

TBC

Tarves and Barthol Chapel
Quarterly Newsletter
December 2020



Many thanks to Barthol Chapel School pupils for their splendid
Hands, Face, Space collage



Wishing all our readers a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy & Healthy New Year

Issue 55

Michael Duncan Builders Ltd

Tel: 01358 789 562

New houses • Extensions • Concrete work • Roofing
All drainage & siteworks • Septic tanks • Patios & driveways



Est. 1985

michaelduncanbuilders.co.uk

Editor's letter – time just to simply listen?

The past 8 months have given us time which we would have used up in 'normal' circumstances – how we've used it is unique to each person – but what about taking some of that time **just to simply listen**.

Think about it, we switch on TV, we watch the news, we have conversations with friends but how often do we actually listen? TV is too easy, one eye on a programme while doing something else at the same time, so listening is cast aside. I've always been a radio listener but over the last 6/7 months I have discovered podcasts. There is no visual experience here – just the listener and the sound of another voice bringing you into their world. Podcasts cover a huge spectrum of interests from culture to health to sport to travel and much more. They can last from 30 minutes or a number of episodes making up a whole novel. Concentration is dedicated to the sound of an engaging voice, and no distraction of backdrops encourages a 'one to one' listening exercise. The skills in producing podcasts are considerable, the voice has to be one which welcomes and immerses you in the story, one which you would love to listen to again, and can often lead to an interest in a subject which you've never explored before.

There are podcasts on simple scientific discoveries, written and read with such skill as to create further investigation; podcasts on politics with either serious discussion or so light hearted it reduces the Covid-19 situation to a manageable one; various history podcasts where 30 minutes of well-constructed narrative can give the listener a good basic outline of a topic; biographies of known and lesser known figures.

Last week, I listened to a travel journalist describing his train journey from Cusco to Machu Picchu Pueblo, which is the town closest to the Lost City of the Incas, Machu Picchu in Peru only discovered until 1911. Of course, that set off an internet trail of finding more information about the discovery and the history behind the structure.

bbc.co.uk/sounds is a good starter point for finding podcasts – there are many which related to our present circumstances; you'll find 30 + minute compilations such as 'Mindful Mix', entirely relaxing music chosen for specific times of the day, you'll also find calming words helping you make some sense of present life.

Listen to family, friends, neighbours and even those who you don't know so well

Listening can be likened to word-to-word resuscitation, which might just save yours, and others' day

I'd like finish with thanks to all contributors throughout 2020 for their time and preparation of articles. They brought a sense of 'continuing' rather than a 'halt' when lockdown came earlier this year. Organisations adapted their activities to work with the limitations placed upon everyone.

Similarly, to our advertisers – your presence in our pages ensures the presence of the TBC in our Parish. 1,000 copies of TBC are printed each quarter and shared across a wide area – and I would encourage all readers to become familiar with services, shops and tradesmen available to them.

In all weathers, the TBC distributors deliver your copy of the newsletter – a big thank you to them for their commitment. This is possibly the last TBC to be published locally as Catriona in Pitmedden is taking 'printer leave', she has always accommodated our printing schedules cheerfully, as well as having many other commitments in her own diary.

The TBC team who typeset, check diary dates (next year maybe!), and look after the finances are quite simply - the **best**.

Thank you all. Ruth Editor TBC

Dear Friends

It is “always winter and never Christmas”. Those were words used by C S Lewis in his book “the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” to describe the imaginary land of Narnia. I’m sure most of you are familiar with the Narnia Chronicles. When the Pevensie children are first transported to Narnia the snow is falling and everything looks beautiful. However, when they meet the faun, Mr Tumnus, he explains that, although Narnia may look beautiful, covered as it is in snow and ice, the reality is very different. Because the White Witch controls Narnia, it is “always winter and never Christmas”. As the story continues, the power of the White Witch is challenged and ebbs away and eventually the sun returns to the land of Narnia bringing with it, better times.

Those words “always winter and never Christmas” have taken on a new significance this year. Since the beginning of October, we have read or heard suggestions in the media that the coronavirus pandemic might deprive us of Christmas. And these make me mad! Because the true meaning of Christmas is not and cannot be taken away from us, even in the midst of a pandemic. Indeed, you might say that this year Christmas is even more significant. The writer of one Christmas carol puts it this way

*Love came down at Christmas
Love all lovely, Love Divine
Love was born at Christmas
Star and angels gave the sign.*

That does not mean that everything in our world will always be wonderful. Fear, isolation, illness and grief may threaten our perception of things, and even our own family traditions on which we place such reliance. However, nothing can change the ultimate significance of the message that lies at the heart of Christmas – that the God of love has entered our world and promises to be with us through good times and more challenging days. And so, we might say, “It is always Christmas **even** when it is winter!”

This year our celebrations will look different. You will find details on page 9 in this TBC of some of the events planned by the Church, including a Messy Advent Calendar, an Advent Windows Challenge, a Community Lessons and Carols Walk, as well as our Christmas services (which will be held on Zoom). Everyone is welcome at any or all of these events.

I hope that you will enjoy participating in some of these different activities

Wishing you every blessing this Christmas and better times in 2021.

Alison I Swindells
Parish Minister

Advent and Christmas

You will see from the Church Christmas card that we are set to celebrate creatively this year. If you want to join in with any of the services please contact me for details. You can join from a landline phone or online for live worship on Zoom. You are welcome to join Barthol Chapel and Tarves in some traditional and possibly chaotic worship! The orders of service will be posted on the website and Facebook. We can also arrange to deliver a printed order of service if you'd like to join by landline.



Remembrance Sunday

Our commemoration had to be done differently, but was no less memorable. The War Memorial looked splendid with stunning displays provided by many folk in the community. Thank you to all who helped to make this special. John Thomson, who usually represents the British Legion, was not able to assist this year, but the Roll of Honour was read movingly by Bryan Dickson. I had a real sense of community this year as the church bell rang out at 11.00am to mark the silence.

Youth Hall Booking Secretary

There are some jobs that can go unnoticed. This is one that has been done quietly and efficiently by Margaret Barrack for many years. Margaret is handing over the bulk of her duties and we are very grateful for all her work.

Worship

Sunday worship has continued on Zoom with Barthol Chapel. On Wednesday afternoons we come together in the Church for a short act of worship. These reflective services are of particular value to people who are not able to join online. The large screens in the sanctuary greatly enhance our worship.

Session

We meet via Zoom to allow business to continue as usual.

Care for the Community

Please get in touch if there is anything we can do to support you, or someone you know of, at this time.

Thank you to elders and members for continuing to put your faith into action in very practical ways at this time.

More news and information can be found at www.tarveschurch.org and the Facebook page.

Keep safe and keep praying.

Susanna Bichard – Session Clerk: 01651 851345 or smbichard@aol.com



**MOBILE TYRE FITTERS
AND AUTO SERVICES**

**Professional, Speedy Response
Throughout Aberdeen & Grampian**

M : 07796 827738

- Same day / Next day / Weekend service
- Puncture repairs
- Light bulb replacement / Wipers
- Brakes inspection & replacement
- Shocks & springs
- Car, Van & 4x4 tyres
- Locking wheelnut removal
- Winter tyres fitted
- Battery check & replacement
- Tyre rotation
- Mechanical services




info@michaelsmobiletyres.co.uk

www.michaelsmobiletyres.co.uk

THE *Murly Tuck* CAFÉ

Friendly, casual atmosphere for
breakfast, lunch, coffee & tea.

Great selection of home bakes & desserts. Also  ice cream.

Good range of gifts & cards



Closed on Mondays

Open Tues – Sat 9am – 4pm
Sun 10am – 4pm

The Old School, 3 The Square,
Tarves, Ellon AB41 7GX

Tel: 01651 851489



Find us on

Facebook or visit our website

www.themurlytuck.co.uk

TBC - Tarves & Barthol Chapel Quarterly Newsletter

Final copy dates for 2021 newsletters

March 2021 edition	final copy date – Friday 12 February 2021
June 2021 edition	final copy date – Friday 14 May 2021
September 2021 edition	final copy date – Friday 13 August 2021
December 2021 edition	final copy date – Friday 12 November 2021

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

Items for inclusion should include name/contact details and forwarded to

Ruth Nisbet at tbc.editor@btinternet.com – thank you.

