

# TBC

Issue 68

Tarves and Barthol Chapel  
Quarterly Newsletter  
March 2024

Thanks to Danny Ross, Tolquhon Gallery,  
for this lovely spring photo

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Hello readers and welcome to the first newsletter of 2024.

## Introduction to Hygge - Koselig - Lagom - Niksen

These are words from mainly Scandinavian countries which describe their outlook on ways of living that may otherwise be seen as circumstances 'we just have to live with'. It has been a difficult winter and weather in January 2024 was a low point.

Unless you have relatives or friends who live overseas, we may never know how other nationalities manage their winters/dark nights or even dark days. However, we can adopt a few practices from some of our Nordic neighbours.

**Hygge** – a word meaning 'wellbeing', originally from Norway but now adopted by the Danes, and consequently transferred to print by Meik Wiking into *The Little Book of Hygge*. I was given this as a present a number of years ago, and it is almost an annual winter read. It's not about owning anything grand, it's not about competitiveness but more concentrating on atmosphere and experience. It does reflect how we perceive a Scandinavian lifestyle, all countries have similar problems to us, but address them with a different and more person-focussed approach.

**Koselig** – is a Norwegian word, again meaning 'wellbeing' but concentrating on relationships with friends and family and searching out for that magic moment in a dark and cold day. It also encourages active social planning so there is something to look forward to whether it may be morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea or dinner – it's not a monetary count as it is a myth that buying something grand equates with self-congratulation on an achievement. Morning coffee and a scone with friends celebrates much more.

**Lagom** – we're moving across to Sweden now where similar beliefs are followed and balanced with a simpler lifestyle. No bulk buying here, take jars/boxes to refill shops and buy what you need for now, count to 10 before you buy anything or throw something out and ask yourself 'do I need this' or 'can I fix this?' Another suggestion from the Swedes is to leave work on time and allow the evening for family and friends or using this extra time to enjoy being outdoors – properly dressed of course.

**Niksen** is the (nearly) last word for today. Almost, but not quite, Scandinavian. The Netherlands have this wonderful word meaning quite simply 'doing nothing'. It's not laziness, it's almost time off to regroup and could in fact be seen as best use of your time.

..... and let us not forget how to '**coorie in**', it may never earn a whole book of its own but it sure does merit a place in our lives.

Another few weeks until longer daylight hours, start planning now so that you build in time to enjoy that work/life balance that benefits you, family and friends.

**Ruth**, TBC Editor



The Manse  
Tarves

Dear Friends

It is not often a minister is writing what they know will be their first and last letter as parish minister. But effectively this is my first letter as minister of Formartine Parish Church since the union of Barthol Chapel, Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks on 1 January 2024 and my last letter before retiring – my last Sunday will be Easter Sunday.

Even although the congregations have been working towards the union for some months there is always the unexpected to deal with and the last weeks have flown past as we have dealt with various challenges together. It has been a steep learning curve but I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the people of Pitmedden better. And there seems to be real excitement and enthusiasm over the prospect of everyone working more closely together. To the people of Barthol Chapel and Tarves I would say that it has been a joy and a privilege to be your minister over the last seven years – through what has been a time of significant change in the Church. And I'm sure that God is already preparing the person who will be called to be the next Minister of Word and Sacrament in Formartine Parish.

Easter is a time of endings and new beginnings. For the first followers of Jesus there was the sadness of Jesus death on the cross on Good Friday – their grief over the loss of the earthly companion with whom they had journeyed along the road of life. And as in any situation of loss we know their grief was combined with guilt as they looked back and saw things that they might have said and done differently.

But for those first followers of Jesus there was also the challenge of the empty tomb - and the possibilities which that opened up for them. That first Easter the stone was rolled away and God breathed the Spirit of forgiveness and new life into their hearts and minds. And they had to wrestle with what it meant for them to move forward and live into the amazing grace and love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. And it was as they did this that they discovered for themselves the sense of purpose, the joy and the hope that faith offers.

Beginnings and endings, endings and beginnings are always significant times in our lives – whilst it is right to acknowledge the grief and the challenges that these sometimes bring, it is equally important to hold onto God's promise of life now and for all eternity.

In some words from the Scottish paraphrase of Romans 8

*Nor death, nor life, nor earth nor hell, nor time's destroying sway,  
Can e-er efface us from God's heart, or make his love decay.  
Each future period that will bless as it has blessed the past:  
He loved us from the first of time, He loves us to the last*

On that note with some sadness but also in positive anticipation of the next stage of the journey for each one of us, I wish you God's blessing.

With warmest wishes  
Alison I Swindells, Parish Minister

## Kirk News

### Sunday Worship

10.00am in Tarves Kirk

10.00am in Pitmedden Kirk

Refreshments are served after worship

Join on Zoom if you wish – large print orders of service are available each Sunday. Let me know if you would like one.

