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You can order a takeaway Eat From the Green on Fridays and Saturdays, menus change every fortnight. To book visit <http://eotg.chefit.app/checkout>. Dining IN Eat on the Green is available Friday and Saturday for minimum of 4 people, maximum of 6, visit www.eatonthegreen.co.uk to book.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for further updates and for our exciting festive and Hogmanay dining options.

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Udny COVID 19 Hardship Fund - almost 12 months on

February 2021

The Udny COVID 19 Hardship fund, managed by Udny & Pitmedden Church and funded by church members, by the Udny Community Trust, the Udny Community Council and the Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District, was established in March 2020 to help those in need affected by the COVID crisis. Its structure was based on the Ballater Hardship Fund set up after Storm Frank in 2015 created havoc in the area. Like Ballater, the Udny Hardship Fund offers CO-OP vouchers of £50.00 to those in need. No questions are asked. The value of the vouchers given out is not high but enough to cover essentials. Evidence of need is not requested. We take people as they are and respond appropriately. The privacy of those in need is totally respected.

When we started, we were advised we would not get many requests. Help was well established and people would be too proud, too private to ask for help. This is just as it turned out. We have not had people from Udny and its surrounding area asking for help directly. However, we have had quite a number of referrals. The people receiving assistance based on these referrals are very appreciative of the help they receive. Some say they do not need assistance and asked for the vouchers to be given to those in real need. Many, however, are in tears when the CO-OP vouchers are delivered un-asked. One recipient posted on our local facebook page:

"I just want to thank everyone who was involved in the Udny Covid 19 Assistance Fund. You all have no idea how much it has meant to me to be one of the people that received an envelope this afternoon. Many of you know what I have recently been through and this has definitely put a rainbow in my day.

Thank you all so much xx"

Others have asked for all those behind this fund to be thanked. Clearly there is a need for financial support for some families in distress in this area. If you need some financial support or just someone to talk to – or you would like to refer someone who you think needs help - please contact any of the following.

Fiona Entwistle T: 01651 842412

Debbie Smith T: 01651 842446

Paul Bailey T: 07803 501960

Alison Green T: 07771 996537

Udny COVID 19 Assistance Fund

News from your local Coop Member Pioneer.

Hi! my name is Caroline and I am your local Coop Member Pioneer for Pitmedden and Oldmeldrum stores.

As a Member Pioneer my role is to work with my Coop colleagues to support the local causes who benefit from funds raised by members using their blue membership cards in store. I'm also here to support local community initiatives and events and help bring people together. Coop's focus is on fair access to food, wellbeing services and education/employment opportunities for young people. If you know of any groups, activities or events that we may be able to support please get in touch: Email: caroline.brown@coop.co.uk



Or find me on FB Caroline A Brown : <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100045093170036>

Pitmedden and Oldmeldrum Coop are currently supporting three fantastic local causes: **Haddo Childrens Theatre, Pawpalz** and **Wood-recyclability**. Did you know that every time you shop in Coop and swipe your membership card you earn points/rewards for yourself and 1p from every £1 goes straight to the local community at no extra cost to yourself. Please sign up instore or online: <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership> and start supporting your chosen cause - together we can do great things.

In December Pitmedden Coop were pleased to support Formartine Utd Youth team through the Coop Community Donation Scheme by providing treats for a Christmas hamper raffle fundraiser. They raised an amazing £385 towards training equipment and training facility hire. Well done to all involved.

Coop are thrilled to work with Pitmedden Nursery as their foodshare partner and I was pleased to support their recent soup bag initiative and help provide some of the ingredients for their home learning family project. The initiative provided substantial positive learning opportunities

and benefits for the children to help prepare and cook the soup with their families and help develop understanding of a balanced healthy diet. 5

During these very difficult times mental health continues to be a challenge particularly for our young people. I have been proud to facilitate two online sessions with Liam Yule from SAMH (Scotlands leading Mental Health Charity) and some amazing people who volunteer and work with youth in Ellon and Oldmeldrum communities to gain vital knowledge and understanding around the difficult topic of youth suicide to support our young people. Are you worried about someone you love. Are you struggling with your thoughts? Please download the free Northeast Scotland 'Prevent Suicide' app: <https://www.preventsuicideapp.com/> . There is support, you are not alone.

Coop are committed to reducing foodwaste. All our 'waste' goes to our foodshare partners, is re-distributed through fareshare or is converted into animal feed. So far nationally we've given away over 3million meals to support our local communities but we would like to do more. As member pioneer I have raised the idea of a community fridge/pantry initiative in Pitmedden and was delighted to host a meeting recently with several interested members of the community. Please take a moment to complete our community survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3LBNLZM> If you are interested in finding out more about our ideas and/or would like to be involved please get in touch.



Thank you to everyone who continues to donate to our foodbank instore which goes to the Ellon Storehouse Foodbank operated by Integrate Scotland and Catalyst Vineyard Church to support local families during these challenging times.

Together we can make great things happen. #Beingcoop #ItsWhatWeDo #communitymatters

UDNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Your UCC members hope this finds you well and coping with the prolonged restrictions required to beat this invasive pandemic. We all look forward to a return to unrestricted travel and social contact.

UCC continue to meet monthly, albeit Online meetings, which remain open to the public, please contact the secretary through Udney Online website, 'Contacts' section or directly by email to colinuccsecretary@gmail.com stating reason of request and providing an active email address you may be contacted on. Any issues you may have can be sent by the same means.

Meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month commencing at 7:30pm.

Well what has been happening since the previous Pitmedden News Update:-

Planning application quantities have been very low with, summary below of those impacting Udney.

Bonnyton Farm / Ingleside Application has not progressed since the Reporters finding of the appeal in favour of Kirkwood Homes, 9th July 2020. Current position being awaiting the request to commence the Re-determination Order process. Meantime UCC continue to research the 'determination text' for the origin of the closure of Ingleside as Pedestrian and Emergency only.

