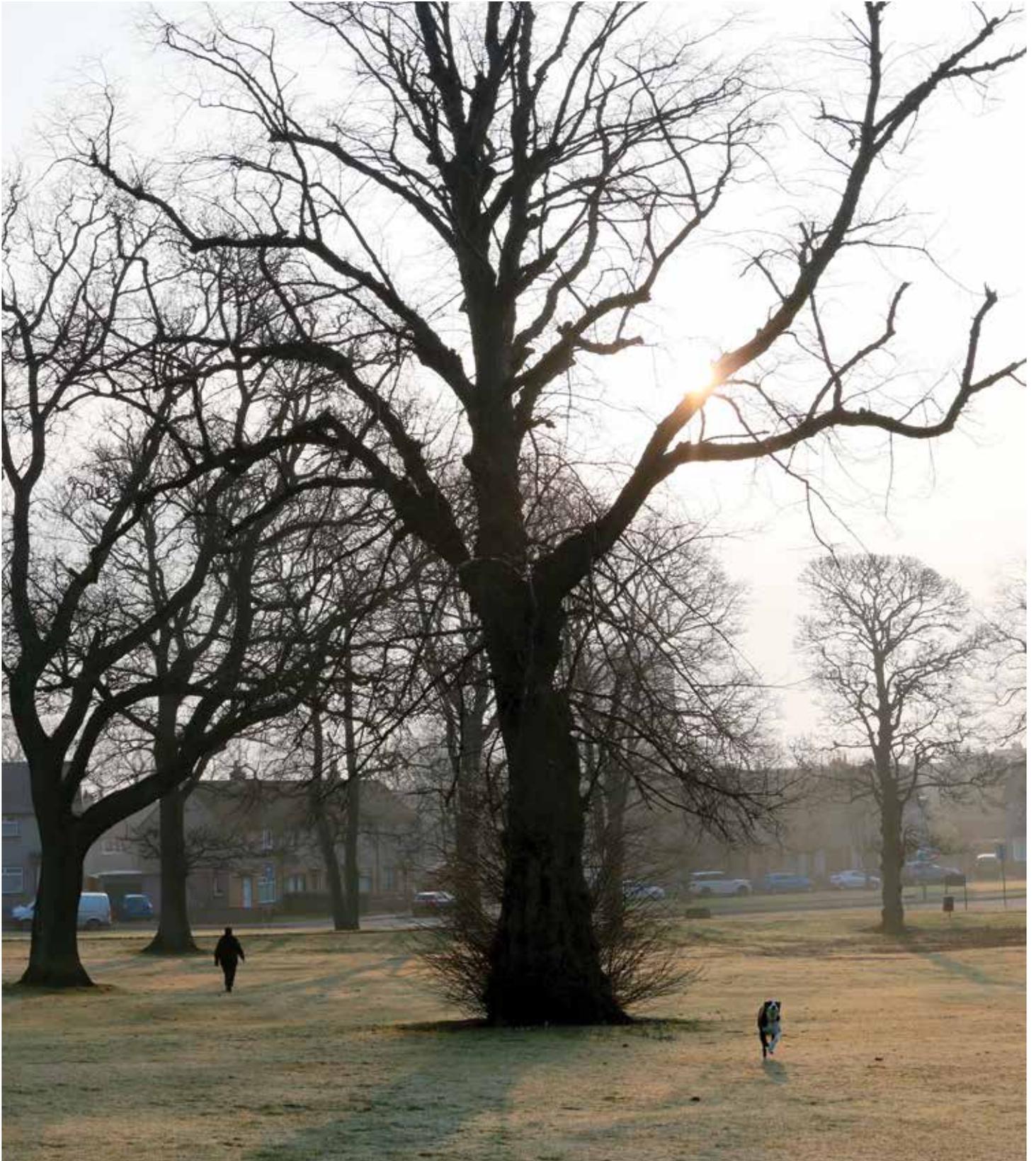


# mastrick *Matters*



**DISSC**  
Champions Again!

**Boys Brigade**  
in Mastrick

**AIYF**  
Round-up

**A Fond Farewell**  
Rev. Elizabeth Youngson

**Northfield Academy**  
All the News



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Front cover image: Eric Hendrie Park  
by Graeme Youngson

## editorial

Welcome to your Autumn 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](mailto: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](http://www.shmu.org.uk)** then click the 'PRESS' option.

