

Middlefield *Mirror*

Autumn Edition 2013



Featured in
this issue

**Councillor
Comments**

**Middlefield
Youth Flat**

**Northfield Academy
Latest News**

**Middlefield
Community Project**

Middlefield *Mirror*

Autumn Edition 2013

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Editorial

Welcome to the long-awaited Autumn edition of the Middlefield Mirror.

As ever, thanks go to all those who have submitted content and supported the development of this publication. Middlefield Mirror is your magazine and has the potential to be a real voice in your community.

But this cannot happen without your input – we need people of all ages to get involved with the editorial team. This may involve attending meetings whenever you can, helping source content and proofing the magazine. Training can be provided.

Alternatively, if you are a budding photographer or keen creative writer, we'd love to hear from you!

If you would like to get involved and live in Middlefield, please contact Mary Clare: maryclare@shmu.org.uk or 01224515013



FUNDED BY



Councillors Comments



Cnclr Gordon Graham

I would like to start by setting the record straight with regards to the regeneration of Middlefield.

1. There is no intention to have the houses demolished within two years.
2. There is no intention to have the road built in two years.
3. There is no intention to evict residents.

It is disappointing however that people have been sent letters by others saying that this was the case.

The situation is that a lot of people have been complaining that nothing has been done for 5 years since they were promised new houses and alternative accommodation. Bathrooms and kitchens have not been modernised and in some cases the pavements are a danger.

As a result of this I and my colleagues have been trying to get the situation resolved sooner rather than later. We still need to get agreement with the Scottish Government with regards to funding and the route; they still need to identify compensation packages for homeowners.

However as a council we have allocated staff to make progress, they will get in contact with people to determine their needs with regards to new housing.

It has been agreed that when people move from Middlefield Court they will be provided with home loss payment, which is £1500 per household. There is also discretionary payment to cover disturbance cost estimated to range from £200 to £1600 per household. I would expect the people who move into Middlefield will get the same or similar.

Should people have any concerns about this or any other issue, then please get in contact with me on 07736329751.

Regards
Gordon Graham



Cnclr Scott Carle

It was great to see Middlefield Youth Flat secure the last of the money they needed for their trip to Poland with a grant from the Council's Finance and Resources Committee.

Initially the Youth Flat was awarded £1500 from Aberdeen City Council's Youth Grant, however despite their best fundraising efforts, they were still £591 short. I was glad to see them return to the council to see what further assistance could be provided and was pleased to hear that a majority of the committee backed their application for this important trip.

I was also pleased to learn that Middlefield Community Project were awarded a Volunteer Friendly Award by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and

were the first in Aberdeen to win this award. This is great recognition of the invaluable work they do with volunteers in the area and was well deserved. Congratulations to Helen and the team on this award.

Regards
Scott Carle
By email:
ScCarle@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Or by phone on:
01224 346622



READING BUS

On the 30th September, as part of our Global Bletthers Project, the Reading bus and Sheena visited Manor Park Primary.

Sheena Blackhall is currently working with the children and exploring the Scots language. She is encouraging song, poetry and story to be created, as well as supporting the appreciation and rich diversity of other languages within each class.

Family sessions will become a regular feature of these days, where it is hoped there can be a warm and fun sharing of cultures from across the world.

As we approach the Commonwealth Games, it is hoped that this project will contribute to each child, class and school being able to value the variety, colour and differences we all contribute to our community.

Our monthly sessions will culminate in a special event - sounds exciting!

Affordable Borrowing with St Machar Credit Union

The credit union is all about saving and borrowing. You can pay into your credit union account by cash, bank standing order or through your benefits.

Jackie, who works at the credit union and who puts together reports for the credit union Board of Directors, notes that credit committee reports show that at Christmas, members in the Middlefield community use their credit union for affordable borrowing.

