

mastrick Matters

Spring 2017



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www.shmu.org.uk/press

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editorial

Welcome to your summer edition of the Mastrick Matters community magazine!

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team or if you have ideas for the community publication, you can easily get in touch with us. The staff at shmu are able to support and train anyone living in the area who are interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading. So please don't be shy, this is your magazine written, edited and designed by the good folk of Mastrick. If you live in the Mastrick area and would like to come along to the editorial meetings or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at shmu on **01224 515013** or you can email her on **laura.young@shmu.org.uk**.

You can also get in touch with us via our new Facebook page - look up 'Mastrick Matters' and hit that 'like' button, and you can view this magazine alongside previous editions on the shmu website: **www.shmu.org.uk** then click the 'PRESS' option

The Mastrick Matters editorial team would like to remind our readers that we are a fully funded magazine and would advise that no donations are needed.

Mastrick Dates:

First meeting: 8th August

Second meeting: 22nd August

Content deadline: 5th September

**All meetings take place at 10:30am at
Mastrick Community Centre.**

happy reading.



Supported by



LEN IRONSIDE CENTRE

A new state of the art facility for adults with learning difficulties is set to officially open this summer.

The Len Ironside Centre will replace the outdated Rosehill Day Centre on Ashgrove Road West. The centre cost £4.3 million and will provide support and activities for around 50 adults with severe learning and physical disabilities.

The Mastrick Matters editorial team met up with some of the staff from the centre to speak to them about the new building.

Technology has come on so much in the last 50 years that the equipment at Rosehill is now out of date. However, the newly opened centre will be filled with modern equipment including extra-large screen TVs, modified keyboards for people who have visual impairments and a kitchen with lower cabinets, a sensory garden with raised beds of scented plants with picnic areas and wider passageways for wheelchair users.

Tracy Duncan, Senior Support Worker, who has worked at Rosehill Day Centre for the past four years said: "We have lots of

clients who have really high needs and they're at home all day with their family so it's vital for us to be there.

"We want to teach our clients life skills and give them access to the community. The location of this centre will let practice things like crossing the road and money management. We can walk up to the local shops and the clients can take their own money and pick what they would like for lunch. We'll have so much scope to empower clients.

"For a long time, learning difficulties were pushed to the side but now they're going to be involved in the community."

As well as the clients who use the day centre, the building will eventually be open to groups across the city who can use it for their benefit as well.

Katherine Paton, Service Manager said: "We also want to offer work experience opportunities for people with mild/moderate learning difficulties We can help teach people basic skills for work, for example answering the phone and working with other people."

Staff from the Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership will also be based in the building which will provide a full wrap around service to the people using the day centre. For more information, you can look up www.aberdeencityhscp.scot where there will be a section developed for Rosehill Day Centre. Keep an eye on Mastrick Matters for more coverage of the centre.



TRANSFORMING THE INTERNET INTO A SAFE SPACE

Local charity Choices Aberdeen go online with their new counselling service

At Choices, we are passionate about getting people talking about difficult issues, and helping them find closure and healing by giving them a safe space to open up and be listened to. This is the motivation behind our crisis pregnancy counselling service, which exists for women and couples facing an unexpected pregnancy. We offer, in the words of one of our past clients, 'a place where I could talk, cry and have space to just be.'

Whilst the internet is a valuable resource, we are also aware that, especially for young people, the internet can be an increasingly risky and frightening place. If you go to Northfield Academy you may have seen our youth team about in school, where you can recognise us by our purple hoodies. We run events to promote positive relationships, and put on workshops to get you all talking about resilience, peer pressure, exploitation and the role of social media in our relationships. The youth team keep up to date with developments in technology, and use our workshops and drop-ins to promote online safety and make young people aware of the risks out there.

To seek help, for more information, or to request a workshop or counselling session, call us on 01224 624900, or check out our website: www.choicesaberdeen.org.uk.



MASTRICK WALKING GROUPS

The Amblers went to Ballochbuie Forest, which is part of the Queen's Balmoral estate. The walk took us along the side of the River Dee then over the "Auld Brig O' Dee" then onto a track in the forest.

This took us to the Queen's Log Cabin in a glen with small lochans. It was a perfect place for lunch sitting on the porch, the views were spectacular.

The Wanderers/Strollers went to Glen Doll, which sits at the end of Glen Clova, to walk up to Corrie Fee. This is like an alpine amphitheatre. The corries are shaped like giant armchairs carved by the last ice age about 12,000 years ago.

