

woodside freepress

Summer Edition 2018

THOUSANDS
BELIEVES IN
FOR KIDS



fersands
Supporting
families, changing
Kids futures

WE
CENT



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Editorial

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Woodside Free Press. This is YOUR magazine.

We are here to help you find out what's going on in Woodside and connect with your community.

In our pages you will find news, views, reviews and features plus lots of opportunities to take part in training and leisure activities for everyone in the community, young and old.

Within this magazine we have news from Tilly-wood, Kittybrewster School and the local campaign to save council services. If you have something you would like to say, some local issue you think deserves coverage, or if you would like to get involved by joining the happy band of volunteers that puts this magazine together, please contact Mark Lovie at the Woodside Fountain Centre on **01224 524926** or Laura at Station House Media Unit on **01224 515013** - or email laura.young@shmu.org.uk.

All the content in this magazine has been produced and approved by members of the editorial team.

The staff at SHMU are able to support and train anyone living in the area who is interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading.



Supported by



UPDATE FROM TILLY-WOOD STREET DESIGN PROJECT

Local community in Tillydrone and Woodside invited to upcoming events and activities

What is the Street Design Project?

The project is run in partnership by Aberdeen City Council and Sustrans Scotland, and funded by the Scottish Government funding through Sustrans' Street Design Programme.

It builds on the street audit undertaken by Living Streets in 2017 with residents which identified potential solutions to address road safety along Hayton Road. The project team now want to develop a concept design with the community that aims to strengthen the connection between Tillydrone and Woodside.

What have we been up to so far?

The initial designs for the Tilly-Wood Street Design project went live on Wednesday 27th March and for a month we held events across Tillydrone and Woodside to involve the local community. Thank you to everyone who got involved – it's been great to see so many people and to gather your comments on the design ideas.

The public consultation began on Wednesday 27th March where we held drop-in events at St George's Church in Tillydrone and Woodside Fountain Centre where people had

the opportunity to view the designs and also take part in a led walk of the designs in the area. A special thanks to the Sean and his team from CFINE who put on a fantastic spread of homemade soup and sandwiches with the Tuk-in Electric Van!

What are the design ideas about?

Since the start of the project in September 2018 we have engaged with over 1,500 people and run 26 activities and events across the area. Through meetings, surveys and talking to people we gathered all of your comments which brought up the following common themes:

Key themes for the Designs
Improving pavement conditions
Reducing and slowing down traffic
Enhancing the public space
Adding more greenery and informal play opportunities

Reducing traffic volume and speed is vital to the delivery of the overall design. By reducing and slowing down traffic, we will be able to enhance the street environment for people of all abilities to access the area by foot, bike and wheels.

All of these themes have been incorporated into the initial designs which focus on Hayton Road Centre, Don Side Bridge, Hayton Road Underpass and the two gateway entrances to the area: Woodside from Great Northern Road and Tillydrone Avenue onto Hayton Road. You can see the full design ideas and design boards by visiting <https://tillywoodproposals.commonplace.is/>.

What's coming up next?

On top of the information discovered and ideas developed throughout the project the feedback we've collected over this consultation period will help develop the designs further. We will continue working alongside our project partner Aberdeen City Council where there will also be an opportunity to bring the design ideas to life and testing these through temporary measures.

To follow the project and keep up to date please visit the project website - tillywoodproposals.commonplace.is/. If you have any questions in the meantime and would like to get in touch please email Emily, emily.gait@sustrans.org.uk.



Fountain Grange Tenants and Residents Group

This Tenants group was started in February last year to improve and bring better facilities to the Fountain Grange area. We had a constitution and bank account by July and were a registered tenants groups with Aberdeen City Council (ACC) thereafter. Allowing us to receive funding from ACC for paper ink etc as startup costs.

One of our priorities was to clean up the grounds and stop the fly-tipping and encourage tenants to pick up their dog mess. To this end we have managed to organise, with the help of ACC repairs department and housing department, T-bars for side doors of bin blocks and combination locks for main bin block doors. Each flat received a T-bar key and the Waste department had access through the main doors to empty bins. A dog bin is available at the front by the bus stop and we have requested

a second one by the car park grassed? Area.

