



woodside freepress

Spring Edition 2016

Featured in
this issue

Pavement Wars

The Benefits of Volunteering

Donside Hydro Project

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Image Credits:

Front page - Mike Crawford

Back page - Still Burning Photography



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.

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.

Meetings for the summer edition will take place at the Woodside Fountain Centre on the following dates from 12:30 - 1:30pm:

First meeting: 16th May

Second meeting: 30th May

Content deadline: 13th June

Page plan: 20th June

Proof: 1st July

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website www.shmu.org.uk then click the 'PRESS' option. The Woodside Free Press editorial team would like to take this opportunity to congratulate David Forbes. The Woodsider was shortlisted for a Male Role Model of the Year Award by Wobia Entertainment House. David is Chairman of Future Choices, a local charity which provides support for disabled people, and full-time carer for his mum. Well done David and keep up the hard work!

FUNDED BY



The Healthy Living Store

This is a not for profit community enterprise, selling free range duck eggs, fresh fish and a selection of goods from Glasgow's "Green City Health Foods.". The food store is trying to make a difference to the eating habits of all Woodsiders. Seven volunteers work hard to open the shop four days per week and make up lunch salads, fruit salad or soup packs including all the ingredients and instructions. Another service they now provide is food tasters. This allows the public to try before they buy, encouraging locals to be more imaginative and experimental with their food.

The volunteers learn the benefits of different foods and try to pass on their knowledge to customers. Not many had tried beetroot juice or coconut milk before they entered the shop. They are doing all they can to make it easier for residents to have a healthy choice. As the cost of rent is expensive we need the community to support it and use it on a more regular basis or ultimately it will be lost!

Free Meal Mondays

It was the shop volunteers who came up with the meals idea and several of them are still involved with this successful initiative. By the fourth free meal more than eighty customers were served a great meal.

Now in total over three hundred and fifty meals have been served.

The volunteers worked hard to provide healthy and tasty meals that taught them new skills. They also got a great buzz when they saw the reaction from the public! Thanks to CFINE Fare Share and the "Emergency Food Fund" for supporting these community food services.

All sections of the community have been supporting the event. We have young families and older single people, students, pensioners all using a community facility, meeting one another in a social setting. Isolated individuals feel less isolated, hungry people feel less hungry and everyone enjoys the social occasion and are more likely to use other community facilities and resources..

"Thanks for having this new event at the Centre. I think last night went really well and the food looked great. Your team worked really well and the place was left exactly as you found it so well done. Last night really touched my heart when I saw you and volunteers helping to feed folk that really need it - to me this is what community work is really all about. There is a need for this in the community and I support it 100%"

Woodside Resident

International Women's Day

Tuesday 8th March

Tuesday the 8th of March marked International Women's Day 2016. Fersands and Fountain Community Project held a breast cancer awareness event at Woodside Community Centre to mark the day.

The event started at 12:45 with refreshments of tea, coffee and cakes served to all the attendees.

This was followed by a talk by Helen Young from Breast Cancer Care Scotland.

Helen handed out forms to be filled in on what the attendees thought should be looked for when checking for signs of cancer. These later proved to be not wholly correct and a little outdated.

Helen, who used to be a therapist in the complementary cancer care unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, then informed us that any changes at all in the appearance or feeling of the breast area could be an early sign of cancer. The breast area is designed to be from under your collar bone to under your breasts and to the sides to include the nodes in your arm pits. The scariest part was the idea of standing naked in front of the mirror to do this! However, early diagnosis could be life saver.

Men are also included, believe it or not, as there are approximately 30 cases a year of men getting breast cancer.

Contact your GP if you notice any changes, you've not been screened in the last 3 years or if breast cancer is common in your family.





Pavement Wars

by Jodie Molyneux

Parking: a contentious issue for drivers and pedestrians alike, and an issue that affects most people's every day lives, particularly in the Woodside area. It comes as no surprise that a proposed bill calling for pavement parking across Scotland to be made illegal, gathered 59 submissions of evidence from residents and local authorities alike. The 'Footway Parking and Double Parking (Scotland) Bill' was originally introduced by Sandra White MSP Glasgow in May 2015, but in February of this year was discussed by the Local Government and Regeneration Committee who concluded that it was "a positive step in the right direction" .