The Strollers went up the direct route while the Wanderers did a bit of a detour up Jocks Road to the beautiful Glen Doll, then down the White Water to join a track to Corrie Fee where we all regrouped, beautiful walk.

We took a trip down to Loch Lee, this is in Glen Esk by the Amblers/Strollers, both groups did the same walk and it turned

out to be the hottest day of the year so far.

The walk took us past the ruin of Invermark Castle then a very old grave yard with the ruins of a kirk, some of the grave stones dated back to 16 and 1700s.

The walk along the side of the loch was lovely, we saw two adders, a newt, a lizard, loads of tadpoles some deer on top of the hill but best of all was a pair of golden eagles.

The Amblers went to Loch Callater, just passed Braemar. The walk is up the track at the side the Callater Burn, the weather was overcast but dry. We had our lunch in a bothy at the side of the loch. Beautiful views all around, this was the loch that Queen Victoria used to visit.

"Mastrick Walking Group" are now on Facebook.

If you wish to join a group Phone Raymond on 01224783627 or Email helenandraymond@hotmail.co.uk



● LUCKY MAN. A PERSONAL STORY

I've been a lucky guy. I had a happy childhood. I've had interesting jobs. I've travelled the world and been lucky in love. Life's been good to me so far.

The poet William Blake said, some are born to sweet delight and some are born to endless night. If you give 'sweet delight' ten points and 'endless night' zero, I'd give myself an eight. That's pretty good on the human joy/misery scale.

Then straight lines started looking wavy. The doctor at the eye clinic said I've got macular degeneration. That's when you lose central vision. It's a one way street to partial blindness, although modern treatments can help stave off the inevitable. I'll still be able to appreciate a sunset, but I won't be able to watch a movie, read a book or recognize people in the street. The doctor then said that had I been in my sixties he would say 'unlucky.' I'm in my fifties. Maybe I'm not so lucky.

I got a bit depressed about it all. I can forget about finishing university. How can I do all that reading? And who's going to employ someone with my vision? Even in a kitchen, I just wouldn't be safe.

But then I suppose our bodies start letting us down after a certain age. I've a mate who's now in a wheelchair. Another has a chronic back problem. Yet another has a heart condition. With me it's my

eyes. Maybe there's no such thing as good luck just various kinds of bad.

So I thought it would be a good idea to prepare for the worst rather than hope for the best. The first port of call was North East Sensory Services on John Street. As you enter you see a wide range of visual aids. Then there's a library of audio books. There's a computer room with an IT specialist. I found out just how much computers can help you. Look at Stephen Hawkins.

The staff at NESS can give advice on all sorts of things including finding your way through the maze of the benefits system. There's a café, so you can socialise with folk that have problems similar to your own. Then there are various courses you can do and help finding a job on offer as well. The NESS folk said there's no reason I couldn't be safe in a kitchen, so I signed up for the cooking course. I learned a lot. There was also a recognised certificate to boot.

I've thought maybe I could do that degree after all. Computers can read for you. I started looking at the situations vacant again. Hey, I have options.

So if you have a health problem, it's no use sitting around in the doldrums, bemoaning your fate. There is help out there. After all, you make your own luck.

NORTH EAST SENSORY SERVICES (NESS)

Employment support is available to people living in Aberdeen City who are blind, partially sighted, hearing impaired or Deaf and who are willing to make the commitment to work towards an employment related positive outcome.

We offer education, volunteering, job-seeking and in-work support including compiling CVs, interview skills and techniques, IT support, guidance and signposting and employer support.

The service is available for anyone with a sensory impairment aged 16+.

Janice Gray,
Employment Officer
North East Sensory
Services

21 John Street

Aberdeen AB25 1BT

Tel: 0845 27 12345

Email: [janice.gray@](mailto:janice.gray@nesensoryservices.org)
nesensoryservices.org

AMIABLY MOST UNDENIABLY WITH AN AIM TO PLAY THE GAME FAIRLY AS EVER
JOHN'S UNMISTAKEABLY HARDLY UNMISSABLE AND FAR LESS RELIGIOUS IN
GIVING A CROSS SECTION OF BEING HAVING BEEN AS WE'D BE WELL AWARE