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

Reader's comments, ideas & material are always welcome too - articles should be sent to me at the Editor's address as per the final copy dates above. Please include your name, address and contact details.

The Editor reserves the right to edit material to suit the space available.

Thank you.



We can hardly believe we are almost at the end of another year and what a year it's been!

Like many other businesses, there were times during lockdown when we wondered if we would ever open the doors again. We reopened in the middle of August feeling very uncertain about the new world we found ourselves in and the new ways of working we had to embrace.

Our fears were unfounded as our loyal customers old and new have been flocking back full of praise and positivity and we can't thank them enough for their support.

The weather has been fairly kind and allowed us to utilise the outside space we have had, the courtyard at the Heritage Centre has proved particularly popular and we are very grateful to them for allowing us to make the most of it.

Winter is upon us now and that, along with the restrictions in place at the moment has greatly reduced our capacity and we often find our 6 tables are not enough to meet demand and we apologise if we have to turn you away sometimes.

Our reduced capacity along with rising food costs, increases in utility bills and rent all make for a difficult winter ahead but we remain optimistic.

We have our health, amazing staff and loyal customers so apart from Covid 19 disappearing what more could we ask for??

From all at The Murly Tuck we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2021 and thank you again to each and every one of you that have given your support.

Alfie, Gill & all the staff at The Murly

D & J Ritchie (Cars) Ltd

Paint & Bodywork Repairs

Derek Ritchie



North Logierieve

Udny

Ellon

01651 843120 or 07714375770

derekandjaniceritchie@btinternet.com

JMR Kitchen Resprays

Bespoke Kitchen & furniture rejuvenation

Janice Ritchie

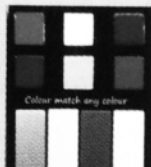
01651 843120 or 07714375770

derekandjaniceritchie@btinternet.com

North Logierieve

Udny

Ellon



Celebrating Christmas 2020 in Barthol Chapel and Tarves



Messy Church Advent Calendar – for children!

Special Advent Calendars including crafts, challenges and the Christmas story have been prepared and will be delivered to Messy Church families. If you don't normally come to Messy Church, but you would like one of these please let us know through the Tarves Messy Church face-book page



Advent Windows Challenge – for all ages!

Why not decorate a window on the theme of one of the following well-known Christmas carols;

It was on a starry night – (a popular one amongst the children), ***Hark the Herald Angels sing***, or ***The First Nowell***.

If you are not sure of the words you can find them on-line.

After you have decorated your window, take a photograph of it and share it by e-mailing it to

webmaster@tarveschurch.org. Alternatively, people can message with photos via the Facebook page @tarveschurch.



Community Nine Lessons and Carols Walk – for the fit!

Watch out for the posters which will go up on lampposts on **Saturday 19 December!** Take your mobile phones, read the Christmas story and listen to some Christmas carols as you go for a walk. Can you find them all?



Lessons and Carols by Candlelight - for everyone!

Sunday 20 December 4.00pm on Zoom – link available nearer the time.

Bring your own candles and mulled wine.



Nativity Service

Thursday 24 December, Christmas Eve 7.00pm on Zoom – link available nearer the time. All Welcome.



Christmas Day Celebration

Friday 25 December 10.00am on Zoom – link available nearer the time. All Welcome.



John S. Middleton

Electrical Contractor

Alan Middleton

4 The Square

Tarves

Ellon

AB41 7JW

Tel: 01651 851662

Fax: 01651 851527



**Jim Dow
Pest Control**



- Moles
- Mice
- Rats
- Wasps

Domestic : Commercial : Agricultural

1 Balcairn Cottages
Oldmeldrum, Inverurie
Aberdeenshire AB51 0EU

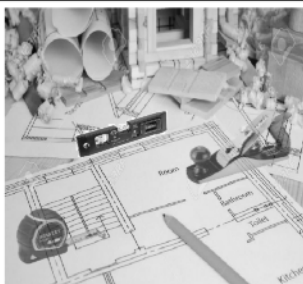
Tel: 01651 873699

Mob: 07778 579369

enquiries@jimdownpestcontrol.co.uk
www.jimdownpestcontrol.co.uk



jimdownpestcontrol



**Charles Ligertwood
Joiners**

Charlie Ligertwood
Rowan Cottage
3 Tree Road
Tarves, ELLON
AB41 7JY

Tel: 01651 851502 Mob: 07889 770250

Fax: 01651 851502

Email: cligertwood@yahoo.co.uk

**Haddo Estate
Firewood**

Hardwood & softwood
logs available for prompt
delivery.



Please call

01651 851664

News from the Square



Well folks, its that time again when I have to put pen to paper and write a wee report on what's been going on in the Square.

But first of all, has anyone missed me these last few weeks? No, I haven't succumbed to the dreaded virus but instead have taken a well earned holiday, *all within the present guidelines I hasten to add*, while my trusty "ploo" gets a much needed facelift. Hopefully I will be back with you soon.

But before I left, I managed to get my team into gear and they have lifted all the summer bedding and planted up the polyanthus & bulbs for winter flowering. Not much else to report except to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the coming year.

In the meantime, take care and stay safe.

The Tarves Plooman

Tarves Folk Club

The Club last met in March, just before the government ordered a "lockdown" to tackle Covid-19, so the annual Tarves Rant in April had to be cancelled.

As things stand, there is no chance of a change in the guidelines to allow singing clubs to recommence in the foreseeable future so, unfortunately, the Folk Club will not be held again this year. Hopefully by next Spring the guidelines will be more relaxed.

John Dickson
01651 851317

Udny Station Bowling Club

We were unable to complete the 2020 season before "lockdown" in March so could not hold our annual presentation dinner in April. This means that all the trophies will be kept till next year when, hopefully, we will have an opportunity to present them to the winners.

At the present time there is no indication of when the Government will allow our indoor bowling to recommence but, hopefully, we will be able to meet up by the start of the season in September 2021, if not before.

John Dickson
01651 851317

TOLQUHON GALLERY



Original art in a unique setting beside Tolquhon Castle
Paintings, Sculpture, Ceramics, Glass, Wood, Jewellery

Tolquhon, Tarves, Ellon, AB41 7LP T: 01651 842343 E: art@tolquhon-gallery.co.uk

www.tolquhon-gallery.co.uk

Tarves Primary School Council / Parent Teacher Association update

Over the last 6/7 months, the SC/PTA Team have been communicating mainly via WhatsApp and the Parent Teacher Association Facebook page. The team has also been using the Zoom forum for on-line meetings and these platforms have worked really well as an alternative to face-face meetings, so we will continue to use these for the foreseeable.

During the last zoom meeting held in September 2020, we noted the number of on-line participants /attendees had increased substantially on the last face to face meeting. When we get back to 'normal', consideration will be given to offer remote access for those not able to attend meetings in person.

The PTA team would like to thank Emma Liddell for her great fundraising work over the summer. Emma and others including Debbie Thompson, Cindy Dey, Caroline Brown and David Hutchinson grew various plants/flowers/shrubs/trees and sold these at their plant stall to raise funds for the PTA, so many thanks to all.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the 2019/20 school year was impacted. This was especially unfortunate for the then P7 class as they weren't afforded the usual send off before heading into secondary education. The leavers assembly has always been a nice touch to send the next batch of P7 pupils off on their next school adventure, however in the absence of this the SC/PTA would like to wish them all the very best.

Also – due to COVID-19 constraints, school pupils missed out on the usual Summer Fete and Halloween disco events which are organised by the PTA. However, when it is safe to do so, the PTA Team will organise an event for all the kids to come along to and enjoy.

Liam McKinney

PTA Chair

Aberdeenshire North Foodbank update

After the lockdown in March, we made a decision to suspend all food donations to the Foodbank in Inverurie and concentrate on helping our local Parish. We will continue to prepare and deliver food-bags locally for the foreseeable future. Your donations continue to be very welcome and can be handed in at the Spar and at Tarves Pharmacy.

