

TBC

Issue 74

Tarves and Barthol Chapel
Quarterly Newsletter
September 2025



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Our villages need YOU

A day without a blazing sun above is a temporary respite from the recent exceptionally hot weather. I don't think we ever hoped that it might rain soon, and when the rain did come, it was a bit violent. As always, we must thank those who advertise with us, and those who give up their time to prepare TBC updates on their activities and then of course, the delivery volunteers. When I read through the recent news, one regular request is – can you help? We held a volunteer event in the Melvin Hall in 2023 and the support from that date was positive. However, people move house, they maybe have changed jobs and are unable to commit to regular helping and of course, there are new families who've moved into the area. I've noted below some village groups who actively need your help as it does allow the load to be shared.

- **Scotia Estate** – can each street please talk with your neighbours and nominate one person to count the number of issues needed for your street, then pass the info to the TBC editorial team at tbceditor@btinternet.com. Delivery bundles are then made up and you'd be asked to collect your area's TBCs for ongoing delivery 4 x per year. We have had a generous volunteer for the past few years, but numbers are rising and from the December 25 TBC issue we need a volunteer from each of areas below:
 - Carnegie Way
 - Corbett Grove
 - Drumfinnie Rise
 - Laing Avenue
 - Melvin Rise
- **Tarves Flower Show** – Sheila Ewen has been the Chair for a number of years and she's now looking for someone to take over her role and create a team for future years. This year's show had the most wonderful display of vegetables and home baking but flower entries were a bit lower after the 'violent rain' the week before. Sheila can be contacted on the number in her article.
- **Graveyard volunteers** – a group formed a few years ago to keep the graveyard in a welcome condition for those families and friends who visit the graves regularly. They have secured some funding to allow some future planning and are looking for extra help. Fresh air, new friendships, volunteer satisfaction are all the positive extras to helping here. Contact names/numbers are noted at the end of their article.
- **Floral tubs in the Square and the Ploo'man**
Yes, the rain waters them, but hands are needed to plan then create the tubs, water when needed and keep the Ploo'man in good condition. The 'chief' volunteer is giving up at the end of this year so we now need a new face to take over the role (training will be given 😊). Please contact [851040](tel:851040) / [07989 167232](tel:07989167232) or [07717 564607](tel:07717564607)

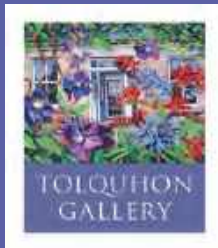
Enjoy the remainder of the summer and forthcoming autumn months – best wishes everyone.

Ruth

TBC Editor



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Perspective

Over the summer Nicola and I took our boys to Center Parcs. Between swimming and BBQs, Daniel decided to tackle the high aerial adventure course. He clambered across ropes and soared down zip lines with far more courage than I expected — cheered on by the rest of us. James, meanwhile, tried his hand at fencing. At one point we had to slap each other with a glove and declare: “I challenge you to a duel!” The alternative, the instructor said, was simply to shout: “HEY YOU! I WANNA FIGHT!” Needless to say, the boys spent the week yelling this at one another.

Moments like these remind me how perspective shapes everything. From one angle, it was an ordinary family holiday; from another, it was absurd, hilarious, and rather brave. The same is true in the wider world. News headlines show the conflict in Ukraine or the devastation in Gaza from different perspectives — governments argue, leaders disagree, and sometimes even the definition of “famine” becomes contested. But while perspectives differ, the people caught in the middle are the ones who suffer most.

This, I believe, is where we find God’s perspective. Through the prophet Isaiah we hear: “Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” God sees the vulnerable and calls us to do the same.

So, whether in the absurdity of a family adventure or the complexity of world events, perspective matters. And the good news is that God’s perspective is not hidden from us. In Christ we see a God who draws near to the hurting, who notices the overlooked, and who lifts up the vulnerable. May we be encouraged that, however confusing the world may feel, God is at work bringing hope and healing.

Rev Alastair Bruce

Interim Moderator – Formartine Parish Church

Sunday Worship @ 10am

All are welcome to our united services which alternate between Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks. For up-to-date details see Formartine Parish Church website and notice boards.

Refreshments are served after worship. Zoom links and large print Orders of Service are also available each Sunday. If you would like one please contact **07966 765815**





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Knitting and sewing news

The recipients of all donations take great delight in opening bags, seeing what is inside then laying out for future sharing. In June this year, Formartine Guild welcomed Pam from **Stella Maris**, a charity set up to help seaman from other countries, providing chaplaincy and advice on the cities and harbours they are berthed in should they be here for longer than planned. In our colder weather, many of these workers experience temperatures they will never have known before, so warm clothes are premium donations. This Parish was able to donate a big bag of adult hats and blankets for sharing with these seafarers.



<https://stellamaris.org.uk/>

AberNecessities in Dyce have received dozens of mixed size hats, some with a matching scarf, baby cardigans, and colourful blankets along with the popular teddies and octopuses. This organisation doesn't just help babies and young children though; they also support teenagers some of whom recently received a generous toiletries donation from a donor in Tarves.