She said, "Members in Middlefield didn't come and withdraw their savings, they borrowed against them for loans for their families Christmas presents and for their holidays throughout the festive period. The low income / benefit £250 loan deal means you pay £12 per week over 26 weeks - this pays back the loan, and the interest charge of £15.72 (26.8% APR) AND you put away savings of £46.28 - do this twice a year and every year you are building up savings of nearly £100 every year. This builds financial security for your future. I personally would not have been able to save as much if I had not borrowed with the credit union"

Board member Molly Sandison, treasurer of the credit union, noted that savings and loans had been offered in the Middlefield community since the credit union widened its operating area in 2002. "As treasurer I have seen many families in the Middlefield area use their credit union

accounts for Christmas and summer holidays time and time again over the years. In fact, junior accounts holders who regularly paid into their accounts are now moving over to have adult accounts and they are choosing to use the credit union for their first time borrowing instead of online high interest lenders"

We have two local collection points in the Middlefield area Every Monday night - from 6.30pm till 7.15pm - we are in the Henry Rae Community Centre.

Tuesday lunchtimes - from 11.45am till 12.45 lunchtime - we're at the Healthy Hoose, Logie



Photo - Left to right - credit union staff Jackie, Stuart, Jade, Lauren

Main office Open Monday to Friday 9.30am till 4.30pm

(01224) 524935

email: f-credit@fersands.org

website: www.stmacharcreditunion.co.uk

Middlefield Parish Church

'I thought the church was closed!'

'Someone else has taken it over!'

'It belongs to the builder!'
The answer to all of these things is 'NO'

Sometimes you should not always believe what you hear. We are very much alive and kicking. Yes there have been a few changes.

My name is Teresa Broere, I have been the locum for the last few months, and you may have seen me in the school or wandering about a bit lost sometimes in the avenue. I am not a minister but a lay preacher, ordained in the Church of Scotland. I don't wear a collar or robes, you get what you see! I come as myself.

Change is sometimes good for a person; it makes us take a look at what is important in our lives.

And we as a small but prayerful congregation are very much part of the community.

Why not come along to the friendship group on a Tuesday afternoon from 1:30-3:00 pm. You will be made most welcome.

If you are under 12 why not come along and try fun and games on a Thursday from 5-6 pm.

Maybe you need to make a change in your life, with no obligation, try coming along on a Sunday at 11 am. We are trying new hymns, sometimes led by our music group, new styles of worship, we have a Sunday club for the under 12s, and the best bit you get a cup of coffee or tea and a very warm welcome.

No one is a stranger in the house of God. Sometimes the hardest part is stepping through a door, but don't be afraid.

So please pop by and see us any Sunday - you will be made most welcome.

Step forward in hope and push open the door.

See you soon, Teresa

Active Ageing Programme: Activity for older adults

Health Walks

Short local walks of 1-2 miles in communities across Aberdeen.

Nearby Walks include:
Cummings Park Community Flat, Mondays at 10.30am
Middlefield 'Healthy Hoose', Mondays at 2.00pm
Woodside Community Centre, Tuesdays at 11.00am
Refreshments after each walk.
Health Walks are free

Active Ageing Swim time:

Northfield Swimming Pool, Mondays at 1.45pm-2.45pm. Free with an Access to Leisure Card.

For more information contact Stephen on 01224 577738 or email sgammack@sportaberdeen.co.uk

Exercise: Your No.1 prescription



Interested in Computers? Want to share your knowledge with older people in Northfield?

Silver City Surfers run free sessions to help older people learn basic computer skills in a social setting on Thursdays from 11am till 1pm at Northfield Community Centre.

We are looking for volunteers who are patient, friendly and willing to share their skills in emailing, searching the internet and using technology to help people over 55 stay in touch. We do not need experts - if you can use your computer for the basics please get in touch!

Phone Chris, 07799 371 329 or email silvercitysurfers@gmail.com if you're interested in volunteering or coming along to a session.

