



woodside
free press

Summer Edition 2014

**Featured in
this issue**

Woodside Writers Latest Project

Scottish Independence Referendum Special

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Cover Image by Sean Aitken



Editorial

Welcome to your Summer 2014 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 **Denise** at Station House Media Unit on **01224 515013** - or email denise@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 next summer community magazine will take place at the Woodside Fountain Centre on the following dates from 12:30 – 1:30pm:

- 1st meeting 18th August – content ideas
- 2nd meeting 1st September – content reminder
- 3rd meeting 15th September – content deadline
- 4th meeting 22nd September – page plan
- 5th meeting 6th October – check 1st draft.

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website www.shmu.org.uk then click the 'PRESS' option.

FUNDED BY



Woodside Writers

Latest projects from Woodside Writers Group

Woodside Writers have been meeting at the Fountain Centre for the last two years. We are an active group of local people who love all aspects of the written word and seek to promote writing in Woodside. We do our best to involve other creative minded people to get writing. Usually we talk about any new work that any of us have done, or do short and simple writing exercises.

Our first venture was organising a poetry competition for the kids at Woodside and Kittybrewster Primary Schools. This was a great success with a high standard of praiseworthy entries. Our next project was more of a challenge. We invited the community to contribute to a book called "The Don. From Source to Sea." Again this was a success with thirty or more contributors from as far away as Alford. Eventually we printed six hundred copies. There are still a few left (a snip at a fiver!). We have decided our next project will be a book on stories and poems on the theme of Aberdeen, the city, its places and its characters. Anyone interested in contributing should get in touch as we want to collect as many stories as possible.

We also like to get out and about, going to various literary events around the North East. Soon we hope to take a trip down to the Lewis Grassie Gibbon Centre to learn more about the famous author of "Sunset Song." Again if you are interested contact Mark at the Fountain Centre.

Freda

They say that everybody has a book in them. That may well be true, but how do you get the damned thing out of your head and onto the page? Help is at hand.

Perhaps you've got those poems you wrote all those years ago at the bottom of the drawer. Or you remember those stories that Grandma used to tell. Or maybe you just want to write something the kids might find interesting in the future. Then there's researching family history or returning to education. Perhaps turn those pub anecdotes into something more permanent.

Whatever the reason you want to get out pen and paper and get something written down, Woodside Writers can help with editing and publishing or just having an appreciative audience.

Dougie

The Scottish Book Trust put out a request for contributions for a book entitled "My Favourite Place" so we all had a go, sitting round reminiscing about our favourite places in Scotland. I thought back to my early childhood when my mother and I would holiday at our caravan up Deeside way. By thinking about the journey there by country bus, a story started to form and Strachan's Bus was written.

The group all sent off their own stories and I was lucky enough to have mine published in last year's edition. A night out in Edinburgh courtesy of the Book Trust followed for all successful contributors.

It was the Woodside Writers Group that made this possible for me, so please come along. This could happen to you!

Sandra

The group meet every Tuesday from 6.30pm at the Woodside Fountain Centre. The next session will take place after the school holidays



Is it for the company,
Is it for the wit,
Or is it coz I write
a tiny little bit?

Is it for the coffee,
Is it for the tea,
Or is it just mental exercise
for tiny little me?

Lynne

Project news



Active Summer for Fersands Youths

04 Wow, what a fun filled and packed summer programme Fersands and Fountain Community Project have for local young people aged 12-16. Our amazing groups that run in term time have put a lot of energy in organising a fun packed summer with 10 full day activities and 3 different residential camps for ages between 12-16 years old. Yes that is 26 days of Action Packed Fun!

If you live in the following area then why not join us? Sandilands Drive, Ferrier Crescent, Ferrier Gardens, Barron Street, Marquis Road, 7 St Machar Drive, Lower Western Road and 302-354 Great Northern Road.

It's all for free, you won't believe your eyes when you see what amazing activities are on offer. Once in a life time activities, like rock-climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, safari parks and so much more.

Pop into our office to pick up a leaflet and consent form today from Fersands and Fountain Community Project, Woodside Fountain Centre, Marquis Road, Aberdeen, AB24 2QY.

For more information contact us on 01224 524928 or email us on claire@fersands.org

We are also providing great opportunities for primary school children during the summer. The play schemes starts the week commencing 7th of July and last until the 15th of August. Throughout this time we will offer

many free activities including: outings to play parks, summer camps and supervised street play around the area. We think it's very important that the children have safe but exciting play opportunities throughout the summer, so they can go back to school with lots of stories about the adventures they had. Many children don't get away on holiday with their families so our residential breaks are sometimes the only time they get away from the Woodside area.

