

cumming north

Autumn 2020



In this issue:

SUCCESS FOR LOCAL
MUSICIAN
CUMMINGS PARK FLAT
GREENFERNS
DEVELOPMENT

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Photo: Susie Robertson

Autumn Edition 2020

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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.

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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OUR STAR GROUP AT CUMMINGS PARK COMMUNITY FLAT

Helping each other grow

Alec Thompson-Miller, Director of ACE Voices

On the eve of its third birthday, this article tells the story of our intergenerational STAR Group, and how what began as a simple idea of children and adults helping each other to grow as people, has evolved into a force for good in the local community and beyond. STAR stands for 'Students, Teachers And Residents', and consists of pupils and staff from Heathryburn Primary School and volunteers from Cummings Park Community Flat, led by ACE Voices.

Here are the main elements of what STAR is about in the words of our group:

Safe and peaceful space

Friendship

Being able to talk about our stories and listen to those of others

Having something to look forward to

Different ages bonding

Learning new things

Helping plants grow

Building confidence

Team-work

Good exercise

Fun activities

Sharing food together

Learn how to be patient

We have met every Wednesday afternoon in term-time for the past three years, and it has been such a joy to see how the group has grown in confidence while its foundations of kindness, nurture, play and care for the wider community have grown stronger. In our first year, there were seven children and seven adults involved, and our base, our safe space, was Cummings Park.

Our routine was always the same: walk there; share stories; play Unlucky 13; choose activities from games inside/ outside, arts and crafts and gardening; share snack and walk back. This consistency of routine and rhythm within a nurturing, family-like atmosphere has proved to be crucial to the long-term success of this group, to opening our horizons and hearts towards building community bridges, and to our commitment to help people and other living beings around us.

To date, this collective drive to make a difference has involved regular visits to sing with residents and staff at Kingswood Court Very Sheltered Housing in Mastrick, mentoring a work experience student from Aberdeen Grammar for a year, litter picking around the local area, and tree-planting. Watch this space for news of how we plan to build on these efforts, especially during these current, challenging times.

I would like to end this article with a very special mention of thanks to our incredible friends from Cummings Park Community Flat who have volunteered their time with dedication during the past three years, and who showed up each week wanting to make a positive difference to the lives of our children (18 and counting), which they have achieved in so many beautiful ways. These wonderful people are:

Donna Sim, Pat Lawrence, Frazer Stewart, Janet Calder, Louisa Carroll, Laura Leonard and Manuela Preka.
Thank-you for everything!



Cummings Park Community Flat

During the pandemic the Community Flat has remained closed to the public, however, a member of staff has been available within the premises to offer support to volunteers and community members. People have been contacting the flat via phone calls, video calls, messages and emails and a very socially distanced short one to one visit. This has proved to be useful to people looking to gain information on where to access help, support and vital resources. The staff and volunteers have remained in contact with each other on a daily basis offering advice and mutual support.

It has been a very difficult time for all of us and many people have felt isolated. A phone call or a message to remind an individual that they are not alone may seem like a small ask but it can have the biggest of impacts.

Activities

We had a small donation of stones which community members had painted for us. These stones created a small link between us and the community's younger people as well as brightening up our garden. Some were removed in error. It was such a lovely and generous

gesture by Abbotswell School and ACE Voices to offer to replace some of the stones with their own. We would like to thank Madelene MacSween for highlighting our plight and Mr Millar of ACE Voices who then talked to the parent council of Abbotswell School on our behalf.

Community Gardens

Pat has continued with the upkeep of the gardens. The garden at the corner of Cummings Park Drive and Granitehill Road has flourished into a beautiful space. The plants have a significant value as some were donated by local people. The STAR group, which consisted of a group of young people from Heathryburn school, a school support staff member, Mr Millar from ACE Voices and some of the flat volunteers, planted a tree which will grow and be a constant reminder of the wonderful work done within the group. Two local men have cut our grass for us. Gary did this at the beginning of the lockdown and Mark thereafter. Thank you so much guys. Thank you also to Councillor Gordon Graham and Aberdeen City Council for organising and erecting the fence.