We all think too much to have thought

Whether permitting good or bad,
intelligent or unintelligible long or
short winded or breathing capacity
more full on or off the cuff or deep end
or a shallow beginning again or never
before in the face of human adversity
or adversely behind us or them
constant or merely intermittently on
an occasion or nothing special being
quite the thing to be or never having
been as hardly anything at all worth the
mentioning unless someone beyond
myself considers I've got a point rather
than a talent to be blunt as ever going
elsewhere if nowhere leaves little room
to expand with the contractions being
met or avoided as I can't avoid writing
about the past with and without the
presence of mind over Mastrick Matters
presenting this as much as that being
the future where and when possible
with creation created equal to the

challenge of making reading any of this
that much more difficult to read with
ease of conscience being king or queen
as a form of written word playing either
role in reverse the other way around in
circles of thought or merely thinking
we think as we've come to expect
from others thinking before and now
after as creative writing goes further
involving ourselves as much as might
be possible to create something unique
if you're lucky enough to notice and be
noticed writing and reading something
that's really quite possibly never been
this close and that distant at a distance
before now closes in before us out
there as ever here and now becomes
more after as an effect affecting literally
hours of work in progress as a least
of all progressive far less aggressive
writer writing forever up to a point.

We're all quite probably thinking far too much like we think we'd have thought
Sanctioning more or less sectionally and not just sexually hopefully in amore
engaging way of making it so they say as I've said differently to the differing
majority wise if not stupid to think of thinking most enterprisingly

Madame X Plain Jane

We all live our lives as best we can possibly comprehend living through the good and the bad times, don't we? But not wishing to dwell too much on the negative aspects of being born centrally and now having made my home in Mastrick I'd just like to take you back to another time in Aberdeen when I was merely a child born about two years before the beginning of World War II to live a life through an earlier turbulent time.

There's little I recall with any great detail in having only just begun to experience the body of my 80 years. I have memories of hearing the sound of the siren or warning alerts loud and clear in the air letting my mother and all the other adults in charge of us children know the best course of action would now be to take cover underground in the air-raid shelters prepared for us. And so many of the people involved like myself would make our way to safety not wishing to be a more serious casualty of the tragedy and horror about to take place above the ground we needed to evacuate almost immediately. I don't remember exactly how the shelters looked inside being so young but I do recall the rushing of the people as we all made our way to and down the stone steps to safety whether held in the arms of others or more by myself as I'd grown old enough to walk well on my own. There were quite a few of us seeking sanctuary below and a sizeable amount of those were my own family coming from a large one numbering 8 at that time including my mother and 7 sisters. There would have been 9 at home or in the shelter but my brother always seemed to spend much of his youth at the cinema house during the attacks of the German forces as we were lead to believe. I can even remember seeing German soldiers down below on the railway track you can maybe still make out to this day in Union Terrace Gardens. Having been captured they were no doubt being led away to be detained for their part in the terror attacks on our British shores.

Thankfully my brother was far too young to comprehend living or dying through the war years as a soldier taking his place among the troops fighting for our lives across the waters but as a typical boy he would've surely loved the typically male orientated films of the time? Classic films like The Wizard Of Oz and Gone With The Wind would have been shown to the public for the first time and yet no doubt he had been more interested in other films along the lines of westerns, comedies

starring then favourites like Abbot and Costello and probably some of the films encouraging our boys and men to fight for their country.

The bombings were a much clearer sign of what was going on in this war we were experiencing as civilians, though not quite to the same degree as those right in the thick of it on other shores across Europe giving their lives to the cause of freedom. The large objects being dropped on us were real enough although we were below ground far from hearing the crashes, thuds and explosions too definitively except for those that might have been too close for comfort, emphasising war was here as they were as good as on our doorsteps.

I have little recollection of how long we'd spent down there together as a local people out of reach of what seemed aimed at us. We were listening for the all clear signal so we could get back to living our day to day lives but things resumed above ground soon enough. Thankfully perhaps most of all for the future children of my family members not one of my sisters or brother lost their lives can to the war and my father returned to my mother maybe inspired by the picture he had been sent of his dearest ones to keep and show to all his fighting comrades who hadn't believed just how much of a family he had created with his loving wife.



Before (my mother and father)



After (my mother and one of her sisters and brother)



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN NORTHFIELD



THE WINNERS

Earlier this year there was £82,500 worth of funding available to people living in the Greater Northfield area. Local people were invited to submit ideas for how the money should be spent in the area and then the community voted. Winners were announced in March this year and the Middlefield Mirror team are delighted to be able to share some information regarding the winners.

Westpark School Community Playground - £10,000

The school wanted to remove some old and unsafe play materials, then upgrade the area, making it suitable for outdoor play and learning. The final plan will be decided by the community through the Parent Council but will include lots of natural resources, eg rocks, logs and trees, placed in an interesting and interactive landscape to encourage problem solving skills, cooperation and health and wellbeing. The playground will be available to children of the area outwith school hours as well.

