

The background of the cover is a photograph of a lush green forest. In the foreground, two large, dark, rusted metal water wheels are visible, standing on a grassy area. The wheels are made of heavy metal with many spokes and a thick outer rim. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the image.

woodside free press

Summer Edition 2012

**Featured in
this issue**

Kittybrewster Police Custody Suite Plans

Community concerns

ACC Kitchen & Bathroom Improvement Programme

Controversy as work commences

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Editorial

Hello and welcome to the Summer edition of the Free Press 2012.

Read about your local services, upcoming events and activities and hear some views on local and National issues. We are a community magazine keen to air the views of residents. If you have another view point please let us hear about it. In this edition we are pleased to introduce some new contributors to the Free Press and hope some more will come forward in the near future.

For more information please contact Mark Lovie at the Woodside Fountain Centre on 524926 or Mary Clare at SHMU on 515013.

FUNDED BY





Kitchen Controversy

Upset as council improvement programme rolls into Fersands

After delays dragging on for years rather than months, the council's much vaunted kitchen/bathroom improvement programme finally rolled into Fersands. But - as is often the case where Aberdeen City Council (ACC) is involved - controversy followed swiftly in its wake.

ACC contractor Carillion's workmen appeared in February and duly began tearing out kitchens and bathrooms. Right from the off, this did not go quite according to plan. One Sandilands resident spoke to the Free Press about an unexpected phone call at his work one morning. "It was Carillion, they couldn't get into my house to rip out my kitchen," he said. "I had not long had a letter from the council saying my new kitchen was coming in July, so I was amazed they were there at all. It was a big hassle, but I got my new kitchen and all's well that ends well".

Not everyone was so happy. As work progressed, it became apparent some residents were being passed by. Jenny Stewart was told she did not qualify for improvements. Many of her neighbours found they were

in the same boat despite past promises from council officials that they would be upgraded. It quickly became clear through social networking sites that there was widespread unrest regarding the issue. Jenny asked her local community project for advice.

A public meeting was called, at which there was a big turnout: 54 households were represented. ACC Housing Improvements Officer Ian Perry was challenged on why some kitchens in relatively good condition are being ripped out while others in a poorer state are being left as they are. Residents also demanded to know why such a high percentage of Fersands homes were being refused improvements compared to areas previously upgraded.

All councils throughout the land are under pressure because the Housing Act 2004 means all housing needs to be up to a certain standard by 2015. Mr Perry explained that controlling a rolling improvement project was a complex process and that criteria by which improvements were allocated had been too loosely applied in other areas.

Unfortunately, the fact that these criteria are now being more strictly applied means there is a greater percentage of refusals.

Many residents spoke out about their individual circumstances, presenting photographic evidence of conditions with which they were unhappy. Mr Perry eventually agreed that each house refused improvements would be revisited by a repairs team to see what could be done to improve conditions. Councillor (now Lord Provost) George Adams was also present and was overwhelmed by the strength of feeling. Very sympathetic to residents, George asked those who were still unhappy after being revisited to contact him for further advice.

Councillor Adams and Ian Perry then met to examine further the issues raised at the meeting. More than 170 houses initially refused kitchen or bathroom improvements will now be reconsidered. To date approximately half have been visited. The rest should be seen by early June. Further action by residents has been postponed until the outcome of the visits is known.

THE PRINTFIELD

Our group at present consists of six adults from Woodside with an interest in art. With tutor Kelly-Ann Shankland, we take trips to Aberdeen Art Gallery to see the permanent collection and visit touring exhibitions like the BP Portrait Award. We have also visited artists that took part in NEOS (North East Open Studios) at the Waldorf School.

Taking inspiration from these exhibitions, we learn techniques and skills at our practical workshops and produce artworks in a variety of mediums. We also toured Woodside library and created our first oil painting inspired by the magnificent building. Our paintings were exhibited in the library for visitors to explore and we've had some very positive feedback about them from many local residents.

The workshops give us the opportunity to visit exhibitions and have a rich cultural experience as a group and create artworks from the inspiration led by the artist. They also offer us the chance to learn new techniques in painting, drawing and other forms of creativity in a relaxed, supportive environment.

A member of the art class for the past three years, Charlene Kilpatrick says: "Being in the class has made me more confident and I am able to use my art to express myself in my community". Fellow member Vicky Graham finds the class therapeutic and de-stresses her

before she goes to work.

As one of the newest members of the class, I feel it is such a creative and positive start to my week and gives me so much energy and confidence. I have also noticed I've been applying what I learn in the class to other activities like photography.

Tutor Kelly-Anne Shankland said:

"There is such a great atmosphere in the group, they really enjoy learning about other artists and techniques and are inspired by our trips to the galleries.

The artworks they create are superb. I'm proud to teach them and enjoy seeing them being so pleased with their paintings and other artworks. I know that the group gets a lot out of coming to the classes and seeing their work in exhibitions we've organised. There is a lot of encouragement and good feelings; it's great to be part of such a positive group".