### Holy Communion

On the last Sunday of the month, we have a united service alternating between Pitmedden and Tarves. The churches are set out café style and an individual glass of non-alcoholic wine and a piece of gluten free bread are set out. I encourage you to join with us as this replaces the twice-yearly Communion service.

Worship arrangements are a work in progress. At present services are shared by Alison and local worship teams. Now that we have upgraded the IT systems we will start to 'live stream' the reflection, or sermon, from one Kirk to the other. This is new territory and will be a matter for trial and error!

### Service of Union

On the first Sunday of 2024 there was a very special service in Pitmedden Kirk when we officially united and Alison was inducted as the minister of Formartine Parish Church. Barthol Chapel, Tarves and Udney Pitmedden have now become Formartine Parish Church. The well attended service was conducted by Presbytery and was very moving.

### Alison's forthcoming retiral

Alison is retiring soon and her last Sunday will be Easter Day, 31 March. We have been very fortunate to share our journey with her as our minister and the occasion will be marked after our Easter Celebration.

There is still much to do as we explore how best to move forward in the union. The new Kirk Session has met and I was appointed as the Session Clerk. Once things are more settled, I will give you a fuller list of the office bearers.

A new website and Facebook page will soon be up and running so you will be able to find up-to-date information.

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

**Susanna Bichard – Session Clerk:**  
01651 851345 or [smbichard@aol.com](mailto:smbichard@aol.com)



Our knitters are well spread over this local area and across wider Aberdeenshire. Then with Tarves Kirk and Pitmedden Kirk now combined into Formartine Parish Church, new knitters are already contributing to the numerous bags of warm blankets, baby's and children's hats and of course, the very beginning of Parish knitting – fish and chip jumper sets.



**Abernecessities** – we had requests from many knitters that they would like to see their finished work go to this Aberdeen based charity which shares donations across the city and shire. From the beginning of December 2023, 70 hats from baby to primary school age, 3 dozen teddies, 10 cardigans were delivered to their HQ in Dyce. Below is part of letter from AberNecessities with a thank you:

*We would like to express our sincere thanks to you for the lovely knitting that was recently donated to AberNecessities. Please also extend our thanks to members of the congregation and parish who thoughtfully took the time to knit so many lovely items for the disadvantaged families that we support. Our primary goal is to make sure no child goes without and your donated items will ensure that many children are warm this Winter. At AberNecessities we are proud to offer a service which helps to ensure a generation of children, and generations to come, have the best start possible – and we couldn't do this without you. The generosity displayed by so many, especially given how busy and expensive things can be at this time of year, is truly touching. From the bottom of our hearts – thank you.*

**Cyrenians** – The Cyrenians in Union Glen have had over 45 blankets since December 2023. They've also benefitted with dozens of warm adult hats, scarves and neck-warmers. Read more at [www.weareac.org](http://www.weareac.org);

**Fish and Chip jumpers Malawi** – Jessie at Hanover took over 3 dozen fish and chip sets to Meldrum Church recently, and they in turn, will deliver to the Banana Box transport team in Dundee. [www.bananaboxtrust.org](http://www.bananaboxtrust.org);

**Special Care Baby Unit in Aberdeen** – Knitters everywhere are so kind with their donations of baby hats and blankets but we have just heard from one of the organisers that they can't take any more baby unit knitting at present. They are so well stocked at present and will let us know when to begin again with the hats/blankets/matinee jackets. Please note through, when knitting starts again, the Unit ask for white or very pale coloured knitting only.

**Tarves School** was delighted with hat & scarf sets to share in December and the knitting ladies do like to see their knitting being worn locally.

**Woodend Hospital** – We had a donation of turquoise octopus twiddle-muffs similar to this photo and they went to Morningfield House where the staff are very aware of patients' needs. 15 knee blankets also went to this ward.



Knitting and donations of wool can be handed to Jessie at Hanover (01651 851958) and at the Hanover Knitting Group in their lounge on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm, or dropped off at the Church on Tuesday mornings 10-11am, Sundays between 11-12noon, or collected via arrangement – please email me at [tbc.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:tbc.editor@btinternet.com) and also at [rmbn@btinternet.com](mailto:rmbn@btinternet.com)

Thank you everyone – and if you know any organisations who would welcome some knitting, please let Jessie or myself know.

## **Ruth**

On behalf of Formartine Parish Church - Tarves Kirk

## **March update from Hanover Court Knitting Group**

We at Hanover haven't made any forthcoming plans/events – yet but we still have our regular coffee mornings 3 times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10.30 to 11.30 am and visitors are welcome.

The knitting group is still going on and we have a few new welcome faces from the village joining us. We all just work on what-ever we prefer to knit. May it be blankets, hats and scarves or baby cardigans etc, they all go to organisations that value hand knitting donations, so thanks to you all. The knitting group meet on a Tuesday afternoon at 2 to 4 pm up in Hanover Court lounge - all are welcome.