Proposed Application for Quarrying at Rainnieshill The consultant for the applicant has to date held two consultations (online) presenting the proposed measures, traffic routes etc. for comment, both consultations being hosted by Johnson, Poole & Bloomer and Kevin Taylor, Director of JKR. Submissions by email presented to the consultants/JKR after the first consultation with response provided on 8th February. Further review of proposal to be conducted by UCC once responses have been considered.

Planning application for Three Dwellings at Fleeman Park has been submitted; APP/2020/2555. Application submitted as 'Further application for renewal of Planning Permission APP/2017/1057' which had been approved as a result of Appeal finding in favour of the developer, the current approved application expires on 8th February 2021. UCC to review the previous application comments along with current application. Brief review of APP/2020/2555 has shown that under the 'TREES' section the question being '**Are there any trees on or adjacent to the application site?**' the applicant has responded with 'NO'. This understood to be a misrepresentation. UCC has submitted a letter of objection which has been added to the Planning Application Documents as a consultee document. Submissions were closed as of 4th February 2021.

UCC has seen the resignation of Heather Black for personal reasons, we wish her well and thank her for her contributions.

We are pleased to have two new members join us in the latter part of 2020, we welcome Claire Woodward and Jillian Wood to our team. This brings UCC membership to 8, with a maximum membership allowed of 9 we welcome anyone from within the Udney Parish with an interest to join us to contact colinuccsecretary@gmail.com.

UCC have established a link with Udney Climate Action in supporting the program of activities proposed by UCA. Members of UCC shall maintain communication with UCA, reporting to the UCC members at monthly meetings.

We recently made enquiries with Aberdeenshire Roads regarding the road accident involving two vehicles on the B999 at Denend in November 2020 resulting from 6mm gravel on the road surface, gravel spread as part of the 'Spray Patching' procedure. Signage was in place indicating of skid risk, while there was suggestion that speed was a contributing factor, there is no doubt that the surface gravel was a significant contributory factor, That aside it was questioned with Aberdeenshire roads why the gravel was a necessity. Roads department responded indicating it was part of the procedure when spray patching, intention is to seal the joints of the patches and other slightly crazed areas of the road. UCC requested a review of the procedure as to potential for removal of the 6mm gravel spread. Aberdeenshire roads indicated there was no plan to review the procedure at this time.

We also requested consideration of introducing speed limit applied to the area of the bends. After some dialogue it was intimated that due to COVID and re-assignment of Roads staff any immediate actions would not be possible but when possible a Road Safety Unit shall carry out an assessment of the B999 Denend bend/junction and will share their findings with the UCC. A further request for the introduction of a Buffer Zone was also presented to Aberdeenshire Roads. The requested buffer zone being in place north bound on approach to the 30mph zone. This request was based on the potential for heavy braking should a stationary vehicle be encountered waiting to turn right into Allathan Park. UCC responded to Ian Daniels that when Road Safety Unit is present they shall include an assessment of the Buffer Zone request. UCC has retained all communication regarding the incident and outcome of the exchange with Ian Daniels of Aberdeenshire Roads.

Our 'Village Tidy' grant planned activities have been inhibited by the restrictions in force over the recent months. March 31st 2021 remains the target date for completion of the planned events.

To date we have recognised the regular work by the Park Quality Champion in maintaining an area befitting the public space for all. Also recognition of the Paths Quality Champion in maintaining the paths in and around our area. Much welcomed and well used during these long periods of lockdown. Our thanks to the dedication shown to the task during these challenging times.

The outstanding activities being - Completion of replacement Beech Tree planting and the execution of an area wide Litter Pick.



UCC would like to ask a question directed to the minority (thankfully) of dog owners;

WHY?

Please Stay Safe.

(Colin Duncan. UCC secretary. February 2021)



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**LOOKING FORWARD TO WHEN WE
CAN WELCOME YOU BACK**



What do you feel about reducing food waste and empowering communities?

Have you heard about a community fridge? A community fridge is a tried and testing way to stop food ending up in the bin. It is located in an open, accessible public place making surplus food available to anybody in the local community who wants to use it. The surplus food is provided by local businesses, supermarkets or members of the public. The fridge has strict monitoring guidelines, based on advice from the Food Standard Agency and the Council's Environmental Health team, to ensure it has the highest quality standards.

Did you know that the average family of four wastes £720 of food a year!

Community fridges can help reduce food waste and foster a spirit of sharing and mutual support within a community.

A small group of local residents have come together to explore the idea of a community fridge in Pitmedden. We would love to know your thoughts. Please take a few minutes to answer the survey below, all entries must be completed by 14 March 2021. Thank you. #pitmeddencommunityfridge

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3LBNLZM>

Udny Heritage Centre – Maybe?

A few Udny people have been meeting to consider how we could use the new Udny Community Trust (UCT) building – the old Linsmohr Hotel – as a place to create an Udny Heritage Centre. A place where we could:

- (i) Share & develop the historical stories and records of Udny & its surrounding area
- (ii) Display the stories, and maybe artifacts, in the new centre & around Udny within places like the new Café-48, in Pitmedden School, Udny Green School, the Church & perhaps the Craft Bar. In places where people meet.
- (iii) Engage with our local schools, Primary & Secondary, to develop these stories & encourage our young people to get involved in the history of our surrounding area
- (iv) Most ambitiously, to catalogue & digitise the material we have and create a digital archive so that interested parties all over the world can easily access it on-line.

Prior to Covid, the Udny Historical Group met on a regular basis to share & discuss stories of Udny. Its members hold a great deal of knowledge, papers, photographs and other artefacts from the area. This knowledge surely needs to be preserved, conserved and shared. The inspiration for such a project has been drawn from the nearby Tarves Heritage Centre. Now nearly 30 years old, it aims to “Conserve, Preserve & have Fun”, sharing local history with anyone interested. It attracted – before COVID – around 2,000 visitors/year. It is run by a Management Committee supported by around 40 volunteers. Runs an active schools programme and provides a museum and replica class room. Café-48, in the UCT building as a community café, would surely compliment a Heritage Centre with visitors to the Heritage Centre moving on to the café and visitors to the café moving on to the Heritage Centre, as seen in Tarves with the Murley Tuck.