The Bill proposes to make it illegal for vehicles to obstruct pavements and dropped kerbs, as well as restricting double parking on public roads, with the aim of making pavements safer and to stop pedestrians (especially those with mobility/visual impairments or those with pushchairs) being

forced into the road. The aim of the Bill is one that few people can disagree with, and the Local Government and Regeneration Committee found that 32 of the opinions gathered were 'broadly supportive of the general principles', such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland who said: "...the Commission believes that the Bill would assist in addressing a persistent physical barrier to equal enjoyment of the built environment"

If the Bill was put into practice successfully, those in vulnerable groups would be able to enjoy walking on the pavement with peace of mind for their safety.

Speaking to SHMU for the 'Current Affairs' radio show, Convener for the Local Government and Regeneration Committee and SNP MSP for Aberdeen Central Kevin Stewart reaffirmed that the Bill was not intended for "stealth taxation" but indeed for helping people. Mr Stewart also gave an example of

how pavement parking affects the disabled community:

"I have a blind colleague, Dennis Robertson, who was describing to me just the other day about how he was having difficulty because a car had been parked on the pavement [and] his guide dog wouldn't take him onto the road because his guide dog has obviously recognised that there was danger there. He had to wait 10 minutes until somebody came along to navigate him around that"

This Bill would have direct consequence in our area of Woodside as the Fersands area sees many vehicles parking on the pavement in order to leave sufficient space for passing cars in the road. However, the WFP editorial team are also aware that times have changed.

Local residents Cleo and Rachel reflected on this:

"There used to be no cars around this area and you would play kerbie on the streets"

"It's hard to get through the road, I don't even drive and it annoys me"

The Bill outlines exemptions for emergency vehicles such as fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes but this may not be clear, as others voiced their concerns for how the Bill will affect emergency vehicles responding to calls. Local resident Holly recanted a story of a fire that had happened recently and due to the congestion on the roads, the fire engine was forced to park 5-10 houses away from the incident.

A spokesperson from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said: *"Emergency service vehicles require access to all properties*

24/7. Any delay in our actions could possibly have serious consequences. In the event of fire it's not only the vehicle that needs access but also the equipment that a fire-fighter may need to do their job and the easier the public can make this, the better. If you see a possible access problem for emergency service vehicles please make them aware, your intervention could be crucial."

SNP MSP for Aberdeen Central, Kevin Stewart also emphasised the need for further thought on the implications of the Bill: *"We believe more thought needs to be given to ensure the Bill would be enforced consistently across Scotland. We also believe further*

consideration needs to be given to how much the Bill would cost to implement and enforce"

If pavement parking is banned, the question arises of 'if not here, where?', as Neil Greig, director of policy and research at the Institute of Advanced Motoring states:

"If councils wish to ban parking, they should provide alternatives"

Many may be concerned that these alternatives could come at the cost of the amount of green space in any given area.

However, for now the Bill will be put off until the May poll, when if successful the SNP government has pledged to legislate against irresponsible parking.

Dear Free Press,

I am concerned about the amount of pavement parking in Woodside in general and Fersands in particular. In a time where so much attention is given to disabled access to buildings, it seems ironic that these days the disabled don't even have access to the pavement. Parents with buggies are often pushed into the road (and then peeped at by motorists!). There is also the increasing problem with access to properties by the emergency services. Lives are at risk here.

The basic problem is of course that these tenement estates are simply not designed to have so many cars and work vans. If everyone in a six-in-a-block has one car (or more) there simply isn't road space for them. There is also very little formal car parks.

What the solutions are I don't know. But whatever the powers that be come up with, just

willy-nilly using pedestrian space cannot be one of them.

We want our pavements back!

Woodside Walker.



Domestic Abuse: Support for victims

Tillydrone Community Policing Team

Domestic abuse is an issue that affects many lives locally here in Woodside.

Victims and their families can all be adversely affected. Domestic abuse can occur in various forms, with victims suffering from physical, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse from their partners or ex-partners. Victims can often feel frightened and afraid to report these instances through fear of repercussions and/or adverse social stigma. Thankfully, there are many organisations, including the Police, who can help to tackle these issues faced in the local community.

