

mastrick Matters

Winter 2016



In this issue:

ERIC HENDRIE PARK
SILVER CITY SURFERS
STAY AND PLAY
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING
IN MASTRICK

www.shmu.org.uk/press

mastrick Matters

Winter Edition 2016

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editorial

Welcome to your winter 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**.

Thanks to Throw Up Gallery for the front cover photo. The photo is of the mural at Eric Hendrie Park. This project was jointly funded by Mastrick Community Council and Aberdeen City Council.

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.

happy reading.



Supported by



Participatory Budgeting in Mastrick

An exciting opportunity is about to take place in the Greater Northfield area. Between now and March next year Aberdeen City Council staff will be working with local people to decide how £80,000 is spent in their area using a participatory budgeting process (or PB for short). So, what's this PB all about? Below are some answers to your questions.

What is participatory budgeting?

PB directly involves local people in making decisions about how public money is spent in their community. This means engaging residents, community groups and representatives from all parts of the community to discuss priorities, make spending proposals and then encouraging voting on them – the most popular priorities being the ones receiving funding.

How does it work? There are many ways PB can work but usually communities will be invited to propose ideas or projects that will benefit their community or solve a particular issue. The community then vote on their preferred choice.

Where does it come from? PB was first introduced in the city of Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1989 and since then it has successfully empowered people in many communities and its tools and principles are now used in places across the world, including the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe.

What are the benefits?

It brings communities together to decide what they want.

People share and learn things about their communities.

Resources or budgets are allocated by the local community themselves,

People who don't normally get involved get involved.

It encourages people to speak to each other and debate.

It has been proven that it can improve access to services and the transparency of the organisations that run them.

It can be fun and exciting!

What does it involve?

The process can vary but generally involves some basic steps.

Community members identify spending priorities.

Spending proposals are developed with help from experts.

Community members vote on which proposals to fund.

The top proposals are implemented.

PB is already happening in Aberdeen, and the Scottish Government wants councils to aim to allocate 1% of their budgets this way. Aberdeen City Council has identified £80,000 to be spent in the Greater Northfield area using this process, which will be allocated by March 2017. Priorities for the area have already been decided through local consultation events.

How can you take part?

Take part in the running of the process and deciding how we do it by joining the PB steering group,

Suggest an idea for a project or solution,

Vote and encourage others to take part.

**To find out more contact
Manor Park Learning Centre
on 01224 812073**

**Alternatively: pop in to see us
at Manor Park Learning Centre,
Danestone Circle, part of Manor
Park School.**



Mastrick Pensioners Coffee Morning

Mastrick Pensioners held a coffee morning on Saturday the 8th of October to help raise funds. They managed to raise £170 which will go towards the Christmas party. Mastrick Pensioners meet every Tuesday afternoon in the centre. If you're interested in getting involved in the group then you can contact Pam on 01224 788288.



ck Memories

Mastrick Memories

As Aberdeen city was rebuilding and expanding its boundaries after World War II more houses were being built around a bustling town.

Mastrick as we know it was expanding and thriving with new shops, schools, churches and houses which were expanding west of Anderson Drive – or as it was known then the ring road. Everything west of Sheddocksley Drive was farms and fields.

But the city got a reminder that living next to a rural setting had sometimes unexpected consequences as a case of foot and mouth was discovered in cattle at Aberdeen Mart in November 1960. This disease is very contagious in cloven hoofed animals such as cattle, deer, pigs and sheep. The main symptoms were severe blistering on the inside of the split on the hooves and inside the mouth and tongue. Of course, this meant that the meat from these animals could not be used for human consumption and they had to be slaughtered and the carcasses destroyed. It was hoped if it was caught early enough it could be contained.

The outcome was all cattle that had been through the market and

those that had been introduced to each other in the fields had to be destroyed as quickly as possible. A delay could have caused a disaster of catastrophic proportions. A very quick decision where to bury the animals was taken and the reason, only known to the people in authority at the time, was to bury them on the outskirts of the city. Yes, you've guessed correctly – Springhill Woods, Mastrick was chosen. A site less than 150 yards from a housing scheme.

