

# woodside free press

Spring Edition 2013

**Featured in  
this issue**

**New medical centre plans  
Local girl bags book deal  
Library closure threat - the facts**



## Contents

3	Woodside Writers
4&5	Woodside Network
6	Your Views
7	Woodside Health Centre
8&9	Woodside Library
10	Local girl bags book deal
11	The smoker's dilemma
12&13	Project News
14	SHMU
15	Home Start
16	Pete the Punk



## Editorial

Hello and welcome to the Spring 2013 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.

If you have something you would like to say, some local issue you think deserves wider 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 Denise at Station House Media Unit on 01224 515013 - or email [denise@shmu.org.uk](mailto:denise@shmu.org.uk)

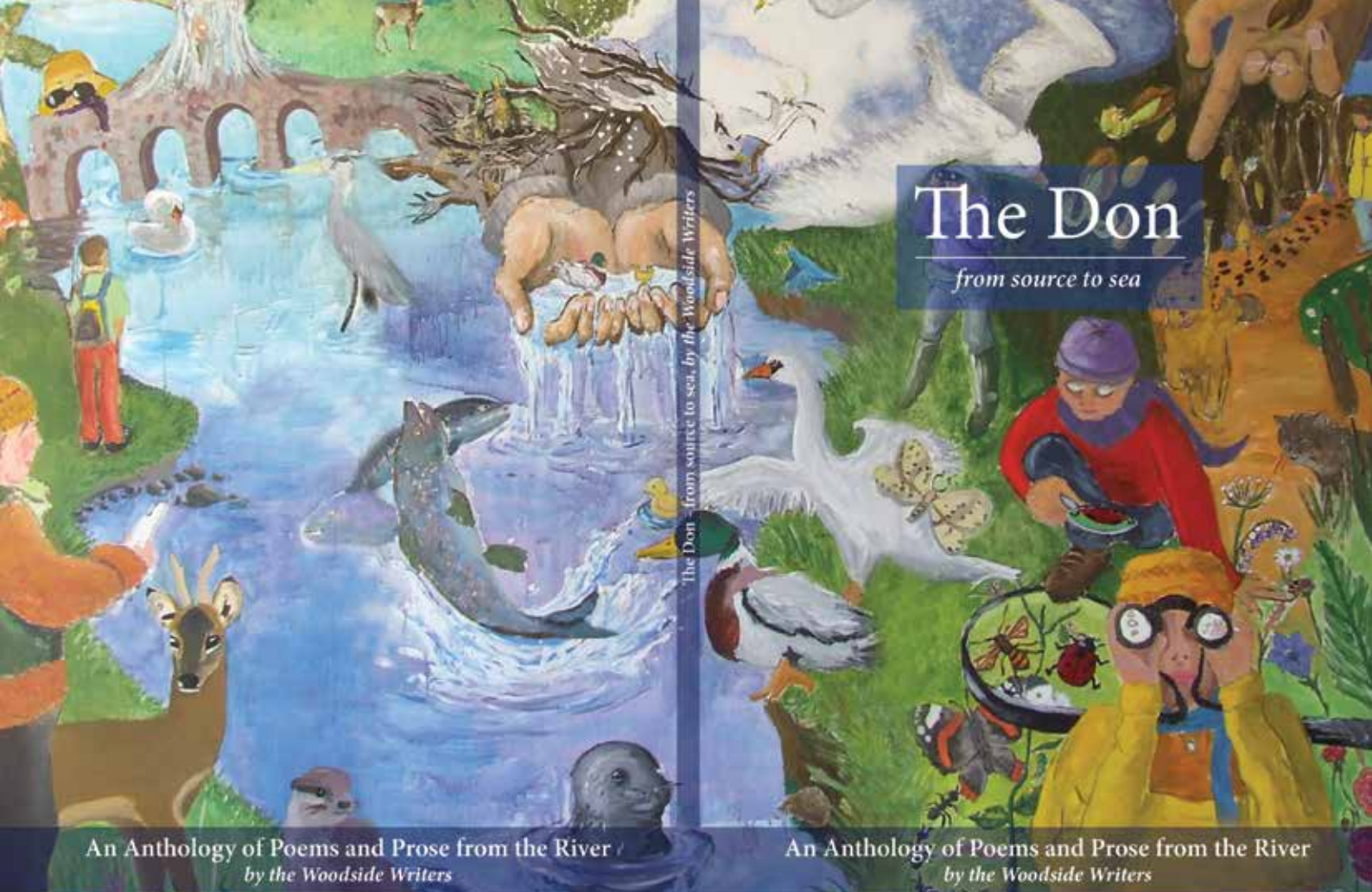
We are pleased to announce that previous problems with the delivery of the Free Press were solved with the help of many willing hands from the Fersands and Fountain Community Project and local residents. If you are having any problems with your delivery, please contact Mark Lovie on 01224 532926

Cover Image - Abeer Eladany



FUNDED BY





Woodside Writers first book:

# The Don from source to sea

Choosing Christmas prezies for family and friends was made easy last year thanks to the Woodside Writers debut publication: *The Don from Source to Sea*. The December book launch at the Fountain Centre was a wonderful, friendly evening on a cold winters' night, folk coming from as far away as the source of the Don itself.