We also thank Moira who has taken the time every week to put out our wheelie bins for collection.

It's the small tasks that we do for each other that makes the difference to each of our lives.

When we do reopen, we hope to provide activities for small groups allowing for social distancing. Some of our groups will take place in outside spaces.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

Cummings Park Community Flat
122 Cummings Park Drive
Aberdeen AB16 7BB
01224 681357
dosim@aberdeencity.gov.uk



DAVE'S PAGE

60 SECOND QUIZ

- 1 Who did the children of Lapland vote as the 1995 Santa of the year?
- 2 On what day of the year was Apple Inc. founded?
- 3 We know it as Meccano - What do the Americans call it?
- 4 In 1923 jockey Frank Hayes won a race but what was unusual about his win?
- 5 Under a black light what colour does a banana glow?

MISSING LINK

- 1 - Yorkshire ---- ? ---- Caddy
- 2 - Global ---- ? ---- Pan
- 3 - Albert ---- ? ---- Service
- 4 - Church ---- ? ---- Trap
- 5 - Highland ---- ? ---- Campbell
- 6 - Outside ---- ? ---- Brigade
- 7 - Dinner ---- ? ---- Mountain
- 8 - Breaking ---- ? ---- Force
- 9 - Jurassic ---- ? ---- Ranger
- 10 - Over ---- ? ---- Rover

DO THE MATHS >>

$$14 \times 8 - 28 + 84 - 76 + 25\% + 15 = ?$$

ANSWERS
Missing Link 1 - Tea 2 - Warming 3 - Memorial 4 - Mouse 5 - Glen 6 - Light 7 - Table 8 - Ground 9 - Park 10 - Land
Quiz Time 1 - Nelson Mandela 2 - April Fools Day 3 - Erector 4 - He had died on the horse 5 - It glows blue
Do The Math 130

Cumming North – Autumn 2020 Policing Update

Unfortunately, since we last updated you with all things policing and Northfield, a lot has changed with the emergence of the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns, as well as what is being described as the “new normal”.

We are very much aware of concerns within the community surrounding the transmission of Covid-19 and would like to thank the vast majority of the local community for their cooperation and support during these times in complying with the guidelines set out by the Scottish Government. We have been actively supporting the community, being visible and where breaches of the guidelines have been identified, we have actively engaged and educated with those involved which has seen by and large, positive reactions.

As we continue to work together through these times, your continued support and compliance with the guidelines is much appreciated and together we can help

fight against the pandemic and keep you and yours safe.

Day to day business for the Northfield Community Policing Team has continued and we have still been responding to your calls and looking at local concerns within the community.

In July, I replaced Sergeant Rob McLean as the Locality Sergeant for the area and with my new team, we have been focussing on local issues through intelligence lead policing and listening to what you, the community, are telling us.

Already in a short space of time we have executed Drug Search Warrants, recovered controlled drugs and money linked to such activity, carried out high visibility patrols in relation to anti-social behaviour and carried out work in relation to road safety within the area, carrying out speed checks and taking appropriate action with identified offences. The engagement we have had thus far in response to the work we

have carried out has been positive and we absolutely depend on the support of the community and those who live in it, as well as other agencies, in our continued efforts to deal with these types of issues within the Northfield area.

In the coming weeks we are looking to continue our work to tackle substance misuse and focus on local anti-social behaviour. It won't be long until we are into the darker evenings and with Bonfire Night just around the corner and then onto the festive period, there are many different things the Locality and Policing Team will be focussing our attention on.

Our work will continue and as a community policing team we will remain visible and accessible within Northfield.

As always, I would encourage you to report any criminality to us either in person, by calling 101 or anonymously by Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

New Premises for Dance United

I was part of the Northfield Community Centre for eight years and obviously due to the pandemic we had to close our doors early March. We thought this would be the perfect opportunity to look into getting our own premises, as we had the free time eventually! We were lucky enough to find somewhere perfect for us, just five minutes along the road from the community centre - a ground floor office which we have completely converted into a dance studio!