The UCT have provisionally offered us one of upstairs rooms where we could archive & digitize the stories we develop. A Heritage Centre would, however, need to be more accessible. Downstairs perhaps, in a space shared with others. A space to display the various stories we develop.

These stories could involve:

- (i) Pre-historic Udny – recently, burial chambers of the Beaker People from well before the birth of Christ, were opened up close to Udny Green School
- (ii) Jacobite Udny – did you know soldiers from the Aberdeen Garrison was sent out after Culloden & the 1745 to burn down the chapel in Udny Green for practicing Jacobite activities
- (iii) Udny in WW II. Again, did you know Pitmedden was the site of a POW camp during the 2nd World War, holding Italian prisoners, who were sent out to work on neighbouring farms.

These stories, and so much more, could be developed and put on the internet by a Heritage Centre. If you are interested in this, please contact HistoricalUdny@gmail.com.
 Bill Johnston, Gill Reavley, Dani Robertson and Garth Entwistle
 Udny Heritage Centre

TAKEAWAY MENU ONLY

We will be open Wednesday to Saturday 10am – 2.30pm

please call on 01358 724600 or text 07403 754 055 or email hello@deliciousstakeaway.co.uk

N.B. please wait for a response from us before coming down to the shop, so we can give you a pick-up time.

Homemade Soup			£3.00
Sovies beetroot & oatcakes	Small	£3.50	
Bacon Rolls		£2.50	add fried Egg
Baked Tatties			from £3.00
Panini & toasties			from £4.00
Sandwiches ranging			from £4.00
(white / low GI thick bread / seeded / write softies)			from £2.40 - £3.20

FILLINGS

Ham	Cheese
Chicken Mayo	Coronation Chicken
Tikka Chicken	Tuna Mayo
Brie & cranberry	New Yorker (chicken, BBQ sauce, cheese, bacon)

Add salad for free (lettuce, cucumber, tomato or red onion)

HOMEBAKES

Scones – Plain, Fruit or cheese with butter & jam	£1.50
Carrot cake	£2.50
Truffles	£1.30
Chocolate Tiffin	£1.70

HOT DRINKS

Black Coffee	Regular	large
Latte / Cappuccino	£2.00	£2.20
Flavoured Latte	£2.40	£2.60
Tea	£2.70	£2.90
	£1.70	£1.90

Decaffeinated Tea or Coffee available, also soya, oat or semi skimmed milk

COLD DRINKS

Bottles of water (still, flavoured or sparkling)	£1.00
Cans of Juice	£1.30
Bottles Ribena	£1.70
Bottles Juice Bursts / Lipton ice teas	£1.50

See our face book page for special





A BRAND NEW FLOWER CLUB

Membership of the club includes:

- 20% off ticket price of our workshops
- x1 Ticket to Pitmedden Gardens (RRP £9)
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 - Seasonal newsletters

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Full workshop listings and more information is available on our website www.paperandpetals.wix.com/paperandpetals

To purchase a membership contact Emma Reid on emmaalexandrareid@gmail.com or 07515 328745



Udney Community Trust

Progress on upgrading our new building and the much-awaited re-opening of Cafe 48.

After a huge effort to get up and running, we were delighted to open the doors to Café 48 at the beginning of November 2020.

Covid aside, we have been very happy with progress and so far and have enjoyed a high level of support for the new venture. Staff and volunteers alike, worked hard to make Cafe48 a success from the very beginning. Feedback from customers has been overwhelmingly encouraging and positive.

When the café closed for Christmas, we already had a plan to use the holidays for the next phase of improvements. Lockdown 2 has just given us a little longer than anticipated to complete the project.

Udney Community Trust exists to support community development in Udney and Pitmedden. To that end we felt that it was extremely important to make our new building as accessible as possible.

It was decided that the first priorities towards making the building more accessible, were to install a wheelchair lift and to provide an accessible toilet on the same level as the café.

4-Mar-21

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The latest lockdown added an extra layer of complication, but with careful project management and fantastic support from several local businesses, we are delighted to report that the project is reaching a successful conclusion.

We would very much like to thank Ed Grant Joinery, Grant Plumbing and Heating, Frasers of Ellon, Fraser Fire and Security and MRG Electrical Services for a good job, well done to get the new facilities completed to such a high standard.

When lockdown2 ends and Café 48 re-opens, we look forward to being able to welcome customers of all abilities through the door.

We also intend to expand our opening hours as soon as possible, so keep an eye on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PitmeddenCafe/> for updates.

Once re-opened, we expect to be busy. To save disappointment please call 01651 842346 to book a table or to place your takeaway order.

Volunteers have been key to getting the project this far and volunteers will continue to be key in future plans. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch by email Development@udnycommunitytrust.org.uk or call us on either 01651 843776 or 07436 811 759.

If you would like to find out more about Udny Community Trust and the work that we do, please take a look at our website <https://udnycommunitytrust.org.uk/> or get in touch directly. We would love to hear from you.



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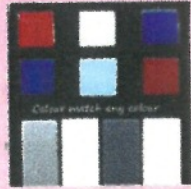


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MENU

Items on our menu can be mixed and matched, just ask.

