

# PITMEDDEN

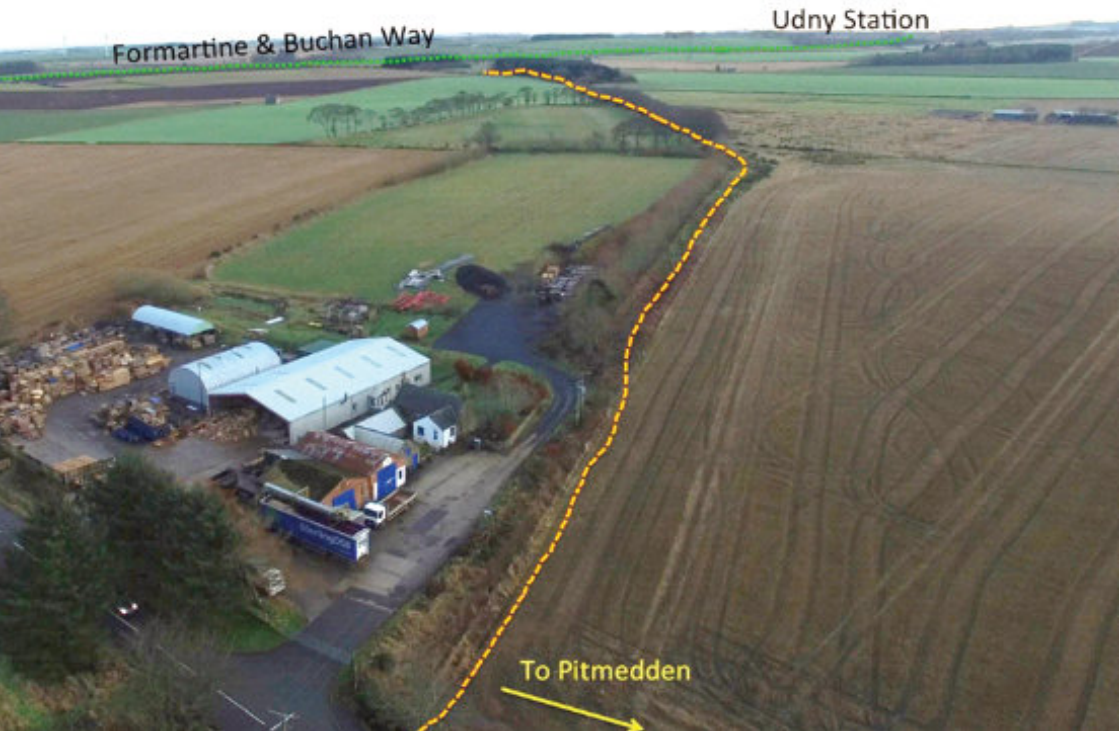
# NEWS



THE VOICE  
OF UDNY



The Newsletter of the  
Parish of Udry  
Issue #345  
Spring 2023  
Online Edition at  
[pitmedden.wordpress.com/](http://pitmedden.wordpress.com/)



**A safe cycling and walking route between Udry and the Formartine Way has never been closer.**

For many years there has been the dream of creating a path along the long-disused track that runs from Wood Recyclability to near the Formartine & Buchan Way. This is sometimes referred to as the Drove Rd. A 2019 survey showed that this would be a very popular development with people in the community who could use it for going to work, shops, schools and cafes, as well as for recreation.

The dream took a big step closer to reality a few years ago when the Aberdeen Endowment Trust kindly gifted most of the route to the Udry Community Trust. And things progressed again in

## PITMEDDEN NEWS CONTACTS

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PROVISIONAL DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE;

8<sup>th</sup> May, 2022



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**Golden Charter**  
Funeral Plans



2022 when Udney & Dudwick Estate gave their written approval for the creation of a path along the edge of the field next to the Wood Recyclability yard.

That left the small matter of actually building the 900m path along with the associated fencing and drainage at an estimated cost of more than £60,000.

I'm very pleased to report that Aberdeenshire Council have now agreed to entirely fund and construct this route in the coming financial year.

What will this look like? It will be a roughly 2m wide grit path with offset wooden bollards at both ends. It will be suitable for walking, cycling, horse-riding, plus all-terrain wheelchairs and buggies.

At some point it will have a bench installed part way along it and there's been talk of planting fruit trees to nourish the peckish walkers of future autumns.

In 2024 the Paths Group intends to submit a proposal to Sustrans to re-route National Cycle Route 1 along the path. This would bring more economic activity to Udney and make an easier and safer route than the present hill road to Newmachar.

If you have any questions, or want to get involved with the work of the paths group, then please email. And please go and check out the route – most of it is currently walkable with care.

Steve Baguley, Udney Paths Group

[udnypaths@gmail.com](mailto:udnypaths@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/udnypathsgroup>

## WoodRecyclAbility develops its Strategy for Fundraising

A professional fundraiser said to me that succeeding with grant applications is a bit like panning for gold. That said, WoodrecyclAbility has enjoyed considerable success with its grant applications in the past, enabling expenditure on a number of essential projects that we could simply not afford from our meagre operating profits. However, the requirement to replace our aged and struggling wood chipper creates a significant challenge. We need funding of some £150,000 – way more than we have ever sought to raise.

The advice from Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action is to develop a funding strategy that sets out our intent and includes all the information that is likely to be called for in applications, as well as prioritising our funding needs. These of course go much further than replacing the woodchipper. We have therefore, in conjunction with our sister organisation the charity Friends of WoodrecyclAbility developed our Fundraising strategy.

Pat Reid, who volunteers her time to scour the web for grant opportunities and then complete and submit those that seem a good fit with our needs and challenges, will find having most of the information accessible in one document.

So we'll keep panning away for those little gold flakes and, who knows, this may just get lucky and find that much needed large gold nugget that, just like the hardy panners of yore, we so eagerly crave!



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(Areas Covered - Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire)

## Dear friends;

My family and I would like to thank all those we have met and spoken with in Udney Green over the past couple of months since we became the new custodians of our beautiful church.

