

HAUD FORRIT!



Tullynessle and Forbes Hall and Community Association

Spring 2014

Hi Folks, welcome to the Spring newsletter and we certainly have lots going on in our hall, all the usual activities and new ones with a new keep fit group just started on Tuesdays, the potential for an extra Pilates class in addition to Wednesdays and Fridays, a Drama group starting in April and several one off performances. See details within.

We are continuing with our indoor and outdoor painting to keep the hall looking great. We have a new hearing loop and extra speakers, new grit bins, aqua boarding in the kitchen and bathrooms, and a new inner door in progress. Wear and tear certainly takes its toll! Go onto the web site at tullynessleandforbeshall.co.uk to find out what's going on. We also have a mailing list - contact Gloria Malcolm at tullynesslehall1@gmail.com if you would like added to it. Also, if you could fill out our survey form, also via the Hall website www.tullynessleandforbeshall.co.uk, to let us know how we can improve the hall and the facilities, we would be very grateful.

AGM 7pm Thursday 24th April, tea and coffee will be served and everyone is welcome to come along.

Thanks, Hall Committee.

Hogmanay Success

After a quiet night at Tullynessle Hall for Hogmanay 2012, a group of volunteers resurrected the Family Party for Hogmanay 2013 and what a great night it was! Lots of families came along with their essential supplies for a good night and we all ran around, danced and partied the night away into 2014... and that was just the adults!! Doug Dugan provided great music, many thanks Doug and the volunteers. All did a great job organising and setting up. Many thanks to you all. After paying expenses we made £310 profit which was shared amongst our chosen charities, these being Alford Youth Club, Tullynessle School and the Hall itself. Again, thanks very much to all who organised, all who helped and all the lovely people who came along on the night. Looking forward to Hogmanay 2014 already!

WELCOME!

A warm welcome to you if you have recently moved into the area. You may not yet have had the chance to visit the hall. Do check the website www.tullynessleandforbeshall.co.uk

To see all the events and activities which take place there. If you would like a tour of the hall, contact one of the committee of the hall and community association who would be delighted to show you around. It's your hall!!

From the committee of the hall and community association.

The Bridge of Alford Emporium

Did you know the burned out shell of a building at Bridge of Alford was once a thriving emporium selling a wide variety of goods from the shop and also from a van travelling the countryside?

Recently a brown paper carrier bag was found in the Heritage Centre in Alford.



On it was written - ***“James Curr, Merchant - Shipping Agent to all parts of the World. Telephone- Alford 3. Telegrams - Curr, Bridge of Alford.”***

A list of what it sold indicates its significance to the community at that time.

“Suits, Costumes, Drapery and Millinery, Cycles, Crockery and Ironmongery -----“

The clothing department was apparently upstairs.

An old photograph from the early part of the century shows the staff (male) lined up outside wearing long white aprons. There were bicycles propped up against the wall.

The shop changed hands several times over the years. It has been difficult to get confirmation on the date of the fire. Its known however that Lizzie Duncan was still selling newspapers and sweets from the small shop with the green door opposite the “Brig” bar till the late 1970s .

If you have information and memories of the shop do pass it on to Edna Matthew, 62309

Beginners Pilates Classes

Tullynessle Hall

Classes are starting

on Wednesday 19th March

10.45am - 11.45am

3 weeks @ £18.00

Limited spaces available

To book a space or for
further info call Tracy Mercer
on 019755 64012

Email:

reflex.mercer@tiscali.co.uk



Tullynessle & Forbes WRI has just celebrated its 85th year.

A meeting was first held in Tullynessle Primary School on the 19th January 1929 to form the institute. Since then the members have met in various venues and in the war years had afternoon meetings because of the blackouts. These days we meet on the first Tuesday of the months September to December, then February to May with the summer months off.

The meetings are always varied with talks on cookery, gardening, health topics, crafts, meals out and recently we had a members fun evening with members having ‘tattoos’! Who would think “rural wifies” would do that!

We are always looking for new members with new ideas to join us, and try to keep up this long established organisation going.