*happy reading.*

### NEXT SET OF DATES

All meetings are held at 10:30 at Mastrick Community Centre

- 1st Meeting - 23rd Feb
- 2nd Meeting - 8th March
- Content Deadline - 22nd March
- Page Plan - 29th March

Supported By



# Boys' Brigade in Mastrick

36th Aberdeen (Saint Clement's Mastrick) Company caters for boys and young men from (school years) Primary 1 to Secondary 6, in age appropriate sections. It serves the Mastrick, Sheddocksley, South Sheddocksley and Summerhill areas of the City of Aberdeen.

All meetings are held in Saint Clement's Scottish Episcopal Church Hall, Mastrick Drive, Mastrick, Aberdeen, AB16 6UF on a Tuesday evening during school term time.

**The Anchor Section** (Primary 1 - 3) meets between 18:00 and 19:00.

**The Junior Section** (Primary 4 - 6) meets between 19:15 and 20:30.

**The Company Section** (Primary 7 - Secondary 3) and the **Senior Section** (Secondary 4 - Secondary 6) meets between 19:30 and 20:45.

New members are welcome in all sections.

## SILVER CITY SURFERS

*Reaching Out: Going Local*

*Now at Mastrick Community Centre on Thursdays 1-3pm*

**Silver City Surfers are holding free sessions at Mastrick Community Centre on Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm to help older people learn how to use technology in a social setting.**

If you or somebody you know lives locally and are 65 and over, come along to our sessions and try out some equipment with our friendly and patient tutors. You can also bring along your own devices and complete beginners are welcome.

We have helped our learners to keep in touch with family and friends through email, FaceTime, Skype and Facebook. Some of our learners are learning how to go online

grocery shopping, while others are accessing free magazines and library books online.



We go at your pace and help you to learn what interests you. We're happy to swap tips on what has worked well for us and share what we know.

One of our learners says,

*"We were a motley group, not all 'tekkie illiterates' as I was.*



*"Suzanne and all the volunteers were extremely helpful, not to mention patient with however often I queried what I was doing and never made me feel an utter lost cause.*

*"We break for tea, coffee and lovely cakes and have a chat."*

If you are interested in learning or volunteering, please call **Suzanne** on **07519 958 293** or just pop in and say hello.

The **Summer Playscheme** was very successful. Some of the places we went to were Montrose Splash, Arbroath Carnival, Blair Drummond and Landmark. The team at the Community Centre would like to thank all the volunteers who gave up their time to make sure the playscheme was such a success. They would also like to thank Northsound Cash for Kids and Rotech Drilling for sponsorship.



### Mastrick Community Centre Upcoming Events

**Halloween Family Disco**  
on 31st of October from 7-10pm

**Christmas Fayre**  
5th of December from 10-1pm

**Christmas Family Disco**  
12th Dec from 7-10pm

# Northfield Academy

## Summer Fair

**The Northfield Academy Annual Summer Fair, in partnership with St Nicholas Rotary, took place on Saturday 6th June 2015.**

Although a bit windy, the weather stayed dry and the Fair was a great success with a big turnout from people in the local community who enjoyed taking part in the free fun activities, which included PGA Golf Games; a Cycle Fun Circuit; Picnic Races and testing their football skills with the Aberdeen Football Club Speed Cage. The BBQ, tie-dye t-shirts, face painting, henna tattoos and mug decorating were kept busy throughout the day and Zorbing, a new addition for this year, also proved to be very popular.

The chocolate tombola and bottle tombola was very much in demand, as were home bakes and tickets for the raffle. The four winners of the watches, donated by Finnie the Jeweller, were delighted with their prizes as were the cash prize winners.

The launch of the Northfield Sports Hub saw Aberdeen Boxing Club, Auchmill Golf Club, Byron Boys Club and North Stars Football Team joining in the fun to promote their club. Three of our local Primary Schools also participated with Quarryhill Primary School selling crafts and Manor Park Dance Group and Bramble Brea school choir joining our pupils in providing the entertainment.

Police Cadets, who are pupils of Northfield Academy, provided an excellent car wash service and with Northfield Community Centre providing the Bouncy Castle and our Community Learning & Development Team running the picnic races, there was a good representation from throughout our community and this contributed to there being a good sense of community spirit.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a great success and to all who came along and supported the Summer Fair and for helping raise funds for the school and the charities supported by St Nicholas Rotary.

