

cumming north

Spring 2021



In this issue:

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

BYRON BAKERS

DEDICATION TO
COMMUNITY STALWART

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Spring Edition 2021

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Welcome to another exciting edition of the Cumming North magazine.

Thanks again to all the contributors - we are very grateful to everyone who submits articles and photos for the magazine. In this edition we have news from Northfield Community Centre, Active Schools and Byron Bakers.

We also have some really interesting local history pieces and a focus on community champions as well as a dedication to Arthur Forbes, a great community volunteer who passed away last year.

Our editorial team is always on the lookout for local people to help gather articles and information that may be used in future editions, or indeed, help in other ways as part of the editorial team. This would involve a couple of short meetings prior to publication of the magazine.

Do you have a story to tell about Cummings Park or Northfield? Whether it's a historical piece about the area, a story about your time in the community, a group you're involved in we'd love to hear it! We're always looking for more people to get involved in the magazine.

Please get in touch with **Laura** at **shmu** on **07752586312** or email laura.young@shmu.org.uk.

You can also get in touch with us via our new **Facebook** page - look up '**Cumming North**' and hit that like button!

You can be reassured that our distribution company is taking every measure to ensure they are delivering your magazine safely and within government guidelines.

Cumming North is a community publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team or of shmu.

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COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Cummings Park and Northfield

As we all know 2020 wasn't a great year for many of us and 2021 has not started off much better.

We wanted to try and bring some positivity to your day by celebrating unsung heroes in the Cummings Park and Northfield communities.

We are hoping to run this as a regular feature so if you would like to nominate somebody who does good things for their community, whether it's a one-off action or something they do regularly, we'd love to hear about it. To submit your nomination for a community champion please email laura.young@shmu.org.uk

Here are some of the nominations we've had so far!

Kev Clarke

The team at Northfield Community Centre (and we're sure many others do too) would like to say a big thank you to Kev Clark for going out and gritting the paths and pavements when the weather was bad.

By doing this he made sure folk get safely get out to the shops or for a walk which feels very important at this time of year.



Thanks so much Kev – we need more people like you in our community!

Northfield Community

Jacqui Innes wanted to send in a shout out to the community of Northfield who helped out when the community centre foodbank was in need of donations.

Jacqui said: *"My heart swelled when we put out the food appeal and so much came from local people who came forward with donations of food and toiletries."*

The foodbank is still running and there are still people needing help so if you can donate the centre would really appreciate it.

Byron Sports Club

Ryan has nominated the committee members of Byron Sports Club for all the work they've done for the community over the years.

Davie Milne, Duncan and Karen Stewart and Davie Cowie are all committee members of the club and work hard to ensure the club runs well for the community.

Davie Milne is also a football coach at the club and helps the youngsters.

Ryan said: *"They do so much for the community and we just wanted to say thank you."*



Northfield Community Centre

Jacqui Innes

Well, what can I say, the Board and I were glad to continue to support the community by keeping the foodbank open while it was allowed. We could also help point people in the right direction regarding benefits and counselling services etc.

We couldn't do this without our volunteers and the kind donations we get for the foodbank.

My heart swelled to see local folks, people who grew up in Northfield and local companies donating to our foodbank to help us support local people who need it. We'd like to say a great big thank you to everyone who has helped us.

As Christmas approached and tighter restrictions were in place because of Covid, we wanted to do something for the community, let them know we hadn't forgot our users, young and old. We were lucky to secure some funding to light up the outside. Then, out of the blue, Northfield loon Terry Allan from Tulloch Recruitment sent us Cheryl Donaldson who took us shopping for toys, gifts, sweets and food for hampers.

With the outside of the centre all lit up we went out delivered toys and gifts to the group members. We also did a free outdoor grotto for others and handed out Christmas hampers to those who use the food bank. While we did all this we made sure Covid regulations were followed.

Pathways

Here at Pathways our experienced team of Employment Keyworkers are back working from home again (as of January 21st) but by the time you read this we may be back in the office on a strict rota, one or two days per week. Please check our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/PathwaysAberdeen1A to keep up to date with developments and access tips and short trainings to help you find work.

Bob was one of our clients from your area who asked Pathways for help. Here is Bob's story.

Bob was referred by the Job Centre as he required help with putting together a CV, and with job search. Bob had some good previous work experience but had fallen in with the wrong crowd and became involved in substance abuse which resulted in a custodial sentence and he was now trying to rebuild his life.