The main project for the area is to revitalise the grounds to the front facing onto Great Northern Road. When the shrubbery was cut back hard a few years ago the area became accessible from the road and constant use has stunted the growth of the shrubs and instead of a bank of bushes, which cut off a lot of road noise, we have barren areas.

We proposed a fence to block access from the road. At the present time the shrubbery to the front has large gaps through which non tenants have been accessing the grassy area and causing disruption to tenants by banging on windows and shouting at all times of day and night.

We have had good attendance at the meetings from Housing,

Repairs and the City Wardens.

One of our local councillors, Neil Copland has attended most of the meetings and the Police came once. Fire are still to attend and we had a talk from Waste Management and Recycling. This attendance could be down to our Chairperson making a great banana bread/cake.

The next meeting will be in May and we hope to see more tenants there.



The Earth without Art is Eh?



Every Tuesday Evening from 6-8pm, our art class becomes a creative haven for anyone who has an interest in the arts.

We do floristry, paint, sculpt, draw, craft, learn basic photography, go on fieldtrips, discuss art as well as other subjects and welcome new ideas from students. Being creative has lots of benefits to the well-being of a person and the community overall. The class provides a relaxing and fun atmosphere in

which to create. A safe environment to share their worries over a cup of tea without judgement and a hug if needed. Each week for 2 hours, people can escape into their imagination, create and just be themselves. Creativity has also been proven to reduce stress and helps to address emotions, which helps with the busy lives we lead.

The art class Teacher, Kara Shepherd said: "Over the last year I've seen my students evolve creatively and that makes me very proud."

She went on to say: "I had a student who had never tried watercolour or drawing. She had attempted her first drawing and watercolour from an image she took while on our fieldtrip to St. Machar's Cathedral. For weeks she worked on it, with every step she worried she would ruin it but by taking a little

risk and with a little encouragement from myself she created a fantastic painting with such delicate detail and depth". The art class relies heavily on funding. On the 23rd of March we had UDecide, where the communities of Woodside, Tillydrone and Seaton were invited to vote for three of their favourite projects to receive their share of the £20,000 allocated to the area. Unfortunately, we didn't receive our funding, but we will try again next year. If you have any art supplies you no longer need, please feel free to donate them to Fersand Community centre in Woodside. We hope to continue this Art Class; the students have said they always look forward to the class and feel so relaxed and happier afterwards. If you are interested in art and would like to socialise with like minded people feel free to come join us on Tuesdays at 6pm.



Make 2019 the year to make
some changes to benefit you
for the rest of your life

Would you like to learn more about Healthy Eating and a Healthy Lifestyle in a relaxed setting?

Do you need to lose some weight?

If your answer to the above two questions is YES, Healthy Helpings could be the answer for you.

Healthy Helpings is a FREE NHS programme which runs for 1 hour each week, for 6 weeks.

Topics Covered Include:

- **Sensible weight loss targets**
- **Healthier food choices**
- **Appropriate portion sizes**
- **Label reading**
- **How best to plan and make changes**
- **Fluid and alcohol Intake**
- **Physical activity**
- **Meal planning**

Healthy Helpings is delivered:

MONDAY

**10.15 - 11.15am and
11.45 - 12.45pm**

**Aberdeen Health & Care Village
Frederick Street – off King St.**

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

**1:30-2:30pm
Woodend Hospital
Eday Road**

WEDNESDAY

**2-3pm
Garthdee Health Centre
Bridge of Dee**

Healthy Helpings aims to explain how best to lose weight, and to keep it off.

Classes are presented to groups of 10 or less and are available to adults over the age of 16 who are overweight and who want to lose weight.

**To find out more or to book a place, please call -
01224 556 556**

St Machar Credit Union

St Machar Credit Union has new neighbours

The Post Office has opened up next door to us, in the shop that used to be the Chalmers bakery shop.

Our members discussed the need and possibility of new services and regeneration in Woodside at our AGM last year - with the loss of banking services with the TSB branch closure.