Silver City Surfers are helping those who are over 55 to learn basic computer skills 1-to-1 in a social setting.

Nursery News

Ladybirds Day Nursery

The Princess trust team came to Middlefield Community Project nurseries in July 2013. The Princess trust helps support young adults gaining confidence and life skills which are an essential for work or further education. As part of their 15 week project they volunteered their time to extend our garden space. The children and young people together devised a plan of how we wanted the garden to look. The young people decorated the sheds with bright

shapes and mini beasts which are the children's interest at the moment. They also developed a planting area, natural resource area and slatted a section of the garden for water play. The children took part in painting the shed and planting seeds. We then celebrated the end of their time at nursery with a special thank you tea party which the young adults were delighted with. The children then received an invitation to the sports village to play games with the young



people as the young people had gained so much from their time at the nursery. Staff attended the award ceremony at the Towns House where they were able to congratulate the young people for their achievement. During the presentation staff could see what their time at the nursery meant to each individual young person and the impact it has had on their lives.

Butterflies Nursery

We have welcomed 17 new children to our Butterflies morning and afternoon nursery classes. We have worked closely with parent's to get to know their child and are working with them to help settle their child in to their new nursery environment, making the experience as fun and enjoyable as possible.

Children are enjoying being introduced to a variety of new activities and routines and are having fun building new friendships.

Exploring and investigating is an important part of the pre-birth to three curriculum.

We offer opportunity for this on a daily basis. This helps us to observe children's interests and meet their individual needs.





Busy Bee's Nursery

We are now all back from our summer holidays and back into the swing of things. All children are settling into their new nursery well.

Over the past few weeks the children have expressed an interest about animals. We have looked at pets that we all have at home and we have developed our role-play room into a vet surgery. The children have enjoyed playing and taking care of the animals. They have been taking on the role of the Vet, receptionist or the animal's carer.

We are planning a trip to the pet shop and hopefully a trip to a veterinary surgery. Through the use of the Curriculum for Excellence staff will continue to follow children's interest about animals.

This may look like we are playing however we are learning life skills such as social and emotional skills, independence, oral language, imagination and responsibility. We may need to use these skills as a mother, father, police officer or even a Politian one day!



MIDDLEFIELD

Y

POLAND TRIP

Well by the time you have read this we will have been to Poland and back and it's been quite a journey from the start. Over the year the youths involved have been busy bag packing, arranging and organising jumble sales and applying for funding. At first it seemed the young people thought it was not going to happen but over the months with fundraising and grant applications it became more real.

First of all there were the passports!! The filling in of applications, photos that weren't accepted (passport office are really strict), having the relevant documents to send off and then of course getting down to Edinburgh for the interviews! We thought we could go to Dundee as it would have been easier however Dundee passport office got flooded and was closed till further notice. However we got them in the end.

We left for Poland on the 7th of September and travelled to Edinburgh for our flight. The flight itself went smoothly and the youths were great considering it was their first flight and we hit turbulence! We arrived in Poland mid-morning and were taken to our hotel by transfer. We checked in and literally threw our bags into our rooms and began sightseeing.

Our first day consisted of sightseeing and booking our tours. We booked Auschwitz-Birkenau for the second day and the salt mines for the day after. Enjoyable is not the right word to use for visiting Auschwitz, but it was a fascinating and

informative visit which everyone visiting Krakow must do - although a very harrowing tour.

The salt mines' attractions include dozens of statues, three chapels and an entire cathedral that has been carved out of the rock salt by the miners. The Wieliczka salt mine reaches a depth of 327 metres (1,073ft) and is over 287 kilometres (178 mi) long. There was a lot of climbing down stairs to get to the bottom but well worth it to see all the different chambers - we managed to get there on our own after figuring out how to work the bus ticket machine and number of bus! We were all on one bus and the driver nearly drove off with us and left our youth worker at the ticket machine, so we all had to jump off! But thanks to a nice bus driver who helped us we got there in the end!