All you need to do is register with us ASAP. For more information about Junior Play Schemes contact us on **01224 524927** or email magdalena@fersands.org.

Fersands Healthy Living store

02

Fersands and Fountain Community Projects fantastic health food shop has been open now for four months and is doing very well, However, we want this project to get better and better so we are always open to suggestions and new ideas for our wonderful community health store. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer then please get in touch with us.

New to our shop are fresh salads available every Monday and Tuesday (if these go well we can do them over the 4 days we are open). We also do fresh fruit salads every Wednesday and Friday which have been selling like hot cakes, we can just about keep up with the demand!

We have stopped our recipe packs during the summer, however if you are interested in them being available (maybe different salads etc) then let us know. If the need is there we can provide it!

We have fresh fish every Wednesday and Friday and free range eggs (locally sourced)



available every week in store. We stock wheat free and dairy free products, as well as Fairtrade and organic produce at low prices. We have a good selection of fresh fruit and vegetables supplied from CFINE, and you can buy your own quantities of dried foods such as rice, pasta, bran flakes, muesli and more.

Additional to all this amazing food produce we are lucky enough to get lots of freebies through CFINE and FARESHARE, so we can give that little extra to our fab customers for free! We often have free fresh milk, bread, vegetables, yoghurts, tinned food and more....

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

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, AB242QY Find out more contact us on **01224 524928/524936** or pop in store.



New Project Community Worker

03

Claire Whyte (Bradshaw), who has worked at FFCP since

December 2007, is away for 9 months to have a baby. Below is a profile on the new Community Worker who is covering Claire's community work with 12-25 year olds and the health food shop.

Name: Vanessa Haldane

Age: 26

From: Aberdeen

Job history: Youth worker, primary school teacher

Favourite job: youth work (summer camps)

Worst job: cleaning hospital toilets

What are you looking forward to the most about starting this job: Being involved in the community, meeting and supporting locals and summer activities.

Life motto: 'Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind.' - Dr. Seuss.

Proudest Achievement::

Teaching my first class helping them develop and progress as individuals.

Top highlights of your life so far: Travelling around India and Nepal.

School News

Kitty Grove Book Squad

During term one, 8 pupils from P6 in Kittybrewster Primary School were invited to go and work with the residents of Ashgrove Court.

On the 31st of October, we went to the O2 shop and talked about eReaders, then we started to visit Ashgrove Court on 14th of November.

In groups we talked to them about their young age or read books made by ourselves or by them.

After 6 weeks it was finished, so we invited them to our Christmas concert. We gave them a V.I.P pass which gave them quick entry to the school and meant they could sit in the front row seats to watch our Christmas concert and then come for coffee and Christmas cake in the staffroom.

Our project has been put forward for the Anne Frank Award and we will be at a ceremony on the 12 June.

By Aiden S and Oliwia

Pupil council

The Pupil Council is a group of people meeting and talking about different issues. Lately we have been talking about the new pitch that has been given to Kittybrewster Primary School. We got the money from parents and the pitch contains 2 basketball hoops and 2 football goals.

We decided that because there are too many accidents happening in football and you only get the pitch once a week we are going to designate specific areas for football and use cones for football goals.

Mrs Ferries informed the Pupil Council that 12 pupils have been hit in the face by footballs this last month.

Kittybrewster Primary

Under the Sea

Primary 6 at Kittybrewster Primary School have been working on Under the Sea for our topic.

We researched under the sea animals of our choice and then made a poster or PowerPoint to show the class about the animal we were working on. We chose this topic because the animals under the sea are in danger because of the litter. As well as learning in class we got homework to research and make a limpet, oyster and seaweed.

Kitty's got talent

Once again Kittybrewster is holding Kitty's Got Talent.

The competition is open to all pupils with any kind of talent.

There will be a special prize to whoever wins.

First pupils have to audition in class and the teacher has to pick the three best people. Those people will get to do the competition.



News about the River Don Gateway Project

The River Don Gateway Project aims to further improve access to and perceptions of the River Don Corridor. It is a Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) legacy project.

The project's objectives are to design and build up to three new major (non-motorised) access gateways to the River Don Corridor as well as a logo and slogan for the area. Gateway designs will mix art with landscape architecture and include collaboration from the local community. Facilities at the gateways will include seating, shelter, cycle parking and local information. While helping to improve access and amenity of the Corridor, they will also help to raise the profile and quality

of the area as a destination for recreation, sport and education.