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

Cyrenians have a large drop off centre in Torry and their crates are already busy with cold weather articles. They have had many hats, blankets and a large donation of toiletries and will be in receipt of more winter knitting as the months move on. <https://www.weareac.org/>

Friends of Anchor support patients in ARI's Anchor Unit. Post breast surgery patients receive a hand-made, heart shaped, polyester filled support cushion. If you would like a heart pattern, please contact me at tbc.editor@btinternet.com and I can give you a pattern and contact details for dropping them off at FoA. <https://www.friendsofanchor.org/>

Street Friends are another agency who benefit greatly from knitted hats and warm blankets for cold weather. This organisation supports those on the streets with a morning street trolley supplying coffee/tea/hot soup along with sandwiches provided by Aberdeen supermarkets. You can read their story via Facebook / facebook.com/justinstreetangels

Woodend Hospital's Orthopaedic Rehab Unit and the Stroke Unit both regularly welcome donations of twiddle muffs, octopuses and knee blankets.

Aberdeen Maternity Hospital have just launched a new appeal for baby hats, so we can take these once again and deliver them to NHS Grampian.

We have had knitting donated by folk from across the City and Shire, many of these knitters have friends/relatives in this area and know that their knitting will be passed on to charities who can help those in need. Hanover Court Knitters meet in their lounge at 2pm each Tuesday. New knitters are ways welcome, and if you have any wool you no longer need, then the group would appreciate adding to their small stock. Your contact at Hanover is Jessie Simpson 851958

Thank you everyone for being such generous donors to all these organisations. You can hand in knitting to Formartine Parish Church at Tarves on a Sunday morning at 11am or at the Tuesday coffee morning in Tarves at 10am.

Ruth – on behalf of Formartine Parish knitters





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We enjoyed a busy and varied summer term including a night of yoga with Kristy, a litter pick for World environment day, a cook out and a scavenger hunt. Despite the rain the girls thoroughly enjoyed a 'Race around the world themed' county fun day in Ellon enjoying challenges from all around the world, dancing in the rain and eating ice cream! We finished

for the summer with a lovely evening at Fireflies where Evie completed her gold award – the highest award achievable in Brownies. Congratulations to Evie.

This term we are looking forward to developing our planning and organisational skills to host our annual fundraising coffee evening for Macmillan. Come Halloween we will once again be 'Trick or Treating' with a difference and collecting much needed donations of food for Aberdeenshire North Foodbank, we hope to improve upon our incredible 518.95kg collection last year. Please look out for flyers through your door and support us if you can. Every little helps.

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 <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>





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Ellon and District Men's Shed

Since the last article in March there have been several important developments at the Shed.

The mechanical workshop is fully up and running. We have been donated lots of bikes, including some 'high end' models and these are being refurbished for sale. At times, we have more bikes than we can handle, and we then pass them on to Stella's Voice as they have a large bike repair workshop. We have now refurbished 5 'classic' motorbikes (photo) and two mini-motorbikes. If you are interested in getting involved with bike or motor bike refurbishing, please get in touch.

Ten solar panels and a battery system have been installed. These are working very well, we hope that this system will save us between 25% and 50% of our electricity costs and contribute to a reduction in our carbon footprint.

We have been very fortunate to receive a grant from Scottish Government Rural Communities Poverty Alleviation Fund which has allowed us to purchase more equipment and materials for the workshops to allow us to increase our activities. Part of this funding was used to buy a second 3D printer. This has significantly increased our capability in this area and fits well with the 3D-printing training courses we are offering to Shed members.

The 3D printers, laser engraver and CNC wooding working machine have been very busy making a large range of items including wooden puzzles, phone holders, house signs, and presentation 'medals'.

The woodworking workshop has had a second order from the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative for 20 mink trackers. Other significant projects included stage scenery for the Ythan Amateur Dramatic Association. These big projects go along with the 'smaller' requests for mud kitchens, benches, trugs, planters, house signs, bird boxes etc..

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.

On the 7th August in collaboration with Aberdeenshire Council Community Learning and Development, we held a workshop for families to work together to make bird boxes, bird feeders (with recycled materials) and to do some 3D printing (photo).

The garden has had a good summer with a great crop of strawberries and a good supply of tomatoes, potatoes, carrots and other fruit and veg. We are seeking funding to replace the polytunnel with a more solid polycarbonate version (a Polycrub). We hope to have this in place by the end of the year.

In March we submitted an Expression of Interest to Aberdeenshire Council for a Community Asset Transfer to secure long-term control of the Shed beyond the term of our current lease (to August



2030). As we have now reached the physical limits of our workshops and site we are also seeking to expand the area of the Shed's grounds. As part of this process we have revised our constitution. The newly approved constitution has been supported by OSCR (Scottish Charity Regulator) and has now been adopted by the Shed.

The Wednesday sessions of the developing Women's Shed have been very well received by the attendees. The induction and training process is a key part of this journey and will take time to work through to fully establish a stand-alone Women's Shed. The Men's Shed will carry on being run as a social/hobby place for men. The underpinning need for a dedicated *men's* shed hasn't changed. If you are interested, please contact us on either ellonmensshed@gmail.com or ellonwomensshed@gmail.com.