Why do I know this? Because I witnessed a huge pot being excavated on the southwest corner of Springhill Woods (now Eric Hendrie park). I was 14 years old and lived not far away from the site, near Cornhill School. I cannot remember how I found out that the cattle were being buried in Mastrick but I decided to cycle up after school to see for myself as I was an inquisitive teenager at that time and had spent some time on farms and crofts as most of my relatives lived in the country. Lorry load after lorry load of cattle carcasses were arriving and they were tipping their contents into the pot as a layer of animals formed. Another lorry heaped high with lime would tip the said substance on top and this

process continued until all the cattle were completely covered.

In later years after getting married I was offered my first council house which was in close proximity to that very same place. As my children were growing up I used to play football with them around that same area and the amusing thing was that the surface, now covered with grass, would change year on year as the contents underneath settled.

Some things are better forgotten and most residents in that area probably don't know what happened on that November day back in 1960. Myself, I can close my eyes now and still see that terrible event and even hear that massive bulldozer moving over the huge pit filled with foot and mouth victims. Also, I mentioned I moved into my first home in 1971 and Mastrick must have had that good community spirit as I am still there to this day.

What secrets and mysteries does Mastrick hold? Read more short stories in this feature 'Mastrick Memories' in the coming editions of Mastrick Matters.

The Memory Man

HEART OF GOLD

Michelle Morrison is a Mastrick quine putting on a fundraiser for British Heart Foundation at the start of next year.

Can you tell the readers more about yourself?

My name is Michelle Morrison. I am 31 years old and an orthopaedic scrub nurse at Woodend Hospital in Aberdeen.

A little birdie tells me that the BHF is a charity close to your heart – please excuse the pun – please tell our readers why?

I have had an aortic valve leak since childhood and until the end of 2015 I was managing the condition myself. However, around that time my condition became severe and I needed an operation. Over the years, the BHF have been developing treatments and publishing documents with valuable information for the patient and family.

You are hosting an event to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation (BHF). Can you tell us more about the charity?

The British Heart Foundation is a charity that helps people who suffer from heart conditions. In the UK currently there are seven million people living with cardiovascular disease and it is the country's biggest killer. The BHF does pioneering research into developing treatments of those disorders and provides support to those affected.

I hear that there will be some fantastic prizes to be won in the raffle – can you tell us more?

There a wide range of things to be won. They include a self-catering holiday (with a choice of four destinations), kindly donated by CLC World.

How did you get involved with Boogie Bounce?

I have been going to these keep-fit classes for over two years. The only time off I took from it was in the aftermath of my operation and I have since returned to them. It is tremendous fun as well as good for my health – I even have my own trampoline at home much to my husband's chagrin.

Do you plan to do more fundraising events for the BHF in the future?



I plan to do the Edinburgh half-marathon in aid of the charity in May 2017. In addition, if this event is a success I will do more in a similar vein in the years to come.

Michelle's event will take place on Sunday the 15th of January at Arch Five on Palmerstone Road from 11am until 4pm.

Northfield Academy

Northfield Academy celebrates 60th anniversary in high style

Northfield Academy celebrated its 60th anniversary on Friday 9th September in high flying style when a drone camera took an overhead whole school photograph.

The entire pupils and staff arranged themselves in the shape of the number 60 for the commemorative photograph.

Neil Hendry, Head Teacher, said: "We felt we wanted to capture the school of 2016, sixty years after the school opened in 1956. 600 pupils and over 80 staff are included in the photograph. The drone allowed us to get an image which will certainly be one for the school archives."

In addition to the unusual school photograph, the school has also created a special

Northfield Academy App charting the changes in education over the last sixty years.

Mr Hendry said: "We are also delighted to be launching our new school app which anyone associated with the Academy will be able to download from the Apple Store or Google Play free and use it to keep up to date with the life of the school. Again we feel this development shows the journey travelled by the school in the last sixty years."





BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Birds of a feather flock together when there is a winter chill in the air,

No longer is food plentiful but now getting scarce and extremely rare

But what can YOU do to help these vulnerable small flying marvels at this time of year?

The answer is obvious and in the words of this poem will soon become crystal clear.

A bird table or feeding station is the saviour here and not too expensive to make or buy,

What type of food do they eat is the question so read on and I will explain and why

Mixed seed is readily available to purchase, as are peanuts, sunflower hearts and suet balls to name but a few

That will have the birds of all sizes, shapes and colours congregating at your station for you to view

But I hear you say, why should I care about birds while winter is here?

I say to you this, what would the world be without birdsong in springtime each year?