Not only were there creative artworks and fantastic photos of the river and wildlife on display, there was an outstanding reading in Doric of the Howe of Alford by a family member of Mrs A.M. Lawson.

Either the wine or just plain old inspiration soon had us all reading out poems from our book. Publicity and sales of the book have been marvelous. Costing just £5.00, the book is available from outlets including W.H. Smith, Aberdeen Art Gallery, the Maritime Museum and Tillydrone Community Flat. Or you could always contact Mark Lovie on 01224 524926 and pick one up straight from the source at Woodside Fountain Centre.

*Lynne Digby*

*The Don (Seaton Park)*  
*Sloshing like a sink*  
*Bubbling like a bath*  
*Frothy tea in a murky mug*  
*A deciduous dank jungle*  
*Runs round the river*  
*Air fresh however sombre*  
*Clouds of midges hang above*  
*Man moved rocks, fallen in*  
*A rotten carrier bag rests*  
*Slouched on a slimy stone*  
*A tin can trundles out to sea*

*Kirsty-Lee Gibson*





# Woodside Network

the voice of your community



## Hilton Outdoor Sport Centre

It seems like a rather grand name for a facility that has seen better days, but plans are afoot to engage with local communities and work together to breathe new life into this potentially fantastic resource. Woodside Network members are keen to explore this opportunity and to encourage as many people as possible to get involved.

What is it? Rather like it says on the tin, it's an outdoor sports centre open from April to September with two large bowling greens, six all-weather tennis courts and an eighteen-hole putting green.

Are these facilities outdated in 2013? Well, you'd think with Andy Murray's exploits flying the flag for Scotland the tennis courts

at least would be well used, but that doesn't seem to be the case. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved, please contact Nigel Spencer at Sport Aberdeen on 01224 578708 or email [NSpencer@sportaberdeen.co.uk](mailto:NSpencer@sportaberdeen.co.uk)

### Where is it?

Walk straight up Western Road as far as Hilton Road and there across the street is a wee hedge-bordered path that will lead you straight there! (Carry on past the centre and you come to Stewart Park.)

Look out for updates on the Woodside Network Facebook page: we're planning a site visit and have offered to host a public meeting.

## Woodside Well

Have you ever felt you would like to meet new people or try something new? Maybe you think there is nothing going on locally, or that you can't afford to do anything interesting? Well, think again!

The Woodside Well directory is a new, free publication that will be coming through your door shortly. The directory is full of information about free or low-cost adult classes, groups, volunteering and activities taking place in and around Woodside.

Taking part in activities is good for us. It can make us feel happier just being with other people, and you could be asked what kind of activities you would like to see in the area. If you have more serious worries, the directory also contains information about local agencies you can turn to for help in all sorts of situations.

This information also available on the Woodside Network website: [www.woodsidenetwork.wordpress.com](http://www.woodsidenetwork.wordpress.com)

**Join us on the Facebook Woodside Network page for updates and other interesting news.**

## Nippy Dipper Karen braves North Sea



Karen has been fundraising for a local service and as part of her effort

even plunged into the North Sea on Boxing Day as one of many Nippy Dippers raising money for good causes! What could have inspired this kind of self-sacrifice - apart from being a bit mad to start with?

Well, the inspiration for Karen's ice-cold adventure was actually the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programme at the Woodside Community Centre gym.

Now, that doesn't sound too exciting but the fact is that for anyone suffering from chronic lung conditions, it can really make a difference to quality of life. (Actually the classes are good fun and we have a laugh and enjoy the upbeat music.)

The Woodside Network Health Group committed to fund-raise for the hire of the Gym hall for these classes when they found out that there were many people in the area who could benefit from such a service on our doorstep.

Karen, part of the team that delivers this service, decided to help out and has raised a whopping £450! Thanks Karen – you're a gem!

This exercise and information 8-week programme is for those with chronic lung conditions with a view to enhancing quality of life. Ask your consultant, doctor or practice nurse to refer you to these classes or contact Catriona Cameron (Community Therapy Services) on **01224 558399** for more information.