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

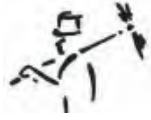
"This Project was supported by the Scottish Government's Rural Community Led Local Development Fund 2024/25"



Tarves Allotments

We've had a very productive summer at the allotments, with plenty of fruit and veg on the go (and obviously a few weeds too!) Keeping everything watered has been a bit of a challenge with the dry weather, so thanks to Chris York for spending a lot of time trying to keep our slightly aging water collection system going. And a big thanks to Kyle Swash for being persuaded by his grandad that he really wanted to repaint the allotment shed – it looks a lot smarter now, so thanks very much. At the moment all the plots are taken and we have a waiting list of folk who'd like one, so it's good to that they're in demand. If you want to join the waiting list, please email:tamsin_morris@yahoo.co.uk





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Haddo Children's Theatre Presents Matilda Jr.

This September, Haddo Children's Theatre is bringing the much-loved story of Matilda Jr. to life on stage at Haddo House Hall. Packed with Roald Dahl's trademark mischief and magic, Matilda follows an extraordinary little girl with a big imagination and the courage to change her own destiny.

Performances will run from Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th September:

- Thursday – 7.00pm
- Friday – 7.00pm
- Saturday – 2.00pm (Relaxed Performance, BSL interpreted)
- Saturday – 7.00pm (BSL interpreted)

The Saturday afternoon show is a relaxed performance, designed to create a welcoming and supportive environment for anyone who would benefit from a more informal theatre experience.




Both Saturday performances will also feature British Sign Language interpretation, making the production accessible for those who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

The young cast have been working tirelessly to bring this production to the stage, and audiences can expect an evening full of energy, fun, and heart. Every rehearsal has been filled with determination, laughter, and no shortage of talent, all to create the very best show possible.

We can't wait to share this magical story with our community. Gather your friends and family and join us for an unforgettable performance of Matilda Jr.

 **Venue: Haddo House Hall**

 **Dates: 25th – 27th September**

We look forward to seeing you there.

WD Massie – Undertakers.

Many of you will now have heard that Billy, Helen & Maureen finished trading as undertakers on 28th February 2025 prior to new government regulations, additional paperwork and more red tape.

William D Massie Snr worked as a joiner in the area before joining the local joiner in the late 1930s, it was customary that the local joiner was responsible for undertaking.

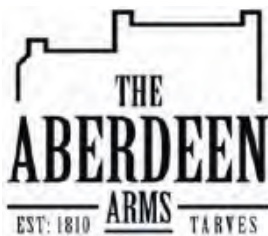
In 1945 Willie was offered the tenancy of the joiner's workshop in Tarves from the Laird of Haddo.

Billy started work with his father at 15 years of age and continued until Willie died in 1994, thereafter he was ably assisted by his wife Helen & daughter Maureen. Their attention to detail and helpful guidance will be sorely missed in Tarves and surrounding areas. They helped many families through some of the most difficult times with dignity and empathy and ensured that fitting tributes were paid to their loved ones.

Tarves Community Council wish to express their thanks on behalf of the local community for their many years of dedicated service.



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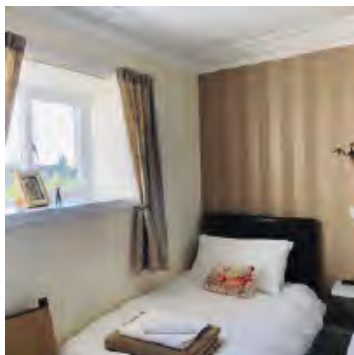


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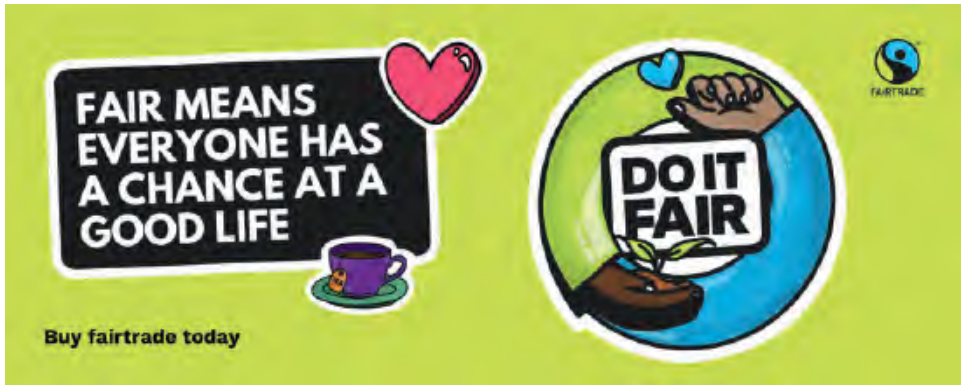




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Look out for tea and coffee tasting events
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during Fairtrade Fortnight.

Organised by Formartine Fairtrade group sponsored by the Co-op.

If you would like us to run an event at your café or business or club—just give us a shout at annemaspdn@yahoo.co.uk



**Tea, coffee & biscuits are
served in Tarves Kirk every
Tuesday morning
from 10 – 11am so do come
along and join us. It's a
great way to meet and make new friends.**

Only £2 per adult



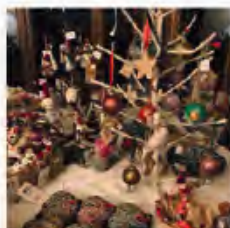
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Brave Journeys – **Making Mental Health Support Accessible for All**

At Brave Journeys, I believe mental health should be treated just as normally as physical health. We go to the doctor for check-ups, aches, and minor illnesses before they become something bigger – our mental wellbeing deserves the same care. It doesn't have to be a huge crisis before you reach out for support. Often, it's the small things – stresses, worries, and day-to-day struggles – that build up over time. Having a safe space to talk can make all the difference.