## Sky Academy

**After studying a media unit on social networking, Mrs Mackintosh's English class were offered the opportunity to visit the Sky Academy Skills Studio in Livingston on Thursday 21st May 2015.**

After working on scripts and roles for two weeks in class, 21 pupils travelled to the studios in Livingston, ready to create their news report about cyberbullying.

Once they had arrived, the class split into four studios and took on their individual roles. Roles included: presenters, camera operators, editors, directors and producers. Presenters got to choose their wardrobe and practice talking to the camera and the camera operators, directors and producer told people what to do and when to do it. The editors got to use some high tech touch screens to cut out the bloopers.



Each studio created a high quality video which was put together to create a news report on cyberbullying.

There was then a tour of the call centre where we learned that celebrities get through to a special area and that even the Queen has Sky. Each pupil got some goodies to take home and arrived in Aberdeen, tired but delighted with their experience of Sky Academy. You can watch the finished report on the school website.

# Girls Football Team

The girls' football team rounded off their year with a great display at the FIFA sponsored football tournament at Aberdeen Sports Village on Monday 22nd May.

Northfield entered two teams who, for the first time, got the chance to show off their new football kit.

The girls had a great day with the S4 team winning four out of six games, whilst the newly formed S2 team gained lots more experience, with many of the players gaining their first experience of a competitive tournament.

The girls were an asset to the school and enjoyed their

day out. They got the chance to meet one of the Scottish women's squad members as well as receive a free Adidas t-shirt.

All in all a very successful day, with the girls looking forward to next season and getting the chance to wear their new kit again.



## Northfield Community Sports Hub

On Saturday the 6th June Northfield Community Sports Hub was launched at the school's summer fair.

The Hub currently includes four community sports groups: Byron Sports Club, Northstar Football Club, Aberdeen Boxing Club and Auchmill Golf Club. The Hub aims to increase the number of opportunities for

young people to participate in sport in the Northfield community. Clubs involved in the Community Sports Hub will have prioritised access to the increasing range of facilities available at Northfield Academy and its surrounding area.

So far this year a group of S3 pupils have taken up volunteer coaching opportunities with Northstar Football Club which has been very successful. These pupils will be given the opportunity to achieve their SFA football coaching awards through the sports hub.

Aberdeen Boxing Club has delivered a series of lunchtime sessions to a number of our pupils and we hope they will join the newly reformed boxing club to further improve their fitness and skills.

The school has been working in partnership with Auchmill Golf Club to allow our young people to get free lessons from the club coaches and heavily discounted memberships for anyone wishing to play throughout the golfing season.

# Champions Again!



DISSC went back to Wishaw Games this year after a year off due to the redecorating at the sports centre in 2014.

As usual we entered into carpet bowls, table-tennis and athletics. DISSC took 14 competitors to the competition and came back with 15 medals: 6 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze and also retained the Team Trophy.

## CARPET BOWLS

Gold Medal Winners: Grace McKenzie; Doug Kennedy; Bryan McKenzie.

Silver Medal Winners: Ian Cheyne; Catherine Morrison; Arlene Deans.

Bronze Medal Winners: Holly Urquhart; David Yule.

## TABLE - TENNIS

Gold Medal Winner: Alex Rae.

Silver Medal Winner: John Clark.

## ATHLETICS

Ian Urquhart entered 5 races and won 2 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal.

DISSC athletes would also like to thank our driver Audrey Lawrence for giving up her time to take us to Glasgow and also Wishaw. Audrey enjoyed herself very much and she is pictured with our Team Trophy.

Bryan McKenzie, DISSC Team Manager said: "I would like to thank the athletes for being well behaved and I am so proud of everyone who took part at this competition. Apart from the medal winners, there were 3 of our squad did not come home with a medal, they were Lisa Hendry, Kerry Cheyne and Joan Smith but they are part of the squad and we wish them better luck next year."



Ethan Richardson - P6

**What do you hope for the new school year?**

My hope for the new school year is that I want to have fun. I want to learn something new like science and I want a teacher that helps us and I want to learn the language Bulgarian. I also want to find out more about my teacher.

