cumping north Spring 2025

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Cumming North Letters to the editor

The editorial team of Cumming North want to hear from you.

The team are introducing a new interactive section to the magazine and want to hear from the community.

In this section, you can write to the editors of Cumming North, let us know of issues and events taking place in the community, send us your thoughts on topics we have covered. Have your say of what you want to see represented in the magazine and what you'd like to read. We'd also love to publish your stories and photos too!

Please email rose.ross@shmu.org.uk with the email subject 'CN Letters to the Editors' to have your letter included in the magazine.

Please contact Rose if you would be interested in getting involved!





Welcome to another exciting edition of the Cumming North magazine.

Thanks again to all the contributors – we are incredibly grateful to everyone who submits articles and photos for the magazine. Celebrate with us!

This Spring, we're keeping you up to date with the area's going's on! Find out how to access the Community Nursing Outreach Team, and when you can get a peek inside the Treasure hub!

Fancy joining in on the fun? Our editorial team is always on the lookout for local people to get involved. There are a number of ways you can get involved, such as, taking pictures, sending us a story or information gathering. Or perhaps you would also like to join the editorial committee and take part in planning and producing 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 **Rose** at shmu on **07752586312** or email **rose.ross@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!

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

Supported by







The Deansloch Runner (Spooky)

(A short story shortened)

t was a fine, warm night, which was unusual for October, and two lads fresh from a few drinks in the Lord Byron decided to have a nice quiet stroll home - stopping off at the baker's shop on the way. John and Ronnie, as they were known, left the shop armed with their hot steak pies in hands after having worked out the route they wanted to take - round the back of the shops and up Stewarts Crescent until Deansloch Terrace.

Turning into Deansloch Terrace, Ronnie remarked on the sudden change in temperature, and how chilly it was compared to a minute ago - John nodded in agreement as both the lads walked on. Just as they reached the bottom of the cul-de-sac, they spotted a little brown wire-haired terrier coming toward them - it was brown in colour and in a bit of a rush. Suddenly it stopped looked toward the top of the cul-desac then started loudly whimpering and barking. It then turned around and fled back the way it had come, still making the terrifying sounds. This gave them a bit of a fright - but a worse moment was yet to come.

John glanced towards the cul-de-sac and saw the figure of a man running down the hill. He brought Ronnie's attention to this, and both men watched as the shadowy man ran along the terrace in the same direction as the dog. The air had grown extremely cold, and as he ran, his body passed straight through the parked cars that were in his way. By this time the lads were really shaken up and found it hard to believe what they were seeing. Seconds later they saw it running back toward them, back up the hill with the little brown terrier alongside him. Near the top of the road the two just vanished into thin air. Ronnie and John did get a better look at him when he returned, and described him as about 22 to 28 years old, and his face was twisted as if in severe pain with a tear around his left cheek and blood coming from it. His clothes were like that of a Victorian farmhand. After a swift retreat both lads ran for the next mile.

Two weeks later the lads still had not mentioned to anyone for fear of people taking the mick, however they decided to tell a few trusted friends in the pub, and to their surprise, they are not the only ones to have this experience. They were told that a week after their run-in with the ghost, council workers removed the remains of a brown wire-haired terrier from the bushes near the park not far from Deansloch Terrace. John and Ronnie have both walked along the terrace since that night, but only in daylight hours - never again in the dark. At a chance meeting in the library, John met Mike Middleton - who was quite well known for his knowledge of the Northfield area in times long before it was a housing estate. John told his story to Mike, and after thinking about it, he told John that apparently a young Irish lad Patrick Hopkins was killed while working with a group of labourers who were clearing a small copse of trees. He died when a rope supporting a large branch snapped. The branch crashed into Patrick's face - killing him outright - and landed on his dog, who fled despite being seriously injured. Witnesses swore they saw Patrick's spirit chase after his dog and return a short time later, only to vanish. He seems to only appear when a dog is killed or dies in the area, and then he runs to collect their souls. If you have cause to go along Deansloch Terrace at night, then watch out for the Deansloch Runner.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE DEANSLOCH RUNNER?