In the evenings we walked around and saw different parts of Krakow and found eating places and some of the young people tasted some Polish cuisine. One evening we booked a tour with an eco-friendly buggy (looked similar to a very large golf buggy) which took us to the Jewish ghetto and Schindlers factory. The Jewish ghettos were where all the Jews from Krakow were housed and segregated from all other Polish nationals. Schindlers factory was closed when we got there although we still got to see some of it and relate it to the film. If you have never seen the film it's well worth watching.



"It was amazing and I would definitely go back!"
Adam age 20



OUTH PROJECT

POLAND TRIP



"I liked the Galleria and topping up my tummy! I liked the underground."

Mark - age 21



COOKING

Over the past months the young people have been enjoying making new and exciting dishes, from savoury to sweet and trying new varied recipes like sweet potato and apple soup, carrot and red onion soup, Italian food, chicken and white sauce and chocolate fudge!! The young people are hoping to design and put a recipe book together and continue to try new recipes.

SWIMMING GROUP

The group consists of 15 young people who meet on a Wednesday night to go up to Northfield swimming pool, where the staff are great with them and enjoy their swim and look forward to it each week.

SUMMER TRIPS

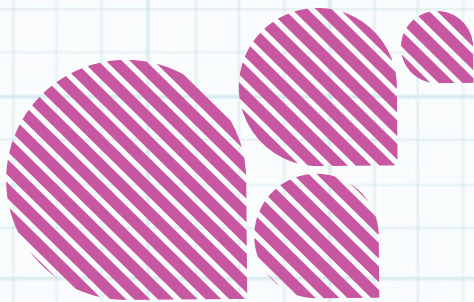
Summer trips consisted of strawberry picking (we made our own jam), Dundee swimming which is always a popular choice and we got to see and use the new pool. Outdoor swimming at Stonehaven was also a popular choice what with us having our good weather. However, on a particular day when the heavens opened, the older group was going indoor swimming, only to find it closed. Did the bad weather put them off going swimming outdoors? No!! They decided they were going to get wet anyway so went along and swam outside in the pouring rain!

STRAWBERRY PICKING



Middlefield Community Project

Volunteering and under 12's work



Primary 1-3's group

Before the summer holidays we had 24 children attending the club and as you can imagine it was very busy with children enjoying playing computer games, arts and crafts, hammer beads, puzzles, games, role play and game in the hall.

The children liked to bake cakes and make pancakes and especially enjoyed eating them. They love their snack which includes toast, chocolate spread, fruit and juice. We would like to thank Lynn Wilson, Charlene Howie and Elisabeth Barry for volunteering to help out at club.

After the summer the primary threes moved up and we had new primary ones coming in and settling into the group and they are enjoying the chance to paint, crafts creations and are keen to do more activities. The group runs on a Monday from 3.15pm to 4.45pm at the Henry Rae Centre.

Primary 4-6's group

Before the summer holidays the numbers of children attending the club was quite low and some of the primary 6/7's had moved to the youthflat after the Easter holidays and were enjoying this. The group were able to do cooking, arts and crafts, games, pool and other activities and enjoyed outing in the mini bus. After the holidays we had 16 new children for the group and they are settling in well and enjoying the chance to get on the internet and play age appropriate games



and learning how to play pool. At the moment they are doing a wee arts project about a puppet show and have painted the theatre and are making wooden spoons into puppets and then they will begin to develop a show. Lynn has now moved up with this group to help out.

We would like to thank Fairer Scotland Fund for the funding for staff and activities as without this we would not have been able to run these. We would also like to thank Henry Rae Centre for still allowing us to use the centre.

Family swimming group

We have been taking a few parents and children swimming on a Wednesday and this has been really successful. However after the holidays we went to start again and the times at the pool had been changed so we're now doing this on a Friday afternoon. There are still a few places, so if you would like to take your child swimming, please contact Helen.