**What did you do in your school holidays?**

In the school holidays I went to Bulgaria and the hotel I was in had a swimming pool with water slides. I loved the fourth one because it was bendy and the second one was the best because I went very fast. The town I was in was Sunny Beach and, believe it or not, the temperatures shot up to 30 degrees in the sun and 19 degrees in the shade. I loved the trip and we went there for 2 weeks. Unfortunately my dog never enjoyed the holiday because he had to stay in the kennels in the UK for the whole 2 weeks but now we are back Tramps is living the dream. I also went on the Mastrick playscheme and went to Arbroath and Blair Drummond with my sister. I also went to Codonas and spent the day there. And I went when to Inverurie for a pancake at the garden centre then went to Lawrence of Kemnay to look at some cars.

# Quarryhill School



Anthony Thompson - P6

**What do you hope for the new school year?**

To have fun this year. I would like to learn science and to learn art. I hope my teacher is fun and good at art.

**What did you do in your school holidays?**

On my holidays I went in a caravan travelling around Scotland. We stopped at Bucksburn and played on my quad and had a BBQ. It was awesome. Then we went to Kingswells and we had lots of fun in the holidays.

Becki Benson - P6A

**What do you hope for the new school year?**

To learn new languages like Spanish, French, Chinese and many more. I would also like to do science like chemistry. I would like to do gymnastics and dancing. Also I would like to do more art and writing and more partner work and iPads. It would be good to do more group work and posters.

**What did you do in your school holidays?**

I went to Liverpool to see a concert. I went in the Titanic Museum, The Beatles Museum. I had so much fun! I went there with my dad, my dad's girlfriend and my step sister. I went to the Pods which is a little tiny cottage and it was cool because here was a duck pond right outside and there as a park too. We stayed there for 2 nights and we didnt need an alarm to get up because the ducks did that for us.

Demi Butler - P6

**What do you hope for the new school year?**

I would like to have a good relationship with Miss Anderson and my class. I would like to have a fun time and be happy. I would also like to learn about science. I would like to go on a lot of trips and have fun when we go. I love my school because I meet new friends.

**What did you do in your school holidays?**

I stayed at my cousins' and my friends' houses. I went to the carnivals and I played outside.

Earlier this year the Mastrick Matters editorial team visited Andrew Cheyne, a Mastrick resident, to speak about his experiences during World War II. We featured the first half of the article in the last edition of the magazine and we hope you enjoy the second part of his story.

*"I was standing there, waiting for a train when this*

## **Andrew learned to speak German after an unfortunate incident involving a no smoking sign and a slap across the face.**

He swipes his hand through the air, mimicking the action.

*"I thought what a blooming cheek! Then I looked up and saw a sign above my head and I realised what was wrong."*

*"That's when I started to learn German."*

As we all laugh he explains to the group that he found it easier to keep quiet about his new found skill.

*"I just haud my wheesht and used it to find out what was going on."*

Eventually, Andrew was taken through Germany and on to Krakow. He got to a place called Larmsdoff where he became very ill and his legs wouldn't work.

*"They told me you'll have to go in this carriage. I was put in a sled, like something you'd see in a picture! I'm nae joking, this is true, there was a big man up front with beard like Santa and off we went. I thought to myself, this is rare, end of story!"*

However, the arrival at the camp was a very different story. Andrew becomes quieter at this point.

*"The worst thing I ever saw was in Krakow. About 30 women and little girls being herded naked by four or five Germans. We knew where they were going but there was nothing we could do."*

He continues: *"There's lots of things that get right to you. You dinna know at the time but I was home in Aberdeen and my son was asking me questions and I started telling him something."*

*"I went deeper than I should of and as I was speaking and, even now, just thinking about, the tears were coming. He was saying 'Mum, why is Dad crying?' It happens an awful lot. It never leaves you."*

On VE day Andrew was in a camp not far from Prague, after six years of being a prisoner. The Russians came in with their tanks and there was the crack of guns of shells throughout the night.

In the stillness of the morning, the group ventured outside.

*"I thought it would be Americans but the Russians got in first. We walked up the road and saw the tanks throwing other wagons off the road."*

*"'Angliyskiy' was the word to save your life. We shouted it and shouted it. That was our VE day."*

About a week and a half later the Americans picked up Andrew's group. They were taken to North Germany.

*"It was a winter wonderland there. The treatment we got was something else. And the food."*

Andrew smiles and licks his lips as he recalls the spread the Americans put on for the returning soldiers.