I enjoy and learn a huge amount during the visits to the art gallery and different exhibitions with

Kelly. More recently, a trip to the newly renovated National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh was organised by Arts Development for members of art groups from all the regeneration areas. This was a very successful and educational trip. The tour and the world class display and paintings were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Currently hard at work on a portrait painting project, the group is looking forward to displaying its latest work in the near future. If you would like to get involved and join the group, please contact Printfield Community Project at 11b Printfield Walk or phone 01224 276788.

Arts Development is led by professional artists and is part of the city's Education, Culture and Sport department. One of its aims is to enable communities and small groups to learn skills that will create lasting changes to their lives. It works in partnership with organisations and groups to create sustainable and inclusive learning opportunities, encouraging all citizens to realise their potential.

With support from the Fairer Scotland Fund, the current Lemon Tree exhibition presents art from workshops in all seven regeneration areas of Aberdeen. Arts Development has secured additional funds for the 2012-2013 creative communities programme for further work in the those areas.

DIY ART PROJECTS



Money Matters

WORKING TAX CREDIT CHANGES

On 6 April 2012, a new rule means that Working Tax Credit may completely stop for some couples with children. But there may be ways to keep it. If any of the exceptions below apply, the couple must tell Tax Credits on **0345 300 3900**.

The new rule from April 2012

The minimum hours that a couple with children must work to get Working Tax Credit (WTC) is increased from 16 to 24 hours a week, with at least one parent working 16 hours.

Exceptions to this rule:

This new 24 hour rule does not apply if at least one in the couple is working 16 or more hours a week and she or he is either:

- 60 and over
- Or entitled to the WTC 'disability element' (such as on a sickness or disability benefit)

Another way to avoid the 24-hour rule is if one of the couple works 16 or more hours a week and the other person:

- Gets a sickness benefit (like Employment and Support Allowance or Disability Living Allowance),
- Or is in hospital,
- Or is in prison,
- Or receives Carers Allowance,
- Or has underlying entitlement to Carers Allowance.

What this change means for those who cannot use these exceptions

If a couple with children is not working 24 hours or more from 6 April 2012, they will not be entitled to Working Tax Credits. For example:

- A couple earning £10,000 a year, may lose about £45 a week.
- A couple earning £8,000 a year, may lose about £61 a week.
- A couple earning £5,000 a year, may lose about £74 a week.

This is why it is vital that people get in touch with Tax Credits or contact Welfare Rights.

Please note that they should still get Child Tax Credit. There may be other financial help available too - it is worth checking if there are benefits that can help with the shortfall. For example Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

CHANGES TO INCOME SUPPORT REGARDING LONE PARENTS

Effective from January 2012 lone parents with a youngest child aged five or above will no longer be eligible. Instead, they must claim Jobseeker's Allowance and be available for work. Alternatively, they can claim Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) if they are incapable of work.

In partnership with:



TO GET HELP OR ADVICE WITH BENEFITS, TAX CREDITS OR ANY OTHER FINANCIAL ISSUES

You can contact:

Cash In Your Pocket - Visit our website at www.ciypp.co.uk and click 'Get help' or text 'CASH' followed by your name to **07624 802721**

Aberdeen Welfare Rights on **01224 523203** or e-mail welfarer@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau Advice Line on **01224 586 255** or Citizens Advice Direct on **0844 848 9600**

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Marquis Road, Woodside,
Aberdeen AB24 2QY

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New Keyworkers at Pathways

Pathways is pleased to announce that 2 new Employment Keyworkers have recently started work with the organisation, bringing the team up to 4 Keyworkers, working across all the regeneration areas in the city.

Donald Armatage and Graham Stuart both have previous experience of working with people to help them achieve their job goals. Donald previously worked with Pathways in the same role in 2010, whilst Graham has over 10 years experience with a range of organisations in similar roles. Donald will work with people living in Middlefield and Northfield, while Graham will work with people living in Woodside.

Donald and Graham will work alongside Pathways' other Keyworkers, Dave Cook and Stan Smith to provide a range of services to help you get back to work, including:

Help you develop a plan to reach your job goal;

Help to update or develop your CV;

Help with application forms, including helping you to complete online applications;

Help with interview skills;

Help to identify funding to support you when you find work e.g. clothing or equipment needs;

Look for job and training opportunities for you.

If you would like help to find work, call us on 682939.

Pathways is funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund.

A wee treasure...

Cafe Creo serves up a treat!

I had never heard of the Centre for the Deaf until there was a public outcry when it had to close suddenly in 2010 due to loss of funding. I was told it had great amenities (even a hall with a stage!) that would all go to waste, but I never sussed out where it was. So when a friend told me it had been taken over by new people and they'd opened a grand wee cafe I was determined to find it.



Delicious home bakes available

Actually it should have been really easy - opposite Woodside Primary School and the entrance is up the side of the building, but I managed to complicate things by interpreting that instruction to

mean go along the back lane and try all the locked doors at the back! By the time I had back-tracked and gone along Smithfield Road and seen the sign for Cafe Creo I was ready for my lunch.

The building is home to the City of God Campus but the cafe is open to the general public. You can even hire the multi-purpose hall (complete with stage) or the Creo Lounge (function room with full media facility) for that special occasion. There's even a free WiFi Service!

