

# cumming north<sup>↑</sup>

Spring 2017



## In this issue:

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ORCHARD BRAE  
SCHOOL  
BEST OF NORTHFIELD  
AN INSPECTOR RETURNS

[www.shmu.org.uk/press](http://www.shmu.org.uk/press)

Spring Edition 2017

# contents

3 Orchard Brae



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.

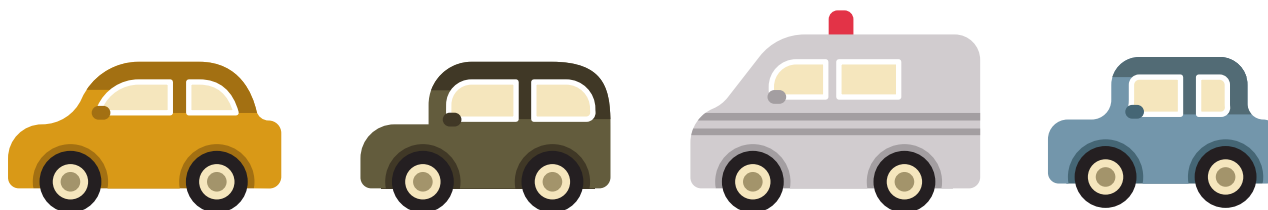
Do you have a story to tell about Cummings Park or Northfield? Whether it's a historical piece about the area, a story about your time in the community, a group you're involved in we'd love to hear it! We're always looking for more people to get involved in the magazine. Please get in touch with **Laura** at **shmu** on **01224 515013** or email **[laura.young@shmu.org.uk](mailto: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!

All meetings are held at 12:30pm on a Tuesday. We alternate between Cummings Park Community Flat and Northfield Community Centre.

Supported by





# CO-WHEELS CAR CLUB

Imagine this scenario. Great Uncle Wilfrid and Great Aunt Gladys are coming to visit from Perth, Western Australia. They haven't been in Aberdeen since not long after the Cummings Park area was built. Aberdeen is receiving its normal heavenly rinse, or if you prefer the phrase, it's raining cats and dogs. You suddenly realise that they might not want to wait for a bus at the airport (they're arriving at 1.30 in the morning) nor struggle up from the Haudagain with loads of luggage. You don't own a car, none of your friends are available to help, and the idea of hiring a car from conventional car hire companies isn't a viable option.

Maybe it's not as dramatic as that. It might just be that your wife has been in town, done some shopping, and managed to get the heel of her shoe broken off in a drain grating. Taxi firms want an arm and a leg (with or without the shoe!) to bring her home, and to be quite honest, you feel that you could do better by hanging on to the aforesaid limbs.

The point is, you need transport, and you need it now. This is where Co-wheels Car Club comes to your rescue. You don't want to travel hundreds of miles, you don't want to hang onto the car for a whole day, and you don't want to pay an enormous tariff for what is essentially a short-term problem.

Tony Archer, who is the location manager for Scotland for Co-wheels, reckons this is the kind of situation that tends to affect people and cause them unnecessary anxiety. The whole idea behind the organisation is that you can have the use of a car for short distances and for a short time, and that's what you pay for. There are around forty-eight cars distributed throughout Aberdeen, several of them in the Northfield and Mastrick areas. When you become a member of the club, it's a simple matter to locate the nearest car, book it and return it and be charged only for the use you have made of it. There are cars located in the Byron Square car park, the Middlefield Community Hub car park and on Mastrick Road. These are all clearly marked and have their own parking spaces.

"It's like the final mile of your journey", Tony told me. "Everybody has been in the situation where they don't own a car, but could make good use of one for a short period. Fetching relatives from the airport, the railway or bus station, or making similar short journeys gives you convenience without involving huge expense. Maybe your kids are coming home from school at the end of term with all their artwork, or maybe all those lost trainers weren't quite as lost as all that, and teachers have insisted

on cleaning out all the stuff that has accumulated over the term. There's any number of reasons why you might want a car for a short distance and a short time; being able to get hold of one at short notice just to do the job you intended makes sense, and it can all be done online."

It's a forward-looking organisation, and when it was suggested to him that some disabled people may be able to make some use of it, he was quite interested. Obviously, some disabled people need custom-made adaptations before they can make use of a car, but quite a large number need only modest modifications of the kind that can be attached and detached in seconds. "We need to think about this. Technology is advancing all the time, and hybrid and all electric cars form a reasonable proportion of our stock. This does away with the body about how much fuel has been used, and how to calculate that. Electric cars are quite efficient around town, and that's the kind of market we are aiming at.

To find out more about this organisation, simply search for Co-Wheels Car Club online. Who knows, it may take the frustration out of the last couple of miles of your journey



# Northfield Academy

## *Your Voice at Northfield Academy Parent Council*

The Northfield Academy Parent Council works with and alongside your school to support the learning journey of our young people, the Local Education Authority and Northfield Academy are highly supportive of the Parent Council and we need parents to engage with us.

