

# woodside free**press**

**Spring Edition 2015**



**Featured in  
this issue**

- **The Harlequin Duck**
- **A Tribute to Fiona Dorrans**
- **Reiki in the Community**

Photo credit: Andy Coventry

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Cover image of Harlequin Duck on the River Don by Andy Coventry

Photo credit: Many thanks to Still Burning Photography for The Selector images featured on the back page



## Editorial

**Welcome to your Spring 2015 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 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](mailto: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. Meetings for the Sumer edition will take place at the Woodside Fountain Centre on the following dates from 12:30 - 1:30pm:

**25th May - 1st meeting;**  
**8th June - 2nd meeting;**  
**22nd June - content deadline;**  
**29th June - page plan;**  
**6th July - first draft.**

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website [www.shmu.org.uk](http://www.shmu.org.uk) then click the 'PRESS' option.

FUNDED BY



# The Harlequin Duck



Photo of Harlequin Duck on the River Don by Andy Coventry

## Rare duck makes a splash on the Don

The rare Harlequin Duck, which has only been seen in the UK a handful of times, has been spotted on the River Don in January.

This photograph, which photographer Andy Coventry kindly shared with the Woodside Free Press team, shows a young male in winter plumage. The duck was spotted again in February.

The local RSPB group said this was the first time a harlequin duck had been seen in the North East and there had probably only been around 12 sightings in total in Scotland.

The bird is normally only resident in Iceland and North America,

although they sometimes spend winters in the warmer climates of California and North America.

Andy said, "His stunning plumage is starting to show in this photograph, well worth a look in the coming weeks ahead."

Bird watchers flocked from all over the country to see the duck. The last two mainland records for Harlequin sightings were for Ayrshire in 1996 and Wick in 1991.

The duck was even the feature of BBC 2's *Winter Watch*. Chris Packham and Martin Hughes-Games made the trip to the River Don to film the bird as part of the programme.

Chris Packham said, "Typically this bird would probably be wintering somewhere between here and Iceland. These males disappear out to sea as soon as the females lay down on their eggs so what's weird is that it's in a habitat where it would normally be breeding in spring time during winter."

The River Don is a hub for other wildlife, including a family of otters who have settled in the area, so grab your camera and your binoculars!

If you would like any of the wildlife you spot to be featured in the *Woodside Free Press*, email your pictures to [laura.young@shmu.org.uk](mailto:laura.young@shmu.org.uk)

# Fersands Healthy Living Store

## Freebies on offer

**Fersands Healthy Living Store** has been open now for almost a year! We are based inside Woodside Community Centre (the purple building) just off Great Northern Road. Please support your local shop and help us keep providing this amazing service to your local community by visiting us and seeing what amazing deals we have to offer!

Our shop is super cheap because we don't put any profit on the products meaning you can eat well for less. Come and see! Not only does this shop provide a huge range of healthy foods for super low prices but we also often have a wide range of FREE foods provided by FareShare Aberdeen!

We sell lots of local fresh food produce such as fruit, veg, fish and free range eggs. We also make up yummy fruit salads and soup recipe packs. We stock wheat free and dairy free products, as well as Fairtrade and organic produce at low prices.



Come in store to find out what we have or join us on Facebook to receive regular updates: Fersands Healthy Living Store.

However, we want this project to get better and better so we are always open to suggestions and new ideas for our wonderful store so if you have some please pop in or get in touch. We are also always looking for more volunteers so we can open more hours, so if you're free and keen to meet new people and learn new skills please get in touch

Shop opening hours are every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am-1pm every week. We are based in Woodside Fountain Centre, Marquis Road, Aberdeen, AB24 2QY

Find out more contact us on **01224 524928/524936** or email us on **claire.fersands@gmail.com** or pop in to the shop.

# Free Meal

A good community centre takes note of what is happening around it and responds to the area it serves by creating useful services. Volunteers supported by Fersands Community Project have developed a free meal service which is proving to be a big hit with many Woodsiders. Freda's Lentil Soup and Sandwiches, was the team's first attempt to offer a free meal to residents. Around forty people came the first night and the food reviews were great. Most people had second helpings and were delighted by the service.