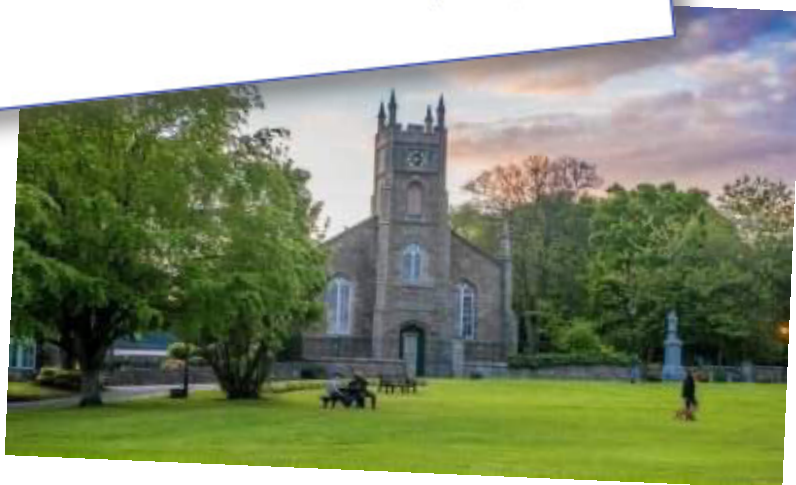
We already feel very much welcome and encouraged. Many of you clearly have deep emotional and historical connections and feelings for the church so I do want to write a few words which I hope will help assure you that it will be in good hands and that we intend for the church to remain central both as a beautiful village icon and a place of real value to the community it will continue to serve.

In brief, we are in the process of setting up a social enterprise and in addition to the plans we have for the church to remain a place of celebration and education we look forward to listening to you and the ideas you have on how the church, with your engagement, help and support, can provide real value to the community and village life.

We realise we will be the custodians of a very beautiful and important building in a unique setting within a unique community and my family hope to become an active member of that community and contribute wherever we can.

I look forward to meeting you all again soon and thanks again for your kind words of support.

Antony Eddison



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I am sure I'm not alone in welcoming the onset of Spring. The longer days and periodical long spells of Sunshine, Flora and Fauna awakening certainly invigorates body and soul.

UCC meetings for this year shall be held in The Medan Centre courtesy of the Udney Community Trust to whom our gratitude is extended. It should be noted the UCTC are providing use of the premises free of charge for the benefit of the community.

Your Community Council remains engaged in listening to the Udney residents, discussing issues/matters raised by those communities with the respective Aberdeenshire Authorities.

Engaging with our Aberdeenshire Council provides benefit for both parties. The respective 'Shire Council departments are made aware of the matters important to our communities while your Community Council gains knowledge of the workings and constraints related to the council departments concerned. On many occasions we do not agree nor are able to reach a resolution which satisfies the community. Often this is due to constraints experienced through existing Policies and procedures.

While Aberdeenshire departments have a duty to prepare those Policies the scope of Policy is generally guided by higher level Policy generated by the Scottish Government, often with terms of any potential deviation outlined.

We have to live within the Policies applied even if we personally disagree with particular elements. What should be noted by all is that policies have a predetermined life. When determining the 'new' policy Aberdeenshire Council generally circulates a survey for comment. The opportunity for constructive comment lies with all within our communities. Your opinion/significant concerns must be voiced. Through those, an assessment may be made identifying the most common concern, permitting a focused presentation for consideration by the Council.

This does not guarantee change but it provides a stronger and focused message to present to the respective authority.

Current activity of interest to the Communities within Aberdeenshire being -

A PLACE STRATEGY FOR ABERDEENSHIRE. Following extracts are intended to provide a 'Flavour' of the expected outcome. Extracts being taken from the current report in progress.

*'The Council Plan sets out the Strategic Priority of Resilient Communities. To deliver this priority it was agreed that Aberdeenshire Council would develop and implement a Place Strategy that considers the current and future needs of communities.'*

*'As well as supporting the delivery of the Council's Strategic Priority of Resilient Communities it is also noted that the Place Strategy can help to deliver the Scottish Government's Place Principle. Both the priority and the principle aim to provide a more effective and collaborative way to achieve long term change and improve outcomes across our communities.'*

*'The Place Principle is a way of bringing ideas about services, investments, resources and assets together under one roof and will include the development of Place Plans which are*

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*supported by legislation and will give communities a voice in shaping their locality. Whilst providing proposals for the development and use of land, they will also have an opportunity to influence the provision of local services and address socio-economic challenges and inequalities, along with delivering against the Aberdeenshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) priorities.'*

There is much more to the Strategy than the short extracts given. I am sure that there shall be updates on progress provided to the Community Councils in due course. Meantime your Formartine Councillors shall have a greater in-depth knowledge and understanding of the principals applied.

Finally, we are pleased to announce the addition of an Associate Member, Sue Hebenton, who shall provide knowledge and experience over a number of areas / subject matter the current membership lacks in depth knowledge / experience.

Stay Safe, Stay Engaged.

## **Work of the Lord-Lieutenant and the Deputy Lieutenants**

Many people may be unfamiliar with the work of the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy. There are 35 Lord-Lieutenants throughout Scotland essentially one representing each county with the Lord Provosts of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow fulfilling the role of Lord-Lieutenant in their city.

I was delighted and honoured to be appointed as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire by Her Majesty The Queen in 2020. In my duties I am supported by my Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Lady Aberdeen, and 14 Deputy Lieutenants who live throughout Aberdeenshire including Sarah Mackie from Balquhindachy, Methlick.

The role of the Lord-Lieutenant is to support His Majesty The King and other members of the Royal Family in their work of providing inspiration, support and encouragement to volunteers, community groups and businesses who all contribute towards building a stronger and more cohesive society.

### *Recent visits and events*

We were privileged to welcome HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Aberdeenshire for two days in November. His Royal Highness enjoyed visiting Specialist Valve Services in Westhill before travelling to Fraserburgh where he visited the Fraserburgh Lighthouse Museum, Nooks & Crannies and the John Trail Hotel and Glover Garden project. He also presented the Queens Award for Voluntary Service to the Invercairn Gala committee, before going to the Ocean Winds Control Centre to learn more of the Moray East Wind energy project. The following day HRH visited Peterhead where he toured the Peterhead Port Authority, visited the local RNLi station and toured the pelagic trawler, Lunar Bow.

Remembrance Sunday is a key date in the Lieutenancy Calendar and I am delighted that over 20 Remembrance services were





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Coat hangers

attended across Aberdeenshire by the Lieutenancy and wreaths laid on behalf of The King.