Much of the existing parent membership has been greatly reduced moving into this school year due to their young people moving into further or higher education or indeed into the working environment and in order to maintain the great relationship we need to recruit new members.

We all have an interest in our children aspiring to be outstanding and learning to live well, this is an opportunity for you to use that interest and be part of the journey they are undertaking. We meet four times a year and help with various fundraising activities and school functions during the year. The Parent Council assists with paying for the Easter revision sessions, our excellent teaching staff give their time for free, but items required by them for the revision period are in part provided with help from us.

Everyone has a voice, there is no commitment to giving anything other than a little of your time on a few occasions in the year, this can be as much or as little as you feel comfortable with. We all have skills which the Parent Council will find useful, from being able to help with our accounts to being a challenging voice, we need you all. Parent Council members can be involved in everything from community projects to assisting in the selection process for senior school staff (free training provided).

If you feel able to help or want to ask a question please contact us by email at [pcnorthfield@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk](mailto:pcnorthfield@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk), alternatively you can call Northfield Academy on 01224 699715 and they will be happy to discuss or forward your query to us.

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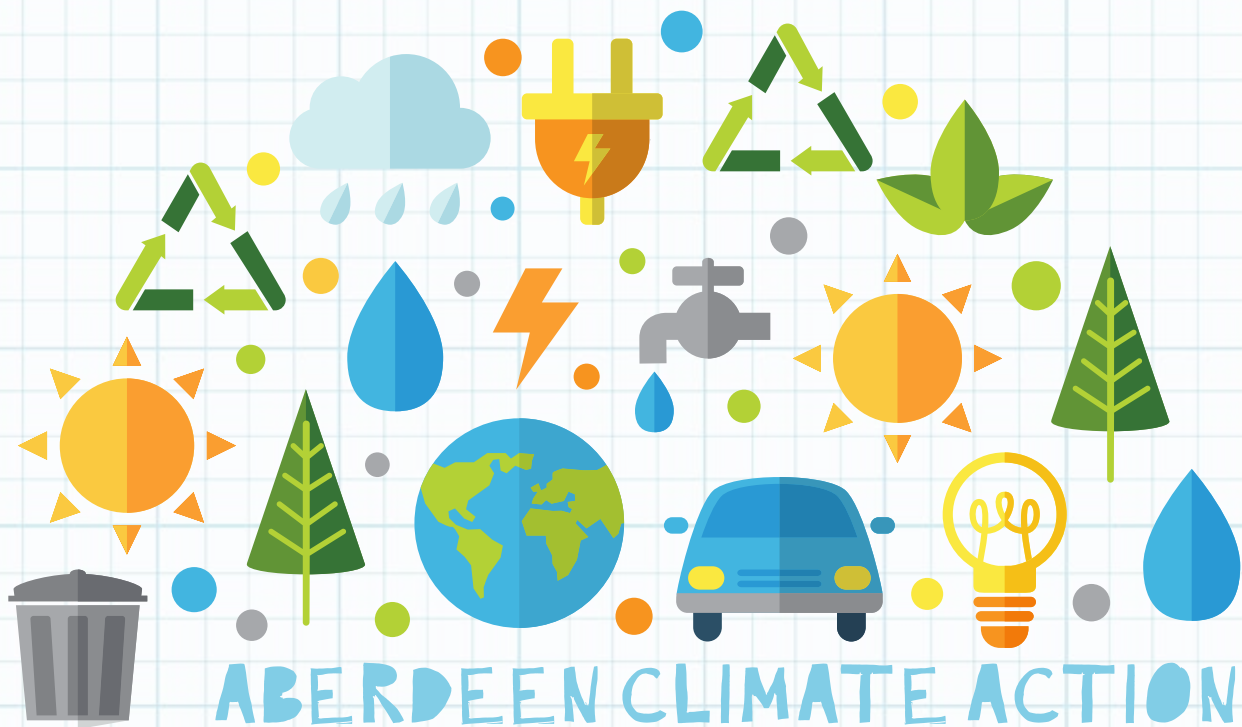
## SPEAK OUT IN NORTHFIELD

Speak Out is a programme of work that shmu have been doing in partnership with schools across the Northfield area. The project consists of six sessions working towards presenting a live radio show. This consists of working on interviews, scripting and preparing to present their live radio show.

The next set of Bramble Brae live shows will be broadcast live on the 2nd and 16th March on shmuFM at 11am.

Staff have also been working with Heathryburn Primary School and Northfield Academy and they will hopefully have more live shows next term.

You can tune in to shmu 99.8FM on a regular radio or listen online at [www.shmu.org.uk/fm/listen](http://www.shmu.org.uk/fm/listen). Tune in to hear your local school!