Aberdeen City Council has recently appointed Land Artist Jim Buchanan and Landscape Architect Duncan McLean, of Land Use Consultants, to work collaboratively with the local community to help design the gateways. Designs will seek to reflect local character and culture.

The project plans to have designs for the three Gateways completed by the start of July, along with a general design guide for access features of the Corridor. Thereafter, external funding will be accessed to deliver the physical gateways within 12 – 18 months.

Lesley Dunbar

Crimestoppers

Every day almost one hundred fires are deliberately started in Scotland. These fires blight our neighbourhoods, damage the environment and can sometimes cause injury or even death. CRIMESTOPPERS passes' information to Police Scotland without compromising the callers' anonymity. Police Scotland have a legal responsibility to investigate crimes, make arrests and charge people in order to bring them to justice.

All we want you to do, is tell us anything you know about fires that have been started in your area. Call the independent charity CRIMESTOPPERS anonymously if you have information about who is responsible. You won't have to give your name or go to court.

If you have any concerns about a child or young person playing with or showing an unhealthy interest in fire, please contact your local community fire station.

Scotland CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111

Woodside Community centre

The cafe is open Monday to Friday for tea, coffee, juice, sweets and crisps. There are also varying types of hot food served throughout the week. This food is all reasonably priced and will be available during the school holidays.

There are bingo nights on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evenings which start at 7.30pm. On Tuesdays between 6 and 7.30pm there is a junior club for kids aged between 5 and 12 with various activities. More places will be available after summer school holidays. There is a senior club on Thursdays between 6 and 7.30pm for young people aged between 12 and 16.

Yes or no?

On September the 18th 2014 Scottish citizens will be asked to decide whether or not Scotland should be an independent country. We caught up with representatives from Better Together and Yes Aberdeen to find out why they are supporting each campaign. Don't forget to register to vote before the 2nd of September by visiting www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

Yes?

In your view, what will happen to pensions?

The UK Pensions Service has confirmed "if Scotland does become Independent, there will be no effect on State Pension - you'll continue to receive it just as you do now."

What will happen to our passports?

The Scottish Government confirms you can continue to use existing passports after independence until it expires. Dual nationality will also be offered along with new Scottish passports.

How would independence impact on our EU membership?

Professor Charlie Jeffrey of the University of Edinburgh has said, the prospect of Scotland's uninterrupted membership of the European Union is supported by "almost all independent expert analysis".

Will we keep the pound?

Scotland can't be stopped from using the pound but the Scottish Government will negotiate a formal currency union with agreements on financial regulation and oversight.

What happens to Scotland's share of the national debt?

The UK Treasury accepts responsibility for UK debt.

The Scottish Government will negotiate a fair and reasonable share of that debt, alongside a share of UK assets.

What would happen to the NHS in an independent Scotland?

Because we've been able to make our own decisions about the NHS, we've been able to protect against privatisation down south. This shows that making decisions ourselves works!

How would independence impact on the country's defence?

Scotland pays £3bn into the defence pot and only receives £2bn back. We would invest better and move away from Trident and illegal wars.

What kind of policy would an independent Scotland have on immigration?

After independence, decisions about immigration will be made by the Scottish Government and Parliament in the interests of Scotland's people, creating jobs and growing the economy.

If Scotland vote no would there be more devolved powers to the Scottish Parliament?

A no vote won't deliver significant powers to improve lives. Suggested new powers are minimal and not the powers that we need, like taxation and welfare.

What would independence mean for education?

This sector shows how making our own decisions works - rejecting Tory reforms and reintroducing free access to education. Full powers will ensure that we protect cuts on services.

"Yes is a vote for a government that the people of Scotland have chosen, whilst pursuing policies the people of Scotland support thus bestowing the Scottish people with a greater opportunity for change."

M (Torry)

"I was going to vote No but once I saw how well UKIP did I am voting Yes as I dont want our country run by UKIP!"

Carmen (Tillydrone)



Better together?

In your view, what will happen to pensions?

With a faster ageing population here in Scotland, the best way of ensuring Scotland's pensioners are supported is to pool resources across the entire UK.

What will happen to our passports?

British citizens living outside the UK can pass their nationality on to their children, but not to subsequent generations. Therefore, grandchildren of British citizens living in Scotland would not have British citizenship.