By Jack-A-Nory (first published in Cumming North Winter, 2013)



Community Nursing Outreach Team in Middlefield

Following the closure of the Healthy Hoose in Middlefield, residents have been anxiously awaiting the healthcare service's return to the community.

A new service is launching in the area, the Community Nursing Outreach Team (CNOT), will be based at the Middlefield Hub, twice a week.

The service is a Nurse Practitioner Service (CNOT), open on Tuesday's and Friday's from 9am to 4pm. This service takes a different form to the Healthy Hoose. The team will be available on a drop in and/or an appointment basis, however they will only be available for adults. The team is small, so residents can expect to be met with the same friendly faces whenever they need to access the service.

Wendy, one of the teams Advanced Nurse Practitioners explained a bit more about the service.

"We are a new service. And we are providing appointments, either drop in or contact us by telephone for people to come and see us for their health needs.

"Anyone within the local area is welcome to access the service. We are adults only, so it is 18 and over to access the service. But if you are registered with one of the GP practices and reside in the local area, you can access Community Nurses Outreach Team at the Hub."

Explaining why having a service like this is important to the area, she said "So we are aware that for whatever reason, people find it difficult to access GP services. And what we would like to do is make fair and equitable access to health care available for all."

Several Community members attending an information event shared their thoughts on the service. Heathryfold Resident Gail Groves shared "I was part of the Healthy Hoose when it initially opened. I did all the admin work, and I know how successful it can be for a community. So, I am positive that the community will rally around the new service and support it but we need to get out to the community.

"I've got some elderly neighbours; they would benefit from coming here rather than going to their GP practice. That's if they can get an appointment for their GP practice. But if they came here and they were assessed and the nurses felt they needed a GP appointment then they would support that for them."

However, Gail does feel that the service could be much broader. "I think it's really important, but I think it's lacking because when the Healthy Hoose started it was Monday to Friday, 9 to 5. It built up from a 7 to 10 patients to 500 patients a month. So, for me it's very important that we've got this service on our doorstep.

"I would advise anybody in the catchment area if you have got something that you need to speak to a medical person about, come and speak to the nurse practitioner, the advanced nurse practitioners. They can do nearly everything a doctor can do. They can prescribe and they're on your doorstep."

David Smith, Middlefield Project Coordinator added "The service here has changed a lot over the last four or five years. But it's a really vital service here and it's a service that people don't always know what it is because it's changed so much. It's important to have the nurses here, to provide that access for people. There's been a lot of changes in the wider community as well with health services and it's getting harder and harder and harder for local people to access support or even information. So, if we walk in here and speak to someone and at least have a conversation, I think it's a huge asset. It's vital and we need to keep working together to try and get the services as good as services can for the people in the field.

"It's taken about two or three years like to get them back in at all since the pandemic. But we're delighted to have them here, let's say the Tuesday and Friday is a start and I hope that it's a starting point for more services going forward."

David encourages the community the share their thoughts and feedback with those at the centre to help develop provisions and evaluate how it's working. "It is a brand-new approach and we're learning as we go. I would really welcome anyone to come in and have a conversation with us and find out what the services are because it's a really good service. Does it work for them and if not, come and let us know why.

"That's what I'm looking for for the local community is to come along and just get involved and find out a little bit more about it in person."

Hearing a number of the community members express that it was hard for them to get access to their GP, the Middlefield Mirror editorial team want to hear your stories.

Share your experiences on accessing healthcare by contacting us at rose.ross@shmu. org.uk or by calling 01224 515013.







Nes Neadows

Here again..

This dreadful weather has had so many people falling on the snow and ice. All the summer flowers have been ruined, hidden under the snow. But the Crocus and other bulbs are still growing under the snow. By February they will be well able to come out of the frozen ground.