We know about Climate Change. We have watched Blue Planet! We can see how human behavior is changing and endangering our planet but the big question is - what can I do about it? Climate Week North East is a week of events, running between 16th- 25th March 2018, designed to raise awareness of climate change but, more importantly, show what we can all do to make a difference and reduce our carbon footprint in a fun way. The events provide knowledge and inspiration for everyone to take small (and big) steps in the fight against climate change starting with a screening of Al Gore's Truth to Power at The Belmont Filmhouse on Friday 16th March at 6pm and culminating in a Green Family Fun Day at Hazlehead Park from 11-3pm on Saturday 24th March and a guided walk and tour of the Donside Hydro at 1pm from the hide at Donmouth. From tours of community renewable projects and permaculture organic farms to guided walks and bike rides, fashion show, films, plays, art exhibits, talks, and a climate change perspective Conference, Climate Week North East is

designed to showcase the inspiring action happening here in the North East and demonstrate what each of us can do to help. Be stimulated and spurred on by the showcase of the community initiatives, come along to our Family Fun Day, watch thought provoking films or simply browse through our display boards. No matter what your age or pursuits are – there is something for you to enjoy in the Climate Week programme in the City and Shire. The full programme of events can be seen on [www.climateweekaberdeen.org](http://www.climateweekaberdeen.org) or the CWNE facebook page.

Alison Stuart, Aberdeen Climate Action, said: "There are so many great initiatives taking place in the North East that concentrate on really reducing our carbon footprint. It is inspiring and heartening to see how everyone is coming together to create community renewable projects, promote and use local food, recycle and upcycle allsorts, walk and bike more, become more planet based in diet and really promote a sustainable lifestyle. Climate Week is a means of highlighting this and the actions

we must take and how fun taking action can be and demonstrate the real benefits of reducing our carbon emissions and living more sustainably.

"I am really looking forward to the Green Family Fun Day in Hazlehead Park. Pets Corner will be free entry. Aberdeen Play Forum will be there and Getabout Aberdeen is bringing a brilliant bike track with lots of fun and interesting bikes to ride, including for the disabled. I know my kids are going to have a great time and enjoy all the stalls with activities. I am going to be checking out the electric cars and enjoying learning more about how they all operate and getting on a lying down bike – they are such fun!"

Why not come along to a few events and make a pledge for Climate Week North East to make a positive change in your life and to the lives of others at [www.wearedonation.com/businesses/aberdeen-climate-action/campaigns/climate-week-north-east/](http://www.wearedonation.com/businesses/aberdeen-climate-action/campaigns/climate-week-north-east/)



## Pathways in Cummings Park

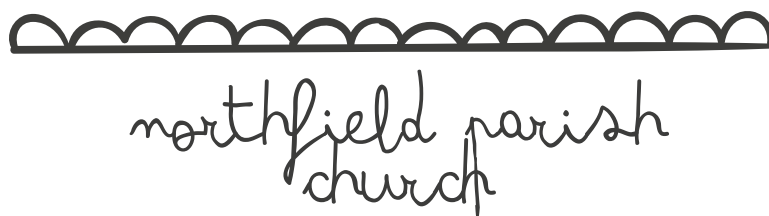
Pathways have been actively working in Cummings Park helping people to find work for many years now and our Employability Keyworker, Theresa Mackay, meets with people in Cummings Park Community Flat, 122 Cummings Park Drive on Tuesdays from 1– 2pm.

Theresa has helped many people to find work across many industries. One of Theresa's clients came to see her for assistance after leaving college with no idea of how to proceed. Theresa re-worked his CV, helped with job applications and coached him through interview techniques. Theresa also provided confidence building exercises. He successfully applied for a job at a local supermarket and is still employed today.

Pathways help anyone from the age of 16 upwards and help to identify the job or training that is right for you and support you with the application process. We also have access to funds to remove barriers to work e.g. clothing or equipment.

Currently Pathways are administrating the Progress Through Positive Partnership Programme on behalf of Aberdeen City Council. Speak to us to find out if you are eligible for this programme.

Should you wish to find out more or to make an appointment with Theresa, please call 01224 682 939.



Easter Sunday is on 1st April this year, with the schools beginning their holidays on Good Friday 30th March.

Good Friday is the day we remember that Jesus died on the cross for each one of us and is a time of sadness and reflection. Easter Sunday, however, is a wonderful time of thanksgiving and celebration, when we celebrate that Jesus has risen from the dead and is alive forevermore.

As minister of Northfield Parish Church, I will be involved in the following services and events this Easter:

Tues 27 March - Easter Services at Orchard Brae School, 1.45pm and 2.30pm.

Thur 29 March - Easter Services in Church for Heathryburn Primary 9.30am.

and Westpark Primary 11am.

There will also be 2 Easter Assemblies at Northfield Academy, date to be confirmed.

Fri 30 March - Good Friday Reflection in Church Lounge 10am.

Sat 31 March - Easter Soup & Sweet Lunch in Church Lounge 12.30pm.