That's why I set up the Access for All Fund. This fund helps children, young people, and adults access counselling even if finances would normally be a barrier. Thanks to donations from our community, more people can get the support they need when they need it most.

I work in a way that's flexible to suit you. Sessions can take place in your own home, or in my new office in Ellon – a private space for those who need time away from the busyness of home life. I also offer online sessions and walk-and-talk therapy for anyone who feels more comfortable in the fresh air.

If you, or someone you care about, could benefit from a listening ear and professional support, Brave Journeys is here. Mental health matters, and together we can make seeking help feel like a natural and positive step.

♥ For more information, or to find out about the Access for All Fund, please get in touch.

A flyer for Brave Journeys' Access For All Fund. On the left is a circular inset photo of a smiling woman in a dark sweater talking to someone. The right side has a light pink background with the Brave Journeys logo (a map of Scotland) and the text 'Brave Journeys BEING WITH SMALL STEPS'. Below this is the question 'Worried about the cost of therapy?' followed by a green banner with 'Access For All Fund' in white. Two bullet points with red triangle icons state: 'If you're struggling but can't afford counselling, reach out.' and 'If you'd like to help others access therapy, your support means everything.' At the bottom is a red button that says 'REACH OUT TODAY', followed by the email 'graham@bravejourneys.co.uk' and the phone number '07818556866'. A small circular logo is in the bottom right corner.

Kind regards

Graham Wilson MBACP (he/him)

Brave Journeys

Tigh An Learaig, Tarves, Ellon, AB41 7LR Tel: 07818556866

graham@bravejourneys.co.uk

www.bravejourneys.co.uk



Results from the 75th Tarves Flower Show held on Saturday 9 August 2025

Trophy Winners for the show are as follows:

Challenge Cup for highest aggregate points – confined section	George Simpson
Challenge Cup for best exhibit Overall in Pot Plants	Ian Turner
Trophy for best exhibit in Pot Plants – confined section	Lorna Thomson
Trophy for best Dahlias – confined section	Gordon Brown
Trophy for best exhibit in Fruit – confined section	Marie Johnston
Trophy for best exhibit cut flowers – open section	Ian Turner
Diploma - Best entry in pot plants	Ian Turner
Diploma - Best entry in cut flowers	Ian Turner
Diploma - Best entry in Vegetables	Stephen Shaw
Diploma - Best entry in Fruit	Steven Shaw
Challenge Trophy best exhibit of Roses	Linda Tait
Silver Tray highest aggregate of points in the Baking section	Lesley Young
Challenge Cup for highest aggregate points in Under 18 Baking	Miller Hutcheon
Challenge Cup for highest aggregate points Industrial section	Kathleen Laird
Challenge Cup best exhibit in the Industrial section	Marie Johnston
Challenge Cup for highest aggregate points in Home Produce	Anne Davidson
Novice Trophy in Floral Art Section	Sharon Hutcheon
Challenge Cup most points in Floral Art	Sharon Hutcheon
Perpetual trophy best exhibit in Floral Art	Sharon Hutcheon
Junior Floral Art Trophy	Miller Hutcheon
Challenge Trophy best exhibit Children's section	Miller Hutcheon
Perpetual Garden Scheme Cup Best Kept Allotment	George Simpson
Perpetual Challenge Cup for Best All-round Garden	Derek Robson
Perpetual Challenge cup for most attractive small front garden	Mrs Gardiner
Perpetual Shield most attractive private house garden	Lucy Lee
Challenge Shield most points vegetable& Fruit - open section -	Kathleen Laird
Trophy for most points Children's section	Eilidh Young
Best Hanging Basket Trophy – Gardens	Doreen Brown
Best Tub Trophy – Gardens	Mrs Marjory McGaw
Best Exhibit in Vegetables – open section	Stephen Shaw
Best Begonia flower - Memory of Eddie Hay	Moreen Alexander

This was the 75th well attended show, the unusual weather pattern was definitely a contributing factor this year as far as the entries were concerned, and of course it did not help that Storm Floris came through the same week as the Show and created havoc in the gardens. Despite that, the gardeners managed to produce a lovely show and a variety of vegetables. Competitors had been





News from

Barthol Chapel Community

Hub

Become a member using this QR code or email
info@bartholchapelhub.org



Progress of the project

Our application to The Scottish Land Fund (SLF) for the major funding to purchase the building and urgent repairs was successful! We have been awarded £100,465 to acquire the kirk so it can continue to be used and further developed as a community hub. The money will go towards the purchase price and associated costs, as well as covering the cost of a part-time Development Officer who we will seek to appoint as soon as possible. Events will continue to help us raise funds for running costs and to begin the refurbishment, so please come and support us.