So thank you for reading this poem with a message especially directed towards you

Don't forget feeding your feathered friends through the winter will save many 'birds of a feather' not just a few

Mastrick Community Centre

The Centre's Social Committee have planned a couple of Christmas themed events for local people.
Saturday 3rd December – Christmas Shopping Trip to Edinburgh.

The bus costs £15 per person and will leave from Byron shops at 8:30am then goes to Mastrick shops for 8:40am. It will return to Aberdeen at 9pm. Call the office on 01224 788288 to book.

Saturday the 10th of December, 2-4pm – Winter Wonderland.

Come and see Santa in his grotto, take a look at our stalls and let the kids loose on our bouncy castle!

Muirfield Primary School Parent Council and Fundraising Committee
Everyone is welcome at our Christmas Fayre! Come along and support the school on Saturday the 3rd of December, 10am – 12noon.

There will be lots of stalls and fun for the kids, you can see Santa and get a gift or just enjoy a roll and a cuppa.

Eric Hendrie Park

Brian Beattie takes us on a journey through the history of Eric Hendrie Park.

I am Brian, a member of Springhill Community Group or S.P.R.I.N.G for short.

S.P.R.I.N.G. started in 2003 as a result of residents in Ythan and Deveron Roads getting their windows, doors and cars damaged with adults and children playing golf in the park. The area of the park is approximately 22 acres and is bordered by Springhill Road with access to the Sheddocksley Sports Centre car park.

The newly formed group spoke to Aberdeen City Council and it was decided to build a children's play area in the middle of the park to stop them playing golf.

In 2004 we started working with the council to consult with the local community regarding what they would like to see happen with the park area. The study was conducted in March 2004 when over 370 local residents and pupils from local schools were given the opportunity to express their views. In 2005 the feasibility study was submitted to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee for approval. The plans were approved and the group was then able to proceed to submit applications for funding for the development of the park.

It was my idea to re-name the park the "Eric Hendrie Park" (formerly known as The Woody Swings'). Eric Hendrie was a dedicated Councillor who lived in the Mastrick area. I knew him well and he was a "true gentleman". He was a well-known and much-loved figure in the local community and was well respected for his long service with

Grampian Regional Council and Aberdeen Corporation.

The group went to a Council meeting at the Town House to discuss this with the Councillors and they agreed unanimously. The name was changed in December 2004 and in October 2005 an official re-naming ceremony was held. The Lord Provost John Reynolds officially re-named the park and Eric's family were there too.

In 2006, we were successful in fundraising through various grant applications of £75,000 to install the new play area equipment. The area is used by both children from the surrounding areas and various organisations, which shows it has been a great success and has a positive impact on the local community.

In 2006-2007 we resurfaced some of the path network, planted new trees, erected benches, planted bulbs, formed wet areas and installed new drain systems.

In 2008-2009 we improved the original paths, replaced some drainage and rebuilt steps at the North end after we received funding from Aberdeen Greenspace and the city council.

Unfortunately, in 2011, vandals set fire to the play area equipment which meant we had to fundraise to replace the damaged equipment. A race night was organised at the Grays Inn where a considerable amount of money was raised. We also received a donation from Dingbro, a company based in Mastrick and funding from the city council, for which we were greatly

appreciative. This enabled us to replace the damaged equipment.

The Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council used a large chunk of their funding in 2013 to host a Gala Day at the park. We had a great day and the weather was excellent (for a change!). The emergency services attended and showed local children around their vehicles while giving them advice on safety. There were various activities for the children including face painting, bouncy castle and sumo wrestling amongst others. The Gordon Highlanders were also there and we had drones in action, taking photos and footage of the party from above.

In 2015 Nexen, Aberdeen Greenspace and the city council sponsored the installation of a multi ball court at the north of the park which is used by many local organisations, children and young people.

In May of this year a part of the wall at the back of the multi-ball court received a spray painted mural by a group of street artists - Crown, Gustaf, Slave, Paco Graff, Monk and DLA1. This was achieved through funding from the city council and the Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council and it has been arranged that the remaining walls will be painted by the end of 2016 with funding from Greenspace. We are still looking for further funding to ensure the walls are completed in this timeframe.

In September we were awarded a grant from Greenspace to upgrade more paths at the north of the park

and to supply and erect seat and picnic benches in the multi-ball play area.

