

cumming north

Autumn 2021



In this issue:

NORTHFIELD PARISH
CHURCH MEMORIES
NORTHFIELD POOL
LOCAL HISTORY

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Autumn 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 about Northfield Swimming Pool, the proposed closure of the Byron Square Post Office and your local community facilities.

We also have some really interesting local history pieces.

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.



Supported by





A contract has been awarded for £4.8 million revamp at Northfield Swimming Pool

CHAP Group has been appointed by Aberdeen City Council (ACC) to carry out the £4.8 million refurbishment of Northfield Swimming Pool following a competitive tendering exercise. The work is being funded by ACC with significant support from Sport Aberdeen, which operates the city's leisure venues, as well as from Sport Scotland.

The pool closed due to equipment failures and as part of the contract significant elements of the mechanical and electrical plant will be replaced along with fixtures and fittings. In addition, the new facility will include:

- **A larger, fully accessible changing village;**
- **Group changing and family changing;**
- **40-station fitness suite;**
- **Multi-purpose studio;**
- **Dry changing facilities;**
- **Clinical suites for use by NHS Grampian;**
- **Additional car and cycle parking.**

The pool is expected to open in summer 2022. The site is next to a recently completed third generation 3G artificial turf pitch at Northfield Academy, and a sports centre comprising bowling greens and tennis courts. Part of the project will involve landscaping to connect these facilities.



Post Office Closures Hit Community

An announcement in June has revealed that Spar are planning to get rid of five Post Office counters in Aberdeen, including the Post Office counter based in their shop at Byron Square.

Spar claim that this is one of the loss making counters in the city and by closing these counters it will help ensure stores can continue to operate.

However, community members are not happy about this decision and have called for a rethink.

Aberdeen North MP, Kirsty Blackman said: *"This is completely unacceptable. The lack of accountability and responsibility by Post Office is something worse than I've seen from any organisation, other than banks. The Post Office should be considered a vital public service. Again, like banks. We should not be seeing Post Office closures, particularly in some of the most deprived communities in Aberdeen. I support the communities who are seeking to retain these services in their communities."*

The counters will close later this year, however, Aberdeen South MP Stephen Flynn has been in talks with representatives from the Post Office to try and find new locations for some of the branches that are under threat of closure.

For residents of Middlefield and Heathryfold your other nearest Post Office counters are:

MIDDLEFIELD POST OFFICE
832-827 Great Northern Road
AB24 2BR

CUMMINGS PARK POST OFFICE
29-31 Moir Crescent
AB16 7DB

JOHN: *"I'm not happy with their decision as a lot of people depend on their local post office and they spend money in the shop at the same time so Spar might be sorry for their decision."*

NICKY: *"They closed Mastrick Post Office and now Byron? Utterly ridiculous. Many people rely on the post office for cashing their pension and benefits, not to mention parcels, postage and banking. People will suffer."*

JACQUI: *"I've spoken to local councillor and was told not sure what can be done. There has been no public consultation at all. It seems Northfield isn't the only area affected. Cummings Park, Middlefield and Heathryfold are all affected."*



**POST
OFFICE**

Gayle: “I’m disabled so unable to go a distance for a post office. This post office is always busy so I don’t agree with their decision at all.”

News from Aberdeen City Libraries

Northfield Library is closed at present. The nearest libraries for the Cumming North area are Mastrick and Woodside. Current opening hours and contact numbers are:

**Mastrick: Monday to Friday
10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm,
Saturday 9am-1pm
(01224 788558)**

**Woodside: Monday and Thursday
10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm,
Wednesday 2pm-5pm
(01224 484534)**

We are always delighted to meet new faces. For more information on how to become a member, please visit www.aberdeency.gov.uk/ library, or contact an open library.

If you are unable to visit the library due to disability, illness, shielding or caring responsibilities, the Home Library Service is available for monthly deliveries to your home.

We are also offering one-hour appointments for PC access. These slots can be booked online via Netloan or by calling one of the

open libraries. We offer printing services and have photocopying and scanning facilities.