Police Scotland, Grampian Women's Aid, Breathing Space, Samaritans, Childline, and many other charitable organisations are here to help. Information, support, counselling, financial assistance, temporary refuge and access to safety measures are some of the services available. Support is offered on an individual basis and is tailored to suit individual needs.

These organisations are now also better equipped than ever before to deal with instances of domestic abuse in different cultures, race, class, religion,

sexual orientation, gender, ability, income and lifestyle. A greater understanding of other cultures, highly trained multi-lingual staff and translated literature are just some of the improvements to services.

It is Police Scotland's aim, and the aim of all of its partners, to continue to take positive action against domestic abuse offenders and to take positive steps to aid victims of domestic abuse with the ultimate aim of reducing the offending rates and keeping the members of the local community safe.

Currently in the Tillydrone and Woodside area with the assistance of its partners, Police Scotland, has been taking steps to tackle some of the issues. As part of Operation Gains which has featured in the media recently, local officers have been proactively targeting offenders and will continue to do so over the coming weeks. Victims too are being offered additional assistance with the problems they may encounter. In Tillydrone and Woodside, Police are working side by side with these charitable organisations, like Women's Aid, and offering victims immediate support, guidance and advice.

Responding to the evolving communities in Tillydrone and Woodside, Police Scotland and its partners have also adopted a multi-cultural approach to tackling the issue of domestic abuse. Residents will now see information in relation to domestic abuse and the support offered to its victims appearing in many of the locally spoken languages in local shops, community centres, other local amenities and places of interest.

Anyone wishing additional information is urged to contact Police Scotland or any of the organisations listed above. Police Scotland and our partners are committed to tackling domestic abuse and are always happy to hear from the residents of Woodside.

Victims, their family and friends, and residents of the local community are encouraged to contact Police Scotland to request or provide information in relation to instances of domestic abuse. Anyone with information can speak to an officer or call Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

The Great Advantages of Volunteering

My name is Almas, I'm from Riga which is a capital city of Latvia. I have lived in Aberdeen since 2011 and I moved to Woodside four years ago. At the start I didn't have any friends, my English was very basic and it was difficult to communicate on a day to day basis. Randomly on a street I met an extremely friendly lady who gave me a leaflet and invited me to bring my children to Fersands Junior Club.

When I first came to Fersands and Fountain Community Project I found out that there are many different opportunities for volunteering and I thought: "why not give it a try? I can help others, improve my English and I can make new friends, I will do it!"

As a creative person I started with face painting at a Hallowe'en party for Junior Club, the children really enjoyed it and that made me feel happy. Then I started to volunteer two times a week and during the school holidays. Firstly, I only helped with sessions, we went to the parks, beach and different playgrounds however, later when I started to feel more confident I got the opportunity to plan and carry on my own art sessions which were quite successful.

After that, I decided to continue to work in Childcare in the Early Education and Playwork area and I have been studying Childcare at college for two years. I joined the Management Committee where we are trying to improve life in Woodside and I still volunteer during the holidays.

Volunteering gives you an amazing experience, great rewarding feelings and builds your confidence. If you are still thinking what could you make for your community or how you could feel proud of yourself then, go and try! Fersands and Fountain Community Project will appreciate your effort as well as the children who are always curious and happy to meet new people.



PRINTFIELD COMMUNITY PROJECT YOUTH GROUP

Laura from shmu met up with the kids from the Printfield Community Project's Youth Club. The group meets on a Monday between 4 and 6pm and is open to kids who are aged between 6 and 9.

Recently Printfield Community Project applied for funding from Aberdeen City Council's participatory budget to carry out their 'random acts of kindness' project. This would involve the group carrying out acts of kindness for vulnerable local people who may be disabled, elderly, homeless or young carers etc. The team made two short videos in the under and over 12 categories. They were awarded £3000 in the over 12s category which is great news for the group! Unfortunately the under 12 category was not successful. However, the young people at the group are so excited about the project that they are determined to make it happen anyway.

The kids at the club told us some of the things that happen there:

Tamarra – at the club we do crafts, games and computers. We painted eggs for Easter. I like drawing and going on trips. If I was made

the boss I would let everyone play!

Billy (9) – At the club we play games, do arts and crafts, play with the computers and Lego, go to the park, read books, decorate eggs for Easter, play with our friends and have fun!

Dylan (6) – At the club I like to play with the toys. We do writing, painting and other craft things. We go on trips and play in the park when it's nice.