**Jessie Simpson** , Hanover



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

### **Palm Sunday - 24 March**

9.30am Walk from Tarves to Pitmedden over the Drove Road starting the Square in Tarves

11.00am Worship in Pitmedden preceded by coffee

### **Maundy Thursday - 28 March**

7.00pm Supper followed by Communion at Pitmedden

### **Good Friday - 29 March**

7.00pm Tarves

### **Easter Sunday - 31 March**

10.00am Easter Celebration Tarves



## **Mid – Formartine Guild**

(Barthol Chapel, Tarves and Udry Pitmedden)

“Whose we are and Whom we serve”

Here at the Guild, we are coming to the end of our winter break and are in the middle of planning our new Syllabus for our Summer meetings. In line with usual practice at the start of a new session, we have a new national strategy which is “Let Us Build a House” with the theme for this year being “Sure Foundations”.

The Church is under a programme of amalgamating Churches and Congregations and the Guild is following down that path with the introduction of new boundaries and Guilds joining together as Churches unite. Locally we have already joined together Barthol Chapel, Pitmedden and Tarves under the name of Mid Formartine and I am pleased to say it is working well.

We will start off the new session in April exploring the new strategy and this year’s Theme “Sure Foundations” something we all badly need to deal with in our world today. Date and venue for this to be arranged.

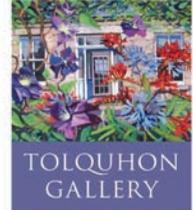
Our second meeting on **Thursday 2 May @ 7pm** will see us back in Tarves when Christine Wilkie will talk on her book “**From Barbados to Banffshire via Kenya**” which is a family story spanning six generations across the Atlantic Ocean.

All other meetings are still to be finalised but look out for details on social media and posters.

Please feel free to come along to any meeting that might interest you. You will be made very welcome.

More information from Jean Jowett (Leader) on 01651 891081 or Doreen on 851040.

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# Barthol Chapel School

Head Teacher: Mrs Gillian Newlands

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01651 267440

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



Despite the snowy start to our term, we have continued our drive forward with our School Improvement Plan. Our learners have been

busy as always developing their leadership skills by organising and leading our annual Burns

Afternoon. Pupils successfully recited poems, sang, addressed the Haggis, toasted the lassies and lads and showcased our love for Scottish dancing. It was fantastic to see the pupils excel and show their talents with some audience participation too!



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

As always, we have aligned our learning to the 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". Our Global Goal of the month is Global Goal 9 – industry, innovation and infrastructure.

Our annual school show of 'Peter Pan The Musical' was another example of our learners demonstrating their passion for learning new skills where they were able to showcase their learning in the Drama and Music curriculum.

We are so proud of all our pupils who put on such a fantastic performance of Peter Pan.

Their teamwork, communication and creativity were just some of the skills for learning, life and work they used and developed so a huge well done! Thank you to all who donated to our Christmas Draw and contributed to its success. A total of £763 was raised in raffle sales and another £63 with the sale of the sweetie cones making the grand total a **MASSIVE £826** raised by the Parent Council.



(continued on Page 13)



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(Continued from page 11)

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

### 'A Lang Time Ago'

Pupils have taken ownership of their latest context for learning and voted to study The Ice-age. Pupils will compare this time in history to our present day and look at similarities and differences.



There will also be time for pupils to reflect on climate change as we have aligned our learning to the Global Goal 13 - Climate Action. This will allow pupils to understand how the world and climate was back then to how our climate is now.



### Barthol Chapel Nativity Walk Through

Primary 1-4 had the opportunity to take part in a 'Nativity Walk Through' at Tarves Church. Pupils learnt about the Nativity and very much enjoyed their experience. Thank you to Barthol Chapel Community Council who paid for half of the cost of transport to the Nativity at Tarves Church and thank you to our fantastic Parent Council who paid for the other half which meant the pupils could take part in the learning experience.

### World Book Day

We will be hosting an open afternoon for parents and carers during World Book Day. The pupils are working hard on preparing for this event and look forward to welcoming you. We will be entering the *world of experiments*



linked to some well-known novels! There will be other reading and craft activities throughout the day and for our visitors to get involved. We strive to encourage a love of reading that is fun for everyone.

### Rag Bag Recycling Scheme

A reminder that we have a Rag Bag Container in our school playground. The 'Rag Bag' recycling scheme has been developed to provide regular fundraising for schools in Scotland. The scheme increases awareness about textile recycling. Please think of us if you are having a clear out. We can accept clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts etc. Just pop them into a bag and deposit in the container.

A huge thank you to the community for supporting this important fundraiser. We have been amazed at how quickly it fills up. On average we are receiving approximately £75 every three months!





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## 1<sup>st</sup> Methlick Scout Group



As usual, all our sections have had a busy programme over the last few months.

- Squirrels (age 4 – 6)

Squirrels did a litter pick in Methlick to keep the village tidy. They had a few sessions centred around the Disney film “Encanto” – learning about community and international issues. The Halloween party was good fun with some great costumes.