New Drama/Film Group in Alford

WHO'S RUNNING THE SHOW?

Joyce Ogilvie has taught music, drama & primary for 35 years in Aberdeenshire. Edna Sim runs it with Joyce and is skilled in filming and editing and teaches the members editing techniques.

The first Script to Screen & Stage was established 8 years ago in Westhill. Since then, there are classes held in Banchory and Aboyne.

Since moving to Alford last year, it was the right time to establish a new group for the children in Alford.

"We're very excited about it and are hoping that the parents see the value of the weekly classes"

- THE CLASS STARTS ON MONDAY 28TH APRIL 4-6pm.
- WE MEET EVERY MONDAY DURING TERM TIME.
- THE COST OF EACH WEEKLY CLASS IS £10 PER PUPIL BUT FREE TRIAL ON FIRST NIGHT 28TH APRIL.
- THE MEMBERS WILL BE CREATING IMPROVISED SKETCHES TO BUILD CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVE THEIR CREATIVITY.
- MEMBERS WILL BE TAUGHT HOW TO USE PROFESSIONAL CAMERAS & THEN EDIT THEIR SKETCHES USING EDITING SOFTWARE. THEY WILL THEN PRODUCE A DVD.
- EVERY YEAR WE WILL PERFORM A SHOWCASE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILY IN THE TULLYNESSLE HALL.

Theatrical Performances

You don't have to travel far to see amazing, high quality theatrical performances if you visit Tullynessle and Forbes Hall during the next few months!

The following shows will be performed at the hall this season. Tickets will be available to purchase from the Bistro about a month before each production and e-mail reminders will be sent to all those on the database closer to the time. These are professional productions, performed by professional actors and actresses who are able to tour to rural venues due to funding and support from NEAT (North East Arts Touring). There is always an opportunity for you to remain behind after the shows to discuss the plays and often an opportunity to talk to the cast and crew as well. Something rarely available after performances at larger theatres.

Wednesday 26th March at 7.30pm, Farnham Maltings present -

In Praise Of Elephants - written by Kevin Dyer - directed by Gavin Stride

A celebration of the greatest animal on the planet and a touching story of a quiet man turning 60 trying to make sense of the world. Aubrey lives at 34 Mimosa Crescent with his sister Sheila and his niece Roxie. Even though Aubrey has never been to Africa, he knows everything there is to know about animals, especially the huge, lumbering beasts who can hear with their feet and communicate with their stomachs. Today he is preparing biscuits whilst Roxie makes tea and sings the occasional song. Because today is the day that some things will change....

This is a play made especially for village halls. A play full of surprise, music and biscuits about dignity and how the world will be poorer place when some things are gone.

Comments on 'In Praise of Elephants'

"We couldn't get the audience out of the building! - Promoter, Craigellachie Village Hall

"I have never seen anything quite like this. Just brilliant!" Patron, Lamplugh Village Hall

Tuesday 22nd April at 7.30pm, Rocket Theatre present -

Oscar Wilde's "Lord Arthur Saville's Crime"



A gripping tale of love, honour, duty, fortune-telling and murder! Lord Arthur takes his marriage vows extremely seriously, but when he has his fortune told just weeks before the wedding his destiny simply cannot be ignored...

This hilarious retelling of a classic story revels in the wit of Wilde to create a wicked black comedy that positively fizzes with fun. Join Lord Arthur and his valet, for an evening of ludicrous indulgence.

Friday 9th May at 7.30pm, Misfits Theatre company present -
“Walking on the Roof” - by BAFTA nominated multi award winning playwright Rona Munro and featuring award winning actress Fiona Knowles.



*“And the whole world goes quiet.
Nothing but the sound of the wind in her ears. She opens her eyes and looks down.
She sees..”*

Yvonne has a guilty secret, and she’s not the only one, how long before she is found out. Wild and wicked women, fugitives and fraud, gangs and guilt, mothers and sons, they’re all here, and more in ‘Walking on the Roof’ an hilarious, poignant and nail biting drama from The MsFits.

Music

KARMANA - A SANSKRIT WORD – “Performing anything by means of magic.”