## Step towards a healthier lifestyle

Why don't you get off to a healthy start to 2013 and join our once-a-week Woodside wander?

We're starting a new health walk initiative in a bid to help people take the first steps towards a healthier lifestyle. The walks will be led by trained volunteer walk leaders taking you round some interesting routes in the area. The first walk took place at 11am-12 noon on Tuesday 19 February, starting and finishing at Woodside Fountain Centre on Great Northern Road.

Although the health walks are aimed at older people, they might also be suitable for people who are recovering from an injury or operation or have a health challenge. The walks are free, but there will be a small charge for anyone wishing to enjoy a tea or coffee after their stroll.

The walks are very low impact and don't last too long, one hour at most. As well as encouraging

a healthy lifestyle, they will give people an opportunity to meet up with other walkers and hopefully become a good fun social event.

Sport Aberdeen Active Communities Officer Hazel Reid said the walks were a great way for people to get fit by doing an activity they can enjoy.

"We have set up the health walks with the simple aim of getting people, who are perhaps not too active, out and about and leading a healthier lifestyle."

The initiative is supported by Sport Aberdeen in partnership with NHS Grampian, Aberdeen City Council, Paths for All and Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations.

For further information, contact **Hazel** on **01224 578705** or email: [hazereid@sportaberdeen.co.uk](mailto:hazereid@sportaberdeen.co.uk)

If you are interested in this or any other adult learning activity contact **Mark Lovie 01224 524926**





## Should Prisoners Be Allowed To Vote?

*A 134-year-old UK law depriving prisoners of the vote should be overturned, according to a new Campaign.*

Currently 18 European states, including Spain, the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland place no formal prohibition on prisoners' voting practice while Australia allows the vote to those serving less than three years. Germany urges prisons to encourage in-mates to vote but bans those whose crimes undermine "democratic order".

The European Court of Human Rights ruled in 2005 that the blanket ban on prisoners voting is illegal, yet the House of Commons voted by 234 to 22 to maintain this ban. Apparently one Tory backbencher reacted by saying "over my dead body", while many senior figures within the Government are known to be opposed to any changes to the current system.

Jack Straw, the former Labour secretary, said that voting rights were a matter for penal policy not a breach of fundamental rights and "should be left to the UK parliament."

Chris Grayling, the Lord Chancellor, although one of the biggest critics of prisoners being given the vote, may be forced to support their voting right. As Justice Secretary he was "subject to an oath to uphold the law" and therefore cannot defy the European Court.

***Jack Straw, the former labour secretary, said that voting rights were a matter for penal policy not a breach of fundamental rights and "should be left to the UK parliament."***

To find out what the people of Woodside thought on this issue, we spoke to some local residents.

***JS: "No, They chose to step back from the community"***

***PJ: "No. They broke the law so they can't make the law"***

***MM: "Yes but only if they are first time prisoners and they are serving a short sentence."***

***SM: "I never knew they didn't get the vote. I assumed they did."***

***MT: "My initial reaction is no but when I listen to some of the TV programs on human rights I must admit they put forward a good argument why they should."***

It remains to be seen whether the government votes to continue to oppose the European court of Human Rights ruling or if they will reverse their policy and comply. What is clear is that if they vote in favour of this ruling, it may take years for a draft bill to reach the statute book.

Some might wonder how the government can rule on prisoners' rights if they themselves are in violation of European law.

**Freda Still**



Drawings submitted by Halliday Fraser Munro

# New Woodside Health Centre

The new health centre will house the existing Woodside Medical Group (currently located on Western Road) and a new NHS dental practice. In total it represents an investment of £4 million in the area by NHS Grampian. The current health centre is no longer fit for purpose and is functionally too small – the new development will be considerably larger.

At the time of writing, the full business case has still to go before the NHS Grampian board and then on to the Scottish Government. NHS Grampian hope to commence work on the site later in 2013.