We learned about local superheroes with a visit from a local Ambulance Technician who showed the youngsters how to put anyone in the recovery position.

We’ve also recently celebrated the lunar new year with a homemade Chinese dragon!

- Beavers (age 6 – 8)

Beavers have been working on their Global badge. They went for a twilight walk and also celebrated Halloween and Bonfire night.

They had a couple of sessions on disability awareness and had a visit from the “Critter Keeper” who brought along all manner of beasties to hold and touch!

Christmas crafts were made to take home just before the break.

So far this year, we’ve celebrated Burns night and lunar new year.

- Cubs (age 8 – 10.5)

We held an evening centred around the Women’s World Cup which was held in the summer. We’ve been backwoods cooking (cooking in the ashes of an open fire), we’ve had a couple of nights of “human-sized board games” where we played large scale chess and hungry hippos!

We took part in the annual “Jambowtree” event in November. This is a global scouting event where teams play a game of 10-pin bowling and all scores are collated into a global leaderboard. We’ve just found out that our Cubs team finished in 210<sup>th</sup> place of all Cubs teams! We plan to hold a tea party for Methlick Friendship Club around Easter.

- Scouts (age 10.5 – 14)

Scouts have been doing some backwoods cooking, a litter pick at Haddo, a murder mystery hike challenge and games night as well as an anti-bullying session and St Andrew’s night. This year, we’ve been making bird boxes, celebrating Burns night and lunar new year. One of our leaders is a vet, so we had a different human/animal first-aid session!

- Explorers (ages 14 – 18)

We’ve been out and about quite a bit with trips to the Garioch Kitchen for a “ready, steady, cook!” night, a night hike from Haddo to Methlick, a visit to the dry ski slope in Aberdeen and a last-minute visit to the Aberdeen panto. “Oh yes, we did!”

*(continued on Page 17)*



AIRPORTS RAILWAY STATIONS HELIPORTS GOLF CLUBS NIGHT OUT WEDDINGS  
**TO AND FROM TARVES & BEYOND!**

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PHOTO COURTESY - THE HOUSE OF SCHIVAS ESTATE

(Continued from page 15)

This year, we've visited a Buddhist temple and are planning a casino night, and an outdoor cinema.

In April, some of our young people will be travelling to London to take part in a "Monopoly Run" – putting their navigational skills into practice to get to the different parts of the city which are on the traditional Monopoly board...

The group now has a new Group Scout Leader (GSL) – welcome to Alison Shaw! We're sure you will be a great success and will provide the group and all sections with the help and guidance required.

All of the above cannot be achieved without the skill and dedication of our volunteer leaders. We are very much in need of new/additional leaders and assistants for all sections listed above – can you help to deliver our varied, fun and educational programme, helping our young people to learn skills for life? If you are interested in helping and want to know more, please get in touch by emailing [methlickscoutgroup@gmail.com](mailto:methlickscoutgroup@gmail.com) or visiting our website at [www.methlickscouts.org.uk/join-us](http://www.methlickscouts.org.uk/join-us)

## **News on upgrading the Melvin Hall**

The work to upgrade the Melvin Hall has commenced.

The resilience generator was installed just before Christmas with the fuel tank scheduled for delivery before the end of February, the majority of the cost being met by way of a substantial grant from SSEN.

New bespoke energy efficient windows are being manufactured by Colin Massie, they should have been installed prior to the publication of this edition of the TBC, again the majority of the cost has been secured via grant funding, this time via the Aberdeenshire Local Action Group Challenge Fund.

Further grant funding is being sourced to help cover the cost of installing insulation, an air-to-air source pump plus solar panels with storage batteries. These upgrades to our hall are a major project so please bear with us whilst we try to raise the necessary funding.



# THE HUT

## TARVES YOUTH PROJECT

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After a very successful trial at the end of last year we are delighted that we will now be opening The Hut on a Thursday evening as well as a Monday. Monday nights will continue as 7-9 for those in S1 and older. Thursdays will welcome P7s from 6.30 – 8.30 with those in S1 and older welcome 7-9pm. As we celebrate 25 years of the project, we are proud to continue to support the young people in our community; providing a warm sociable, safe space for them to hang out with their friends. Thankyou to our volunteer team: Suzanne, Mark, Tracy and Glenn for helping make this possible. If you would like to get involved or find out more, please email [thehutouthproject@gmail.com](mailto:thehutouthproject@gmail.com). We are also on Facebook: Thehuttarves and instagram: the\_hut\_tarves

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# The Hut

## Tarves Youth Project

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**7-9pm (S1 & older)**

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Table Football  
Snacks  
Games  
Trips  
Crafts

## Udny Station Bowling Club

Bowling started in early January following completion of work to the Youth Hall. We are delighted that membership has remained the same as before despite the delayed start to the season and some club competitions will go ahead soon. The Club continues to meet in Tarves Youth Hall on a Monday and Thursday evening from 7.30 - 9.30pm and new members are always welcome.