Thank you

Ruth
Tarves Church

A black and white photograph showing a construction site. In the background, an excavator is working on a pile of earth. In the foreground, a tractor is pulling a trailer, and a large hydraulic hose is visible on the right side.

Friendly...
Local...
Reliable Service

MECHANICAL & HYDRAULIC SPECIALISTS

AGRICULTURAL | AUTOMOTIVE | CONSTRUCTION | PLANT

With over 20 years experience within the Agricultural, Industrial and Hydraulic Sectors, **SSM Services** offer a wide range of maintenance, servicing, fault finding and repairs.

Offering a fully mobile and on-site service

Services offered include but are not limited to the following:

- Servicing of all types of vehicles
- Pre MOT checks and repairs
- Combine winter servicing
- Breakdowns and Repairs
(wide range of plant, agricultural and industrial sectors covered)
- Hydraulic Pump Repairs
- Hydraulic Cylinder Repairs
- Hose Manufacturing & Fitting
- Hydraulic Circuit Troubleshooting

East Cattie Steading , Oldmeldrum
Aberdeenshire AB51 0DP

T 07917 181093

www.ssm-services.co.uk

Find us on 

Tarves Guild and Tarves Friendship Club

The year rolls on and we are still unable to enjoy the company and fellowship of the Guild and Friendship Club meetings. The only contact has been the phone and seeing a few of you at the Wednesday afternoon Church service, at a distance of course. With no prospect of a return to a 'normal' normal, we must look to a new start for our next winter sessions in 2021. Sadly this year we have lost 2 valued members of the Guild, Jim Leil and Annabel Gauld and we pass on our sympathies to both families.

Here at Lower Parkburn, like many of you in Tarves, we at least had our large garden to keep us busy. The year started with an unusual crop of beechnuts to clear up, thousands of them – that kept Wilf busy throughout January. I didn't join him; I am more a fair-weather gardener.

February saw us washing/painting/treating pots, containers and garden furniture ready for spring. When Wilf is out with his paint brush, it is a case if don't stand still too long, or you'll be painted too.

March saw us in Tenerife briefly, as we were flown home early when Spain went into a lockdown and we came home to more of the same.

April and May weather were kind to us with time to plant out and pot up. Those two months were the best of the year. It took spring and summer to get the front lawn into a reasonable state with treatments, scarifying and feeding. Then the inevitable weeding began, just to fill in what spare time we did have.

October and November meant the end of the season, with time spent pruning and cutting back hedges and bushes, cleaning pots and clearing up a whirlwind of leaves. All work was followed by regular trips to the recycling centre. Two more months and we'll be clearing up beechnuts again!

We used to think gardening was just a summer chore, but as all you good gardeners in Tarves and Barthol Chapel know, that is definitely not the case.

It is very much looking like we shall not be having a normal Christmas. Perhaps with less of the hustle and bustle and busy preparations, we shall have more time to reflect quietly on the true meaning of Christmas; the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

So, to all members, friends and those in the wider Parish, we still wish you joy and peace at Christmas and the hope of better things to come in the New Year.

Jean & Wilf – from the wilds of Fyvie.

HAIR BY JILL GRANT

Hairdressing in the comfort of your own home.

15 years experience in all aspects of hairdressing.

**Call Jill Grant on
01651 -851465
Or mobile
07790 336121**

Colin Taylor



Keep it local

Slating and roofing work you can trust

TEL: 01651 851395

14 Braiklay Ave, Tarves, Ellon AB41 7PU

Hi from the Messy Church team!

We have missed working with you this year and pray that next year we will be able to meet up and have some fun once again.

However, we have planned an Advent Calendar to keep you busy in the run up to Christmas. Each family will receive a Messy Bag with 24 envelopes inside. Each envelope is numbered and should be opened each day on the correct date. The envelopes contain part of the Christmas Story, a challenge and a craft activity. We do hope you will take part and enjoy all the activities.

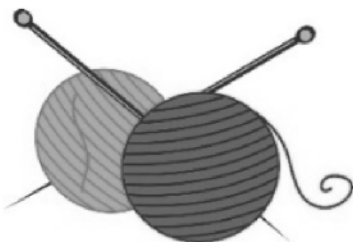
Please watch our Messy Church Facebook page for more details. We look forward to seeing the results!

If you wish a Messy Bag and are not one of our Messy Church families don't worry. You can go on to our Facebook page for information on how to get one.

Some of you who have supported Tarves Messy Church for several years, may remember when we sponsored a medical student at Nkhoma Hospital. We have now heard that Dr Dickson Kulisewa has now completed his final exams in medicine, and following an internship in Lilongwe will return to Nkhoma Hospital to give back the 7 years he has had in training. Malawi itself trains only about 40-50 doctors per year for the whole country. Thank you for being so generous to Messy, and allowing us to donate to his training costs.

God Bless from the Messy Church Team!

Hello to our Parish knitters



We have had many donations of knitting during lockdown – thank you all so much for your time and wool. We've been fortunate in having a local co-ordinator who will share some of your work with those who really appreciate, and need, your knitted hats, scarves, cardigans, blankets and teddies.

Gemma from Ardlethen Quarries organises the baby knitting/crocheting, sharing it with the Special Nursery, Rubislaw Ward, the Labour Ward all in Aberdeen, and further out in NHS Grampian to Inverurie Maternity, Peterhead Maternity and Dr Gray's in Elgin. As well as the Aberdeen co-ordination, Gemma is also preparing boxes for Romania which will leave for eastern Europe this month.

Rejuvenate

Cosmetic Acupuncture



Suitable for men and women looking for a more natural alternative to fillers and chemical treatments to soften the appearance of lines and wrinkles.

Now available in OLDMELDRUM.
For appointments and enquiries:

call **07714 421244** or look at



rejuvenatecosmeticacupuncture

Adhering strictly to both current government and professional body guidelines.
Look out for updates via my Facebook page.



Elizabeth Ann Ross

Appointment and enquiries to

Tel: 01651 851812 or

Mob: 07714 421244

Email: ab121physio@gmail.com

Day and evening appointments

Heath Insurance approved

Adhering strictly to both current government and professional body guidelines

Treatment and
rehabilitation for neck / back /
joint problems, muscle pain,
sports injuries
Pilates

Office 5
Oldmeldrum Business Centre
Colpy Way, OLDMELDRUM
Aberdeenshire
AB51 0BZ

Aberdeenshire Council recently announce an initiative called 'Cosy Bosies' and appealed for knitted/crocheted knee blankets, hats, gloves, socks or a scarf. These will be shared via Social Work departments throughout the shire.

Local babies have also benefitted from your knitting – there have been a few babies born over the last 6 months and some knitting has been passed to them, emphasising that they have all been knitted locally and the knitters are happy that babies in the Parish will benefit.

Here is a record of how donations were shared from January – end October 2020:



Malawi – 6 well packed boxes were sent out in February 2020, with blankets, hat and scarf sets, skirts, teddies, hat and jumper sets.

Woodend Hospital was given 15 knee blankets at the beginning of this year, but they can't take any more donations at the present time.

Special Care Baby Unit –
August – November 2020 - 510
hats, 25 baby cardigans and 42

blankets. Plus 60 assorted knitted mini Christmas puddings and red Christmas hats which will be fitted with a Terry's chocolate orange, and then sold for SCBU fund-raising.



Seafarers Centre, Aberdeen - was given 30 larger hats, scarves and neck-warmers to help those seamen who have to stay in Aberdeen until they are able travel back to their own countries

Romania Appeal – to go out in November 2020. 225 hat and scarf sets, 110 hat and vest sets, 30 teddies and 40 blankets.

Cosy bosies for Aberdeenshire Council – 20 knee blankets, 8 twiddle-muffs and 5 larger size hats, were handed into Library HQ in Meldrum at the end of October.

Knitting can be handed to Jessie at Hanover, or I can collect via arrangement – please email me at tbc.editor@btinternet.com. Every piece of knitting means a personal gift from the knitters to babies/children/adults we won't know, but please be assured that they are so welcome, both in Grampian and overseas.

Best wishes to you all.