Regular Events

free apart from*, with donations to the Hub project welcome
open to all

Music Cafe – first Sunday of the month 2pm

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

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

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

Craft group – 7pm usually third Thursday of the month

Games group – 7pm last Monday of the month

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

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

***Beginners group Ukelele Lessons** – 11am last Saturday of the month £15

Occasional Events

free, with donations to the Hub project welcome
open to all

Tall Ships talk by a young participant – 7pm Thurs 4th September

Garden Party to celebrate 150 years of the kirk and the award of funding to purchase the building – 10am onwards Sat 13th September

Wildflower Workshop – 6pm Wed 1st October

‘From Barbados to Banffshire’ a talk about a family’s history – 7pm Wed 29th October

Christmas Sing with saxophone group – early Dec (date TBC)

We publicise them by email to our members and on our facebook and instagram

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



Scottish Land Fund
Tomataas Pèrlaia na h-Alba

Community
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUNDS

Scottish Government
National Lottery Community Fund

Scottish Government
National Lottery Community Fund



David and June
Gordon Memorial Trust

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busy over the months and the results were of the usual high standard. The bakers were not to be outdone and mouthwatering exhibits were displayed and several could also be sampled with the tea. The Floral, Home Produce, Industrial and Children's sections all showcased the competitor's talents. Congratulations go to all the winners and to each and every competitor as without you we would not have a Flower Show, you really all put in an enormous amount of hard work.

Thank you to all who came and supported us in the afternoon, the setting up and dismantling staging crew, all the Judges on Saturday morning along with the scribes, to all who helped with admission tickets, raffles and the teas, your help in making the Show a success was invaluable.

After many years being involved with the Show I am stepping down, so if there is anyone out there willing to keep this community-based Flower Show going, please give me a call.

Sheila M Ewen - Chairperson – 01651 851766

Tarves Tennis Club – news



Tarves Tennis Club enjoyed another smashing summer on court with our regular Thursday night sessions drawing consistent attendance from both near and far.

Two impromptu Tarves Youth Opens were held during our kids' sessions. The competitive rallies saw Ethan Quire (P7) and Maxwell Ferrari (S3) crowned champions — both proving to be real aces. Once again linking up with The Hut Youth Project, Tarves gave taster sessions to youngsters keen to serve up their first shots.

All the kids who joined us over the summer have been exceptionally polite and well-behaved — a real credit to the village.

Thursday adult sessions from 8pm have been hosted most weeks, and members enjoyed one of the sunniest summers on record — a real set-up for great tennis.

A special guest in July was Texan health coach and competitive tennis player Jane McGregor (née Bruce). The former Tarves resident joined the club for an evening of top-spin tips from across the pond.

Moving into the closed season, the club will be hosting a coconut shy at the upcoming Hamish Dear's Warm Hugs Football Tournament at Hillhead Park on Sunday 21 September, as well as a members' golf outing in October to keep activity rolling. Looking towards the end of the year, plans are already afoot for the Christmas night out — a chance to raise a glass to an ace season.

As always, anyone wishing to join our Thursday night sessions is most welcome to turn up, or give me a buzz on 07921 863682. And if you'd like to net the court for your own game, just get in touch.

Yours smashingly

John Sleigh

Vice President, Tarves Tennis Club





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Ythan Singers

What a wonderful 2024-25 season we have had with three main concerts and a make-over of uniform! The "May Music Extravaganza", held in Aberdeen Music Hall was such a fun concert to take part in and featured Emeli Sande. What a wonderful job our musical director Morag Simpson did with all the complicated arrangements of bringing many local choirs together and producing such a wonderful concert packed full of exciting music. We opened with "Sway" featuring



Glen and Jennifer Strachan dancing to the Latin American rhythm, followed by "Flying Free" sung by all the ladies. Emeli sang "Next to Me" and "Clown". Local singer, Iain Milne, formerly of Zurich Opera, also joined us on stage. Morag's children's group, "Musical Midgies", stole the show with "Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Peppers"! and her piano students, James Adam and Matthew McClelland and Cults Academy Percussion group were just amazing. The star of the show was of course Emeli Sande herself, with her finale of "Roots" accompanied by the entire company. The concert raised £18,000 for the chosen charities:

Cranes (Cancer Research Aberdeen & NE Scotland), Charlie House, and NESMS (North East of Scotland Music School). The concert was conducted by our Musical Director, Morag Simpson. Our accompanist was Rachel Mackison and Master



of Ceremonies was Gordon Hay. We then ended the season with a final concert in Iverkeithny Church.

Monies raised went to the Inverkeithny Kirk Preservation Trust. If you missed this concert then keep 23 May 2026 free. (Date to be confirmed). Why not join the Ythan Singers when we start back on Monday 15 September and come and take part.

We are an Ellon-based 4-part choir (SATB) with members coming from Ellon & surrounding districts. We are led by our Musical Director, Morag Simpson & accompanist, Rachel Mackison. We rehearse on Mondays 7.30-9.30pm in Ellon Parish Kirk Centre, (next door to Greens). Did you know that singing is very good for your mental health? You do not need to be able to sight-sing but an ability to follow music will help. The only item you need to bring along is a soft pencil and your voice! New members are always welcome. For info see www.ythansingers.co.uk or Facebook

@ythansingers or contact us by email at ythansingers@yahoo.co.uk





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Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy



Appointment of New Vice Lord-Lieutenant and Six Deputy Lieutenants for Aberdeenshire



I am delighted to welcome The Lady Saltoun DL as my new Vice Lord-Lieutenant following the retirement of Joanna, The Marchioness of Aberdeen DL. I am also very pleased to appoint six new Deputy Lieutenants, each of whom brings a unique set of skills, experience, and service to Aberdeenshire. From charitable and community leadership to military service and commercial expertise, they have already made a significant contribution to our communities throughout the county. The newly appointed Deputy Lieutenants are: The Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair Bt DL

(George), Mrs Sarah Bell DL, Major (Retd) Nicholas Champion MBE DL, Mrs Laura McNeil DL, Major (Retd) Toby Rider MC DL, Commodore Hector Robert (Bob) Sanguinetti RN(Retd) DL. Aberdeenshire is a wonderfully diverse and beautiful county with an enormous number of individuals and voluntary groups who work tirelessly to enhance the quality of life and cohesion in our recognising such selfless contributions.