It's something we have always dreamed of having: a safe place for youngsters in our area, a place they can call their second home. I have done my best during the pandemic to keep the kids motivated and have done some virtual classes and competitions, however

we can't wait to return to dancing and the kids to see their brand-new surprise studio! We now have unlimited opportunities and will be offering a lot more classes for the children in Northfield and surrounding areas! As soon as we get the go ahead from the government for indoor sport to commence, we will be holding a public viewing day for our new studio! I am forever thankful to Jacqui for always supporting me and backing my dreams. She's been a Dance United fan from the beginning. We will be sad to leave the community centre, but are thankful we will practically be neighbours!

Get in touch with Becca on 07465 984911.





Monies a gaitherin up by Sheddocksley

Mike Middleton

The old Parish of Newhills stretched far and wide and took in the old estate of Sheddocksley.

Today it is sport that brings folk up to the sheds, the fitba being the main game, however cricket and hockey are also played and rugby and shinty used to have pitches too.

Home to Sheddocksley House and Barron's farm of East Mains, now the sight of the sport centre car park, people have been going up there for many generations. However, there was also once a quarry on the site of the hockey pitches and a small croft called Cairn Gully. The quarry takes its name from the croft, this name may derive from an elevated area on the side of a hill, now sliced off by the excavation of the quarry. It was filled in as a municipal tip and closed in the years after the second world war, becoming the summit of Springhill Road in modern times.

It was here at Cairn Gully in the 1600s that a great outdoor conventicle took place, a religious gathering of Presbyterian worshippers in defiance of the government imposing of the

Episcopalian ways of worship and the book of common prayer. Armed guards or lookouts were posted on the fringes of these gatherings to warn of Government troops approaching, however, the people of the area had a reputation for religious tolerance, so it is likely that this passed without incident unlike the severe loss of life in Ayrshire and Northern Galloway.

Many years later, in the 1960s and 70s religious open-air gatherings took place in the summer months up upon the braes o' Sheddocksley. For us bairns orange juice and custard creams were the lure to hear the word, often the orators, were fledgling ministers, laye bretheren and missionaries, home from their evangelical work abroad.

Just across the road is Springhill farm, where in 1960 foot and m,outh disease lead to the culling and internment of over a thousand cattle in a communal trench.

So if you're up that way on the old Parish edge, you'll maybe hear the sound of football being played, or perhaps it's the Psalms you are hearing on the wind?

Westpark School

Return to School

We are delighted to welcome all children back to Westpark School and Nursery this term. It has been a long and very difficult time for many people since the lockdown started way back in March. A huge thank you to all parents who supported their children with learning at home for the whole summer term, and for the supportive messages we received as a school. All staff worked extremely hard to keep all children engaged with learning, no easy task in the circumstances.

The return to school has focussed on learning new rules and routines to reduce the risk of a Covid-19 outbreak at school as well as giving children an opportunity to explore and speak about how they are feeling and how lockdown affected them, as part of their recovery and to build their resilience for any future outbreaks or other upset.

Outdoor learning will be a big part of school life for the immediate future, so we are encouraging children to come to school with clothes to be out in all weathers.

Unfortunately, parents are not allowed in the school building just now and are encouraged to contact the school office with any queries. Telephone: 01224 692323 or E-mail: westpark@aberdeencity.gov.uk

As always we do our very best to provide up to the minute information to parents using our school website westpark.aberdeen.sch.uk/



From Northfield to Nashville

When Arlene Johnson (nee Strachan) started looking for a new hobby she never thought it would lead her to the Hot Disc Country Charts and recording in Nashville.

Arlene grew up in Northfield. She told us that back in the day, her family would have house parties every Saturday night, the neighbours would come round and everyone was welcome. These house parties were where Arlene thinks she got her musical influence from partying to those hits.

Fast forward a few years and Arlene is now talking to me on the phone from her promotion team's office in London after smashing the Hot Disc Country Charts and teaming up with Marty Kristian from the New Seekers.