Appointments can be made to visit the Central Library for research purposes. **Complete the online Research Appointment Form or call 01224 652500.**

We also offer a large range of online services which can be accessed via your computer or mobile device. For more information, please visit our website: www.aberdeency.gov.uk/library.

DAVE'S QUIZZES

EASY QUIZ

- 1 - Who invented the telephone?
- 2 - It was supposed to be unsinkable but which ship sank in 1912?
- 3 - While in a cave who watched a spider try and try again until it was successful?
- 4 - Which singer had a hit with The Last Waltz?
- 5 - In which British city would find New Street Station?
- 6 - Name the famous Scottish leader killed at the Battle of Killiecrankie?
- 7 - Which granite building is the world's second largest?
- 8 - Sir Humphrey Davey invented what to help the miners?
- 9 - The Tay Bridge crosses what expanse of water?
- 10 - In which Midlands city would you find two cathedrals (one ruined and one new) connected?

MISSING LINK

- 1 - Tram — ? — Rally
- 2 - Axminster — ? — Cleaner
- 3 - Moneymaker — ? — Puree
- 4 - Card — ? — Finger
- 5 - Clan — ? — Bonnet
- 6 - War — ? — Parrade
- 7 - Piccadilly — ? — Clowns
- 8 - Run — ? — Asleep
- 9 - Jason — ? — peal
- 10 - French — ? — Apple

MENTAL MATHS>>

$$106 \times 3 = 48 \div 3 + 60 - 100 \times 5 =$$



WILMA COLLIE

What is E Consult?

It's a phrase which has come into the public domain recently. This is something which is being promoted by a lot of health boards as THE way to access medical help. This is a service which a surgery can sign up to and as things continue to change on so many fronts this looks like the way forward.

So, what is it? If you have used it, have you liked it? It does of course need access to the Internet even if it's on a phone. I use it all the time and wouldn't want to go back to the old booking an appointment system. This is my experience. I needed some advice after being diagnosed with a health problem and I logged on to my surgery's website. After security questions to establish my identity and to make sure I was a patient of that practice I then had a selection of topics to choose from. I clicked on the advice on an ongoing health problem section which then asked me for more details. This is a good bit as I can take my time and go

over my answers and change anything I don't like. Seeing a doctor face to face it's not always easy to remember what you want to say. Then I was asked if I had done anything to help myself, taken any over the counter remedies for instance. I would then be asked what medical person I want help from. Sometimes a nurse will do at other times a doctor is needed. You then get a chance to look over all your statements and change anything you need to. At the end you are told the information you have given will be passed to your surgery and you will be called the next day.

I have always been called the very next day and my problem has been resolved.

It may seem a strange way to access help for a medical problem but it is only one way and phoning the surgery is still an option but the E Consult is new and exciting and is worth a try.

Pathways in Cummings Park and Northfield

Our number one goal at Pathways as a client focused organisation is to offer one to one support and to help you find suitable sustainable employment. Through our knowledge and experience at Pathways will support you with completing online applications, interview techniques and identifying suitable training opportunities. Working with Pathways will enable you improve your skills, ability and competence leading you to gain employment.

Pathways has successfully helped over forty-one people back in to work so far this year and as the sectors open fully, we hope to help more. One client has successfully found a job after being made redundant and surviving lockdown. He thought he would never get a job due to the number of applicants applying for each position but as lockdown eased, he was successfully employed full time as a Steward and said: *"It was Pathways CV that got me the job, I just can't thank you enough for the support I got from Pathways."*

Pathways is open for business and are resuming face to face appointments with clients in the **Cummings Park and Northfield areas beginning August 2021, 10am– 12pm at Northfield and 1pm – 4pm on Thursdays for Cummings Park Flat.**

Initially Pathways will see clients face to face by appointment only so if you would like an appointment.

Please call **01224 682939** and ask for **Claudia Karl** for Northfield or email **c.karl@pathways-online.org**

Please call **01224 682939** and ask for **Theresa Mackay** for the Cummings Park Community Flat or email **t.mackay@pathways-online.org**

Alternatively contact us through our Facebook Page **www.facebook.com/PathwaysAberdeenA1**



NORTHFIELD PARISH CHURCH

After Northfield Parish Church closed last year the Cumming North editorial team were contacted by one of the congregation asking if we could share some stories of the church from years gone by.