The Post Office services also include bank branch banking for personal accounts from participating banks - this means you can withdraw cash, pay in cash or cheque or check you bank balance at the Post Office.

St Machar Credit Union is open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm (shut Wednesday afternoons from 12.30 lunchtimes)

For more information phone (01224) 276994, email f-credit@fersands.org or Facebook St Machar Credit Union.

ST MACHAR CREDIT UNION
433 Great Northern Road
Woodside Aberdeen AB24 2EU

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Woodside Post Office

Woodside once again has a local post office!

The shop is based at 429 Great Northern Road and is open between 8am and 8pm every day except Sunday, where it is open between 11am and 3pm.

Lesley Dunbar, Councillor for Woodside, Hilton and Stockethill said: 'It's great to see Woodside have a post office again. With local branches of banks closing in Woodside in recent years, it's really handy to be able to use the post office's banking services too.'

TILLYDRONE, WOODSIDE AND SEATON PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING 2019/20

The Locality Partnership (LP) agreed that applicants for this year's participatory pot of £20,000 should have a focus on additional support needs.

With that in mind, a partnership was formed between the LP and the Disability Equity Partnership (DEP) to set application criteria while also ensuring due diligence and process was adhered to.

The criteria were deliberately broad in order to allow for applications from as wide a range of projects as possible to go forward to the public vote. Applicants needed to demonstrate inclusiveness about people who have physical, sensory and learning disabilities.

The DEP gave guidance on the promotional materials as well as the accessibility and location for the accompanying public event while the LP gave advice on voting criteria.

Following the public event at Seaton Primary School, online voting, leaflet distribution across the entire area and presentations

at primary schools - allowing pupils aged 5 and upwards the opportunity to fully participate in a meaningful democratic process - 13 applications were received and voted on by the public, with the following projects receiving funding;

Woodside Community Centre, Older People Day Trip.

Woodside Community Centre, Summer Playscheme.

Lord Hays Court, Sensory Garden

Fersands, Holiday Playscheme

Granite City Taekwondo, Taekwondo Classes

Kittybrewster Primary School, Creative Energy: Imagine Our Potential

SeatonLinksfield Network, Seaton Street Fayre

Polish Association Aberdeen, Visual expressions inspired by Grampian storytelling & arts

Community Link Childcare, Community Activity Garden

Aberdeen City Council Co Leader, Jenny Laing, said: "We had a fantastic public response with 4880 votes being cast and resulting in eight wonderful local projects receiving participation funding.

"Our ambition for Aberdeen is for the city to be a place where everyone can prosper regardless of their circumstances and where perceived obstacles are removed. Public participation, particularly involving our children and young people, are also high priorities and so this year's voting process and the eventual funding awards in Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton have really reflected our ambitions".

The public event took the form of a market stall, where the 13 projects set up displays allowed members of the community to move around freely, speaking to project team members before being invited to vote.





CLIFTON-KITTY ART AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

At Kittybrewster School we have taken part in an intergenerational 'Learning Together' project with Clifton Court Residential Home. The children and adults spend time fortnightly on technology tasks and getting to know one another. It has been a really successful project so far with the help of the Communities Team and staff at Bon-Accord Care. The children are delighted to be given the opportunity to take part in such a unique and inspiring project. Kittybrewster School are very excited about the art mural project and cannot wait to see the project get underway.

"Firstly, we taught the older adult adults how to use technology like iPads and laptops. The residents brought up the issue of the ugly sub-station building outside of their residential building. We decided to participate in the UDecide community funding project so that we could ask for money to paint the substation. We made colourful posters to attract people to vote for us. My teacher and I went to Seaton

Primary School on Saturday 23rd March to tell people about our ideas and ask for votes. Luckily, enough people voted for us so we were able to get funding for our project. We are looking forward to a new, shiny building which will encourage people to feel more happy and colourful. It will cheer us up as we walk to school and make the residents happy." By Caleb, 9

"We had a great time working with the older adults and visiting them at Clifton Court. It was really fun getting to visit the older adults during school time and spend time helping them figure out iPads. The older people also taught us things and we learned from them." By Leah, 10.