I began by explaining that I had worked with people before who had a similar life history, and showed him what was possible, as they had turned their lives around and were now working again. We agreed it was a two way process where I would make applications

for him, but that he had to attend regular appointments and deal with telephone applications.

It started off well but Bob was having problems with his neighbours who would party all night, not allowing Bob to sleep properly which was affecting his health and his ability to focus and follow through. We contacted the housing department who addressed the issue.

Next we addressed his confidence and motivation challenges by showing him what possible, using social proof and reinforcing the positive work history and attitude he had previous to his substance abuse. We agreed weekly goals and we both had action points to go and complete before the next meeting.

From his renewed confidence we started applying for jobs and he got some interviews which led to Bob finding work as a Cleaning Operative. Bob was, "well chuffed" with the help from Pathways!

Contact Pathways at info@pathways-online.org or through our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/PathwaysAberdeen1A

Book Click & Collect

Aberdeen City Libraries will begin the staged reinstatement of services with the introduction of a Click and Collect service at Central, Airyhall, Bridge of Don, Bucksburn, Cove and Tillydrone Libraries.

The Click and Collect service will allow users to reserve items for collection. This is a non-contact service and library buildings remain closed to the public. Collection appointments are available between 10am-1pm (Monday-Saturday) or 2pm-5pm (Monday-Friday).

Appointments can be reserved via the online portal www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/clickandcollect or can be arranged by phone on **01224 652500** during collection hours.

The Home Library Service will also be reinstated, providing reading and audio-visual materials to users who cannot attend the library due to disability, illness or because they are caring for someone. Anybody not currently signed-up for this service who would like to be considered should call **01224 498160** or email HomeLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Need to talk? Talkable is here to help

Chelsea Birkett from Northfield set up Talkable, a listening service for people with anxiety in 2020 after she noticed a gap in the market for this kind of service.

Chelsea used to suffer really badly from anxiety herself and said she was always aware that there wasn't a non-treatment or referral style talk service.

She said: "Sometimes you find you don't want medical stuff; you just want someone to listen. Personally, I've phoned Samaritans in the past and they do a great job, but it felt like it was more for people with more severe mental health issues.

"I wanted to develop something specifically for people who aren't suicidal but are dealing with anxiety or stress."

She added that it was an important service for those who don't have always have a support network of friends and family available to them.

The group started on Friday the 13th of November and so far, has five regular volunteers and is available between 6pm and midnight.

Chelsea said: "We took a gamble with the start date but so far it's going well!"

If you would like to talk to someone you can call **01224 042333**. Talkable also have a Facebook page and can

provide support through messenger chats for those who do not feel ready to talk over the phone.

As the demand for the service increases their opening hours will increase and they will need more volunteers.

Volunteers are provided with training and a pack to help them answer calls.

Look up Talkable on Facebook for more information or email info@talkable.online.

If you are in a crisis and need support right away, please call 111.

DAVE'S QUIZZES

60 SECOND QUIZ

- 1 - What is Scotland's longest freshwater loch?
- 2 - In 1825 John Moir of Aberdeen produced what ?
- 3 - Name the fastest sailing boat ever built in Aberdeen 1868?
- 4 - Which Town has the widest High Street in Scotland?
- 5 - David Dale opened in Rothesay 1779 Scotland's first what?
- 6 - Born in Hawick in 1940, who was first to sail around the world the wrong way?
- 7 - It is said that the reason the Black Isle got its name is because of what?
- 8 - Which is Scotland's Largest County?
- 9 - Europe's Largest Shop is said to be in which Scottish town?
- 10- Scotland's Crown Jewels were hidden from Oliver Cromwell in which church?
- 11- November 1939, Sullom in Shetland was the first place in Britain to have what?
- 12- A blacksmith from Lomnay who went to America in 1700's is the ancestor of which famous U.S. Singer?

MISSING LINK

- 1 Adam's — ? — Pie
- 2 Gold — ? — Pitch
- 3 Mars — ? — None
- 4 Astro — ? — Accountant
- 5 Church — ? — Ego
- 6 Mill — ? — Ground
- 8 Building — ? — Ahead
- 9 Solid — ? — Monkey
- 10 North — ? — Snake

DO THE MATHS >>

$$14 \times 14 + 54 \div 5 \times 20 - 100 \div 3 = ?$$

Daft Wee Jimmy Says Farewell



For a couple of years now, I have had the privilege of writing in this magazine, but the time has come for me to move on to another part of the country. I enjoyed my time in Aberdeen, once I picked up a smattering of Doric. I'm hoping the editorial team will allow me to indulge in a little bit of retrospective musing.