Ruth
On behalf of Tarves Church

William D Massie

Funeral Directors
Est 1945



Family owned and run business
All types of funerals arranged
Compassionate and professional service

Offering support, reassurance and guidance
Golden Charter pre-paid funeral plans available

Duthie Road, Tarves
01651 851205

maureen@wdmassie.co.uk
www.wdmassie.co.uk

Members of the National Association of
Funeral Directors

MUNRO SWEEPS



- Traditional & power sweeping
- Cowls / bird guards / nest removal
- CCTV check
- HETAS certified stove installer
- Fully Insured

Member of the Guild of Master
Chimney Sweeps

munrosweeps@gmail.com

www.munrosweeps.co.uk

Mobile: 07854669170



Mark Harrison



Plastering Services
Caimhill Bothy
Tarves

Tel: 01358 761428
Mob: 07801 385980

Air Tightness Testing



Tel: 01358 761428

Arlene: 07766 433011

Mark: 07801 385980

Email: info@amhservices.co.uk

www.amhservices.co.uk

Tarves,
Ellon,
AB41 7LX

ATTMA Member

(Air Tightness Testing & Measurement Association)

Attack on Glebe field sheep

On Wednesday 18 November, one of the sheep in the Glebe field was fatally attacked during daylight hours.

Whilst no witnesses have yet come forward at time of writing, investigation by the stockholder's Vet subsequent to this horrible incident, has established that given the nature and extent of injury to the poor beast, the attack was not carried out by a fox or badger. In the absence of any witnesses, all that can be confirmed is that the sheep was killed by a "substantial" animal.

Police have been informed, the Vet's report forwarded, and the stockholder awaits developments.

It is most sad to have to report such an incident in Tarves, notable in the general way of things for its lack of upset and concern. As far as the newly created perimeter paths and the new tenancy of the Glebe field are concerned, the path is becoming well used, the sheep are happy meeting folk at the fence, all as it should be.

Walkers and dog walkers remain very welcome and are encouraged to use the paths for exercise and enjoyment. This does of necessity carry the condition that folk behave responsibly, and whilst there is livestock in the field, this includes keeping dogs under close control.

The sheep have been brought up around dogs and are not alarmed by them – it is up to us not to betray that trust.

Please let us be a responsible and caring community, respectful of others and their property, especially in these difficult times we are living through just now.

Norman Glen

Property Convenor

Tarves Parish Church

Barthol Chapel SWI

Our last face-to-face meeting was held away back in February, so come August, we decided we would embrace the technology of having a Zoom meeting. The first one was basically a "catch up" with everyone and to set a format / dates of how our meetings would be held. One thing that was discussed was the "Country comes to Town" show due to be held in May 2021, (*we do hope by then restrictions may be lifted so that the show can go ahead*). More details on this nearer the time.

We now have the September, October and November Zoom meetings under our belt.

September meeting was a "show and tell", with members displaying what they had been working on over this pandemic period.

At the October Zoom meeting we had a Quiz and a competition of a decorated cup cake. One member actually produced a crochet cup cake, which put a different slant on things!

November meeting has taken place and our competition entries consisted of (a) a photo of autumnal colours and (b) a hedgehog (*nibbles on cocktail sticks in an orange*). It is surprising how quickly an hour passes, but the main thing is we are all there keeping in touch with one another and even managing to fit in a wee blether on what is going on in our lives at this strange time. **Seasons greetings to you all.**

Tarves Heritage Project Winter 2020 update

As I write, winter is making itself felt all around us – windy weather and lots of rain stripping trees after an all too briefly glorious display of autumn colours. Autumn hardly seems to have happened this year!

Sadly, the Heritage Centre hasn't happened either, a continuing decision to keep closed because of COVID-19 was hard to take, but inevitable in these strange times. Despite these difficulties, a sub-committee has continued working on improving our visitor experience. As mentioned before we are exploring the world of audio visual presentation as well as updating computer systems – all to be ready for when we are able to reopen, whenever that can happen.

Tenders will shortly be sought for the equipment and installation work, thanks to a grant recently received towards recovery and developing our facilities. This helps enormously in our response to the enforced closure for safety reasons, allows us to continue with essential maintenance despite loss of income, and prepare for this exciting addition to our facilities for all visitors, maybe especially our schools visits. We have really missed everyone and the fun to be had showing folk around – the schoolchildren too; they always get so much out of their day spent in the Centre.

This makes us think back fondly to all the events which we have held in the past and are determined to hold again in the “new normal” when things become easier..... Those lucky enough to have been at our Burns' Suppers will remember personalities like Jim McColl giving great speeches, entertainment from youngsters from Tarves Primary, recitations from Burns, Charles Murray and J.C. Milne. Who could forget Ian Massie's rendition of 'The Wedding'? Or Sandy Sleigh's inimitable Selkirk Grace – a fixture on these occasions.....

We all look forward to the day when we can return to a St Andrew's Night, Summer Concerts and Winter Talks – all to look forward to in the future. In the meantime, we were very happy the Murly Tuck has been able to make use of our courtyard to extend their seating – it's great to help each other during current restrictions

With Remembrance Sunday not long past, we would like to draw attention to a deeply researched and very readable article on John Hutcheon originally from near Barthol Chapel who fought and died in the Great War, and who now rests in Barthol Chapel cemetery. The story has unexpected turns, and remarkable detail on



John's life and experiences. We are very grateful to Andrew Collins for producing and sharing this piece of local history, especially at this time of year. A link to the piece is at <http://www.tarvesheritage.org.uk/blog>

There are more changes afoot at the Centre, with the impending departure due to other commitments of both our Chair, after thirteen years, and our Treasurer after twenty. Norman Glen and Richard Hamilton have both enjoyed their involvement with the Centre's work, and will remain as volunteers. A search is on for their successors, and indeed for new Committee and volunteer members, as several others have found it impossible to carry on as they would have wished. For this reason, we want folk who are interested in Tarves' Heritage to get in touch – the fact is that it's richly fascinating, rewarding to learn more, and to share with the visitors we know will come flooding back when the time is right.

With every good wish for the coming months, from all at Tarves Heritage Project.



Tarves Heritage 100 Club

100 Club draw 22 October 2020

	£100	No 11	
£50	No 146	£50	No 141
£25	No 80	£25	No 159
£25	No 207	£25	No 35

Thanks to all for their continued support.

Barthol Chapel School

Head Teacher: Mr Adrian Anderson

St Katherines, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, AB51 8TD

01651 267440

bartholchapel.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

www.bartholchapel.aberdeenshire.sch.uk



After a long time away from school before the summer, we could not have asked for a better start to the school year – the children have returned after 5 months away like they were only off for the weekend! They all settled into the routines very quickly and are excellent at remembering all the new rules. We are washing hands, sanitising hands, wiping down equipment, sneezing and coughing away from others into our arm or tissue – the list goes on.

Our new Primary 1 pupils have worked really hard and have settled into school amazingly well, considering we were not able to offer our usual induction activities! Also, we all hope our former Primary 7 pupils, now S1 at Meldrum Academy have enjoyed the first few terms. Again, they did not manage to engage in the transition activities so this was a big step for them.

We continue to get into the swing of things, adapt to the new rules and guidance as they change. A reminder that we cannot allow visitors into the building, so if you need to contact the school, please email or telephone.

The way the children have settled back into school and continued to learn is a credit to all the effort our parents/carers have put in at home. We thank them for all their support and hard work – it really does make our jobs so much easier.

We continue to Risk Assess and update our guidance. This can be found on our School Website <https://bartholchapel.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>

Remembrance Day

We visited the grounds of Barthol Chapel Church on Wednesday 11th November to lay our painted pebbles decorated with poppies at the War Memorial. Alison Swindells joined us to remember those who have who fought and died in wars.



Children in Need – Friday 13th November

The Health & Wellbeing Group organised a “Dress Down Day” for Children in Need. The children wore casual clothes and donated £1. The Health and Wellbeing Group also organised a “Roll the Pound Coin” competition. We managed to raise £64

Christmas Show

This year's production is called “Tinsel and Tea Towels”.