This musical magic was performed by SIMON THACKER and JUSTYNA JABLONSKA at the Tullynessle & Forbes Hall on October 26, 2013. It was, in fact, a **world premiere**, as the two had never before performed together in public! The recital was well attended by an enthusiastic crowd, and the musicians were delighted with their reception. We were extremely proud and delighted that Simon and Justyna agreed to have their first ever public recital together at our rural but excellent Tullynessle & Forbes Hall. Thanks to everyone who joined us!

SARAH McQUAID - Tullynessle & Forbes Hall 8 May, 2014

SINGER/SONGWRITER

SARAH McQUAID was born in Spain, raised in Chicago the USA, moved to Ireland where she lived for thirteen years, and is now living in Penzance, Cornwall. Her music is very lyrical and, as Geoff Wallis, roots UK wrote, “Brilliant musicianship, a warm and welcoming stage presence and a voice as rich, matured and knowing as the finest thrice-distilled Irish malt whiskey.” Recommendations don’t come much better than that! Sarah will be performing at the Tullynessle & Forbes Hall **8 May, 2014** and shouldn’t be missed. Sarah’s first two albums were released in North America in 2010, and immediately went to No. 1 on both the album and artiste Folk-DJ chart. I could go on about her music and quote her wonderful reviews, but for those of you have a computer, go to her website (just dial in Sarah Mcquaid) and listen to her stunning voice. Sarah became known to me through contacts at the Woodend Barn, and I immediately asked her to agree a date to perform at the hall. It will be a wonderful evening.

“A great songwriter and traditional singer, and a wonderful guitarist.” Mike Harding, BBC Radio 2, UK.

The Fling is Back!

People in our area often tell me that they have seen a Scottish Wild Cat, known as the Highland Tiger, in their garden or outbuilding or that 'he' comes and eats with their cats every day. Sadly, this has never been proven. I've asked for photographs or even some genetic evidence from 'The sack he sleeps on' but so far nothing has been provided for me to have tested by the experts. As a volunteer with the Cats Protection I am well aware of the amount of feral cats we trap, neuter and return to their place of trapping. In the eyes of the Cairngorm National Park this is a great asset to the Highland Tiger project as it means the more we neuter, the less chance of there will be of them interbreeding with the Highland Tigers.

Scottish Wild Cats are very elusive and there's more chance of them seeing you than of you seeing them. Most of the cats trapped were nothing more than hybrids and no good to the breeding programme. With fewer than 400 thought to be in existence something needs to be done urgently to save them.

But there was a breakthrough just over a year ago. A wild kitten was trapped in the Huntly area and was taken to the vet for neutering. This little chap was far from friendly and was hissing and spitting as if there was no tomorrow! The markings on the kitten and the head and tail shape got us very excited. So he was taken to the Highland Wildlife Park to see what their thoughts were. They too were excited and they carried out the latest DNA test on him.

The results were astounding and they discovered that he was from the strongest gene pool they had ever encountered. Nothing in captivity could match him. So 'Zac' was adopted by them and fostered at the park with the intention of finding him a suitable mate for the future breeding programme.

I was told last week that Zak is now in a public enclosure and he's been introduced to one of last year's females born at the park. We're excited about the future and what they may produce. I think that the heightening of the Highland Tiger plight in the area has certainly made us more aware of just how close to us they are. The Cairngorm National Park are now sure that the cats have moved further away from the small area that they thought they were confined to.

As some of you may know I have twice held 'The Highland Tiger Fling' at the Tullynessle and Forbes hall in the past four years. We've raised many thousands of pounds in order to buy new camera traps and fund genetic testing. The camera traps have been worth their weight in gold. The money also helps to support the general upkeep of the cats.

So now....The Highland Tiger Fling 2014....is off and running! It will be held in the hall on the 7th June 2014. It's an evening event for over 18's only and tickets will cost £5 each. You can bring your own food and booze or even book a large table for you and your friends. Tea and coffee will be on offer all evening free of charge. It's a night of fundraising and there will be a silent and a live auction to look forward to. Who wouldn't like to spoil that special person by bidding for a helicopter flight? There will be experiences at the wildlife park that money can't buy and other animal experiences up for auction as well as a huge raffle and boozy

bottle tombola. There will be music and a compere by Doug Dugan all evening as well as a live music ceilidh. We also have some Scottish dancers to show you how it's really done!