*"When we first went in they told us to help ourselves to some coffees. It was proper American coffee and I kept going up for more. An American stopped me and said don't do that, your guts won't handle that!"*

*"I remember sitting there with some loaf but I thought it tasted like cake 'cos we were so used to black bread."*

During the war, Andrew struck up a friendship with a young German Prisoner of War called John. John spent a few weekends with Andrew and his wife, Cath, when he was a POW in Lossiemouth.

*"He was a topper and the first thing he did when he got home was send tickets for me to go over and visit him."*

*"We spent a week over there, my wife and I, and we were treated like a king and queen. I love Germany and I was friends with John until he died. I've nae grudge."*

Andrew describes how throughout the war it was his faith in getting home that kept going.

*"There was one point we marched from the 23rd of January to the 8th of May. That's a long time through snow, frost and wind. If you hadn't had faith then you were never going to get home."*

Before Andrew left for the war, he spoke to his minister, Mr Jim McCulloch who told him a few stories to keep him going when he was away.

*"The one that sticks with me was 'you are not just you.' He told me that everything I did was going to affect my mother, my father, my friends and all the people around me. It's basic but it stuck with me and when I was there I just thought 'naeboddy's gonna keep me here.'"*

*German came along and lashed me across the face."*



# Mastrick Walkers



Once again I asked members to write about their favourite walk, here are some of their stories:

## Lyn

"Would you like to write a few words about your favourite walk, Lyn?" said Raymond, the organiser, driver and joker of our walking group. I agreed to, but my problem was which one? Forest walk, cliff top ones, beach walks, ones where we saw beautiful scenery and ones where there was historic interest.

In the year or so I have been with the group I have enjoyed them all. I have also enjoyed the drive to and from our walks and the people I have met. So Raymond I'll just have to keep walking until I find my favourite walk.

## Muriel

The walk from Arbroath to Auchmithie is the one walk I will always remember. We drove down to Victoria Park in Arbroath and the walk started at St Ninians.

The track along the cliff top for the first mile is wheelchair friendly. It was a scorcher of a day and the sea was changing from blue to green all the time and was glistening in the sun. We saw impressive sea sculpted sandstone arches, blowholes and stacks.

Farmers have sown wild flower seeds at the edge of the fields. They were beautiful and full of butterflies of all colours. We were told by other walkers we had just missed seeing an otter in the sea. We arrived at Auchmithie (home of the Smokey) and visited the beautiful Old Harbour. We returned to Arbroath where we all had an ice cream. I hope we do this walk again next year.

## Raymond

We went to Ballochbuie forest in the Balmoral Estate to visit a log cabin that belongs to the Queen. The walk starts by the Old Invercauld Bridge on the military road built by General Wade over the River Dee. We were lucky enough to see a fisherman play and land a salmon. The walk is on tracks through the forest up to the Falls of Garbh Allt, then a lovely walk with the mountains all around you. We went down the track into a valley where the cabin sits surrounded by small ponds with waterfalls and a small wooden bridge over the burn.

We usually sit on the porch to have our lunch, but as we approached we were met by one of the Queen's staff who said that she was on her way up to the cabin and he was sorry but we

could not sit on the porch this time - don't know why not, as we would have shared our sandwiches with her!

Anyway we started on the track that would take us back down towards the bus, after a short distance we had to go into the side as a Land Rover escorting Her Majesty drove past. She gave us a wave!

## Helen W

Some of the group went to Jersey for a holiday. We took the tour bus around the island visiting lots of places of interest - WW II gun emplacements, beautiful coves and beaches. At one stop we met two ladies from Mastrick who are avid readers of Mastrick Matters especially the walking section, who I hope are going to join the group.

We visited castles, the Lavender Farm, parks and gardens and the war tunnels. We went on a boat trip round the bays and a trip on a "Duck" which is a boat that has wheels so it can go on water or land. Every day we did something different. Also, we visited plenty of shops.

If you want more information or to join a group phone 01224 783627 or email [helenandraymond@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenandraymond@hotmail.co.uk)

## A Fond Farewell



Not long before I left Leith in Edinburgh to serve in Mastrick Parish Church as the minister, I overheard a colleague say 'Elizabeth is going to the toughest parish in Aberdeen,' and I thought "really?!" Although I am an Aberdonian I was not acquainted with Mastrick then. I have also heard people say that Mastrick is not the same as it used to be. Well I guess nowhere is the same. Some say there is no community spirit but I have experienced nothing but warmth and openness from the folks I have met in Mastrick and over the past four years I have been welcomed into many homes.