One of the first articles I wrote was about plastic roads. In my enthusiasm, I even wrote to the city and county councils extolling the new technology. Councils already utilising the technology made considerable savings especially when it came to repairing potholes. Said councils were practically unanimous about the benefits, since it removes a lot of plastic waste from landfill sites, and puts a waste product to good use, and saves money in the process. But

perhaps Aberdeen doesn't need to save money.

Becoming a citizen journalist is not exactly a licence to become nosy, you have to be nosy in the first place. For me this is very enjoyable, it's meant that I have met people I wouldn't otherwise meet, exchanged ideas with them, and learned things I wouldn't otherwise have learned. For example, it was a huge privilege to speak with the headteacher of Orchard Brae School, and to see the very specialised approach to teaching in this extremely special school. It was both fascinating and humbling for me to watch the experts at work. Everyone worked as part of a team, teachers, administrative staff, social workers, transport drivers, and all the ancillary workers. I remember thinking at the time that I would love to be capable of doing such work but

knowing I could never achieve such a high level of competence.

Of course, a lot of the news that comes my way doesn't give cause for rejoicing. For the past few years, more and more of our civic amenities are being altered, reduced or destroyed. I have covered the saga of Northfield swimming pool, but it's worth mentioning that there are plans to refurbish it to a high level. Covid 19 has apparently put a considerable spanner in the works; since its closure in spring of 2018, no discernible work has been done on the fabric of the building, although work was due to start last year. It's an ongoing story, and doubtless there will be more twists and turns before the end.

One of the things that delighted me was the realisation that our community centres weren't just buildings that were part of a civic architectural plan. I was astonished at the sheer number and diversity of activities which happen there, and the community centre in Byron Square was a bit of an eye-opener too. Over the course of the pandemic, both places have been vital as hubs for community emergency services, distributing food parcels, hot meals, warm clothing and other necessities. It's the sheer flexibility of the staff at these places, switching from organising dance classes, boxing, preschool nurseries and other activities, to the aforesaid community essentials which is quite jaw dropping.

Another eye-opener for me was the Community Flat at 122 Cummings Park Drive. Again, the diversity of

activities is quite eye-opening, and the indefatigable Mrs Meadows has made the gardens both decorative and productive; you should read her column in this magazine.

Change is something we all have to get used to, and not all of it is welcome. At the time of writing we are struggling through a pandemic of Covid 19, and this has wrought substantial changes to perspectives. It's become unthinkable for most of us to enter a shop without wearing a face mask, we are supposed to keep two metres distance from each other unless we are interacting with our own families.

I want to mention a couple of new buildings which have appeared in the Cummings Park/Northfield area, and which some people might not be aware of. I was surprised to find that construction work was still going forward during the pandemic. A new nursery has been constructed not too far from the site of the pink community centre. It should have opened in November, but due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, this didn't happen. But seems to be a harbinger for a better future.

The other building I want to mention briefly is the hub on Granitehill Road. It was constructed about four years ago at a cost of around £3 million, and hardly anyone knows its function. If it hadn't been for the "doors open" programme a couple of years ago, I would be unable to tell you that it stores some of the city's art collection. Restoration and conservation work is carried out at this facility, and the number and diversity of artefacts is quite astonishing. Theoretically, any member of the public may request the opportunity to view these things, but you have to make an appointment and be specific about what you want to see. Members of the public

are only admitted one day a week, and there are restrictions on what hours are available. Since most people are unaware of the building's function or contents, this can make life a bit difficult if you only want to satisfy your curiosity. Perhaps it would be easier just to go to the city art gallery, bereft as it is of quite a number of its treasures.

So what will I take with me as I head south to the bonny banks of Loch Lomond? 12 years living in the community makes a mark, or rather a collection of impressions, some good, others not so. Northfield is not the most gentrified area of the city, and it has its share of deprivation, neglect and poor administration. Most of the people I have spoken to and befriended over the past 12 years are just people doing their best to get by. Some of them go that extra mile and are bright beacons of hope in a community whose reputation is improving, thanks to various initiatives.

Some time ago, I wrote about the projects of the Denis Law Trust, one of which is Street Sport. It was a privilege to talk to one of the young team leaders, to become infected by her enthusiasm. Bearing in mind that I regard professional football as 22 millionaires chasing a bag of wind up and down the field, was an interesting contrast to see youngsters of both genders enjoying sport for its own sake.