Get Fit For Free - £10,000

Byron Boxing Club will be running free fitness sessions for people of all ages from the Greater Northfield area on a Friday

evening. These sessions will help promote health and wellbeing in the area.

Byron Parents and Toddlers Expansion - £6,000

This group currently meet in Cummings Park Centre several mornings a week and allows children and parents to socialise and interact through play. The funding will be used to replace equipment and fund new resources/activities.

Byron Sports Club - £3,000

Byron Sports Club will use the money to continue the work they do with youth football in the area.

Mastrick Community Minibus - £5,000

The community centre will use the bus to help groups get out and about to different places and improve transport for local people.

Aberdeen Boxing Club Non-Contact Boxing & GB Boxing Awards programme - £9,967

Aberdeen Boxing Club want to create learning opportunities for young people in the area through the expansion of their service. There will be additional boxing sessions at Northfield Academy twice a week for young people aged between 7 and 17. These

sessions are non-contact and focus on the fundamental boxing techniques and fitness. As part of the sessions there will be a focus on healthy lifestyles which includes nutrition as well as fitness.

Streetsport - £3,600

This organisation will be running sessions for young people in the area completely free of charge using the Bill Burr astro pitch. These sessions would run from 8-10pm every Friday evening to try and reduce youth-related anti-social behavior. These multi-sport and creative activity sessions will cover a wide range of activity throughout the year.

The Club - £5,400

Mastrick Community Centre will deliver a 20-week pilot youth work project for young people aged between 8 and 14. They plan to source tutors from other agencies to cover themes such as sport, music, technology and fitness with the young people. The end goal of the pilot is for the young people to direct and produce a video showing the skills they have learned over the course of the programme.

Fight for Recovery - £4,800

Coaches at Byron Boxing Club will be working with Alcohol and

Drugs Action to provide two 12 week programmes of boxercise for individuals who are in recovery from alcohol and/or drug use. Each weekly session would include physical exercise as well as information on nutrition.

Manor Park Minions - £3,000

Manor Park Minions is a parent and toddler group which was set up by residents of Middlefield to provide local parents with activities to take part in with their children. The group want to expand to cover another community and help to cover the cost of outings for day trips so attendees would not have to pay. The toys the group currently use belong to the Childcare Services Creche so they would like to be able to purchase their own.

Over 50s Fun - £3,210

Northfield Community Centre want to be able to develop a programme of activities for people over the age of 50 in the area. There will be activities in the centre on a Monday with a social get together in the café afterwards. On a Thursday, the centre are also going to host

a local history group which will feature local walks and talks on a topic of the groups choice.

Meeting Local Demand for Activity and Opportunity - £9,996

Middlefield Community Project has recently moved to Middlefield Community Hub and will use the money to develop activities to meet the needs of a much bigger community. They will use the money to provide laptops and IT tutors to enable digital learning with adults and young people, fund keep fit tutors who will run classes for a variety of ages and fitness levels, a baby massage tutor and additional staffing for the Youth Space to help deal with the increased catchment area of the Project.