Many will remember the wonderful celebrations held across the country celebrating Her Late Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Outside Buckingham Palace there was the impressive "Tree of Trees" sculpture - made up of hundreds of tree saplings which have now been distributed across the country. I am delighted that two have come to Aberdeenshire with one being planted at Peterhead Prison Museum and a second to be planted at Haddo Country Park.

More recently, in January His Majesty The King visited Aboyne when he visited the Community Shed - a wonderful community studio and workshop built to help combat rural isolation and teach new skills. His Majesty met the Trustees of the Mens Shed and Charities involved in supporting people suffering with hardship and food poverty in Aberdeenshire.

On the 1st March, 2023, Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal will be attending the Royal Northern Spring Show at Thainstone Centre, Inverurie, organised by the Royal Northern Agricultural Society.

Of course groups and communities across Aberdeenshire are planning celebrations for the Coronation in May and I look forward to learning more about these plans in due course.

You may have seen in the press that there has been a competition to design a flag for Aberdeenshire. I am delighted that there were over 820 entries. The judges were overwhelmed with the responses and the short list recently went to public vote through the P&J. The winning flag will be announced soon. Thank you to all who took part.

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

## HADDO HOUSE CHORAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY

We are well underway with preparations for our Spring Concert. The Programme is Faure's Requiem, with Benjamin Britten's "Te Deum in C" and James MacMillan's "Who Shall Separate Us" which was written for the Queen's Funeral Ceremony.

By the time you read this we shall have had a Come and Sing Day in Ellon but don't worry if you missed it, if you enjoy singing, come along and give it a try, we rehearse in The Peatyards, Haddo on Thursdays' at 7.30pm

There are no auditions to join, you just need to enjoy music and come with enthusiasm, you don't even need to read music but it is great if you can.

For more details, keep an eye on our social media

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We look forward to seeing you.

*Andy Clubb*



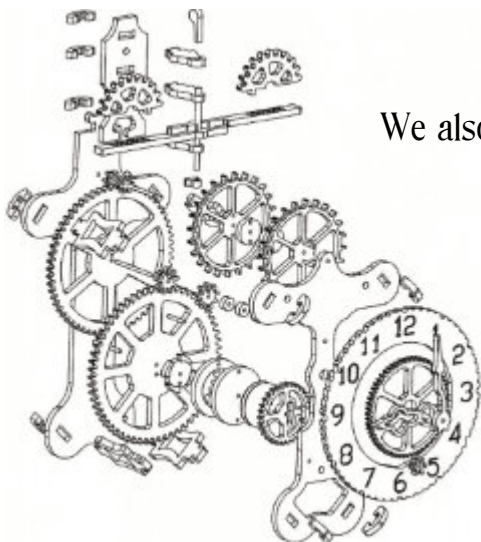
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# The Medan Centre

We are delighted to be back after our Christmas break! Our Community Christmas Fayre was a massive success. Thank you to everyone for coming out and supporting us and our many wonderful community groups.

This year our weekly **Udny Health Walk** has proved very popular, attracting 30+ people, feel free to join us for a gentle walk, every Tuesday at 10am then back to the Quarry Room for a cuppa, biscuit and blether.

We introduced **Open Doors** just before Christmas which proved very popular. Thank you to everyone who has come along, and especially to Sue for agreeing to run the project. Just pop into The Quarry Room any time between **2pm and 4:30pm every Tuesday**, the fire and kettle are on, join us for a cuppa biscuit and blether and feel free to play a card game or even take some crafting or knitting with you.

We have Stephen from **Peterhead Fish Company** with us every Friday at 2:30pm, selling his lovely local fish.

Pop into see the **Udny Community Shelf** every Saturday 9:30am – 1:30pm, Udny Community Shelf helps avoid waste by encouraging the recycling of household items and works with the local Co-op to reduce food waste going to landfill. Best before food is shared with the community at the trailer where people can donate and take surplus food, household items, toys, clothing and more.

We are assisting in celebrating **Climate Week North East 2023** by encouraging you to ditch the car in favour of walking your dog, so come and join Toby McKillop from PawPalz on Monday 27 March. Toby is hosting our **March Conversation Café**, 1:30pm in the Quarry Room. Join him to find out more about PawPalz and Toby's journey in starting up PawPalz. Also feel free to **join a PawPalz walk**, leaving from The Medan Centre, 11:30am on Wednesday March 15th, April 5th and April 26th walk around the many amazing local paths.

Also look out for the **Kids Reuse competition** – drop off your creations at The Medan Centre, there are some fab prizes on offer.

We held our first **Swap Shop** of the year, along with Udny Climate Action – wow what a lot of donations we received! We also **opened Café 48 the first time on a Sunday** – it was lovely to see so many of you pop in and support your local community Café while joining the Swap Shop. Café 48 will **open again on Sunday 2 April** along with the next Swap Shop – we will be accepting donations again, the Swap Shop theme is 'Spring Clean'.

We dealt with our first influx of Grant Applications, it was lovely to receive applications for all the worthwhile community groups. Our next Grant Deadline Dates are **Large Grants (over £1000) Friday 19th May** and **Small Grants (up to £1000) Friday 16th June**. The grant process is open to voluntary / not-for-profit organisations and community groups to fund various projects / activities within the area of Udny. March sees the start of our **Monthly Guided Walks** (every 3rd Thursday of each month thereafter), just pop down to The Medan Centre at 10am if you fancy joining us, we do roughly a 5k walk starting and finishing at The Medan Centre, takes approximately 2 hours, everyone welcome.

Feel free to save the date for our **Big Help Out, Monday 8th May**, **Summer Fayre, Saturday July 1st** and our **Community Christmas Fayre, Saturday 25 November!**

A massive thank you goes out to all our amazing Volunteers, you work so hard in keeping The Medan Centre a lovely space for the Community to use, we couldn't do it without you. If anyone is interested in Volunteering with us, please pop by and see us.



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As ever if you have any questions / queries or ideas we'd love to hear from you, contact Vikki Jannetta, Community Engagement Officer, email: [engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk](mailto:engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk) or Tracy Gibb, Facilities Manager, email: [facilities@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk](mailto:facilities@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk)

## What's On In The Medan Centre

### Every Tuesday - Weekly Walk, 10am

A gentle walk, cuppa, biscuit and blether.

### Every Tuesday - Open Doors, 2pm - 4:30pm, The Quarry Room

Fire on, kettle on, pop in for a blether, a card / board game of something or take crafting with you. Everyone welcome - children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

### Every Wednesday - Saturday - Café 48, 9:15am - 3pm

For Sit in and Take Away, fresh local food and home bakes.