Sun 1 APRIL – Easter Celebration and Breakfast in Church Hall 10.30am.

It would be great to see you at any of the above events, especially on Easter Sunday, when you will be made most welcome.

I wish each one of you a very Happy Easter!

Scott Guy





This term we are looking forward to Science Week (12th to 16th March). Anyone who works in the world of science, technology or maths who

## Northfield Congregational Church

It's traditional at this time of year for churches to think about Easter. This is odd; we have only just celebrated Jesus's birth, now we're looking towards his death and resurrection. However, that's not all that church is about, although it's an extremely important part. Church doesn't exist just to mark high days and holidays, or holy days. Originally, Jesus's disciples spread the good news by engaging in all the activities in their community; the Congregational Church aims to do the same. We run a homework club, Craft Club, Indoor Bowling for children and Boys' Brigade with Girls', which are weekly activities. We also host an adult Indoor Bowling Club. Obviously, there is a weekly service of worship on Sunday, and we have many other occasional activities. Quite a lot of people don't know where the Congregational Church is, and that's a matter of some concern. (For those who don't know, the church meets in the old ATC Huts behind Moir Drive.) At the moment, we are expanding and this means we are attempting to take some of the load from the shoulders of our hard-pressed minister, Andy Cowie, who nevertheless can be contacted on 01224 703248.

# NORTHFIELD LOCAL HEROES

If you know of anyone who lives, works or volunteers in Northfield, who inspires us all or who just goes that little bit further to make the community a better place to live and grow, please send in your nomination. To access the nomination form look up this link <http://glo.li/NorthfieldHero>. Come on folks, we know there are many amazing people out there - we just need you to tell us who they are so we can celebrate their awesomeness together!



**Leroy Smith**

Our first Local Hero of our 2017-2018 programme is a well kent

face here in Northfield. Introducing Leroy Smith, lead coach at Aberdeen Boxing Club! Leroy's nomination was full of praise for the work he does with young people, through the boxing at Cummings Park and how inspiring his approach to building their confidence is. The focus of the nomination was clearly how much benefit the local community gets from having an individual like Leroy committed to boosting our young people, giving them a positive focus and developing their aspirations. Well Done Leroy!



**Alison Taylor**

It's no surprise that people warm immediately to Alison Taylor. Alison is described as a completely selfless and caring person, who lights up everyone's day with her caring attitude and can-do spirit. Despite experiencing significant personal challenges in her own life, Alison has been unwavering in volunteering in the community for many years. Her nomination made clear just how inspiring this

lady is to the people of Cummings Park - offering a shoulder to lean on to young parents, her time and skills at open days and activity days and manning the Cfine outlet at Cummings Park Flat, for over 10 years! It's clear that Alison is someone truly special and that her community appreciate her hugely! Well Done Alison!



**Heather Ivers**

Introducing our next Local Hero – Heather Ivers! The multi-talented Heather Ivers has shared her wonderful skills and passion for all things arty with many people throughout the area for over 20 years. She continues to volunteer her professional level tutoring every week to reach the people who would otherwise not be able to experience the joy of art and the benefits of getting together with like-minded folks. Heather puts many hours of preparation before each craft class, to ensure the participants get as much as they can from each class. The nomination made clear that the participants get so much from



the opportunity to get together for 2 hours a week, work together on craft projects and offer each other support and friendship. Her nomination was full of praise for the significant difference she makes to people and how much her volunteering is appreciated by the community. Well done Heather!

#### **Linda Forbes**



Our latest Northfield local hero will be a well-known face to many in the area. Linda Forbes has been “making sure her flock get safely across the road” for 16 years in her role as a lollipop lady up on Springhill Road. Not only is she the lady who gives a smile to every child every morning, she also takes the time to listen to all their “interesting stories”. She also has been a member of the Northfield United Free Church Choir for 10 years. On top of this Linda gives so much of her time as a volunteer for Middlefield Parish Church, having been the session clerk at the church for 11 years. In fact, she describes it as her ‘second

home’! Whether it be working in the free kids clubs every Thursday evening from 5-6pm, cleaning the sanctuary, taking services, playing the guitar during services, offering support to parishioners or even using her green fingers to keep the garden looking absolutely fabulous, it is clear that Linda is hugely committed to making this community a better place. Linda was incredibly humbled by this nomination and said she felt “it was a privilege and an honour” for doing what she just thinks of as ‘her job’. This nomination shows that all her dedication is truly appreciated by all that know her. Well done Linda!