GREAT MEMORIES

I was lucky growing up in Northfield where the church was a big part of my childhood - within the community there was always something going on for the kids with Sunday School picnics in the summer and Christmas Party in Winter.

Sunday school is my earliest memory of the church, and the awe I felt walking into the main church with its high ceiling and huge organ pipes on the wall high above us on the balcony. I joined the Brownies along with my friends and then the Girl Guides, it

was great fun, we learned so much by playing games and through the practical skills involved to gain a badge for special tasks. I hope they still give out badges in the Guides, I still have mine!

A big shout out to Mrs Low, she was the best Guide Leader and took us to summer camp every year, that must have been hard work! The Guide camp was just outside Fettercairn with old canvas tents, they smelled musty but were rainproof and cosy. There were the usual Boy Scouts and Boys

Brigade there at the same time and there was a lot of rivalry between us all - anything they could do we would do better! I remember one year at the camp coming back after a walk and the Scouts had attached some knickers to our flagpole, I laughed so much, until I realised they were my knickers!

Great times, and huge thanks to all those involved with Northfield Parish Church over the years who have supported activities for others; it has meant a lot to many people.

THE BEST CAKES

When I think about the church the first things that come to mind are the Strawberry Fair and Sales of Work. The Strawberry Fayre was brilliant, so many fine cakes and biscuits for sale in the church hall, all with strawberries, along with a cuppa served by cheery wifies. It was a good chance to sit and blether with my pals and have a fine piece at a good price. I think the funds all went to the church so that was my good deed for the day but not so good for my waistline!

The Sales of Work were on a Saturday and had all sorts for sale, from the cute knitted kids' clothes and plants to the best Scottish tablet ever,

and I always won a wee prize in the raffle. As well as raffles there were games for the kids – one time there was even a game to throw a wet sponge at the Minister in the stocks!! There were always heaps of people looking for a bargain or just a great way to pass a Saturday morning, I got a few pairs of really good curtains and dinner sets. There were teas and coffees and always the best cakes baked by the Women's Guild, and melt-in-the-mouth shortbread (I never did get that recipe for Joey's shortbread!) The Church may be moving but the good memories will always be with me.

POEM

*Church bells on a Sunday telling me I'm late
Minister on the pulpit, money on a plate
Clubs and learning for young and old
Listening to stories the Minister told.
Strawberry fayre, orchestra, Girl Guides, Scouts
These are the things the Church was about
Bringing us together in more ways than one
When we look back, we had so much fun.
It's now time to look forward and let go
of the past....
Our Church is merging with not one but two
Creating a new Church with a different view
Our hearts are happy as we'll still be together
A bigger Church family forever and ever.*

CHURCH THROUGH THE YEARS

Wow, who knew the Queen Mother visited Northfield Church? She came to the Church during her visit to Aberdeen to open Provost Skene's House in 1953. The original church in Northfield was part of the municipal housing scheme built during the 1940s and 50s and had seating capacity for 500. The congregation grew as Northfield community expanded and the main Church as we know it now was added in the early 60's. Did you ever visit the church?

Did you know the organ was bought for £320 from a private house in the Borders and built as an integral part of the new church – it's high on the balcony and the sound was amazing. The bell that used to ring out on a Sunday morning was originally in a country church in Tarves, (I always

wanted to try ringing that bell but I never got the chance!).

Does anyone remember the Sunday School picnics? They were organised by the Congregational Board and at their peak they catered for over 1,000 kids and families on a Saturday outing by 2 special trains from Kittybrewster Station to Kintore (that's going back a bit) - were you one of the kids on that outing?

The original church became the church hall and was used by the local youth groups as well as Sunday School worship and small gatherings – it had a stage and used to host a Christmas play each year as well as concerts from the Church orchestra. Fine cakes and sticky buns were always served afterwards - thanks to the Women's Guild. Good times had by all.

