent time 'travelling' to each of our five World Centres, collecting stamps in our passports and learning about Guiding and traditional activities from India, Mexico, Ghana, Switzerland and England. The henna tattoos were very popular.

We are looking forward to making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, celebrating International Happiness Day and a much-anticipated trip to Haddo Children's Theatre's production of Bugsy Malone, starring many of our members.

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





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Barthol Chapel School

Head Teacher: Mrs Gillian Newlands

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01651 267440

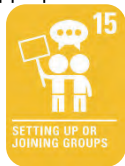
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Another year of having a snowy start to our term however we have continued our drive forward with our School Improvement Plan. One of our Key Priorities this year is to develop play approaches in our school and is also linked to The United Nations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 31 'the right of the child to rest and leisure and to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child'



Our Leadership Groups (UNCRC Article 15) have been using their pupil voice to give us feedback and ideas about what sort of play they would like in school so taking their views right from the start to incorporate into their learning. Play is important for a number of skills such as cognitive

skills, creativity, imagination, social skills, physical skills, emotional regulation, communication, wellbeing and resilience. Skills that we already are aware of using our skills for learning, life and work.

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

As well as our Play Journey there will be reading and craft activities throughout the afternoon and for our visitors to get involved. We strive to encourage a love of reading that is fun for everyone.

Burns Celebrations



We had a fantastic time celebrating The Bard – Robert Burns and our local dialect of Doric. This was linked to Article 30 in the UNCRC. Our learners again developed their leadership and creativity skills by organising and leading our annual Burns Afternoon. Pupils successfully recited poems, sang, addressed the Haggis, toasted the lassies and lads and showcased our love for Scottish dancing. It was fantastic to see the pupils excel and show their talents!

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

School Show Our annual school show of 'Hoodwinked' was another example of our learners demonstrating their passion for learning new skills where they were able to showcase their learning in the Drama and Music curriculum. We are so proud of all our pupils who put on such a fantastic performance of Hoodwinked.





Their teamwork, communication and creativity were just some of the skills for learning, life and work they used and developed so a huge well done!

Thank you to all who donated to our Christmas Draw and contributed to its success. A massive total of **£860** was raised in raffle sales by

the Parent Council.

Huge Thanks to our Parent Council office bearers and members for organising and overseeing this as it is one of the biggest fundraising events of the school year.

Local Author Visit



We were fortunate enough to have local author and illustrator Samantha Annal visit and read her new book 'The Gonks of Gardenshillock'. What a fantastic story and experience for the children. The children got to see her original paintings and ask lots of questions. They also enjoyed a cuddle from her gonk friends.



'Our Bonny Planet'



Our Pupils views (UNCRC Article 12) have been taken for their latest Context for Learning when studying 'Our Bonny Planet'. Pupils wanted to learn about how planet Earth was formed, living species and life cycles on it and how to look after our school, community and environment.

There will also be time for pupils to reflect on climate change as we have aligned our learning to the Global Goals 14 & 15 – Life below water and

Life on Land.

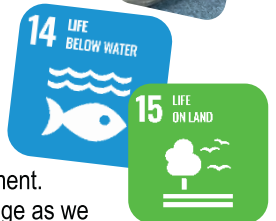
Barthol Chapel Nativity Walk Through

Primary 1-3 had the opportunity to take part in a 'Nativity Walk Through' at Tarves Church. Pupils learnt about the Nativity and very much enjoyed their experience. Thank you to Barthol Chapel Community Council who paid for half of the cost of transport to the Nativity at Tarves Church and thank you to Formartine Youth Partnership who paid for the other half which meant the pupils could take part in the learning experience.

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!





Ellon and District Men's Shed

The last few months have been very busy for the Shed.

The new mechanical workshop has been busy refurbishing bikes and renovating a 1985 Royal Enfield Bullet 500cc motorbike. This was very generously donated to us and has been restored to a high standard

(photo) by Shed members and is now available for purchase (please contact us ellonmensshed@gmail.com) if you are interested. Sustrans have also held two bike maintenance training classes at the Shed and we expect more to take place later this year.