Dr Julia Wallace, General Practitioner, Woodside Medical Group said “The team at Woodside Medical Group are

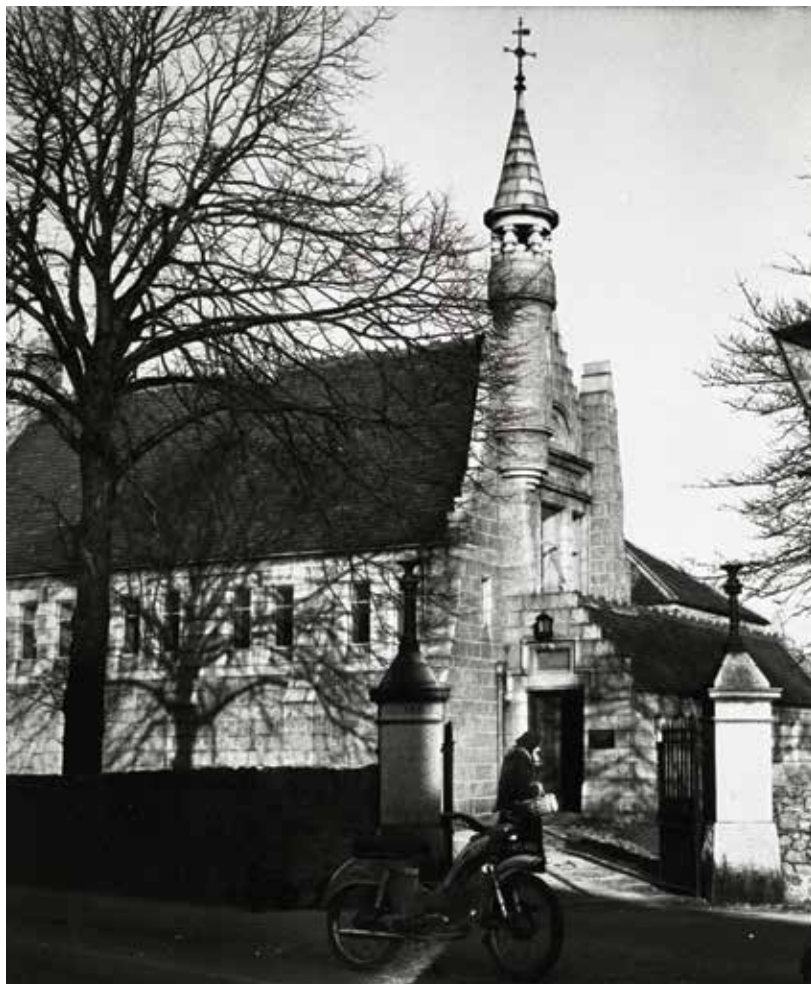
delighted that the new premises project is progressing, and look forward to providing medical services to the local community in a modern, fit for purpose building. Feedback from our patients has been really positive throughout the planning process and the new premises are eagerly awaited”.

***“The old surgery is a nightmare for parking, so I’m really looking forward to having access to disabled parking” - Local Woodside Resident***



## Woodside Library Closure Threat

*As a proud resident of Woodside, I became concerned when news broke about the possible closure of eight local libraries including the Woodside Library, so I decided to investigate further.*



The first day I moved to Woodside in 2009, I was introduced to the library, this amazing looking building and excellent service. From now on, I would not need to go to town to borrow a book or to use the computers; I have my own local library. A sense of belonging immediately started to form and I became a Woodsider.

By doing some simple research, I found out that the Anderson Trust was founded by Sir John Anderson in 1881 to fund school prizes and the library which was accommodated initially in the headmaster's room at

the Woodside public School. The first budget of the library was £20 per annum which was to cover the up keeping of the library including the librarian salary. Woodside which was a separate Police Burgh since 1868, celebrated the handing over of the library by organising a gala day on August 13th 1881. The Daily Free Press reported that the Burgh was ablaze from end to end with bunting, flags, flowers and banners saying: "Welcome Sir John, the Plucky Printfield Laddie." The building of the library was designed by Arthur Clyne and was opened to the public on 15th

October 1883. Clyne designed a large number of buildings in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire such as Queen's Cross Free Church.

Searching the library catalogue, I found a book by Moira Henderson who was the librarian-in-charge in 1983 called Admirable Mechanic; Sir John Anderson and his Woodside Library. The book gives full background information about the development of the library throughout the decades.

In November last year, a number of concerned local residents including myself joined a visit to the Woodside library arranged by Councillor Kirsty Blackman. During this visit we were taken to the areas of the library that are closed to the public such as the hall that used to be known as the Children reading room. It is such a vast room which was closed to the public on the ground of health and safety as there is no wheelchair access and the stairs leading to the room don't have rails. Such a large space is used to store second copies of books that should be kept in a different location than the central library in case of a fire. I personally feel that this room should be given back to the children of Woodside. The access issues can surely be addressed and fixed with little expense or maybe a local business can fund this small project. The other room that is not open to the public is located down stairs and contain copies of newspapers. These copies are all available on other types of media



such as microfiche or online. Why Woodside library was chosen as a store for these copies which have not been used for years and years instead of keeping the space for the use of the library users!? If another store is available, would it be possible to move these huge volumes and give this space back to the local residents of Woodside?