The volunteers' confidence grew and three weeks later they cooked a great pasta with meatballs and Lorna's secret tomato sauce recipe was a great success. More people came and again were impressed with the service with many staying to chat over one or two cups of tea. Single people who had never used the centre before arrived, young couples and many young families.

The third evening was just after Burns Night so the volunteers offered haggis neeps & tatties (and veggie alternatives). At 5:30pm when the doors opened there were already queues developing and at the end of the evening Jill, Kelly and Charlene had served over sixty five portions.

Some families are coming because they are hungry and they want a hot meal for themselves and their children. Some are students struggling to get a regular meal. Single people just glad of a free meal. Friends and family are using the event as a night out and many of them come to support the community spirit they feel the free meal is generating.

The last event was during the half term break and we thought it was going to be quiet as the centre had been quiet all day, but word of mouth spread and all records were broken as over 80 people had a healthy plate of low fat or veggie bangers and mash.



# Monday



We are trying to offer a free meal to those who need it, secondly we want to make a healthy meal that customers might try at home, and thirdly we want to offer a new service to bring people in to the Community Centre.

There were at least 20 kids under 10 years of age and they were allowed to run around the hall, which is great as they don't get a chance to run about outside in the winter. Parents quickly took turns to supervise the young children racing around the hall.

People are using The Centre for the first time, strangers are introduced around the table and make new friends. Residents are coming and asking about other groups or activities in the building. New relationships and links are being made in the community.

The volunteers have been fantastic and they have made this a great community service. Everyone is made to feel welcome, everyone is given a smile. They work very hard

in difficult circumstances and have produced some brilliant tasty food and done a mountain load of dishes. They have been keen to take on training to improve skills, knowledge and confidence and this is shown in the great service they have provided (see quotes from customers) as we get busier we may need more volunteers to come and help out.

## Quotes

It was lovely; hearty soup and sandwiches, toys and play for our little one and tea to finish it all off - hope it becomes a regular event. **RO**

We felt like royalty and were very impressed with the food. **WM**

It was really good thanks. It's a good thing you're doing! **CM**

It was brilliant! **LD**

We all loved it. I wonder what fabulous meal will be cooked next? **WM**

*These meals are supported and sponsored by the Scottish Government's Emergency Food Fund.*



Next time we aim to get one hundred meals out, so when you know it's on, get up, get out and get fed!

The service is currently running every 4 weeks but we would like to run it weekly or fortnightly.

As we look in to the future we think about how this could be sustained; how we can continue to attract volunteers to get trained to run this level of service.

How can we continue to fund the cost of ingredients etc for the free meals?

The Healthy Living Store is the inspiration for the Free Meal Mondays Scheme. It is there the volunteers first discussed the idea. The shop continues to offer a healthy line of groceries as well as fruit, veg and fresh fish.

The shop also distributes free food from FareShare to its customers. The quality and quantity of free food has sharply risen in this year and hundreds of pounds of good quality food items are passed out free of charge every week.

We really need more customers to start using this valuable service; this secret little shop hidden in the Woodside Fountain Centre must get your support and custom so it can continue to be a great resource in Woodside. There's always a bargain at the Healthy Living Store.



# How do you start an article?

## Well, I guess like this...

I was asked to write an article about how it is to be a Belgian in Aberdeen and what I do here.

Well, what was the reason I traded the land of beer and chocolate for the land of haggis and whisky?

One word: school. I had the chance to do my placement abroad and I chose Scotland. So, because Robert Gordon University is a partner school of my university in Belgium, Aberdeen was the choice. I'm here for 4.5 months and my placement ends mid-June. I'm doing my placement at Fersands and Fountain Community Project and work mainly with the older children and the teenagers.

I really like Aberdeen. In Belgium I live in a city called Ghent. It's about the same size and has a very similar atmosphere as Aberdeen. I like the grey granite every building is built in. Although, at the beginning this made it hard to navigate because every building looked pretty much the same!

I also like the people of Aberdeen because they tend to be very friendly. Random chats at a bus stop with a stranger (if you do this in Belgium people will look at you like you're weird) and meeting new people.