We have been very fortunate to receive two significant funding grants. Thanks to people voting for us, we received £18,903 for the installation of solar panels and a linked battery system. This should be installed (along with some related electrical modifications) in mid-March. This should save us between 25% and 50% of our electricity costs and contribute to a reduction in our carbon footprint. We have received £7500 from the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (round 4) to support our mechanical workshop and our running costs in 2025. We also were delighted to receive £500 from Greens in Ellon from their Christmas collection and a very generous donation of £2,000 from the crew of the Ocean Endeavour's Christmas raffle.

Two of the Shed members are progressing with their SQA qualifications to further support IT training. We are now offering 3D-printing training courses to Shed members.

Despite the weather, the Shed's Pétanque Club continued meeting on Thursday afternoons. Please see our Facebook page for announcements about future meeting times. If you are interested, please get in touch.

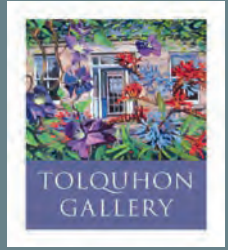
The woodworking workshop continues to be busy with Shedders making/refurbishing chairs, benches, water toys and mud kitchens for local schools, bird boxes and hedgehog feeding stations, wood turning and fantastic Vespa scooters for toddlers. The CNC router has been used to make plaques, house signs, memorials for pets (photo) and miniature specialist tables for bonsai trees (photo). All these items are available to order and designs can be modified as needed.

In mid-January we held meetings to discuss the possibility of starting a 'Women's Shed'. The meetings were very well attended, and a small working group is now progressing the idea. The Men's Shed will carry on being run as a social/hobby place for men. The underpinning need for a dedicated *men's* shed hasn't changed. But we have a very well-equipped facility that is only open 3 days out of 7. We are frequently asked if women can use the Shed. Combining these two facts has led us to consider a women's shed running in parallel with the men's shed.

We are open for new members to join the Men's Shed (membership is free). Many are of the opinion that men need to be 'good at DIY', using

(continued on Page 15)

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(continued from Page 13)

machines etc. to enjoy the Shed – this isn't true. We welcome those who want to socialise, have a chat, play cards, browse the internet, read a book, as much as we welcome those who want to get stuck into the workshop or garden. We have plenty of projects for men to get involved in, plus the new hobby spaces, new jigsaws, computers and plenty of board games and tea/coffee and biscuits. We'd also welcome those who would like to be involved in the administrative side of the shed (IT, secretarial, financial etc.).

The Shed is there for men who may be feeling low, lonely and/or isolated. This can particularly be the case after bereavement, redundancy, retirement, or family breakups. We offer a safe, friendly environment for men to get back on their feet again.

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



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Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy



British Empire Medal presentation to Susie Hunt

I had the great pleasure of presenting Susie Hunt from Kemnay with her British Empire Medal for a lifetime of service to the arts and crafts. In 2003, Susie founded what is now the largest geographical Open Studio event in the country, North-East Open Studios (NEOS). NEOS is a not-for-profit organisation promoting arts and crafts in the North-East of Scotland. The Open Studio event is held annually in September. Over nine days, artists and makers open their studio doors and welcome visitors into their creative spaces, showcasing a diverse range of artworks from painting and ceramics to jewellery, glass, textiles, wood, sculpture and more. Look out for the yellow signs along the Aberdeenshire

countryside in September. Every venue is well worth a visit.

Wedding Anniversaries and Birthday celebrations

One of the Lieutenancy's roles continues to be to ensure that messages of congratulations are delivered from Their Majesties, The King and Queen to those celebrating their 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th Birthdays. Myself, or one of his Deputies are always delighted to visit on the day of such special milestones and present a card and personal congratulations. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website.

<https://www.lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk/>



His Majesty, The King's Visit to the Gordon Highlander Museum

I was delighted to be a guest at the Gordon Highlanders' Museum when His Majesty, The King visited. I had the great honour of showing His Majesty my grandfather's Gordon Highlander kilt. Captain Alexander Manson, my namesake, was a proud Gordon Highlander who was wounded in the Battle of Beaumont Hamel in November 1916. Remarkably, my

grandfather was reported dead but survived. The kilt is untouched from the day he fell and bears the mud stains from the Somme battlefield.