#### **Sandy Stark**

Our latest Local Hero is a truly inspirational Northfield loon – Sandy Stark! Not only is Sandy well remembered for putting on discos every Friday down at the Henry E Rae Centre, he was also a committed volunteer at the Maisy Munro Centre. Sandy had a regular slot on shmu 99.8FM

and even travelled to the Scottish Parliament to talk to the politicians about how society should look beyond people’s disabilities to support and encourage folks to “be all they can be.” - and Sandy certainly is a shining example of someone ‘being all they can be’. People who know Sandy have said he ‘gives everything maximum effort’, which is especially true in his job as a classroom assistant at Kaimhill Primary. They have also said that ‘he’s always got a great, big, infectious smile on his face and you can’t help but feel as positive as he does when you’re in his company.’ When asked how he felt about the nomination, a near speechless Sandy said he was ‘just overwhelmed.’ It’s clear that people here in Northfield are incredibly proud of Sandy and hope that this nomination lets him know how inspiring he is! Well done Sandy!



A person's hands are visible, holding a large blue house-shaped cutout. The person has orange nail polish and a red wristband. The background is a blurred green field.

## What are you waiting for – come on get involved in Tenant Participation

Carol Hannaford Development Officer for Tenant & Resident Participation and Fay Morrison Housing Volunteer

Aberdeen City Council is an award-winning organisation with regards to tenant and resident participation. Fay and I would like to tell you how you can get involved, the benefits of getting involved and how working together can improve the services you receive.

We have many citywide groups which you can join

Tenant & Resident Forum – which looks at various reports as well as having speakers along to explain in more detail the changes taking place in the Council

Housing Service Review Group – this group works with the Council to physically review services you receive. Members of the group spent time at all the Housing Offices during the Housing Management Review and have been recently at Kittybrewster doing a review of the Repairs Service. They produce a report with recommendations which the Council either accept or reject – if a recommendation is rejected then the Council Service has to say why. Copies of the reports are available for you to read or come along to the next meeting and just

see what it is all about. It is a great way to improve your CV or to get out of the house for a couple of hours. There is also a sub group – Housing Performance & Budget Group which looks at the Housing Revenue Account – this is where the rent money goes, the Tenant Participation Budget as well as the facts and figures about the Housing Service and you don't have to be an accountant to understand.

The Events and Communication Group plans various events throughout the year as well as works with the Council to produce Newsbite – a magazine which all tenants should receive. This group also looks at leaflets to ensure that all are easy to understand – they get the customer approved logo

We also have two specific groups – one for all our Sheltered Housing Tenants and one for all our Multi Storey Tenants and Residents

As well as citywide groups we also have area tenant and resident groups supported by your Housing Officer so why not contact your local Housing Office to find out if there is a group in your area or perhaps you would like to start one.

To make it as easy as possible for you all reasonable costs are covered but we know attending

meetings does not suit everyone so we are starting an armchair group – all you need is an email address – we will email you and if you want to participate then it is your choice.

Aberdeen City Council wants to work with our tenants to improve communication and consultation with you but also the services we deliver so it is over to Fay to tell you the difference getting involved has made to her:

“I joined the TP (Tenant Participation) group to see what I could do about the area that I live in. I tried to organise groups so that I could take back information about how rent money is spent and other council issues that the community might be interested in. I personally found the group very friendly and supporting of each other. We go to other council associations to meet other tenants and discuss issues that are always ongoing. The groups are open to tenants and residents. Everyone is welcome so come along and take part.”

If you would like further information please contact Carol Hannaford Tel 01224 522839 or email [channaford@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:channaford@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

# councillors comment

## Gordon Graham

Last time I advised how the administration were dedicated to improving opportunities for the residents of Northfield/Mastrick North Ward, as you can see that these efforts are beginning to bear fruit.

On Friday 15th December, along with members of the Northfield Parent Council and Council Officers we conducted the interview process for a new Head Teacher at Northfield Academy. I can announce that following a successful interview Gavin Morrison is our preferred candidate for the Head Teacher post. Gavin is currently a Quality Improvement Officer with Aberdeenshire Council and prior to that was Acting Head Teacher at Peterhead Academy. I feel confident that Gavin will do a good job and build on the reputation and good standing the school enjoys.

A lot of work is happening at Heathryfold Park which will be of benefit to residents of Northfield and Cummings Park.

The new Community Hub at the refurbished Henry Rae Centre is proving to be very popular with people. I am proud of the part I played in the development and will continue to work with the Management Committee to ensure that it builds on the success.

A lot of work is going on as we transform Heathryfold Park, the name was decided by a steering group formed to oversee the improvements.

ACC now leases ground from Heathryfold Allotment Association, for a minimum term of 99 years. This is for the ground required to implement the Flood Prevention Works. The flood alleviation works is due for completion in March 2018.

Scottish Natural Heritage has provided £426,813 to improve this Park. A Park Ranger is to be recruited shortly.

Following road safety concerns from people using the new Community Hub Nestrans have offered £150,500 to:

- improve the crossings of Provost Rust Drive and Manor Avenue and provide directional signs. These are due to be completed in March.

We have received an award of £469,093.83 from Sustrans to improve the accessibility of the footpaths across the park for pedestrians and cyclists; this will connect to other cycleways on Auchmill Road and beyond. These are also due for completion in March.