Anniversaries, Birthdays and Honours

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



Congratulations to Mr Fred and Mrs Alice Sinclair (right) from Oldmeldrum and Mr Alvan and Mrs Muriel Milne (left), from Pitmedden.

Both couples celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversaries at the end of July. Sarah Mackie, DL was delighted to visit and share in their celebrations.



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

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

Formartine Parish Church

Catwalkers Fashion Show

in Pitmedden Kirk

on Wednesday 24 September

at 7pm

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News from the Square



What a glorious summer we have had – until Storm Floris blew in and damaged a lot of the plants and flowers in the Square especially the hanging baskets. However, we have done our best to revive them and everything is still looking quite colourful.

Once all the flowers are past and lifted that will be the last of my efforts to try and keep the Village looking good so it will be over now to one or a group of you to look after the tubs and baskets. Perhaps you could adopt a tub and look after it or get friends to help – it really is over to someone new if you want to keep the Square especially, looking nice and welcoming.

For more info please get in touch with David on 07717 564607 or Gordon on 07989 167232

The Tarves Plooman

Tarves Graveyard Volunteer Group

The weather plays a huge part in the work at the cemetery and following heavy rain and lots of sunshine, the weeds had begun to take over but once again, due to the hard work of our volunteers, the graveyard is looking neat and tidy. Paths are edged, weeding done and some overhanging bushes cut back as well as branches cleared up following Storm Floris. We are pleased with how well the pots outside and inside the graveyard are looking and thanks to those who planted them and continue to water and deadhead the flowers.

Our next big project is maintenance of the two small gates and they will be removed shortly to be cleaned, repaired, then painted. We are fortunate and very grateful to have received grant funding from Formartine Rural Partnership to enable this work to go ahead. Hopefully in time, we can look at doing something with the main gates and railings too.

We recently had a very good meeting with the Community Council and Mr Sandy Scott, Interim Landscape Manager for Aberdeenshire Council who is very appreciative of our efforts.

This is very much an ongoing project and if you feel you could help with the voluntary effort and feel the benefit of companionship, working in the open air and making a difference in your local community, please get in touch with:

Hilda Bruce 07711 358201 or
Moir Minty 07800 953127.



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Update on Tarves Heritage Project's

Autumn 2025 activities

Doors Open Days 20 and 21 September 2025

'A window into the Past'

We had an excellent turn out last year for our Doors Open weekend and hopefully we can do it all again this year with your assistance.

We are going down memory lane to the time of Tarves Literary Society which was mentioned in the press in 1899 and carried on into the 1960s. They held debates, storytelling and much more, it will be well worth a visit.

Competitions include writing with quill and ink and covering a school book.

Calendar 2026 – 'Those were the days' theme.

Calendars will be available to purchase from end of September from Heritage Centre or any committee member. Watch out on Facebook for more information nearer the time.

Website update

A new updated website will be launched soon so please check Facebook for information and to contact us.

Wild flowers down the Glebe path

Wild flowers are looking lovely even after the drought, the wind and rain. Take a walk down the Glebe path a see how many different varieties and colours of flowers there are.

Winter Talks

I don't want to mention the word Winter, but I will, as we have an exciting selection of talks starting in November, so keep watching Facebook and posters around the village for more information.

Scarecrow Competition

Due to the great community effort last year, we will be holding another Scarecrow Trail this year when the theme will be 'Comic and Cartoon Characters'. Get your thinking caps on and be ready to launch on Friday 17th October 2025 running through to Friday 31st October. Entry forms will be available from the Heritage Centre in September.

Tarves Heritage Project relies solely on donations and public support so without you we could not continue, thank you. If you have never been to visit us at the Tarves Heritage Centre please come on a Thursday, Friday or Sunday between the hours of 1pm and 4pm, you will be made most welcome by our cheery volunteers.

Jane Cattnach, THP Secretary



Tarves Heritage Project 100+ Club

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

Thank you for your support.
Draw 2 on Monday 11th August 2025

£100	£50	£50	£25	£25	£25	£25
No 131	No 95	No26	No 68	No 77	No 41	No 204

Udny Community Trust Update : Autumn 2025

As the leaves begin to turn, we're looking forward to a busy old autumn but before we tell you all about that, we wanted to share a wee bit about Udny Community Trust for the benefit of any new residents in the area and nearby.

Simply put, Udny Community Trust exists to help the parish of Udny to develop. The Trust was established in 2011 to manage the funds generated by the Udny Community Wind Turbine at Tillymaud, ensuring that the funds are distributed across the parish in the form of grants for community projects and causes that benefit local residents.

In addition to managing the grant programme, Udny Community Trust owns and operates The Medan Centre community hub in Pitmedden. As well as being the Trust's office, The Medan Centre is home to our beloved Cafe48; it is a hub for activities and events; a 'Warm Space'; a welcoming place where local groups can meet, and much more.