### Every Friday - Peterhead Fish Company Van, 2:30pm – 2:45pm

Stephen will be here with the Fish Van in our carpark weekly on a Friday.

### Every Saturday - Udney Community Shelf, 9:30am – 1:30pm

The shelf is open every Saturday (subject to donations), located in the trailer in our car park.

### Thursday 16 March – Monthly Guided Walk – 10am

Our first monthly walk of the year, thereafter every 3rd Thursday of the month, join us for a 5k walk.

### Monday 27 March - Conversation Café, 1:30pm - 3pm, The Quarry Room

Toby McKillop from PawPalz will be hosting our March Conversation Café, join Toby to find out more about PawPalz and Toby's journey in starting up PawPalz.

### Tuesday 28 March, - Kid's Reuse Competition, 2pm The Quarry Room

Judging and Prize Giving of Kids Reuse Competition. Join us at Open Doors for the judging and prize giving of the Kids Reuse Competition.

### PawPalz Walks – Wednesday - March 15th, April 5th and April 26th

Join Toby, Pawpalz Peer Support Service, realise the power of peer support while on a walk with the mutts, being part of a pack.

### Sunday 2 April – Swap Shop – Spring Clean

Drop off the things you don't want and take home the things you do want. Avoid waste, reuse and swap. Café 48 also open this Sunday too for sit in and takeaway.

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

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# An Update from the Udney Resilience Group

*URG is an Udney Community Council initiative created in response to Storm Arwen*

## **What have we achieved since our last update?**

- Speaking and engaging with local groups, stakeholders, Aberdeenshire Council and the Emergency Services to communicate our plans and ambitions. We attended the Pitmedden Christmas event at The Medan Centre and spoke to 60 members of the community who were interested in volunteering with the Group,
- Agreement to utilise Whiterashes Hall, Pitmedden Hall, Pitmedden Bowling Club and Udney Green Hall as community rest centres in the event of power outages or other emergency situation
- Secured funding from Resilience Flood Fund to purchase bulk sand and 1,000 sandbags for community use to protect domestic properties or local business in the event of localised flooding. These sandbags are now located at Udney Green Hall and can be requested through social media channels when established
- Secured the provision of a 20ft container and 300 filled sandbags from Aberdeenshire Council for community use which will arrive in February and be located in Pitmedden
- Secured funding to enable the purchase of our first mobile generator, ancillaries and the installation of three changeover switches in Whiterashes Hall, Pitmedden Hall and Udney Green Hall. We expect this generator and the changeover switch installation to be complete by the end of March

## **What's next for the URG?**

- Formally establishing the Resilience Group, governance and beginning to action our 2023 priorities in Q1;
- Developing our community resilience plan in cooperation with Aberdeenshire Council, emergency services representatives and other partners;
- Pursuing further funding from community avenues and other groups to allow us to purchase a second generator, personal protective equipment and VHF radios to aid communication
- Onboarding other suitable venues as community rest centres

For any further information, or you have an interest in volunteering with group, please reach out to Mike MacDonald or Phil Coventry

## **Pitmedden Community First Responders**

pay acknowledgement to two long serving members who have stood down from front line service.

Jim Young and Allan Tewnion who served with the group for over 19 years have recently stood down from their roles as responders.

Jim was instrumental in forming the group when the Scottish Ambulance Service announced that a community based voluntary service would enhance the provision of emergency aid provided by the professional service.

A community response to incidents was seen as crucial in assisting the public as an immediate reaction to calls for assistance when an ambulance was needed but not readily available.

Jim served as the coordinator and group chairman assisted by Allan as his deputy.

Jim and Allan were an integral part of the group and their service was very much appreciated by the team and the patients they attended to.

We wish them all the best for the future.



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# Hayley Yule joins as a Co-op Member Pioneer supporting Pitmedden and Oldmeldrum area



The new Co-op Member Pioneer covering Pitmedden and Oldmeldrum is Hayley Yule, who joined at the end of November.

Member Pioneers work to improve communities by supporting a local cause or establishing local forums.

Hayley's role is bringing together Co-op members, colleagues, and local causes to make communities a better place to work, play, live and learn. Since joining, the local Co-op stores in both Pitmedden and Oldmeldrum have supported the Daviot Oldmeldrum Scout Group with a Christmas event, donated refreshments to the Udney Green Community Café, and is working with Pitmedden Nursery and School on how the Co-op can collaborate with them in the future, and recently met with others locally and across Aberdeenshire to plan for the upcoming Fairtrade Fortnight 27 February – 12 March.

In addition to being a member pioneer, Hayley likes to participate in the community. She's secretary of the Udney Community Shelf and attends the Community Shelf every Saturday (9.30 am – 1.30 pm) at the Medan Centre, 14 Oldmeldrum Road, Pitmedden.

In addition, Hayley also helps the Threads & Yarn Group, which meets every other Wednesday at Pitmedden Community Hall; for more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/PitmeddenSewing/>

If you're part of a local cause, contact [hayley.yule@coop.com](mailto:hayley.yule@coop.com) to put you in touch with like-minded people, provide practical support, or help wherever she can.

To find out how to become a Co-op member, visit [www.coop.co.uk](http://www.coop.co.uk)



## DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES AROUND UDNY

Please Note that no Area code implies 01651 (Formartine)

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Library & Information Service	A.L.I.S.	01467 532929
NHS 24		111
Pitmedden Primary School	Lyn McGibbon	267460
Pitmedden Village Hall	<a href="mailto:pitmeddenpublichall@gmail.com">pitmeddenpublichall@gmail.com</a>	
Police	<b>emergency call 999</b>	<b>For non-emergencies call 101</b>
Udny Green Hall	Raymond	0746 495 5023
Udny Green Primary School	Emma Gibb	267395

### CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Boy's Brigade 1st Udny	Colin Grant	<a href="mailto:colin.grant@worleyparsons.com">colin.grant@worleyparsons.com</a>
Brownies 1st Udny	Tiffany Kelly	<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a>
Formartine Sports Dev'ment	Colin Grant	843222
Good Companions Club	Anne Grant	842332
Guides	Shona Pullar	<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a>
Mainly Music	Fiona Entwistle	(until Christmas) 842412
Pitmedden Tinytots	Aysha West	<a href="mailto:tinytotscommittee@outlook.com">tinytotscommittee@outlook.com</a>
Pitmedden Garden	Sue Foster	01651 842352
Rainbows 1st Udny	Fiona Bramald	842568
Udny Tennis Club	Tim Gilpin	<a href="mailto:info@udnytennisclub.co.uk">info@udnytennisclub.co.uk</a>
Udny Community Council	Colin Duncan	<a href="mailto:colinuccsecretary@gmail.com">colinuccsecretary@gmail.com</a>
Udny Community Trust Co.		843776
	-Tracy Gibb	( <a href="mailto:facilities@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk">facilities@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk</a> )
	-Vikki Jannetta	( <a href="mailto:engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk">engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk</a> )
Udny Woodturning Club	Dennis McRobbie	07703 296821

### SHOPS and BUSINESSES

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

Aberdeenshire Larder	Food Suppliers	01358 727850
Body Repair & Kitchen Respray	Derek & Janice Ritchie	843120 / 0771 437 5770
Cafe48 Community Café	Tracy Gibb ( <a href="mailto:cafe@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk">cafe@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk</a> )	842346
Caravan Storage	Charles Black	842345
Chiropodist	Stuart Leal	01224 639379

Clock Repairs	Eileen Andrew	842216 / 07932173090
Coffee Apothecary	Jon & Ali Aspden	842253
Eat on the Green	Craig Wilson	842337
Electrician	K.F. Watson	01358 789739
Electrician	Wilson Electrical	842966 / 07773846853
Elma Events	Elma Robertson	0783 150 0681
FairTrade Shop	Anne Aspden	842329
Farm Shop	Heather Black	842345
Garage	CMB Autos	842362 / 0778 713 1853
Heavy Plant	Paul Monaghan (Sheltie)	843306 / 0777 406 2111
Hotel, Tarves	Aberdeen Arms, Tarves	851214
Joinery Service	Ed Grant	0778 676 6433
Kitchen Design	John Willox	01358 722640
Oven Cleaning	Oven2New	07710 872324
Painter/Decorator	Ian Fraser	842006
Plastering Services	Mark Harrison	01358 761438/07801 385980
Plumbing	Russell Grant	842332/0772 044 4718
The Craft	Paul Johnston	0779 958 2879
Video Editing	A.V.E.	873110 / 07717 454658
Wm Massie Funeral Directors	Maureen Massie	851205
WoodrecyclAbility	Jon Turnbull	842876



WE DISCOVER. WE GROW

Girlguiding

## 1st Udney Brownies is looking for volunteers!

Could you become an inspiring role model and help empower girls to be their best? We are looking for 1-2 Unit Helpers to join the 100,000 amazing volunteers and supporters who make a real difference to nearly half a million girls and young women. As a Unit Helper you will support the leadership team run weekly meetings which are full of activities designed to teach new skills and give girls opportunities for fun, friendship, challenge and adventure! Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at Girlguiding, so you'll help provide a safe space, where every girl and young woman can take part. If you want to, you can also help plan activities which are based on the Girlguiding programme and are accessible and inclusive, although this isn't essential.

We'll provide suitable training (which is minimal for the Unit Helper role) and you'll have a great support network from your fellow volunteers, including a local commissioner and Girlguiding advisers.

**1st Udney Brownies meets every Wednesday (school term time only), 6.45-8.15pm in the Pitmedden School Hall.**

Please note, Unit Leader volunteers must be 18+. This opportunity could also be tailored to young people aged 13 to 18 who are part of an external volunteering scheme such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and looking for volunteering experience.

If interested, we'd love to hear from you so we can tell you more about this exciting opportunity to play an important role in your community.

**Please contact us at: [udnybrownies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:udnybrownies@hotmail.co.uk)**





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**STOREHOUSE**  
COMMUNITY PANTRY



The Storehouse Mobile Community Pantry is a mobile foodbank giving access to fresh fruit and veg, chilled and dairy products, tinned and packaged foods and toiletries and household essentials for those struggling with food insecurity.

If you could use the help, you can access the van at the following times and locations

- **18:30 Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday from September 7<sup>th</sup>**  
18:30 in Pitmedden doctors surgery car park alternate Tuesday

If you would like to support the pantry, you can drop off donations at the same time.



# Investigating Our Historical Past.

by Bill Johnston

## Looking at old photographs - A Personal Wee Story.

My family roots here in Udny go back quite a distance in time, in fact one hundred and twenty years to be exact. I was reminded of this when I was looking at the recently released to public viewing of the 1921 Census. On my maternal side, my Grandparents George and Lizzie Gibson, and family of course, had moved from the Mill of Pennan, Gamrie and took over the Mill of Udny in 1903. This included my Mother-to-be, also named Lizzie and at this time now aged 21.

When I recalled the fact that my Father also had Udny connections even though he was born and bred in Midmar - when he came back from the First World War he had still to complete the final year of his grocer's apprenticeship. The only business which had a position was Mr Brown's Shop here in Pitmedden, (now the Craft Bar) and so he became, for a few months, Broon's Loon. Checking the Census I was able to ascertain that he found lodgings with Mr and Miss Maver at Rosehall Cottage at the top of Bonnyton Road.

Now this proved to be the most fortuitous of moves, romantically speaking?

Yes, its the same old story, boy meets girl, grocer's boy meets Miller's daughter, fall in love and then three years later they get married.

Attached is an old photograph taken by my late Father circa 1921/22 in which there are three Gibson girls. From left to right - Charlotte Gibson; ? ; Bessie Cruickshank; Jimmy Massie; Lizzie Gibson (Mum); ?; ?; ?; Jessie Gibson.

Nae hoodies in those days jist bunnets an hats!



- ▶ DRIVEWAYS
- ▶ ROADS
- ▶ TAR PATCHING
- ▶ LINE MARKING
- ▶ GROUNDWORKS







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 **Udny Boys Brigade, Udny Guides, Pitmedden Rainbows, Udny Brownies, Caf  48, Udny Community Shelf, Udny Community Trust and Mrs Findlaters class P3BF** for their fantastic contributions to the Pitmedden display.