Breakfast: 9.15am - 11am

	Takeaway	Sit In
Breakfast rolls (with one item)	£2.50	£2.80
Available all day, Sausages, Bacon, Egg, Black pudding	60p	80p
Extra item		£7.25
Cafe48 breakfast		£5.50
2 x Bacon, 2 x sausages, egg (fried), tomato, black pudding, hash brown, beans & slice of toast		£7.25
Cafe24 breakfast		£4.00
1 x Bacon, sausage, egg (fried), tomato, hash brown, beans & slice of toast		£1.60
Veggie breakfast		£1.50
2 x sausages, egg (fried), veggie haggis, tomato, hash brown, beans & slice of toast		£3.00
Pancakes with bacon & maple syrup		
2 x Slices of toast with butter & jam		
Pancake or buttery with butter & jam		
Cheesy beans on toast		

Lunches

	Takeaway	Sit In
All sandwiches, paninis, toasties served with crisps		
Sandwiches or wraps (softies, white, brown or Low GI bread)	£2.80	£3.50
Cheese	£3.00	£3.70
Egg mayo	£3.60	£4.50
Brie & cranberry	£3.60	£4.50
Sliced gammon	£3.40	£4.20
BLT (smoked bacon)	£3.40	£4.20
Chicken mayo	£3.40	£4.20
Tuna mayo	£3.40	£4.20
Sweet chilli chicken	£3.40	£4.20
Panini		
Cheese	£4.40	£5.50
Ham and cheese	£4.80	£6.00
Sweet chilli chicken (with mozzarella)	£5.00	£6.25
Tuna melt	£4.80	£6.00
Brie & cranberry	£5.00	£6.25



	Regular	Large
Hot Drinks		
Americano (Black Coffee)	£2.00	£2.20
Latte / Cappuccino	£2.50	£2.90
Breakfast Tea	£1.70	£1.90
Herbal Teas	£1.80	£2.00
Hot Chocolate	£2.70	£2.90
Marshmallows & cream		40p
Extra shot, flavoured syrup		40p
Oat / soya milk		20p
Decaffeinated tea & coffee, semi skimmed milk / skimmed milk available		
Cold Drinks		
Cans of juice		£1.50
Kids juices		£1.00
Water (still or sparkling)		£1.30
Flavoured water		£1.40
Ribena / Ice teas		£1.70
Fresh milk		£1.20
Diluting juice		£0.70
Home Bakes		
Tray bakes	from £1.70	
Cake slices	from £2.00	
Scones with butter & jam	£1.70	
Hot Drinks		
New Yorker (BBQ sauce, bacon, cheese & chicken)	£5.20	£6.50
Haggis, chicken and cheese	£5.20	£6.50
Goats cheese with caramelised onion chutney panini	£4.80	£6.00
Toasties/Toasted wraps (with two fillings)	£4.00	£4.95
Homemade soup (with slice of bread or oatcakes)	£3.30	£3.95
Baked tatties (with one filling)	from	£4.95
Add coleslaw		60p
Add a side salad		60p
Extra Filling		80p
• Tuna mayo • Egg mayo • Chicken mayo • Beans • Sweet chilli chicken • Ham • Brie & cranberry • BLT (Smoked bacon)		
Bowl of chips	£2.00	
Add cheese	£1.20	
Add chips	30p	
Soup & Sandwich Deal	£7.85	
Kids (Under 12) Small roll, or 1/2 panini, juice, fruit or vegetable pot, yoghurt & crisps	£4.50	

Open Mon - Wed 9.15am - 2pm • Take away available • Do you have a Food Allergy? Ask before you eat. Food prepared here may contain or have come into contact with allergen ingredients. • Gluten Free options are available • See our Facebook page (Cafe48) for daily specials



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Udny Climate Action - News

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Log stores, rectangular, triangular, any size to order

Bird tables, feeders, boxes

Bat boxes, Owl boxes

Wine racks, table and wall mounted

Bespoke furniture



Coat hangers

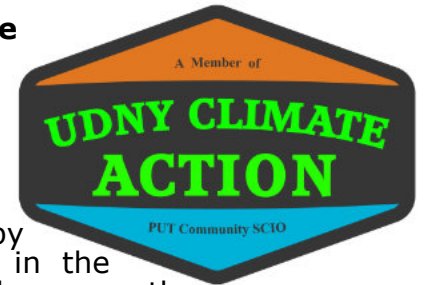
After oil- how will we heat our homes?

Scottish Government plans for how we reduce greenhouse gases will mean big changes in how we live and how society functions. One challenge will be to heat our homes in a different way. For communities like Udny, which are off the gas grid, this is likely to mean, for most of us, moving from oil to systems which use renewable energy. Udny Climate Action is keen to hear the views of people in the Parish about this. What are your concerns? What barriers do you see? To take this forward, UCA is running online 'climate cafes' in the spring in conjunction with Community Energy Scotland (a non-profit organisation with long experience of supporting local communities with energy issues). To help with this, UCA is recruiting a person to work on a freelance basis (please see the advert on p1).

Keep an eye out for how to join one these sessions.

Tree planting- would you like to help?

Plans for planting the trees donated by the Woodland Trust alongside paths in the Parish are in hand and this will take place once the winter is over. In a few years, both ourselves and the wildlife should be enjoying more birch, oak, hawthorn and rowan trees and a little bit more carbon dioxide should be locked in. Planting, organised to meet social distancing rules of course, will take place on two Saturdays- 13th and 20th March. The trees are small 'whips', so muscle isn't needed! If you would like to join us please email George at; allan@kanga.eclipse.co.uk



Climate Week North East 21: 12th - 21st March

A host of activities, some serious and some more light-hearted, are always run during Climate Week NE. Despite arrangements needing to reflect the current situation, there will be lots going on for adults and young people both outside and online. The full brochure is available at-

<https://climateweeknortheast.org/>

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A warm hello and greetings from Udny and Pitmedden Parish Church.

Time flies and I am already more than 4 months here but due to the lockdowns and restrictions we are very much restricted in what we can and can't do. This undoubtedly leads to a lot of frustrations not only on my side but also with our Parish as a whole. Many things that normally get done is just impossible to do and we try to improvise and do as best as we can.

Saying this I want to assure the Parish that the Church is very much up and running and we can't wait to open the Church doors again, hopefully sooner rather than later. Currently we have every Sunday morning a live zoom morning service which are enjoyed by many parishioners who tune in. It's not only a worship service but also a general meet and greet upfront and small group chats afterwards. Everybody is invited to join in and meet some of our wonderful Parish folk. Please mail Elaine at: elainemoff@aol.com for the link. We start at 9:45 am for the chat and the service start at 10 am every Sunday.