Leah (7) – At the club we do painting and Hamma Beads and board games. We go to the park as well. We made eggs and I like to draw.

A couple of the children were feeling very brave and fancied trying out the recording equipment Laura had taken down from shmuHQ. Listen out to the Woodside on Wednesday show to hear their interviews.

They interviewed each other about what they liked about the club, living in Woodside and the kindness project.



BUDDING REPORTERS

What's your name? Abby

How old are you? 7

What do you do at club?

We do arts and crafts and play games.

What do you like about living in Woodside? Going to the parks

Can you tell me more about the kindness project? We will be helping elderly people to take their shopping to their cars.

What's your name? Charlie

How old are you? 7

What do you do at club? I draw

What do you like about living in Woodside? Playing in the parks with my friends and all the houses.

Can you tell me more about the kindness project? We're going to go to the kid's hospital and help kids play games and we'll be helping people go shopping.

Refugees in Aberdeen

The Donside Christian Partnership, a partnership of different churches in the Donside area, wants to help the Syrian refugees who have arrived in Aberdeen this Spring. Aberdeen City Council has organised housing for

refugees across the city. The Donside Christian Partnership plans to make the refugees welcome by providing them with white goods and starter packs for settling into their new homes. The Aberdeen Mosque and Islamic Centre

likewise plan to help the refugees in any way possible and make them feel welcome. For more information and how to get involved, please contact **Rev Auffermann (01224 484562 ; mauffermann@yahoo.com)**.

WOODSIDE YOUTH FLAT

The Woodside Free Press caught up with some of the young people who attend the Woodside Youth Flat to speak to them about their experiences of growing up using Fersands and Fountain Community Project and some of the issues in the area that affect them.

CLEO

"I was introduced to Fersands through a friend and her family. We helped out at the Free Meal Monday in Woodside Community Centre. The free meal is a great idea which happens once every month for all local people to come along and enjoy a home-cooked meal. There is a great atmosphere where the community comes to a get together to enjoy food and a chat. I have also helped volunteer at a recent car boot sale to fundraise for Woodside where lots of people took some items to help us along the way."

REECE

"I've been attending the group for 2 years. I heard through school and wanted to come along. It's a nice place to come to and the boys are all really friendly and make me welcome. I really enjoy the activities which are set up for us, for example graffiti project, making up programmes for camps, pool, xbox and the company is good as I've met people. We could do with a few new colours in the flat and a bit of redecorating. Maybe some artwork as we do lots of arts and crafts. Without the Youth Flat I'd just be sitting around the house. It gets me out of the house and keeps me busy."

"Me, my five sibling have used the services from birth through until now. My mum has been on the management committee on and off for 19 years. I've been through all the nursery and junior clubs to the youth group. Fersands has given me and my family so many opportunities as I'm sure they have done for loads of other families in the area."

STACEY

I've used the services since I was 12 and all my family use the services. - My favourite part was volunteering for Street Sport and taking part in Breakout Games. I've done other volunteering and fundraising activities while being involved - sometimes I feel like Claire's personal assistant!"

STREET LIGHTS

The young people at the Youth Flat said that they thought the street lighting in the Woodside area needed to be improved.

Cleo said: "It's really dark at the roundabout near Instant Neighbour though it gets brighter at about 17 Sandilands Drive. It's scary at night because I don't know who could be behind me. If I have enough battery left on my phone I'll shine the torch in front of me as I'm walking so I can see better."

Tori-Beth said: "Pirie's Lane doesn't have enough lights, I'd walk up there during the daytime but not at night.!"

The majority of group members agreed that they wouldn't walk near "mugger's bridge" at night because it was so dark and they didn't feel safe.

What do you think? Let us know or contact your local councilor by calling 01224 522000 and asking for Lesley Dunbar, George Adam or Neil Copland.

RACHAEL

HEALTHY COOKING

We'll be doing a healthy eating course every week for 12 weeks where we'll be learning cooking skills as well as healthy eating. We get to pick the recipes and we're looking for healthy alternatives to traditional recipes, for example we're going to make macaroni cheese with butternut squash and we've made brownies with coconut flour. Some of the group thought these were even tastier than the real thing. One of the members of the group lives on his own so is looking for recipes he can easily copy at home. Kyle said: I'm buying a lot of frozen convenience food which isn't always that healthy so I'm hoping to get some inspiration."