(Continued on Page 19)



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Honours and Awards – The Kings Award for Voluntary Service



Congratulations to The Bailies of Bennachie – Voluntary Conservation Society and the Buchan Battalion Boy Brigade who have been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Bailies care about Bennachie, its natural environment, history and culture, protecting Bennachie's unique landscape for future generations. The Bailies of Bennachie was founded in 1973. From a mere 40 enthusiasts initially, there are now over 5000 members.

The Buchan Battalion Boys Brigade was created in 1970 to serve the companies of the North-East of Scotland, it was formed from the old Fraserburgh & Peterhead districts. Over the past 50 years, the Battalion has played a very active part in the area, organising competitions, parades and outings each year. The Battalion currently consists of 10 companies, 2 of which are also Girl's Association's. Most local to Tarves and Barthol Chapel is the 1st New Deer which has a Boys' Brigade company and Girl's Association.

The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy would like to know of any individual or voluntary organisation who have made an exceptional contribution for the wider benefit of others in their community. The Lieutenancy will assist in giving full consideration for appropriate recognition. Please contact us at the email address below, in confidence, should you have any suggestions. Please do look at our web site for further information:

www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk or contact us on 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

Barthol Chapel Indoor Bowling Club

The Barthol Chapel indoor bowlers meet every Tuesday during term time at 7.30pm in Barthol Chapel Primary School. This year more experienced members of the club are competing in competitions with other clubs.

Both novices and old hands are welcome to join in.

For more information contact: hazelpeterskinner@outlook.com



Barthol Chapel Community Association (BCCA)

The BCCA acts as a forum for residents of the wider Barthol Chapel area. It stands alongside the BCCH (Barthol Chapel Community Hub) whose function is to facilitate the purchase and development of the old Church as a community Space.

If you would like to be included in communications regarding the BCCA including meetings etc please email BCCAsecretary@bartholchapel.com

BCCA Secretary



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Tarves Folk Club

The Club continues to meet on the last Friday of the month in the Aberdeen Arms Hotel from 8.30pm and we welcome all singers, musicians and listeners. Numbers have recently been declining and we hope that things will pick up with the lighter nights and hopefully better weather.

The date for this year's Tarves Rant, the 10th, is Saturday 3rd May 2025. It is hoped to follow previous years with two free sessions in the afternoon. Bothy ballads and traditional songs in the Heritage Centre and a session in the Aberdeen Arms. Our special guest in the evening is Ian Bruce accompanied by Kev Green, both excellent singers/musicians, ably supported by the Ythan Fiddlers and Sir-Reel Clarks so keep the date as it should be a great night out for the price of £10 pp.



John Dickson 01651 851317

TBC

Tarves and Barthol Chapel
Quarterly Newsletter

Final article and advertising dates for 2025 newsletters

Please ensure all articles/photographs and adverts have your contact details attached and be sent to both:

tbc.editor@btinternet.com and dem.brown@btinternet.com

[Thank you.](#)

2025 TBC editions	Chaser dates	Final copy date
June	7 + 14 May	Monday 19 May
September	6 + 13 August	Monday 18 August
December	5 + 12 November	Monday 17 November

**All adverts will be in colour, black and white welcome too - price is the same for all;
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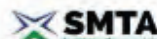
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TARVES YOUTH PROJECT

The Hut Youth Project Tarves has been running for 27 years this year!! After a difficult end to 2024 when a change in priorities by Aberdeenshire Council saw the removal of CLD (Community Learning & Development) staff, which left us in limbo unable to provide both sessions, we made the move to become fully independent and volunteer run. Thanks to our amazing new volunteers who stepped forward to save this well attended community facility and working in partnership with Formartine Youth Project we can continue to work together to support the young people in our community.

We would also like to pay tribute to the late David Williamson who had been a great supporter of The Hut for many, many years and left us a most generous and appreciated gift on his passing. We would like to acknowledge this and show our gratitude.

We provide a safe welcoming space for young people to drop in and enjoy sociable activities such as table football, X-box, games and crafts with their friends for free. We are delighted to be able to start the year with two sessions weekly (term time only).