Snowdrops are usually the first to appear, it's a miracle they can manage to force their way through the frozen earth.

Unfortunately, I had a fall in the summer and wasn't able to get out for a few months, but I got back to it as soon as I could. It was annoying not getting out and just having to watch everything growing from the window.

When I got back out to the garden, I was delighted to be told that we had won a Level 5 Outstanding Certificate of Distinction.

Until next time, Mrs Meadows.



Northfield Christmas Dinner

Hello everyone, Happy New year!

Hope you all enjoyed the festive period, there was lots going on in the area for people to enjoy. I enjoyed the Christmas dinner held at Northfield Community Centre at the beginning of December.

We were treated to a lovely home cooked traditional Christmas dinner, with wine and all the trimmings. It was a good atmosphere, everyone was chatting away, having a laugh and it was nice to see lots of people I hadn't seen for a while.

We had a fantastic game of bingo and a visit from Santa

Claus, bringing all the ladies and gentlemen a thoughtful present.

Everyone was welcome and it was a great way to spend an afternoon with the community.

I'd like to say a very big thank you to everyone at the centre who, took part, organised the event and made it such a lovely treat.

Events like these are so important and it was good of the centre to put it on, as Christmas can be a very difficult time for some people, and having something like that, meeting up with other people can help a lot.

Janet Calder





Orchard Brae School Updates

We are delighted to share that Orchard Brae School was awarded the Silver Rights Respecting School Award in December. This means that we are Rights Aware and recognises the hard work of our Pupil Council and staff group. As a school, we have been learning about our rights through assemblies where we have a 'Right of the Month'. Our Pupil Council has been meeting regularly, and we have chosen signifiers to help us understand the routine with songs to start and finish the meeting. We've also had a competition to design a mascot badge for the Pupil Council to wear. Moving forward, we'll carry on and aim to achieve our Gold Award in the longer term.

As always, we've been out and about in the community. Our Room 17 class has been going to the United Free Church Café, very much enjoying meeting with Andy's community. Some lovely friendships have been formed between young and old, and our pupils were delighted to be gifted new blankets by one of the café regulars, Moira, who kindly sewed and crocheted many blankets during a period of recuperation at home.

Our senior pupils have been keeping fit and healthy with visits to Sheddocksley Sports Centre and the Northfield Swimming Pool, both excellent community facilities.

Finally, the whole school enjoyed a Burns Ceilidh thanks to Scott, our music teacher, and his guest band. They did a great job of playing some Scottish tunes and we had great fun dancing!

Cummings Park Community Flat Recognition

We were honoured to be included in the "Its Your Neighbourhood" awards. The award is in celebration of all the hard work performed within Cummings Park. Firstly, our Community Gardens. The volunteer and dedicated gardener, who you will often see in the garden, is Pat. Pat has such a love for gardens and the outdoors, that she often gets lost in her joy. She designs the layout of the gardens with her extended knowledge of what grows best where and with what. If you see Pat out in the garden, please say "hello" she will be delighted to talk to you. Pat has been responsible for the beauty of the gardens with her planting, arranging and general upkeep of the three gardens. Jim volunteers every Thursday and helps with whichever tasks are needed. George has made the beautiful benches and seats. You may have noticed the leylandii which was growing over into the pavement and blocking the views of drivers as well as pedestrian access. This this has been fully cut back by John who was out there in all weathers. What talent and dedication all these people have shared.

The award is also given to our community litter pickers, who have taken part in various litter picks throughout the year. Absolutely amazing dedication. One of our litters picking sessions, in conjunction with Clean Aberdeen, included our dedicated Community Volunteers, the STAR group, (students - from Heathryburn school - teachers, and residents) as well as children from Cummings Park nursery. This was such good fun! Thank you, Lorna, from ACC for supplying the resources.

Our aim is to involve the community to take responsibility for their community environment. An area is only as good as the people who live/work within it. Small changes have a huge impact.