I really have had a great time here. I'm going to be sad when I'm going back to Belgium after my placement.

**Jytte Willems**

# Nursery News Toddlers On-line

Nursery and Twos group workers who are looking after little ones in Woodside are capturing the children's learning achievements and creating online profiles so parents can see what the children are learning on a daily basis.

Experienced workers know how to collect evidence of the child's development and now put the evidence onto the profiles. This will keep parents up to date so they can work on things at home with their children.

Staff also create personal books with pictures, drawings and photographs to show what the children have done and what they are learning, but much more detail can be collected with the online version and it can be updated more easily.

The system is protected so only parents or carers can log onto the children's profile page.

## Fersands Nursery Opens its Doors!

Our nursery children are loving our new system of having the back door to the garden open all day.

They can play inside or outside whenever they choose and move freely between the two.

A range of learning opportunities, including literacy and numeracy are available in the garden at all times as well as our mud kitchen, planting, and a wide range of natural resources.

This has allowed a lovely, relaxed atmosphere in the nursery and encourages independence in the children.

We provide appropriate clothing and children are kept warm and safe at all times.

We don't promise cleanliness though - we think muddy children are happy children!

And the children in Fersands Nursery are certainly happy with this new development.

*The kids took a trip to Balmedie Beach this January.*

# Oldest woman in Scotland

Scotland's oldest woman has sadly passed away at the age of 109. Jessie Gallan, who was a member of Woodside Parish Church, celebrated her landmark birthday three months ago.



Jessie Gallan and Markus Aufferman, Minister of Woodside Parish Church

In January the centurian told the Scotsman, "Ach, I've never known any different. All I would say is that I like my porridge. I have all my life."

She claimed another secret to her long life was "staying away from men" and claimed "they were more trouble than they were worth."

Ms Gallan was born in a two-room farm cottage near Kintore and tells tales of sleeping top to tail with her five sisters and one brother in a "chaff" bed. She left home at 13 to become a milkmaid, remained unmarried

and worked various jobs in Aberdeen city and shire.

She said: "My mother fed us, made all our clothes and my father worked the cattle," she said. "There was nothing to worry about. I never worried about anything. We never had any money but we were all very happy."

Jessie became Scotland's oldest woman in 2014 after the passing of 109-year-old Glaswegian Clare Dawson in 2013. She died peacefully in her own bed at the end of March with her family by her side.

## Woodside Parish Church

Dear fellow Woodsiders,

First of all, a very Happy New Year to all of you! Secondly, if you would allow me to, I would like to point out that my family and I have been in Woodside now for nearly 9 years, coming from the USA, but being born and raised Germans. As we all know, Woodside is a regeneration area and at times quite challenging. And it is also a changing community in which, like myself, more and more people from different countries are living and working.

But fortunately, Woodside is still like a village where people know or get to know each other. It's a good place to call home and to be proud of. It's a place where old and young can live together in harmony and where all generations can work together to create an even better and more welcoming community.

We, for instance can be glad that we have new health facilities here, great community centres and churches, some of the best primary schools in the city, our outstanding local shmuFM, our beautiful public library, new shops and cafes and great pubs, and even a hotel, playgrounds and a park. There is of course always room for improvements but together we can accomplish so much more.

So, I'm proud to live in Woodside, even in bad weather because I know wherever I go to visit, I usually get a nice cup of tea or, if I don't have to drive, a nice half-pint and more importantly, some good time of fellowship.

Blessings and peace to you all.

*Your friend, Markus,  
the Minister of Woodside Parish Church*



# Reiki in the Community is Four

Reiki in the Community is celebrating its official 4th birthday this February.

Founding member, Louisa Brown, who passed away last year had a vision for a volunteer led healing and spiritual well-being centre in the heart of Woodside, hence Reiki in the Community was born.

The group meets twice a week on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings at the Fountain Grange Common Room in Woodside. Many of you will know May Paterson, who is a complementary therapist at the Tillydrone Community Flat. She became the group Reiki master and has trained several people in Reiki techniques and spiritual guidance courses.

As well as regular healing sessions, the band of volunteers are often at Gala days and other local events, such as the Tilly Gala at TYP.