Plans are well under way for our Easter activities with an Interactive Walk-Through Holy Week experience for the school and **Easter Garden display** at Pitmedden 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 weather proof and can be added any time from 20<sup>th</sup> March – 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**Pitmedden Youth Caf ** goes from strength to strength and we are delighted to regularly welcome almost 50 young people (P6 and older) on a Thursday afternoon 3.15 – 5.15pm: offering a warm and safe space to hang out with friends and enjoy sociable activities such as table tennis, pool, table football, air hockey, arts and crafts and snacks for free! We have received some amazing feedback and look forward to continued success with the project. We are very grateful to **Inspire Scotland** (Rural Islands & Communities Ideas into Action fund) and Local Giving: **Magic Little Grants** who’s funding helped get this project off the ground and also to **Udny Community Trust** for their continued support and generous funding of Formartine Youth Project activities as a whole.


Formartine Youth Project are delighted to have been chosen as one of the **Coops local causes** but we need your help! We work alongside Barthol Chapel, Tarves, Methlick, Udny & Pitmedden churches to support young people in our communities: helping them to Be themselves, Believe in themselves and feel they Belong. Please choose us as your Coop cause and help us continue to run activities such as Barthol Chapel Youth Club, Pitmedden Youth Caf , school lunch time clubs & activities and support Mainly Music volunteers.

By choosing us when you swipe your Coop membership card or scan the app we receive 1p from every £1 spent in store and you receive rewards for yourself. <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/73372> Not a Coop member? Find out more at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>



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 now also on Instagram: **formartineyouthproject** for regular updates.



# PITMEDDEN YOUTH CAFE

Every Thursday 3.15 - 5.15pm.

For young people in P6-S6

Pitmedden Kirk

Table tennis, Pool, Games, Snacks, Tuckshop

**FREE!**



for more information contact [carolinefyp@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefyp@outlook.com)



# Good Companions Club

Happy New Year to everyone and here's to a happy and healthy 2023.

Meetings resume on Wednesday 15th February at 2pm in Pitmedden Hall when there will be bingo and quizzes to keep everyone busy!

The March meeting on 15th March sees the School pupils coming across to entertain the members. The last time they were due to entertain was just as the Covid pandemic was upon us so the meeting was cancelled.

The Summer outing is booked for Wednesday 7th June, as yet destination unknown!

If you have recently moved into the village and would like to know more about this 'over 50s' Club please contact Anne Grant on 842332.

## Udny Woodturners' Club reflect on a good year

Udny Woodturners held their 2022 AGM in January. 17 of our members enjoyed meeting at the Medan Centre, which proved to be an excellent amenity providing exactly what we needed and, of course, superb refreshments to boot.

We are very pleased with the progress we have made over the year, with a number of significant improvements to the facilities at Raitshill, strong finances and regular attendance by our keen membership of 25 turners.

We are particularly pleased to welcome new members turning their hands to the skill.

We also take great pride in the recent news that one of our members, John Gerrard from New Pitsligo (not in the photo, unfortunately) has passed his assessment to become a Registered Professional Turner. This is a high bar to reach and reflects the quality of his work as well as his coaching abilities.

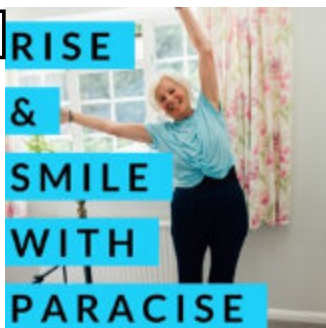
We are indeed most fortunate to benefit from his attendance on Saturday mornings.

With effect from 7th of February we have moved our Thursday evening meeting to a Tuesday.

Do give me (Jon Turnbull) or Dennis McRobbie a call if you'd like to know more about the Club. (See directory pages)



28



Elma's email



Elma's website

## *Elma-Events classes*

### Monday- Paracise Class

*low impact class suitable if you haven't done much exercise recently and would like to return*

*The British Legion, Ellon, 13.00/13.45*

### Monday- FitSteps NEW CLASS

*Solo Ballroom and Latin dance fitness class*

*The British Legion, Ellon 18.00/18.45*

### Monday- Powerhoop and body toning (Hoops supplied)

*Great for posture and strengthen up the back, stomach and waist area of the body.*

*The Pitmedden Hall. 19.15/20.00*

*On Tuesday and Wednesday AM and PM I also instruct classes in Aberdeen . Please get in touch if interested in any of these.*

*I organise dance weekends, live band nights and short dance breaks in the sun.*

*Private tuition and corporate events can be arranged.*

*Email: [elma-events@hotmail.com](mailto:elma-events@hotmail.com)*

*Web: <https://www.elma-events.co.uk/>*

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# Burns Supper Fundraiser Supports Aberdeenshire North Foodbank

The organisers of a fundraising Burns Supper and Ceilidh in Udney Green last month are delighted to have raised a four figure sum for Aberdeenshire North Foodbank.

120 people attended the event which was last held in 2020. Masters of Ceremony for the night were BBC Radio Scotland stalwarts Mark Stephen and Euan McIlwraith. A short introduction to the work of Aberdeenshire North Foodbank was given by Chair of the charity's trustees David Price who explained the growing demand for emergency food parcels in the area.

The haggis was then piped in by Meldrum Academy pupil Lewis Dey and addressed by Mark. Euan delivered the Immortal Memory and the toast to the lasses was given by Mark and ably responded to by BBC Radio Scotland producer and podcaster, Emily Esson.

As well as a raffle which was generously supported by individuals and local businesses, Lynne Hamilton of Planet Tasteful and local artists Debbie Smith and Maggie Williams, each donated items for auction.

The traditional meal of haggis, neeps, tatties and mince was supplied by Hattoncrook Farm Deli and served, piping hot, by a small team of volunteers led by Linda Smith and Kelly Creighton. Fiona Milne ran the licensed bar. Guests enjoyed after dinner tea, coffee and shortbread provided by the Coop in Pitmedden.

Aberdeenshire born, Glasgow based singer songwriter Ellyn Oliver gave a beautiful rendition of three Burns songs, accompanied by Inverurie pianist Dave Mathers.

The event ended with a foot stomping ceilidh dancing to Arthur Coates and Kerran Cotterell.

Jeannie Price, of AbFab Fundraising said: "We're thrilled that we can give the Foodbank just over £4,000 thanks to the amazing support received on the night and additional financial support from Udney Community Trust Ltd. The amount raised is all the more astonishing given the current economic climate."