Thank you to all our participants and volunteers and congratulations on your well-deserved award.



NEWS FROM ABERDEEN CITY LIBRARIES

Mastrick is one of ten libraries across Aberdeen City which, along with the Central Library, are all warm, welcoming spaces for their local communities and those visiting from further afield to use our fantastic services and resources. **Visit www. aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/ libraries-and-archives/find-yourlocal-library** for information on all our libraries.

Mastrick Library's current opening hours are Monday and Wednesday 10am-7pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-5pm and Saturday 10am-1pm 2-5pm. Be sure to come in and pay us a visit!

Pathways – Helping people find jobs since 1998! Job coaches from Pathways meet at the library every week and offer 1 to 1 support with CV writing, training opportunities, online applications and interview skills. If you think this would be of help to you, please contact Pathways directly on 01224 682939 or email info@pathways-online.org

Our Bookbug sessions for youngsters 0-5 years, take place on Tuesdays every 4 weeks at Mastrick Library. Spaces are limited, and booking is essential. Look out for details on our Facebook page or check with the library staff to see when the next session is being held.

Junior Book Group. We have a new group for our youngsters, if you know anyone aged 9-12 years who would be interested in reading and reviewing some popular titles, get in touch with the library on 01224 788558 for more information. The group will be meeting once a month.

If you know anyone who would be interested in borrowing library items but are unable to visit the library due to disability or illness, give us a call and we can give you more information on our Home Library Service where we deliver items to customers in their own homes every 4 weeks.

We offer up to two hours per day of PC access. These slots can be booked online via Netloan or by contacting libraries. We also offer printing services and have photocopying and scanner facilities.

We are always delighted to meet new faces. For more information on how to become a member, please visit our website or contact your local library.

For information on our services and online resources, please visit www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ services/libraries or contact Mastrick Library by email: MastrickLibrary@aberdeencity. gov.uk or telephone: 01224 788558.

TREASURE HUB OPEN DAY- 8TH MARCH

We recently spoke to Jade Flannery who is a Rationalisation Officer at the Treasure Hub in Northfield and she was more than happy to enlighten us on what she does in her role and what the open day holds in store.

Jade's role as a Rationalisation Officer means she is working on a project that is funded by Museum Gallery Scotland to review around 1,500 items in the hub's collection that haven't been looked at for a very long time. Her goal is to find out information about the items and where they come from, who owned them and how they got into the collection. The museum has a policy that explains they only collect stuff they have an interest in, and the treasure hub wants to tell stories about the items on display and have as much information about them as possible. Jade is a crucial part of this policy as she is the one gathering all the information for these items.

The Treasure Hub was first set up because they wanted a museum store in Aberdeen that was open to the public. Usually, these things are locked away within cities, but Northfield is part of the community, and they want to show what they have to offer. Having an affiliation with some of the venues in the city centre such as the Maritime Museum, Art Gallery and Tolbooth Museum means that Northfield is sometimes overlooked so having an open day means they can get people into another venue and people can take a tour, have a chat, see behind the scenes etc.

Who is holding the open day?

The Aberdeen Treasure Hub is holding the open day.

What is the open day?

The Open day is a chance to invite people in to find out a little more about the items and artwork the hub has on display.

Where is the open day? Do I have to pay?

The open day will be held at the Treasure Hub in Northfield, Granitehill Rd, Aberdeen AB16 7AX.

No, you don't have to pay for a tour at the open day, all you must do is simply book a tour and time through the website and show up.

When is the open day?

The open day is on 8th March 2025.

Why are they holding the open day?

They are holding the open day as not a lot of people know about the hub and what they do with their projects. They want to open to as many people as possible and educate but also show off what they have on display.

The theme for the day is museum misfits, it is all about finding out the history of the items in the exhibition and the story behind them. With items on display such as toys, computers, medical equipment, paintings and sculptures, everything has a story behind it. The hub wants to showcase their work and show it off to everyone who has an interest in old historic items so why not join them on the 8th of March! Even if you can't make the open day then the hub is open 7 days a week 10am-5pm.