I sent these questions and more to Fiona Clark, Library and Information Service Manager which I was introduced to during this visit with councillor Blackman:

Fiona Said: *"We are still going over the questions you have sent us. Many of them we will have difficulty in answering at this time as the audit and consultation is still in the gathering phase. Currently there are no proposals to close any library including Woodside. We are looking to the future to ensure that we are providing effective library and community learning services across the city to communities and will be able to continue to do this."*

The Education, Culture and Sports committee meeting on November 22nd was presented with a lengthy report about library provision in the city. The authors of this report stated that no financial implications are involved. However, the Outline of Original Proposal for Achieving Savings in the 5 year plan states that "To undertake a detailed options appraisal on new ways of working for the provision of library and information services within the City in the context of delivering efficiencies and budget savings using technology and increasing 24/7 on-line services. There will be initial savings of £13k from the withdrawal of the mobile library and additional savings to be calculated through reconfigured

opening hours, staff restructuring and review of the library estate." So it seems that the Library & Information Services: new ways of working initiative is mainly for saving pennies. Local library closures were mentioned as a possibility. Are you confused like me?

*This consultation is part of the large project plan that started in December 2012 and a full analysis and final reports are expected by September 2013 according to the report.*

Back to the meeting, the members of the committee were updated on the ongoing project to audit the provision of community learning and development within Aberdeen which is a requirement placed on Aberdeen's Community Planning Partnership by the Scottish Government through the recently published "Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development". The committee noted the progress of this project and request an update on the outcomes of the consultation and other related streams of work in April/May 2013.

The library services reported that over 1000 people completed the online survey which ran before Christmas. They are also organising a public meeting on March 9th to gather more ideas and views before starting to make recommendations for specific communities or part of the services. Without spending more public money, what would make it easier for you, your family or your community to use these services? If you have thoughts about what would work in our area or across the city please get in touch with the library services by Email:

librarycldreview@aberdeencity.com or Write a letter to: Library & CL Review, 2nd Floor North, Business Hub 13, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB.

This consultation is part of the large project plan that started in December 2012 and a full analysis and final reports are expected by September 2013 according to the report.

What does all this mean? I am not sure but I believe that if we would like to keep our Woodside library open, we have to participate in all consultations and public engagements to convey our strong feelings to the decision makers up there who produce so many reports what we can hardly understand.

Finally, I have a wee question, if the problem that the Woodside library is housed in a Victorian building that costs so much to keep and repair, can we say the same about the central library?

Please send your views and any questions that you have to our editorial team and we will publish them in our next issue.



**Article and images submitted by Abeer Eladany. Courtesy of The Silver Vault.**

## Local Girl Bags Book Deal

*Kittybrewster is very proud that one of its pupils, Jasmin Duncan (P7), has had her very first novel, 'The Unicorn Legacy' recently published.*



Not only has Jasmin fulfilled her life long dream of having one of her stories published, she has signed a 3½ year book deal with Karabeth Publishers. Jasmin has been a pupil at Kittybrewster from Nursery and although we have been well aware that Jasmin's love for the written word would perhaps one day take her into the realms of writing in the real world, never did we think that one of her books would be published whilst she still attended Kittybrewster Primary school. It goes without saying everyone at Kittybrewster is extremely proud of Jasmin's remarkable achievement. Apparently Jasmin has already started the sequel to, 'The Unicorn Legacy' – watch this space...

'The Unicorn Legacy' is available both as an e-book and paperback on Amazon.

### **Book description:**

Kia van der Boor never imagined she'd meet a unicorn in her lifetime. Unicorns are a thing of legend, beautiful horses full of magic and wisdom. Brandy needs a helping hand and she's more than willing to fulfil the unicorn's demands. Brandy's world has been threatened. Lucifer seeks the glass shard. The shard is the one thing keeping the unicorn legacy alive. Kia knows he mustn't get his hands on it. Afraid, but willing, she'll do everything she can to protect the unicorn.

An unexpected journey soon opens her eyes to a magical realm and the creatures existing within it.

*The Unicorn Legacy started as a thought in my head while I was playing The Sims 3 one Saturday afternoon. I had a character that I had created, and there was a lifetime wish to find a unicorn.*

*I remember thinking to myself, 'Hey, I could write a story about this!'*

*I typed a few sentences into a Word document and it was forgotten about until Mr Macindoe pulled me aside one day at school.*

*'Jasmin, I'd like you to write a book,' he told me.*

*I got straight to work and my mentor Nicola, who I had met earlier when she worked with the P6/7 class last year, contacted me through Facebook and email and helped me along the way while I was writing the book. I managed to finish The Unicorn Legacy in a few short months, and I hope The Barghest Legacy is written as quick as the first book was.*





(Original artwork in watercolour and acrylic by Lynne Digby.)

