

cumming north

Winter Edition 2010



Featured in
this issue

Northfield
Neep
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School Updates

News from Westpark
and Heathryburn

Walkabout

Bramble Brae Primary
address environmental issues

New Housing

ACC approve Local
Development Plan

Church News

From Scott Guy

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To view the new
Cumming North in colour
Please visit
www.shmu.org.uk
& click on the
print page

EDITORIAL



Hello, and welcome to the Winter 2010 issue of Cumming North. We are striving to publish three editions a year now, so the past few weeks have been hectic as those of you involved with creating the magazine will be aware. Cumming North is a way for anyone from Northfield or Cummings Park to tell others about what's going on, or as a way to make your own voice heard.

Thank you to those who have submitted articles, worked on designing the magazine and chased up people for articles. Your hard work is very much appreciated!

Anyone who wishes to submit an article for the next issue is more than welcome to do so. If you are involved in anything that you think others in the area would be interested to hear about, please let us know.

There are many aspects of the magazine, if you would like to become involved and live in either Cummings Park or Northfield get in touch and training will be arranged. Please contact:

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FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY



**ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL**

Elaine Sinclair

Neighbourhood Update

TO KICKSTART THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT EARLY, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO ALL THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND LOCAL SERVICES WHO HAVE WORKED WITH ME ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS THIS PAST YEAR - AND FOR KEEPING ME IN THE LOOP WHEN IT COMES TO TACKLING COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.

Education, training and learning, traffic management, improving openspaces - are just some of the issues that feature in this years local Community Action Plan. Yet the issue that seems to capture the imagination of community groups most often is encouraging residents of all ages to get out and about – to help improve their physical and mental health.

One site long overlooked until very recently was Westerton Park in Northfield. Following local consultation, the City Council's landscape design team has produced a new design plan for the park - and the works are to be funded by Aberdeen Greenspace. We also secured Aberdeen Play Forum's Soozy Lai to run free play sessions at the site with local families - they appear regularly, despite the weather, supported as and when by Northfield's Community Learning team. As I write, we are also working with the community to apply for funding for new play equipment, seating and bins. Looking ahead, we hope to build on the early success at Westerton Park, learn from other community projects and roll this out to a number of other local sites. So, in early October, community representatives and services met at Northfield Community Centre to take stock of recent projects across the area and plan ahead for even more improvements.

Meanwhile, parking and pedestrian safety concerns at Byron Square were the subject of another public meeting in September. The City Council roads team presented community groups and traders with a number of improvement options to reduce difficulties associated with drivers ignoring the double yellow lines on the Square's slip road. Armed with community feedback we are working to finalise the improvements and secure funding.



Finally, a wee mention to the young people who worked hard alongside Arts Development and Northfield Community Centre Youth workers to produce a fantastic street art mural at Northfield Academy this year. Funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund and initiated by a local community council representative, it is hoped that the street art wall will be used by young people outwith school hours to continually refresh the mural pictures.

Elaine

**Elaine Sinclair - Neighbourhood Community Planning Officer
Aberdeen City Council 01224 814526 esinclair@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

Westpark School Watch This Space....!



Like all other schools across Scotland, learners and teachers at Westpark School are busily developing lots of exciting, learning opportunities in line with Curriculum for Excellence. We are currently cultivating our grounds to provide outdoor space for our pupils to develop creativity skills and encourage enjoyment of outdoor learning.

**Susie Webster
DHT**



School Garden

Our school garden is not looking its best and it's not really a place where outdoor learning can happen. However, with the help of our Eco Team, pupils and adults are going to be giving it a makeover so that we can use it to help us with our learning!

At the moment we are only at the start of this project. Some men came from the council and cleared away all the overgrown bushes at the front of the school.

Then one of the dads came and hired a rotavator to work over and cultivate the soil. Recently, eco-kids have helped Mrs Webster to clear weeds ready for protective membrane and bark chips to be put down.

Next spring there will be raised beds and we are hoping to be able to grow pretty plants and some fruit and vegetables..... so watch this space!



School Painting

We also decided that bits of the school building needed brightening up. Before the summer holidays, the Eco Team launched a competition to find a good design to paint on the doors and walls. So far, we have chosen the 4 seasons for the doors - Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. More parents have volunteered to help paint outside using special paint to give us a blank template to paint our designs on. We hope we'll get lots more help with this.