We also do record the readings and message which is then posted on our Facebook page for watching at your own leisure and time. Make sure to 'like' our Facebook page for access to every Sunday's service and much more at: Udny and Pitmedden Church of Scotland

We are planning a lot for when lockdown is ended, and when our community opens up more again. In the pipeline which I hope will be of interest to many in the community is the planned music and singing group not only for the Parish Church but also for the wider community. The aim is to start such a group for the social aspect of it, get to know each other in the community better and of course for music. We plan a weekly get together to learn new music and Sunday performances at our church services and then maybe concerts and music evenings as determined by the group themselves. As a starting point I want to invite anybody that would be interested in joining such a group to contact me by e-mail and we will start, with our first get together as soon as restrictions allows us to. My e-mail is: gvanrensborg@churchofscotland.org.uk

We are looking for singers (of course), and musicians with different instruments to put together our own music factory – or orchestra. We are also looking for a volunteer or 2 with some choir/music group experience in helping us putting this together. You are invited!

During these times we live in we want to assure the people of Udny and Pitmedden, we as a Parish Church is here, we are praying for you and our community and we very much believe this will also come to pass. If the days seem dark, difficult and lonely, the one thing that never changes is God's unconditional love for his people, of which you are one.

You are in my heart and in my thoughts!
Gert



This week we welcomed our P1-3 children back to school after a few months of remote learning and how lovely that has been. While our P4-7s continue to work very hard through remote learning, I find myself reflecting on the past year and what a journey we have all been on. With the brighter weather, longer days and lighter evenings approaching we are feeling really positive about all exciting things happening in and around our school community.



Rotakids

Our P5-7 children are all part of Meldrum Rotakids and every term they decide how they would like to raise awareness and funds for certain charities, local and global. They had planned a fundraising event and wanted to take part in the 5K challenge set by Kayleigh's Wee Stars and they were not going to let lockdown get in the way. Using our remote learning platform, they promoted and encouraged everyone to take part. As a school we raised over £200 by walking, cycling or running 5k.



Local Partnerships

We are so lucky to have such a brilliant relationship with our local restaurant, Eat on the Green and throughout lockdown they continued to support us in any way they could. We were lucky to have a series of workshops and learning activities delivered by Lindsay Wilson focusing on chick development which the children really enjoyed.

We were also set a very special challenge by the Kilted chef, Craig Wilson, to design and make a healthy and creative lunch with the contents of our fridge. The competition entries were amazing, using a variety of ingredients and submitting photos of their planning and of course the end product. Craig had a very difficult job deciding on a winner as every entry was excellent.



ECO Schools: We have our very own polytunnel!

At the beginning of last year we were developing plans and working with local partnerships to secure funding for our very own polytunnel. We were very excited when our applications for funding were granted and Eat on the Green continued to support us by offering to buy the polytunnel with us, so that the already excellent learning opportunities could be taken steps further with the children learning about the use of locally grown produce being used in the restaurant. Due to lockdown we haven't been able to build our polytunnel yet, however it has arrived and it ready to be built when the time is right. We also have the support of our local Rotary club who have experience of growing



produce in this way. We look forward to getting our polytunnel built, seeds planted and for the children to see and learn, first hand, the benefits of locally grown and seasonal produce. They already have lots of ideas of what they want to make with their veg and look forward to welcoming the community along to our community cafes again. We want to thank our parent council for their support, applying for funding and offering their help to build and maintain our polytunnel. Community spirit is always so high in Udney Green when it comes to supporting the school. Our ECO planning and hard work over the last year, allowed us to achieve our 7th Green Flag last term! Well done Udney Green!

Technology

If this last year has taught us anything in relation to learning, it is the power and benefits of technology when we are forced to change the way we learn. Our pupil council decided that in order to improve this for when we returned to school we really needed enough chromebooks for each child in a class to have a computer each, instead of having to share. This week saw the arrival of 13 brand new chromebooks.

A huge thank you to our parent council who supported the school by providing half the funding for these. This will make such a difference to how well our learners are able to make use of digital technologies.



Pupil Voice

Over the past year we have offered live lessons to our learners and although remote learning can be challenging, I could not be more proud of the efforts of staff, pupils and parents to make learning enjoyable and meaningful. Through working with our pupil council, rights respecting school group and receiving feedback from all learners, there was a strong desire to learn more about science. So, this term we have focused on science topics and this week welcomed the Aberdeen Science Centre and e-Sgoil, who have provided online workshops for us, complete with our very own tutor. Each workshop was full of interesting facts and exciting experiments for us all to take part in. All our scientists worked very hard and had great fun!



To keep up to date with all the exciting learning, event and opportunities at Udney Green follow our Facebook page.

If you would like to contact the school to find out more, please email us at udnygreen.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



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Udny Tennis Club

27

We are looking forward to restrictions being lifted and hope a full season can be enjoyed by all. We have marvellous facilities now after our programme of improvements last year. Membership is open and we have kept the membership fees at the same price which is excellent value for money. There is even an "early bird" money off offer if you join by the end of March. For more info please visit our website on <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/UDNYTennisClub>

or get in touch at utcsecretary@icloud.com. You will be very welcome.

Thankyou Haddo Medical Group.

As a family we have been overwhelmed by the kindness, efficiency and professionalism of the team at Haddo Medical Group.

We are so grateful for all the care they provided for our mum, Grace Goudie, in 2020.

From the beginning of 2020 until the end of November when our mum died, the availability, thoughtfulness and understanding from the whole team was incredible. Everytime we needed advice or a visit, even during the lockdowns, the team were on hand to reassure us and to provide the appropriate referrals and medication. They were friendly, had time and patience for my mum as she talked through her problems, and were always on hand with a personal touch. Mum always played down what was wrong, and the team took this on board. They were able to read between the lines and provide an individual service.

We have felt so privileged to have experienced the service and care of such a wonderful team.

Thankyou from the bottom of our hearts.