Reiki in the Community would like to extend their light and invite any practitioners in the area who would like to join the group. The group does not have a set price for appointments; they ask people to donate what they can instead.

If you would like an appointment during one of the Wednesday and Thursday sessions then phone 07821375313.



Reiki practitioners



Reiki tables



Jill Bertram and Lorna Gray's first experience with Reiki was the free session in the Woodside Fountain at the Spring Fayre.

They were slightly apprehensive about what was going to happen. Clothes on or off? Luckily, they got to keep their clothes on and just had to take their shoes off, get tucked in and switch on the soothing music.

The pair said: "A session is about 25 minutes of pure relaxation, destressing and all-about-me-time. It has benefited us a great deal in other areas of life and has enhanced our mental and physical wellbeing."

So much so, they regularly attend the Reiki practices on their chosen Thursday night for a small donation. Lorna also attends on a Wednesday morning.

She said, "It's a real bonus for me because it really helps me relax."

Jill said, "It's great for the community to have this therapy on our doorstep."



Fountain Grange  
(Access by bottom of Brown St.)

# Charity boss nominated for Role Model Award

**David Forbes, full time carer to his disabled mum and Chairman for local voluntary led charity, *Future Choices*, has been shortlisted for a prestigious award.**

Mr Forbes has been nominated for the award through Wobia Entertainment House. They are a fun house with experience planning and organising parties, concerts and corporate events. They organisation created "The Prestige Awards International" to recognise outstanding achievements by individuals, philanthropists, groups and charities.

David has been a primary carer for his mum for over 10 years now as well as running an ever growing charity which helps those with a physical disability get out of their homes and attend a weekly social group gathering at Inchgarth Community Centre.

As well as all this, David has also been a resident of Woodside for over 10 years.

He is also very outspoken and campaigns vigorously against UK welfare reform, more recently against the Work Capability Assessments. David is very passionate about getting the best deal possible for disabled people.



David said: "When I got the email from Wobia Entertainment House to inform me I had been nominated for such an award, I was shocked and surprised. But when I got a follow up email to inform me I had actually been shortlisted for the award for Male Role Model of the Year, I was in fact utterly speechless and deeply humbled. I thank whoever put my name forward very much."

Every day, David works tirelessly to help, not only his mum, but members of the charity in any way he can by doing as much as he can to promote the charity he adores so much. David said: "To see your mum smile along with her chums - that's priceless, and if I can do any more to make that continue, I will. It's because of the public that Future Choices still exists and I'm so proud of my team and my volunteers."

Watch this space to see if David wins the title of Male Role Model of the Year.

## CAFE

**We are having a prize bingo night on Saturday 9th May as a fundraiser. The event will run between 7 and 11pm in Woodside Community Centre.**

Tickets cost five pounds and all proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

The event has been organised in memory of two local residents, Andrew Baxter and Darren Flintoff, who sadly passed away from cancer last year. There is also a raffle which is included in the cost of a ticket. You can get tickets from the canteen at Woodside Fountain Centre.

**The cafe is open Monday to Friday during the day.**

## Soup Pies Sausage Rolls Toasties Sandwiches

as well as usual crisps, sweets, juice, tea, coffee. Tuesday, 11.30am - 1.30pm

## TOASTIES SANDWICHES PIES SAUSAGE ROLLS

Wednesday and Friday, 9am until 9pm

## Cooked Breakfasts

Bacon/Egg/Sausage Buns on sale, all reasonably priced

During the school holidays, the cafe will be open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at usual hours.

## BINGO NIGHTS

Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evenings, starting at 7.30pm.

## Junior Club for Kids

Tuesday, 6-7.30pm Aged 5-12. There will be arts/crafts, football, dodgeball and an Xbox 360. Places will be available after summer school holidays.

## SENIOR CLUB FOR YOUTHS

Thursday, 6-7.30pm - Aged 12-16. There are plenty spaces available. Activities include an Xbox 360, pool and computers.

## Boxercise

is on a Tuesday from 7pm to 8pm, every 2 weeks. Please contact community centre for dates.

Every Thursday 6.30-7.30pm.