We look forward to showing more photos of how we are getting on later in the session.



Nursery

The Nursery outdoor learning areas make valuable contributions to our children's development.

Our young children are enthusiastic outdoors and benefit by being physically involved in their environment.

We welcome the planned improvements which will enrich outdoor experiences for our children.

Westpark Nursery Team

Heathryburn School

News from Heathryburn

In September, we were awarded our Bronze and Silver Wildlife Awards by the RSPB for our efforts in improving our local environment for birds, wildlife and people. We took part in a lot of initiatives including the RSPB Big Birdwatch, a community Litter pick with the local community wardens and our enterprising P5 class designed and built a willow den in the playground with the help of pupils, staff, parents and our business links from Enermech and John Lewis. We are now working towards our Gold Award and hope to get it before long.

Heathryburn are showing an interest in gardening. Miss Kilpatrick and P5 planted some trees and received a Green Trees School Award. Mrs. Angus and her P1 class planted some potatoes and recently harvested their first crop

which they used to make some delicious tattie soup! We have purchased some sets of garden tools so that we can begin to start the hard work of digging out our raised beds and are always on the look out for willing volunteers to come and help us in the garden.

As part of our annual Antibullying week, all classes have been working on ways to recognize and stamp out bullying in our school. The Pupil Council have designed a questionnaire to find out if our playground is a happy, safe place to be and will use this to make an action plan to ensure we have happy, positive playtimes.

Forthcoming Events.

To celebrate the British Food Fortnight, Miss Barber and our P1/2 class have been invited to John Lewis to learn about and taste

some healthy foods. We are very much looking forward to this trip behind the scenes and working with our business partners once again.

P6 have been learning all about the Royal Family this term with Mr Rose and have just announced that there is to be a Royal Wedding at Heathryburn between Princess Shannon and Prince Ritchie on Tuesday, 6th October. We are all excited about this event and looking out our best outfits.

P4 are finishing off the term with their Viking Musical Production directed by Miss Kilpatrick to show our parents and pupils what they have been learning about in their Viking topic.

Look out for our reports on these events in the next edition.

Northfield Community Centre Child and Parent Information

PARENT AND TODDLER Monday 9.30 – 11.00

The parent and toddler group meet in the front hall at Northfield Community Centre. Children are encouraged to play together in a constructive environment. The parents are expected to be part of their children's play activities which includes arts and crafts, free play, soft ball play, musical instruments and access to age appropriate toys. Two members of crèche staff are on hand to help with issues surrounding your child's development.

A small snack is provided. A cost of 50p per family is in place.

**The first session is free.
New families welcome.**

**Further information can be obtained by
telephoning 695416.**

YOUNG PARENTS GROUP Wednesday 12.30 – 2.15

Young Parents Group. This group is supported by two members of experienced staff.

We talk about issues that affect young parents and their children. Parents may require specialist advice and the staff would make every effort to advise them on this. New people are always welcome.

PARENTS FOR PARENTS Friday 12.30 – 3.00

This is a group run by parents for parents. The parents use one of our crèche rooms to give their children their lunch (bringing lunch with them or sharing costs). The children play while the parents support each other. New parents and children welcome.

Family Learning Update

Ever wish you were a bit more confident? Would you like to learn how to be more assertive? If the answer is yes, then we have the course for you. Our Confidence and Assertiveness Building course will be starting up in your local area very soon.

You are never too old to improve your confidence and assertiveness, so why not join us for this 8 week course. It will offer you the opportunity to gain skills and tips to break old habits, say 'no' and mean it, take a more assertive role in your everyday life and possibly change you forever.

**Starts 26th October 2010
at Northfield Community
Centre. For more info
contact the team on 01224
487822. (Creche available
but must be booked)**

GNOME-TASTIC

A new initiative is spreading like wildfire through the hills and valleys of Aberdeen...Gnome Hunting! The Gnomes in question have been made by Heather Ivers, the pottery tutor from Northfield Community Centre, and are being sculpted to look like local people and centre staff. These gnomes will then be taken to selected hills by our hill-walking group, where they will be left beside a wee box with a camera in...find the gnome, take your picture and magically it will find its way to adorn the Community Centre walls. The places the gnomes are left in will be marked

on a map for others to find. If you are interested in taking part: perhaps making the gnomes, painting the gnomes or coming hill-walking with us...call Ian on **01224 695416.**

Of course, there is always an alternative viewpoint; a representative of the Gnome Council of Great Britain stated publically his view that, "The little garden people from the North are fed up fishing and have expressed a desire to go camping in the hills around Aberdeen...a desire that Northfield Community Centre is only too happy to accommodate."