If you're interested in what we do and would like to get involved, scan the QR code to find out more.

Udny Community Trust Autumn Events

We've got some great events coming up over the next couple of months and hope to see you at some of them.

- ❖ **Climate Week North East** – Saturday 20th Sept to Sunday 5th Oct, The Medan Centre
We'll have several themed events during Climate Week North East, with a focus on helping our community to take small steps to reduce our climate impact and protect our local environment. Keep an eye on our social media and posters around Pitmedden for more information. You can also find the official programme of events for the whole of the North East at <https://climateweeknortheast.org/>
- ❖ **Winter Warm & Well** – Saturday 27th September, 10.00am – 2.00pm, Pitmedden Village Hall
We're collaborating with Udny Climate Action, Threads & Yarns and Udny Community Shelf to deliver a winter-focussed pop-up alongside the Swap Shop, bringing together local services,




support groups and information providers to help you prepare for winter and stay warm & well during the colder months. Just turn up at the Swap Shop – you'll find us in the small hall!

- ❖ **Apple Sunday** – Sunday 28th September, 10.30am – 4.00pm
We'll be at Pitmedden Garden's Apple Sunday event and we hope to meet lots of people from the community. So, if you're going to be there, come and say hello!

(More) dates for your diary


Udny Community Fund: The final round of grant funding for 2025 runs through the autumn, with grants considered at the November Board Meeting. The deadline for large grants (over £1,000) is Monday 27th October; for small grants (up to £1,000) it's Monday 17th November. For more information or to apply, visit <https://udnycommunitytrust.org.uk/grants/>

Udny Community Christmas Fayre: the Christmas Fayre will take place at The Medan Centre on Sunday 30th November. Save the date—Yule not want to miss it!




WHAT'S ON at the Medan Centre

- DAY-TO-DAY -




- UDNY COMMUNITY SHELF -

DAILY, 9.15am-1.30pm
Open **every day** subject to donations.



- CAFE 48 -


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



- WARM SPACE -


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

- MONTHLY -




- CONVERSATION CAFE -

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




- BOOK CLUB -

AFTERNOONS: THIRD MONDAY, 3.30 - 5.00pm
LATE NIGHTS: LAST TUESDAY, 7.00 - 8.30pm
Read a different book each month then come along for a cuppa and a chat to share your thoughts about it!



- GUIDED LIONS WALK -


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



- UDNY REPAIR CAFE -


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

- WEEKLY -




- BABY & TODDLER STAY & PLAY -

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




- HEALTH WALK -

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




- QUIET GAMES AFTERNOON -

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




- OPEN DOORS -

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




- WASTE WARMERS -

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 Patehead Fish Company is here every Friday selling local fish.




- FORTNIGHTLY -

FOURTH TUESDAY, 3.30-5.00pm
Bring your own hobby or try something new with guidance from a fellow hobbyist!

Udny Community Trust Company Ltd
Cafe48

 [udnycommunitytrust](https://www.facebook.com/udnycommunitytrust)

 [udnycommunitytrust.org.uk](https://www.instagram.com/udnycommunitytrust)

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.



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Demand is high for the book clubs, so please contact Teresa if you'd like to join one of the groups by emailing admin@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk

As always, we love to hear from you. If you want to know more about the Trust or anything we've mentioned here, please get in touch with the Trust Team below

Ruth Cluness manager@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk 01651 843776 07436 811759	Teresa Constanza admin@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk 01651 843776
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Formartine Parish Church Fundraising Events

Formartine Parish Church held a tabletop sale at Tarves Youth Hall on Saturday 16th August. There were a lot of different stalls with some lovely crafts and a great variety of goods on offer. The baking stall was very popular as were the teas and fine pieces.

The next Fundraiser will be a Fashion Show with Catwalkers of Ellon on Wednesday 24th September at Pitmedden Church at 7pm. Tickets will soon be available at £15 inclusive of wine and shortbread. The fashion show is always a great event so please come along.

Mid-Formartine Guild

“Whose we are and Whom we serve”

Here we are at the end of our Summer Session with our last meeting on 5 September when we will have a speaker talking on one of the Guild projects “Bibles for Bairns”. It is also our AGM during which we will also be dispersing the funds raised from our fund-raising efforts and member’s contributions. Much of this will go to supporting the Church of Scotland Guild movement projects here in Scotland and throughout the world. Plus, some of the funds will also go to the upkeep of our 2 local churches – we keep nothing for ourselves!



Scottish Charity
No SC006056

On 28th September we will have a Guild Thanksgiving Service in Pitmedden Church which will be conducted by our members. We are also in the process of arranging an outing in October and a get-together near Christmas for a festive meal.

For further information please contact Jean on 891081 or Doreen on 851040.



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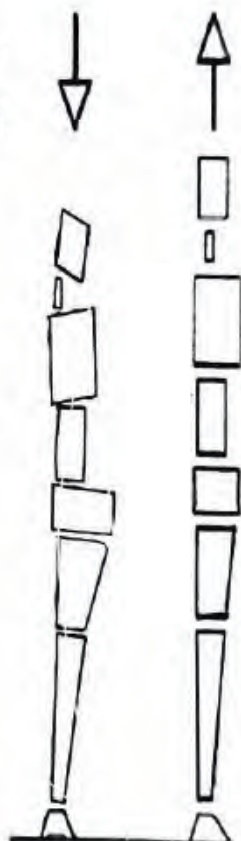
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THE HUT

TARVES YOUTH PROJECT

August news from The Hut, Tarves

Tarves Youth Hall. Thank you to local company R&M Leisure for the inflatable and to David Geddes for supervising the fun.