"I like everything about the project that we do with the older adults. It was great getting to meet the older adults and getting to know them. I have helped them learn about moving apps and creating folders. I am looking forward to getting to paint the substation bright rainbow colours." By Louie, 8

ACTIVE SCHOOLS ABERDEEN

Active Schools Aberdeen was recently awarded funding to recruit a designated Active Schools Assistant at Kittybrewster Primary School.

The new post, which has been funded by Kittybrewster Primary's pupil equity fund, has been filled by 22-year-old, BSc Sports and Exercise Science graduate, Joanna Bell.

Joanna's role will focus on helping close the pupil attainment gap, by increasing participation levels in sport and physical activity of inactive and hard to reach groups of children and young people within the school and wider across the city.

This will be delivered through coaching sessions and ensuring that more high quality sports and physical activity opportunities are available within the school's curricular and extracurricular activities.

Commenting on the appointment, Graeme Dale, Development Manager – Active Communities at Sport Aberdeen said:

"Joanna's main focus will be to work with specific pupils to increase their participation and as a result positively impact on their attainment levels, thus helping to close the attainment gap."

Joanna joins two other Active School Assistants, Scott Mitchell, based at Orchard Brae School and Victor Omondi, based at St Machar Academy.

Local Campaign Sees Off Council Cuts

Large numbers are strange things. The nearest star is Alpha Centauri which is about 25 trillion miles away. What can the human mind do with such a number? The best we manage is a galaxy far, far away (and it's not a galaxy). So, when we hear that the City Council has to cut £45 million from its budget, the best we can do is say that's an awfa, awfa lot of money. It's more to the point when you've got a tenner to get me through to the end of the week.

It's when they get translated into real services that these abstract numbers come down to earth with a thud. All local libraries are to close. 200 jobs are to go, along with a big hike in council tax. Woodside library and all our local community projects, including our Family Centre are facing closure or at least big reductions in staff and services.

Of course we've heard it all before, and the more cynical say that it's all a ploy. They say that they are going to cut ten jobs, then only cut two. And folk say, 'well, it could have been worse.' But this time it's different. There are concerned faces all around. Woodside Library is to close. Fersands, Printfield, the Lad's Club and shmu are all to lose serious sums of money. This is serious.

But there is something fishy going on here. Surely they can't close EVERY local library in Aberdeen. Besides, Woodside Library is owned by the citizens of Woodside. Closing it ain't that easy. And look at the cuts at Printfield Community Project. They are to lose more money than they get. The project would end up owing them money.

It all seems like back of an envelope economics.

But that does not mean you can be complacent. The Fersands and Fountain Community Project was facing cuts of £91,000, and that's a sum that cannot be absorbed by spreading the jam a bit more thinly. It means a reduction – or scrapping – of real services, unless the community did something about it.

The first step was to have a large local presence at the anti-cuts



demo outside the Council offices, the second to make sure we get our message across as much of the media as possible. The campaign was underway.

Mark Lovie, the Project Co-ordinator said: 'The projects should take great comfort that the community did come forward and voice opinions where they could.'

Over one hundred people turned up to the information meeting at Woodside. Later, a reporter covering the event said that it was the best meeting of its kind he had ever attended. A long queue

of passionate people surrounded him to give their views on local services. Social media pages buzzed with comments and photographs. Politicians were e-mailed, leaving NO doubt of how important community services were to families. Families got together and made banners for the first time. At the demo outside the Town House Woodsiders were heavily represented. And very vocal they were too. 'I can't believe I'm doing this' said a first time protester as she chanted and danced and held her banner high. Our campaign made quite a splash in the local newspapers. Council leader, Jenny Laing came to visit the project after all the hullabaloo.

The first crack in the proposals was the local libraries. They were not to be closed after all. And then the projects' budgets were to be protected. There will still be cuts going around, but nowhere near as severe as first feared.