“It's nearly the end of term and everyone at Barthol Chapel School is up to their eyes preparing for the Christmas Show! The unexpected arrival of two school inspectors and a global pandemic adds to the mix of mayhem? This funny musical gives you a behind-the-scenes look at what really happens at Barthol Chapel School when we put on a Christmas Show!”

We are unable to have an audience at our performances this year, however with the help of our Parent Council we are holding a “School Show at Home Evening” complete with goodie bags and treats!

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.

Co-ordinator wanted for Barthol Chapel TBC deliveries

The Tarves and Barthol Chapel Newsletter team will be looking for a volunteer to step into Peter Chalmers' shoes to encourage/organise relevant articles and contributions from both individuals and organisations in and around the village and parish of Barthol Chapel. An email is sent from the TBC Editor approx. 2 weeks before the deadline date as a reminder to submit articles. Barthol Chapel distributes approx. 160 copies of the newsletter which the coordinator collects from Tarves and passes on to the dedicated team of 10 BC distributors for delivery to their neighbouring households. This just takes a couple of hours or so, 4 times a year.

Can you please help maintain this local arrangement? Thank you.

Further enquiries should be directed to Peter Chalmers at p.s.chalmers@btinternet.com or 01651 873963



FESTIVE LUNCH AT MELDRUM HOUSE

Head to Meldrum House Country Hotel and Golf Course this December and enjoy our special 2 and 3-course festive lunches served in our Ballroom and luxury dining domes.

AVAILABLE FROM

1st to 23rd December – 12 noon until 4pm

To book with Open Table, head to our website on
www.meldrumhouse.com

Dome dining hire costs can be found on our website.

FESTIVE LUNCH MENU

Roasted tomato soup
pesto dressing, soft bread

Mushrooms on toast
toasted sourdough

Paul's hot wings
cool ranch dressing

Baked camembert
toasted ciabatta, red onion chutney

Prawn cocktail
tempura king prawn, bloody mary sauce



Traditional roast turkey
roasted root vegetables, goose fat potatoes,
skirtle, roasting juices

1236 steak burger
brioche bun, Smoked Applewood cheddar,
streaky bacon, sirocha mayo, parmesan fries

Pulled pork mac & cheese
crispy onions, Smoked Applewood, garlic brioche

Blackened cod
cheddar crust, collard kale, green salsa

Venison black pudding pie
mash, carrot puree, roots



White chocolate & Baileys cheesecake
Baileys ice cream

After 8 chocolate brownie
mint choc ice cream

Terry's chocolate orange cookie dough
Mackie's vanilla ice cream

Apple & cinnamon crème brûlée
vanilla sable

Meldrum House Christmas pudding
brandy sauce, gingerbread ice cream

TWO COURSES £25

THREE COURSES £30

Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, Scotland AB51 0AE t: +44 (0)1651 872294
e: reception@meldrumhouse.com www.meldrumhouse.com

MELDRUM HOUSE
COUNTRY HOTEL & GOLF COURSE

AN IDYLIC LOCATION, A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.





FESTIVE *opening times* at GLEN GARIOCH DISTILLERY

DECEMBER OPENING TIMES
FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
10AM TO 4PM

Advance booking required. Please book your
retail experience via glengarioch.com

Glen Garioch Distillery, Distillery Road,
Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, AB51 0ES

T: +44(0) 01651 873450

E: glen.garioch@beamsuntory.com

@Glengarioch
www.glengarioch.com

drink smart



Tarves Primary School December 2020 update

It is so good to be back in school. We are so proud of each and every one of our pupils, coming back after such a long time away is no easy thing to do. They have shown such incredible resilience and positivity. Remember, it is okay to have a wobbly day, we all have these, and it will take time to get back into the routine... that is the same for parents, carers and teachers, too! We have introduced weekly mindfulness sessions into our curriculum to support our children and families with the challenges that this new way of working and learning brings.



I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the Tarves Primary School and Nursery staff who have remained positive and dedicated throughout. Thank you also to parents, carers, children and the wider Tarves community for being so supportive during this time, we really do appreciate it.



We are in full swing already for the busy term ahead with fundraising for Children in Need and collections for the local Foodbank underway. We are also currently developing our outdoor space including the playground and brand new outdoor classroom space. The children are busy helping with painting and designing... below are some of our wonderful House Captains who are taking the lead. We are almost all

set for the grand reveal!

Our new playground markings have gone down a treat with the pupils and wider community alike. A huge thank you to our amazing PTA who have funded this project alongside a secured grant from Formartine Area Council. Please do pop by after school and take a look for yourself, if you can.

As you are aware, we have had to make changes to the plan for the school year due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will not be able to hold our usual Christmas Service in the Church or have our Community Coffee Morning, both of which are always a highlight of the school calendar for staff, pupils and parents alike. We are, however, working on some different ways to bring some sparkle and cheer to the village this year! We wish you all a safe and relaxing festive period, whatever that may look like.

Mrs Conn and the Tarves Primary School and Nursery Team

Halloween

This Halloween was different... but it was quite a lot of fun for my family and me. We all dressed up for the day and ate a lot of sweets! In the afternoon we dunked for apples and put donuts on a string to try and eat! We also did a sweet hunt around our house. We watched two movies which me and my brother chose. Overall it was a great Halloween!



Aila, P7

Bonfire Night



Bonfire night was very different for me because we couldn't have our local Tarves Bonfire night or any other Bonfires. Some people though decided to have their own or even did sparklers but some people didn't have a big enough garden to have fireworks. But it wasn't the same because we sadly didn't have the light up stand we normally have in the field but it kept us safe. Anyway, it wasn't the best Bonfire night but

hopefully next year will be better!

By Rhea, P7

Tarves School Christmas Show

This year our school Christmas concert is going to be very different because each class is going to do something outside and then the teachers will put the videos together to make a virtual TARVES SCHOOL SHOW! Then our parents will be able to watch it at home with us. We normally do a show in the Melvin Hall and sing Christmas songs but sadly we can't do that this year because of Covid-19. Hopefully we will still be able to spread some Christmas magic!



Naomi, P7

Hello everyone

We have had an amazing start to the reopening of playgroup. A huge welcome back to all existing families and all new families. There have been an incredible amount of enquiries and we now have a waiting list on some of the days!! Thank you to everyone for your continued support. We are recruiting **relief staff**, if you'd like more details please email tarvessecretary@outlook.com



Tarves Playgroup

The Youth Hall floor is looking fantastic and we are excited for the next stage of renovations to take place – hopefully this will be in the new year.

The garden had a huge makeover during the time we were closed with the help of committee, staff and community volunteers. We used the money we received from the **Tarves People Party** to purchase bark for the garden, a huge thank you for the kind donation, the bark completed the garden nicely.

We received lots of community help during the makeover from donations of sand for the sand pits, a climbing frame, and loader for transporting things, tractor and bogie for collecting bark, repairs from the vandalism and a lovely planter from **John @Fencing Solutions Tarves**. We are overwhelmed by the support we receive.

The children are absolutely loving the space for learning. They have been busy taking part in wilderness garden bear hunts, using binoculars and magnifying glasses in searching for bugs and birds; especially our Mr Robin who follows the children around. They have collected the fallen leaves using tarpaulins and have used them to fill tyres for composting for planting our bulbs for spring time. This has created an opportunity for so much fun for the children to engage in covering the tarpaulin with leaves then getting on for a journey to the leaves destination, being pulled by staff!

We would love a kind someone to volunteer to create/make raised beds for a vegetable plot come spring time (a couple of raised beds would be fantastic!). There is also a pile of wooden fencing, broken pallets etc that we would appreciate being removed for maybe recycling. If anyone can help please email tarvessecretary@outlook.com

We ordered new resources which arrived very quickly and the children are loving them, especially the cement mixer, blocks and tools!! Lots of role play and fantastic use of imaginations.

Our first fundraiser was a roaring success and sold out in less than an hour, raising £125!!! Thank you to **Buffet Angels** for donating the Afternoon Tea with Fizz for Four.

Keep an eye out on Facebook for our next fundraiser coming very soon.