The group will make big enough portions that they will have some leftovers to take home.

Woodside Community Council

Woodside has its own Community Council. It meets on the first Tuesday of every month (except January). Meetings begin at 6.30 p.m. at Fountain Grange common room are open to all local residents.

What is a Community Council?

Community Councils play an important role in local democracy. They are voluntary organisations run by local residents to act on behalf of its area, comprising of people who care about their community and want to make

it a better place to live. They represent the community to the local authority and promote the well-being of their communities. They bring local people together to help make things happen, and many Community Councils protect

and promote the identity of their community. They advise, petition, influence and advocate numerous causes and cases of concern on behalf of local communities.

Who's Who

LAURA MCDONALD

Chairperson

CHARLENE KILPATRICK

Vice Chair

DOUG HAYWOOD

Secretary

GEMMA CLARK

Minute Secretary

ANN (CECILIA)

GVOZDINSKY

Treasurer

DONNA CLARK

*Joint Planning and
Licensing Officer*

DOUGLAS THOMSON

Joint Planning Officer

MOIRA GEDDES

DAVID HENDERSON

LAUREN WARDS

MARILYN WHITE

Archibald Robertson

The Community Council would like to express its condolences to the family and friends of Archibald Robertson. Archie was one of the first members of the Council. He was a 'weel kint face' in Hilton and Woodside and a tireless worker for local people and issues. He will be greatly missed.

Woodside Network

With the establishment of the Community Council, there was some debate locally on whether the Woodside Network should continue. As the Network brings together local service providers with residents it was considered that the Network still had an important role to play. Meetings are open to all on the 1st Monday of every second month, 6.30pm - Woodside Fountain Centre.

Debatable Lands

There has always been a problem with local services of who and what belongs where and when. 'Woodside' is a different place depending on local school catchment, political and historical considerations. Our Community Council muddles the picture even more. Areas usually considered 'Woodside' such as Primrosehill and Kittybrewster are part of 'Central' and yet great swathes of Hilton are considered 'Woodside'. It's all very confusing and Aberdeen City is reviewing all these somewhat arbitrary boundaries. The full map can be seen on the Aberdeen City Council website.

YOUR Community Council

All local people are welcome to come along to meetings, or bring up any matter of local concern informally or by contacting: Doug Haywood, Secretary.

Email: woodsidedccsec@gmail.com

Woodside in days gone by

Unlike some of Aberdeen's newer areas, Woodside has a long and rich history. In the first of a series of articles taken from the local press, Pete Thomson investigates.


This advertisement, referring to the sale of the Woodside Estate, appeared in the Aberdeen Journal (now the P&J) on 04 November 1857.

This Beautiful Small Estate, formerly the property and long the residence of Mr. Kilgour, Manufacturer, will, if not previously sold by private bargain, be exposed for Sale, by Public Roup, on TUESDAY the 10th day of November next, at 12 o'clock noon, within the office of Messrs. ADAM & ANDERSON, Advocates, 75, Union Street, Aberdeen.

It comprises of 76 a, 0 r, 23 p, or thereby, of rich soil, including Garden Shrubberies and Pleasure Grounds. It is situated on the south Banks of the Don, about two and a half miles from Aberdeen, and a quarter of a mile from the Station about to be erected on the Great North of Scotland Railway, opposite the Woodside Works.

There is a suitable Dwelling-House on the property, with ample Stable and other Office-house accommodation, as well as a very superior walled Garden, well-stocked with Fruit Trees and Berrybushes in full bearing. The Grounds are tastefully laid out, and from their vicinity to Aberdeen and other local advantages, there are few places more desirable as a residence either for a man of fortune, or a man of business.

The greater part of the price may be allowed to remain in the hands of the purchaser, on the security of the property, if required. For further particulars, apply to Messrs ADAM & ANDERSON, Advocates, 75, Union Street, 29th Sept., 1857.