Cummings Park Community Flat Programme Bid - £4,750

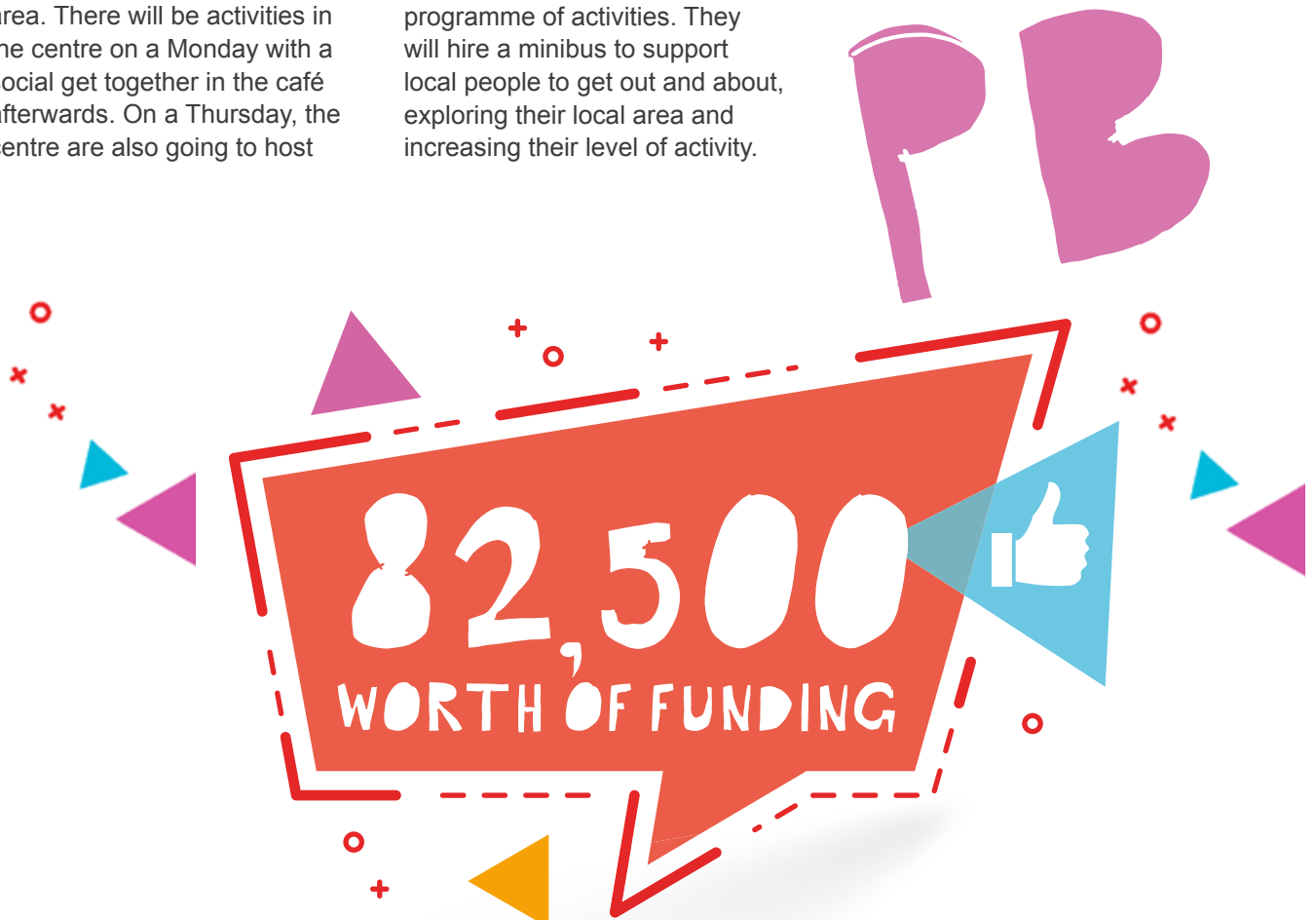
The Community Flat in Cummings Park will use their funding to develop their programme of activities. They will hire a minibus to support local people to get out and about, exploring their local area and increasing their level of activity.

They will also use the money to expand their crafts groups and encourage more people to join. The men's group will benefit from the funding by being able to try more sporting activities throughout the year.

AFC Community Trust - £5,000

Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT) will be working with local people in the Northfield area to access AFCCT delivered physical activities and wellbeing initiatives. These activities will help tackle social isolation and help older people get active. The activities will be dementia friendly, give local people skills, provide volunteering opportunities and opportunities for intergenerational activities.

For more information about any of these projects contact Fiona by emailing FiGray@aberdeencity.gov.uk.



On the Other Side of the Waves with Kevin

When I began at shmu towards the end of 2016, I did not know a great deal about radio. Now that I have been there over six months, I do feel a lot more confident – not just in the studio, but in life too.

I feel that I am continuously learning new things about broadcasting and picking up bits of advice from other radio presenters. We are a co-operative bunch and help each other if necessary.

I present two live shows every Monday (at 10am and 12pm – thought I'd sneak in a plug) and one which I record, that gets aired on a Thursday at 8pm.

I do some work on my shows every day and am always thinking of new ideas for them. I have had a passion for music and radio since childhood.

I would not have had the courage to do something like this a few years ago; I have shmu to thank for changing that. I would heartily recommend anyone getting involved – the younger the better and there are lots younger than me. I feel that I would have benefitted more from radio broadcasting at an earlier age.

Whatever happens in the future, a part of my heart will always be with shmu.

Grace Reformed Church, Aberdeen Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland Long Walk Road, Mastrick

The congregation recently purchased the former congregational church on Long Walk Road. As a congregation we have been looking for a place of worship for over sixteen years and are delighted to have a permanent home. We have been very well received in Mastrick, with many of our new neighbours telling us they are glad the building has returned to its original use as a church. We have already had a number of local Christians worshipping with us and trust that as we get known in the area many other people will come and see.

Over the past couple of months as we settled into our new surroundings we have been kept busy with the many tasks that come from owning our own property. The notice board was seen as an early priority along with a sign for the side of the building to let everyone know we are here.