**John Dickson**  
01651 851317



## Tarves Folk Club

The Club continues to meet on the last Friday of every month in the Aberdeen Arms Hotel from 8.30 - 11.00pm. Our February meeting will be an Open Mic night with an extended spot from Conor. Entry is £5 and there will be a raffle.

The Club is delighted to announce that our 9th Tarves Rant Concert will be held in the Aberdeen Arms Hotel on Saturday 27th April 2024 and our special guests will be The Quiggs. For those who don't know The Quiggs, they are a husband-and-wife duo who tour regularly with great success both on the continent and here in Scotland. Both share a common feeling for the tradition of folksong and this has given them a very loyal and ever-increasing fan base. Come along and hear some beautiful harmonies and songs that encourage the audience's participation.

Watch out for further information!

**John Dickson**  
01651 851317



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

A great way to meet up, make new friends and have a blether for a suggested donation of just **£2 per adult**.

All ages will be made very welcome



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See page 23 for some pictures of the Hall plus the Brownies enjoying the new warm space for a sleepover for Thinking Day



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We kicked off 2024 making bird feeders for The Big Garden Bird Watch. 2<sup>nd</sup> February was Time to Talk day: all about creating supportive communities by having conversations with family, friends, or colleagues about mental health. We spent the evening playing lots of 'communication' themed games, fun ice breakers and highlighting the importance of checking in with each other and reducing the stigma of mental health.

Brownies enjoyed a sleepover in the newly refurbished Youth Hall in Tarves followed by Thinking Day Service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at Tarves Kirk. Thinking Day is a day of international friendship celebrated since 1926 where members of the Guiding and Scouting organisations all around the world come together to celebrate and remember our founder Lord Robert Baden Powell and his wife Agnes Baden Powell the first World Chief Guide.

We are looking forward to celebrating International Woman's Day, getting creative for Mother's Day, doing some fun experiments for Science week and a much-anticipated trip to Haddo Childrens theatre's production of Peter Pan starring many of our members.

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





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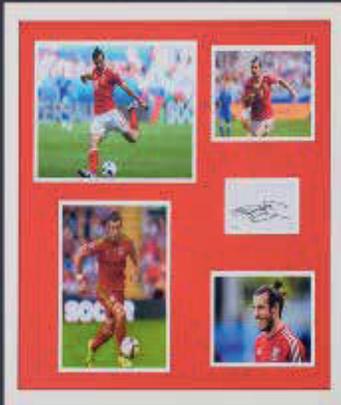
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# **Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy**

## **Tarves Barthol Chapel Newsletter Update at March 2024**

Since my last update, I have been humbled and delighted as Lord-Lieutenant to attend many special events throughout Aberdeenshire. I know I speak for Lady Aberdeen, my Vice Lord-Lieutenant and my Deputy Lieutenants when I say that we are constantly reminded what a wonderful county this is with many truly remarkable people who selflessly make such a positive difference to the lives of others.

Like so many other organisations, Rotary is one of those voluntary groups who do so much good for others and I was delighted to attend the Oldmeldrum branch for their meeting in November. Remembrance Sunday is a key date in our annual calendar as we remember those who have sacrificed so much for their country. The Lieutenancy laid 27 wreaths on behalf of The King at Remembrance services throughout Aberdeenshire in November and I was honoured to attend the service at Oldmeldrum Parish Church. Vice Lord-Lieutenant Joanna, Marchioness of Aberdeen was delighted to attend the Remembrance service at Tarves.

Now in its third year, the inspirational carol concert at Westminster Abbey "Together at Christmas," hosted by HRH The Princess of Wales in December highlighted the importance of building supportive, nurturing environments for young children and the adults in their lives. Among the congregation were midwives, health visitors, nursery teachers and community volunteers who have gone above and beyond to help others throughout the year. We were delighted five people from Aberdeenshire were invited to attend this very special Carol Concert.

In January, I was delighted to attend the Baton relay of the Boys Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> Turriff Company to celebrate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the North Scottish Area of the Boys Brigade and to plant an oak tree at the Bennachie Visitor Centre to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Next to the tree is a special plaque and please go and view the tree if visiting Bennachie. (picture on page 27)

In addition, we have held a number of citizenship ceremonies, a medal presentation and been blessed with several Diamond, Blue Sapphire and Platinum wedding anniversaries and significant birthdays across the county. As ever, please get in touch if there is someone you would like to receive a card from the King to mark 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries or 100<sup>th</sup> or 105<sup>th</sup> Birthdays.

Finally, we are all very mindful of the recent news of His Majesty the King's cancer diagnosis. The King has indicated that he remains wholly positive and that he looks forward to returning to public duty as soon as possible. We all join in sending His Majesty and the Royal Family our best wishes as The King's treatment progresses. Equally, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales is very much in our thoughts following her recent operation.