Community Learning & Development

So I'm sitting there, unsure exactly what I want to do, but know that I want to do something. I knew Northfield Community Centre existed, but can't say I knew exactly what went on there. One day I just bit the bullet, made an appointment to see Ian (Community Learning Worker at Northfield) and went in.

Until that day, I just never knew all the things that went on there. I'll not lie, I shared the view of many and thought it a building that kids and wifies went to;

I soon discovered this was not the case. In the last three months, I have enrolled on a couple of computing courses, went yachting on a 110 year old fishing smack and am now learning how to sew (so that I can refurbish my campervan).

Community Learning and Development offer loads of courses and activities in the area. I know they teach, English, cookery, pottery and art. I also see that they've started philosophy courses! Seriously, I've found myself there



several times a week and am really glad that I kept that initial appointment. I'd urge anyone at a loose end, anyone thinking of going back into education or just looking for things to do to give Ian a call. If he's not out sticking gnomes in the hills with the walking group I'm sure he'll be happy to speak to you.

George.

Northfield Community Centre Christmas Fayre

Christmas Community Learning and Development

*Santa's Grotto ~ Raffle Christmas
Crafts for Sale ~ Bottle Stall
Brass Band... and oh so much more!*

11th of December 2010

10am - 2pm

Come along for
lots of festive fun!



Cummings Park Neighbourhood Walkabout Address environment issues!



A Neighbourhood Environment Walkabout highlighted 44 issues in need of attention while on the Cummings Park Neighbourhood Environment Walkabout on the 13th of May. Environment Services initially concentrates on 'quick fixes' such as litter, graffiti, flytipping, flyposting, street signs, pot holes and so on. But they will tackle any issue that may have a negative impact on the area, including those outwith the responsibility of the Council.

Four pupils and a teacher from Bramble Brae Primary School joined Environment Services on their walkabout on a breezy but sunny day. All were pleased to see the area looking relatively clean and tidy despite a number of small incidents of graffiti. The graffiti along with fly tipping, overhanging bushes, old signs, blocked drains, litter and utility boxes which were in need of a paint, were all addressed to the benefit of the neighbourhood.

If you wish more information, or to report an issue in your area please contact Environment Services on 0845 608 0919 or e-mail cleanaberdeen@aberdeencity.gov.uk

What the kids got up to...

The community walk about was a fantastic opportunity to allow the pupils to get into the community and contribute to identifying problem areas. Two Primary 6 and two Primary 7 pupils who represented the Pupil Council were chosen for the walkabout. They thoroughly enjoyed the responsibility of helping adults identify areas which needed cleaned or repaired. It was their opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of the area and parts that they would like to see improved.

They took notes and photographs of areas needing cleaned/ repaired. The children were also given 'litter pickers' to pick up rubbish and put it in a bin liner and they were delighted when they were given a 'litter picker' to take back to school. They are now using this for using at break times to collect litter in the playground. It was an enjoyable experience and one that I am sure the children would like to repeat!



We used litter pickers to pick up rubbish and put it into a bin.



We reported blocked drains so that they could be fixed.



Large pieces of rubbish had to be reported so it could be collected and disposed of.



We enjoyed this experience and loved the fact that we contributed towards cleaning our community.



ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE ABERDEEN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PROPOSED PLAN. THE PLAN WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION OVER A TWELVE WEEK PERIOD FROM 24TH SEPTEMBER TO 17TH DECEMBER.

The Plan shows the land allocated to meet the city's development needs over the next 10-20 years. The Plan will also set out the planning policies to be applied in promoting the growth of a sustainable city over this period.

The Proposed Plan is now available on our website www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan alongside a number of supporting documents and forms to make your comments anytime.

You can also come along to our consultation event in Northfield Library on 1st November between 2-7pm to speak with members of the Local Development Plan team and find out how to comment on the Proposed Plan

We look forward to seeing you there.