My thanks go out to so many people for their support throughout the project, including Aberdeen City Council, Nexen, all the various contractors involved, Greenspace, Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council and everyone who has contributed.

Greenspace closes at the end of the year, which is very sad news as the support and donations received from this group has been invaluable. I will greatly miss Alistair and Carol who have given me enormous support throughout this project. I would also like to thank specifically Sandra, Steven, Jim and Ian from Aberdeen City Council for their support.

I would also like to thank Marie, Claire, John, and all who kept the project going in 2003-2004 when I was unable to do so due to illness.

Lastly to all the dog owners using the park – 97% are responsible and tidy up after their dog, the remaining 3% are not and do not. Please think about other people and children who are also using the park and Bag it and Bin it!

We all get by with a little help from our friends!

I will keep the community updated on the parks progress.

Brian Beattie

Chair S.P.R.I.N.G.

Newspaper clippings
covering the
development
of the park



Painting the
mural in
Eric Hendrie
Park



Mastrick Walkers

I am involved with two walking groups in the area. The Amblers walk every Monday and do not do hills. The Wanderers/Strollers walk every Friday. These groups go to the same areas but they do not always walk the same routes. The Wanderers may do some hills but the Strollers do not.

The Amblers went to Fraserburgh Beach recently. It was a lovely day and we sat on the bank of the River Philorth to have our lunch, we walked back by the board walk and sand dunes, and had an ice cream at the end of the walk. We've also had a trip down to Stonehaven to do the walk at Mergie. We walked up the side of Cowie Water and it was a lovely day sitting at the side of water – none of us wanted

to move after lunch! We went to Kinaber near Montrose. This walk starts by walking through a wood then tracks across the sand dunes, then down the side of the North Esk River to the beach. We had a walk along the sands and then back through another wood. This walk has a bit of everything! We went over to Chareilton Fruit Farm for a coffee and a strawberry tart.

The Wanderers/Strollers did the "Above Balmoral" walk which starts at Craithie Church and a walk in the graveyard to see John Brown's gravestone. We then headed over the River Dee by a bridge which had just been repaired after the floods. As we went up the moorland track we had to move into the side to let the Queen passed in her

4X4. The views from the top of the hill were breath-taking. The next walk was to Edzell. We started at the village and walked up the side of the North Esk River along a beautiful gorge which was made millions of years ago when the earth's plates collided. This collision made the Highland Fault which runs across Scotland. We then had our lunch at the Rocks of Solitude, another lovely walk.

If you would like to see more photos of our walks you can look up the "Mastrick Walking Group" on Facebook, phone Raymond on 01224 783627 or email helenandraymond@hotmail.co.uk.



John's Ongoing Creative Section

HERE I MIGHT BE JUST MESSIN' WITH THIS AS WAS AND COULD STILL BE ADAPTED FURTHER AS A CHANCE TO GROW UP AS THE MOST INDEFINABLE WHATEVER....

GROPING FOR THE MOST DEFINING OF MORE ADULT GROUPS

This is or would have been, at one time or another, the beginning to where I still haven't started properly from when I'd suggested something like this to someone acting authoritatively in authority where non words count as an authoritative means to achieve something further more at your local community centre with a greater communal spirit in mind whilst considering then as now the idea of a new kind of group working together on a major theme and difference where anyone thinking they're an adult voices their opinions on the concept of what it means before, during, and after due process of processing the best objectives to and of the group having begun to grow as it never did as much as might have been led to believe through a growing interest, either populous or otherwise, in the future long beyond the original inception of an Adam and Eve it where we could have seen it incorporating all the best aspects of what is and isn't, was or wasn't thought or seen to be hosting, be it ghostly, ghastly or not, the most functionally advantageous of ways for us to function far less dysfunctionally with all the aging parts of a more youthful society given the best opportunities available to all who might feel we have the right to consider and be considered as being ourselves more adultlike or remaining rather childlike in our configurations to being as and with adults who grow in appearance but hardly so thoughtfully in thought while remaining as ever at least more adulterously orientated as grownups having their cake and eating it through reaching out to reach further and go beyond the uncertainty to the most certain stages of our lives with full bodied ideas of being all that grows out of forever more open to debate with many reflectively infectious conflicting views which shouldn't inflict too much pain and sorrow to disqualify us from qualifying as anyone might be they young or old so long as they as I might like to think of having achieved a time honoured status of one or more wholly two recognisably unrecognisable of most fully developed aspects if ever so single minded as a duo less of a duel and more jewel like as a diamond human being having been compressed into partnership as a carbon copy coping, if not copying differently with whatever takes your fancy that and so there you go as ever here would you be of merely man or more woman enough to talk, write, and do so much more than this or that with the view of doing something about it if you are or even if you're not really as grown up as you'd like to think when this is exceptionally hard going for anyone to fully comprehend as an induction to your childhood giving an indication as to whatever comes next if you'd want to be more than dead as can surely be accommodated even more than this indeed?