# St Machar Parent Council

## Would you like to have your say and make a difference to your child's school?

We are a friendly group of parents and staff who meet once every 2 months to discuss school matters and how we can work together to support the school community. We also have access to the Headteacher's report.

Recently, we have been involved in meetings and discussions on how the Third Don Crossing will affect the pupils, staff and the environment around the school i.e. the loss of part of the school playing field and road safety concerns.

We are working closely with the main contractor, Balfour Beatty, to ensure that positives come out of this project for St Machar Academy i.e. on-site work experience placements for pupils and the possibility of future Trade Apprenticeships.



Our next meetings will be held on **28 April and 16 June** (All Tuesday Evenings) at 7 pm in the **School Staffroom**.

**Come along for some chat, coffee and cake. We look forward to welcoming you!**

## We've moved!

**St. Machar Credit Union** is moving to new premises.

Soon you will find us at 443 Great Northern Road, the former Clydesdale Bank building. We will be moving during the summer. If you have any questions then call **01224 524935**.



## Cat Sitter Available - Diane Fraser

I have been a volunteer for Cats Protection for seven years. The role I have is fundraising. We set up stalls once a month and sell bric-a-brac. The money raised goes towards needy cats like strays and the money helps for cat food and pays vet bills for sick cats. Twice a year we have coffee mornings in the Town Hall where we sell home bakes, books, ornaments and all sorts of things. We take in a good sum of money at the coffee mornings. The money raised goes towards new cat pens for people fostering cats. I have qualifications covering Cat Care, First Aid, Nutrition and other certificates. This has been very useful to me as how to recognise an illness in cats and how to nurse them.

## Vacancies

Are you going away for a weekend break? Or maybe arranging a break over the holidays? Are you in need of a reliable catsitter?

If you answered "yes" then Diane is certified in various cat care courses.

A CV can be presented and Diane is PVG covered. **Call 07785529438.**

# The Moaning Mannie

## THE JOY OF NEGATIVITY

### Pinched

I was walking into town the other night. There wasn't a lot of traffic around, but there was a bit of a jam around Kittybrewster.

It's common enough around there, Kittybrewster being a classic 'pinch point.' This is hardly surprising as seven or eight streets meet at Kittybrewster: Bedford Road, Causewayend, George Street, Berryden, Back Hilton/Ashgrove, Clifton Road and Great Northern Road. On top of all that there is the ever busy Kittybrewster Depot. But, if you'll forgive the metaphor, park all that to one side a moment.

The Third Don Crossing is hurtling towards us. The main problem is not the St. Machar roundabout by the Zoology Building. The traffic will not be going up Bedford Road, but turning right towards the roundabout on Great Northern Road, described by some as a potential 'second Haudagain.'



Some of the traffic will be going straight on towards Foresterhill, but the majority will be turning left towards - you've guessed it - Kittybrewster.



On top of all that is the arrival of hydrogen buses at Kittybrewster works.

There are all sorts of plans for the Berryden corridor, but wouldn't it have been best to solve the Kittybrewster problem

before unleashing thousands of extra cars towards it?

It looks like we'll be seeing a lot more traffic jams around down that way. Kittybrewster has been well and truly pinched.

### Britain in Doom

What is this obsession Aberdeen City Council has with cutting down trees? Everywhere you look seems like a bad day in the rainforest. The Third Don Crossing, the new Don Village, the street trees around the Zoology Building, the old Ash tree in Woodside have all bitten the dust of late. The latest trees to be subjected to the chainsaw are those around Kittybrewster works.

Those pine trees did an excellent job of masking the Depot, which, after all, is hardly an architectural gem. Now there is to be a hydrogen pump for the new environmentally friendly buses.

Ironically, all those trees had to go. But I for one, don't see why. The trees didn't seem to be in the way, and again would have done a good job in hiding the new plant, which may contribute to improving the city's increasingly bad air quality, but nothing to a citizen's visual sense. The new site is hideous.



Imagine you're on a ship,  
sailing across the Atlantic  
to the Caribbean...

We are Sailing



There is the constant hum of the engines, the regular ding dinging of bells and the occasional screech of whistles and alarms.