Northfield Neep - *A pensioner and his garden*

Hello gardeners,

One wonders where the changing seasons have got to, it seems no time at all since the spring/summer catalogues were getting the once over now the autumn/winter ones occupy the wee table next to you. However time marches on and we must march on with it, from my ageing memory the spring/summer time season did not appear to have been very good.

An awful lot of rain and very little sun, I was quite surprised the other week to see the beetroot swelling and the leeks proudly

showing off their slim leaves, the onion sets were begging to be bent over so that they would round off even more and be full of goodness.

My tomatoes in the greenhouse have not fared well and this was my fault as I did not give them enough attention to help them develop properly (I consoled myself with the thought that next year I will be more attentive to them)

My daughter grew her potatoes in bags this year and the boiling she gave me turned out to be very tasty indeed, so that's

something to give a try. Back in spring I arranged to get my bushes pruned and a good job was made of them but was a bit alarmed to see my butterfly bush was almost trimmed to the ground, however I need not have worried as it has grown back with plenty of flowers to keep the bonny butterflies happy. Time now to get reading the new catalogues and prepare for the battle next year, a special thanks to the person who sent the tin of 3-in-1 oil for my creaky old back

Happy Reading

Mr N. NEEP

Northfield Parish CHURCH NEWS

OUR CHURCH CONTINUES TO REACH OUT TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHFIELD SO THAT IT IS SEEN AS YOUR CHURCH, HERE FOR EVERY MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Our **monthly sales** continue in the Church Hall, on the last Saturday of the month from 9.30am, with teas, coffees & home-bakes available in the Lounge.

On the 1st Saturday of each month we have a **Soup & Sweet Lunch** in the Lounge from 12noon at a cost of £3 per person. There will be a special Christmas Soup & Sweet Lunch in the Hall on Sat 4 Dec. All are welcome to come along and enjoy.

As always the pupils from Heathryburn & Westpark schools will be coming to church for their **Christmas end of term services**. These will take place on the last day of term, **Wed 22 Dec** at 9.30am (Heathryburn) and 11am (Westpark). Parents, grandparents and friends are very welcome to join us at the church.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN CHURCH

Sun 12 Dec – Sing along to the Northfield Band as they play Christmas carols, 10.30am

Sun 19 Dec – Children's Nativity Play, 10.30am

Fri 24 Dec – Christmas Eve Family Carol Service, 7pm

Sat 25 Dec – Christmas Day (in Hall) 11am.

Bring along your presents & enjoy a mince pie! I hope that you will be able to join us for some of these special events and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2011.

Scott C. Guy
(Minister, Northfield Parish Church)

MOMENTUM SCOTLAND JOB RETENTION SERVICE

Momentum in Aberdeen are now providing a Job Retention Service alongside the Energiser Programme and Employment Development Team for those who have had/currently have mental health difficulties of any nature. This service is targeted to support individuals to retain employment having attained it or who find themselves at risk of losing their position. Our specialist Employment Development Officers who are experienced in mental health, work closely with the individual, the employer and other professionals to overcome barriers to returning to or retaining employment with ongoing support. To refer or for further information please telephone (01224) 647060.

Councillors Comments



NEW BUILD UPDATE

WORK IS PROGRESSING WELL WITH OUR NEW BUILD PROJECT AT BYRON PARK. THE CONTRACTORS ARE ON TARGET FOR COMPLETION IN MARCH 2011. THIS WILL SEE NEW COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK OF 16 HOUSES AND 12 FLATS, THE FIRST BUILDING PROGRAMME OF HOUSING FOR THE COUNCIL IN NEARLY 30 YEARS.

At the time of writing this article, a report is due to go to committee on September 27th to appoint a preferred contractor for the development of the old school site at Marchburn. The site will be developed as a "Home Zone" and will consist of 18 two bed flats and 17 three bed houses encouraging a more flexible and innovative approach to the design of new residential streets to create a benchmark for higher quality design in the new development which will positively contribute to the character of Northfield. A Home Zone is a residential street in which the road space is shared between pedestrians, playing children, cyclists and low-speed motor vehicles (10 mph maximum speed). All of the houses and ground floor flats will be wheelchair accessible and the homes will all comply to the "Homes for Varying Needs" standard which will ensure both adaptability and flexibility as families needs change.