When I moved to Aberdeen, work colleagues thought I was unfortunate to live in Northfield, such was its reputation at the time. The strange thing is that even then, the difference between perception and the actuality was quite notable. It's a fact universally acknowledged (to paraphrase Jane Austen) that the inhabitants of the Granite city have hearts made of the same material.

This is why you should ignore universally acknowledged facts and do your own research.

Before moving to Aberdeen, I lived in Yorkshire. The consensus about Yorkshire people is that they are like Aberdonians with the generosity removed. This is supposed to be ironic, and it is, but not in the way it's meant to be. I'm not saying that Aberdonians and Yorkshire folk are the happy go lucky opposites of their reputations, that would be too much to hope for. The genuine truth, as opposed to the universally acknowledged facts, is that the people of Northfield have given me a lot to think about and write about, and a lot of that is pretty interesting. Anybody as nosy as I am will never go short of interesting topics to talk about and think about, nor will they ever go short of interesting characters to exchange views with in Northfield.

So this is my farewell and thank you; I really do hope and pray that Northfield/ Cummings Park will fare well. Thank you for giving me so much to think about, write about, become exhilarated, excited and exasperated about, and plenty to laugh and cry about. As in every community, there is much for the locals to do about keeping the community together. Places change as time goes on, but only because the community wills it to be so and makes concerted efforts to ensure that the changes are for the better.

**Keep at it Northfield, to
paraphrase Arnold Schwarzenegger,
"I'll be back!"**

Lighting issues in Northfield

As the dark nights have drawn in over the last few months residents of Northfield may have noticed a change in their streetlights.

Local resident and Northfield Community Centre Chairperson, **Jacqui Innes**, noticed this on a walk through the community and brought it up with local councillors.

She said: "I have never felt scared walking around my area in my 60 odd years of living here but these new lights are terrible and you can't see anything."

She invited local councillors to take a walk around the community and experience the new lighting which prompted them to correspond with officers around the issue.

The council responded to councillors explaining that: *"LED lighting offers by far the most efficient light source and uses far less energy than previously whilst still giving a similar output. Where we have*

changed to LED, we have made sure that the new lighting still complies with the requirements of the National Lighting Standards."

We spoke to other residents of Northfield and Cummings Park to get their opinions on the new lighting and here's what they thought.

Linda Duncan said: *"The first lot they put in were great, so nice and bright but now they have changed them and they're so dark now."*

Joyce Ann Lynch added: *"I have written twice to the council about the lights in parts of Provost Fraser Drive and got nowhere. If we go out at night we need a torch. It's like living in the middle of the countryside."*

Donna May from Northfield Community Council stated that the group had been liaising with the council about this previously and they are looking to put together a signed letter regarding this.

Gordon Graham, Local Councillor said: *"As a dog owner I regularly walk streets at night as part of our exercise routine and will monitor the situation in the meantime if people have specific concerns then let me know and I will visit and investigate."*

If you have comments to make about the lighting in the area please get in touch with your local councillors. You can contact them with the following details:

Ciaran McRae
cimcrae@aberdeencity.gov.uk
07500 999617

Gordon Graham
ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk
07736 329751

Jacqui Dunbar
jdunbar@aberdeencity.gov.uk
07733 300570

BYRON BAKERS HAVE HUNG UP THEIR APRONS



After over a decade of serving up fine pieces and great food to the Northfield community Fiona and Ally Rait have taken the decision to take a step back to enjoy their retirement.

Back in 2008 Ally was working at Byron Bakery when the institution went on the market and the couple decided to buy it. Fans of the bakery need not worry though – the bakery has been bought by a small businessman who actually grew up in Northfield so the shop is staying in local hands.

When Fiona and Ally took over Byron Bakery they realised that for it to be a success they would need to do it together so Fiona left her job in the care sector to support the venture.

She said: "I didn't even know the names of the cakes when I first started but I soon got used to it all."

Fast forward 13 years and both the couple and the bakery have become a hugely important part of the Northfield landscape.

Fiona said: "We have loved working in Northfield – it has an amazing community spirit and we have met some great people."

She added: "Our staff have been like an extended family to us and we have done lots to help the community over the years."

They have funded community playschemes and made sure their bag tax is donated to local causes including Orchard Brae School, a cause that Fiona says is close to her heart.