You may ask yourself, "What is the difference between **Playgroup** and **Nursery**"? The answer is they are **both the same**. They both follow the same Early Level Curriculum for Excellence, they both provide exciting learning opportunities, they both track children's progress through regular observations and monitoring, they both have robust risk assessments, policies and procedures, they both have highly trained staff or staff undertaking training and both have fantastic resources.

The only differences are that Playgroup is run by a voluntary parent led committee which is very rewarding to be part of and a great way of making friendships and we provide day care of children aged from 2 years.

We are in partnership with the local authority to provide **funded pre-school education** for children aged from **three to five years** and also have funded places for **eligible two year olds**. If you'd like more information on joining the group please email Lois at tarvessecretary@outlook.com

We are looking for a Co-Chair to take over from Loretta and to work alongside Carol, if you have a bit of spare time, are enthusiastic and want to take on a very rewarding role, then please do get in touch, we NEED you. Email tarvesplaygroupchair@outlook.com

Our Baby and Toddler Group is still closed and will remain closed until it is safe for multi-use of the hall. Keep your eyes peeled on Facebook for more information Tarves Baby and Toddlers or email tarvestoddlers@outlook.com

A huge thank you to our staff for creating such a great environment for the children to learn, we truly appreciate everything you do.

Regards

Loretta Ross & Carol Middleton
Co-Chairs



FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

Call now! 07715300590

Follow Us On Facebook

Tarves-Elite-Tiling@hotmail.com

Recommended on MyBuilder.com

Fully Insured Family Run Tiling Business

Years of Experience

Many Satisfied Customers

Porcelain, Natural Stone and Plank Flooring

Porcelain and Ceramic Wall Tiling

Full WetRoom Installation

Silicon and Grout Work Undertaken

Bathroom Tanking

All Repair Work Undertaken

TARVES ELITE TILING

WE HAVE YOU COVERED WITH OUR TILES

Made with PosterMyWall.com

The Hut

Under normal circumstances, The Hut Youth Project (situated behind the Primary School) meet Monday evenings 7-9pm for local youth aged 12-25. Unfortunately, like everyone else, Covid has disrupted our plans this year. We were delighted to be able to catch up with our young people outside during September and October and enjoyed several evenings of socially distanced challenges, activities and games. We have taken time to learn about the important youth initiated 'Lonely not Alone' campaign, discussed the highs and lows of lockdown with a Trash or Treasure game of basketball and took time to discuss some of the topics to be included in The Scottish Youth Parliament Manifesto 2021-2026. It's not all serious stuff though - sweetie bingo has been a regular feature, as has the game of Empire and water balloons!

Unfortunately, as the evenings have got progressively colder and darker, we have not been holding regular Hut sessions this term, but have still come together to support Trussell Trust with our annual village collection for Aberdeenshire North foodbank. This has in previous years, been incredibly well supported by Tarves residents and we hope that our final total is even greater than previous years. Thank you in anticipation.

If any young people are in need of a chat don't forget the Youth work team are available at Meldrum Academy. Drop in at any time or email: Tracey.christie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

We are also teamed up with Tarves Parish Church to support the Scottish Governments campaign to provide free sanitary products to young people attending school, colleges and universities to support equality and dignity and ensure lack of access to these products does not impact on an individual's ability to full participate in education at all levels. During these unprecedented times we are making sure sanitary products can be accessed as easily as possible. Please email Huthelp2020@outlook.com for confidential support and to arrange contactless collection.

Stay Safe

Please like and follow our Facebook page to keep updated on what we are getting up to: ***The Hut Youth Project Tarves.***

MAB

**Plumbing &
Heating Services**

Mike Beaton

Tel: 01651 851393

Mob: 07890 211895



DIAMOND SWEEPS

Qualified Professional Certified Chimney Sweep

Traditional and Rotary Power Sweeping

CCTV and Pressure Integrity Testing

Cowls and Pots minor chimney repairs undertaken

John Stone

07594634409

Email john@diamondsweeps.com www.diamondsweeps.com



Ellon and District Men's Shed – December 2020

The Ellon and District Men's Shed has continued to maintain the Shed facility and garden in good condition. See garden photographs.

Now with an approved Covid-19 risk assessment and corresponding control measures in place, we partially reopened our Shed to members in November, although in a very restricted way to ensure all are kept Covid-19 safe. We have started with very limited numbers of men (6 at any one time) and activities are confined to maintenance / repair of the Shed and garden. We cannot undertake 'hobby' type activities at this time. The social area has a very restricted distanced layout and the kitchen facilities are closed.



The opening hours of 10am to 2pm on Mondays and Thursdays will be regularly reviewed.

We see this restricted Shed operation continuing for the foreseeable future although we must do our best for the wellbeing of men in our community.

Nevertheless, the current rota of 6 men attending on the open days is proving very enjoyable and all bring their own food and drink with them.

We have also continued with Shed administration and achieved a successful independent audit of the Shed financial accounts in October. Our Shed AGM was held on Zoom on 20th October and 3 new trustees were appointed. The audit of financial accounts and chairman's report were registered online with OSCR by the end of October.

Ellon Castle Gardens have kindly provided some substantial conifer branches for the shed members to use and we are liaising with them about yew wood as they create new yew hedges in the garden.

The Shed has received the final payment for 2020 from the Coop Local Community Fund to help with ongoing development of the Shed facilities.

Thanks goes to all the Coop members that voted for our Shed

Please follow our websites for Shed info:

<http://ellonanddistrictmensshed.blogspot.co.uk>. We are also in the midst of building a new website <https://ellonmensshed.org/>, it isn't finished yet, but you can go there for a preview.



E WATSON JOINERY

QUALITY JOINERY SOLUTIONS | DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

- Kitchens • Bathrooms • Hardwood & Laminate Flooring
- Extensions • Windows & Doors • Decking/Fencing & Gates
- Fascias/Soffits and Gutters • Staircases • Bespoke Woodturning

All Joinery work undertaken. If the service you are looking for isn't listed above then please don't hesitate to contact us...

14 Gordon Crescent | Methlick | Aberdeenshire AB41 7DH

T 07854 105608 | E info@ewatsonjoinery.com

ARTIER *Design & Print*

Web Design - Print - Graphic Design

Everything for Print for Printing Everything • Everything for Design for Designing Everything

Website Design & Hosting, Logo Design, Business Cards,
Letterheads, Flyers, Folded Brochures, Magazines, Greetings Cards,
Postcards, Social Media Set-Up & Banners, Advert Design,
Vinyl & Pop Up Banners, Merchandising Gifts + Much More

Great Package Pricing For Start Ups Or Company Rebranding

www.artier.design  /artierdesign

T : 01651 851774 info@artier.co.uk M : 07866 771144

Barthol Chapel Kirk

Well, this year certainly has seen us adapt at Barthol Chapel! Our technology skills have been upgraded and stretched, our congregation has grappled with iPad, phones and PCs to join zoom links and navigate mute buttons and breakout rooms! But, despite the dreadful broadband on offer in the village, we have persevered and are enjoying our services together – keeping that much needed sense of community and togetherness in these difficult times. Thanks goes to everyone who makes this possible – from the minister Alison Swindells, for her inspiring words to Di Whorley and Jennie Chalmers on zoom host duties. Thanks to the readers and musicians and singers who record hymns every week, to Tom Williams for his music production skills weaving those tracks together. It really adds to the services hearing familiar voices. A big thanks to everyone who contributes to our Church life – on and off the screen!

We have decided, for the time being, to keep our services and Board and Session meetings online (see photo!) Anyone wanting to join in please contact a member of the Kirk, our minister Alison Swindells or the session clerk for joining details (see end of article). Even if your internet lets you down you can phone in and join us too.





ABERDEEN ARMS HOTEL

quality accommodation, food & drink

WE ARE BACK!