EARLY DATES OF INTEREST

30th Sept. 1951	Induction of Rev. Duncan Bruce as Minister of Northfield held in Middlefield Church
15th Oct. 1951	First Session Meeting, 5 Assessor Elders present, including Dr. Twort who later presented the Communion Cup and mending Pains.
October 1951	Assessors were provided by Bucksburn and Melville congregations. Also saw the start of the Youth work, Life Boys, Boys Brigade and Guildry, and the commencement of the Sunday Schools. Sunday Schools were held in Marchburn, Cumming's Park and later Wessborough Schools. Later still in the Community Centre and the Church.
14th Jan. 1952	Saw the first names on the Communion Roll
February 1952	The Hut Church was dedicated
August 1952	The Hut Church Foundation Stone was laid
27th April 1952	First Communion in the Hut
28th April 1952	Formation of Congregational Board
4th Oct. 1953	First Members of the Congregation appointed to Session (7 in number)
September 1953	QUEEN MOTHER VISITED THE HALL CHURCH
6th Dec. 1953	Opening and Dedication of Hall Church (cost £16,200)
4th Dec. 1954	The late Rev. Prof. Graham was the Provost at that time
24th May 1961	Start of Northfield Church Choir
17th Nov. 1963	GRANTING OF FULL STATUS BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
6th Sept. 1964	Laying of Foundation Stone of new Church
	Opening and Dedication of same.
	N.B. Contrary to the lettering on the Foundation Stone, Mrs Graham performed the ceremony, deputising for her husband who was seriously ill.

MINISTERS OF NORTHFIELD PARISH CHURCH

Rev. Duncan Bruce	Inducted	30.9.51
Rev. Ross Flockhart	"	24.9.58
Rev. Robert Carnoust	"	29.1.64
Rev. William Whitson	"	5.12.68
Rev. James Scott	"	8.6.73

MISCELLANEOUS

* Seating Capacity of Present Sanctuary is 500

of Hall Church was 320 (including overflow in present lounge)

of Hut Church was 80-90

- * At their peak Sunday School Picnics (really Congregational Picnics, organised and run by the Congregational Board) catered for 2,000 on 2 Saturdays. Transport by 2 special trains from Kittybrewster Station to Kintore.
- * The Organ was bought for £320 from a private house in the Borders and built as an integral part of the new building. (Originally built in 1936 for the daughter of the house but seldom used).
- * The bell was originally in a country Church in Tarves (now defunct)
- * The metal cross on the steeple was taken from the Chancel of the Hall Church
- * The Twort Cup, described as of solid beaten silver - the stem adorned with six amethysts - with mending Pains, was dedicated at Communion on 8th October 1961.
- * The first edition of the Community Newspaper "Northfield News" was published in February 1974

May
COMMUNION



NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Northfield Community Centre has just finished an amazing fun filled summer, with over four weeks of free activities for children in our community.

"Northfield Summer Play Days" was the name of our initiative, fully funded by Fairer Aberdeen Fund and Aberdeen City Council's "Summer of Play."

Our "Summer Play Days" were so successful, that we hope to create similar events during the October Holidays!

We are now delighted to welcome back some of our advice and support agencies, and some of our popular centre groups are also back, including the P1-P7 Thursday Kids Club, Lego Club, Art Group and our afternoon Bingo. We are also looking forward to starting our fortnightly Friday Night Discos for the kids

Please see below when our advice and support agencies are available at the Centre:

Pathways / Job Advisers - every Wednesday from 10am

Credit Union - every Thursday from 9:30am - 10am.

Aberdeen Drug and Alcohol Awareness Team - every Wednesday from 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Northfield Food Bank - Every Thursday from 10am - 12 midday

Our Centre run groups will restart at the Centre from 24th August onwards, please see below:

Lego Club for P1 to P7s - restarts on Tuesday 24th August 2021, 5pm - 6pm (then every Tuesday, during term time.)

P1- P7 Thursday Kids Club - restarts on Thursday 26th August 2021, 5.30pm - 7pm (then every Thursday, during term time.)