The Aspden and Pennington families.



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Something's Brewing...



Community Café, Back Hall, Dr Spence
Memorial Hall

The Community Café will return to the Dr Spence Memorial Hall in Udney Green as soon as current restrictions are lifted. At the time of writing, we have no idea when that will be of course. Look out on village notice boards and on social media, as well as the Pitmedden News site, for updates

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DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES AROUND UDNY

Please Note that no Area code implies 01651 (Formartine)

LOCAL SERVICES

Interim Church Minister.	Rev. Will Stalder	806264
Locum Minister		
Dog Warden		01467 539481
Fire and Rescue Service	local HQ	01224 728600
emergency call 999		
First Responders	Alistair Drummond	0773 036 5611
Haddo Medical Group		843468
Health Visitor	Julie, Jennie, Muriel	843934
Library & Information Service	A.L.I.S.	01467 532929
NHS 24		111
Pitmedden Primary School	Janet Hill	842374
Pitmedden Village Hall	pitmeddenpublichall@gmail.com	
Police	emergency call 999	For non-emergencies call 101
Udny Green Hall	Raymond	0746 495 5023
Udny Green Primary School	Wendy Gibson	842376

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Boy's Brigade 1st Udny	Colin Grant	colin.grant@worleyparsons.com
Brownies 1st Udny	Mhari / Laura	07779639367 / 07701050267

Formartine Sports Dev'ment	Colin Grant	843222
Good Companions Club	Anne Grant	842332
Guides	Shona Pullar	
Mainly Music	Fiona Entwistle	842412
Pitmedden Playgroup	Nikki Clarke	pitmeddentinytots@hotmail.com
Pitmedden Tinytots	Aysha West	tinytotscommittee@outlook.com
Pitmedden Garden	Monique Lanz	01651 842352
Rainbows 1st Udny	Fiona Bramald	842568
Satori Martial Arts	David Mutch	0756 8595654
Udny Tennis Club	Tim Gilpin	info@udnytennisclub.co.uk
Udny Community Council	Colin Duncan	colinuccsecretary@gmail.com
Udny Community Trust Co.	Yvonne McLeod	843776 / 0743 681 1759

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.

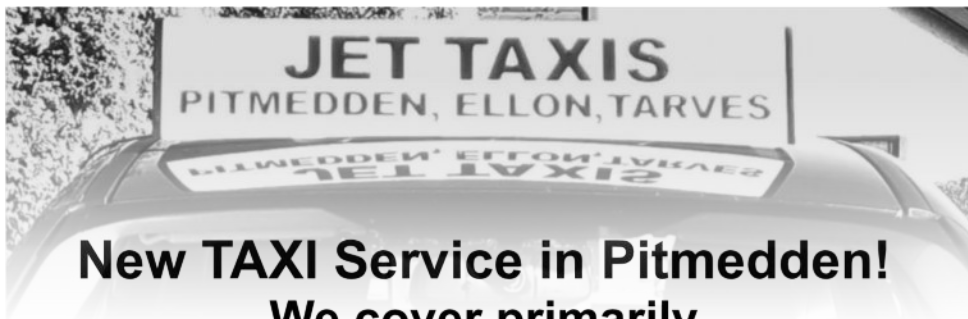
Aberdeenshire Larder	Food Suppliers	01358 727850
Art Gallery	Tolquhon Gallery	842343
Body Repair & Kitchen Respray	Derek & Janice Ritchie	843120 / 0771 437 5770
Caravan Storage	Charles Black	842345
Catering (Sandwiches & Buffet)	Delicious	01358 724600
Chiropodist	Douglas Leal	01358 742620
Clock Repairs	Eileen Andrew	842216 / 07932173090
Coffee Apothecary	Jon & Ali Aspden	842253
Eat on the Green	Craig Wilson	842337
Electrician	K.F. Watson	07713 979837/01358 789739
	Wilson Electrical	842966 / 07773846853
		0737 602 7448
Jet Taxis	Elma Robertson	0783 150 0681
Holiday Accommodation	The Bothy	07789 172151
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
Reflexology	Rosemary Richardson	851612
Video Editing	A.V.E.	873110 / 07717 454658
Wm Massie Funeral Directors	Maureen Massie	851205



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Bags of Style

An enterprising Udney woman has used lockdown to launch her fashion accessory business and in less than a year has clients as far afield as Orkney and London.

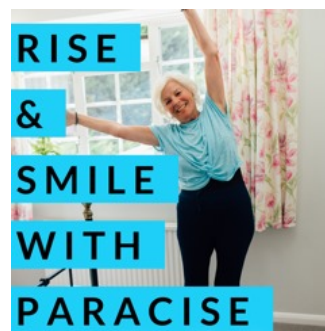
Lynne Hamilton previously worked in banking but has always had a love of colour and style and

decided to launch Planet Tasteful in June last year. She is over the moon with how the business has grown.

"Knowing my love of fashion," Lynne says, "My husband suggested there was a possibility I might order stock and keep everything for myself!"

Planet Tasteful has a colourful range of scarves, ponchos, bags, statement jewellery and sunglasses to add that all important "finishing touch" to an outfit without breaking the bank. Keen to support other local businesses, Lynne also stocks candles from Udney Candle Company, along with wax melts, slippers and unique Harris tweed items for anyone shopping for a gift – whether for themselves or someone else!

Current restrictions have hampered progress with Planet Tasteful's website but shoppers can browse Lynne's tempting range meantime via the Facebook or Instagram pages. In normal times, there is also a small stock in store at The Hummingbird Café in Kintore.



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Would you like to try a free Paracise class in your own home. All my classes are through Zoom.

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Fairtrade News

From the Mid- Formartine Fairtrade group

Well, 2021 has arrived and Covid and its restrictions are still with us! So now we are all learning to adapt to an online world. Our online Fairtrade Christmas shop was a good example . Here is a message from Anne on how it all went...



I would like to thank you all so much for your support for the Bonnyton Fairtrade shop. At a time of such chaos for Fairtrade producers and companies it was so good to be able to help out in our small way.