Bar

Restaurant

Takeaways

Rooms

Tel: 01651 851214

For more details check our Facebook page

The Square, Tarves, Ellon, AB41 7GX
Tel: 01651 851214 Email: info@aberdeenarms.co.uk



Eat Drink Stay



Tarves Brownies have been meeting via zoom since September and enjoying a variety of fun filled sessions thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of our fantastic leadership team and amazing support from our Brownies and

their families. We've enjoyed a scavenger hunt, making mug cakes, edible campfires (with enthusiastic singing!), trash fashion, fun with emojis and milk bottle ghost lanterns to name a few. A particular favourite was the Remembrance Day pebbles, of which the Brownies did an amazing job and were placed at the memorial in Tarves ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

The 28th November saw almost 200 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and leaders from Gordon county take part in the virtual 'Christmas Selection box' event. A fun filled day themed around our favourite festive panto-

mimes with activities running all the way to Christmas. From learning to dance with Flora the pantomime cow, Sleeping Beauty face packs, Aladdin's flying carpet, exploring with Captain Hooks treasure map and walking the plank, to slapstick custard pie gags, Peter Pan shadow puppets and edible fairy godmother wands there was something for everyone.

We are looking forward to completing our Communication badge (we're certainly all experts at video calls), Christmas crafts and in the absence of our usual district outing, attending a virtual panto in the comfort of our own homes... Oh yes we are!

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>

SPAR  **Tarves**

Take a fresh look...

Your local SPAR at the heart of your community



Monday - Saturday 7am - 8pm
Sunday 7am - 6pm



ATM
COMING SOON

All in your Local **SPAR**

SPAR  *There for you*

The Square, Tarves, Ellon AB41 7GX

But we couldn't have predicted this! How to keep motivated and resilient when uncertainty stretches ahead

We've heard time and again that we're living in unprecedented times. It explains a lot, and gives us comfort that we might not know exactly what to do. It gives us opportunities in some areas, and pause for thought in others. Some people are managing very well, and some aren't. But the problem with not having been able to foresee any of this is a bit of a red herring, because the thought renders us a bit powerless. The past is done, we don't have the future yet anyway, so all we ever have is 'now'. And yet with a bit of a positive mindset, we can start to guide our thoughts in a direction that will serve us well for the unknown, and unknowable, future ahead.

True, we have enormous amounts of information, uncertainty and competing demands to process. Life is overwhelming and demanding. The trick sometimes isn't knowing what to pay attention to, but knowing what to tune out! It doesn't matter what others are doing, it matters that you have strategies in place to notice when you're feeling less on top of things, and know when to put these strategies to good use.

The exercise below is especially useful if you're tempted to compare yourself to someone else – someone you believe to be coping better, more successful or productive, better at home schooling, diet and exercise, I could go on, but I won't! I want you to feel better, not worse...

So, whenever you're tempted to compare yourself to someone else, resist the temptation.

Instead, compare yourself to who you were five years ago.

Only you know what you've achieved in the last five years. I encourage you to write it all down. Here's an example from me.

In the last five years I have:

- given birth for the second time
- looked after a newborn and a toddler
- returned to work
- questioned everything
- been promoted
- questioned everything
- put my head above the parapet



Est
1999

www.scot-clad.co.uk cuminestown

30yrs
Exp.

LOCAL SPECIALISTS IN PVC
FASCIAS - SOFFITS - CLADDING
GUTTERING - DRY VERGE

Rotten timber removed
also High Performance PVC Windows and Doors

In a choice of colours

FOR A FREE ESTIMATE AND SURVEY

Tel 01888 544314

Mob 07801584588

4 MAIN STREET, CUMINESTOWN, AB53 5YJ

E-mail stuart.scotclad@gmail.com



Family run business
committed to providing a high
quality service at reasonable
prices on all makes and
models of cars and vans.

 Repairs

 Servicing

 Tyres

 MOT prep



MOT testing coming
SOON

infor@dinneswoodgarage.co.uk

www.dinneswoodgarage.co.uk

Tel: 01651 851833

- taken voluntary severance
- started a successful business

I've met people I never knew existed, said things I didn't know I knew, helped people to grow (people I wouldn't have been allowed *near* in an employed capacity, coz, hierarchy) and had some amazing feedback that what I'm doing is worthwhile.

Yet if you'd told me that five years ago, I wouldn't have believed you. Five years ago, I was at home potty training a three-year-old, and starting a baby on solid foods. My world was small, and I couldn't see a way back to the identity I had prior to being at home with two small children. And yet here we all are. It's really important to acknowledge the distance you've travelled!

So, look at your list of achievements. If that's what you've achieved in the last five years, imagine what you can achieve in the next five?

Dr Naomi Irvine

formerly Tarves, now in Leicester



Hanover knitters have been very busy – as have other knitters in the village. The photo on your left shows 67 stars knitted within the first week of November, as a project on behalf of Tarves Church. We've thoroughly enjoyed knitting these and we'll keep going until the end of November.

We would also like to thank all the ladies in Tarves for their huge effort in keeping the knitting group going during the pandemic. All their knitting has been passed on to Ruth who manages to find homes for it all. So, thank you Ruth, on behalf of everyone.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Kind regards

Jessie Simpson

On behalf of Hanover Court
851 887





Presly Pest Control Ltd

Independent Specialists
in all aspects of Pest Control for
North East Scotland

High calibre fully trained staff.
High-level contact. No sales staff.

Contract work & tenders welcome.
Initial site survey non chargeable

01651 851234 spresly@aol.com

Mains of Auquhorthies, Oldmeldrum,
Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 8DQ

+ - MATHS TUITION ÷ =

Do you struggle with Maths? Are you flummoxed by algebra or bamboozled by calculus?

Gain confidence with our personalised tutoring experience for all levels of Maths in a patient and relaxed environment.

No question too trivial.

Email or phone today to book your first lesson, and let us help you succeed

'*Online tuition available*'

Jane & Amy Collinson craigdammaths@gmail.com

01651 851233

DBS checked

Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District

Members of the Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District have continued to meet on Monday evenings at 7pm during the Covid 19 restrictions using Zoom on a fortnightly basis. This allows us to continue to have a range of interesting speakers and manage distribution of funds and maintain fellowship and fun.

Sadly, due to Covid 19, we had to cancel the Haddo Egg Hunt but very much hope it will be up and running again next year. This is a major fundraising opportunity for the club, enabling us to provide funds to both local and international projects. Before the lockdown, we did manage to hold a Race Night in the Oldmeldrum British Legion which was well supported and also raised useful funds, as did some new, imaginative activities including a virtual V.E. afternoon tea party, and virtual coffee mornings.

This year to date, we have made donations to Tarves Brownies, and Daviot Explorers prior to lockdown. Since then, our funds have been diverted more to the local need in the community to help mitigate the impact of Covid 19 on families whose members have lost jobs or been placed on furlough. We made a donation of £1,000 to Aberdeenshire North Foodbank, while £1,200 was given to churches or groups within Oldmeldrum and District Parishes, as well as separate, specific donations, all to support families in need. Donations have also been made to Methlick school for hand sanitizers and the Quarriers Young Carers project in Inverurie.

The club has contributed £1000 to the Charlie House Big Build project; its vision has always been to have a purpose-built facility in Aberdeen to support families who have children with life limiting illness in the region. A similar amount was given to the Haddo Sensory Garden project while, looking further afield, funding was given to the Beirut disaster emergency appeal.

We know how much the residents in the area, and children in particular, look forward to Santa and his Sleigh, a tradition that Santa and his elves really enjoy. We are hoping and planning for Santa and his elves to continue to visit, although we will have to operate in a different way. Please follow our Facebook page right at the start of December as we will keep potential Santa followers updated on his progress.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in a Zoom meeting, you would be made very welcome. Please contact anne.shirran@btinternet.com for more details.

Anne Shirran

President, Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District



**Massie Mechanical
Services Ltd**

24/7 ON-SITE REPAIRS

**Did you know there's a new
Mechanical Garage Open near you??
We're also available for on-site
Repairs.**

**Nethermill, Tarves
Mobile: 07719452924
Office: 01651 851133**

www.massiemechanical.co.uk

Open Monday to Saturday

Automotive, Industrial, Agricultural
Mechanical/Hydraulic Servicing and repairs.
Diagnostics, pre Mot, Hydraulic Pipes and
many more..... No job is too small.



We would like to thank all our customers and suppliers for not only helping us throughout this pandemic, but for your continued support. • We have been very fortunate to have stayed open and have managed to retain our staff.