Are you a carer?

My name is Jacqui Dunlop and I work as a carer's advisor for VSA Carers Resource Service and I work across the central locality area of Aberdeen which includes Mastrick.

I provide a drop in session at the Mastrick Community Centre on the 1st Wednesday of every month between 9.30-11.30am.

An unpaid carer is generally defined as a person of any age who provides unpaid help and support to a relative, friend or neighbour who cannot manage to live independently at home without the carers help.

You may provide help with personal things like getting washed and dressed and taking medication. You may also help with things like shopping, laundry, cleaning or cooking.

If this is you VSA Cares Resource Service can offer advice, information and support to you on all aspects of caring. We can also provide access to charitable grants and signposting to other organisations.

For more information contact me:

Jacqui Dunlop
VSA Adult Carers Resource Service,
38 Castle Street,
Aberdeen
AB11 5YU
01224 358628
Jacqui.dunlop@vsa.org.uk



We have begun the process of recruitment and are doing all we can to find our new minister as soon as possible!

Our church will be united eventually with Summerhill Church, with the Mastrick Church building being used for worship and other services, though there are no immediate plans for this, and so everything continues as usual - worship services each Sunday at 11am, and all the other usual activities which happen in the Church buildings.

Teresa Broere, our Parish Assistant, leads most of the Sunday services, visits schools and families in the area, and supports people as they need: she can be contacted at the church, or by telephoning the church on 01224 694121.

It's hard to believe we're already talking about Christmas, and shops are already starting to fill up with Christmas cards, gifts and tinsel! Our Christmas services and events include:

Messy Church
Monday 5 December
from 5 – 7pm

Christmas is coming! Games and activities, bible stories and songs, supper – all welcome to join in, with all children accompanied by an adult or someone over 16.

Christmas Eve Christingle Service Saturday 24 December at 5.30pm.

A service for all the family to come along and share in the Christmas story.

Christmas Day at 11am – a short service celebrating Christmas in stories and carols – all are very welcome!

Please do come along to any of these – we'd love to see you, and you'll find a very warm welcome!

For regular updates on Mastrick Parish Church like or follow us on Facebook.



Pathways in Mastrick

Pathways has been assisting people across Aberdeen City for over 16 years to find suitable employment, consistently helping over 250 people into work every year! Pathways follow a process to help you find the work you are most suited for and work with you on a weekly basis to create a CV, open email and Universal Jobmatch accounts and assist with job search and completing application forms, along with coaching for interviews. The service is FREE, private and completely impartial.

The Pathways Keyworker's based in your area are Theresa McKay and Andrea McDougall who meet people at Mastrick Housing Office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

Please phone 01224 643 697 to arrange an appointment or to find out more about how Pathways can help you!

PATHWAYS – Start your journey with us

SOOYANG DO OLYMPICS 2016

The Portlethen and Summerhill Sooyang Do Clubs had fun during the last week of the Olympics as they hosted their own special version of the Olympic Games, and they did it in true martial art style.

The junior club members hurdled, long jumped, sprinted, relayed, and set some personal records.

Chief Instructor Colleen McIver said "The children have been

watching the games and have been truly inspired by the athletes. Some of the children cross train with other sports as Sooyang Do training compliments other sporting activities like golf, football, hockey, tennis, badminton, just to name a few. It's great to see children get involved in any sporting activity as they are our future."





The BIG shmu Celebration

The first ever Big shmu Celebration Event was held on Tuesday the 13th of September at the Northern Hotel. This was an opportunity for us to showcase the brilliant work that all our staff and volunteers do and say thank you to the volunteers for all the time they put into making shmu the success it is.

The night was full of surprises, from musical chairs to comedy videos and the shmu staff team performing the evolution of dance. We had a variety of testimonies from volunteers of all ages which were very moving a lovely reminder of why we do what we do here at shmu.