A bowl of delicious tomato and basil soup with bread followed by a cup of tea and a half-sized muffin (brilliant idea) served by a charming young lady while enjoying the company of friends – who could ask for more?

Well, if you're a jazz fan, what about a 'Jazz Night' the second and fourth Friday of the month? You got it!

Cafe Creo
13 Smithfield Road
Mon to Fri, 8.30am - 4pm

One Stop Cop Shop for Kittybrewster

Plans have been drawn up for a major new police complex at Kittybrewster. The building will be the same length as a football pitch but only half the width. It will be a low impact building which, although two storeys high, will have much of its height hidden by the contours of the land.



Plans have been drawn up for a major new police complex at Kittybrewster. The building will be the same length as a football pitch but only half the width. It will be a low impact building which, although two storeys high, will have much of its height hidden by the contours of the land. If planning permission is applied for in June, building could begin in November. Construction time is expected to be 12 months and the new facility could open as early as December 2013. Project leader Chief Inspector Adrian Berkeley was kind enough to answer some questions for the Free Press.

What is the purpose of the new building?

There are three key purposes to be accommodated," he said. "First, it will be home to the local Kittybrewster Team responsible for policing this part of the city. The second is to house staff from the Criminal Justice Support and Administration teams, some of whom are currently renting space in other properties. Thirdly, the inclusion of sixty new holding cells will give Grampian Police a modern, properly planned custody unit capable of meeting the city's needs.

What other services might use the building?

As some of those in custody may require the services of a medical team, we hope to have on-site NHS staff so we don't have to pay a doctor to come in, which is the current practice. We will have space for drug and alcohol agencies so services can be accessed while in custody, and there will be more links with the fiscal court services. There may even be 'virtual' courts, where offenders in minor cases can appear via video and computer links to save on security and transportation costs.

How will this differ from other police buildings?

This is state of the art - there is currently nothing like this in Scotland, and maybe one facility in England with these types of custody services. This could be a real feather in the cap for Aberdeen, the design that others will follow.

How much will it cost?

We won't know the real costs until the final plans have been agreed but it will be a multi-million pound resource. Grampian Police have been planning this for quite a while and have the money already saved up.

Were any other city sites considered apart from Woodside?

Many sites were looked at but none were thought to be as suitable and as affordable. It's also a good site because, although it's central, it's also discreet and tucked away.

Are there positive spin-offs for the Woodside community?

The big thing is there will be much larger police presence in the area. A constant flow of police coming and going 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, will increase the feeling of safety for residents and could reduce crime. The construction work may also improve the area's appearance by landscaping and utilising a barren, desolate space. The new centre may also benefit sandwich shops, newsagents etc as some workers will use local facilities.

Do you foresee any negative effects for local residents?

There will be a slight increase in traffic but not such that we will need to install any extra traffic measures in the area.

What about increased crime due to offenders being released? It's very unlikely. Our officers are well trained in risk assessment and carry out rigorous procedures to ensure people are not released until they are ready to be released. In many cases, offenders would not be released from the centre but taken to court and released from there.

Is there to be further consultation and where can we find out more about the project?

There's nothing more planned at the moment but I'm very happy to meet with any community group to keep them up to date with our plans and answer any questions. When we lodge our plans with Aberdeen City Council, more information will be available on their website.



"A greater police presence in the area can only be a positive thing".

Craig Lamont
Ops Manager,
Northern Hotel



"Yeah, it's a positive thing having the police closer at hand. There will be more people in the area, so I might even get an increase in passing trade!"

Khalid Hussain
shopkeeper,
Great Northern Road



"I don't object at all, if people didn't commit crime we wouldn't need cells, but they do and they have to put them somewhere"

Lynette Owen
Sandilands resident



"I'm quite amenable to the idea. It has to go somewhere but I don't think it will make much of a difference to the area".

Gino Corr
Murray Court resident



"I don't think it will make a difference. It doesn't matter where they put it, some people will complain".