- **Mondays 7-9pm are for those in S1 and over**
- **Thursdays 6.30-8.30pm are for those in P7.**

Our end of term party at Tarves Youth Hall was well attended and the inflatables provided by R&M leisure were a huge hit. Great fun was had by all.

We rely heavily on fundraising, donations and funding sources. Whilst 'hands on' volunteering may not be your thing maybe you love organising fundraisers, writing grant applications or can spare a couple of hours twice a year to be part of our committee. Please get in touch: thehutouthproject@gmail.com. Or follow us on social media: facebook:

TheHutYouthProjectTarves and Instagram: the_hut_tarves

Thank you for your continued community support 😊



The MURLY TUCK Cafe



Wednesday - Saturday • 9am - 4pm
Sunday • 10am - 4pm
Monday - Tuesday • Closed

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News from the Square



Hope you all had a great Christmas & Hogmanay and are now looking forward to Spring and better weather so that you can start doing some gardening. And hopefully no more snow – we've had enough!

The snowdrops aconites and crocuses are in flower a sign that Spring is just around the corner. The bulbs in the tubs are peeping through and the pansies seem to have weathered the wintry blasts so hopefully we will have some colour in the Square soon.

In the meantime stay warm, cosy and well.

The Tarves Plooman

Just a wee update from The Tarves Graveyard Volunteers

As you might expect due to the cold wintry weather, there hasn't been a great deal going on.

However, we did manage to plant two large shrubs that were donated to us, which are now thriving. We have also planted red tulips at each side of the shrubs, and we hope this will bring lovely Spring colour. This is in addition to the daffodils that were planted last year along the roadside wall.

Our hardworking volunteers are continuing to keep the paths tidy and an existing path which was becoming grassed over has been repaired.

We have a programme of projects we would like to tackle this year, and as before all new volunteers will be made very welcome.

Aberdeenshire Council have marked a number of "at risk" gravestones and we are hopeful work will be carried out to stabilise them.

Anybody wishing to join our group of friendly volunteers please contact -

**Moira Minty Tel. 07800 953 127 or
Hilda Bruce Tel. 07711 358 201**





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Thank-you 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 **Tarves Brownies, Tarves Guides, The Hut, Barthol Chapel Senior Class** and **Tarves P4 class** for their creative contributions to the Tarves display. Congratulations to our prize winners.

Our **Walk-Through Nativity** for P1-3 was a huge success and we are extremely grateful to **Pitmedden Coop** for their generous donations of oranges towards the Christmas Christingle bags that went to all the nursery-P7 children at the end of term.

Plans are now well under way for our Easter activities including an **Interactive Walk-Through Holy Week** experience for the schools.

Our **Easter Garden** will be outside Tarves kirk from 7th April and we invite you to get creative, add to our display and share the joy of Easter.

Did you know we can sign off on **Duke of Edinburgh** and **Saltire awards** at our youth cafes in Pitmedden, Methlick and Barthol Chapel. Please feel free to get in touch for more information.

We are proud to work with the schools to support our young people and are delighted to once again be able to offer the **Emotional Rollercoaster** program; an Emotional Wellbeing program designed to offer targeted support for children and young people to explore emotional health and wellbeing, develop emotional awareness and look at 'emotional first aid'. Next term we will be running some Transition Support sessions as our P7s prepare for their move to the academy and offer a mini-bridging group in partnership with Meldrum Academy.

Barthol Chapel Youth Club (for P6 and over) meet on the last Friday of the month 7-9pm for two hours of games in Barthol Chapel Primary School. Last month was all about '#TimeToTalkday'. An opportunity to come together to talk, listen and change lives; encouraging us to have conversations about mental health and reduce the stigma around it. We had a quiz, discussed what can affect our mental health, made chatter boxes as conversation starters and played fun games highlighting the importance of talking and how much easier life is if you can chat and share things with a friend or someone you trust.

Our projects and activities can't happen without funding and the commitment of amazing individuals who selflessly give up their time to support the young people in our community and really make a difference. Do you have a passion for fundraising? A knack at grant applications? Please consider joining our '**Friends of FYP**' to help us raise much needed funds to keep the project going to support young people in our local communities. 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** for regular updates.