Hopscotch Holiday

This will be on the second week of the school holidays - so Helen, Siobhan, Jody and Emma will be taking 12 children away to Arvulin on the west coast of Scotland for five days to stay in a lovely big house that has a park in the garden.

We would like to thank Fairer Scotland Fund for the funding for staff and activities as without this we would not have been able to run the above groups.

Playschemes

Sadly this year Fairer Scotland Board cut back our funding for volunteer and under 11's work with playscheme, saying that no other area gets this. The Middlefield Community Project management committee were very shocked about this decision as had funded this for the last eight years.

They looked at the priorities for the funding and realised they met all of these so appealed against the decision and this was refused. The committee are now appealing to Aberdeen City Council Community Planning Committee to explain this was this community's priority hopefully this will go to their next meeting. A few of the committee are now attending Regeneration Matters to see if they can get some influence on decisions being made. I pointed out that this was a great way to get people involved in the community and developing confidence to go on to college or work. The support and value we give our volunteers was rewarded when we were the first in Aberdeen to get the Volunteers Friendly Award. However the management committee made a decision to carry on with the playschemes and have received funding from ACC Grant for £789, the Khyber Pass Association gave us £1,040 towards a trip and sadly we received funding from Brain Adam the late MSP, who asked people to donate to the

Middlefield Community Project, which came to £1,300. Once again due to the sad loss of Kyle Allan his family wanted donations to go to the playscheme because this was something Kyle and his sister and brother really enjoyed and we received £800. This has been a great help at keeping the cost of playscheme down and the project has funded the other parts.

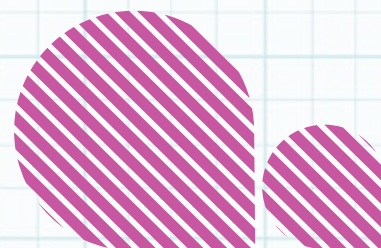
We had 18 volunteers that have helped over the two playschemes and this is greatly appreciated as without them coming together to plan, leaflet, do registration then do playscheme, we would not be able to do this.

The Easter playscheme went to Brechin Castle Park, which was very cold and we came home early. Then the next trip was Edinburgh Zoo to see the animals - especially the Pandas and they were very lively when we were there this time. On the Fridays we did swimming - which the children really enjoy - and activities at Henry Rae Centre. In the summer we had trips to Montrose Beach and Brechin Centre, which all the children really enjoyed especially the domes for bouncing on. They went to Auchingarrich Wildlife Park and enjoyed holding chicks and seeing them breaking out of the eggs. They enjoyed all the animals and the parks as well. The playscheme had two residentials away to Cromdale Outdoor Centre beside Granton On Spey and went to Landmark, which they loved and could stay late as was only 20 minute drive back to centre. They went on water slides, rock climbing, roller coaster, up the fire tower, sawed wood and many other activities. The children really enjoy getting away from home for a few days. On Fridays we went to Northfield Pool and the children's swimming began to come on so much over the six weeks and a few learned to swim. The volunteers did activities at the centre but

because the weather was lovely we used the local play park in the afternoons.

We are now planning the October Playscheme with the leaflets just delivered to each home in the area.

Thanks to all the people that funded the playscheme because without this we would find it very difficult to provide this level of trips and activities.



Middlefield Community Project

Other News



Volunteers

Middlefield Community Project has been successful in achieving the first Volunteer Friendly Award in Aberdeen. The awards are designed to recognise and reward groups who are good at involving and supporting their volunteers. The Middlefield award was jointly assessed by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and the Volunteer Centre in Dundee. Joyce Duncan, Chief Executive of ACVO presented staff and volunteers with a plaque and certificate at a celebration lunch on Thursday 5th September. Our volunteers were also finalists in the Aberdeen Impact Award 'Change for the Better' category and were presented with a plaque at the Music Hall in July. Anyone who would like to join the volunteer team at the Project should contact Helen on 01224 697000.