## The Smoker's Dilemma

As a lifelong smoker I knew it was going to be hard but I did it. I went to the chemist and asked for help to give up smoking. I got the patches and started to give up. By the way why do we call it "giving up"? It sounds like a deprivation. Like giving up chocolate for Lent (old Catholic habits never die!) a short period. Temporary.

So for now on I am saying STOP smoking. To get back to the point. After 12 weeks my time was up and I had stopped smoking. After a further 3 months I thought I had cracked it. But a short stay with a family of smokers had me cadging a fag.

I know you're thinking no willpower and you are probably right but this was the first time I had made it this far.

By 3 months I was back on fifteen a day. Bummer!

Last year I stopped smoking with a group from the Woodside Network. We were going to meet as a group and talk about the problems we would have stopping on our own. Luckily we managed to get help from the

NHS Stop Smoking group. Aime explained all our options and said we could pick 2 to use as nicotine replacement. Some of us stopped immediately others took a week or two to get it done. We were given a note which was converted to prescription by the doctor's surgery and could get up to 4 weeks of nicotine replacement when we needed more.

Aime MacDonald, from NHS Stop Smoking, met with us at the Fountain Grange Common room each week on Wednesdays at 12:15. Our carbon monoxide was checked each week and I went from 23 to 2 great! The main thing we learned from Aime was that a slip was not the end of the process just a small step in understanding our relationship with the weed.

We chatted about our coping mechanisms and what changes we had made to bypass our common triggers ie. with coffee, after meals etc. Sadly, until our numbers increase, we know longer have her presence at meetings but we know we can still ask for support from the NHS and Aime if necessary.

## Card Making with Reiki in the community

**Your chance to create unique cards for any occasion.**

Thanks to a donation of a large amount of craft material and card making equipment, Reiki in the Community would like to invite the adult residents of Woodside, Hilton, Printfield and Tillydrone to be creative and come along and enjoy Monday afternoons at the Fountain Grange Common Room between 2 – 4pm.

Although I think it is great to recycle used cards, the craft of card making is a way to express yourself and enjoy art, even reignite your creative flair and spirit. Design and keep your card, photocopy it and frame them, hang them up for you to enjoy. Or make a few, put them away and when you want to say something special to a friend or family member, send them a ready-made gift of a hand crafted card which says something about you. By donation (£1 suggested)

To find out more please contact Lynne on **07597096069**



# Project News

## Junior Groups at Woodside

If you're a youngster living in Fersands you have quite a few activities you can choose from. There is a Junior Club for p1-3 on a Monday and another for p4-7 on a Wednesday.

They plan their own programmes and do a wide variety of activities from crafts to exciting visits and educational games. On average, around 14 attend each group. There is also an art club on a Thursday. It too can attract up to 16 kids at a time. The kids like the art group because they meet their friends and get to use great materials that encourage their imagination.

If you live outside the Fersands area you can come along to the ever popular Ninja Club. It's a self-defence class for youngsters, teaching them basic exercise and discipline. The Ninja master is a European Champion, so how about that!

You can go to the cool Hip Hop Street Dance sessions which take place on a Thursday. All of

this is absolutely free of charge and all children can attend.

During a typical week we attract around 80 youngsters to the centre, all to take part in healthy, positive and affordable activities.

The Woodside Partnership After School Club also meets at the centre (run by Fersands and Printfield Projects)

It too brings 20 children a day into the centre, while the Kittybrewster Breakfast Club meets every morning with 14 regulars.

We are hoping our special Easter programme will prove as popular as our Christmas activities were. In December we worked with sixty children from Fersands - and from eight different nationalities!

We are sure that our services help give children valuable new opportunities and help them integrate in to the community and make more friends.





## British and European champ teaches Woodside kids

Congratulations to a new champion on our doorstep. Woodside resident Arek Zienkiewicz recently became British and European champion in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. Involved in martial arts from the age of eight, Arek learned Tae Kwon Do from the age of eight, switching to Thai Boxing at eighteen. He began Brazilian Jiu Jitsu seven years ago.

In preparation for the London competition in late 2012 he was training six hours per day. Two hours of sparring, two hours of weight training and two exercising and sparring in the evening. Fighting in the lightweight division under 76 K, he won the British Championship with Kimono and the European without Kimono. Jiu Jitsu is a martial art and combat sport dating back to the early twentieth century.