Did these local voices and protests make a difference to the decision? We may never know. The situation did tell us that people are passionate and care about the community services in the area. They feel they make a big difference in their lives and will stand up to defend them.

There is a lot of 'what's-the-point' attitudes when it comes to contesting decisions of the City Council. But local people have shown that campaigns can be effective when it comes to vital services. But we must not rest on our laurels. Similar cuts are forecast for next year.....



How we are working with the community

Well the clocks have gone forward, and spring is here. Like the seasons, recent months have seen changes in the Tillydrone Community Policing team with Lee Jardine arriving as the new station Inspector.

We continue to work alongside the community and in response to road safety concerns, we've increased patrols and undertaken initiatives. Currently we are partnered with Riverbank Primary School on a road safety campaign with officers and school pupils working together to educate drivers who are in excess of the speed limit. Working with the officers has proved to be very popular with the children, who are also learning the importance of road safety as a result.

Engagement with the community is important to us. We strive to take part in as many local activities as possible, as well as liaising with local groups in the area. Presently we are working alongside Aberdeen Drugs Partnership, as well as the

Tillydrone and Woodside Community Improvement Project to see how best we can improve our local area.

It is due to this engagement and dialogue that we can pro-actively target the scourge of drugs which impacts our community. We have acted on recent information from residents, demonstrating our intention to disrupt those involved in the sale and supply of drugs, resulting in recent recoveries of cocaine, heroin and cannabis plants from the Woodside area. A combined total of £2500 worth of drugs were recovered with three persons reported to the Procurator Fiscal. I want to pass on my thanks to those who have helped and encourage others to assist in reducing criminal activity.

We're aware that domestic abuse is an issue affecting many lives in our area. Domestic abuse takes various forms, with victims suffering physical, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse. Victims often feel frightened and afraid to report these instances

through fear of repercussions and/or adverse social stigma. We actively continue to take positive action against offenders and support victims. To assist we are seeking to work alongside the Lighthouse project, who provide victims with support and guidance going forward with their lives.

Local priority criminals continue to be targeted. Recently we undertook a warrants initiative whereby over two days we arrested 13 wanted persons. Further to this we gained significant intelligence which will support us in tracing other offenders.

Our work will continue and as a community policing team we will remain visible and accessible within Tillydrone, endeavouring to address the issues that you raise.

To contact the community policing team please call Police Scotland on 101 or through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

PANTRY PROVES POPULAR

Woodside Pantry, Scotland's first of its kind, opened on the 12th February.

The service which provides a kind of subsidised shopping experience for its members is now open to all residents in Woodside and will soon meet our target of 100 members. Each member pays a £3 membership fee and then pays £2.50 every week when they can select 10 items of groceries. The real value of the shop can be anything between £10 and £30 depending on the items available in store each week. The pantry stock, all groceries and non-food items are donated by Fareshare and CFINE. Many of the

goods on offer at the Pantry would otherwise go to landfill sites, so the members are getting a good deal and helping the environment and saving companies from paying fines for not recycling.

There has been great interest in the Pantry concept and applications have had to be turned away from residents all over the city. We hope though that the Pantry will be seen as a success in Woodside and more pantries will open in other communities.

Woodside Pantry is currently open 6 hours per week but 10 volunteers work a total of 60 hours per week to make the service happen. The

service is still in its infancy in Woodside and we are still learning how to operate and we may make some changes soon so we can deliver the best possible service to our members.





SPRING CLEAN COMMUNITY SPIRIT

It was a cold but bright Friday morning in April when Fersands and Fountain Community Project gathered around 25 volunteers to do a litter pick in the community. Supported by Aberdeen City Council the volunteers armed themselves with gloves, pickers and high viz jackets. The team of all ages from 5 to 55 organised into groups to go and clear an area. The clean-up was organised because there had been complaints about littering and rubbish lying around in the area. The clean-up shows that families

are concerned about the area and want to make it better. Around 25 black bags of general litter were picked up in just over an hour! Well done to everyone who helped!

You can get furniture and other items picked up free of charge! If your communal bin is full an extra bin collection can be organised!