Parent and Toddler group.

The Parent and Carers and Baby and Toddler Group meets



on Mondays at MCP from 1.30 -3.00pm. The range of activities include stories, songs, arts and crafts, sand and water and soft play as well as a healthy snack for the children and tea or coffee for mums, dads, grannies and aunts. Open to all families in Middlefield.

Early Years Trip

Parents and their children aged under 8 years enjoyed a trip to Camperdown Park and Wildlife Centre in Dundee. This was a way of parents of young children in the nurseries getting to know each other and getting to know Project staff and was funded through the Big Lottery Communities and Families fund.

Adult Learning Groups and Activities

There are a number of opportunities for adults at MCP including an arts and craft group, healthy living and keep fit groups, accident prevention and first aid for under fives, Circle of Security and confidence building and assertiveness. If you are interested in any of these or would like help with reading and writing and /or using computers please contact us on 01224 697000.



Middlefield Area Resident Action Group

The group meets every three months unless something comes up to do this before this date. The date for the next meeting is the Monday 2nd December at Middlefield Community project, 8 Logie Place, at 6pm - all welcome along. We have a crèche but places are limited so you need to book in for this. As you will be aware, there have been a lot of arguments in the local media about the time scale for the new link road that will come right through the middle of Logie. Many families will be affected by this and have been without information for many years now.

However things are beginning to move and hopefully people will be kept informed about what will be happening as soon as they find out. If you have any issues that you would like to raise or would like to speak to the housing officers, the police, city wardens or local councillors, then please come along to the meeting. There is a letter being written in the newsletter to explain how tenants feel at the moment and an update from housing and regeneration.

READER'S LETTER

Middlefield/ Logie Residents are appalled at the current political fighting between the Labour- led council and the SNP, using the Link road as an excuse to gain points in the media at the expense of the community of Middlefield.

With headlines in the newspapers stating they will get evicted and an ever changing timescale of when this will commence, it's a cause of great uncertainty. As a community we don't want to hold up progress but why should the progress be at the expense of this community?

Previously the community was promised regeneration when the link road would be built, with an investment of houses in the area. A lot has changed since 2008, including a community that has become settled with a low turnover of properties. Residents would like answers as to what will happen and when this will happen.

Arguing about who said what and having pointless meetings to accelerate the process when funding has never been guaranteed seems to be an attempt to get media brownie points rather than looking to deal with the real issues at hand.

Please take a minute and think about how you would feel if a whole city seemed to think it was okay to knock down 160+ family homes and no thought given to the families that might be affected by this. Take a moment to think about how long these families have been in this situation with minimal repairs done to properties. Think about how you would feel if you were told you were going to be moved and you did not know where to and you did not know what school your children would be going to. In the mean time we have home owners that do not even know if they are affected by the plan yet, knowing they will not get market value for their homes and cannot afford to buy another property through no fault of their own. Since 2008, homeowners have been left with the dilemma of whether it is worth making a financial investment to their homes that may get knocked down.

If the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route is a success will there be a need to disrupt so many families so people can get home 5 minutes early? 2004 traffic predictions were overzealous. If there is a need for the link road then this has to be planned not rushed. People who want to stay in the community should be able to. This means building homes and looking at alternatives so it is about regeneration and not clearing people out of the area.

We would like to see the Scottish Office give the residents of Aberdeen, the residents of Middlefield and the community partners who operate in the area an answer on whether they will wait to see the effects of the peripheral route. Or they could give the city a financial commitment to take things forward in a planned and thought-out manner. This commitment should be decided now and not dragged out for political point scoring.

SHMU'S YOUTHTV PREMIERE WWII FILM AT 50+ FESTIVAL

Over the Summer Break young people from the youthTV project joined a couple of past trainees from Positive Transitions to take part in a unique film project in conjunction with the St Fitticks Arts Festival.