As if that's not enough we have a team of Wild Cat experts coming down from the Cairngorms and they will have the room at the back of the hall dedicated to the cats. There'll be cat merchandise on sale too including art work and prints, jewellery and engraved glass ware. What more could you want!!!! You can visit www.highlandtiger.com and find out more about the cats and how to identify them.

Now I'm on the hunt for donations of unwanted gifts or booze bottles so check what you got for Christmas and if it's surplus....we'll take it!

If you are interested in attending the event, making a booking or donating then you can contact me on mlaverman59@gmail.com or Tel 019755 63805. You will also be able to find the details on the Highland Tiger website which is run by the RZSS who fully support the event. Or you could simply visit the Highland Wildlife Park and visit Zak and his lady friend!

Maureen Laverman

Neighbourhood Watch

After a recent outbreak of burglaries locally a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was started up in a part of Tullynessle and Forbes. There are just over 60 properties in our group and 27 households have become active members by attending meetings, sharing ideas/ information and on our mailing list.

At our first meeting, which was in November, we got to know each other and expressed our shared concern about house and property safety as there had been a few houses broken into. We invited Kevin Marron, a Community Policeman, to our second meeting. He was most informative and gave us some suggestions that we could act on straight away to increase the security of our homes and he showed us a selection of alarms that can easily be purchased. Another meeting is being organised at which alarms and other security devices will be demonstrated by two members of our group and this will give us the opportunity to understand at close range what is most suitable for our needs.

We live in a spread out area and are enjoying getting to know each other and this is a very important aspect of the group but also with a change of practice regards security we are hopeful that we can reduce the chances of our homes from being broken into.

For further information:

Neighbourhood Watch Ph. 01786 476757
email www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

Morag Watson. Ph 019755 62538
email moragwatson@icloud.com

Clachan Yell Ceilidh Night

As you probably know I am chair of the local Craiguevar Film Club. We show a variety of films throughout the winter period (see our page on the Tullynessle Hall [website](#))

We try to keep our charges low and usually manage to get through the year with membership fees, on the door payments and a couple of fundraising events.

As with everything costs are rising - the film licences, insurances etc - and this year we are close to going into the red.

We need to make our annual fundraising ceilidh a sell out to ensure we can continue into our tenth season. So I am asking you to not to make a donation (though raffle prizes would be appreciated) but to simply come along with a couple of friends and have a great evening of dancing to Clachan Yell (probably the best ceilidh band in the world)

Saturday 22nd March from 7.30pm in Tullynessle and Forbes Hall.

Tickets are an austerity busting £12 (£10 under 18s and only £5 for under 10s)

You can email me or better still call our treasurer Penny Fuller directly on 019755 81164 or email her on pennyfuller@sky.com

Hope to see you there!

Sorley sorley1@btopenworld.com



**TULLYNESSLE
TEDDY BEARS PICNIC**



**AT
TULLYNESSLE & FORBES HALL
ON
24th April 2014 at 10:00 till 12:00**

Come Along and Join the Fun:

- Teddy Bear Hunt!**
- Toss the Bee in the HoneyPot!**
- Musical Bears!**
- Colour the Bear!**
- Best - Dressed Teddy!**
- Picnic Snack**
- Bear Tales!**



Spring is upon us and Easter is just a blink away. Tullynessle Hall Committee are holding their annual Teddy Bear's picnic and we all hope the weather is kinder to us this year! To be held on the 24th April 2014 between 10:00 and 12:00, this event is open to all under 5's and is free. Activities include face-painting, colouring, bear hunt, musical bears, bear tales, colour the bear and more. Snack will be given and the morning will finish with best dressed Teddy! Pin the flier to your notice board as a reminder, we look forward to seeing you all there!

See all activities on our website - www.tullynessleandforbeshall.co.uk