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You are invited to get creative and add to our Community Easter Garden Display at Tarves Kirk 7th April - 25th April



Finger knitting



Recycled Bottle Art Flowers



Woven craft sticks



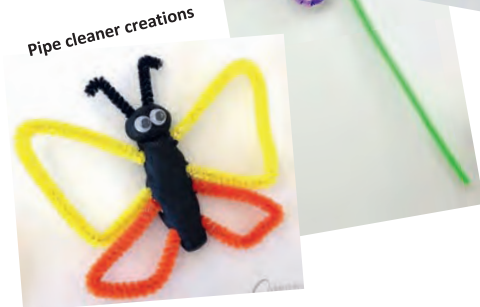
Bottle flowers



Wool Tassel flowers



Woven craft sticks



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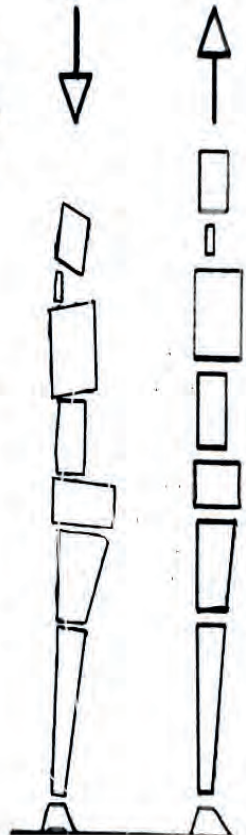
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Tarves Heritage Project

Spring cleaning is well underway at the Centre and displays are being prepared for our opening in April. Mark your calendar as we open on Thursday 10th April 2025 1 to 4pm. We will be open on

a Thursday, Friday and Sunday 1 to 4pm.

If however, you are part of a group we would be delighted to offer you a visit out with normal times. Please get in touch either by phone 01651 851883, Facebook, website or email tarvesheritage@outlook.com if you want more information.

We have been lucky enough to welcome 2 new volunteers to assist with very different areas in the Centre. Martha is busy scanning and cataloguing hundreds of photos and Charley is putting together a catalogue of WW1 stories and documents for secondary schools to access.

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

Whether you are a regular visitor to the Centre, or you have never been inside the Heritage buildings there is always something new/old to interest you or reminisce of days gone by. Perhaps you are a collector and would like to showcase your collection with us, we would be interested to hear from you.

Please put Tarves Heritage Centre on your "To visit 2025" list and you will be given a very warm welcome.

Open from Thursday 10th April 2025 1 to 4pm.

Tarves Heritage Project 100+Club

This is the last draw of the year. We thank everyone who has supported Tarves Heritage Project and congratulate all the winners. If you would like to support us in 2025 and keep the same numbers please renew by bank transfer.

We would welcome new members to join the 100+Club by contacting a member of the committee or leaving a message on 01651 851883 and you will be issued a number. We have four draws a year and it costs £12 per number per year.

30th January 2025. Draw 4.

£100	£50	£50	£25	£25	£25	£25
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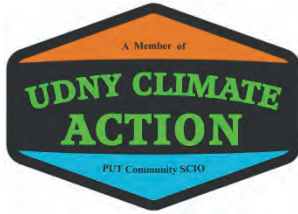
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Udny Climate Action update

Trees Available for Local Projects



Udny Climate Action have native trees from our community tree nursery (particularly Birch), available to anyone in the community who are doing rewilding or gardening projects - any number available - 1 to several hundred would be considered. If you're interested get in touch, either through Facebook or email: climate_action_admin@udny.org

Udny Repair Cafe

We are delighted to work with Udny Community Trust, Udny Community Shelf and Threads and Yarns to bring you 11 Repair Cafes in 2025! We will host these events on the **third Monday of every month from 6-8pm in the Quarry Room**. The next repair Cafe is on **17 March then 21 April and 19 May**. We always have the kettle on and you'll find some of our volunteers waiting to help you fix your items. If you are curious about the Repair Cafe or feel you might want to volunteer please don't hesitate to get in touch, via our Facebook site or email: climate_action_admin@udny.org

Udny Swap Shops are moving to a new venue - Pitmedden Hall.