Of course, you don't mind, you're on the holiday of a lifetime and it is all part of the adventure. But this has become part of everyday life of late at the top end of Fersands.

And it's about to get worse. The other side of the railway track has always been work related, but the former warehouses have recently become fully fledged industrial concerns. The former car auction place is now alive with yet more traffic and building, the oil supplies place has a multitude of forklifts, any one of which is reversing, so you have a constant beep-beep-beep for 16 hours a day. Then there is demolition of the former car accident repair place and its replacement by a new oil related building.

None of people behind these developments have seen fit to consult – or even inform – the residents of Fersands, with the exception of Scotrail. It's obvious that there are a hundred living rooms opposite, yet it is as though we don't matter. Some may say that that's the price of living in the inner city, but would the citizens of Cults be treated in the same way I wonder?

A major problem is that much of Fersands is Granite. The noise just crashes around. And just when we thought it couldn't get any worse, there's going to be major railway improvements.

As a train user, this is a good thing, but the idea of all night and all weekend long drilling, chainsaws and power tools means that for a major chunk of Woodside and Tillydrone, there will be no respite from the constant noise.

It might be a good time to take that cruise.

## Wanted: Pied Piper

They call it the Law of Unexpected Consequences. The all night noise has begun on the railway line, and the rats are fleeing into Woodside. There have been many sightings of the cuddly rodents. If you see a rat in the area then please report it to Environmental Health by calling **01224 523737**.

Once reported an investigation will be opened so the team can deal with the issue. Each case must be dealt with differently so an investigation needs to be launched before poison or bait is laid down as it can be harmful to other animals. Make sure any vents, pipes or holes are fixed or covered up and if anything is broken then call Housing on **08456 080 929** to get it repaired. You must also ensure all rubbish is put in the bins.



## Taking a Dump

Caught bonny the other day, was a building company, Cowboy and Co.

The con is simple: charge the customer for dumping building waste then drive to Ferrier Crescent and deposit it all in the communal bins. Nice work if you can get it.

**We all have something to moan about. Get it off your chest and email your stories to: [laura.young@shmu.org.uk](mailto:laura.young@shmu.org.uk)**

## YOUTH MEDIA

The shmu Youth Radio Project runs regular sessions in radio, music, film and journalism. We will be running taster sessions in each of these activities throughout the year.

For more information or to sign up, call Denise on 01224 515013 or email [denise@shmu.org.uk](mailto:denise@shmu.org.uk)

## JOURNALISM

The Youth Journalism Group has been working on music journalism techniques with 57North's, John Anderson. During their sessions they listened to tracks by artists – Best Girl Athlete and Little Kicks – while researching the bands before planning their questions.

The gang interviewed both artists and have written up an article for 57North with the answers from Best Girl Athlete. You can read the article here [57north.org/news/interview-best-girl-athlete-shmu-youth-media-team](http://57north.org/news/interview-best-girl-athlete-shmu-youth-media-team). Watch this space for their article with the Little Kicks.

## RADIO

There are new training opportunities available for people who want to get involved with the Youth Media Team. The training will take place on Tuesday evenings between 6pm - 8pm.

The radio training is aimed at 16 - 21 year olds living in Tillydrone, Woodside, Seaton, Northfield, Middlefield, Cummings Park and Torry or attending school in any of these communities.

If you would like to join the Youth Radio Project and broadcast live on shmuFM then email [Adele@shmu.org.uk](mailto:Adele@shmu.org.uk) or call the main office on 01224 515013.



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.

## CALLING ALL MCS AND RAPPERS, ASPIRING BEAT MAKERS AND MUSIC PRODUCERS

shmuSOUND is looking for young people aged 14-25 to join our Hip Hop project. The project will run until August 2015. Consisting of weekly workshops on beat-making, production, lyricism and gig promotion, the sessions will be run by well-known experienced artists from all over Scotland. Participants will also have the opportunity to record their music in our studio and work on material and performance skills at the project's regular open mic sessions.