The sanctuary is light and pleasant with room for just over 100 people if required, it is currently laid out for 50 seats.

Our Sunday worship focuses on the preaching of the Gospel and studying the Bible to enable us to apply it to our lives day by day. On the Wednesday, we have a prayer meeting and Bible study and our young people meet together for some relaxed time whenever they can. The young people usually organise the food and fun amongst themselves.

We are hoping to hold our official opening, as soon as is practicable. It is anticipated that this will be after the summer, probably late August to early September, to allow for more work to be done in and around the church. There will be a special service with a guest speaker on the Saturday Afternoon followed by an open day to allow anyone who wishes to come in, look around and get to know us. We hope to welcome many friends, old and new, to the congregation as the Lord spares.

Rev T J McGlynn (Minister, Aberdeen)



Policing in Mastrick

An annual operation which has seen almost 150 motorbikes seized in the last two years alone, and scores of people charged, has been launched in Aberdeen.

Operation Trinity is aimed at targeting individuals who cause a nuisance in their communities by riding motorcycles illegally or in a dangerous way.

This year is the ninth year that the operation has taken place and is a direct result of concerns raised by the local communities across the city about the anti-social use of motorbikes and the negative behaviour associated with it.

As in previous years, a dedicated team of officers will be working alongside colleagues from the Roads Policing Unit, City Wardens, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Aberdeen Community Safety Hub, as well as the public to tackle the issue.

Inspector Jon Millar, of the Mastrick Community Policing Team, said: "Trinity is a tried and tested operation which has seen success over the years. Over the last two summers, 144 motorbikes were seized with 63 people charged in 2015 and 76 people charged in 2016. We generally see an increase in the anti-social use of motorbikes once the nights start getting lighter which is why we launch this operation every May.

"Those who carry out these offences choose to ride motorbikes at speed around particular areas however the risk they pose to themselves and others shouldn't be underestimated.

"The vast majority of motorcyclists and motorists obey the law but there is still a small minority who ignore traffic rules and ride dangerously and irresponsibly, causing a menace and more importantly a danger to the public.

"This is not acceptable and we will continue to target those intent on behaving in this way.

"Anti-social motorcycle use can be anything from speeding, riding on footpaths and open land to not wearing the right protective clothing, which carries a risk for not only the public, but also the rider themselves.

"There are a minority of people that we come into contact with who are using their own motorbikes legitimately, however they don't realise they are committing an offence by driving their motorbike off road, and so it is important that people take time to make sure they are safe.

Inspector Millar added that it is a priority for Police Scotland to trace those responsible for causing a danger in communities and that partnership work with colleagues such as Aberdeen City Council and communities will continue.

Anyone wishing to report information that could help with Operation Trinity should call 101 or if they wish to remain anonymous, they can call the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Aberdeen Streetwork Project

We are a service that uses informal learning to help young people aged 10-25 years to make positive changes in their lives and take action in their communities.

Aberdeen Streetwork Project Staff meet with young people in public places to offer information, advice and support on a range of issues including alcohol, employment, drugs, sexual health and education. We focus on building up positive relationships with young people.

When needed we will challenge anti-social behaviour and work alongside our partners to allow mediation between young people and other groups/residents to take place to resolve such issues.

Aberdeen Streetwork Project Youth Workers are employed by Aberdeen City Council, Youth Development Team and are PVG checked.

Contact info – Ellie Hepburn, Development Officer
EHEPBURN@aberdeencity.gov.uk Or Ann-Marie Morrison, Community Learning Youth Worker
AnnMMorrison@aberdeencity.gov.uk



church news

Mastrick Parish Church - Summer Update

Our New Minister

Great news! We are delighted that by the time you are reading this, we will have welcomed Rev Susan Sutherland as our new minister! Although Susan is coming from a church in Dundee, she is very familiar with Aberdeen, having lived and worked locally in previous years. Susan is very much looking forward to getting to know the community of Mastrick, and to meeting local residents over the coming months.

Teresa Broere has been acting as our locum minister for the past 21 months, leading Sunday worship, conducting funerals, and visiting folks in the parish, and her work has been much appreciated; from July, she will work alongside Susan, as Parish Assistant, and so you will continue to see her around – in schools and at other community events, at Messy Church and the Pop-Up Cafés!

Messy Church

Messy Church in April was great

fun with lots of children and parents attending! The theme was Easter, and so we played games on an Easter theme, designed Easter cards, made chocolate Easter nests, decorated Easter eggs, made Easter sun-catchers and butterfly clips – and the Easter garden we built and planted up with flowers and grass was there for all to see in the entrance to the Church!