Viewpoint

A review of Granite

STONE ME

I must say right away that I thought Granite was Aberdeen's theatrical event of the year, and one that will linger long in the memory of anyone lucky enough to have acquired a ticket. The basic idea is inspired. Take a great idea from one of our local librarians. Then get the National Theatre of Scotland together with hundreds of enthusiastic local writers, actors and singers. Then, using lots of stunning special effects, set the event in the centre of Marischal College. Brilliant. Trouble is, the whole thing was less than the sum of its parts, or rather, had too many parts.

The central story is based around a Woodside stonemason and his wife who went off to work the granite in the Ukraine during the 1860s. They work in Odessa for several years until being expelled by the Tsarist authorities for celebrating the work of Rabbie Burns, then thought revolutionary during the time of the liberation of the serfs. They then have a long journey home via Istanbul.

So far so good. But then we have a convoluted interweaving of the whole history of Aberdeen. We end up with something of a tick-box exercise. We are talking about Aberdeen? Well we have Union Street, and, of course, seagulls. Not forgetting fish and mills and oil. And the Gordon Highlanders. Oh, and we must remember Alex Ferguson. 'Everybody must get stoned.'

Then, suddenly, we're back in the Ukraine, and our puir wee family are struggling through the snowstorms of the Russian winter. We are treated to special effect of the evening as some sort of ice angel goes swirling around the Broad Street sky. But wait a minute! Isn't Odessa often described as the Russian Riviera? But this is Russia so we must have snow, and plenty of it. It seems that just as you shouldn't let the facts get in the way of a good story, you shouldn't let the story get in the way of a good special effect.

And then it's another quick trip in the tardus back hame to

Aiberdeen, where the citizens are disco dancing or shouting for the Dandy Dons. Then back again to our family, desperately trying to hitch a ship back to Kemnay.

It's all very dizzying. And with the choir and the video projections, I found myself admiring the night sky over Marischal College for a bit of light relief.

All in all, this was a production that couldn't decide whether it was a play, a musical or a celebration of the city. In its attempt to be all things to all Aberdonians, it ends up being a huge cut and paste exercise. The experience? Spectacular. The point? 'I got stoned and I missed it.'

Quotations:

Bob Dylan Blonde on Blonde
Dr. Hook Bankrupt

DOUGIE THOMSON.

Kittybrewster School

Climate Week 2016

Pupils at Kittybrewster Primary School have been learning about recycling and climate change in the run up to Aberdeen Climate Week 2016.

Four pupils went live on air at shmuFM to tell the local community about the importance of recycling and different ways to look after the planet. The children highlighted the effects of climate change including drought, flooding, species extinction and mass migration issues. They pointed out some of the main ways that humans contribute to climate change including the overuse of cars, the burning of fossil fuels and the release of methane gases into the atmosphere. The boys and girls came up with ten top tips to reduce our carbon footprint-

1. Recycle everything you can including food waste and batteries.

2. Think before you shop - write a shopping list and only buy what you need.

3. Car share if you need to drive somewhere- could you offer a friend a lift?

4. Walk or cycle to work/school- leave the car at home.

5. Waste less electricity by switching off appliances at the wall.

6. Talk to your local MP about environmental worries e.g. deforestation and air pollution.

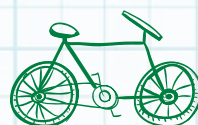
7. Grow your own vegetables by keeping seeds from tomatoes.

8. Have a meat free day once a week to reduce methane gases.

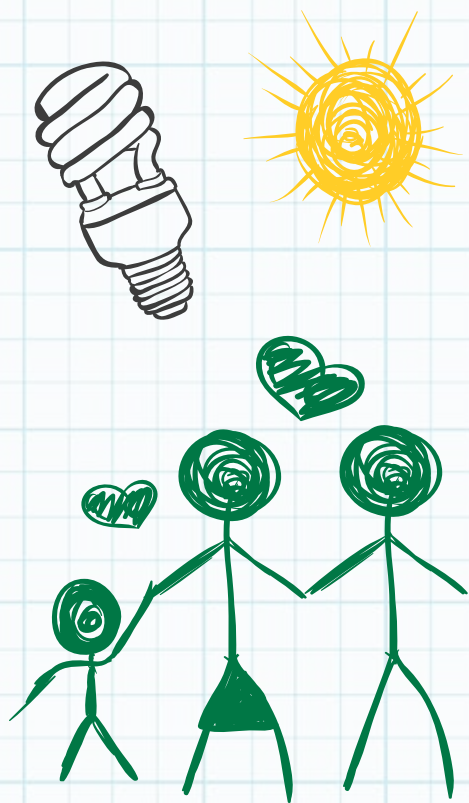
9. Don't drop litter.