We would like to thank the Northern Hotel for letting us use the venue free of charge and putting on all the catering. Thanks must also go to AVC media for lending us equipment to help the night run smoothly. The biggest thank you of all must go to our Board of Trustees and the volunteers who are here day in and day out – your commitment and hard work is truly inspiring.





STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS IN MASTRICK

Early Years Scotland offer free Stay and Play sessions for children from birth to preschool and their parents at Mastrick Community Centre each Friday morning from 9:45 to 11:15am. The primary aim of the session is to give children and adults the opportunity to play together while meeting new people. Hannah is the Early Years Practitioner who currently leads the sessions and she ensures that there is a messy or crafty activity as well as other resources such as books, trains, dress up or drawing for everyone to enjoy during the session. We hope that these activities give ideas for parents to try at home with their children so please ask if you want any more information. A small snack of mixed fruit is provided for the children during the session – this encourages healthy eating as quite often the children will try something here that they won't eat at home. Sessions usually finish with a story time and a song time which encourages the children's language and communication development. Even the youngest babies enjoy the song time, listening to the voices and moving in time to the beat.

If you think you and your child would enjoy this session then please feel free to pop along any Friday morning. If you would like more information you

can go to www.facebook.com/aberdeenstayandplay or call Susan on 07785 455 800.

During the sessions we have found that children and adults enjoy activities using play dough. We always make the play dough so thought you may like to try this at home so here are a couple of the recipes that we use.

- **1 cup plain flour**
- **½ cup salt**
- **1 tablespoon oil (baby, or cooking)**
- **1 teaspoon cream of tartar**
- **food colouring or paint (optional)**
- **1 cup of boiling water**

Place all the ingredients apart from the water in a bowl and mix them together.

If using paint or food colouring add this to the water then mix everything together until the dough forms a ball in the bowl.

Turn out onto a board or surface and knead until smooth – you may want to leave the dough to cool a little before doing this.

This makes a firm dough, ideal for modelling, cutting and printing. It can be kept for a few weeks in an airtight bag or container in the fridge.

36th ABERDEEN (ST. CLEMENT'S MASTRICK) COMPANY

This company serves the Mastrick, Sheddocksley, Summerhill and Woodend communities.

Meetings are crammed full of challenges, games and activities, often ones that members have suggested

There are numerous activities catering for just about every possible interest.

The groups meet in St Clement's Episcopal Church Hall (at the rear of the church car park) on Mastrick Drive on Tuesday evenings during school term time.

PRIMARY 1 to PRIMARY 3 (ANCHOR SECTION)

6.00pm – 7.00pm

PRIMARY 4 to PRIMARY 6 (JUNIOR SECTION)

6.30pm – 7.30pm

PRIMARY 7 to SECONDARY 3 (COMPANY SECTION)

7.15pm – 8.45pm

SECONDARY 4 to SECONDARY 6 (SENIOR SECTION)

7.15pm – 8.45pm

There is a weekly admission fee of £1 and an annual enrolment fee of £5.

The Boy's Brigade is a multi-cultural organisation which caters for boys and young men of all faiths and from all backgrounds and abilities. For further details contact Malcolm MacLennan, Company Captain on 07919106665 or by email at macLennan103@yahoo.com.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
IS A MULTI-CULTURAL
ORGANISATION WHICH
CATERS FOR BOYS AND
YOUNG

Silver City Surfers

Silver City Surfers run free sessions to help people over the age of 55 get to grips with all things IT related. These sessions take place on Thursdays in Mastrick Community Centre on Thursdays between 1 and 3pm.

Blanche has been coming along to Silver City Surfer sessions regularly for a few months.

She said: "Coming here makes me feel young again – back to school; learning something new ... it's fascinating!" she says. "I had two Kindles for a few years not knowing how to use them. I got a Kindle for reading and my son gave me an updated one. Both sons have tried to teach me on their computers but they know so much and they're so fast that they don't have the patience."

Blanche has some advice for anyone who thinks they're too old for technology. She says: "Well, I'm nae! Look at me. I'm 81 years young and willing to have a go and am doing so. It helps to keep your brain active, it's enjoyable as it's something new, and there's so much you can do with it.

"I wish I'd been taught this years ago as it's taken me away from thinking about my aches and pains."