Mackenzie Mullen







Northfield Community Centre

At the end of last year, the Centre was buzzing. With our chairperson, not only nominated for a Community Award but winning it.

At Christmas the children went to Kirkhill Forest who donated a tree, and the food truck donated the food. Kings coaches donated the coach. And the kids got tied up like trees. Great night. Then to top it all off The Grinch came to Northfield.

And now in 2025 we have a wee more things up our sleeves.



Elected officials

Cllr Donna Clark

I hope everyone has had a good festive period. It has been a busy time in the Cummings Park area as well as the wider Northfield/ Mastrick North ward since my last update.

The most common issues I have been receiving from surgeries as well as day to day enquiries include various housing issue such as downsizing, void properties and their turnover so that they can be re-let out to tenants as well as hedging, blocked drains, lack of gritting particularly in both the Cummings Park and Heathryfold areas.

As the snowy and colder weather has continued into the new year, many will require the roads and pavements to be gritted. Please be assured that the council's gritting team are working extremely hard to ensure all roads across the city are gritted to allow folk to get to and from work, school, appointments and to the shops. Please do let me know if there are any empty grit bins within your local area as I will ask the council to ensure they are filled at the earliest opportunity, however, the council will only look to fill them once all primary and secondary roads within the city have been gritted.

I had the privilege of attending the Celebrate Aberdeen Awards at the end of October, and witnessed Northfield's very own Jacqui Innes win the Heart of the Community Award for all her work at the community centre and the wider community for over 40 years. I understand that Jacqui has since been recognised in the Scottish Parliament by Jackie Dunbar MSP who submitted a motion to congratulate her on this award as well as the work she has done within the community.

Before the Christmas break, I had the opportunity to go into Northfield Academy to speak with pupils and help them to find out and learn more about the history of Allan Douglas Park. I continue to work with the school on a project for the park so keep an eye out for further updates on this.

I also went to Heathryburn School's Christmas Carol event which was held on the last week of the school term. The event was fantastic and the pupils at the school put on an amazing show.

Aberdeen City Council are due to have their budget meeting on Wednesday 5th March, which will determine what funding the Council are allocating and where for the next year. I will hopefully provide an update in t he next edition.

If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07977 399622 or email me at; donclark@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Cllr Gordon Graham

Hi folks the Northfield Community forum disbanded a number of years ago, however there was still funds in the bank, it was always the intention of members of the forum to distribute these funds to schools. Following the untimely deaths of Kath Foreman and Mike Middleton members were aware of the need to distribute the funding remaining, so we presented cheques to the value of £500.00 to Northfield Academy, Bramble Brae, Manor Park, Heathryburn, Westpark and Quarryhill. We also gave smaller donations to Cummings Park Flat and the United Free Church to assist with their Friday Breakfast Club.

One of the main issues I am facing just now is overflowing communal bins, this is not helped by council officers, as they will not consider more bins or increased frequency. There is also concerns that the days communal bins are due emptied are not available on the Council Website causing confusion for existing and new residents. I would like to develop a survey of the bins in the ward and peoples experience and I would be grateful for people assistance by supplying photos or sharing experience with bins. Please send to ggraham@ aberdeencity.co.uk.

Another issue I am facing is the continued delay in the School Estate Review which stupidly in my opinion has still not ruled out any primary school closure in the ward. To add insult to injury, I'm not happy with the closure of assets such as Northfield Library they have not included a review of all assets. The Education and Children's Services Committee on 17/09/24 agreed to instruct the "Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to proceed with a review of all public building assets in Northfield, which will include an assessment

of options for the future of the primary schools. It is anticipated that the findings of this review will be presented to the Committee on 16 September 2025". Adding further delay and bringing the possibility of further closures to buildings and Primary Schools. As a sweetener they say that they will explore building a replacement for Northfield Academy. But we have been there before with the promised doctor's surgery in Greenferns, now we have no doctors' surgeries. I won't be fooled again.