Sylvia Davidson
chairperson,
Woodside
Community Centre



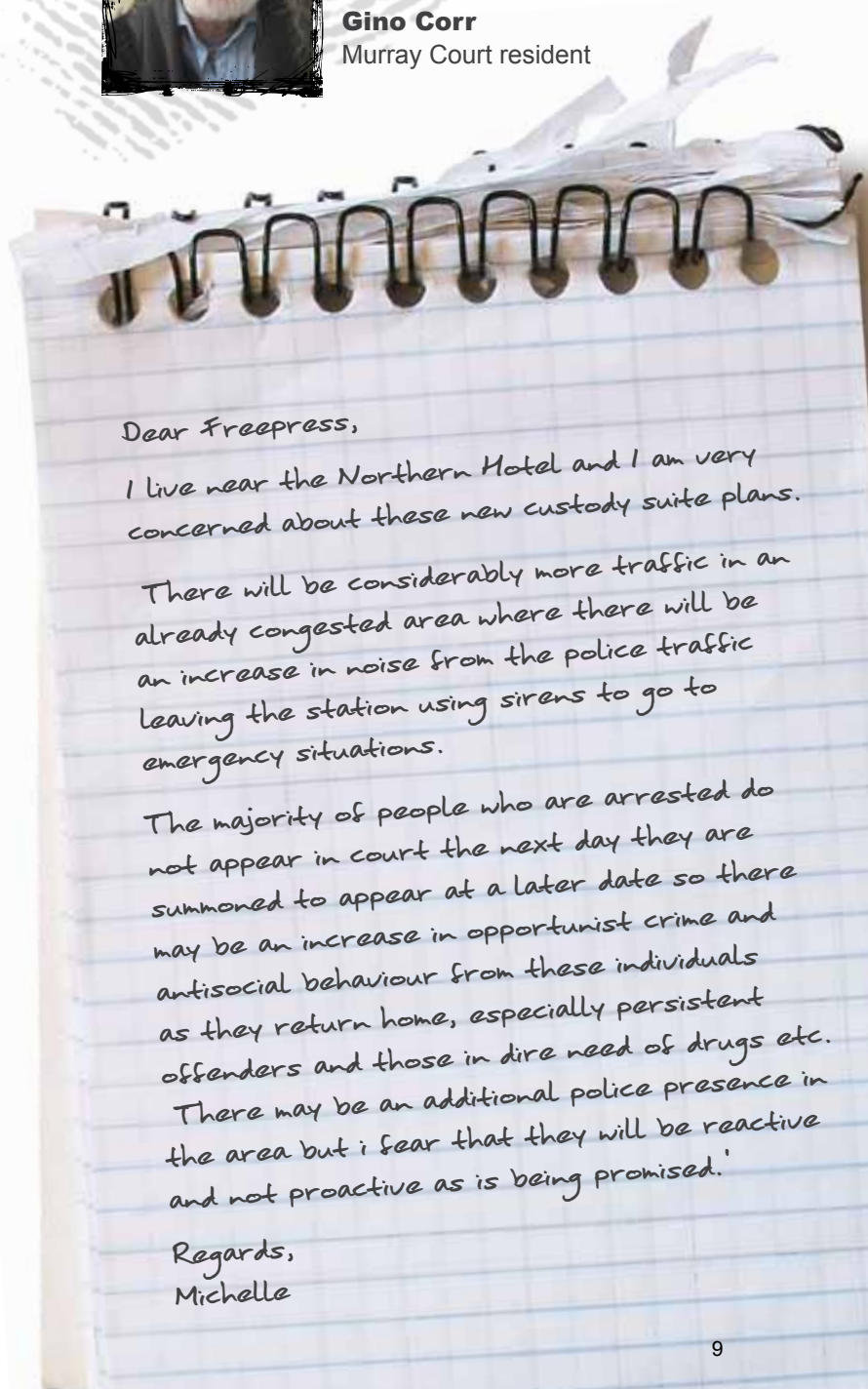
"It's a positive thing. If there are more police around that's all to the good".

Ann Gvodinsky
Tanfield Walk
resident



Will there be a bigger police presence? It's a hard enough job getting them out as it is!"

Billy England
Printfield resident



Dear Freepress,

I live near the Northern Hotel and I am very concerned about these new custody suite plans.

There will be considerably more traffic in an already congested area where there will be an increase in noise from the police traffic leaving the station using sirens to go to emergency situations.

The majority of people who are arrested do not appear in court the next day they are summoned to appear at a later date so there may be an increase in opportunist crime and antisocial behaviour from these individuals as they return home, especially persistent offenders and those in dire need of drugs etc.

There may be an additional police presence in the area but I fear that they will be reactive and not proactive as is being promised.

Regards,
Michelle

An Englishman Abroad...

one englishman's reply to scottish nationalism

There is no doubt that Scottish nationalism has an emotional appeal. In the last issue of the Free Press, Dougie Thomson said the argument for Scottish independence will be between 'Bannockburn' and 'Cost Benefit Analysis'. He recognises the factual advantages of staying in the United Kingdom will be pitted against the emotional arguments of the Bravehearts. It is true that in such affairs emotional arguments often carry the day, simply because they are so difficult to argue against. After all, it is what people want that matters.

Dougie recognises that 'Nationalism' is a big turn-off for a lot of people. He then cleverly explains why despite abhorring 'Nationalism' he is a nationalist. His arguments end with the simple statement that he is a Scotsman. Well, I would have thought it was possible to be a Scot and to be British at the same time.

Unfortunately a lot of the positive attributes of being British have received bad press in recent years for being a form of jingoism. After all, it was Britain that fought the Falklands war. It seems to be forgotten that a lot of the bad things carried out in the name of Britain were done by Scottish soldiers for the benefit of Scotland.