The shop sold just a few pounds shy of £5000 !!!!! Amazing.

It was a bit of a steep learning curve and I am sorry for the times when some of you didn't have the service we would have liked. It was also interesting to find out how different our shopping habits are on-line compared to the regular open house. Socks and decorations way down--but fairy lights and stocking fillers very popular!

The shop was open from November to the end of December, but although it is now closed, if you would like any Fairtrade products --food for your cupboards--a gift--or even some socks to tide you over!!!--please don't hesitate to message me . I still have stock and can sort out and deliver orders. (annemaspen@yahoo.co.uk)

The fairtrade pop-up-shop in Mintlaw, at Buchan Saw and Tool Services, has also been a great success. The Peterhead group have organised and manned a really successful venture. Our thanks to them.

Looking forward to a positive fairly traded 2021

Anne

PS. There is a Fairtrade table at the amazing North Mains Farm Shop. Do check it out.

And Mid Formartine Fairtrade group, in partnership with the Co op ,are planning another online event for Fairtrade Fortnight ,which this year runs from February,22nd - 7th March

Ready, Steady Cook- with Fairtrade

Since many of us have been cooking and baking more than usual as we are stuck at home, we are inviting you to send in any of your favourite recipes. Each recipe will be entered into a prize draw, and the winner, picked at random, will receive a hamper of Fairtrade goodies. Each recipe must use at least 2 Fairtrade products , the more Fairtrade ingredients the merrier.

We aim to produce a lockdown recipe book, in time for Christmas, using some of your best recipes as well as recipes from well known cooks, bakers, chefs and community figures.

Find the link in the page opposite and join the fun!

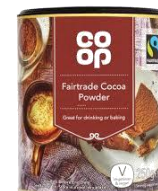


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Have you got a favourite recipe that uses Fairtrade products? Share it with us for a chance to win a hamper of Fairtrade goodies courtesy of Coop and feature in a Mid-Formartine Fairtrade lockdown recipe book!

Ready, Steady, Cook.... with Fairtrade

22nd February – 7th March



- All contributors of recipes will be entered in the prize draw.
- Recipes to be uploaded to <https://www.facebook.com/events/414791543160902> between 22nd February and 7th March 2021 or emailed to caroline.brown@coop.co.uk
- Source of recipe must be referenced (if known) or recipe cannot be included.
- All recipes to contain at least two Fairtrade ingredients.
- Winner must be able to collect hamper from Pitmedden/Oldmeldrum/Balmedie or Fyvie Coop.
- Our favourite recipes will be included in Mid-Formartine's Fairtrade Lockdown Recipe Book.
- Draw to take place 8th March 2021



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Butting Out

“Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word” Elton John famously sang. Here, Graham Wilson from Brave Journeys offers some practical help for anyone having to say sorry for their actions.

So there have been more than a few times during lockdown, I have found myself apologising for being grumpy, apologising for being moody, apologising for being snappy, apologising for being..... well pretty much anything and everything! And in my haste to bring calm and order back into my world, I have responded to apologies with....”That’s ok” or “It’s fine” which indicates that what the doer of deeds is apologising for, was acceptable. Or even worse I have ignored the apology and gone off on a tangent that causes the perpetrator to switch off!

And the most cringeworthy thing is - I am apologising mostly to my kids because I am doing all the things, I don’t want them to do!
 “Don’t talk to me in that tone” or “Stop looking at me like that”, “Stop and think before you open your mouth” or the best one yet...“I don’t talk to you like that” (Using the shouty, sarky, sassy voice that I am angry at them for using).

Can you see it?

We don’t like to admit when we are wrong, especially to our kids. Most of us want to believe we’re sensitive and that it’s everyone else with the problem. The guilty feelings that come with recognising you’ve hurt someone else, along with the shame you feel when you see yourself behave badly, aren’t easy to tolerate, so typically we’ll try to defend against those painful feelings by justifying ourselves and filling our heads with reasons that justify and allow us to believe that we are allowed to behave that way – but our kids aren’t!

Furthermore, our apologies are often not the best. I am really guilty of offering my fair share of ‘buts’ in mine. “I’m sorry for shouting BUT if you are going to behave like that, it winds me up!” or “I shouldn’t have talked to you like that, I’m sorry IF I have hurt your feelings BUT how many times do you need to be told” or even (as has been the case many times recently) “I’m sorry for losing my temper, but how many times do I need to show you how to reconnect to wif!”.....

As I write this, I know my half assed apologies have been pathetic, pointless and probably caused more resentment than repair. The shudder just went through me, I’m sure you know the one!
 It’s the one that tells you hindsight is a wonderful thing.

So the first rule of apologising, whether it be to the kids or to a work colleague, a friend or family member is leave the ‘ifs’ and the ‘buts’ out of it. For example, never say, “I’m sorry if I hurt your feelings,” or “I apologise for being insensitive, but you were acting in such a way that...”

Those words have the effect of reversing the apology by either calling the need to apologise into question or assigning the responsibility elsewhere – normally to the person you are making a half assed apology to! I’ve often heard people say, “I’m sorry if I came across too strong in what I said to you,” or something similar. Those apologies always felt half-hearted

and made me believe that it was me that had the problem not them, and I am sure that is not the point of an apology!

Another rule of apologising is that an apology should be a completely one-sided communication, an acknowledgement of guilt and regret on your side, asking nothing in return. But let’s face it, when it comes to our kids, most of us are really not so hot at accepting an apology from our kids without giving them a lecture about why they needed to apologise in the first place.

Take the other day, when one of my darlings opened a packet of biscuits and helped themselves without my knowledge. It is a requirement in our house just now to check first, as we have a large household and everyone needs to have a fair share, or else our teenagers would go through the kitchen like a pack of locusts between the hours of 23.00 and 00.00 every night! Anyway, teenager A comes through in one of their rare outings from their room, to speak to my wife and I. In hindsight I should have been honoured that they wanted to!