Families often tell us that activities involving children during holidays are always welcome, and the different timing in April - lunchtime during a day in the school holidays – seemed popular.

The next Messy Church is on Thursday 10 August from 11 - 1pm when we'll be having summer fun and getting outdoors as much as possible, with games and activities, Bible stories and songs, and lunch for everyone!

Messy Church has no age limit though we do ask that all children

are accompanied by an adult or someone over 16 – and it's free!

Hope to see lots of families then!

The Pop Up Café & Play Sessions have been running for a few months now, on the last Thursday of the month in the church hall from 1 – 2.30pm; they have been well attended by mums, grannies, child minders and their wee ones. It's an outreach café with play activities for the children and a cup of tea for the adults, a time to sit down, catch up with friends and make new friends.

Please tell family, friends, and neighbours about the Pop Up Café and encourage them to come along – all are welcome whether they have any connection with the church or not!

For further information about the church and its activities, keep an eye on the notice board in front of the church, or check out our Facebook page or website.

St Clement's Church

Nine months gone!

No. I am not talking about pregnancy, although way back in October last year I was expectant. But that was a different type of expectancy. As a new curate being called to ministry at St Clement's Scottish Episcopal Church in Mastrick, I was entering new phase in my life after 38 years working in a variety of roles in Human Resources. It does seem only like yesterday that I was ordained deacon, not nine months ago.

The last nine months have certainly flown by. I have gotten to know the small but faithful congregation at St Clement's. I have got to know some of my neighbours – but not as many I would have liked. I guess we all live fairly busy lives and it is quite hard to find time to create relationships, especially if that involves going and knocking on someone's door that you don't know. Luckily I walk to the church from my house and so get to meet some people each day for a chat.

I have got to know some of the children at Muirfield Primary School as I lead more of the bible club lunchtime sessions there. I have seemed to have gained a loyal following of the younger children at Angels and Co pre-school nursery beside St Clement's. Most of the children there love the sound of the church bells being rung, and even have their own bell to ring now too, and every now and again some help me ring the big church bells. I have

got to know some of the people serving in the shops in Mastrick, and admittedly in the chippy and take away shops too. I have got to know the ministers of the other local churches and value the time we spend together, as chaplains at Northfield Academy. I have got to know several friends' dogs and seem to be a favourite dog hotel when people go away for a few days and need someone to look after their dog.

So, what has nine months in Mastrick taught me? Firstly, it is a friendly community and when you do stop to chat, people are willing to pass the time of day; wandering around in a dog collar seems to not to be a barrier. I am obviously not that scary. Secondly, the congregation at St Clement's reflects the community in which we live. They are friendly and generous and want to do what they can to help others. In our conversations and discussions at church we have been open to what our church community can do and how we can support our wider community. And thirdly, that every day is an opportunity for me to learn, and be thankful that I was asked to come to Mastrick. And last of all, that people in this community are quite resilient and resourceful.

This final point is very important. I do not believe that a 'church' should only be offering something to a community to support it, but also encouraging the community to know its strengths, what resources it has and how it can use these to

good effect. I invite you to consider the simple questions below, and I hope at some time in the not too distant future to invite you to a conversation in our church hall to explore these questions further.

- 1.What is genuinely good about Mastrick, what works well here?
- 2.What do you think would make Mastrick even better?
- 3.What could you offer that would help make Mastrick better?

Now, the answer to question 3 may be as simple as wanting to get together with some other folk for a blether, a cup of tea and do some knitting every once in a while to help reduce loneliness and isolation whilst knitting something that someone else would appreciate. Or maybe you are good at repairing things and be willing to help repair items, so reducing costs and reducing items going to landfill.

In another nine months' time I would like to think some people have thought about these questions, and got some ideas for how to answer question three, and have some things up and running, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant they are. There is already a lot of good things going on in our community, but there is always more that can be done. Are you up for the challenge?

Nick Bowry

Curate, St Clement's Scottish Episcopal Church, Mastrick.



Aged 16-19? Passionate about
film? Want to work in the
film industry?

Applications are open for the fourth Aberdeen BFI Film Academy course, which runs from September 2017 until February 2018. Funded by the BFI and working in partnership with North East Scotland College and the Belmont Filmhouse, the prestigious course will include masterclasses from a range of professionals, culminating in the production of two short films. Participants are expected to commit to weekly sessions and occasional training and filming over weekends.