**Regards, G Graham**  
**01224 523594 / 07736 329751**  
**ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

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## Ciaran McRae and Jackie Dunbar

We have been engaging with the Oldtown residents, we have now secured new LED lighting to replace the current street light bulbs, and this should now make the area brighter for those walking around during the darker evenings. We have also asked the community wardens to work closely with Police Scotland to make more visible patrols in the area to try and curb any anti-social behaviour along with holding 'meet your warden' sessions.

We have also been approached in regard to users of the 3G football pitch at Northfield Academy and the parking needs surrounding this, we are working with Sport Aberdeen to encourage those who do use the pitch, to park at the academy. This allows residents the

ability to park near their properties.

We were approached late last year about the speeding on Springhill Road, we asked for a speed survey to be carried out we have now received the results, and this has actioned Police Scotland and Aberdeen City Council are looking to invest in and deploy mobile speed signs in the area to try and make drivers aware of the speed limits. Police Scotland has been out and will continue to be in the area to hold driver education stops where speeding take place. On the back of this, we raised the matter of lack of school patrollers around Heathryburn and Orchard Brae Primary schools and have got the council to re-advertise these positions. If you wish to become a school patroller, please get

in touch with Aberdeen City Councils recruitment wish to get involved with this project, please contact either of us or pop into The Hub.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with either of us.

**Ciaran Mcrae**  
**Councillor for Northfield and**  
**Mastrick North**  
**cimcrae@aberdeencity.gov.uk**  
**07500999617**

**Jackie Dunbar**  
**Councillor for Northfield and**  
**Mastrick North**  
**jdunbar@aberdeencity.gov.uk**  
**07733300570**



## Dance United

Dance United are looking for new members to join their classes. There are spaces available in both the competitive and non-competitive classes.

There are lessons available between 3:30 and 5:30pm and 8 and 9:30pm on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. The 'just for fun' classes run on a Monday between 5:30 and 6:15pm, followed by a body conditioning class for the competitive team between 6:30 and 8pm.

On a Tuesday afternoon there are two fast classes, one between 7:30 and 7pm and the other between 7 and 8:30pm. There are two slow classes on a Wednesday between 5:30 and 7pm and 7 and 8:30pm. These classes are only open to the competitive team.

Saturday morning have a variety of competitive classes from 9am to 12:45pm, followed by lessons between 12:45 and 3:15pm which are open to everyone.

All classes held in the studio hall at Northfield Community Centre, Byron Square.

Contact Becca Walker on 07465 984911 for more information.



The team at Northfield Community Centre would like to wish you all a happy new year and we would love to see some new faces in the centre for 2018. Here is the updated programme for the building for the next few months.

Mondays are quiet in the centre at the moment, but we are available for bookings so if you have an idea for a group then give us a bell. The freestyle dancers are in the centre between 3:30 and 8pm with a variety of classes. Byron Boxing Club hold sessions between 6:15 and 8pm.

On a Tuesday the dancers are in the centre between 7 and 9pm. The community council hold their meetings in the coffee bar on the second Tuesday of the month between 6:30 and 9pm and the centre management committee hold their meetings at the same time on the third Tuesday of the month.

Councillors surgeries run out of the centre. Councillor Gordon Graham holds a surgery in the centre on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm and Councillors Jackie Dunbar and Ciaran McRae hold a joint surgery on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm during school term time.

Pathways run a job club on a Wednesday between 10am and 3pm. The pulmonary group are in the games room between 1 and 3pm followed by over fifties bingo between 2 and 4pm. Drugs Action are in the centre between

2:30 and 4:30pm, offering a drop-in support service.

During the evening Dance United are in between 3:30 and 8pm and Byron Boxing Club run youth sessions from 6:15pm followed by adult sessions at 7:15pm.

North East Scotland Credit Union are in the centre on a Thursday morning between 9 and 10am. Citizens Advice are also available between 10am and 3pm. Aberdeen in Recovery run their Cuppa with a Purpose sessions between 1:30 and 3pm.

The under twelves group meets between 5:30 and 7pm, followed by the craft sew and sews who meet in the art room between 7:30 and 9pm. Clubercise runs between 7 and 8pm and hip hop got all sessions run between 7:30 and 9pm.

On a Friday afternoon Pathways offer a counselling service between 12:30 and 3pm and the pulmonary group are in the hall between 1:30 and 3:30pm. There is an indoor bowls group between 2 and 4pm. The centre provides a disco on a Friday evening for kids on a fortnightly basis between 6 and 8pm and Byron Boxing Club are offering taster sessions every Friday between 6 and 8pm.

On Saturdays and Sundays, the centre is available for party bookings.

For more information or to book the centre call 01224 695416.

# westpark primary school

The run up to Christmas is unequalled in terms of general excitement around the school, culminating in three excellent performances of the school show not only for parents but also the local senior citizens, who enjoyed a cup of tea and a biscuit along with their performance. A special thanks to those who took time to send in congratulatory cards and letters, which gave the stars of the show a little extra pride in their achievements.