At the time of writing this I am saddened by the death of a good friend Ron Bird. Ron had a very infectious character and worked hard to help local people through lots of different types of work throughout his life and he was always happy to help people experiencing difficulties. However, I will remember him most for his work at Middlefield Community Project and his Guarana Street Drumming band. I also fondly remember when we set about putting in the wooden toadstools and butterflies in Auchmill Community Woodland, we always intended to put more different types of woodland ornaments, however his illness and that of others prevented that from happening. So, I will make a commitment that during this summer and in future I will work to improve the woodland and repair/replace the butterflies as they have broken wings.

Ron was a classic example the good people and good work going on in the Ward and I am always happy to help where I can.

Gordon Graham

ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk M: 07736329751

Coffee Morning Galore

United Free Church's Friday morning Coffee Mornings are beginning again for the year.

Running each Friday morning from 10am to 12 noon at United Free Church on Kettlehills Road.

There is plenty to enjoy from cuppas to tasty homemade scones and more.

Why not pop along for a blether and enjoy a fancy piece at the same time, everyone is more than welcome.

The event is free but donations are welcome if you have any cash to spare!



Forget me not

My name is Gail Groves, I met my husband Brian in September 1976; he was in the Army Youth Team, and I was in the Territorial Army. We hit it off from the very start.

Brian was due to return to his Regiment, 19 Field Royal Artillery in 1977, so we decided to marry prior to him joining his regiment.

Our marriage took place in Middlefield Church on 2nd May 1977 with Rev Blakey carrying out the service. We had a lovely white wedding with wedding cars, bridesmaids, flower girl, best man and a special 'Guard of Honour' of 6 of my fellow TA colleagues, with all our families in attendance (we had the whole works).

Brian joined his Regiment in late autumn and was based at Larkhill where we got our first army quarter. Brian was then posted to Paderborn, Germany where we lived, our first child, Lisa was born, 15 months after we married.

Brian finished his time in the army, and we returned home to Aberdeen where we went on to have two sons, Stewart and Rikki.

We had a happy marriage and family life with our children growing up and having their own families, all of whom we were and are still so proud of.

In December 2023 Brian became unwell and went to the GPs and was referred on to specialist in ARI. Unfortunately, Brian's health suddenly declined, and we were informed on 29th January 2024 that Brian's organs were starting to shut down, he was told that he had two weeks to live!!!

We were in total shock and did not know what to do. In the last week of Brian's life, he came home where we looked after him. Brian passed away exactly two weeks after receiving the diagnosis.

Our whole life had been turned upside down in two weeks. Nothing will ever be the same for me or our family and extended family.

Were we prepared for this? NO never in a million years. We had been married for nearly 47 years and now one of the most important people in our lives was no longer here with us.

Since Brian left, I have tried to find support to help me cope with my loss. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find anything that is face to face to help partners/ spouses with their bereavement.

I started the Forget Me Not group, a support group for bereaved partners in August with the support of the Rosemount Community Centre. The aim of the group is to give support to those, like me, who have lost their partner. It's been a hard slog as I have been left to facilitate the group, what I really wanted was for me to be just a member of the group. However, the group had its first meeting on 28th of August last year.

Although we are few in numbers, it's so far so good with regular people attending. I have tried to advertise the group in many ways as I still believe we are not reaching the people, who like me, need support.

A NEW BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP WILL BE STARTING IN 2025 at Middlefield Community Project. The day and time are to be confirmed. If you would like further information about this group, please call the Middlefield Hub and give your name and telephone number and I will get back in touch with you as soon as I can.