I don't live in Mastrick but go to the pet shop - my dog and I have always received a warm welcome. I rate my Mastrick dentist highly and those who work in the shops are always obliging.

I have always been keen on building community spirit. In the Mastrick Church and other churches in the area community spirit is very much alive. The churches are bodies of people who care not only for those who are members but care about the local people and further afield.

Community spirit is alive and kicking in all the schools. I have felt a particularly warm welcome from them and heard that people have enjoyed seeing entire primary schools walk to church for their special services.

Community spirit is alive and kicking in the Community Centre, welcoming all ages into activities held there. For the past three years Mastrick Church has joined forces with the Community Centre to celebrate the Annual Fun Day. I have enjoyed being part of the Mastrick Matters Team. I think they are doing a grand job when it comes to fostering community spirit and bringing news into people's homes.

I was always impressed how the Gray's Inn had a heart in the community through the amazing fund raising it did for local charities and schools. The James Tyrell Centre benefited enormously from their generosity.

The James Tyrell Centre itself fosters community spirit welcoming elderly folks through their doors and by bringing of workers and volunteers together to make it a good place to be.

Mastrick, like all communities and neighbourhoods, has areas where there may be discord but Mastrick is not the toughest place in Aberdeen - it is full of kind hearted sincere people who care about one another.

I have retired from full time ministry and therefore left Mastrick Parish Church in September. It has been a privilege and an honour to have been the minister there these past four years. I have been made to feel so welcome in the church and the wider Mastrick Community - I will remember my time in Mastrick with great fondness. Thank you!

With warm regards,

Reverend Elizabeth Youngson

I'M DESPERATE FOR GREATER  
LOVING KINDNESS WITH EXTREMELY  
COMPANIONABLE COMPANY?

Even unevenly at this rather early  
to middling stage of this being the  
only one of the many piddling stages  
of where the chances are my company  
is nothing quite as short and never getting  
to the point as you and your ideas of when  
and where you'd want to feel the warmth  
of your senses sensing there's a sense to true  
companionship where and when you are as  
you are as yet having been to be as you are  
a God to God in God's eyes were you and God  
only someone who would help those like me  
where we've been trying so hard as nobodies  
to come to terms with it's being all too much  
of an overbearing factor of being to be in my  
life living through what can and can't be lived  
of the greater death curse of a cursory  
cursing having been cursed with this  
situation as yet or never to be  
strategically situated at close  
proximity to you as the being  
who'd be one or more of  
the company?

I crave to the grave  
errors of my ways?

*John's 2 Too  
Creative Section*

# Mastrick Community Policing Team... Winter Months

**Summer is over and it's hard to believe we are moving into the dark nights and wet weather.**

I feel it only right that I use this opportunity to share a few thoughts on how you can look after yourself and your property as we move through the winter.

Crime levels in the Mastrick area have remained relatively low and that is down to good home and car security. If you could continue your vigilance and good practice, I would be very grateful.

House alarms are excellent but can be expensive, and although dummy alarms are available to purchase they are not always necessary. Remember it is easy to see if a house is unoccupied as it sits in darkness. Investing in a few timers for your lamps is a good idea as it gives any thief an element of doubt. An outside light also allows you to have a good view of the outside of your home as well as acting as a deterrent.

Nosey neighbours are the best crime prevention you can get, somebody who is watching the world go by day or night will pick up on any strangers in the street and anything out of place. Get to know your neighbours and help each other out with keeping a watchful eye.

Any external light at your property will allow strangers to be seen but keep hedges or trees trimmed to allow that view.

Cars and motorbikes can be a target but if you remember to secure them, you reduce the risk of them being stolen and if you lock valuables out of sight, you remove the temptation to break in and take them - it's that simple.

When you are out and about, try to keep to areas that are well lit and know your way around, especially if you are partaking in a tippie or two!

We are lucky, as Aberdeen is a safe place to live, work and play but there is no point leaving anything to chance. A little forward planning, walking with a friend, organising a lift, having extra money and a charged mobile phone, will see you well on your way to getting home safely.