After her original block of singing lessons, Arlene joined a few choirs and bands as she was having so much fun. As time went on, she teamed up with Doug Stewart, a musician from Dyce and they performed together everywhere from charity events to a cruise ship and Britain's got Talent!

At the start of 2018 Arlene and Doug realised they had different goals, with Doug being more interested in sound engineering and Arlene looking to explore the country music scene more. She went back to her music school and worked with her tutor, Ruby Rendall, to produce a country music EP and then joined Ruby on a tour of the Highlands and Islands. Her EP was picked up by Lee Williams of Country Music Radio after it was sent out to a variety of different stations to see how it would fare.

It turned out the EP would fare really well as she had three songs from the record place on the Hot Disc Country Music Charts. The feedback from the record was that Arlene should move away from covers and start working on original music.

This was where she came into partnership with Marty Kristian from the New Seekers as he had penned a song that was pitched to Arlene to record.

"There are certain songs which just strike a chord with me first time and 'Right Time, Right Place' was one of

them so I took it away and recorded it at my music school," she explained.

Marty then supplied Arlene with another song called Bring the Curtain Down and this song allowed her to follow her dream of recording in Nashville.

"I thought that recording in Nashville was just for important people and not for folk like me, Arlene from Aberdeen but my manager said we could make it happen and he did."

Currently Arlene has three songs in the Hot Disc Country Charts with two of these at the top of the charts.

She said: "It just shows you don't have to be brought up in a fancy house or an affluent area to follow your dreams. You can do it whatever your roots are."

"I've worked hard over the years and I don't know where I'm going to end up but it's been an exciting journey and it all started in Northfield."

If you want to hear Arlene's music you can visit www.arlene.biz



LISTEN



The pandemic from another point of view

Daft Wee Jimmy

During this pandemic, it has been difficult to talk about anything else. Whether you go to mainstream or social media, it dominates conversation. You might think this would give us the opportunity to gauge its overall effect on not just our local community, but the country as a whole. That's what I thought, so I tested this theory when I visited my mother-in-law in the Forest of Dean.

Geographically, that's just on the English side of the Wales/England border, in the Wye Valley. There are several villages and towns scattered throughout the area, and being the nosy person I am, I tried to have as many conversations as possible in as many different locations as I could manage while I was there.

If you thought the confusion generated by various government, council and other authorities was bad in Aberdeen, be thankful you don't live in the south-west of England. It's not that these bodies are any more incompetent than ours, but like here, statistics about local and regional cases vary widely depending on the information source. Sources of public information are either unable or unwilling to fulfil that role accurately. Two people I spoke to told me that Freedom of Information requests to Public Health England in early May had only just been acknowledged

in mid-July. They had been very apologetic, but cited Covid 19 as the excuse for not replying in a timely manner! There is no doubt that many local people are sceptical and have a fundamental distrust of local and national government. (They might not speak the Doric, but they speak the same political language as many Aberdonians!)

So how does that part of south-west of England contrast with this part of north-east Scotland? My impression was that although people grumble about authority, they seem unwilling or unable to do anything about it. Maybe it's the demographic that's an important factor; there are more care homes there than in Aberdeen. The youngsters I spoke to wanted to leave the area as soon as possible, jobs outside agriculture (which are very limited) or the caring profession (desperately needed, and heavily dependent on charities) are hard to come by. Even seasonal work is diminishing, and not just because of the pandemic. The divide between rich and poor is painfully obvious too; according to some of the people who live there, certain parts of the towns and villages are poverty ghettos. Within walking distance of these areas, properties are being sold for as much as £1.5 million.

To illustrate the point that people in the south-west of England know as little about the situation in north-

east Scotland as we do about their situation, I was even asked whether I thought it would be worthwhile for people to emigrate to this part of the world. This question was often asked in a desperate way. Unlike here, it wasn't difficult to find people whose lives had been touched intimately by the pandemic; in the space of five days, I spoke with 20 strangers who had lost close family to Covid 19.