A full consultation of the proposed designs will be organised this Autumn to allow residents to comment

and input on the development. As with our phase one new build programme, we are fully committed to engage and involve residents in all stages of this development.

The contractor is due to be on site for December 2010 and the project will be complete by December 2011. If you have any queries or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Maria Thies (Project Manager for Phase 2) on tel 522147.

If you would like to contact me regarding an issue you may have, then you can do so by writing to Councillor Jackie Dunbar at 127 Manor Avenue, Middlefield, Aberdeen, AB16 7UT, telephone 01224 522522 or 07733 300570, email jdunbar@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Regards
Councillor Jackie Dunbar



I HAVE ALSO HAD A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE STATE OF SOME PEOPLE'S GARDENS IN THE NORTHFIELD AND CUMMINGS PARK AREA. 99% OF THE GARDENS IN THE AREA ARE BEING MAINTAINED, HOWEVER THE LOOK OF THE AREA IS BEING SPOILED BY THE SMALL MINORITY OF PEOPLE WHO DO NOT MAINTAIN THEIR GARDENS ADEQUATELY, I WOULD URGE ALL PEOPLE TO HELP KEEP OUR AREA NEAT AND TIDY AND REGULARLY MAINTAIN THEIR GARDENS. IF PEOPLE ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES DUE TO DISABILITIES AGE ETC THEN LET ME KNOW.

I have been working with members of Northfield Forum, Northfield Community Council, local shopkeepers and officers of Aberdeen City Council to consider ways of improving Byron Square. There were a lot of discussions and differing opinions, however the consensus of opinion appeared to be to have limited parking in the slip road together with large cushions to allow pedestrian access to and from the car park. This will go out to further consultation so if you have an opinion on how to improve the square let me know.

Whilst it is good to see houses being built in the area, we are only scratching at the surface. One of the biggest problems that we find is getting houses for people or people transferred to other housing. This situation is made all the worse as the council are allocating 75% of house to homeless. It is frustrating for people and I can assure you even more frustrating for me.

Regards
Councillor Gordon Graham



Station House Media Unit (shmu) is situated just off Great Northern Road in the old Station House Community Centre, Woodside. We offer free access to, and training in video and radio production, and magazine and online publications to residents of all ages living in Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Northfield and Cummings Park.

t 01224 515013 | e info@shmu.org.uk | www.shmu.org.uk

Welcome **Kelly!**

Hi my name is Kelly and I am the new Employability Support Worker with shmu. I have spent the last 6 years in recruitment, specialising in helping people to move back into employment, training or education throughout Scotland.

I am now delighted to confirm that alongside my colleagues at shmu we are now looking to offer the shmuWORKS programme which is designed for people between the ages of 18-25 living in the regeneration areas of the city who are not currently in employment.

We will be holding four separate, 2-hour information sessions at the beginning of November to explain in more detail what we do here at shmu and what training and support we can provide through this new project. From this information session we are looking to select 8 people who are interested to attend 2-week programme which will run for 15 hours each week in late November.



Some of the things we will cover during these weeks are: Interview Skills • Confidence & Communication CV's & Cover Letters • Presenting & broadcasting skills • Team Work

For those people not offered a place on the 2 week course, additional employability support will be offered through our Job Club on Wednesday afternoons to those who wish to utilise it. For further information please contact Kelly on 01224 515013, email kelly@shmu.org.uk, or text training followed by your name to 60300

Your community show with **Jacqui Innes**

Cummings Park and Northfield have their very own radio show, Cumming North, on shmuFM 99.8FM. It goes out live on Monday mornings from 10am to hear the Cumming North show. Don't worry if you miss it in the morning because it is repeated at 7pm in the evening.

The show is presented by Jacqui Innes and focuses on everything and anything about the Cummings Park and Northfield areas. "Every week we have a different guest on to talk about something that affects Cummings Park and Northfield" explained Jacqui. "Guests in the past have included local residents, councillors, school pupils, community organisations, Grampian Police, and Grampian Fire & Rescue".

Jacqui is always looking for new people to get involved in the show. "Even though I have guests in the studio all the time it would be great to have a fellow community member to chat with every week."