Thanks are due to Udny Community Trust for hosting the Swap Shops over the past 2 years, allowing us to trial the idea to see if this is something the community would support and wow, we have been delighted with the amount of donations and visitors that we now need a larger venue! The next Swap Shop is **Saturday 24 May** and **Sunday 25 May, 10am-2pm**. The Swap Shop is for everyone. It is about sharing and reusing and reducing waste in our community. Items we accept are: clothing, toys, crockery, accessories, books, jigsaws, pet stuff, china and footwear. The Swap Shop is one initiative that helps contribute to UCA's purpose of addressing climate change in helping to achieve a reduction in carbon. We have a new **Udny Swaps** Facebook page where you can find out everything about the forthcoming swaps. We are also looking at extending the Swap Shop model out to other communities that may be interested in setting up their own Swap Shops. Udny Climate Action would be happy to help get a Swap Shop established in the Tarves community. If anyone is interested in helping with this venture just contact us on the email below. climate_action_admin@udny.org

Create from Waste Competition

We have already been asked about the Create from Waste competition and we are delighted to confirm that in collaboration with Udny Community Trust, we will be running the Create from Waste competition again this year, entries to be handed into The Quarry Room by 4pm on **Friday 3 October** and Winners will be announced at Open Doors on **Tuesday 7 October**.

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(Continued from Page 37)

Craft Workshops

Threads and Yarns and Udney Community Trust will be running the first crafting workshop on **Wednesday 26 March, 3.30-5pm** in The Quarry Room. The workshops are for everyone but children must have a supervising adult with them. We divert items from the Swap Shop to use along with our existing array of craft supplies and with the help of the ladies from Threads and Yarns, their sewing machines and vast range of expertise we create new items! The March craft workshop will focus on Easter and Mother's Day, if you want to join in, pop along.

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Project Meldrum Academy

S2 pupils from Meldrum Academy chose Udney Climate Action as their charity for their YPI project. They interviewed us and researched us and produced a wonderful presentation all about UCA and what we do in the community. They did not make it through to the final but we were delighted that they chose us and delighted they were able to tell their friends and family about us. We would like to say a huge thank you to the pupils.

If you are interested in fighting climate change in your community or are passionate about the environment then please get in touch or feel free to pop into our next Udney Climate Action meeting and find out more. All our meetings take place in the Quarry Room in the Medan Centre. Contact: climate_action_admin@udny.org



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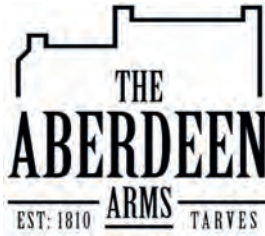
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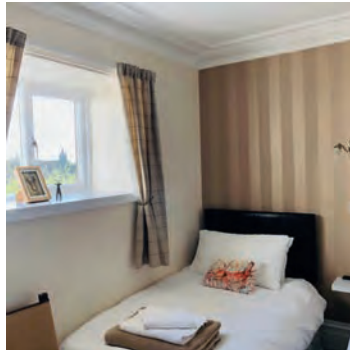
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Sunday • Noon-8pm



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Keep it Local!

Udny Community Trust Update: Spring 2025

As we welcome the early days of spring after a brisk start to the year, we hope you are all in fine fettle. Over at The Medan Centre we've been busy laying the groundwork for some exciting updates and enhancements to our community hub, which we're excited to share with you. Here's the latest from the team at Udny Community Trust.

Udny Community Fund 2025

Our grant funding for 2025 is well underway and we received several grant applications for the first funding round in February. There are further opportunities to submit applications for consideration at the UCTC board meetings in May, August and November. If your community group or organisation has a project in mind, we'd be delighted to discuss your ideas and support you with an application.



UDNY COMMUNITY FUND
HELPING THE COMMUNITY OF UDNY TO DEVELOP

The Udny Community Fund aims to advance community development in Udny Parish. Since it opened in 2011, the Fund has distributed over £667,000 to local causes. The Fund supports voluntary organisations and community groups within the parish of Udny*.

We strongly encourage large grant applicants to contact us before submitting applications.