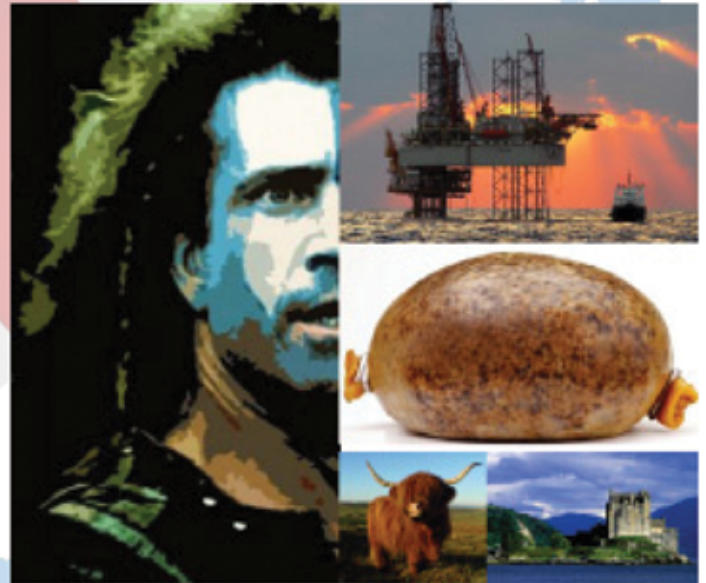
He argues that the frontiers of European countries have often been redrawn. Yet he knows the frontiers of Scotland have been fixed for generations and that the inhospitability of the borders makes it a natural barrier.

I am reminded of Sean Connery's book, 'Why I Am A Scot'. This is not a book I would normally buy or read, but one I was given for some reason. To my surprise, I discovered Sean Connery was probably not considered a Scot when he was growing up; he was probably called an Irish tinker.

The logic of the last paragraph might not seem entirely clear. Although the border between England/Scotland has been fixed, the border between Ireland/Scotland has not. The conflicts in Scotland have not been solely between English and Scots but Catholics and Protestants, Highlanders and Lowlanders. I don't think that becoming an independent nation will automatically resolve these. There may even be new conflicts: the Orkney and Shetland Isles might decide to remain part of Britain.

The main defender of the Union is the party that used to be known as the Conservative and Unionist Party. This is a political party that has been completely marginalised in Scotland. There is even some doubt as to whether the current Conservative party is even interested in keeping Scotland in the United Kingdom. The main argument against independence seems to be that while there are so many real issues to be addressed, this is simply creating another unwanted problem.

My argument is equally emotional. Just as Dougie regards himself as Scots, I see myself as English. That said, under current arrangements I am British first, English second and a citizen of Europe third and, though I'd probably be happier living in any English-speaking country than on the continent, my concern is that, in a future,



independent Scotland, I will be disadvantaged because I am English. Compared to their Scots and European contemporaries, students from south of the border are already disadvantaged when applying for financial assistance to study in Scottish universities.

I know many Doric speakers feel they have been discriminated and prejudiced against for years; that they are made to feel inferior in their own country, particularly when, should they aspire to the higher reaches of society, they are expected to speak with the Oxbridge accent denoting an educated person in those circles.

One of the things Dougie attacked in his article was the Westminster-centric organisation of the UK: that everything of importance is based in London.

With that in mind, I wonder how long two major clearing banks will continue to operate from Edinburgh if Scotland becomes an independent nation. This is the sort of cost-benefit analysis that will be keeping the people of Auld Reekie up all night. Was it coincidence that the two banks that became virtually bankrupt were both based in Edinburgh? A moot point, but they were bailed out not by Scotland but the British government, using income from British resources such as British oil. The economic arguments for an independent Scotland rest largely on resources like North Sea oil that have always been British and might become English after independence.

At the end of the day, the only people who are likely to benefit from Scottish independence are lawyers. Is it any coincidence that Alex Salmond is a lawyer? Scottish independence will just add another layer of complexity to an already complicated relationship.

Personally, I don't think an independent Scotland will make it any easier to be English in Scotland. Any sense of injustice people living in Scotland feel now will continue. Whatever the outcome, however, it is still better to have these issues debated in public than for disenfranchised individuals to be making bombs.

Job Club

Fersands and Fountain Community Project's new Job Club is now up and running and, though yet in its early stages, is going very well.

Designed for 16-21 year olds, the club has two components. The first concerns supporting young people in the development of job search skills. Help is available in creating CVs, filling out application forms, preparing for interviews etc - everything that's needed in a job market that's getting tougher to break into as the recession deepens. The second part of the programme is activity-based and is all about encouraging team building and the development of self esteem and confidence.

Funded by Jobcentre Plus, one attraction of the scheme is that some Job Club members (those aged 16-19 attending both parts of the project) will be able to claim £30 per week Jobseeker's Allowance.

Activities so far have included trips to the Transition Extreme sports centre at the beach, a taste testing/food budgeting session at Asda, resource gathering exercises and a work out at the Aberdeen Sports Village fitness centre.

"I have never had a CV before"

CB, 16

Employers are encouraged to come along and talk about what they are looking for in prospective employees. The group is also going on a trip to Asda for a 4-hour recruitment session, which will include mock interviews and a behind

the scenes tour of the Asda store. As part of the experience participants will be given feedback on their interview performance, including advice on how to improve their interview skills and enhance their chances of gaining employment in the future.

"Its better than just doing nothing" JG, 17

Asda rep Erin Smith works closely with the Job Club, supporting all our sessions with encouragement, ideas and resources. The project also has links to Skills Development Scotland, shmuFM community radio, Pathways, ACC and The Foyer.