Don't worry if you think you can't do it because you don't know how, explained Jacqui, "shmuFM will arrange all the support and training you'll need".

The station are running two blocks of beginners radio training starting in November which is free to residents from Cummings Park and Northfield. As well as learning new exciting skills in radio production, presenting and broadcasting you will meet new people, build your confidence and self-esteem.

Or if you fancy signing up for training and getting involved with shmuFM, please phone Hayleigh on 01224 515013, or email training@shmu.org.uk. You can also text us on 60300 - start your message with training, leave a space and then leave your name.

Whatever way you get in touch, someone will be in contact with you ASAP.

Mondays 7pm – 9pm 1st Nov - 6th Dec

Fridays 1pm – 3pm 5th Nov - 10th Dec

NORTHFIELD AND MASTRICK MEDICAL PRACTICE

Festive Season Opening Times

Both Northfield and Mastrick Surgeries will be closed on the following days over the Festive Season:

Monday 27th Dec, Tuesday 28th Dec

Monday 3rd Jan, Tuesday 4th Jan

If you need advice, or the services of a GP during this time, call NHS 24 on 08454 24 24 24 who will offer advice and, if necessary, refer you to G-MED or the most appropriate service.

Always remember in a Life Threatening Emergency you should still dial 999 and ask for an ambulance.

Seasonal Flu Immunisation Campaign

Have you received your invitation to have your Seasonal Flu Immunisation? If you are a patient at the Practice, phone 662911 to make your appointment. For your convenience, we are running Saturday morning clinics throughout October and the beginning of November at Northfield Surgery, Quarry Road.

Cummings Park Drive Community Flat

Monday – Youth Group S1 – S3, 6.15 – 8.00

Pupils participate in a variety of activities including games and cooking.

Tuesday – Adult Literacy

The adult literacy team offer support for people wishing to brush up on their literacy skills as well as people who wish to learn English as a second Language. If you would like help with your Reading, Writing, Spelling or English please phone the above numbers for information.

Wednesday – Credit Union

Information and joining details is available between 10.00am and 11.00am. New members are always welcome.

Thursday – P6/P7

We offer a youth group for this age group with activities including crafts and team games.

Thursday – Ladies Group 1.00pm – 3.00pm

This group is due to restart in the near future. For further information please call the above numbers. The ladies meet up for coffee and a chat. They have participated in craft work in the past such as making a beautiful quilt which they kindly donated to Bramble Brae primary school, they have also completed some glass painting, model making and much more.

Friday – Drugs Action 9.30-12.00

Support given to families who are affected by drug misuse. Please note – this is not a needle exchange.

Friday Citizens Advice Bureau 10.00 – 2.00

Benefits and Money Advice for people who are struggling with mortgage or rent arrears, are having difficulty paying bills or need information on paying bills.
No appointment necessary.

NEWHILLS CHURCH

A BRIEF HISTORY

NEWHILLS IS THE MITHER KIRK FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTHFIELD, PRIOR TO 1666 THERE WAS THE CHAPEL OF STONEYWOOD THAT WAS BUILT IN 1367, THAT WAS USED UNTIL THE REFORMATION BUT CEASED BEING USED OFFICIALLY BY THE 1570'S AND BEFORE THAT THE FOLK OF THE RURAL AREAS IN THE NORTH AND WEST OF THE CITY USED THE ST MACHAR CATHEDRAL AT OLD ABERDEEN, THIS WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT NEWHILLS WAS IN THE FREEDOM LANDS AND NOT THE OLD MEDIEVAL CITY.

The creation of the Newhills Church of 1666 started in 1663 with the founding of the parish by George Davidson of Pettans who was a Chapman, a travelling salesman of his day, he was very wealthy and very generous as he purchased the estate of Capelhills modern Kepplehills, (from the Latin name, meaning Capello, a chapel), which he renamed Newhills, this was a very productive Estate as all the waste from the city both animal and human was spread on the fields, imagine the pong?

The Estate produced enough profit for a stipend for a minister, however the first Minister was Dr Alexander Middleton the Principle of the University of Aberdeen, this would have been on a part time basis, he was the minister for the old and vast parish of Old Machar, and he would have done so with an assistant.

These were the days of the Kirk Session a committee of all male Elders who held sway over the lives of Parishioners and often sentenced folk to fines and punishment, women in particular suffered more than men as the society of the times did not recognise Equalities.