Please report any dumping of rubbish or furniture and help keep the community clean! Tel 03000 200 292 for these services.



HELP FOR PEOPLE FROM ETHNIC MINORITIES LIVING WITH DEMENTIA IN ABERDEEN

Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations is working on a new project for people living in Aberdeen with dementia from European ethnic minority backgrounds.

'Widening Access for People from European Ethnic Minority Backgrounds' project seeks to identify barriers to engagement in dementia support in Aberdeen, and ensure that those with dementia, their family and carers from European ethnic minority backgrounds are able to make the best use of dementia support available across the city.

By working with people with dementia on identifying the barriers to participation and coming up together with solutions to these issues we seek to ensure that this is not only a right but also reality to get appropriate support for people from European ethnic minority backgrounds living with dementia in Aberdeen.

If you are a person from a European ethnic minority background living with dementia, know someone from a European ethnic minority background living in Aberdeen with dementia or simply would like to find out more about the project please contact Anna, Anna.Dzianach@acvo.org.uk or 07508437826.



Neglected mixed recycling bins

The mixed recycling service is a one stop shop for household recycling material. Lots of households use it and like it. We ask for loose recycling as the processing plant does not and cannot open bags.

What we are seeing when we look at overused general waste bins is a lot of recycling not put into the mixed recycling bin. The general waste bin fills quickly and the mixed recycling bin is lucky to be a third full. If it's a trachle to stand at the bin putting you recycling through the flap, try this:

- Request one of our bags for mixed recycling (if you live in an area served by communal bins). Printed with reminders as to what we will accept, easy wipe for any unexpected spills, folds away and can open to be used as a recycling bin at home. Free, colourful and paid for from your Council Tax.
- Don't let the bag fill to the top!
- Take you recycling on the way to work a few bits at a time, on the way to school with the children, going for your morning walk, when you take the pooch out.
- Don't be bullied by boxes. Cut them up into cereal box size pieces. Fold them down so they

fit through the flap easily. Please don't leave them at the side of the bin. Just a wee bit rain or a passing pet can make this really unpleasant for the crew to collect! And they're not obliged to collect anything outside of the bin, that's technically fly tipped and a crime.

- If you are unsure as to what can go in the mixed recycling bin contact us, we will post out the leaflet for your service at your address.
- The absolute golden rule: If we don't ask for it we don't want it.

Flower pots are not the same as margarine tubs or detergent bottles. Washing up bowls are not the same material as milk bottles. Those materials we ask for are reprocessed once Suez (the plant operators and our partners) have sorted, baled, stored and shipped the materials. The end user can't put a washing up bowl into your milk bottle.

Environmentally you can make a big difference. Not just in material recovery but the look of your area too. Its far nicer to see properly used mixed recycling and general waste bins than bins with lids propped open with bin bags and the gulls ripping them open to spill litter all over the road.

A foreigner in Aberdeen

Pieter Mendonk

It's been six months since I first set foot on Scottish soil.

Of course, it's exciting, getting to know new locations and areas, but I would have never thought that I would move to Aberdeen for a year. My first impression when walking around in Aberdeen, was the contrast of grey and green.

Belgium is a country where up north in Flanders, there is a lot of buildings and houses. The few fields we have near where I live, are the few pieces of nature, beside the parks. In the south we have more woods and forest, but I live near Antwerp, in the North. This is why I love parks so much. Not only do they give the opportunity to meet some nature, they make you escape the urban life in Belgium. Parks in Scotland are simply breath-taking, so wonderful. Also, the freedom you experience on the beaches or the dozens of people walking their dogs here are part the landscape. Just the fact that people can let their dogs run freely, is liberating to see if you come from a country where dogs have to be on their leash all time.