I know that this pandemic is extremely serious, and that's how I treat it. What people cannot take seriously, here as elsewhere, is the headless chicken approach to dealing with it. It's understandable; in this country the only comparable crisis was the Spanish flu of a century ago. Other countries have had to deal with serious epidemics of SARS, bird flu, and various other nasties; it's why those countries have dealt with the pandemic so much better than the UK

As for the imposition of local restrictions, Aberdonians will deal with this in their own way. There is a small but significant reduction of space on mainstream and social media given to Covid 19. Other significant issues, both local and national are being given a bit more oxygen. Life may not go back to the way it was, but that might be no bad thing. It depends how well we use the opportunity to rethink our priorities in future.



LOCAL TEENAGERS STEP UP IN AID OF HELPING DISABLED ADULTS

Covid-19 has had a damaging effect on the whole of society, however it's not all doom and gloom!

Two local teenagers, who are lifelong friends, have stepped forward to help support their local community, particularly those that are physically disabled!

Ryan Bannerman (14) from Northfield, currently doing his Saltire Awards, volunteers his time for local charity Future Choices. Future Choices provides social inclusion and recreational activities, however due to the current pandemic, the charities activities are currently suspended.

Ryan said: "Helping the most vulnerable is a really good feeling."

Lucas Mackenzie (13) from Tillydrone is also doing his Saltire Awards and volunteers his time with Future Choices.

Lucas added: "I'm so excited to help the most in need during this tough time."

For both teenagers, the challenges of going back to a new school routine and academic year is a hurdle in itself so trying to help the community via an online fundraiser is very commendable.

Both Ryan and Lucas have learnt a great deal by doing their Saltire Awards and take pride in the community work they both do.

They hope that with them doing this appeal, it'll raise much needed funds and inspire other young people to volunteer.

The funds they hope to raise will help to provide vital support to help those most vulnerable adults post Covid-19, and to help engage them in social inclusion by breaking down the social isolation barriers, they have had to endure since March

You can check out their special film and view their Crowdfunding page at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/help-support-ryan-and-lucas

Councillor Comments

Hi folks,

It is great to see that after their hard work Cummings Park Community Flat finally have a new fence round the new community garden. It was concerning that all their hard work was being put a risk by some selfish individuals who crossed the area by foot and on bikes and damaged their plants. I was glad to assist as they are doing a great job in the community garden and the local area.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant effect locally with local services such as hairdressers, bakery and our local pubs and clubs all suffering. It is also affecting people who operate businesses from home and I am trying to help these people. I am disappointed that I can't go along and have a chat with residents at the Community Councils and residents' groups, hopefully by the time you read this things will be back to as normal as possible.

Stay safe and hopefully I will see everyone soon.

Gordon Graham

**Councillor For Northfield
and Mastrick North.**

07736329751

A92/A96 Haudagain Improvement Project

Since our last update, the project, like the rest of the world has been impacted by the global Covid-19 pandemic. However, the temporary site closure was removed in June and we are pleased that work has now recommenced on site in line with Scottish Government guidelines. As part of a safe return to work we have revised our health and safety plans and safe operating procedures, which include putting in place measures to facilitate strict adherence to personal hygiene and physical distancing rules.

The safety of the community in which we work in remains a key priority and we ask for your continued cooperation in respecting physical distancing rules to safeguard the health of all our site staff, external delivery partners and that of the community in which we operate.

We also ask that parents speak with their children about the dangers of playing in and around construction sites. We understand that construction sites can appear

exciting for curious young minds, but we would like to reinforce our message to children to Play Safe, Stay Safe and refrain from entering the site.

In relation to progress of the works, prior to the temporary closure and since the beginning of this year the team have continued to work on diverting a variety of utilities and made good progress with earthworks and drainage operations. Logie Terrace and Manor Terrace have now been permanently closed; allowing progress of the construction work to realign Manor Avenue, which will connect to the new link road.

We continue to have site staff working very close to live traffic and would ask you to be mindful of this while you are driving adjacent to the work.