Please do make contact with the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy at [audreynash@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk](mailto:audreynash@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk) if there is anything you feel we can do to help your community.

With very best wishes,  
**Sandy Manson** - His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire



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Planting the Oak tree at the Bennachie Visitor Centre

## Tarves Development Trust

As many of you will be aware, Louise the operator of our village cafe The Murly Tuck has reluctantly decided to sell her business. As the owners of the facility the Trust has been working with Louise to find a suitable purchaser. We are currently in discussions with a potential new operator and are working with Louise to facilitate a seamless transfer without disruption to the great service provided to our community at The Murly Tuck Cafe.



The Trust has entered in to a long-term lease with The Church of Scotland to secure the Glebe for community use which will include the Annual Bonfire organised by TPP. If you have any ideas for the use of the Glebe which would benefit our community please get in touch. The Trust is managed by a small group of dedicated volunteers, so please remember we can't do everything. Ideas can only be implemented if sufficient number of residents are willing to assist and also take the lead on projects. Please contact me if you wish to assist.

**David Hekelaar,**  
Chair TDT

SPAR



Tarves

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<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (Term Time Only)	1pm-4.30pm	Open Doors
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (alternate Monday to Open Doors – Term Time Only)	1pm-3pm	Baby & Toddlers Stay & Play
Every Tuesday	10am-11.45am	Weekly Health Walk
Every Day	9am-1pm	Udney Community Shelf
Every Wednesday – Saturday	9am-3.15pm	Café 48 Open
Every Thursday	9.15am-9.30am	Waist Watchers
Every Friday	2.30pm-2.45pm	Peterhead Fish Company
Last Thursday each Month	10.30am – 12.30pm	Monthly Guided Walk
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	2pm-4pm	Conversation Café - local lads Bill and Bert Reminiscing Afternoon.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30pm	Drop off Create From Waste Competition Entries
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30pm	Create From Waste Competition Winners Announced in the Quarry Room
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	3pm-5pm	Swap Shop Drop Off
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	10am-3pm 9.15am–3pm	Swap Shop (pick up only)



# CREATE FROM WASTE



## Kids Reuse Competition

MAGAZINE BEAD Bracelet



Competition for Climate Week North East 24

Be creative, make something new with waste material. Reuse and repurpose.



In the past we've had some amazing ideas:

- An old photo album book became a work of art book
- An old box became a submarine house
- Egg box's turned into magnificent Kelpies
- Milk bottles became flip flops!



All your own work  
Enter by:



Drop off Entries to  
The Medan Centre

3 age categories, PRIZES in each age category  
Winners and prizes to be announced at  
Open Doors, 18th March, 3.30pm, The Medan Centre

### Pre-school P1 - P3

- 1st & 2nd - Voucher for Macduff Marine Aquarium
- 3rd - Cafe 48 Voucher

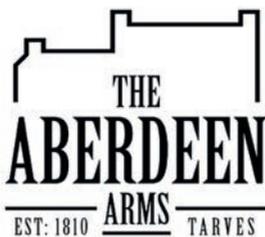
### P4 - P7

- 1st & 2nd - Voucher for Aberdeen Science Centre
- 3rd - Cafe 48 Voucher



For more information see Udny Community Trust Facebook Page, Udny Climate Action Website, NESCAN Website or contact Vikki Jannetta: [engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk](mailto:engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk)

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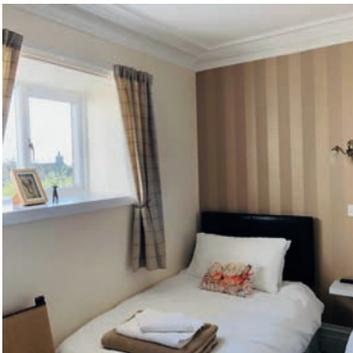
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## Mid-Formartine Fairtrade group

We are delighted to announce that as a community we are beginning to embrace Fairtrade school uniforms.

Pitmedden primary is now offering the option to buy fairtrade uniform to all the pupils, while Meldrum Academy and Udny Green schools are welcoming lessons and discussions from the Koolskools Fairtrade uniform Company in March



Fairtrade uniform uses-

Organic cotton-great for the environment and our skin

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

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

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

Thankyou to all concerned.

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**Happy New Year** everyone and a big “Thank You” to all who purchased our calendars and supported the Heritage throughout 2023.



2024 arrived and bad weather conditions prevented our January winter talk from happening, but it has been rescheduled for March so keep a lookout on Facebook, posters and our notice board.

School visits already happening, and we are looking forward to visits from Albyn School, Dunnottar and Cultercullen.



If you are part of a group, we would be delighted to offer you a visit out-with normal hours. Spring cleaning is well underway at the Centre and displays are being prepared for our opening in April. Perhaps you have never been to visit before or you are a regular visitor to the Centre, there is always something new (sorry, really old) to interest you or make you wonder.