Call 01224 697000 Gail Groves



DAVE'S QUIZZES

THE BIG QUIZ

- 1 The ---- Boar
- 2 ----- and Jockey
- 3 George And -----
- 4 The Green-----
- 5 Robin ---- Arms
- 6 The Crows ----
- 7 --- Navigation
- 8 The Golden ----
- 9 The ----- Man
- 10 The ---- Bar

Complete pub names from list opposite

Nest The Long Green Trees Horse Wild Dragon Hood Hind

QUIZ

- 1 Alfred The Great Defeated the Vikings in year 878 in which battle ?
- 2 Witch leader was known as The Little corporal ?
- 3 The UK's highest medal for bravery is what ?
- 4 A spine is formed by how many vertebrae ?
- 5 Where is a Glass blowers Gather to be Found ?
- 6 Which was Scotland's first university ?
- 7 When were rubber bands Patented ?
- 8 If you took part in a Mop Fair what were you looking for ?
- 9 What is normally planted in a kitchen garden ?
- 10 Linoleum was invented by whom ?

DO THE MATHS >>

- 1 Which two numbers add up to 54 with a difference of 12 between them?
- 2 Which two numbers add up to 27 with one greater by 3 than the other?

1 ---- 33 YAD 31 ---- 15 YAD 12

shmu Turns 21 in Style

Around 700 people gathered in Deer Road Park and shmuHQ to to celebrate shmu's 21st birthday on the 22nd of September.

The community media charity couldn't have asked for a better birthday party than shmuFEST!

Guests showed up from across shmu's communities to enjoy the fun filled day. There was truly something for everyone, from live performances of poetry, music and dance throughout the day, to a silent disco, a BBQ, street art, craft, circus tents and more!

The day was an absolute hit with those who came along, across the day volunteers new and old attended, community members and partner organisations paid a visit. Here's what some of them had to say about the event, and shmu itself!

> "The good thing about shmu is, it's open to everybody, you can see that looking round here, there's people from all walks of life and they're all enjoying themselves, there's not a frown in sight. Radio has been a closed shop for years; I started in the 70s and if you didn't know someone you didn't get in. But shmu opens the doors for so many different people for media, magazines, editing, they can do everything here." PAUL HAZEL

"I thought it was a fantastic, fun day with lots of activities and really nice people! It was just great fun, I really enjoyed it, I liked the music, creating the artwork and listening to the stories." MARK

> "A big thank you to everyone who organised shmuFEST. It's been a good time spreading joy here in Woodside and a fantastic day getting everybody together!" MIKE MELVIN

"I loved doing the dancing for Afristyle, representing and performing in front of everyone."

PERFORMER

"It was amazing, there were lots of familiar faces around, the weather behaved nicely, you've got a birthday every year, so I hope to see something next year too! It was a great experience." COMMUNITY MEMBER

"It is such a cool day today; I really love it. I hope it happens on a regular basis, wandering about I have seen so many people that I know from all different places. Earlier on I was trying to explain to my family what shmu does and I was like 'well it does this, and it does tv and it does radio and it does youth employment and all sorts of stuff. But I couldn't explain it, I couldn't put it in a box, but coming along to shmuFEST, that explains it, that gives you an idea of how all-encompassing shmu is and how many different people come and what an amazing opportunity it is for so many folk."

KIRSTY BLACKMAN MSP

"I loved having a hotdog! I am in a great mood, and I can't wait to go on the bouncy castle next!" JOSH WATSON

"To have a shmufest and have us as guests is just brilliant! I have never been involved in anything like this before!" MURDOCH

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 Penumbra First Response 0800 234 3695

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Donna Clark 07977399622 donclark@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Graham 01224 523594 ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councilor Ciaran McRae 07500 999617 cimcrae@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Area MSP Jackie Dunbar – MSP for Aberdeen Donside 01224 011 936 Jackie.Dunbar.msp@parliament.scot

Area MP Kirsty Blackman

– MP for Aberdeen North Aberdeen office: 01224 633285 kirsty.blackman.mp@parliament.

Northfield United Free Church of Scotland

Tel: 01224704005 northfieldufchurch@outlook.com

ABZWorks abzworks.co.uk 01224 070200

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 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