We will keep the community informed, particularly those directly affected by the work, via letter drops and newsletters as work progresses. Information will also be displayed on the three information notice boards around

the area which are situated in the following locations:

The Hub, Manor Avenue, Aberdeen AB16 7UR

Outside Manor Park School, 2 Danestone Circle, Aberdeen AB16 7YB

Mastrick Access Point, Spey Road, Aberdeen AB16 6SH

The project also benefits from a dedicated community liaison officer, Angela Newlands, who is happy to respond to any queries relating to the construction of the project as it progresses.

If you have any matters you wish to raise concerning the project, please contact Angela at haudagain@farrans.com or telephone 0800 783 0024.

Once again, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community and road users, for their patience and cooperation during construction and to let you know that our aim, as always is to minimise disruption as much as possible. Please stay safe.

Northfield Community Centre

In the gloom there is some brightness. Just before the pandemic Aberdeen City Council came and ripped out the park next to the centre. This meant a lot of poor kids and angry parents. However, in July workmen came and built a new park and the kids love it. It's great for climbing, there are swings with facilities for children with physical disabilities.

As the pandemic went on it became obvious that there was

a growing need for the Northfield Community Centre Foodbank to open. We got together, made a plan and thank to help and donations from CFINE, Bookers, Sheddocksley Baptist Church, Paterson Butcher, Lintmill Store and other centres and most importantly you, the public we managed to reopen. We got volunteers together and helped set up the front and opened the food bank. It is open on Wednesday for

donations and Thursday to pick up food from 10am.

For more information call the centre on 01224 695416.



GREENFERNS

For the last ten years, there have been proposals to build over 1,000 houses on the Greenferns area behind Northfield, Sheddocksley, Kingswells and Bucksburn.

Northfield resident, Susie Robertson, has started a petition to object to the proposals and help get the word out to the local community.

Presently Aberdeen City Council are reviewing the available information and undertaking key early surveys.

A spokesperson for the council said: *“Once we have sufficient detail and information on the proposed development a planning application will be lodged where the public will have an opportunity to review the proposals and comment accordingly.”*

Susie and other residents object to the proposals for a number of reasons.

Susie said: *“What concerns me is that I worry there isn’t a need for the type of houses they want to build. Who will*

be able to afford these houses? It says 25% of the houses will be affordable but in Aberdeen that isn’t always that affordable.”

However, an Aberdeen City Council spokesperson said: *“Affordable housing is a key consideration and a minimum target of 25% provision has been set for all areas of the city as per the Scottish Government Planning Advice Note.”*

They also have concerns about the increased traffic the development will bring to the area. The developers have said they will build a slip road to offset the increased traffic.

However, Susie argues that: *“Between Davidson Drive and Springhill Road the traffic is a nightmare, and I don’t see how the roads will cope without having to destroy the landscape.”*

Aberdeen City Council’s spokesperson said: *“In terms of the traffic monitoring that was raised, no specific traffic*

monitoring for this development has taken place recently. However, there will be a requirement in the near future for traffic assessments to be undertaken. Discussions are ongoing to ensure these assessments provide a true reflection of traffic volumes. As part of this process we will ensure that an appropriately qualified specialist will be employed to undertake this task. Historical transport survey data is also available for the area and this will be used to supplement the future surveys.”

The residents also have concerns about the wildlife who thrive on Greenferns.

Susie added: *“I’ve grown up here all my life, the proposed site was my playground and I want to keep it like that for other kids or at least take it into the Bucksburn Nature reserve. We have a decreasing amount of green space and Covid has shown folk how grateful we should be to have green space and need it more than ever.”*



Volunteers receive award which is equivalent to an MBE

shmu has been honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK - the equivalent to an MBE.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service recognises outstanding work done by volunteer groups in their local communities and was established in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

We support over 200 volunteers on a weekly basis, and our CEO Murray Dawson said "It's an incredible honour for our organisation to have secured the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. We just wouldn't exist without our amazing volunteers and everyone has played a part in our story over the last 20 years. Absolutely fantastic news."