Lastly, I can't finish this article without a short reminder of Halloween and bonfire nights. Not everybody enjoys these events, so be mindful and respectful to others, don't take risks and keep yourselves safe. We will have extra patrols across the town and will work closely with our partners to keep you and our area as safe as we possibly can.



**Jackie Craig**  
**Inspector**  
**Mastrick Community Policing Team**

*Jackie is actually stepping down as the Inspector for Mastrick Community Policing Team but she will be replaced by **Isla Campbell** and the Mastrick team can be reached on:*

***HiltonStockethillCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk***  
***or 101. In an emergency always call 999.***

## shmuTRAIN

### UNDER 25 AND INTERESTED IN MUSIC JOURNALISM AND MULTIMEDIA?

Become a citizen journalist covering the North East's music scene.

Our 12-week courses cover written, audio and video journalism, teaching you how to create music-focused content for websites and other digital platforms.

A hands-on approach means you'll get to review shows, interview bands/musicians and learn how to upload your content online.

With experienced tutors, and the chance to attend additional specialist masterclasses, the course is open to anyone under 25 in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

The first course has already started but further opportunities to sign up will be available from mid-October.

To book your place, email [info@57north.org](mailto:info@57north.org) or call **Simon Gall** on **01224 515013**

## RADIO

One of our Youth Radio Project (YRP) members from Mastrick has achieved his 500 hour Saltire Volunteering Award. Conor Tosh (regular listeners will know him better as "Conor with one N") has been a member of YRP since 2012 and presents our Tuesday afternoon show, Music Madness.

All the young people who are involved in our Youth Media Team log their volunteering hours with Saltire and can achieve certificates for 50, 100, 200 and 500 hours of volunteering. Each week the radio project has to prepare for their show, present their show and then edit their show afterwards – the volunteering hours soon add up! The team here at SHMU is very proud of Conor and his achievement.

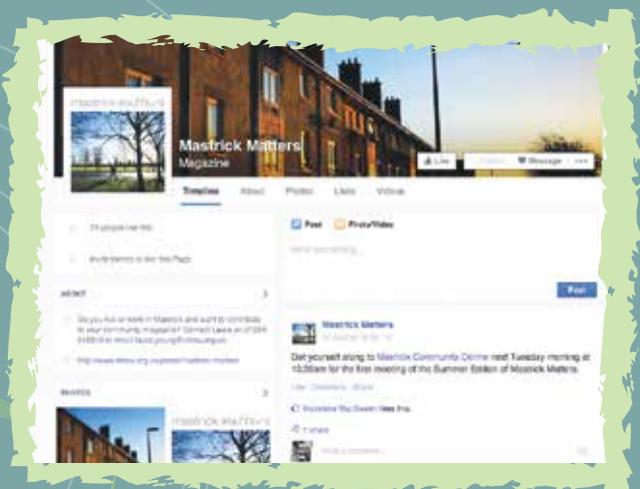
As part of our Youth Media Project SHMU runs sessions in journalism, radio, film and music. If you live in Middlefield, Cummings Park, Northfield, Woodside, Seaton, Tillydrone or Torry or attending St Machar, Torry or Northfield Academy you can get involved.

Get in touch with **Denise** on **01224 515013** or email [denise@shmu.org.uk](mailto:denise@shmu.org.uk).

## FACEBOOK

The Mastrick Matters magazine is now on Facebook. Keep up to date with what's happening by searching "Mastrick Matters" on Facebook.

We're always looking for more people to get involved in the magazine so hit that 'like' button!



*Station House Media Unit (shmu) is situated just off Great Northern Road in the old Station House Community Centre, Woodside. We offer free access to, and training in video and radio production, and magazine and online publications to residents of all ages living in Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Northfield and Cummings Park.*

## Aberdeen International Youth Festival

Some of our hard working Youth Media Team went down to several events as part of Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF). We have lots of stories on the shmu website ([www.shmu.org.uk](http://www.shmu.org.uk)) but have included a snippet of what happened over the 10 days in this edition of Mastrick Matters.

### Aberdeen Comes Alive for Festival In The City by Fern

Aberdeen went full blast on Saturday the 25th of July in the City Centre with many outstanding dance, music and singing performances. There were many performances from all around the world showing their different cultures.