Please put Tarves Heritage Centre on your “To Visit 2024” list and you will be given a very warm welcome.

**Tarves Heritage Project 100 Club**

This is the last draw of the year and we thank everyone who has supported Tarves Heritage Project and congratulate all the winners. If you would like to support us in 2024 and keep the same numbers, please renew by bank transfer and the banking details are:

**Virgin Bank / Sort Code 82 63 10 / Account Number 20100098**

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

**100 Club draw – January 2024**

<b>£100</b>	<b>£50</b>	<b>£50</b>	<b>£25</b>	<b>£25</b>	<b>£25</b>	<b>£25</b>
No 4	No 151	No 155	No 75	No 133	No 22	No 13

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## **Barthol Chapel Community Hub Gaining Momentum**

On 9 November last year, Barthol Chapel Community Hub gained charitable status as a SCIO. The group of Trustees are now progressing with our plan to buy the Kirk and make it available to the community as a multi-use space.

We have a growing number of people who are signing up as members, but we need more people to join us. Becoming a member costs nothing and it entitles you to have say on how you would like to see the hub developed and run. Even if you just want to receive news about progress or can offer to help in any way, we would love to hear from you.

We are starting an application to the Scottish Land Fund, which despite the name will fund the purchase of community buildings. An essential requirement for our application is to be able to demonstrate community interest, so the more members we have the better.

You can get a membership form electronically by scanning the QR code below or email [communityhub@bartholchapel.com](mailto:communityhub@bartholchapel.com) to request a form or phone David Strathearn, SCIO Secretary on 07563 748677 for a hard copy to be sent out.



For further news on activities and events at the Hub, please join our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bartholchapelcommunityhub>

## **Barthol Chapel SWI update – March 2024**



Barthol Chapel SWI seem to have been plagued by the annoying weather, of course we are not the only ones but several of our sessions needed to be cancelled and re arranged at short notice.

Members and visitors look forward to the wee sessions of escapism and we try our best to keep the momentum and battle on with a positive mindset.

So far in our 2023/24 program, we have been for lunch, painted lovely ceramic items, made Christmas table decorations, been to the panto.....oh yes we did, learned a bit about book binding and we still have a session on knitting, a talk from PawPalz and an outing to Aberdeenshire Larder to look forward to.

Our buttery morning is now planned for Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. This is being held in the Melvin Hall Tarves and is open to everyone. Please come along and enjoy a buttery and a chat, this social event helps to keep our group financially viable therefore allowing women of all ages to be part of a “family” right on the doorstep.

For more information contact Kerry - 07808 071683

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Thank-you to everyone who supported our Gingerbread village displays at Christmas. I hope you found time to see them and agree that they looked amazing. Special mention to **The Hut, Tarves Brownies, Tarves Guides, Barthol Chapel Senior Class, The Pharmacy and Tarves Heritage Centre** for their fantastic contributions to the Tarves display.

Plans are well under way for our Easter activities with an Interactive Walk-Through Holy Week experience for the schools and **Easter Garden display** at Tarves Church. We invite the community to get creative and contribute – adding crafted flowers to make it even bigger and better than last year. Creations must be weatherproof and can be added any time from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April.



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

young people and families here in our local community.

**Barthol Chapel Youth Club** (for P6 and older) meet on the last Friday of the month in Barthol Chapel Primary School 7-9pm. Last month for 'Time to Talk day' on 2<sup>nd</sup> February we had a great 'talking' themed evening playing lots of games that highlighted the importance of asking questions, finding out more about each other and mental health myth busting! #timetotalkday

'Cool club' on a Thursday lunch time at Tarves primary school continues to be popular; giving the P7s a time and place that is theirs, an opportunity to further develop social skills and build on relationships with their peers and discuss any issues or concerns in an informal, safe, supportive environment.

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

Follow us on Facebook: **Formartine Youth Project** or Instagram: **formartineyouthproject** for regular updates.



# TBC

Tarves and Barthol Chapel  
Quarterly Newsletter

## Final articles and advertising dates for 2024 newsletters

June 2024 edition	final copy date - Monday 13 May 2024
September 2024 edition	final copy date - Monday 12 August 2024
December 2024 edition	final copy date - Monday 11 November 2024

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

Articles and any related photos should include your name/contact details and forwarded to Ruth Nisbet at [tbc.editor@btinternet.com](mailto:tbc.editor@btinternet.com) and also to [dem.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:dem.brown@btinternet.com). Thank you.