Women were put in the Branks or Scolds Bridle a device that was like a metal frame round the head and a spike was placed in the mouth to encourage women to hold their tongue, the device was on a chain at the door of the Church, this was also the days of the rule of thumb, A man could beat his wife with a rod provided it was no thicker than his thumb, permission was to be sought from the Kirk Session.

“ The Estate produced enough profit for a stipend for a minister ”

Fines were imposed to swell the meagre coffers of the Church these were often for non attendance and given the distance from say Hazlehead to Newhills a trip there and back would have taken a long time on foot with no roads between fairm toons as we know them today, the district was known for it's Myres and Bogs, there are several Bog and Myre names in the old parish.

One of the areas that was required to be crossed was the Bucks Moss an area of ancient peat bog where the peats were cut and this would have been a dangerous undertaking in winter with dark ominous pools of water that blend into the shadows in low light.

The Psalms were sung with a presenter sounding a single note on a reed pipe or tuning fork and singing the opening verse, their being no organs or pianos in parish Kirks in the early period.

The first minister to be appointed to the fulltime role was The Rev Thomas Crevy, he was a diligent man but fortune did not smile on him as some grave charges were laid before him and he retired to Ireland (I do not know what he had done but he may have been a Jacobite.)

Despite having a new kirk the position on the hill would have been quite hard going especially in winter and the Stipend, the wages and upkeep of the minister, was poor, peats being cheap and easy to get but candles not.

Of the many ministers over the years the Rev Robert Burnett was

known for his tragic death as he hanged himself in the church from the bell rope, it was said that this was done after more than a year of deep melancholy, the Kirk bible was open and marked in his own hand," Thou scarest me with dreams and terefiest me through visions ,so that my soul chooseth strangling and death rather than my life." JOB vii 13 to 15.

One of the interesting aspects of old reformed kirks is that they have Watch Houses on the site of the

grave yard, the one at Newhills is no different than most and can be seen at the front gate, it is the small slate roofed bothie, this is where the watchman kept an eye over the newly interned bodies in their graves as the Burkers or resurrectionists (body snatchers) could appear in the night and steal away loved ones remains, to be dissected later on the anatomists table.

Only the body was taken as to remove a ring or a shroud was

theft and that could have lead to charges, oddly there was no charge of body snatching, as it was a social crime not on the statute books.

Not far off and in sight of the old kirk is the farm of Gilla hill this is where the cadavers (remains) of the snatched bodies, were buried after the anatomists had done there grizzly work.

Reading Radio Comes to Northfield

The Reading Bus team are really looking forward to working across schools and communities in Northfield over the next few months. We are especially excited to be broadcasting live weekly radio shows on SHMU 99.8 FM.

Rich Langham has recently joined our team as Reading Radio Development Worker and will be working with pupils throughout Northfield Primary Schools. You can hear Reading Radio every Thursday from 11am until 12 noon.

The Northfield Community will be joined by the St Machar and Torry Communities in presenting these fantastic shows. Rich will be looking for guests to be interviewed by pupils for their radio shows. Please let us know if you are interested.



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous
Drinkline

0845 769 7555
0800 917 8282

Benefits

Benefits Agency Advice Line

0800 587 9135

Crime

Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

Drugs

FRANK – National Helpline

0800 776 600

Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens

01224 558 140

Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency

08454 242 424

Electricity

If you have a Power-Cut

0800 300 999

Family Planning

Square 13, Support & Advice

01224 642 711

Gas

Gas Emergency
Gas Emergency with a Meter

0800 111 999
0845 606 6766

Housing

Emergency Repairs
Call Centre Emergency

01224 480 281
0845 608 0929

Police

Non-Emergency

0845 600 5700

Samaritans

Need to talk

01224 574 488

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team
Emergency Out-Of-Hours

01224 765 220
01224 693 936

Young Carers

Support & Information Service

01224 625 009

Water

Scottish Water Emergency

0845 600 8855

Community Learning and Development

Your Community Centre Needs You



To Volunteer!

Here at Northfield Community Centre we are always in need of volunteers. Could you help with adult education, youth work, in the kitchen or the Christmas fayre? If so come in and tell us or phone the centre on; (01224) 695416.