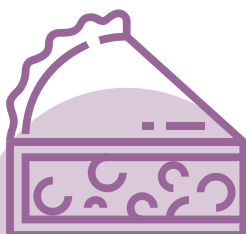
Fiona said: "Friday nights will be strange as that's my favourite shift of the week. I'll have to join the other side of the queue in the future."

In their retirement Ally will be enjoying his golfing and Fiona is planning to spend more time looking after and supporting her son and granddaughter, both of whom have special needs.

Highlights of their career include winning Best Buttery in Scotland in 2017 which was a massive achievement for a small local bakery. They also received a Northfield Local Hero award from the local community work team which was lovely.

Fiona added: "We cannot thank our staff and loyal customers enough, it's been lovely to see you all over the years."

We'd like to wish Fiona and Ally all the best in their retirement.



Covid-19 Impact Survey

Covid-19 has undoubtedly had a significant impact on all our lives. From working from home, wearing a face covering in shops and having to find new ways to connect with friends and family, there is no denying the changes and sacrifices which have been made by everyone in society.

However, a group of people who are often overlooked are people with learning disabilities. The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities has been working with researchers from the University of Glasgow, Manchester Metropolitan University, and the University of Warwick to support their research project into how coronavirus has affected the lives of people with learning disabilities.

They are currently recruiting people for the study where they will be asked

questions about the impact the virus has had, how it has affected their daily lives, their job or volunteering schedules and the services that they receive.

The researchers want to ask their participants these questions three times, once now then again in a few months and again a few months later.

Roseann Maguire, one of the researchers from the University of Glasgow said: *"After each wave we then look at the responses and put them together then write a report about what we found. We then take that report and feed it back to our participants, people and organisations who support those with learning disabilities and the people who make policy."*

We do this to help improve the situation for people with learning disabilities."

Interviews can take place through a method the participant is comfortable with and take between 30 minutes and an hour.

Shmu volunteer, Sandy Stark has taken part in the study and told us that he has really enjoyed it, especially knowing that it will contribute to something that can make change. He added he has also found it interesting to look back on how his answers to the questions have changed as things have changed throughout the pandemic.

If you have or support somebody with learning disabilities and you would like to contribute to the study please email roseann.maguire@glasgow.ac.uk or call 0141 211 3902.

Climate Week North East

After a year marked by a global pandemic and terrible forest fires, climate change is more apparent than ever. Fortunately, this year a chorus of calls for green recovery plans post Covid, have come from all corners of our world, not least in the North East of Scotland. Now, more than ever, we are prepared to change our lives to create a better more caring, sustainable society. Action to help reduce climate change and its effects is going on all around us, at an individual, organisational and local authority level. Climate Week North East is all about showcasing this - what is going on here in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire to tackle climate change and give inspiration on how we can all live sustainably.

In this health crisis, event delivery may have changed to online and outdoors with distancing, but the great breadth and quality of events has not changed. There is still a fantastic lineup of events and activities for you to take part in. You could get your hands muddy at an excellent horticultural event, take in some fresh air and fresh ideas on a guided walk or take part in a fascinating workshop that gives you the necessary knowledge and confidence to make positive changes in your life and community and much more.

Alison Stuart, Director, Aberdeen Climate Action said: *"After the year we have had, a lot of things have come into sharp relief, one is that we need a just green recovery and the second is that we have*

the most amazing communities and when we work together, we can make a real and concrete difference in all our lives. Climate Week North East is about celebrating all the amazing work that is already taking place here to reduce our carbon emissions and also to help everyone understand what steps they can take to live sustainably and create a region we all want to live and work in. As usual there is something for everyone in the programme."

Check out what events are on during Climate week and how you can be involved at www.climateweeknortheast.org.



ACTIVE SCHOOLS IN NORTHFIELD ACADEMY

Sport Aberdeen, have an Active Schools Assistant working with groups for alternative circular time in Northfield Academy. One of these groups (S1 pupils), created and completed a fundraising charity event to bounce the whole school day (the last day of term 18/12/20). They managed to raise £310 for Cash for Kids. Even when they had a number of setbacks due to Covid, they stayed resilient and did a great thing for a great cause.

The group were given an opportunity to create their own class as long as it ticked the doing something physical box. When getting to know me and I them, the idea of doing something for charity came up quickly with one of the young people expressing an annual tradition at home of giving to a charity and the group spent some time positively communicating about doing other charity events in primary school. We discussed and researched local and national charities and made a group decision to support Cash for Kids.