The project is running every week until the school holidays. The Youth Agreement sections focusing on skills development, confidence, time management and self esteem are being held on Tuesdays 12-2pm, while the Job Search and Skills Development sessions are on Wednesdays 10-12pm. All sessions are at the Youth Flat at 22b Sandilands Drive and are open to 16-21 year olds living in the Woodside area.

For more information please contact Claire on 01224 524928 or email claire@fersands.org You can join us on facebook: [fersandsfountaincommunityproject](https://www.facebook.com/fersandsfountaincommunityproject)



School Cranes

Clifton Road was expected to be closed for up to 6 days after a structural problem was discovered at Woodside Primary School.

A gable end was found to have moved and there was a possibility of it falling. Contractors have been called in to make repairs to the building.

According to staff at the school, a section of the staff car park has been closed and two classes under the affected area have been moved to alternative rooms whilst the repair work is carried out.



Reiki in the Community Celebrate 1st Birthday

Reiki in the Community is held in Fountain Grange common room.

For more information or to book an appointment please contact Louisa Tel: 489832 Mobile: 07503 243017 Email: louisa.brown@talktalk.net



Councillor George Adam
Labour

Now in my 14th year as a councillor, I was very proud to be chosen as Lord Provost recently. While I look forward to this challenge, I'll still be a council representative for Woodside.

Union Terrace Gardens

I would like to see Union Terrace Gardens retained and improved. There's no doubt the Gardens need a makeover but not the wholesale change that's proposed.

Police Custody Centre at Kittybrewster

I haven't seen the plans for the centre and wouldn't want to pre-judge the idea before I have the full facts. I can see the pros and cons of building a centre of this kind here.

Haudagain Roundabout

I support the currently approved scheme for the Haudagain and would like to see it in place. We just need the Scottish Government to find the finance.

Third Don Crossing

I voted against a new bridge at this location. It would mean a huge increase in traffic in Tillydrone and traffic build-ups on St Machar Drive.

Keep an eye on my facebook page – Councillor George Adam – for details of my surgery times. I can be contacted as below.

Home: **492785**, Office: **522443**
Mobile: **07500 10 23 11**
Gadam@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Lesley Dunbar
Labour

I am proud to be an Aberdonian and proud to represent Woodside, where I've had family for three generations.

Much of my working life has been with youth, women's and community groups. This has given me a good understanding of what communities can do to make things better for everyone. Usually they have the best solutions.

The challenge for the new council is to provide quality services at a time of shrinking budgets. Working people didn't cause the recession but we're all paying for it.

I don't support the City Garden Project: we have other, more pressing priorities, in the city. I don't support the Third Don crossing as it is. Woodside people are concerned about it creating a new 'Haudagain' with serious congestion on Great Northern Road. I am also aware of local concerns about the new custody facility at Kittybrewster. I hope to meet shortly with the project board for a review.

I look forward to meeting, representing and working in partnership with local people to make a difference. We all need and use local government services. They can all make a big difference to our well-being.

Office: **346624**
Mobile: **07876745867**
LesDunbar@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Surgeries still to be arranged.

Councillor Kirsty Blackman
SNP

I was elected as councillor for Hilton, Stockethill and Woodside in 2007. I used to be Kirsty West but recently got married.

Union Terrace Gardens

Initially, I asked for improved disabled access only but received little support. Turnout for the subsequent referendum was much higher than in the local government elections and as the public wants the CGP to go ahead, I believe the council is bound to try to realise this. I will only support this, however, if the business case and finances stack up.

Kittybrewster Police Custody Suite

I am pleased there will be a larger police presence in the area, but also feel residents need the opportunity to air any concerns so the building can be managed with the minimum amount of local disruption. Please contact me if you would like me to pass on your concerns.

Third Don Crossing

This is an absolutely necessary piece of infrastructure for our city. The solution to the Haudagain is not possible without it. Cancelling the project would set the Haudagain upgrade back significantly.

My surgeries are not yet organised but I am happy to meet you or discuss any issues on the phone if this is easier.

Mob: **07747768140**
Phone: **01224 522269**
kblackman@aberdeencity.gov.uk

A Scottish Exchange



A year ago I decided to go on Erasmus, an exchange programme for students in Europe. I decided to go to Scotland; not really the most logical choice if you could go to warmer places like Spain, but

from the first moment I set foot on this land, I was excited. I could meet new people, live abroad, get work experience.

A project like FFCP is really different from the work in Belgium. Last year, I worked with families who were almost losing their child because of bad parenting. The work was strict and ruled by the government. I learned a lot but I didn't have a lot of space to be creative and change things in the system. We offered strict activities and support and the clients had to adapt. The workers in Fersands and Fountain are open to suggestions and creative ideas. There is space to adapt clubs and classes to the needs of the residents of Woodside. The project listens to the people and sees them as equal, not as clients. I think the life of people

is affected in a good way by the activities organised by FFCP. Kids get the opportunity to experience new things and residents get connected in the community through neighbourhood activities. Fersands and Fountain Community Project creates the feeling that everybody is welcome and can join in the sparkling atmosphere of the neighbourhood.

I would like to thank all the people that I worked with and wish them all the best. I have had a really amazing time here in Scotland and in the project.