30

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You are invited to get creative and add to our  
Community Easter Garden  
at Pitmedden Kirk  
20<sup>th</sup> March - 10<sup>th</sup> April



Finger knitting



Recycled Bottle Art Flowers



pipe cleaners & lolly sticks



Bottle flowers



Wool Tassel flowers



Woven craft sticks



Pipe cleaner creations

Decorated stones



For more information contact: [carolinefyp@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefyp@outlook.com)



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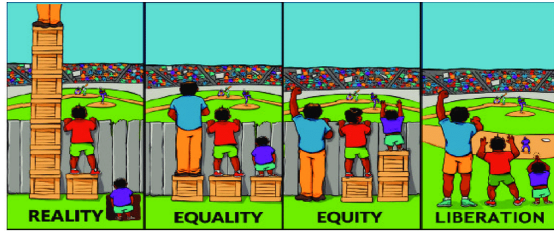
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[www.amigoaberdeen.co.uk](http://www.amigoaberdeen.co.uk)



## Did you know?



Did you know that coffee, chocolate could soon be bananas and much more difficult to find on our supermarket shelves? Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Also burdened by deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.



So that is why during Fairtrade Fortnight this year (27thFeb.- 12th March), Mid Formartine Fairtrade group will be highlighting the urgent threat to the future of the foods we love and the livelihoods of the people who grow them, as they face the worst effects of climate change.

Smallholder farmers simply can't foot the bill for adapting to economic and climate change on their current incomes. So, we are asking shoppers to act now and choose Fairtrade. Without the support for fairer prices today, farmers will find it even harder to tackle the climate and economic challenges of the future.



Six of our local schools are keen to learn about the issues involved and have invited Fairtrade group members into school to talk about why we need a fairer trading system. Also, during Fairtrade Fortnight our local Co-ops in

Pitmedden and Oldmeldrum will be promoting the Fairtrade products they sell.

Look out for the label. Choose Fairtrade!



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# Udny and Pitmedden Church



has a new Interim Moderator, the Rev Dr Mary Cranfield. Mary has been minister at Culsamond and Rayne, linked with Daviot, for the past 33 years.

[mcranfield@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mcranfield@churchofscotland.org.uk) 01467 671241

Our sincere thanks go to Rev Sheila Mitchell who been IM for the last 18 months.

We meet for worship every Sunday at 10am and everyone is very welcome. There are activities for children, and they have their own Kids' Club every month. Details are on our website [www.uppc.org.uk](http://www.uppc.org.uk) and Facebook page, or sign up for our weekly emailed newsletter by contacting Elaine at [elainemoff@aol.com](mailto:elainemoff@aol.com)

You can also join in the service on Zoom or watch a recording on Facebook – links available on our website or email Elaine.

There are a few special events coming up over the next few months, both in Pitmedden Church and the other churches in the Formartine Group. There are two Lent Studies, one in Tarves and one in Methlick and also a course for anyone involved with young people, in whatever setting, not just church. There is also a lot going on over Easter, so keep an eye on our newsletter and website for the latest information and we hope to see you at some of the events!

---

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 'The Third Day' Lent Study starts, Tarves Manse, with Alison Swindells
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	12-1.30pm Mid Formartine Guild (Tarves and UPPC) Soup & sweet lunch, Melvin Hall, Tarves. Bring your own bowl and spoon!
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	10am Worship service with Rev Sheila Mitchell
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> March	7.30pm Lectio Divina course starts, Methlick Church, with Valerie Mitchell
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am Big Breakfast
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	10am Worship service with Rev Dr Mary Cranfield
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	10am BB pancake morning, Udny Green Hall
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	1pm Youthscape Essentials course
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> April	8.30am Big Breakfast
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9am Palm Sunday walk from Udny Green to Pitmedden for 10am service
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	7pm service in Methlick church
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Supper and Maundy Communion in Pitmedden church
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	12md 'Stations of the Cross' walk on Udny Green
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Good Friday service in Tarves church
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	6am Sunrise service at Haddo – meet in car park
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	10am Easter Day service
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Evening service in Haddo Chapel

# the CRAFT

The Craft – Craft Beer, Craft Gin, and Fairtrade teas and coffee and craft soft drinks. Please check our web pages for opening times and details. Or follow us on facebook or twitter. Details also on the boards outside.

<https://thecraftpitmedden.wordpress.com>

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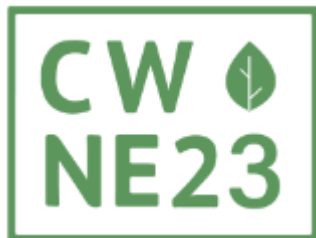


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# Climate Week North East 2023

Climate Week North East is almost on us again  
(24<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April)



Co-ordinated by North East Climate Action Network, CWNE is 10 days packed with interesting events across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. It's designed to engage, in a fun way, communities and individuals in reducing our carbon footprints, living sustainably and increasing biodiversity. Plenty of events for all the family.

Download the brochure here-  
<https://climateweeknortheast.org/>



## Events being organised by Udny Climate Action

### Primary Schools 'Kid's Reuse Competition'

Have fun making something from waste materials. Fanciful? Functional? Imaginative? It's up to the kids (three groups: Pre-school; P1-3; P4-7). Hand your child's artwork in to the Medan Centre by Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Judging will be in the Quarry Room at the Open Doors session on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 3-30pm. Prizes: MacDuff Aquarium; Science Centre; token for bike shop.

### Tree planting

Join us on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March to plant a selection of wildlife friendly trees donated by the Woodland Trust at various places across the Parish and check last year's plantings. For details keep an eye on our Facebook page or website.

### Upping Our Game

On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March come to an informal evening, with refreshments, wine and snacks. Hear what we have done to date and tell us what to do next and how we can make Udny net zero. At the Medan Centre at 7-30pm. For details see our Facebook page or website.

### Swap Shop

Another of our popular swap shops, run in conjunction with Udny Community Trust, will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the Medan Centre in Pitmedden (see separate panel for details)



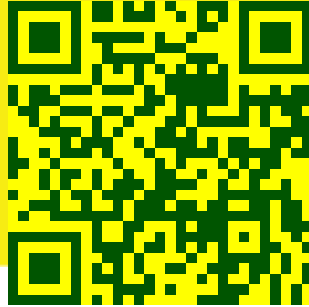
<http://climateaction.udny.org>

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or full colour.Please contact  
Vicky Allan  
vickywhimster@googlemail.com

FOOD...

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THURSDAY 5PM - 9PM

FRIDAY NOON-2PM &amp; 5PM- 9PM

SATURDAY NOON -2PM &amp; 5PM-9PM

SUNDAY NOON - 8PM

AND DRINK...