The group decided to bounce for a whole school day as they thought

this would get people's attention and help them raise awareness and funds for the cause. School kids also love a day out of school to do fun things! At the start of the day there was lots of energy and bouncing, as the day went on energy was flagging the team pulled together to help each other out and support each other to keep them going.

Our Jumpers on the day

Mariah (S1) , Alissa (S1), Sara (S1) Xander(S1), Matthew (S5) – Leadership 5th year pupil

Unfortunately both Jessica and Rebecca from S1 missed the jumping day but they were a really important part of the planning and fundraising process and the group wanted to give them a mention.

"I am proud of every member of this group, they had a determination to get an event on even when experiencing setbacks due to Covid restrictions, Their determination stayed high for the right reasons, they inspired me to push on too"

**Kyle Hewitt,
Active Schools Assistant**

Councillor Comments

Hi Folks,

Lets hope that 2021 turns out to be a better year than 2020.

Most projects that we were involved in to improve the area have stalled due to Covid-19. I have helped Cumming Park Community Flat get a fence built that surround their community garden, it took a long time but it does appear it was worth the wait.

There has been a constant stream of issues raised by constituents through the period and I hope that I have managed to find resolution to them. The main issues were related to condition of roads and pavement during the winter and the new streetlights not providing adequate brightness.

With regards to winter maintenance I have had discussions with officers and I am looking for suggestions to improve the winter maintenance plan in May when it is reviewed so I would appreciate any comments that can improve the situation.

One bright note was that I got a new grit bin for the bottom of Springhill Road.

I have also brought people's concerns regarding the brightness of the new streetlights to council officers and they stated that in their opinion the lighting was adequate. As I exercise both myself and my dog at night I will monitor the situation in the meantime if people have specific concerns then lease let me know and I will investigate.

My priorities this year similar to last is to help improve Byron Square, to ensure that the swimming pool and fitness centre get started and get Auchmill Community Woodland started.

**Stay safe,
Gordon Graham
ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk
tel 07736329751**



ABERDEEN'S NEW PUBLIC PARK OPENS IN 1894

Alan Johnstone

On Saturday 9th June 1894 Lord Provost David Stewart opened Aberdeen's Stewart Park and here we look at what the park's attractions could offer with reference to an Aberdeen Journal article from that week.

As a condition of the amalgamation of Woodside into the city, it was insisted that a gift of £500 from Mrs Taylor made several years previously be finally used to provide a playground for children of the burgh, as was her wish. 14 acres of ground on the Hilton estate was secured at a cost of £1,800. The area was very rough, containing three unsightly quarry holes which were a constant menace to the lives of local children. The idea was conceived of transforming these deep holes into tiny lakes, by filling them with earth to leave a water depth of 12 to 16 inches. Burgh surveyors have certainly made the most of the ground at their disposal, keeping in view that it was intended to be not so much a flower garden as a recreation park in which the greater proportion of space would be appropriate for games for both juveniles

and adults, with perhaps a snug grassy plot where ladies might indulge in a game of lawn tennis.

The park may be said to consist of three main divisions – that occupied by the knolls and lakes at the upper end, the Taylor playground and an extensive games plot laid down in grass. A 17 feet-wide carriage drive sweeps from the principal gate at Anderson Drive to the exit at Hilton, with a tastefully laid out flower border. A path branches off from this avenue to the lakes, with a considerable number of seats being provided for the accommodation of visitors. At the north-east corner is a two-acre plot with a central circle of shrubs and trees enclosing a spot on which a fountain might fittingly be erected.

To most visitors one of the main sources of interest will be the lakes. Their natural features have been preserved, but very much enhanced by art, unsightly spots being filled in by rockeries, from which peep evergreen fern, foxglove, ivy, and some of the old whins, sweetbriar and brambles. The two ponds have been stocked with trout, and by and by they

will have the enlivening addition of ducks swimming upon their surface. In one of the hollows in which water once stood art has come to the rescue of nature and an unsightly spot has been transformed into a beautifully-sheltered spot, furnished at one part with a rustic stair. The slopes of the hillocks facing the park will be filled with honeysuckle and ivy. Some old tree stumps will be left standing and poles will eventually be fixed to them from which will be suspended festoons of roses.

All the trees are in a thriving state and there are excellent specimens of the plane tree, the Nobilis pine, beeches, Scotch firs, hollies, bays, laurels, etc. In the borders are many herbaceous plants and when time permits they will all be filled with all the bright-hued flowers which are so charming to the eye and fragrant to the smell. There is a coach-house and stable and tool-house at the west side and it only requires a lodge for the gardener to complete the equipment of a park which in time will prove to be one of the most charming spots in the neighbourhood.