To discuss a potential project or for help with the application process, contact **Ruth Cluness, UCTC Manager:** manager@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk

Grant Application Deadlines

Large Grants Over £1,000	Small Grants Up to £1,000
27 January 2025	17 February 2025
28 April 2025	19 May 2025
28 July 2025	18 August 2025
27 October 2025	17 November 2025

Visit our website for more information and to apply:
www.udnycommunitytrust.org.uk/grants

*Please note that individuals and business are not eligible to apply.



The Medan Centre: A Warm Space




The **Quarry Room** in The Medan Centre is a warm space, where all are welcome. Have a seat by the fire and get cozy with a cuppa. We've got blether, board games and books available for all to enjoy!

Drop in **Monday-Saturday, 9am-3pm** and enjoy our comfy sofa!
The Medan Centre, 14 Oldmeldrum Road, Pitmedden, AB41 7AG

Upcoming repairs and renovations


The Medan Centre will be undergoing some maintenance, repairs and improvements in 2025. Notably, there will be a complete replacement of the flat roof over the Quarry Room and the creation of a new multipurpose room in the Gilmorton Suite. These works are part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that our community hub remains safe and comfortable, and to maximise the available space that the community can benefit from. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through these necessary upgrades. We will keep you informed of dates and the impact of works on our events, activities and, of course, our beloved Cafe48!

Regular Events and Activities




WHAT'S ON at the Medan Centre

~ DAY-TO-DAY ~




- UDY COMMUNITY SHELF -
DAILY, 9.15am-1.30pm
Open every day subject to donations.




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

- CAFE 48 -
TUESDAY-SATURDAY, 9.00am-3.00pm
Family-friendly. Open for sit in and take away. Fresh local food and home bakes. Now open 'One Sunday A Month' and select evenings.
Follow Cafe48 on Facebook for updates!


~ 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 Udy area, often visiting a place of local interest.




- UDY 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!




- 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.

 Udy Community Trust Company Ltd Cafe48
  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.

Save the Date: Community Summer Fayre on Saturday 28 June

We're excited to announce that our annual Community Summer Fayre is scheduled for Saturday 28 June 2025. Plans are already underway to make this yet another memorable day filled with fun activities, local crafts, delicious treats, and a chance for the community to come together. We'd love to hear from you—what activities or attractions would make the day special for you?

Community land project

Further to our update in the last edition, we are committed to supporting the establishment of a project group to develop a community facility on the land beside Haddo Medical Centre in Pitmedden. If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch.

Contact us

We'd love to hear from you if you'd like to know more about any of the topics covered in our latest update, or if you'd just like to share your thoughts! Please do get in touch with Ruth Cluness, UCTC Manager by emailing manager@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk or calling our office on 01651 843776.

Tarves Flower Show

**Date for your diary, the 75th Annual Flower Show this year will be held on
Saturday, 9th August in the Melvin Hall.**

Schedules for the Flower Show are available in the Spar shop and the Aberdeen Arms Hotel. As it is our 75th Show we really would like to see the hall brimming with all your entries whether it be floral, fruit, vegetables, baking, sewing, knitting, jam making, the list just goes on and on. Once again, anyone interested in giving the use of their time on the Thursday night before the Show, when all the tables and stands are set up, also on the Saturday "Show Day" - please give me a call. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks in advance.

Sheila Ewen, Chairperson
Tel: 851766



Udny Station Indoor Bowling Club

The Club continues to meet on a Monday and Thursday evening in the Youth Hall, Tarves from 7.30 - 9.30pm. Club competitions are well underway and should be completed by the end of the season in April. If anyone is interested in having a go at the bowling please come along any Monday or Thursday.

John Dickson
01651 851317





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

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Mid – Formartine Guild

“Whose we are and Whom we serve”

We are still on our winter break, but we are busy planning our summer session. Although by the time you read this, we will have hosted the World Day of Prayer on **Friday 7 March** when Guild members along with our friends from Methlick, will conduct the service in Tarves Kirk. This is an annual event and is conducted on the same day in Christian Churches throughout the World, all praying together and worshipping on the same theme. This service for this year has been compiled by the women of the Cook Islands, a remote set of islands in the South Pacific that was once a British colony. It now has its own government but is linked to New Zealand. Based on the Theme “I made you Wonderful” (psalm 139), the service included the testimony of 3 island women about their lives and the challenges of living on these remote islands.