Afternoon Bingo - start date (TBC), 1:30pm - 3:30pm (then every Wednesday, thereafter.)

Wednesday Soup and Sandwich - start date (TBC), 12 midday - 1:30pm

(then every Wednesday, thereafter.)

We are also excited to welcome back the return of our popular let's!

Byron Boxing Club - for more details, availability and opening times etc, go to @ByronBoxingClub on Facebook.

Rainbows and Brownies, every Wednesday, during term time.

We also have various rooms available for affordable hire, including our spacious hall.

There are many ways to get in touch with the Centre for direct enquires! Please see below for best contact details:

Telephone: 01224 695416

E-Mail: admin@northfieldcommunitycentremc.org

Facebook Messenger: @NorthfieldCommunityCentre

Or why not pop in past the centre, during opening times!

HEALTHY START VOUCHERS

Healthy Start vouchers have been replaced by Best Start Foods which is a smart card that be used in supermarkets and smaller shops to buy:-

Plain cow's milk

Fresh, frozen or tinned fruit and vegetables

Fresh or dried pulses like lentils, beans, peas and barley

Fresh eggs

First infant formula

The card is used in the same way as a contactless bank card and you will have your own PIN number which will allow you to check your balance at cash machines or online.

Receipt of this grant does NOT affect Universal Credit or any other benefits.

Applications for Best Start can be made as soon as you know you are pregnant up until your child's 3rd birthday AND if you get:

Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or

Child tax credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit, Housing Benefit,

Pension Credit, Women under 18 qualify regardless of income.

Pregnant mums will receive £4.25 per week (£17.00 paid into the card every 4 weeks)

Children under 1 year get £8.50 per week (£34.00 paid into the card every 4 weeks)

Children aged 1 – 3 years get £4.25 per week (£17.00 paid into the card every 4 weeks)

You can apply by calling this free number – 0800 182 2222 – and the application can be made over the phone

Or by visiting mygov.scot to apply online

When you apply for the Best Start Foods Card Social Security Scotland will also check if you are eligible for the Best Start Grant package of 3 payments to parents and carers during the early years of a child's life.

For more information about Best Start Food and Grant visit **www.socialsecurity.gov.scot**

For information about healthy eating on a budget visit **www.confidence2cook.co.uk**

Cummings Park Flat

As restrictions ease Cummings Park Community Flat has activities on offer.

Monday is open for volunteers only.

Tuesday is appointment based helping people with online issues such as access to their universal credit accounts and forms etc. and general support and use of the phones.

We have an art group on Tuesday morning (capacity full).

We have computer support for people on a Thursday morning (must be booked in advance by calling our landline).

Thursday afternoon allows for appointment only Pathways support.

The knitting group is on a Friday but again, this is full to covid capacity.

Meet in the park is offered on a Monday or Friday depending on the weather and demand.

There are opportunities to help in the garden is ongoing throughout the week.

For more information or to book an appointment call the team on 01224 681357

Cummings Park Centre

Currently Manor Park is used as a Fit Like Hub and Cummings Park Centre is only open for the Cubby once a fortnight.

If you need support in accessing food and would like to use the Cubby call 01224 694060.

A Holiday Weekend At The Carnivals

ALAN JOHNSTONE

Despite unsettled weather, Aberdonians enjoyed the 1929 May holiday weekend, with a wide range of carnival attractions at Kittybrewster and The Beach. Prominent in these was the new scenic railway, which ran for almost half a mile, rising steeply from the ground platform to a height of 63 feet. Clustered around the railway were various other amusements with names such as "coster rides", "bumble bug", "the caterpillar" and "the whirlwind". The Aberdeen Press and Journal of 6th May reported on the fun and excitement:

"Huge crowds assembled at the Beach on Saturday, when the scenic railway and other amusements were opened to the public, and at the Central Park, Kittybrewster, where there were also entertainments in plenty. The chief attraction was the scenic railway, which, with the other amusements provided Mr J. H. Iles, the Town Council's lessee, were opened to the public for the first time. It was only fitting that Lord Provost Lewis and representatives of the Council should have been present at the launching of this new enterprise, and been the first to experience the thrills of the scenic railway. The Lord Provost and Mr Iles occupied the front seat of the car that made the first run over the railway, while behind were Baillie Carry, Mr T. F. Henderson, burgh surveyor; and Mr Johnston, agent for Mr Iles. Throughout the day the railway was well patronised, but it was in

the evening that the real business began. So great an attraction was it proving that queues of people, young and old, of both sexes were waiting at the barrier.