They say the grass is always greener on the other side, but in Scotland it is more than a saying since it always has such a fresh colour. Because of the granite grey buildings, the colours stand out even more and are more flowering

than anywhere else. The green is greener, the blue is more intense and clearer, both in sea and air. People asked me during my stay if the grey is not too depressing, but I find the colour of the granite special. This in a way that the neutral colour grey, makes other colours jump out more, it increases the contrast in between colours. Seaton Park, and Duthie Park are the most beautiful parks I've ever visited. The park of Antwerp is nothing compared to these parks. The many people visiting nature in these places are as much part of the park as the trees. People need nature. Scotland is the first country in the world where the doctor can prescribe nature as medicine, a scoop. Also cycling by the River Dee is mind-blowing, especially during sunset. Nowhere in Aberdeen you feel locked in, whereas in other European cities I feel imprisoned. When in Belgium, you can't see big length of open space, they are very rare. Everywhere you look, you can see houses. Even the coastal side in Belgium is full of apartments and not the slightest like the Aberdonian coast, which creates space.

Just out of the centre, on walking distance south of the harbour, lies the old Artillery Battery of Aberdeen. At Torry Point Battery you can spot dolphins and enjoy the fierce waves of the sea, breaking apart on the big rocks. It's a magical feeling to

see these sea creatures enjoying themselves and jumping out of the water. Don't forget to bring a warm coat and a scarf due the wind makes it very cold at this coast! One adventure richer and with a camera full of new memories, I returned back to my place in Old Aberdeen. Another unique event was the attending of a Burns Supper. This was a three-course dinner in old-Scottish style, while listening to the famous poems and songs of Robert Burns, brought by children and older men. All of us were eating haggis, to finish with a true Scots whisky. Tartan is burned in the back of my skull, and heart-warming memories light up my heart when thinking of this wonderful night. Originally, I'm from a country where beer reigns our pubs, Belgium. Not being used to drink spirits, I gave whisky a try. I learned to drink, taste, smell and see it with all my senses. Not only is whisky way cheaper than in Belgium, also the pubs are very inviting to enjoy a single whisky in the evening.

I don't doubt that Aberdeen, and Scotland in general have a lot more to offer. More treasures to be discovered, although I fear I won't be able to visit everything in my last two months here, so I'll have to come back, to feel and see more of Scotland and its riches.



shmu back in Woodside

The shmuCREW are returning to the Woodside area very soon. In fact, by the time you are reading this we should be all settled into our new home!

We have enhanced the facilities we already had so we have installed two new radio studios and we have got a big communal social area, similar to what we had in the old building but we will also have an IT training room and a TV studio with a control room. We are aiming to use the expansion of the building to expand our existing

programmes to reach new people in our target areas.

A state-of-the-art building was identified as a need as part of our 2010-2017 strategic plan so we're really excited that this is becoming a reality for us this year.

If you would like to come and see our new building or find out more about volunteering email laura.young@shmu.org.uk or call her on 01224 515013.



BOYS' & GIRLS BRIGADE

With Spring well under way, it is now time for Woodside Congregational Church's Boys' and Girls' Brigades to hold their annual open evenings. This is a busy time for the girls and boys. They are perfecting their routines and songs and psyching themselves up for their audiences. Each open evening is a good chance for the young people to show what they have been working on over the term. Guest speakers will also be commenting on how well they've done and picking out highlights of the evening.

The Boys' Brigade open evening will be held on Thursday 6 June 4.30 - 6pm. It will see the boys taking part in junior and senior marching routines, an anchor choir, junior and senior drama, anchor dance routine, a physical display and senior mat work. There will also be a badges and trophies presentation; as well as a talk by a special guest speaker. Last year's guest was BB veteran Jim Muirhead MBE.

The date for the girls' brigade open evening is yet to be confirmed. The girls work hard for their badges and trophies and the open evenings are well attended. They too have dance routines, a choir, marching and Zumba.

Proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles as well as other audience members are invited to the open evenings to cheer on the boys and girls and see what they have been working on.

Both brigades are a good way for boys and girls to learn new skills, meet new friends and take part in a group setting. The activities they take part in are crafts, sports, marching and drill, singing, dancing and games to name a few. The brigades instil a sense of self confidence and self worth into each individual and gives them a chance to try things out of their comfort zone in a safe environment.

Asking one girl what she liked about Girls' Brigade, she replied, "I get to see friends that I don't see at school and the activities we do are fun!"