We will open our summer session with a lunch at the Redgarth, Oldmeldrum, on **Thursday 24 April** when we will also have the chance to explore the Guild’s new theme for 2025 “*Living Stones*” part of the 3-year strategy of “Let us Build a House”.

Something different is planned for our May meeting when we will have entertainment from the Granite City Male Voice Choir. This will be on **Friday 9 May in Tarves Kirk** and is open to everyone so please come along and enjoy the wonderful singing. The cost will be a suggested donation of £5. Look out for posters nearer the time.

For our meeting on **Thursday 5 June at 7pm in Tarves Kirk** we will be going on a journey following in the footsteps of St Paul. Our speaker for this meeting will be Mrs Patricia Dunn who has been covering our Kirk services during the vacancy.

Saturday 14 June is another date for your diary when we are to hold a Strawberry Afternoon Tea in **Pitmedden Kirk** from 2 – 4pm. Again, look out for posters closer to the time.

Our speaker for the meeting on **Thursday 3 July in Tarves Kirk @ 7pm** is Pam Millar who has a continuing involvement with crew of the “*Stella Maris*”, the ship that was detained in Aberdeen Harbour for some time.

Dates of further meetings are **Thursday 7 August, in Tarves**, when one of our own members, Alison Hepburn, will give an illustrated talk on “The ups and downs of life” relating to an eventful canal journey.

Then on **Thursday 4 September in Pitmedden Kirk**, Sue Thomson will be speaking on one of the projects the Guild is supporting this year “*Bibles for Bairns*”. The vision is to offer every child in Scotland a toddler Bible and stay engaged with them until they reach the age of 5. Quite an undertaking but hopefully, with provision of funds from the Guild, one they will achieve. For further details of these meetings or anything to do with the Guild, please contact Jean on 891081 or Doreen 851040.

Knitting and sewing news



We have had continuous gifts of various knitting styles and patterns over the past few months – many blankets both large and smaller, hats in all sizes and colours with many having a matching scarf and neck-warmers which are extremely popular with some of the organisations who help with those who sorely need some warmth. These are mainly divided between the **Cyrenians and Street Friends in Aberdeen**.

AberNecessities in Dyce have had several large donations from our parish and wider, with dozens of knitted hats for 2-year-olds up to P7 and again, many had a matching scarf. Numerous baby and toddler cardigans were also included plus few dozen knitted and crocheted blankets of various sizes and wonderful colours, added to that were the much-admired teddies and octopuses for younger ones.

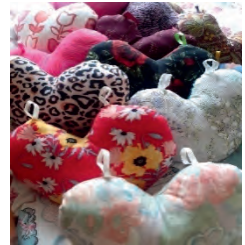
The Specialist Ortho Rehab Unit at Woodend Hospital thank the knitters for donations of adult hats for discharge patients who needed something to keep them warm once outside in the cold air. **Morningfield House** were delighted at a recent selection of octopuses as some patients look for something to hold and focus on and staff take pleasure in sharing the octopus family with their longer stay patients.



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.



Friends of Anchor in ARI recently appealed for sewn drainage bags and angel hearts for their patients; the bag is rectangular circa A4 size with about a metre of ribbon attached to the bag, and patients carry a plastic drainage bag inside this bespoke fabric shoulder bag. Another appeal was for 'angel hearts' for post-surgery ladies; these are exactly as they sound – fabric hearts with a small tag at the top of each heart for a future



ribbon to be tied on at a comfortable length. They provide a comfort for these patients, used underarm as a soft surface or the top 'V' cradling at the back of the neck. They are filled with hollowfibre as this can be washed should the heart be marked or needing a 'refresh.' If anyone would like to sew either of these, please contact me at tbc.editor@btinternet.com and I can give you a pattern for each and contact details for dropping them off at FoA.

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

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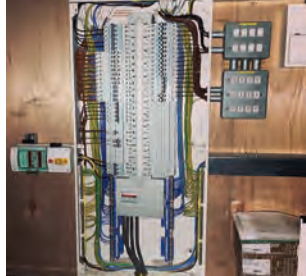


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