Maybe I'll see you all back one time!

Jolien

LEWIS MACDONALD MSP

Regional surgeries in North East Scotland



Lewis Macdonald MSP is available to listen to your concerns, make representations on your behalf, and put forward your views in the Scottish Parliament. He holds surgeries on Fridays between 2pm and 4pm at his regional office in Aberdeen.

If you would like an appointment with Lewis Macdonald at a surgery, please contact his regional office, as shown below:

**80 Rosemount Place,
Aberdeen AB25 2XN
Tel: 01224 646333
Fax: 01224 645450**





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.

The Health Show on *shmu*FM

Nothing is more important to your wellbeing and happiness than your health, so here at *shmu*FM we've teamed up with NHS Grampian to broadcast the Health Show.

Each week the show will cover the important stories from the past week, the best health advice and the latest campaigns being launched - all presented by a SHMU volunteer and a guest from your local NHS services.

We are live on 99.8FM on a Thursday from 9-10am, then a repeat goes out on a Monday between 2 and 3pm. Alternatively, you can listen again online by visiting: www.shmu.org.uk

We'd like you to get involved too, so if you wish to suggest any topics or guests to be included in the show, or give any feedback to the Health Show team, just email: healthshow@shmu.org.uk

Introducing Michelle....

SHMU is delighted to introduce Michelle Trail, our Employability Support Worker. Michelle has recently moved to Aberdeen from Edinburgh where she worked as an Education and Training Officer for Connected, an employability project of the charity Foursquare. Michelle has supported many people from different backgrounds who have a variety of barriers to employment.

Michelle has brought her skills and experience to our *shmu*TRAIN initiative; employability and skills development programmes which support people into work, training or education:

Early Interventions offers support to 14-16 year olds in local academies and will soon be launching a City Campus programme.

Positive Transitions provides 12 week training courses for people aged 16-19 who are not currently in education, employment or training.

Our current trainees have also been delivering the community magazines, providing them with valuable work experience and ensuring that the fantastic articles, stories and photographs in the magazines are distributed to everyone in the

community. **Positive Transitions 11** begins on 9th July – contact us now to find out more and to arrange a visit.

shmuWORKS offers training courses to 18-25 year olds, and also provides employability advice and guidance for **SHMU** volunteers, from regular group sessions to individual support. If you would like to find out more about the employability support we offer please contact Michelle; (01224) 515013 michelle@shmu.org.uk

NEWS JUST IN..

Youth Radio Project

SUMMER SCHOOL TASTER SESSIONS

Tuesday 3rd July 2pm - 3.30pm
or Saturday 7th July 1pm - 2.30pm

Phone SHMU on 515013 to find out
more and sign up!





Pete the the vulture of culture

pUNK

It's the summer of 1970. I'm just a kid, hanging around Aberdeen city centre with the hippie types, trying to find my feet in the aftermath of Flower Power. I don't have much of a clue what I'm actually looking for, but I've seen the film Woodstock and if its vivid portrait of the legendary 1969 rock festival did one thing, it well and truly fired my imagination. I have very high hopes that, whatever else life has in store for me, it will include a healthy dose of sex and drugs and rock and roll.

Looking back, I have to admit my initiation into the world of sex took rather longer than I'd hoped. As for drugs, well, although it had all looked like a lot of fun in the cinema, my youthful dabbling led me down a road from which I was very fortunate to return alive. Many like-minded contemporaries did not survive, however, and I would not advise anyone to follow my example. Rock and roll, on the other hand, has given me little grief and a lot of joy over the years. It all began one night in 1970 when a band called Free played the Music Hall. Practically unknown, they had just released the single *Alright Now* and there was a real buzz about them. Dozens of us gathered on the street outside. We were all skint - but who cared?

The smallest, I was hoisted up to the tiny toilet window and wriggled through. With no security at gigs then, it was a simple matter of opening the emergency exit and letting the penniless hordes flood in. There were acres of empty seats and we caught the tail end of the support act before Free finally roared onstage. They were awesome, a young band hungry for the big time pulling out all the stops with a fiery performance that left no one in any doubt they were witnessing the start of something huge. The band duly achieved international prominence (though, sadly, guitarist Paul Kossoff died of drug abuse at 26), but for me this was the beginning of a love affair with live music that persists to this day.

Just a few months later, the mighty Led Zeppelin rolled into town. Watching my heroes Jimmy Page and Robert Plant striding around the stage like gods was a sight of such unbelievable magnitude it awoke in me the pipedream of one day fronting my own band on that very stage. Ridiculous notion, I know, but I was a kid, entitled to my crazy dreams.

I saw as many of my heroes as I could but it was on Deep Purple's 1971 tour I discovered rock stars were human after all. The band were brilliant that night and afterwards I was hovering around trying to blag my way backstage. The door opened and the house manager peered out. Deep Purple's Jon Lord stood anxiously behind him. "Do you know where the ARI is?" he asked. I'd no idea what was going on, but in a flash of inspiration blurted out that I'd take them. Lord nodded and ushered me through to the dressing room, where bass player Roger Glover stood whitefaced, clutching his side. We didn't know it yet but he had appendicitis. Lord introduced the rest of the band to me, and they all signed my poster. Suddenly I was outside in a car with Lord, legendary vocalist Ian Gillan and the ailing Glover. It was all a bit surreal, but the ARI was just round the corner in Woolmanhill then and we were there in two minutes flat.