I asked them about the opened cakes, they admit it, and say sorry! I go off on one, ranting about helping themselves, not listening to what we ask of them, treating this place like a hotel, being disrespectful....It was ugly....Not my finest moment!

My teenager had every right to stand there with their fingers in their ears la-la-la-ing, because the moment they said sorry, that should have been it. I made the whole thing bigger by ranting. They switched off because I was bleating about the rules!
 Turn that around to “Thank you for your apology, I am really grateful for it”.
 That is acknowledging that they said sorry, but also letting them acknowledge they did something wrong and can learn from it. I was today years old when this dawned on me!

I think that learning to apologise properly is an art and a skill. It takes guts, it takes vulnerability, it takes courage and can be one of the most important things we do in relationships. We all get it wrong, in our friendships, in our families and in our work teams. But being accountable for when your actions cause hurt goes a long way to repairing damage. Most importantly, caring about hurt feelings, fosters love and trust.

They never teach you this stuff at school, and god forbid my generation’s parents were not the best at it. I think we have a chance to model what it is like to apologise meaningfully, and what it is like to receive an apology, which in turn will teach our next generation the difference between getting it right and getting it totally wrong., the difference between accepting responsibility and shirking it. The difference between using our guilt to build resilience and learning or use shame to enhance low self-esteem and reduce self-worth.

With regard to my teenager and Bakewell-gate – I decided I needed to say sorry and leave the lecture to another day. I needed to make it right and so I just waited till I calmed down from the 20,000 other things that had affected my day, took a deep breath, went through to the living room, stroked the back of their head and said, “I’m sorry for being a grumpy old fool.”

Incidentally, they never argued back!

For more information go to www.bravejourneys.co.uk or contact Graham Wilson at 07818 556866

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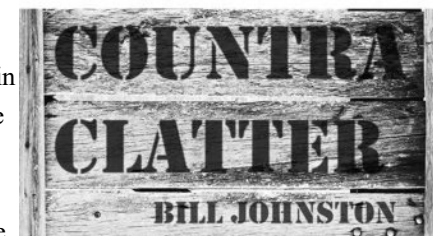
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Pittrichie Blacksmiths

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Ay, ay mi freens, fit like e day?

Noo ye micht myn in mi hinmaist screevins A wis praisin Alexander Graham Bell for invintin e telephone an foo e phone his helpit us aa ti cope wi es lockdown becis o COVID 19. Weel an, be aat as it may, as at es precise meenit as A screeve es wirts, thanks ti BT my telephone disna exist?



Na na, mi nummer an mi line, accordin til e pooers at be in BT, disna exist, eyven tho' A've bin eesin it since w meeved in here mair than twinty 'eer ago! So fit his BT daen? They've disconnect mi phone, the ane at disna exist, an noo A've nae phone - A canna phone oot an naebidy can phone in til mi! They're noo tellin mi they'll reconnect mi nummer on e 12th o Februar! So ye cud say aat aal Mossies is nae a verra happy chiel ava.

Hooiver A hiv managed ti keep up wi e times, fair ti e delight o e faimily - becis A'm noo eesin a mobile phone!! Weel A'm tryin ti eese it bit noo an than A'll press e wrang button, ar ither times A'll lay it doon somewey an forget far about, than A hiv ti hunt for it fin somebody phones mi. A'm telt aat A shud keep it in mi pooch, na, it micht mak a hole in mi pooch an then A wid tyne a mi siller, aye fairly, jist roll on e 12th.!

A got mi first COVID jab the ither day here doon at e Meadows in Ellon, a verra efficient job weel daen. In at ae door, unanswered a twa three questions, rolled up mi sleeve n got mi jab, sat for aboot ten ti fifteen meenits an then toddled awa oot bac ti mi dother's car. Aat wis e first time aat A hid bin inside e Sports Centre at e Meadows - whit a size o a place - A dinna ken foo mony different kyns o sports ar games they cud play in yonner bit wi aa e different pitches markit oot on e floor it maun be a thochtie daivert for aa e players!?

Weel noo wi nae verra muckle takin place becis o lockdown lat m eyn wi a wee story frae e past, a story frae e days o e Clydesdale horse.

Wiv aye bin telt doon throu e ages aat Aiberdeen an its residents are thocht ti be a bittie thrifty kyn, a bittie grippy kyn wi their siller. Es day a cairter chiel wis urgin his horse aat wis yokit til a weel-loaded fower-wheeled flat cairt up Mairkit Street ontill Union Street. Jist as they reached e junction the horsie stoppit, nae maitter fit e cairter did ar said e horsie widna meeve. Becis it hid stoppit at sic a busy junction it wis caasin a traffic jam so e cairter got doon aff e cairt an gave e Clydesdale a gweed slap on its hurdies bit na na it widna meeve. Neist e cairter gid up ti e horsies heid an said some wurdies intil it's lug bit still it widna meeve.

Hooiver it did stairt ti tap e grun wi its richt fore-fit, e cairter, thinkin aat it wis hurt, liftit up its fit an verra quickly fun e caase o e problem, there lyin on e cassies wis - a silver thripenny bit!

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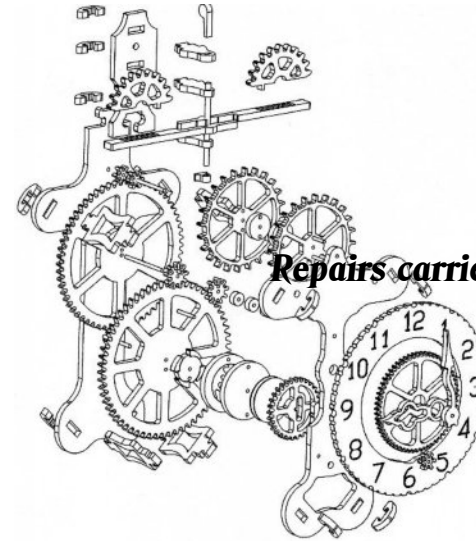
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