ST VALERY-EN-CAUX

Mike Middleton



In the year 2020 we were not very able to hold ceremonies in public to remember the fallen, much of what we could do was by media and in many ways this would be generalised and cover the main events of both world wars. In doing so we perhaps missed the very local effects of the conflicts to our communities, that is to say how those at home were affected by events.

Our local Regiment and Battalions is the Gordon Highlanders and the losses endured in both wars was felt deeply right across both City and Shire. In fact, if one looks at the battles of Loos and the Somme in the First World War the affects were catastrophic.

In nearer memory there were tragedies that occurred that involved our fathers and grandfathers generations, here in our communities in the North of the city. This included the new schemes of Northfield, Cummings Park, Middlefield, and Logie where some

of the survivors of those conflicts found thier homes and one would hope found some peace.

Our fathers and grandfathers were involved in terrible conflicts and one was a tragedy at St Valery-en- Caux in Normandy where after heavy losses and the evacuation of Dunkirk the 51st Highland Division was ordered to hold a rear-guard action and assist the French. This was Operation Ark, however the odds were not good so instead of getting taken of at Le-Harve they pressed on and threw a cordon around St Valery-en-Caux. A desperate battle ensued around the French port of St Valery-en-Caux and they were encircled by very strong enemy forces who had mechanized artillery and tanks.

Outmaneuvered and low in ammunition, food, and support, attempts were made to "take them off" however due to an inability to leave the line without devastating exposure, the Navy boats that did get in found there was no troops

to take off as they were still in a desperate battle. Further attempts were made but because of bad weather and the fact the enemy had now taken the high ground and cliff tops with heavy guns, getting back in to take them off was now impossible.

The result of this tragedy was that for the next five years the 51st Highland Division troops were held captive in POW camps in Germany and occupied Europe. They were over 10 thousand in number and used as forced labour and treated very badly in many cases. The 1st and 5th Gordon's were part of the Highland Division, so the effect of such losses and defeat were deeply felt at home.

So please remember the threads of yesterday are part of the fabric of today as some of these involved in such conflicts were our Fathers, Grandfathers and members of communities across the North and North East.

Cumming North Returns to the Airwaves

The Cumming North community show will be returning to the airwaves very soon.

Sandy and Jacqui will be pre-recording the show remotely until it is safe for us to return to the building.

As we went into lockdown and many community services had to close their doors and volunteers were stretched trying to reach those most in need, we at shmuFM decided to hit pause on broadcasting specific community shows.

Instead, we launched our Tell Us Information Hours which broadcast information from across Aberdeen that would be of relevance to our target communities.

If you live, work or volunteer in Cummings Park or Northfield and have some information to share or would like to guest on the show then please get in touch. Email laura.young@shmu.org.uk.

Radio SQAs

In 2020 our volunteers were offered the opportunity to complete an NPA in Radio Broadcasting. With a few already started before lockdown we offered the opportunity to other volunteers who wanted to keep themselves busy in lockdown.

With the course now online, the group had to look at other ways to achieve the outcomes and worked really hard to gain new skills.

Each participant was at a different level, so we worked around this by creating radio shows to match shmuFM themed weeks and this proved to be such a success that the group have asked to keep going with this after completion of the course.

We now have Dave Ironside, Natalie Hood and Kevin Morrison finished the course with others very close behind them. We have had a great response for the shows that were broadcast and the group are keen to continue help mentor the next batch of students for the course.

We have been incredibly proud of the achievements of all the group so far and look forward to starting with a new group soon!

Community Magazines

Did you know that shmu produce magazines for other communities in Aberdeen?

Like Cumming North, they are delivered through every door in their community free of charge and we also upload them to our website.

The next editions which will be released this year are the Spring 2021 issues of the Tilly Tattle and Mastrick Matters.

The main stories in the Spring 2021 edition of the Tilly Tattle will look into Earth and Worms, a grass roots community growing initiative and a participatory budgeting scheme which is taking place early this year.

Within the pages of Mastrick Matters you should find information and support services and information regarding mental health and how to stay well during lockdown.

You can view all our magazines online at www.shmu.org.uk/press.

Farewell to Daft Wee Jimmy

After several years volunteering with shmu, both with the Cumming North magazine and shmuFM, Daft Wee Jimmy is leaving Aberdeen so will no longer be able to volunteer with us.