The Boys' Brigade meets Thursday's (term time) 4.30-5.30pm at the Hilton Community Centre and is open to boys in Primary 1 to S6.

The Girls' Brigade meets Tuesday's (term time) 6.15-8.45pm – depending on age – at Woodside Primary School and is open to girls in Primary 1 to S6.

Both brigades stop for the season after their open evenings but will start again in August.

PATHWAYS

Pathways have been actively working in Woodside and Printfield for 20 years helping people to find work. Our Employability Keyworker, Andrea McDougall, meets with her clients in the Fersands and Fountain Community Centre, on Mondays from 2pm until 4pm.

Andrea has helped many people from the area to find work across a number of industries and types of jobs. One of Andrea's clients had worked in the hospitality industry successfully for a number of years but had been paid off and had found it difficult to find a new position. Andrea met with them and completed all Pathways registration documentation and found out more about the client and what they wanted to achieve. During this period their Personal Licence required to be renewed and they could not afford to do this. Andrea applied for funding and the client successfully passed their refresher course. With new licence in hand Andrea helped them to apply for a number of positions, coaching them through interview techniques, and they were successful in gaining employment.

Pathways help people from the age of 16 upwards and from all backgrounds and help to identify the job or training that is right for you. We also you to develop a plan to reach your job goal, help with CV's, assist in completing application forms and we also have access to funds to remove barriers to work e.g. clothing or equipment needs. It is always best to call for an appointment.

If you would like help to find work in the Woodside and Printfield area, you can contact Andrea McDougall by phone on 01224 682 939 or by email at a.mcdougall@pathways-online.org

Community Contacts

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 9177 650
Drinkline 0300 123 1110

Crime

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Drugs

Drugs Action Helpline 01224 594700

Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens 111

Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency 111

Electricity

If you have a power-cut 105

Family Planning

Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village 0345 337 9900

Gas

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999
Gas emergency with a meter 0845 606 6766

Housing

Emergency Repairs 01224 219 282
Call Centre Emergency 0845 608 0929 or 116 123

Police

Non-emergency 101

Samaritans

Need to talk 01224 574 488 or 116 123

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team 0800 7315520
Emergency Out-Of-Hours 01224 693936

Young Carers

VSA 01224 212021

Water

Scottish Water Emergency 0800 0778 778
CFINE 01224 596156
Pathways 01224 682 939
Woodside School 01224 484778
Kittybrewster School 01224 484451
Woodside Parish Church 01224 484562
St Machar Academy 01224 492855
St Machar Parent Support Project 01224 487813
Aberdeen Lads Club 01224 492672

Community Information for Woodside

Woodside Community Council

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month in the Fountain Grange Common Room at 7pm

Contact: woodsideccsec@gmail.com

Fersands and Fountain Community Project

01224 524925

Printfield Community Project

01224 276788

Woodside Fountain Centre

01224 485983

Woodside Library

10am – 1pm 2pm – 5pm

Contact: 01224 484534

Woodside Medical Practice

8am – 6pm

Contact: 01224 492828

Woodside Network

Contact: printfield@printfieldproject.co.uk
or mark@fersands.org

St Machar Credit Union

Info: Credit Unions are financial co-operatives owned and controlled by their members, that offer savings accounts, low cost loans and other services.

Phone: 01224 276994

Opening hours: 9:30am – 4:30pm every weekday except Wednesday (12:30pm finish on a Wednesday)

Cash in your Pocket

Info: Working with partner organisations to reduce inequalities for people living in economic disadvantage within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

Phone: 0800 953 4330

Citizen's Advice

Info: Aberdeen Citizen's Advice Bureau gives residents of Aberdeen free, confidential and impartial advice on a range of topics including benefits, debt advice, work related problems, immigration and housing.

Opening times: Wednesdays 10am-3pm in Woodside Community Centre

Legal Advice

There are law students who visit Woodside Community Centre every second Thursday. Their sessions started on the 26th of January and will run every two weeks from then. If you need legal advice you can visit them between 5:30 and 7pm in the centre.