Lord thanked me for my help, fished in his pocket and pressed a pound into my hand. Then, like it had all been a dream, they were gone. I stood there a moment, a little dazed, then slowly made my way home. I kept that pound for a long time. By the mid-70s, though, rock had basically disappeared up its own backside, disco was taking over and the first stirrings of rebellion could be heard in the punk rock coming out of London. The major acts still played the Music Hall and Capitol but new clubs and venues sprang up as the Aberdeen music scene entered a golden era. Up-and-coming punk outfits could be seen at Ruffles and Fusion. The old Students Union played a huge part in promoting the New Wave and clubs like Valhallas and later the Venue had their fingers firmly on the pulse. Mid-70s excess collapsed in the face of dissent and bands like The Clash, Stiff Little Fingers and Elvis Costello poured north to rock against racism, widespread unemployment and, before long, Margaret Thatcher's brutal attacks on the working class. At grassroots level, bands formed by the dozen and blagged gigs wherever they could. Just young enough to get in on the act, I formed lively punk combo The Resistors which, despite the handicap of having me on vocals, rose to support the UK Subs and later the Angelic Upstarts at the Music Hall. It just goes to show you that even the daftest dreams come true sometimes. Punk rock kicked open a lot of doors for me personally but shaped many lives, paving the way for Goths, psychobillies and all the other tribes of the 80s. Without punk blazing a trail there would have been no ska revival, no acid house or rave (perhaps the happiest tribes of all) and, maybe - as the Sex Pistols waxed with such corrosive eloquence in God Save The Queen, their savage retort to the Silver Jubilee of 1977 - no future for you. It didn't come to that and for this we must be thankful, at least in part, to the maverick genius of Malcolm McLaren. He may be gone now, but the anarchic spirit of the music he helped deliver lingers on. Bring on Primal Scream at the Music Hall!

WOODSIDE NETWORK



THE VOICE OF YOUR COMMUNITY



New Office Bearers

Margaret Aisbitt is our new Chair. Margaret moved back to Aberdeen 4 years ago to be close to her daughter. She thought she was going to take it easy but got involved with the Network instead. After attending her first meeting Margaret was overheard saying "Most fun I've had in ages!" (Just goes to show what a sad life she'd been living!)

Louisa Brown is our new Vice Chair. Louisa has lived in Woodside for 7 years and became involved with the Network about 3 years ago. "When I retired I popped into the Woodside Fountain Centre to find out about what was going on in the area and I haven't stopped (organising) since!"

Charlene Kilpatrick is our new Treasurer. Charlene grew up in Woodside and is a *weel kent* face in the Printfield and Fersands area. Charlene was a member of the Youth Parliament and is a member of the Fersands Management Committee. She is currently studying Community Learning and Development and is volunteering for Arts Development within the city.

Gordon Donald was thanked for all his hard work as Chair. The Woodside Winter Taskforce was Gordon's

brainchild. The P&J featured this group's activities and dubbed them 'Snow Angels' in Winter 2010/11. Gordon was gutted when global warming hit Aberdeen this winter!

What have we been doing recently?

- Supporting Fersands Community Project and Printfield Community Project when their grant applications to the Fairer Scotland Board were deferred. No decision has been made at time of writing.
- Supporting/liaising with local groups/exploring local issues – see articles on Kitchen and Bathrooms and new Police Facility.

Health and Wellbeing Sub Group

- Held very successful Mind Body and Soul Health Fair on Saturday 24 March
- Liaised with NHS Community Therapy Services to bring Pulmonary Function Rehabilitation Classes to the Centre. (Exercise program and information for those with chronic lung conditions with a view to enhancing quality of life and life expectancy.) Contact Catriona Cameron (Community Therapy Services) on 01224 558399 for more information or ask your doctor to refer you to these classes.

- Ongoing fund-raising to pay for hall-hire for above classes.
- George Adam one of our councillors (and now Lord Provost!) donated £500 some time ago from his Councillors Ward Budget to support our Gala 2012. Since we are not having a Gala this year (sorry folks!) it was agreed that this money could go into the PFR fund-raising kitty.

Housing Environment and Safety Sub Group

- We are continuing our efforts to have the pavements outside the shops on Great Northern Road upgraded. Believe it or not some of the pavement areas do not belong to the Council!
- New ideas to tackle dog fouling are being explored.

Education Employment and Training

- Focus on training and employment issues and opportunities for 16- 18 year olds.

Gala 2013 Sub group

- A core group of Network members has already committed to organising this event. If you enjoyed the Gala 2011, would like to get involved or have suggestions for improvements please contact Gordon 488781

Contacts: Margaret Aisbitt (Chair) - 911337
Louisa Brown (Vice) - 489832
Mark Lovie - 524926
Kit Trail - 276788

www.woodsidenetwork.wordpress.com

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