The original brief was to interview local World War II veterans to capture their stories for future generations. SHMU teamed up with the Gordon Highlanders Museum to connect with the veterans and the group also spoke to older people who were young children growing up in Aberdeen during WW2. The Gordon Highlanders also very kindly arranged an education session to give the group an introduction to the history of the Highlanders and the wars they fought in.

The interviews and filming all took place over a very hectic 2-3 week period in early August with editing taking place at the end of the month. The group were supported by tutors at SHMU but did the majority of filming, directing and planning themselves. Due to the tight deadline, our resident editor here at SHMU pulled it all together with a little help from a few members of the group.

All of this hard work was rewarded on the 10th September at the official screening at The Belmont Cinema, as part of the 50+ Festival. There were over 70 people in the audience including some of our young people and a few of the 'stars' – the veterans and older people who kindly agreed to be interviewed.

The audience was treated to a question and answer session after the screening, giving them the opportunity to ask the young people questions about their experience making the film. The group bravely stood up in front of the 70-strong crowd and answered questions confidently; in fact when asked what making the film meant to

them, Danielle commented that it had really helped to boost her confidence.

The group also agreed that it gave them a much greater insight into the realities of war and of just how close to home it came. They found the subject matter all the more interesting hearing it from a local perspective. It also made them see and think of older people in a different light, now knowing some of the fascinating and sometimes harrowing stories behind them. It made them grateful to be living in a time of relative peace; knowing that the veterans were their age when they were conscripted.

We also had some lovely feedback from one of the veterans – Muriel, who was a WREN during WW2, was present at the screening and said that she enjoyed watching the interviews even more than she did being interviewed!

At the end of the Q&A a number of audience members came down to congratulate the young people on a job well done and to offer their services and stories for future projects. We could have stayed all day chatting!

As a final well done to the young people, the staff of The Belmont treated them to a soft drink in the café downstairs and gave them all a souvenir pack containing a ticket stub from the screening, a programme and two free cinema passes to return and see a film of their choice. This was totally unexpected and the group wish to pass on their sincere thanks.



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.

Silent Victim or Tolerant Resident?

Over the summer, I have had the opportunity to speak to Middlefield residents and gain an understanding of your local concerns.

In general these remain focused around antisocial behaviour, drug dealing and misuse, car crime and safer roads - the same issues which concern others within the Northfield Community Policing Team (CPT) area. The order your concerns are placed depend specifically on your individual location, priorities and exposure to each of these unacceptable behaviours. I would reassure you that our priorities are also focussed on these issues, with a view to improving the quality of the lives of all who reside in, work around and visit the area.

During a recent Middlefield meeting I attended, the residents were described as very tolerant of others. This is an admirable attribute and goes a long way to ensuring the community lives together within suitable levels of acceptable behaviour. However, during the meeting it was clear that not all behaviour being experienced was acceptable, but despite this, residents did not do anything to stop it or took

initial steps themselves, without involving others who could assist. These residents had become silent victims, suffering alone, often seeing the unacceptable behaviour continue, repeating and becoming a regular occurrence.

My previous role as a Force Control Room Inspector saw me responsible for ensuring we responded to all calls appropriately, especially where incidents were serious and ongoing. This proved to be a challenging role with various competing demands, though each call was recorded and treated seriously. Much of this has stayed with me and these calls from you assist me greatly to identify ongoing issues, build patterns of offending and allow me to deploy your local officers effectively.

While reviewing calls relating to Northfield CPT, it was clear that asking our officers to develop a good knowledge of all areas within the CPT, understand all of the problems and set about

solving all of them was a huge challenge which needed to be simplified.

A number of officers have now been allocated Middlefield as their area of responsibility in terms of understanding your issues, identifying problems and introducing solutions – making it safer for you. In time these officers should become known to you and be familiar faces within the area.

This plan however relies on you, we need to know where problems are occurring, when crimes are taking place and who is involved – without this we will find it difficult to be in the right place, identify those responsible and stop unacceptable behaviour and crimes taking place.

Together we can make a difference – a Tolerant Resident does not need to be a Silent Victim, call us.

Kevin Wallace, Inspector,
Northfield CPT

St Machar Academy Dates

We have a number of dates which we would like to bring to your attention.

The October break is from **Monday October 14th to Friday October 25th**. School will reopen at the normal time on **Monday 28th October**.

October 31st - We are holding an information evening for parents of S4 pupils who will be going on work experience. This will be in the School Hall at 7pm.

November 11th - In-service day and the school will be closed to pupils.

December 4th - S1 Parents' consultation from 4.30-6.30.

December 6th - Our pupils will be inviting senior citizens from our area to an afternoon tea with entertainment.

December 11th - Is our Christmas Concert.

We would be delighted to welcome you to the above events.

Northfield Academy



New Year, New Uniform

A very smart start to the new term at Northfield Academy. Senior pupils are now wearing a school blazer along with a white shirt/polo shirt and a new school tie. Young pupils are wearing black trousers, skirts, leggings with a white polo shirt and black sweatshirt. Mr Hendry said "I am delighted with the support of our parents and families who have ensured our pupils are ready for a successful year. Our young people have taken a great deal of pride from wearing the new uniform."

Balfour Beatty

Congratulations to Toni Cocker and Liam Davidson, who following interviews, were both awarded the first Balfour Beatty Northfield Academy Summer Scholarship. Both Toni and Liam spent four weeks during the summer break working at Balfour Beatty. George Hood, Divisional Managing Director, said that "Both Toni and Liam were outstanding and a real credit to Northfield Academy". It is hoped that this opportunity will become a regular summer experience for Northfield Academy pupils. Northfield is delighted to be developing a partnership with Balfour Beatty which will offer a great deal of opportunities for its pupils.



Celebration of Success

Excited pupils, staff and parents gathered in the Music Hall on the evening of Tuesday 11th June for our glittering annual awards ceremony to recognise the success of over 276 pupils. This was our eighth awards ceremony and it was a fantastic evening showcasing everything that is excellent about Northfield Academy.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Gayle Gorman, Director of Education, Culture and Sport in Aberdeen City Council as our guest speaker. Mrs Gorman encouraged all our young people to engage well with their learning and take advantage of the many opportunities that Northfield Academy offers all pupils.

Awards were presented to pupils for demonstrating excellence in their effort, behaviour and attendance. Trophies were presented to senior pupils who had progressed well in national courses, as well as pupils who have excelled in a variety of areas including sport, music, art and drama. With so many awards being presented, it is no surprise that many of our pupils are inspired to succeed as they travel on their own journey to excellence!

This year's awards ceremony engaged pupils, parents, staff, MSPs, councillors, school partners and the community to recognise the achievements of our pupils. Undoubtedly it ensured the deserved public recognition for pupil success and encouraged our pupils to aspire to be outstanding in all that they do. This culture of achievement in school is crucial for enabling all our pupils to be confident with the language of success and ensuring better outcomes for all our learners.

Head Girl and Head Boy Appointment for 2013-2014

Northfield Academy is delighted to announce that following interviews, our Head Girl and Head Boy for session 2013-2014 will be Leah Gray and Liam Yeats. Congratulations to them both on their appointments.

Football Teams 2013-2014

From August we will be entering the following teams in the Aberdeen Schools League and Scottish Cup: Under 13, Under 14 and Senior boys, and Under 15 and Senior girls.

The school also offers Badminton, Basketball, Insanity Fitness, Free Running, Rugby, Dance, Netball, Gymnastics, Chess Club, Euroclub, Northfield Voices, Rock Band, Samba Band, Fashion Club, Movie Making Club, BBC School News Report, Maths Club, Enterprise in Engineering, Film Club, Science Club and Eco Club.