Our Volunteer Coordinator Tracy Ewing summed up the importance of our volunteers by adding:

"We're incredibly lucky to have so many talented and committed volunteers at shmu, with almost 100 volunteers still volunteering and rising to the challenge during COVID-19. Whether writing articles for community magazines, recording radio shows, participating in our Tell Us campaign, or supporting other volunteers with technical queries our volunteer community has never been stronger. I'm proud to support and be part of such a loyal and creative team who are very deserving of such a huge award."

The commitment and dedication of the staff and volunteers was also praised by Trustee and volunteer Abeer Eladany who said they have a "profoundly positive impact on the wider local communities", and that she was "thrilled that they have been recognised with this prestigious award as shmu always inspires, motivates and holds the cultural banner across the region".

Finally, our Chair Jillian Evans paid tribute to the volunteers who "make SHMU one of Aberdeen's most valuable assets. Their energy, enthusiasm and

commitment to support local communities says a lot about who they are, and the vital part they play in our great big shmu family".

Representatives of shmu will receive the award from Barney Crockett, Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeen later this summer, with two volunteers from shmu being invited to a garden party at Holyroodhouse in July 2021, along with other recipients of this year's award.



Northfield Swimming Pool

Daft Wee Jimmy

Do you believe that this project might be affected by Covid 19? Sport Aberdeen want to reassure you, and to quote from their website, "You might be wondering if the Coronavirus pandemic will affect the refurbishment of the pool. We hope that it won't. The work which needs to be done before we reach the construction phase will keep going, and we still hope to start work onsite in early autumn 2020. We will do all that we can to keep the momentum going over the coming weeks and months."

It will be remembered that this facility was closed in March 2018, since when the only obvious work has been routine grounds maintenance. Another quote from Sport Aberdeen's website reads, "The planning application was conditionally approved by the local planning authority for the Northfield Swimming Pool refurbishment and

extension on 13 July 2020." (Two years and four months after closure.) Again, to quote from their website, "The newly upgraded and extended Northfield Swimming Pool will include a 60-station gym, a multipurpose studio, group and family changing, new flooring and retiling, the replacement of fixture and fittings and new suspended ceilings, as well as additional car and cycle parking. The pool is expected to reopen in autumn 2021."

Over the past four weeks I have made several phone calls to Sport Aberdeen to try and apprise them of this, but probably due to the coronavirus, I could elicit no response. At the time of going to press, there is some hope that sports venues will gradually be reopened, but people in Northfield will have to wait a while longer, approximately six months more than was originally estimated.

New Nursery on Cummings Park Crescent

Daft Wee Jimmy

To be fair, this pandemic has adversely affected construction projects everywhere in the world. (The almost lightning fast construction of the Nightingale hospitals are obvious exceptions to the rule.) It is encouraging to note, despite the pandemic that other planned construction work has resumed in the area.

I spoke with some of the construction workers before the restrictions were imposed, about six months ago. This new nursery had obviously gone through all the planning procedures some time

ago and works started in November last year. The pandemic restrictions came into force around mid-March, and work wasn't resumed until the last week of July or thereabouts. Quite a lot has been achieved since then if the enclosed pictures are anything to go by, and my thanks to the friendly construction worker who kindly took these photos on my behalf.

We all look forward to seeing the completion, probably in November if no more restrictions are applied in the meantime.



A message from your Minister

Scott Guy

After 22 happy years serving as Minister of Northfield, I will be retiring in November.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and it has been a wonderful privilege to serve the people of Northfield over the years.

I have particularly enjoyed being involved in the local schools and getting to know those in our community.

Thank you for your friendship, encouragement and support and I wish you all the best for the future.

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

Area MSP

Mark McDonald

– MSP for Aberdeen Donside

Aberdeen office: 01224 789 457

Mark.McDonald.msp@parliament.scot

Area MP

Kirsty Blackman

– MP for Aberdeen North

Aberdeen office: 01224 633285

kirsty.blackman.mp@parliament.gov.uk

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: sdfmh.org.uk

Grampian Women's Aid

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

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