We are now offering our customers a Tyre Service. • We can supply, fit, balance and repair tyres! Please give us a call or pop in to the workshop to discuss your needs.

Thank you from all the Staff at Massie Mechanical Services.

Regards
Stuart Massie



Inverurie Website Design

Professional Website Designer 8 miles from Inverurie

- No Monthly Fees
- Business Email accounts with domain ending offered
- Logo Design as well as Digital Imagery - a specialty
- Outlook, IMAP STTP settings – No problems for us!
- Hosting for Websites , SEO & Domain transfer taken care of
- Help with Business Facebook

www.inverurie-website.design

Tel: 01467 809110

A silver lining

In these times there is always an obvious need to look to the future when things will get back to normal and we can see our friends and family again, and enjoy all the things that we begin to feel we took for granted. • At **Inverurie Website Design** there has been a definite stir in the online world. Many people are starting new online businesses with the aid of online communication programs such as Zoom. Some, out of necessity and others as a back-up in this uncertain world. All of us are acquiring new technical skills to help us communicate and be more aware online, and if ever there was a silver lining to a cloud it may and hopefully be that when we get through this, we will all have learned some technical online skill to keep us in touch - always.



A Duguid ELECTRICAL ⚡

**All electrical work
undertaken**

Over 10 years experience

Phone: 07828 242535

Email: aduguidelectrical@outlook.com

Web: aduguidelectrical.co.uk



Barthol Chapel Community Association

The next meeting of the BCCA will be held virtually (via Zoom) on Wednesday 2nd December at 7 pm - further details are available on the Barthol Chapel website. This is an important meeting, as we will be discussing the future of BCCA as meeting attendance is dwindling, and we struggle to fill committee positions and find volunteers to arrange social events. A survey has been issued which will be used to support the discussion on the BCCA future.

Minutes of the meeting will be available on the Barthol Chapel website (<https://www.bartholchapel.com>) and we will post an update on Facebook.

On a more positive note, a Community Fibre partnership has been established to work on delivering fibre connectivity to residents in Barthol Chapel (and hopefully improve service to anyone on the Methlick exchange). If you want to find out more, please send an email to the organisers (bc_fibre@outlook.com). This comes on the heels of the recent Tulloford Community Fibre partnership.

If you want to be kept informed of events in the Barthol Chapel area, please send an email to bccasecretary@bartholchapel.com or join the Barthol Chapel Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BartholChapel>).

Jane Thom Bequest

Mrs Jane Thom was born at Craigdam, she died in the 1930s and left a modest bequest which is now managed by a local committee. The terms of the trust state that funds were intended to be disbursed to persons of any age residing in the Parish of Tarves who may have a legitimate need and would otherwise find difficulty. To date we have funded a wide variety of individuals and would encourage persons of any age to make an application if they feel they have a legitimate need. All approaches will be considered and dealt with in the strictest of confidence by the committee.

To apply contact Bob Davidson (Chairman) Tel 01651 851112
TCC.Chairman@tarves.org.uk or Julie Main
gram.haddohv@nhs.scot alternatively by post or self-delivery marked private and confidential to Jane Thom Bequest, CC Post Box, Tarves Post Office, The Square, Tarves, Ellon, AB41 7GX.

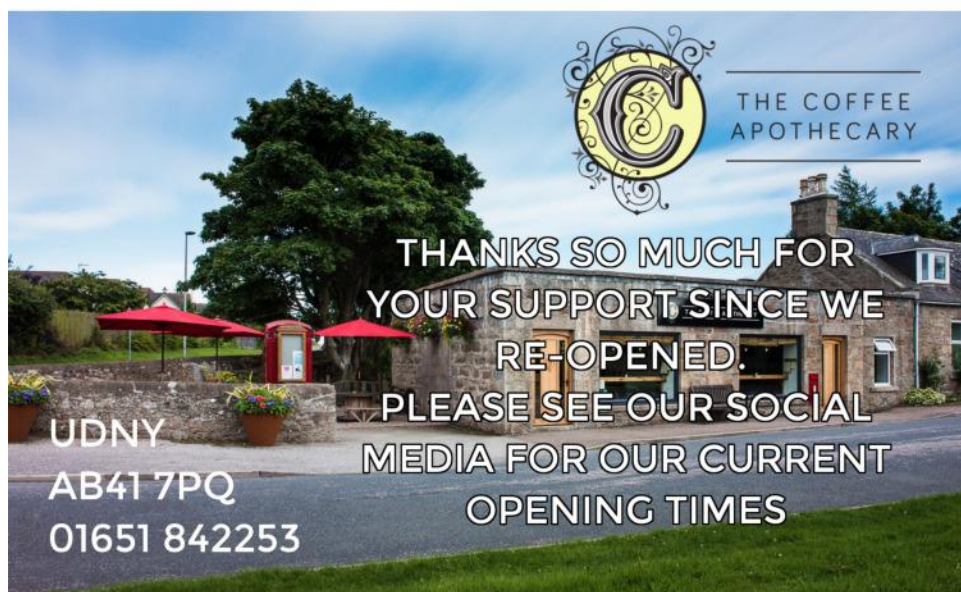
Advertisers Index

Business	Service	Page	Telephone
Rev Dr Alison Swindells	Minister		01651 851295
Aberdeen Arms	Bar/ Restaurant	38	01651 851214
AMH Services	Air tightness testing	20	01358 761438
Artier	Graphic & Web design	36	01651 851774
Mike Beaton (MAB)	Plumbing & Heating	34	01651 851393
Jane & Amy Collinson	Maths Tuition	44	01651 851233
Coffee Apothecary	Cafe - Ellon & Pitmedden	51 51	01358 721946 01651 842253
Diamond Sweeps	Chimney Sweep	34	07594 634409
Dinneswood Garage	Vehicle Repairs	42	01651 851833
Jim Dow	Pest Control	10	07778 579399
A Duguid	Electrical	48	07828 242535
Michael Duncan	Builders	2	01358 789562
Glengarioch	Whisky distillery	27	01651 873450
Jill Grant	Hair Stylist	16	01651 851465
Grant Plumbing & Heating	Oil Heating specialists	52	07720 444718
Haddo Estate	Firewood	10	01651 851664
Hall Bookings	Melvin Hall - J Reville Youth Hall - S Bichard		07807 280913 01651 851345
Inverurie Website Design	Website Design	47	01467 809110
Charlie Ligertwood	Joiner	10	07889 770250
Mark Harrison	Plastering	20	01358 761438
William D Massie	Funeral Director	20	01651 851205
Massie Mechanical Services	Vehicle Repairs	46	07719 452924
Meldrum House	Country Hotel & Golf Club	26	01651 872294
Michael's Mobile Tyres	Tyre fitting & Auto Services	6	07796 827738
John S Middleton	Electrician	10	01651 851662
Munro Sweeps	Chimney Sweep	20	07854 669170
Murly Tuck	Cafe	6	01651 851489
Presly Pest Control	Pest control	44	01651 851234
Rejuvenate	Cosmetic Acupuncture	18	07714 421244
D & J Ritchie	Car Bodywork & Kitchens	8	01651 843120
Elizabeth Ross	Physiotherapy	18	01651 851812
Scot-clad	PVC products	42	01888 544314
SPAR Tarves	Local Shop	40	01651 851208
SSM Services	Mechanical Repairs	14	07917 181093
Tarves Elite Tiling	Wall & Floor tiling	32	07715 300590
Colin Taylor	Slating and roofing	16	01651 851395
Tolquhon Gallery	Gallery	12	01651 842343
E Watson Joinery	Quality Joinery Solutions	36	07854105608



*speciality coffee, craft beer & fine food
made from locally sourced produce*

www.thecoffeeapothecary.co.uk





YOUR OIL HEATING SPECIALISTS

**Oil Boilers Serviced
& Commissioned
Oil Tanks Supplied & Fitted**

**KITCHENS
BATHROOMS
BOILER CHANGES
CENTRAL HEATING**

CONTACT US FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

**t: 01651 842332 / 01651 842849
m: 07720 444718
e: info@grantplumbingandheating.com
w: www.grantplumbingandheating.com**