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



You are invited to get creative and add to our  
Community Easter Garden Display  
at Tarves Kirk  
18<sup>th</sup> March - 14<sup>th</sup> April



Finger knitting



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Bottle flowers



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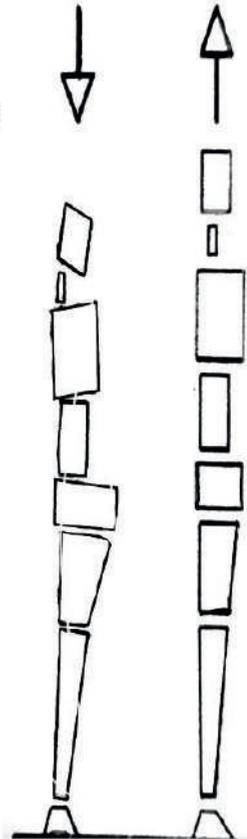
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Tarves Guides are delighted to be back in the new and improved Youth Hall. We have already enjoyed several meetings and a sleepover in the hall. For our sleepover we had a meal at the Aberdeen Arms, followed by chocolate games, chocolate face masks and chocolate fondue.

We have recently been coding with Lego and cooking over fires. We are looking forward to seeing several of the Guides in Haddo Children's Theatre production of Peter Pan this March and we are also heading in to Aberdeen on the bus to go ice skating.

We are delighted to welcome two new leaders to our team, Kirsty and Katie – welcome to the adventure! Tarves Guides meet on Wednesdays from 6.30 till 8.30pm. If your daughter would like to join us, or you would like to join the adult team, please email Kate and Sandie at [tarvesguides@gmail.com](mailto:tarvesguides@gmail.com) or visit the Girlguiding website and click the 'register your daughter to join Guides' link ([Guides \(10-14\)](#) | [Girlguiding](#)).



## News from the Square



Hope you all had a great Christmas & New Year and have survived the horrid weather we've had lately. Sadly the bed where I stand hasn't been so lucky and the plants are looking decidedly sad, but the snowdrops are flowering and other bulbs are peeping through the earth to let us know that Spring is just around the corner.

My Boss Man is wanting to retire and if there is anyone out there who would like to help with planting, weeding, tidying up etc with a view to taking over please get in touch on 851040. The Village is a nice place in which to live and the Square especially looks colourful in the summer and I'm sure you would all like it to continue to be so for villagers and visitors alike.

In the meantime, take care.

*"The Tarves Plooman"*

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## Threads And Yarns – Local Craft Group

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

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

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

Bring your dressmaking, embroidery, knitting, crocheting, or beadwork and join us over tea and coffee. We're sure you'll enjoy it, meet with like-minded crafters, and have an opportunity to learn more skills and meet new friends. We can't wait to see what you create!

**Contact us on** Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PitmeddenSewing>  
Email: [UdneyThreadsandYarns@gmail.com](mailto:UdneyThreadsandYarns@gmail.com)



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# Tarves Bowling Club

Tarves Bowling Club starts the new season with the Opening of the Green on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2pm and Try Bowls on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Try Bowls

Ever thought....maybe I should give the bowling a try?  
Or..... maybe the kids would like to play bowls?

## Now is your chance!

Tarves Bowling Club are running a Try Bowls event, anyone of any age is welcome to come along and get a taste of what Bowls is like.

A cup of tea, a fine piece and bar will be available!

## **TRYBOWLS** starts 2pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April

All equipment will be provided

Please wear trainers or flat soled shoes (no heels)

Any Questions? Please contact Andy Duncan

Email: [tarves.bowls@outlook.com](mailto:tarves.bowls@outlook.com)

Tel: 07967342147



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**Fireflies Nurture & Thrive** have sessions for all ages at our site near Methlick. Spend time in nature to nurture and thrive. Supporting wellbeing is our passion!

Give children the opportunity to play in a safe environment, experience risk, learn new skills and make friends. Make some s'mores to eat too!



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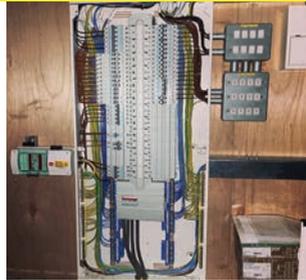
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The brand new *Haddo Musical Theatre School* is proud to announce that Disney's Moana JR. is playing at Haddo Hall on Friday 21st and sat 22nd June 2024.

The 60-minute musical adventure, is based on the 2016 Disney film Moana. The HMTS cast includes local young people aged 8-12.

Disney

# MOANA JR.

See the line where the sky meets the sea?

You'll love this thrilling and heartwarming stage adaptation of the coming-of-age tale of Moana as she sets sail across the Pacific to save her village and discover the truth about her heritage. She and the demigod Maui embark on an epic journey of self-discovery and camaraderie as she learns to harness the power that lies within.

Adapted for young performers, this musical includes favorite songs by Tony®, GRAMMY, Emmy, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, Opetaia Foa'i, and Mark Mancina, such as "How Far I'll Go," "Shiny," and "You're Welcome."

With its empowering message of bravery, Moana JR. is sure to awaken your inner hero!

For information on purchasing tickets please visit  
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Disney's Moana JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all materials are provided by Music Theatre International

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Ellon Men's Shed		01358 725849
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