It was amusing to watch how they enjoyed their exhilarating experience. While the men folks, clinging frantically to their hats, endeavoured to look as unconcerned as possible - not always with success - the young women, every time their car swooped down a curve, gave vent to exclamations of mingled delight and fear. Many thousands of people, it is estimated, travelled across the railway in the course of the day. Great as the number was, it would probably have been more than doubled had the weather been better. The dance hall and restaurant were also patronised by many during the afternoon, but here again it was in the evening that the largest crowd gathered. Still others found their evening's enjoyment at the Pavilion, where Harry Gordon's entertainers auspiciously opened their season.

It was interesting and highly amusing to watch the doings at the Central Park, where Cadona's carnival and pleasure fair, at which there is a remarkable variety of entertainment, attracted attention from an early hour. Old people joined with the young in experiencing thrills from an aerial speedway, switchback motor railway, or what is described as the latest

American sensation, auto-scooter speedway. For a nominal sum, too, the visitor was privileged to see a wonderful Princess called Lena, who, according to a prominent placard displayed in front of her tent, is the smallest atom of humanity alive; or the transparent lady, who is both mysterious and fascinating; and there was also ample opportunity for one to test his marksmanship with the rifle and in variety of other ways.

Dominant above the merriment of the young people and the loudly worded invitations of the men and women at the stalls the public to test their skill, was the blare from at least half-a-dozen those musical instruments without which the proper atmosphere of the fair would have been wanting. Each appeared to be endeavouring triumph over the other in the pro d action the loudest music. Those who waited long enough would have seen the amazing spectacle of man diving in a mass of flame from an awe-inspiring height into a tank of water."



Never Forget

MIKE MIDDLETON

In a previous article I referred to the evacuation of Singapore, the hastily put together of a fleet of fleeing ships. This was no Dunkirk flotilla but a series of ocean-going liners and cargo vessels taking civilian evacuees to safety, for some at least.

On leaving the port a continuous attack by air, land, and sea was playing out in a concentrated theatre of war against the great fortress of the British Empire. The date was February 1942, fighting a rear-guard action across straits and causeway from the Malayan peninsula the British Army and Commonwealth forces fought the Japanese Imperial forces in vicious fighting and finally were ordered to surrender.

The capitulation was the biggest disaster in The British Empires military history, the horrors ahead were unthinkable and the long arduous and agonising story was only just about to begin.

The prison held 600 people and the barracks were given 50 thousand. There were protests and prisoners were asked to sign papers saying they would not escape, however, they refused.

British and allied troops were sent "up country" and a series of camps were set up throughout Malaya and Siam (now Thailand). The camps were to house prisoners for forced Labour, these were the "death camps" for the "railway of death." Food, medication and sanitation were almost non-existent and rest from labour only came in the fatted heat of the night.

Beatings were common place and beheadings were not unknown. Dysentery, cholera, malaria and infestations of invasive worms would riddle the afflicted while wounds and sores were treated with no anesthetic. In the following years the survivors had deep purple pits on arms and legs, my own grandfather was operated on using a razor blade to remove infected flesh.

On returning home to Aberdeen, the relatives of the former captives did not recognise their own as they were but skeletons in their greatcoats, broken, and with a further journey to recovery ahead for some, and the torments and the terrors that night would bring.



YOUTH MEDIA SUMMER OF PLAY SESSIONS

In addition to Cashback and Fairer Aberdeen Funding, shmu also secured an additional £5,000 from YouthLink Scotland's Summer of Play funding. This has enhanced what we can offer young people for our summer Youth Media programme, assisting with outings and free lunches/refreshments.