The Parent Council organised an excellent Christmas Fair that was well attended and raised £1450 for funds. This will be spent to support learning experiences for Westpark children. The Parent Council have organised an Easter Disco which will take place on 28th March. Tickets will go on sale in the foyer from Monday 26th.

Extra-curricular clubs, including netball, football, hockey, British Sign Language, running and tennis, continue to play an important part in the wider life of the school for a growing number of our pupils. They could not happen without our staff, pupils, parents and Active Schools Aberdeen.



This commitment helped to earn Westpark the title of Primary School of the Year at

the Aberdeen Sports Awards 2017. The running club have recently become affiliated with Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club, and the children make up between 10 and 20% of all runners at the Junior Park Run at the Duthie Park each Sunday at 9:30am. Check out event details and personal times at: <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/duthie-juniors/>

Our thanks go out to the library staff at Northfield Library for welcoming our children to a regular Thursday morning time slot. Aberdeen Library Service also organised a very enjoyable reading of 'The 4th Bonniest Baby in Dundee' from author Michelle Sloan. This visit continues to be a source of inspiration to our young writers!

The playground redevelopment project benefitted from a £10000 Lottery award and £2000 from Tesco, bringing the total raised so far to £30000. The tender process has started, and we hope to have the landscaping work done in the summer term so the playground is ready to use after the school holidays.

This term we are looking forward to Science Week (12th to 16th March). Anyone who works in the world of science, technology or maths who would be willing to support a school activity during science week should contact the school office on 01224 692323. And of course, the Primary 7 children and their staff helpers are looking forward to an exciting weekend of team building challenges at the very popular

## Hamewith Lodge Care Home

### Christmas Fair

On Saturday 2nd December we had our Christmas Fair. This is held every year to raise money for our resident's comfort fund. The comfort fund allows us to give that little extra to our residents. This year we have managed to take residents to the Beach Ballroom for senior sing-a-longs, buy chipper suppers, book more entertainers, take them to Inverurie Panto and many more treats throughout the year.

The day was a great success and very well supported. Relatives, family, friends and even visitors not connected to the home came along which was amazing to see and very much appreciated. The children had a fun time playing but most of all seeing Santa who gave them all a little present. Because of..... the great turnout and the generosity of everyone we raised a staggering £600.

Everyone at Hamewith Lodge would like to say a massive thank you to those who came along.

### Resident Christmas Party

On Tuesday 19th December, we had our resident Christmas Party. The music was playing, the food was eaten, and the whiskies went down a treat. All the resident, relatives and staff had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the carol singing from Manor Park Primary children. The money from the comfort fund allowed us to make this year's party just that little bit more special.

## The BIG move

In our last edition we updated you on the shmu extension and our move to the former Rosehill Day Centre. Work to extend the existing shmuHQ building is well underway and staff and volunteers are all settled in at our temporary home.

The preferred contractors, CHAP, started work on the development in August this year and have made great headway as you can see from this photo. We have secured a significant amount of funding to pay for the fabric of the building, but we are currently working hard on a fundraising strategy to ensure we have enough money to pay for the equipment to turn it from a fantastic building to a state of the art community media centre.

Our aim is to enhance the facilities we already have so we will install two new radio studios and we will have a big communal social area, similar to what we had in the old building but we're also going to have an IT training room and a TV studio with a control room. We want to use the expansion of the building to expand our existing programmes to reach new people in our target areas.

Murray Dawson, Chief Executive of shmu said:  
"We identified a need for this state of the art

facility in our 2012-2017 strategic plan as we have been short of space for several years. Our new space in Rosehill Day Centre is much bigger than shmu so we're able to trial some of the new programmes we would like to run and use it as an opportunity to grow into the new space before moving back to Woodside."

We are aiming to be back in our Woodside building by August next year where we will then look at phase two of the redevelopment. Our aim for the existing building is to make it into a multipurpose space which can be used for cultural events in the evening, for example a small cinema or theatre and for workshops or teaching during the day.

Murray added: "The building was a core part of our strategic plan and it will allow us to develop other aspects of that plan. We want to do more of what we already do, we don't always need to be expanding and increasing in size but with the work we are currently doing in Aberdeenshire we need to look at what that means for us as an organisation. We need to have a clear sustainable financial plan for this and make sure that we don't take our eye off the ball with the key core work that happens in the regeneration areas of the city."





# Watchman Brae and the Ghost Armies of Brimmond

Up on the East slope of Brimmond Hill facing the sea there was in years past, a lookout post for warning the city of attack by sea, from this vantage point a lovely view of the horizon could be seen.

Many times, over many years there was fear of invasion from forces seeking to land on our coast from the Spanish, to Napoleon. The hillside served as a lookout that could signal Castle Hill in the city by having a permanent signal fire manned and ready, a small cottage gave shelter to the Watchman who

could raise the alarm by signal fire.