Brazilian brothers Carlos and Helio Gracie adapted a form of ground Judo they learned from a Japanese master, Mitsuyo Maeda. Arek is passionate about the sport and keen to pass on his skills to others. He currently supports the Fersands Ninja Club, a free activity club where kids aged 5-12 learn basic exercise, fitness and disciplines. He also runs his own Jiu Jitsu club above the Ecosse Motorbike shop on Great Northern Road. Arek's next adventure is to travel to Lisbon to challenge for the European title with Kimono.

Unfortunately he has little sponsorship and needs to find the money to travel to these events. For more information on these clubs or to help with sponsorship please call **Mark Lovie on 01224 524926**

## Affected by Finance or Debt ?

**Would you be willing to discuss your experience in confidence?**

Finance can have a huge effect on people's lives but rarely do ordinary people get the chance to speak about their experiences. That is why Northfield community activist Keith Paterson, who is doing post graduate research at Aberdeen University, has chosen this theme for his research project.

The research aims to build up a picture of the experiences of ordinary people by giving them the chance to discuss, in confidence, how financial issues affect them and their families. This can be credit, debt, insurance, savings, rent, banks, mortgages or any other aspect of money or finance. Building on these experiences, a second phase of the project will investigate the social practices of financial institutions who frequently lend at very high interest rates.

If you have an experience you would like to share or are interested in being interviewed, contact the researcher Keith Paterson from Aberdeen University on 07793 655 410 or by email on [keithpaterson@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:keithpaterson@abdn.ac.uk)

All interviews take place at a time and place that suit you and all personal information is treated in strictest confidence.

## SHMU Journalism Course

SHMU is currently running Journalism courses to anyone who lives within our seven target areas. The course runs for six weeks and is held once a week at SHMU. The six-session course will take participants through all the essential basics of journalism, looking at the following areas:

- **What makes a good story: news values and feature writing**
- **Differences between news and features**
- **Sourcing: How to find a great story**
- **What is a style guide and how do you apply it to your writing?**

- **Interview technique**
- **Research skills**
- **Writing workshop – how to get the most from your story and create engaging, lively copy.**

3 Woodside residents attended the first course and have contributed to articles and images in this magazine.

If you are interested in signing up for the next session please contact [denise@shmu.org.uk](mailto:denise@shmu.org.uk) or call on 515013.

## shmuTRAIN in St Machar Academy

The shmuTRAIN team is back working with St Machar Academy for the second half of our Early Interventions programme working with 11 young people who plan to leave school in the summer. shmuTRAIN take pupils along to Tillydrone Youth Project for two double periods a week to deliver 'employability' and 'digital media' modules. In the winter term the young people worked with Adele on a radio module and for this term they are doing music and sound production with Iain. As part of the radio module the group planned, researched, scripted and recorded pieces which were played out as part of shmuFM's Tuesday Youth Radio Project programme. Topics included TV, music and Christmas films. This term they will create their own music tracks, record sounds and learn how to edit and customise them. An exciting part of this module is that the shmuSOUND team are working on bringing in a band; the group will then get training in how to record and produce a number of tracks in a live situation. Over both

terms the shmuTRAIN employability development worker, Michelle, has been delivering sessions geared towards helping young people get ready for entering into either employment or college. Michelle will be supporting pupils to apply for College early in this term and will cover everything from putting together CV's all the way to preparing for interviews and everything in between, including job search skills, application forms and cover letters. Michelle also delivers sessions focused on how to sustain employment helping pupils develop their communication and team work skills as well as personal responsibility.



*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.*





## A Year in Home-Start – what a year it's been

We have just finished celebrating 25 years supporting families in the city. We offer weekly support to families who have at least one child under the age of 5 in the family's own home. Our team of amazing volunteers who are usually parents themselves offer 2-3 hours each week offering a listening ear and provide practical support and advice. Home-Start recognises that sometimes life has its challenges and difficulties and parents need a helping hand.

It has been an amazing year for us with so much happening and I thought I would like to share some of this with readers.

### **Our Charity Shop**

We have opened our first charity shop hoping that it will help us to raise money to enable us to support more families in the city, raise awareness of the work we do and provide volunteering

opportunities for families to get some skills for work. The shop opened at 101 George Street (just across from John Lewis) on 1st November 2012. It is a lovely shop and is really busy and has been very popular. Definitely worth a visit next time anyone is in town. At the moment the shop is open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm. This will increase as we are able to get more volunteers. If anyone is interested in volunteering in the shop they could drop by and speak to Karen the shop manager or give the shop a call on 01224 622390.