The Hut has been closed over the summer break to allow painting / maintenance work by local company Grays Painters Ltd. Alex and his team did a first-class job and the new look is lovely. We would like to also thank Alex and Pilar Gray for their very generous donation towards The Hut after hearing what we do in the local community. As a local business they want to support our ongoing work and we cannot express enough how much we appreciate this. It was lovely to have Alex & family down to present the cheque to The Hut on our opening night. We have also had a pre-holiday tennis night organised by John Sleigh from the local Tarves Tennis Group, and we hope to talk with him soon to organise another session.



We opened again Thursday 21st August for the Primary 7 only session 6:30-8:30pm. This was very well attended which tells us we are correct in having this extra weekly session solely for Primary 7 age group. On Monday 25th August 7-9pm we reopen our S1-S6 session, with both these sessions running weekly during term time only.

We have been busy over the holidays updating our resources and getting things ready to welcome the new Primary 7 group to The Hut. We also have a new date for your diaries for a fundraiser rock night at 7.30pm on Saturday 15 November at the Aberdeen Arms Hotel, this is for over 18's only. Please book tickets and come along and support our fundraising for The Hut, supporting the youth of our community for over 27 years. You can see details on community pages our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/share/15w5pAEhfb/?mibextid=wwXlfr> or via this link

📄 Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-hut-youth-project-tarves
All details are also on the poster

We thank you for your support always
Suzanne & The Hut team



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The Hut

Hanover Court

We at Hanover Court have been enjoying the glorious weather - but we do not like the Wasps!!



Buzz off.....`



We would like to thank everyone who supports us through the knitting group, chair exercises and the coffee mornings – (Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 10:30 – 11:30am). The Knitters are busy knitting baby hats for the Aberdeen Baby Unit.

Also thanks for all the donations of wool from near and far. Very much appreciated.

Jessie Simpson 01651 851958



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Our **Summer holiday club** running every Tuesday in the holidays, was well attended and it was lovely to welcome so many families through the door each week for a fun free session of stories, songs, games, snacks and crafts as we rotated between Pitmedden, Methlick and Tarves. A special mention and thank-you to **Brimmond** engineering company in Kintore for generous funding to support our summer holiday club activities. A big thank-you to the

fantastic team of volunteers for all their ideas, planning, time and energy to make this possible. A special mention to our 16 young leaders who volunteered over 150 hours between them to help run the sessions, whilst developing personal skills and working towards an accredited Dynamic Youth Award. They were a huge asset to the team well done and thank-you to you all for giving up your precious Tuesday mornings during the holidays.



What a fantastic day we had at **Udny Community Trust** summer fete back in June. Thank you to everyone who bought sweetie cones, candy floss or raffle tickets we raised over £300 for Formartine Youth Project. Special mention to our amazing volunteers who went home slightly stickier than when they arrived and in particular to **Grant Plumbing and Heating** who generously helped the project buy the candy floss machine to use for future fundraisers. It's available for hire to the community if anyone needs one.

Barthol Chapel Youth Club for those in P6 and over, meet on the last Friday of the month at Barthol Chapel primary school 7-9pm for an evening of games and fun challenges. We finished the term with a fun and competitive night of ten pin bowling in Inverurie – well done #Team Andy. We are looking forward to our first session back in September, catching up on all the news and welcoming our new P6s.

Barthol Chapel Youth Café (P6 and over) will continue to run on the second **Wednesday of the month 3.30-5.30 at Barthol Chapel Hub on the 10th Sept, 8th Oct and 12th November**; providing a welcoming, space to hang out with friends and enjoy sociable activities such as table tennis, Wii, board games and crafts.

It's a little early to mention 'Christmas' but we're already making plans for our **Gingerbread Village Display** in Tarves kirk again this December. So, make a note in your diary and start collecting those cardboard boxes 😊. We invite you to get creative and make a 'gingerbread house' to be part of the display. To reduce food waste, houses are to be made out of cardboard and decorated as you please. Prizes to be won and don't forget to join us for the light switch on and some carol singing to get you in the festive mood.

For more information about this or any of our activities contact carolinefyp@outlook.com or follow us on Facebook: **Formartine Youth Project** and Instagram: **formartineyouthproject** for regular updates.





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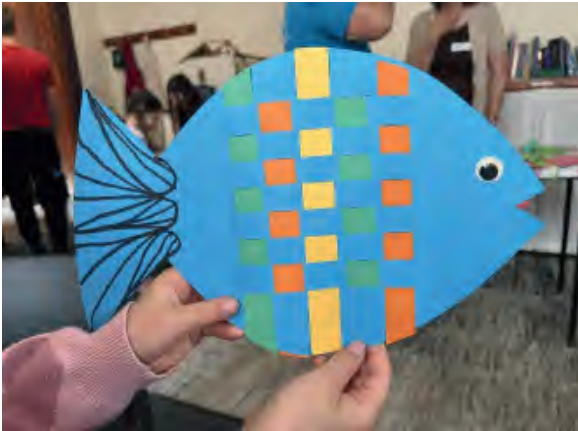
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