This early observer would surely have had a motto of "Forewarned is Forearmed" (as the real Observer Corps did) but no such invasions occurred on our coast and no intruding armies came ashore. However, there was in parish records in the 17th century sightings of Ghost Armies that appeared through the swirling mists upon the hill, fully equipped with the weapons of the day. On other occasions the sound of drums and trumpeting could be heard but not seen.

The Old Parish was not alone in these paranormal events, out at Echt on the Barmekin Hill similar events were recorded as were others across Europe.

Fear or reality, it is not known, but the records clearly show that through the mists and hill top cloud there marched Ghost Armies discharging rounds of cannon booming, and cavalry came riding through the fog their banners fluttered large and looming.

# The Robbers' Cave, Old Newhills Parish

Hidden deep in the trees on the lower slopes of Elrick Hill off the walking trails and barely seen today, the infamous Robbers' Cave lies amongst fern and brambles. It was, once the haunt of criminals and vermin and thought by the vulgar (that is, the common people) to penetrate for miles underground where a notorious robber and his gang hid out to emerge on to the Kings Highway to rob and steal from the innocent traveller.

Notes of these horrid works were recorded in the Statistical Account of 1793 however all is not as it seems. The cave was in fact an old iron mine where deposits of the ore were hewn. Rumours and speculation and the fact that it was really the den of foxes which would leave locals with less "quack", "squawk", and "honk" to live on led the Council to order some barrels of powder and blew it up, and so the legend was destroyed, but not forgotten.

Are those shadows of a late evening up on Elrick Hill just the fading light, or are the dark horsemen still riding out into the night, to rob, steal, and plunder? Travellers beware!

Mike Middleton

# Community Contacts

## Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous **0800 9177 650**

Drinkline **0300 123 1110**

## Crime

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

## Drugs

Drugs Action Helpline **01224 594700**

## Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens **111**

## Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency **111**

## Electricity

If you have a power-cut **105**

## Family Planning

Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village **0345 337 9900**

## Gas

Gas Emergency **0800 111 999**

Gas emergency with a meter **0845 606 6766**

## Housing

Emergency Repairs **01224 219 282**

Call Centre Emergency **0845 608 0929 or 116 123**

## Police

Non-emergency **101**

## Samaritans

Need to talk **01224 574 488 or 116 123**

## Social Work

Social Work Duty Team **0800 7315520**

Emergency Out-Of-Hours **01224 693936**

## Young Carers

VSA **01224 212021**

## Water

Scottish Water Emergency **0800 0778 778**

CFINE **01224 596156**

Pathways **01224 682 939**

Cash in your Pocket **0800 953 4330**

Citizens Advice **01224 569750**

Northfield Academy **01224 699715**

Bramble Brae School **01224 692618**

Heathryburn School **01224 788180**

Westpark School **01224 692323**

## Community Information for Cumming North

### Northfield Community Council

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at Northfield Community Centre at 7pm.

Contact: [communitycouncils@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:communitycouncils@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

### Cummings Park Centre

08:30am - 10pm, 01224 694060 or [cummingsparkcentre@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:cummingsparkcentre@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

### Cummings Park Community Flat 9am – 5pm

Contact: 01224 681357 or [dosim@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:dosim@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

### Northfield Community Centre

Contact: 01224 695416 or [jacqui@northfieldcommunitycentremc.org](mailto:jacqui@northfieldcommunitycentremc.org)

### Northfield Outdoor Sports Centre

Contact: 01224 696246

### Northfield Library

10am - 1pm 2pm – 5pm 01224 695104

### Northfield Medical Practice

8am – 6:30pm 01224 662911

### Northfield Swimming Pool

Contact: 01224 680307

#### Monday

0745 0900 Public Session (2 Lanes)

1215 1315 Public Lane Session

1330 1530 Active Ageing Swimming Session

1915 1945 Aqua Aerobics

1945 2015 Aqua Aerobics

2015 2045 Aqua Aerobics

#### Tuesday

0730 0900 Public Session (3 lanes)

1215 1315 Public Lane Session

2030 2130 Public Session

#### Wednesday

0700 0900 Public Session (2 Lanes)

0930 1015 Aqua Aerobics

1030 1100 Floatfit

1215 1315 Public Lane Session

1345 1600 Active Ageing Swimming Session

1845 2000 Public Session

2015 2115 Adult Session

#### Thursday

0745 0900 Public Session (3 Lanes)

1215 1315 Public Lane Session (6 Lanes)

2000 2030 Floatfit

2030 2100 Floatfit

#### Friday

0715 0900 Public Session (3 Lanes)

1130 1300 Active Ageing Swimming Session

13:15 1445 Public Session

1500 1615 Public Session

1845 1945 Project Fit

2000 2100 Adult Public Session

#### Saturday

1430 1630 Public Session

#### Sunday

0900 1030 Public Session

1045 1215 Public Session