10. Don't give up! Keep sharing ideas and telling others how to help.

The pupils also carried out a local litter pick up in the Ashgrove area, collecting 15 large bags of rubbish that was sent to the Council for recycling. Soon, Kirsty Blackman their local MP will be visiting the school to hear their environmental concerns as well as other questions about the health service and education. Kittybrewster is a recycling friendly school with facilities for paper, plastic, clothing and battery recycling. Please contact the school at kittybrewster@aberdeencity.gov.uk if you would like more information about this topic or if you would like to get involved.



eco friendly





Million pound makeover for shmu!

Aberdeen City Council will work in partnership with Station House Media Unit [SHMU] to extend the existing community media hub in Woodside after members of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee gave their seal of approval.

The facility at Station Road will undergo a makeover to the tune of £1m following a successful bid to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF). The project will turn Station House into a cutting edge, internationally acclaimed centre for community media, enabling shmu to play a key role in the cultural development of the region; gain further recognition as a hub for employability and criminal justice programmes; as well as deliver a unique approach in community development and youth work across a range of communities.

The purpose-built accommodation will be adjoining the existing Station House Media Unit building and will lead to at least a 100% increase in usable activity space.

It is anticipated the extended building will feature fit for purpose radio studios to accommodate the

organisations FM community radio station, a TV studio for live broadcasting, a music recording studio, digital editing facility and a digital learning centre.

Amenities such as additional office space, a new multi-purpose community/social space including a small scale performance area offering work experience will also form part of the extension plans.

Welcoming the news of the grant award shmu Chief Executive Murray Dawson said: *"We are absolutely delighted with this grant award. Our five-year strategic plan, developed three years ago, set an aspiration to operate out of state of the art, fit for purpose facilities. This grant award will turn that vision into reality and will provide a fantastic boost to all of our volunteers, service users and staff."*

"We have delivered exceptional programmes and services for more than 15 years from a relatively poor facility base. The prospect of operating from a building designed specifically for our programmes, in conjunction with our stakeholders, is a really exciting proposition."



Donside Hydro

Aberdeen's first community renewable energy scheme belongs to you.

Aberdeen's first community renewable energy project – Donside Hydro – is a project that will make a noticeable difference to our community. It will create clean, renewable energy to help meet our country's energy needs and will generate money that we can spend on improving the area we call home.

What is it?

In 2014 the community in Donside Village secured all the required permissions to build Aberdeen's first community-led renewable energy scheme, Donside Hydro, on the site of the former Donside Papermill. As a result a new community company called Aberdeen Community Energy (ACE) was established to build, own and operate the scheme on behalf of the community.

The Donside Hydro will work by drawing the water from the River Don and passing it over an Archimedean screw turbine, turning the water into clean, renewable electricity, which will be sold to the national grid.

The project is predicted to provide a sustainable source of income that will fund local initiatives and development projects that will have a positive impact on our community and lives. As well as generating income, it plans to provide everyone in Aberdeen with the opportunity to be part of the scheme by investing in it.

Find out more

We're making great progress and we'll keep you fully updated every step of the way.

Thanks to everyone who came to the community gathering held at the end of March. The gathering was one of many opportunities to find out more about the Donside Hydro and the benefits it's expected to deliver for the immediate riverside area and Donside and Tillydrone communities.

To keep up to date on the project and to find out more about investment opportunities, please visit our website and follow us on social media:

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Pete the Punk

The Cult

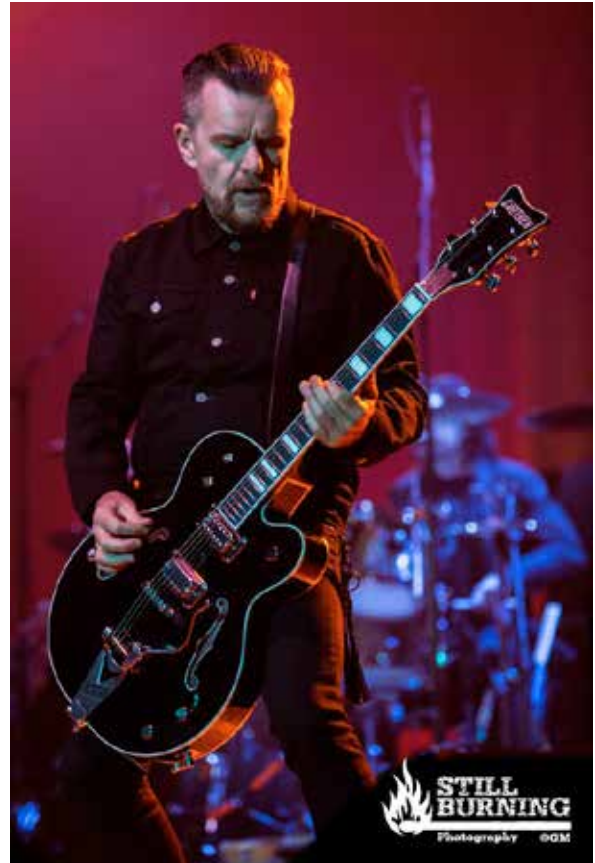
Once minor figures in the melting pot of early post-punk, a string of hit singles launched The Cult as a major force in the mid-to-late '80s.

I can't say I ever really took to them – my "rock" years were by then behind me and from what I saw in the music press, vocalist Ian Astbury looked a bit of a twat in his fancy shirts and pseudo-ethnic headgear. But they had their moments - any band that could produce timeless rock anthem *She Sells Sanctuary* had to be doing something right. I'd not heard much of them since the '80s and though, like many, I felt nothing but incredulity when Astbury was asked to fill Jim Morrison's boots in a revamped Doors in 2002, I've never seen The Cult live and curiosity as much as anything jogs me into buying tickets for their appearance at the Music Hall. Before the gig, I hear a few dark rumblings that Astbury is a bit of a *prima donna*, that his voice is definitely the band's weakest link but – hey-ho – nothing ventured and all that, and off we go.

I won't bore you with the support band – they're that good – but as soon as The Cult hit the stage they're clearly firing on all cylinders. Kicking off with *Dark Energy* from new album *Hidden City*, they pause only for a quick, "Hello Aberdeen," before blasting through '80s classics *Rain* and *Wildflower*, as good an opening as I've seen in years.

They're soon dipping into their Death Cult inventory, the swaggering riff of *Horse Nation* just about matching Astbury's towering presence centre-stage. Yes, they might be getting on a bit – Astbury and Billy Duffy have been together 33 years now – but The Cult really know how to put on a show. Between swathes of incendiary rock 'n' roll, Astbury strikes up a fine rapport with the audience. We learn, amongst other things, that he is half-Scottish. Over an itinerant life, he declares, he's "been bullied for being English, bullied for being Scottish and bullied for being British," a common touch that blurs the lines between audience and band and suddenly it feels like we're all in this together.

Astbury then stomps wickedly through *Hinterland* but it's Duffy's primal riffs that really run the show, the whole edifice underpinned by John Tempesta's brutal drumming. Classic after classic is rolled out – *L'il Devil*, *Sweet Soul Sister*, *Fire Woman* – the only blemish being *Deeply Ordered Chaos*, a turgid affair culled from the new album.



This temporary lapse is soon forgiven as the opening notes of *She Sells Sanctuary* ring out because if one song defines The Cult, this is it. A masterpiece forged in the fires of rock and Goth, its monumental riffs remain as potent, uplifting and downright corrosive as they've ever been. The crowd, already high, explodes into a delirious, air-punching tangle; Astbury, meanwhile, beats frantically on a tambourine, howling like a man possessed. Duffy, legs splayed, rips the notes from his white Gretsch Falcon like the legend he is, the one true guitar hero of his era. As the last notes collapse into one final, triumphant cacophony, the band exits to scenes of general mayhem. Do they think it's all over? Well, the missus isn't too sure. "Is that it?" she asks. "No chance," I reply, and sure enough, they troop back on, blasting into *Spiritwalker* - their first release as The Cult in 1984 – continuing with *G.O.A.T.* before going out in a blaze of glory with the inevitable *Love Removal Machine*, not just one of mightiest tunes ever but the perfect end to one of the best rock gigs Aberdeen has seen since the 1970s.