As a student of the Aberdeen BFI Film Academy you will;

Explore your own creativity and passions in a supportive and dynamic environment

Watch a range of cinema from British Independent to specialised films

Gain invaluable experience working alongside industry professionals who are respected practitioners in their field

Get hands-on filmmaking experience which will help you to develop practical knowledge and skills

Work on the production of a short film

Once you have completed the course, you will become part of the growing BFI Film Academy alumni network with access to events such as BAFTA career talks. You can also apply for one of BFI's seven intensive residential programmes taking place throughout the UK.

How to take part:

If you are interested in finding out more about the course please contact us directly for more information.

Email - bfi@shmu.org.uk
or phone the office on 01224 515013
if you'd like to apply, then download the application form below and follow the instructions.

The closing date for applications is Friday 1st September 2017.

We really look forward to hearing from you.



ERIC HENDRIE PARK

Mural Wall

My name is Louise and I moved to Mastrick in 2014 and have volunteered as the Community Council Secretary since November 2015. The Community Council is a group of local people who meet monthly to discuss issues affecting the local area, from local planning applications, how we manage green spaces, changes to the local surgeries as well as city and nationwide consultations on various issues such as City Centre Master Plans and reducing the residential area speed limit.

We currently have 3 positions available to any local resident who would like to join and if you would be interested, please contact me on the email address below or write to me via the Mastrick Community Centre.

The Community Council receives a grant from Aberdeen City Council equalling around 11p per resident (which adds up to a decent amount of cash!) that the members then agree to distribute. Local charities and groups can apply to use for

funding at any time so if you are one of these or know someone who is in need of funds, please let them know and again, contact me as below.

Eric Hendrie Park is a well-used and loved green space within our local area and back in May of 2016 a part of the wall at the back of the multi-ball court got a spruce up by a group of street artists. The photo above shows the old wall. The beautiful new art work shown below was achieved through funding from Aberdeen City Council and the Community Council.

We are now looking to complete the wall art project with help from various organisations.

UV Arts have agreed to be the artists and work with local youths on the design and application of the art work.

We applied to the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme and won third place which we were very happy about and received the sum of £1000

but we are still looking for further funding to get the remainder of the wall completed, with £1000 of our target still to be found.

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers have agreed to be part of the project. The programme gives young people aged 13 – 18 an insight into policing in Scotland and inspires them to participate positively in their communities.

If there are any local businesses who would like to be part of the project and contribute some funding we would be very grateful. Please get in touch with me on the details below.

If there are any youth groups in the local area who would like to volunteer time to help with the wall and learn some creative skills in the process, please get in touch with me on the details below:

**loumccaff@hotmail.com or
Secretary of Community
Council, Mastrick Community
Centre, Greenfern Rd, Aberdeen
AB16 6TR**

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 **0345 337 9900**

and Care Village

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 **01224 212021**

Water

Scottish Water Emergency **0800 0778 778**

CFINE **01224 596156**

Home-Start **01224 693545**

Pathways **01224 682 939**

Cash in your Pocket **0800 953 4330**

Citizens Advice **01224 569750**

Northfield Academy **01224 699715**

Quarryhill School **01224 692390**

Kingsford School **01224 693554**

Muirfield School **01224 696671**

Mastrick Parish Church **01224 694121**

St Clement's Church **01224 662247**

Tyrell Centre **01224 692004**

Community Information for Mastrick

Mastrick Community Council

Meetings take place on the third Wednesday

of every month at 7pm in Mastrick Community Centre.

Contact: loumccaff@hotmail.com

Mastrick Community Centre

9am – 9pm

Contact: 01224 788288

Mastrick Doctors

10am – 4pm

Contact: 01224 662933

Mastrick Library

10am – 5pm

Contact: 01224 788558

On May 4th 2017 six councillors were elected to represent the wider Mastrick area. Remember, even if these individuals were not your first choice, they have been elected to represent you and support you with any issues in the area.

You can get in touch with them via the following ways:

Cllr Ciaran Macrae (Northfield and Mastrick North):

01224 346630

cimcrae@aberdeencity.gov.uk

07500 999617

Cllr Gordon Graham (Northfield and Mastrick North):

01224 523594

07736 329751

ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Cllr Jackie Dunbar (Northfield and Mastrick North):

01224 522522

jdunbar@aberdeencity.gov.uk

07733 300570

Cllr David Cameron (Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill)

01224 346612

dacameron@aberdeencity.gov.uk

07876 760760

Cllr John Wheeler (Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill)

01224 526631

jowheeler@aberdeencity.gov.uk

07500 999593

Cllr Steve Delaney (Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill)

01224 694469 – home

sdelaney@aberdeencity.gov.uk

01224 346614 - Town House