Canadian performers were playing marimbas recreating songs like Viva Lavida by Coldplay and Radioactive by Imagine Dragons. Edge 'n' Pointe from Hong Kong came to do some amazing contemporary ballet and they have never done a performance out of Asia. Kresala Dantza Taldea Kresala from Basque Country were exhibiting their national dance, which involved them dancing with a partner while clicking their fingers. This event gave a taste of what is to come in the rest of AIYF and show cultures and styles from people all around the world.

### Western Arts University Ambassadors (USA) by Stacey

My favourite show from this year's Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF) was the Western Arts University Ambassadors (USA). The story was called "Blazing Tides" and it was about the struggles and conflicts between the elements of fire and water. The story was influenced by a range of stories and films such as Romeo and Juliet.

The unusual thing about the show was how circus acts and clowns were used in the performance. I liked how the clowns added extra entertainment to the performance. It wasn't hard to identify who was on the fire side and who was on the water side because those who were fire were wearing red and those who were water were wearing blue. The music was quite light and gentle when water was on the stage but when fire was on the stage the music was very powerful and fierce.

### Welcome Ceremony by Yasmin

On the 25th of July members of the Youth Media Team headed down to the music hall to see the Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF) welcome ceremony which kicked off the festival. The ceremony gave a warm welcome to the talented young performers who were taking part in the festival this year.

Countries who participated in AIYF this year included Canada, China, Spain, USA, Australia and lots more. The Zurich Academic Orchestra from Switzerland also played the national anthems of each nation to welcome them to Aberdeen and AIYF.

### St Mary's Church Interview by Meredith

**Q** – Could you please tell us a bit about yourself and what you do?

**A** – I'm **Megan McKenzie** and I'm 17. I go to Kincorth Academy and I have been singing since I was 10 years old and I do musical theatre and that's my thing. I'm **Seth Roger**, I'm 16 and I go to Robert Gordon's and I'm in my 5th year. Singing and performing is my thing as well.

**Q** – How long did it take you guys to prepare for today's performance?

**A** – **Megan** - Not long actually, we had two or three rehearsals. We kind of knew them before so it was just a recap so we could remember them.

**Seth** - Yeah because a lot of these pieces are our exam pieces we've known them for a little while now, so we have had experience with them so it was an easier transition into this than it might have been otherwise.

**Q** – You performed a lot of pieces, a lot of which were different styles, why did you decide to do that?

**A** – **Seth** - It keeps it interesting. I think you have to try different styles in order to gain experience and become a good performer and that's for any instrument you play or if you sing.

**Megan** - It shows that there is more than just musical theatre for instance; we can sing quite a lot of different things. It kind of gives a taste for a bit of everything.

**Q** - What is it like being part of the Aberdeen International Youth Festival?

**A** - **Megan** - It's cool and it's something different and you feel quite privileged to be asked to come along.

**Seth** – Any experience playing in front of anyone is a fantastic way of improving and it is much appreciated.

**Q** - What was your inspiration in choosing the pieces in particular?

**A** – **Megan** - Personally, my pieces I have sung in shows that I have done previously and I enjoy singing them and I found them quite nice to sing.

**Seth** - I'm very much the same.

# COMMUNITY CONTACTS

## Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous **0845 769 7555**  
Drinkline **0800 917 8282**

## Benefits

Benefits Agency Advice Line **0800 587 9135**

## Crime

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

## Drugs

FRANK – National Helpline **0800 776 600**

## Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens **01224 558 140**

## Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency **08454 242 424**

## Electricity

If you have a Power-Cut **0800 300 999**

## Family Planning

Square 13, Support & Advice **01224 642 711**

## Citizens Advice

**01224 586255**

## Gas

Gas Emergency **0800 111 999**

Gas Emergency with a Meter **0845 606 6766**

## Housing

Emergency Repairs **01224 480 281**

Call Centre Emergency **0845 608 0929**

## Police

Non-Emergency **101**

## Samaritans

Need to talk **01224 574 488**

**0808 808 3000**

## Dementia Helpline

## Social Work

Social Work Duty Team **01224 765 220**

Emergency Out-Of-Hours **01224 693 936**

## Young Carers

Support & Information Service **01224 625 009**

## Water

Scottish Water Emergency **0845 600 8855**

### **Include 01224 Dialling Code When Calling from a Landline.**

From 1 October 2014, people in Aberdeen have needed to include the area code whenever they dial a local number from a landline – in the same way people do when calling from mobile phones.