### **Our Award**

Our work was recognised by the local Trend Magazine. We won their Community Award 2012 recognising the difference we had made to the city.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help us support more families. If any reader has parenting experience and can offer 2-3 hours of their time each week to help a local families please get in touch. Our next volunteer induction course is starting in late February.

Please call us on 01224 693545 for more information or email [admin@homestartaberdeen.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestartaberdeen.org.uk) or have a look at our website [www.homestartaberdeen.org.uk](http://www.homestartaberdeen.org.uk)

**Georgette Cobban**  
**Scheme Manager**





# Pete the Punk

The culture of culture...

Interesting Music Promotions celebrates its 250th gig and we might have known they would conjure up something special on reaching such a milestone. Tonight, legendary Anstruther troubadour King Creosote teams up with FOUND to bring their aptly-named Bits of Strange tour to the Blue Lamp.

With only 100 tickets on offer there were queues outside 1-Up when they went on sale, but your correspondent's cunning plan actually works for once and Parker rolls up in the limo nice and early on the night.

Once inside, we grab the best seats in the house and join a queue where we're handed commemorative tote bags containing (don't laugh) specially printed tea towels and a cd from KC's extensive back catalogue. All included in the £25 ticket price.

King Creosote aka Kenny Anderson eventually wanders on and picks up his acoustic guitar. We're treated to a 4-song solo performance that includes a robust yet delicate cover of Lone Pigeon's *Blue Mantle*, the short set crowned with *My Favourite Girl*, one of Anderson's finest moments.

The evening's format is unusual in these piratic times. Following a concept first tried out by Anderson in 2009, the audience has been invited to record proceedings on mobile equipment.

The bar closes for the duration of recording, the troubadour is joined onstage by FOUND. He asks us to kindly refrain from applauding during the show for the sake of the forest of microphones, laptops and other digital equipment that's suddenly appeared.

Last time I saw FOUND, they were producing a maelstrom of noise at the science festival's End of the World gig, and while I'm pretty sure mainman Ziggy Campbell is wearing those shoes for a laugh tonight, he's never less than serious when he picks up his beloved semi-acoustic Rickenbacker.

The guitar features strongly as the ensemble rattles through a percussive *Collector Of Mundane*, then Anderson steps up and delivers *Trigger Happy, I Am* with a clear-eyed intensity that towers above the arrangement's poppier leanings. This is an artist at his most potent, drawing an audience in even if they're not entirely sure what he's singing at times.

Highlight of the first set is a fabulous electro-jaunt through *Bats In The Attic*. Not the gently ambient version on *Diamond Mine*, Anderson's Mercury-nominated collaboration with Jon Hopkins, tonight it is set against a seething backdrop of blips, bleeps and magnificent beats courtesy of sampler Kev Sim and Fence Records house drummer Captain Geeko.

At half time, we're all given a special nip glass to mark the occasion. Glasses for each of the dates were individually designed and Aberdeen's features a magnificent engraving of a Bon Accord lemonade lorry. Even better, it comes filled with whisky for those who want it, a limited edition coming in at £150 a bottle.



Set two opens with *Shallow Dive* before eventually arriving at the wonderfully-named *Tits Up*, a delicious confection of Byrds-style guitar and Kraftwerk-inspired electro – eight miles low, anyone?

Quiet and unassuming, Anderson's star shines bright. The rich Fife brogue in which he delivers his dry but always witty observations on the foibles of life and love is Scottish to the core, yet somehow defies categorisation. His unique phrasing is drawn from that same well, and to these gifts you can add a soaring falsetto that elevates Anderson's wry tales of heartbreak and betrayal to an altogether happier place.

*The Be All And End All Of That* closes the main event to a huge reception but the ensemble quickly returns to meander through a short but intriguing set including a Cait Le Bon cover and a driving version of *Saffy Nool*. We can't not mention bass player Tommy Perman who, with Geeko on drums, is sometimes all that's holding things together, but Anderson closes out on his own with a spine-tingling medley of *Spy Stick* and *Not One Bit Ashamed*.

In such electrifying moments do we sense it's in the performance itself Anderson meets his demons head-on, that it might not be too fanciful to suggest this is where he finds the strength to face the travails of which he sings with such passion.

Such is the ensuing uproar he's not allowed to leave the stage, persuading his colleagues to return once more for a brisk two-chord run through Sinead O'Connor's *Emperor's New Clothes*.

It's a bright ending to what has been a bit of a strange evening, unique and unforgettable. Many thanks to Interesting Music Promotions for setting it up – oh, and roll on the next 250!