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# SWAP SHOP DATES 2023



**CHOOSE TO REUSE**  
Swap & Café 48  
Open 10am - 3pm on:



Sunday 5th February - Get Organised

Sunday 2nd April - Spring Clean

Sunday 4th June - Summer Holidays

Sunday 6th August - Back to School / Back to Work

Sunday 1st October - Halloween & Winter

Saturday 25th November - Winter & Christmas



(this Swap will be held on a Saturday on the day of our Community Christmas Fayre)

Saturday - Drop off items into the Quarry Room, 3pm - 5pm **items must be good quality** ~ Sunday Swap 10am - 3pm, you can give items and take items ~ Swap is free ~ Monday 10am - 4pm, take items only, no drop off - Any items left over may be kept for future Swaps or be collected by the Charity Stella's Voice ~ **our aim is to be left with no items and have everyone SWAP their things!**

We cannot accept dirty or damaged goods, paint or electricals. Please only donate items you think someone could re-use. Due to your generosity we get inundated with items and it is hard work for our amazing Volunteers so if you can make life a bit easier for them please give us **good quality items** and if you could please separate clothing into bags labelled with sizes that would be a massive help! Thank you.



**f** See Facebook for more information.  
Any queries please contact:

Vikki Jannetta, Community Engagement Officer  
engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk



# CREATE FROM WASTE



## Kids reuse Competition

Competition for Climate Week North East 23

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

In the past we had some amazing ideas:

- An Amazon box became a race track
- Shells collected from the beach became a wind chime
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For more information see Udny Community Trust Facebook Page, Udny Climate Action Website, NESCAN Website or contact Vikki Jannetta: engagement@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk





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# Udny Tennis Club

We are holding our annual general meeting on Sunday 5 March at 2pm in the community hall at Udny Station. Everyone is welcome.

The new season starts soon, so anyone thinking of joining is welcome to come to the courts during the club sessions on Thursdays from 7pm and Sundays from 10am.

We have adult and children coaching available too.

Please contact the club on [utcsecretary@icloud.com](mailto:utcsecretary@icloud.com) for more information.

## FORMARTINE UNITED BY COLIN KEENAN

**U**nited's season started with a new management team beginning their regime with a radical remodelling of the playing squad. Stuart Anderson assisted by Martin Skinner has got stuck right in to the task of shifting the age profile of the side to bring younger players into this level of football and gradually lowering the average age of the team.

They have clearly kept in mind the need for retaining a mix of youth and experience because some the older heads like captain Graeme Rodger and full backs Crawford and Smith seem to relish having the proliferation of youthful energy alongside them.

Perhaps the most impressive asset of the new manager is his almost encyclopaedic knowledge of the expiry dates of the contracts of key players in other teams. This has allowed him to nip in with perfect timing to sign players from under the noses of others. As a player he had a remarkable talent for elegantly picking the ball of the tips of opponents' toes to devastating effect. There looks like there's some sort of parallel there,

Two telling examples of this can be seen in the acquisition of key members of Fraserburgh's tile winning squad: Aiden Combe and Paul Campbell each of whom have already delivered outstanding

performances since arriving at North lodge. Combe is an attacking midfielder/winger with a nose for goal. He has pace and "tanner ba" skills, and has become a regular on the United score sheet. Campbell has been a revelation: his prolific goal scoring has been known throughout the Highland League but to seems to have been enhanced by his move to United. At the time of writing [immediately after the away game against Banks O Dee] he has accomplished the amazing feat of scoring 8 goals in 3 games. [Hat tricks against Turriff and Clachnacuddin and a brace against Banks] He is a strong direct player in the mould of old fashioned centre forwards with the uncanny striker's instinct for sniffing out goal scoring opportunities.

Other new signings have already established themselves as first team regulars with special qualities to offer. Julian Wade was picked up from Brechin. The Dominica international forward was a fan's favourite at previous club, Brechin city and has become likewise at North Lodge where his close control and uncanny ability to wrong foot defenders make him an exciting one to watch. Mathew Mclean is a newcomer to the North East and when it was known that his oil industry career had taken him to this neck of the woods there was considerable interest in securing the big central defender. He is a big, strong



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player, an imposing presence at the heart of the defence but who is deployed all around the park for his prodigious throw ins. He throws the ball further and higher than anyone I have seen in my 70 years of following the game. A throw in from him if taken from near the corner flag is as good as a corner kick and can reach the back stick area. He attributes this capacity to technique but his physique suggests that there's more to it than that alone.

More recently Rhys Thomas has signed. He is another central defender who looks cool under pressure whose physical progress has been quicker than anticipated. Mark Gallagher is a classic box to box player who has been almost ever present in the starting eleven since being picked up as member of the Dons under 20 side. Given the Don's recent performances and the standard of players recently recruited there, it seems that Formartine management have a better eye for emerging talent than their Pittodrie equivalents!

This level of improvement in the composition of the squad now seems to be reflecting in improvements in performance. Expectations of a successful season had initially been constrained by the need for and the process of rebuilding. Getting good players is one thing but getting them to gel as a team on the park is another entirely, particularly when they are part timers. However the results are there for all to see. Currently United sit in 4th place in the League and have won every League game in 2023 frequently clocking up big scores in the process.

The League Championship looks to be heading to Brechin, Buckie, Brora or the Broch [what a shower of B's that is!] but the campaign is at just about the two thirds stage and there's a lot of football still to be played. Brechin are as yet undefeated but are by no means invincible. They and Buckie sit a few points above, in order, Broch, United and Brora, and some teams have games in hand over others. The likelihood is that it will go down to the wire between Brechin and Buckie, but there is only one side with a 100% record for 2023 and that's the one at North Lodge. Par undefeated run will end. Exciting times.

P.S.

United stretched their 100% run in 2023 in absolutely stunning style by beating League Leaders Brechin City in a floodlit game at North Lodge on 22nd February. The significance of this 2-0 win can not be understated - Brechin are the current League Leaders and had until this game a completely undefeated record since the start of the season. United won convincingly by 2-0 and are looking at moment like the best team in the league.

The disappointing bit is that even were they to win every game between now and the end of the season, they will need other teams to beat Brechin, Buckie, Brora and the Broch before they can finish much better than about fourth - the position they are in at present.

But next season?. Hold on to your hats!

## Community Cafe

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