If you are interested and would like to find out more about the project contact Simon Gall on 01224 515013 or email [simon.gall@shmu.org.uk](mailto:simon.gall@shmu.org.uk)



## FACEBOOK

The Woodside Free Press magazine is now on Facebook. Keep up to date with what's happening by searching "Woodside Free Press" on Facebook. We're always looking for more people to get involved in the magazine so hit that 'like' button!

# Fiona Dorrans

## 5th March 1963 - 4th February 2015

**Very sadly, Fiona passed away on the 4th February.**

In 1992, Fiona became involved with Printfield Community Project as a volunteer and dedicated her time to improving the lives of others in her local Community.

Fiona was Chairperson of the Management Committee for many years prior to working in the After School Club, the creche and the youth groups. Fiona secured funding, got the local play park upgraded and organised residentials for families and days out.

It was nothing for Fiona to take off to Butlins for a week, rent 12 caravans and organise 60 kids and volunteers. Fiona just got on with it.

Fiona secured the Portacabin so that groups could meet in suitable accommodation and she was very much loved and respected in her community.



Fiona decided she wanted to advance her career, worked hard and was very proud when she graduated with an Honours Degree in Community Learning and Development.

Fiona was driven by the need to give people the chances they deserved and worked tirelessly to enable this to happen.

Fiona will be missed so much by everyone at the Project but especially by her beautiful and proud family, her 5 children and 16 grandchildren.





# Pete the Punk

## The Selecter

Last time I saw The Selecter, it was as part of the Two Tone tour, a magnificent assemblage of talent including not only The Specials but a bunch of cheeky North London lads who sang songs about Prince Buster and called themselves Madness. That was 1979, though, and the world was a different place. The optimism and affluence of the Swinging Sixties had long evaporated, and the '70s was a decade marked by industrial turmoil, high unemployment and the demise of Britain's once-proud manufacturing industry. The emergence of punk rock in 1976 briefly gave the kids something to shout about, but its original impetus was soon blunted and, with Thatcherism almost upon us, the future looked bleak for school leavers and the thousands of young unemployed.

But sometimes the best thing we can do with adversity is laugh in its face and dance, an energy captured by Two Tone, the movement that exploded onto the streets fusing together elements of punk and Jamaican ska music. Led by Jerry Dammers and The Specials, the rude boys and girls weren't shy in addressing political issues, notably in songs like The Specials' huge 1981 hit *Ghost Town*, or The Beat's acerbic *Stand Down, Margaret*. In an era when many bands put politics at the heart of their music, anti-racism was key, according to Dammers, and he and fellow Two Tone artists The Selecter swiftly aligned themselves with Rock Against Racism, an organisation promoting racial harmony. With bands like The Jam, Stiff Little Fingers and Billy Bragg mucking in for multi-culturalism, there was a brief period on the cusp of the '80s when the flame of protest burned brightly in the UK music charts, bringing a sense of optimism soon overtaken by the rise of the 'greed is good' culture, a perverse shift that casts a shadow over this country to this day.

Fast forward 35 years, however, and we find the spirit of Two Tone is alive and kicking.



The Selecter have reformed several times over the last 20 years and it's a privilege to see Pauline Black lead the latest incarnation onto the Lemon Tree stage.

Dapper and dashing in Mod suit, pork pie hat and sparkly shoes, Black looks amazing and, as the band rips into *On My Radio*, the crowd surges forward in full-on party mode.

There's a big turnout, but while young and old alike dance and sing along, there's more to this than a band simply cashing in on former glories. New album *Subculture* is released March 30 and tonight's set showcases much of its material. First surprise is a joyous, skanked-up take on *Because The Night*, the old Springsteen song made famous by Patti Smith and a fine platform for Black's remarkable voice.

While Black and fellow frontperson Arthur 'Gaps' Hendricks are The Selecter's focal point, each of the band's seven members is an integral part of the whole. The music shifts down into the gentler, dub-influenced territory of *Breakdown*, a new song seething with barely controlled rage before a punchy, upbeat ska version of Doris Day classic *Secret Love* puts a smile back on our faces.

The set closes with a jubilant *Too Much Pressure*, the band exiting to huge acclaim before returning with a barnstorming, multi-song encore ending in considerable onstage mayhem and carnage in the crowd. Wonderful.