The project got underway on July 8th with separate days of activities for transitioning P7's and shmu 'takeover days' for S2-S6 aged young people attending other support agencies who had never worked with us. Tuesdays and Saturdays are allocated to our existing YM cohort with Tuesdays used for updating award portfolios,

outings they missed out on last summer and Saturdays for live shows and introduction of different activities.

We have been delighted to welcome young people from Children 1st and Middlefield Community Project on board. It has been amazing to see the range of activities on offer and collective efforts of our staff and freelance tutors come to life to ensure the YP have an amazing summer with us, even the weather has been on our side.

Watching young people play outside together in their lunch with us in the park and shmu surrounds, hearing their laughter, watching them learn and develop technical skills whilst

having fun then going home looking exhausted but delighted with themselves is what summer and childhood is all about.

Something about the simplicity of being allowed to be a kid without lockdown restrictions and the anxiety of the pandemic weighing heavily on such young shoulders reminds us what matters in life, and the importance of play isn't just thought to be good for young people, it is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Child (Article 31) as a fundamental human right and too often play is overlooked as frivolous rather than essential to wellbeing, but not at shmu!



Tell Us Facebook page

We have launched a new Facebook page to share community information through. Lots of organisations ask us to share this kind of information on our main channel so we decided to extend the Tell Us service that we provide through shmuFM and create a Tell Us at shmu Facebook page. If you could spread the word and give the page a like/share we would really appreciate it. If you get any requests in to share information please send it through to either John, Laura or Tracy and we can share it.

Elected Officials

Jackie Dunbar

It has been a privilege to represent Cummings Park and Northfield, as your local Councillor, and it was the honour of my life to be elected the MSP for Aberdeen Donside at the Scottish Parliament election back in May. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for me and highlight to those who did not that I am here to help you in any way I can. I have always done my best to assist anyone who has contacted me as your local Councillor for the last 14 years and I will continue to do my best for anyone who gets in touch with me moving forward.

I would also like to let you know that while I continue as both your Councillor and MSP for the next year, I will be donating my Councillor salary to local charities every month. I have so far have donated to various foodbanks, Mastrick Community Centre, Future Choices, Gordon Highlanders Museum and my last few salaries have gone to Middlefield's @thehub for a new fence that they needed to divide space between parent and toddler group and under 11s.

If any other community groups could do with a little funding, please do get in touch with the details of

how you would use the funding and who would benefit.

I am now in the process of putting a team together, and renting a local office, so I can be accessible to you. If you need some assistance with an issue or you feel there is a matter needing raised in the Scottish Parliament I will be there to assist you when needed. If you are needing to get in touch in the meantime, the best way to do so is by email: **Jackie.dunbar.msp@parliament.scot** as I do not currently have an office phone line set up yet.

Councillor Gordon Graham

Good news is that at the budget we agreed not only to freeze council tax but also

Northfield Swimming Pool

I am glad to say we are finally over the line with the redevelopment of Northfield Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre. There has been a lot of work undertaken by Sport Aberdeen and city council colleagues to get us to this point. Thanks to everyone for their support in this matter.

Heathryfold Park and Community Paths within Auchmill Community Woodland

The Engineering Team are working on a deliver plan for these paths.

There has been a complication that a new pipeline for Aberdeen Heat and Power will be going along the route, so we need to ensure that the works are completed in tandem to save double work.

I am also working with people from Middlefield Community Project to provide wooden sculptures that will

go around Heathryfold Park and Auchmill Community Woodland. There is one wooden flower and four toadstools are ready and should be planted soon

Stay Safe

Councillor Gordon Graham

Email: ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Phone: 07736 329751

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

Aberdeen Carers Support Service - 01224 914036

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

Area MSP

Jackie Dunbar

– MSP for Aberdeen Donside

0131 34 85067

Jackie.Dunbar.msp@parliament.scot

Area MP

Kirsty Blackman

– MP for Aberdeen North

Aberdeen office: 01224 633285

kirsty.blackman.mp@parliament.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: 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