We'd like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication over the years and for always entertaining us with his approach to his articles.

All the best Jim, we're sure you'll do great at whatever you do next!



Arthur Forbes

The Cumming North editorial team felt they couldn't put together this edition without mentioning a very special Northfielder.

Arthur Forbes, who sadly passed away in October last year, was a stalwart of the Northfield community.

From presenting the Aye Gallus show on shmuFM every Monday to his work on the Civic Forum, Fairer Aberdeen Board and the Northfield Locality Partnership, it was clear to everyone how much Arthur cared about his community.

He joined the Aye Gallus team on shmuFM back in 2008 and had been making our Monday mornings more entertaining ever since. Arthur was passionate about ensuring the voices of senior citizens in Aberdeen were represented and was never afraid to call a spade a spade.

A committed representative of the wider Northfield community, Arthur was also part of the Northfield Locality Partnership board.

Fiona Gray, Community Development Manager said: *"We will miss his voice, his views and most especially just miss Arthur. Our groups and committees have all been the better for him being part of them. As several folk have remarked – 'We all need an Arthur.'"*

It wasn't just the older section of his community that Arthur cared about, he was also involved with a project in Northfield Academy which involved working with the pupils to allocate funding for projects that will benefit the community.

Kev Donald, Community Development Officer who supports the group said: "Arthur liked a cup of tea, a biscuit, to tell a story or have a debate. I'll always have fond memories of sitting

with him and groups round a table, exploring an issue or finding a solution to a problem. If he felt strongly about something, he could dig his heels in, and he was not afraid to take on difficult issues or issues that made some feel uncomfortable, but if presented with a solid argument was not afraid to change his mind, learn and adapt.

"Our Committees and Steering Groups were all the better for having Arthur in them and we will miss him, not just from his contributions but from learning from his commitment to helping others."

It is clear that Arthur was a very influential person in the Northfield community and cared deeply about the area and the people in it. He will be sorely missed and we would like to thank him for everything he did for the community.

Community Contacts

Aberdeen City Council Helpline - 0800 0304 713

ALCOHOL

Alcoholics Anonymous - 0800 9177 650

Drinkline - 0300 123 1110

CRIME

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

DRUGS

Alcohol and Drugs Action Helpline

01224 594700 or 07927192706

Narcotics Anonymous

0300 999 1212

DENTIST

Emergency - G-Dens - 111

DOCTORS

NHS 24 Emergency - 111

POLICE

Non-Emergency - 101

ELECTRICITY

If you have a power-cut - 105

GAS

Gas Emergency - 0800 111 999

WATER

Scottish Water Emergency - 0800 0778 778

HOUSING

Emergency Repairs - 03000 200 292

Family Planning - 0345 337 9900

Mental Health Aberdeen - 01224 573892

Breathing Space - 0800 838 587

Samaritans - Need to talk

01224 574 488 or 116 123

SOCIAL WORK

Adult Protection - 0800 731 5520

Joint Child Protection Team

01224 306877 or 0800 731 5520

VSA Carers Support - 01224 358631

Age Scotland - 0800 1244 222

CFINE 01224 596156

Financial Advice at CFINE 01224 531386

Pathways 01224 682 939

Citizens Advice 01224 586255

St Machar Credit Union 01224 276994

Northfield Medical Practice 01224 662911

Woodside Medical Group 01224 492828

Councillor Ciaran McRae 01224 346630

cimcrae@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Graham 01224 523594

ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Jackie Dunbar 01224 522522

jdunbar@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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– MSP for Aberdeen Donside

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Mark.McDonald.msp@parliament.scot

Area MP

Kirsty Blackman

– MP for Aberdeen North

Aberdeen office: 01224 633285

kirsty.blackman.mp@parliament.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

Domestic Abuse is not acceptable. It is not your fault and you are not alone. Domestic Abuse is when you are hurt, bullied or frightened by:

Your husband or wife. Your boyfriend or girlfriend

Your current or ex-partner

Their behaviour can be; controlling, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

Help and support

There are services available to support you, and they are still open. You do not have to wait for an emergency to get help. Tell someone you trust or contact:

Police Scotland

If you are in danger and it is an emergency, call 999. For non-emergencies call 101

National Domestic Abuse Helpline Free and confidential advice. Open to all. 24 hours a day. Telephone: 0800 027 1234. Website: sdafmh.org.uk

Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381. Website: grampian-womens-aid.com

Rape Crisis Grampian Telephone: 01224 590932. Website: rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk