# Middlefield Mirror

**Summer Edition 2014** 



**Councillor**Comments

Middlefield Youth Flat Northfield Academy
Latest News

Middlefield Community Project

## Middlefield Mirror

**Summer Edition 2014** 

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### **Editorial**

Welcome to your summer edition of the Middlefield Mirror.

In this issue we have articles about the Haudagain Roundabout and from Middlefield Community Project, Middlefield Youth Project.

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 Middlefield.

If you live in the Middlefield area and would like to come along to the editorial meetings or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at SHMU on 515013 or you can email her on laura.young@shmu.org.uk. You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website www.shmu.org.uk then click the 'PRESS' option.

### **FUNDED BY**









## Northfield Academy

### **S1 Parent Consultation Week**

This term we introduced the first S1 Parent Consultation Week. This moved away from the traditional model of an S1 Parents' Evening. The Consultation Week was a week-long opportunity for parents to visit at a time of their choosing and discuss their child's progress with one member of staff.

This was an excellent opportunity for parents to visit the school and have a conversation about their child's learning at Northfield Academy.

Thank you to everyone who supported this new initiative which has helped us to increase parental involvement.

### **BBC School Report 2014**

Since September 2013, a group of S1 and S4 pupils have been becoming news reporters. The budding journalists have been focusing on the news that has been happening around Northfield.

The pupils have been able to work with Fiona Stalker, a reporter for BBC Aberdeen,

who has provided the team with advice on how to present the news effectively. This year, the group has also been lucky enough to work with BBC Scotland to produce a short film about voting at the age of 16. The final video was broadcast on the BBC News Channel.

The team also participated in the news day event on the 27th March. The team had to produce numerous high quality news reports and ensure that they

were submitted onto our news website by the deadline of 4pm.

Thank you to Miss Kerry Smith, Mr Gordon Rae, Sarah Darroch and Sharon Brown who have been supporting this work.





### 4x4 Challenge

As part of the Engineering Club, a group was entered into the 4x4 Challenge. The team had to design and market the buggy in preparation for the 4x4 Challenge Competition Day.

Initially, the school entered the competition to gain experience and information for next year and, therefore, were delighted to win the Judge's Discretionary Award.

This was the first time a team from Northfield Academy entered this competition so, as you can imagine, they were all rather scared and nervous but theydid extremely well. Next session, the Engineering Club would like to recruit new team members to form a Formula 1 team so that they can expand the group and inspire new young engineers.

#### **Culture Café**

This term we have launched our Culture Café which takes place every Tuesday from 1pm. A dedicated group of our senior pupils have been responsible for setting up the venue on a weekly basis, planning music and activities, performing live music, making food and drink to sell, advertising, manning doors, and joining in with peers in the games and activities on offer.

They have also undertaken "Bully Buster" training with Aberdeen City Community Learning Development team. This has impacted positively on the school and has provided a safe and attractive space for pupils to spend time at lunchtimes.





Northfield Academy had another extraordinary school fair, open for the whole community to attend. The turnout was huge. The barbecue was in full swing with the smell of burgers and hot dogs, attracting everyone for seconds or thirds. Upon entering the hall you were greeted by the friendly faces of all the volunteers that helped out waiting patiently at their stalls. Along the corridor and down the stairs took you to a different world... the creative world of tie-dye t-shirts and henna tattoos.

Further down the rabbit hole, people in the community got a taste of Culture Cafe run by the school's senior pupils. Outside, children pleaded with their parents for a go on the bouncy castle. For the adventurous people there were more physical activities, such as rock climbing, beat the goalie, the bungee run and, to keep things under control, a Guess the Teddy's Name competition.

Our head teacher and Aberdeen football club supporter Mr Hendry even went as far as getting the Scottish League Cup to the school for everyone to take photos with.

This was a great opportunity, especially Aberdeen fans.

The event would not have been possible without the staff, senior pupils and Parent Council who helped run the activities and stalls. Special thanks must go to the St Nicholas Rotary Club for their stalls and for being a massive help on the day. The day turned out to be a huge success and it helped raise a lot of money for our school as well as our extra-curricular clubs and charities.

Written by Becky Jamison and Sabrina Bremner





## Middlefield Community Project

Busy Bee's Nursery





It has come to the time of year again when the children are beginning their transition, ready to move onto the next step. The next step for children may be school, a new nursery, or even the same nursery, however, with new friends, teachers and faces! This time of the year in nursery is very busy.

Over the past few weeks the children have begun transition activities. One of these activities included turning our role play room into a school. In the school the children are able to take on different roles such as being the teacher. The children have had great fun in here, where they are often able to ask questions about what will happen when they are at school and what they will need to bring to school etc. This is a very exciting time for the children as they are now ready for their new challenge.

Also as part of the transition we have visited all the schools and new nurseries with the children and also discussed this in nursery. For the children staying at nursery we have discussed with them that they will have new friends in their classes after summer. We have also made an end of term gift with the children, one of these being a photo book which has pictures of the children throughout the year in them, the children have loved looking at these and recalling back to the different activities and fun they have had in nursery!

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, teacher or even a politician one day!



### Middlefield Community Project Under 11's work

Middlefield Community Project has a Primary 1-3's club on a Monday and a Primary 4-6 club on a Thursday which are run at the Henry Rae Centre. The funding for this comes from a grant from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund and pays for staff time and most of the equipment and arts and crafts. Over the last few months we have been doing a variety of different things at the clubs.

We would like to thank Elisabeth Barry, Lynn Wilson and our recent volunteers Louise Philips and Keith Florence for helping out at the clubs.

We also have a small group of parents and children that have been going swimming on a Friday straight after school. It's great to see the children swimming coming on and the enjoyment the parents get out of coming along to this. This is also funded through Fairer Aberdeen Fund.

### **Play Scheme**

We had a great Easter Play Scheme and we are glad to say we were able to secure £3,000 from Cash for Kids to subsidise the summer and October Play Scheme. The volunteers have just finished their first aid, child protection and food hygiene training. The 14 volunteers have spend four days doing the Easter Play Scheme and will 13 days over the summer holidays along with attending meetings and training. A few volunteers will be moving on to work in the next few months so we will be looking for parents to become volunteers in the near future. If we do not have enough volunteers then we cannot take as many children on our trips as out adult to child ratio will be affected.

Primary 1-3's club will start back on Monday 25th August at 3.15pm and Thursday club will start back on the 21st August at 3.15pm at the Henry Rae Centre.







## Manor Park School News



Manor Park Commonwealth Games Sports Day This year, as part of our on-going curriculum work on the Commonwealth Games, Manor Park held a day of celebrations and sports activities. All classes have been working hard to learn about the Commonwealth Games happening this year in Glasgow. Primary 4 held a 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' Assembly, for the whole school, where we face timed Mr Rooke as our a 'phone a friend'. This started off a day of fun and excitement. It was followed by an afternoon of potted sports, music, pupil, parent and teacher races. Great fun was had by all and the event was attended by a large number of members of the community. To find out more about future events held at Manor Park then please visit the Manor Park website www. manorpark.aberdeen.sch.uk.

### Celebrate Balmoral Run Winner

Every year a team from Manor Park runs in the Balmoral Road Races and this year we finally got a winner! Bethany Cuthbertson won the competition to design the T-shirt for the runners in this year's Primary and Secondary schools' races and here she is displaying her winning entry with the race sponsors.

### Green Flag For Eco

On Tuesday 1st April the Manor Park Eco Warriors were visited by Cara Roberts from Eco Schools Scotland. She came to see if we were good enough to get our first green flag. She was impressed with all the different things we recycle and all the hard work we had put in. She was given a tour of the school and she watched clips from the Manor Park Trashion Show and visited the school allotment. Afterwards, she phoned back to tell us that we had achieved green flag status. We were all very excited and pleased! The green flag will be flown outside Manor Park and we will continue to recycle and look after our school and the environment.

### Manor Park Exchange Visit To France

Last year one of the highlights of the school 'year was the visit by a group of children from Clermont-Ferrand, Aberdeen's twin city in France.

We still have very fond memories of the week that they were with us. They joined in our school activities, went with some of our children on trips to Aberdeen Sports Village, Alford, Stonehaven and Aberdeen Harbour and even played in our school football team! This year a group of Manor Park children from P6 and P7, along with Mrs Milne, Ms Mast and Mr Addison will be making a return visit to renew some of the friendships they made last year and make some new ones.

### Manor Park Dance Crew

Manor Park Dance Crew have been taking part in many dance activities across the city. There are boys and girls from Primary 4 – 7 in the 2013/14 Dance Crew who meet twice a week. The Crew are 'coached' by Miss MacQueen, Miss Robertson and Miss Johnstone. This has been a very busy year for Manor Park Dance Crew! We ran an entire Day of Dance in May for the whole school which was a great success.

We also performed at Aberdeen's New Health Village in May, Northfield Academy Summer Fair and our Primary 7 members took part in the Big Dance Pledge in May too. Look out for more performances next year.





Ranger Rob was approached by teachers at Manor Park Primary to take a class of P3 children into the depths of Hilton Woods for an afternoon to find out about creatures of the night. The P3's had been learning about owls.

The children were able to sit on the large tree trunks in the Hilton Wood outdoor classroom which also played home to many beasties.

During the session, Rob asked the children what they knew about owls. Some of the children knew that owls have very good hearing and very soft feathers to make no noise. The element of surprise is very important when they are hunting for mice and voles.

The children thought about what an owl might eat. They tried a sensory game called 'The Owl Game' with the parent owls bringing 'food' e.g. things to touch and guess the object to the owlets. Some of the children took parts in a 'food chain' so they could see how much wildlife could be part of a food chain to supply food to an owl.

In the second part of the session, Rob showed the children a bat detector and explained that it changes the very high pitch sounds bats make into sounds we can hear. He then played a recording of bats in flight hunting. The children played a few games of 'bat and moth'

In this game, the children form a circle which forms the boundary of the game. Within the circle 2-3 'bats' would catch 4-5 'moths'. When bats hunt, they make a series of ultrasonic noises and then listen for the return sound. Doing this gives them a very clear sound picture of their surroundings (rather like an ultrasonic scan) Even though moths are moving about the bats can home in on them.

The game demonstrates the principle. 'Moths' run about until they hear the 'bat' shout "bat". They must stop and shout "moth" then they can run again. The more times the bats say "bat" could mean the moths are having to stay stationary a lot then get 'eaten' Rob said "It's a great game and the children learn something".

At the end of the session, Ranger Rob answered questions and took the class on a walk through the woodland.



## MIDDLEFIELD YOUTH FLAT

## GLASGOW 2014

Over the past couple of months nine young people from the Youth Flat have been giving up some of their weekends and helping to bag pack at some of the supermarkets in the city. We had arranges a weekend away and we needed to raise funds. Some of the young people wrote to the supermarkets explaining what their flat meant to them and how much it would mean to them getting away a weekend.

We decided to go to Glasgow to experience the culture and visit some of the museums.

We arrived on Friday evening and stayed at the Scottish Youth Hostel Association in the city's west end overlooking Kelvingrove Park.

On Saturday morning we had breakfast on Argyle Street and made our way to the Glasgow Science Centre. There are loads of things to see and do including interactive exhibits, a planetarium and a Science Show Theatre.

Our next stop was the Transport museum which is just a short walk along the Clyde. The Riverside is home to some of the world's finest cars, bicycles, ship models, trams and locomotives. Interactive displays bring the objects and stories to life, which many of our young enjoyed and joined in.

Sunday involved a trip to the Barras Market. We decided to walk there from the hostel since it was such a beautiful day. The young people seemed to enjoy having a look and were happy with their purchases. Staff would like to thank the young people for a great weekend and their involvement in the process and look forward to our next adventure.

### WELCOME

The Middlefield Youth Flat would like to give a big welcome to our new Primary 7s (to be). They have settled in great and certainly bring a smile to all staff.

Just a reminder that Middlefield youth flat is open over the summer holidays and we only close for the set trips. So don't forget and come along. For more info please call Charlie or Sharon on **01224 687362** or Helen **01224 697000**.









### **Another Sad Farewell at Middlefield Parish Church**

Unfortunately our Church has just sadly had to say farewell to Teresa Broere, our Locum Minister. We've known Teresa for the past five years. Teresa first came to help out as one of Middlefield's pulpit supplies. She is a very good friend of our former Dutch minister Rev Anita van der Wal. Both Teresa and Anita have known each other for many years. Teresa often conducted services if it was Anita's weekend off or when she was on holiday. When Anita left Middlefield last

March to take on a new charge at Fizean, Teresa then became our Locum Minister.

So as you can imagine the congregation and the church elders are feeling rather low at the moment. It may take awhile to find another Locum. Thankfully we have Rev Manson Merchant, the minister of Dyce Parish Church as our Interim Moderator who organises pulpit supply for Sunday worship, amongst other church business. However, the life of our church will continue.

### **Usual Church Events:**

### Tuesdays:

The Friendship Group from 1.30-3.30pm.

### Thursdays:

Kids Club from 5-6pm.

There's a Gardening Team who meet **every second Saturday**.

**Wednesdays:** Bible Study Group meet twice a month in someone's home 7-9pm.

Linda Forbes, Church Session Clerk

### **Police Scotland in Middlefield**

Most of you will be familiar with the sight of police officers passing through Middlefield and elsewhere in the city but residents still say there's never a bobby going about when you need one.

The truth is we are never far away; you just need to give us a call. As the Northfield Community Policing Team Inspector I have a dedicated team of sergeants and constables operating 24/7 in the area to keep you safe,

patrolling and responding across Middlefield, Heathryfold, Cummings Park and Northfield. Traditionally the phone works best - 999 in an emergency and 101 in non-emergencies. Call centre staff will note your concern and pass it on to us. An email addressed to NorthfieldCPT@ scotland.pnn.police.uk will allow us to address your concerns, questions and problems. An immediate response cannot be guaranteed but the team will pick up your message and get onto it.

The most effective, however, is simply to speak to us when we are out and about, or drop in past the police office. We are located right in the heart of Middlefield as part of the Manor Park primary school - look for our blue and white checked sign

If you need us - let us know. Have a safe and enjoyable summer, Inspector Kevin Wallace.









### CFINE

Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE) is your local outlet for fresh fruit, vegetables, pulses, healthy snacks and more!

CFINE contributes to regeneration, increases employability within designated disadvantaged communities, and encourages and supports volunteering within these areas. This then brings a whole range of personal, family and community benefits.

Across the city CFINE have 70 community food outlets operating

in various local venues.

Presently CFINE have reduced their prices at community food outlets by a whopping 10% as from June!

So, why not visit your local community food outlets and check out the produce and the great low prices.

Your nearest local community food outlets are at:

Northfield Community Centre – Thursdays from 10-12 noon

Cummings Park Community Flat, Cummings Park Drive – Thursday afternoon and Friday morning

Presently, we are looking to start a community food outlet within the Middlefield area.

Would you like to get involved? If so, contact Rod McDermid, Development Worker at CFINE on 01224 596156 or email info@ cfine.org to find out more.

### Healthy Hoose News

Our patient numbers have steadily increased over the past 2 years since we expanded our service to the Cummings Park area. We welcome all new patients from the Middlefield and Cummings Park areas.

At present we are short staffed due to long term sickness. There will be times when only one nurse is working which may increase your waiting time a little. We are trying hard to maintain the service we provide but, there may be occasions when there is no nurse available. This is usually due to training that we must complete.

Contraception update - Health services are encouraging the use of long-term contraception, i.e. implant, coil or depo injection, as a good option for young women. All of the nurses are trained to give advice on all types of contraception. At present we do not fit coils but, this may change in the near future.

If you are a Northfield Surgery patient aged 35-64 years old you may be entitled to a Keep Well Check. If you have had a letter and live in Middlefield or Cummings Park we can do the heck here.

Head lice advice -

- Please do not treat if there are no live head lice.
- Check all family members regularly (not just children).
   Always repeat treatment after 7 days.
- Regular combing with conditioner to remove nits and detect lice.

Not all people with head lice will have an itchy scalp; it can take some time for the itch to start. You can contact us on 01224 661500 or drop in to 2B Logie Place.

## **Councillors Comments**

### **Clir Gordon Graham**

A promise I made to people prior to the elections, was to work to provide workable solutions for the regeneration of Middlefield. Of particular concern was finding funding and suitable accommodation for Middlefield Community Project, presently located in a number of housing flats in Logie Place and Manor Avenue.

Both facilities are directly in the line of the preferred Haudagain Bypass route. I have also found that due to the good work of the project that there is a high demand for the service. Therefore it is essential to ensure that there is no gap in the provision of these important services.

I am pleased to inform you that following our instructions,

Council Officers have made submissions for the Middlefield Community Project Development to the Scottish Government's Capital Regeneration Fund. The project will involve the development of new, purpose built accommodation including provision for: early years care; preschool nursery provision; out of school care; youth facilities; adult learning work; and recreational community activities. This will improve the economic, social and physical environment of the Middlefield Community and surrounding area.

The new accommodation will also provide support to a greater number of the local residents; create additional opportunities for the local community; sustain local jobs and businesses and help regenerate Middlefield.

The bid has passed the first stage and is up against a number of other projects throughout Scotland in the second stage. However, if the bid is successful, the project will be developed and delivered as a partnership between Aberdeen City Council and Middlefield Community Project. Given the importance of the project to the area I would urge people to do all they can to advise the Scottish Government on the importance of the application.

Best regards
Gordon Graham

### **CIIr Jackie Dunbar**

I was delighted to finally hear that Newton Road had been resurfaced. This was something that Kevin Stewart (now MSP was Councillor) and I campaigned hard for over the years. The road surface was made worse with the amount of lorries that used it during the building of Manor Park School. It has been a long time coming, but I am delighted that it has now been completed. I was also pleased that my campaigning for resurfacing works on Provost Rust Drive at the bus stop near Manor Avenue has paid off too as the road surface was in a really bad condition. While I realise that a lot of folk would have been

inconvenienced with the road closure I hope you will agree that it was worth it in the end.

In the last edition I said residents from Middlefield and Cummings Park had asked me to try and get a bus shelter installed on Granitehill Road, due to the road being a wind tunnel at times. This was an issue, particularly for the older folk who use the bus stop to get into town.

The response that I have received so far is that there appears to be no technical reason that bus shelters could not be installed on Granitehill Road. Currently there is no budget allocation for the

installation of new bus shelters. however, as bus routes change and bus shelters are no longer needed they are recycled to areas that are in need. I have been assured that the request has been added to the preexisting waiting list and that the council will also undertake some surveys to ascertain the level of use of this bus stop. Given the location and proximity to sheltered housing they think the request seems sensible and will try to give this location some priority.

Best regards

Jackie Dunbar



### COODBYE WARY CLARE

Over the past four years I have worked with the Middlefield Mirror team, and it has been an utter privilege working with such a passionate group of people. Everyone who is involved in the editorial process is extremely dedicated to producing a magazine that their community can be proud of, and I feel very privileged to have been involved in it. I wish the editorial team every success with future issues, as I have no doubt that their magazines will continue to thrive. (I will, however, be checking the magazines online during my lunch break!)

All the best for the future guys, Mary Clare



### CREATIVE COMPOSITIONS

Station House Media Unit (shmu) will launch a cross-cultural music and film project this summer with the Aberdeen Multicultural Centre and Aberdeen's Ethnic Minority Forum. Collective Compositions, which will be the first of its kind in Aberdeen, was funded by Creative Scotland and will bring together musicians from a diverse range of minority ethnic backgrounds to record and perform a range of unique pieces of music. shmuSOUND supports the local music scene and focuses on supporting artists and bands to record, promote and broadcast new music.

The project will be filmed by a team of volunteers and turned into a 'making of' documentary which will be premiered later this year. Collective Compositions aims to raise of the profile of the city's minority ethnic musicians while creating a space where people from different cultures can learn through music.

Simon Gall, shmuSOUND Development Worker said: "It's important that cultural organisations in the city start to properly reflect the changes which have taken place over the last 10 to 15 years in the demography of Aberdeen. This is a valuable project which represents and celebrates the true cultural landscape of the city."

### MY TIME AT SHAW

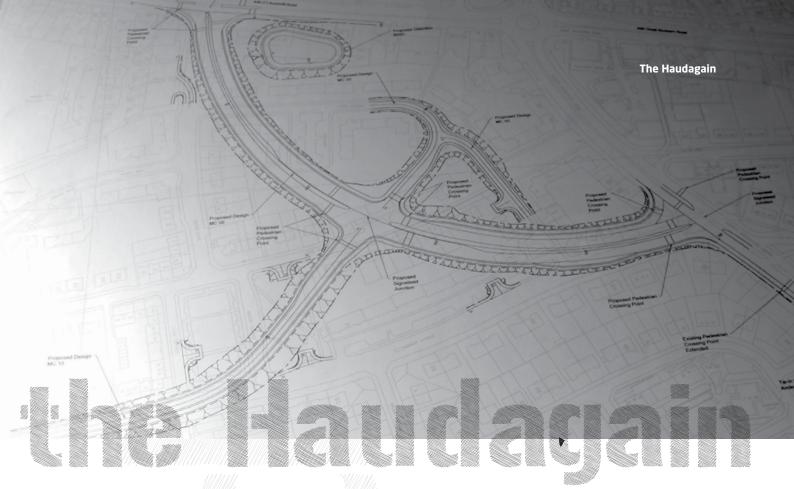
Middlefield resident, Kelly, recalls her time with SHMU

It started with a visit to SHMU with the art group from Middlefield Community Project. We met with Denise, who showed us around and explained all about what SHMU was about and what it did. She then went on to say that they needed volunteers for the magazine and for the Middlefield Matters radio show. I, of course, decided to jump on the band wagon and go for it. Gail, Kayleigh and I then became Middlefield Matters team. We did four weeks of training, and then started pre-recording the show to start with. It was quite daunting to start with knowing that there were loads of people going to be listening to us. After a while we decided to go live and that was when it was really scary. In time we got into the swing of things.

As is life, I got a job, so I am no longer able to do the radio show as much. I hope I will get back at some point. I loved my experience at SHMU. They have a lovely team of people. I would like to thank Adele and Lesley, who trained us and put up with all the tantrums and the constant moaning. Thanks to Laura who helps with our news feed and Denise for the magazine. Last but not least I want to thank Kayleigh and Gail, for putting up with my moaning and for making such a good team. I will miss everyone.

By Kelly Ogston

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.



"As long as the residents are kept up to date and given a chance to express their opinions. It'll be sad to split the community we have."

On the 25th and 26th of April the plans to improve the Haudagain roundabout went on display the Henry Rae Centre. The display was open to the public so they could have their say on the proposals.

The plans involve a new dual carriageway link road to reduce the congestion at the Haudagain.

Work on the Haudagain would not start until 2018 when construction of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route is complete.

The preferred option will result in the demolition of over 100 buildings in the Middlefield community but Transport Minister Keith Brown said: "This option was the most likely to result in reduced journey times, delays and environmental damage that comes from congestion. The engineers looked at dozens of options and this is the one they thought was best." Traffic orders will be produced next year to show the exact line of the route and Compulsory Purchase Orders will be issued in 2017.

Mark McDonald, MSP for Donside said: "We need to ensure time is taken for re-housing which is a sensitive piece of work that needs time to be done properly."

Councillor Gordon Graham said: "The issue needs to be resolved with the community and none of the residents should suffer detriment."

If anyone has any concerns they can contact their local councillors. You can phone the Aberdeen City Council switch board on 01224 522000 and ask for Gordon Graham, Jackie Dunbar or Scott Carle.