How would independence impact on our EU membership?

Scotland would have to re-apply to the EU. Our membership isn't guaranteed and the terms we get from the EU would not be as favourable.

Will we keep the pound?

Leaving the UK means leaving the UK Pound. Because it isn't in Scotland's interests, the main UK parties have ruled out a Eurozone-style currency union.

What happens to Scotland's share of the national debt?

The debt Scotland takes on is subject to negotiation with the UK

government post-separation. The SNP's threat to renege on this debt is hugely irresponsible.

What would happen to the NHS in an independent Scotland?

The NHS is safer in the UK. Independent experts have shown big cuts in public services or tax rises would be needed if we separate.

How would independence impact on the country's defence?

Every penny of the UK's £34 billion defence budget benefits Scots. This is more than 14 times the SNP's proposed budget if we separate.

What kind of policy would an independent Scotland have on immigration?

That is for the party in power to decide. Impartial experts say that 1 million immigrants would be needed to balance the books if separate.

If Scotland vote no would there be more devolved powers to the Scottish Parliament?

Yes it's guaranteed. More powers are already being delivered through the 2012 Scotland Act

and all of the pro-UK parties have promised additional further powers.

What would independence mean for education?

Education is a devolved matter but Scotland's universities face losing vital research funding which they benefit disproportionately from as part of the UK.

"Remaining in the UK keeps Scotland in one of the strongest world economies, a stable future and best protects the human rights of its citizens."

Ruari (Torry)

"I will be voting no in the referendum as Scotland isn't strong enough to stand on its own feet & our share of the national debt will floor us completely!"

Aberdeen resident

bettertogether 
A stronger Scotland, a United Kingdom

The don't knows...

"Not sure how I'm voting, there's a lot of doubt on either side. I feel a yes vote may be the way to go if only to rock the boat."

Joe Sutherland (Aberdeen) -

GET READY FOR THE 2014 LIBRARY SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!

The theme for this summer is Mythical Maze which invites children to discover more about myths and legends from all over the world. By taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge through Aberdeen City Libraries, and trying to read 6 books over the summer, you can join the mythical creatures who are this year's stars of the Summer Reading Challenge. Minotaur, Unicorn, Yeti, Mermaid, Dragon, Nessie, Garuda, Leprechaun, Medusa and Anansi will also appear on a free downloadable app featuring interactive activities, clues and rewards.

Collect stickers and incentives as you work your way through the Challenge and explore different zones on the Maze. There will be more activities plus hidden 'treats' for children to unlock on the Mythical Maze website www.mythical-maze.co.uk which will go live before the summer holidays and there will be themed activities in libraries during the holidays.

The Summer Reading Challenge is aimed at children aged 4 and over but younger brothers and sisters can join in by sharing books with family and carers. Bookbug story and rhyme sessions for younger children will continue over the holidays.

Bookbug Story & Rhyme sessions at Woodside Library

**Thursday 31st July
10.30 – 11.00am**

Summer Reading Challenge – Mythical Maze event at Woodside Library

Thursday 17th July 2.00 – 3.00pm

For more information contact Woodside Library on 01224 484534, WoodsideLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk or visit the Aberdeen City Libraries' website www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/library

Printfield Project Sure Start Crèche

Printfield Project's Sure Start crèche has been serving the area's families for 15 years now and seen many changes and developments over that time.

The crèche was originally set up as a partnership between the project management committee and the council's Early Years Team, which sought to improve childcare provision within the city's regeneration areas.

The project received Sure Start funding in 1999 to establish good quality, low cost, childcare provision in the area. The crèche has served local needs in an open and inclusive way ever since and has managed to adapt to all the social and political changes the community has experienced over the years.

The crèche is still supported by the Early Years Team and opens for two hours, three mornings a week, providing places for up to 10 children aged 0-3 years. There are four staff - Lisa, Karen, Sylvia and Jennifer, who live locally and work closely with each other to support the children, two working at each of the three sessions.

Project policy is always to ensure children in its care receive the best learning and social experiences that can be provided, and to that end all staff are well trained and qualified to SVQ level in childcare and play and also receive training in food hygiene and first aid.

Both project and crèche staff ensure the learning/play area within the crèche is safe, challenging and fun. It is also understood that although the environment and training are fundamental to the well-being of the children in their care, it is the responsive and nurturing relationship between staff and children which is the most important part of the work, and that the relationship with parents is a creative partnership for improving the life opportunities of the children.

Jim Duncan

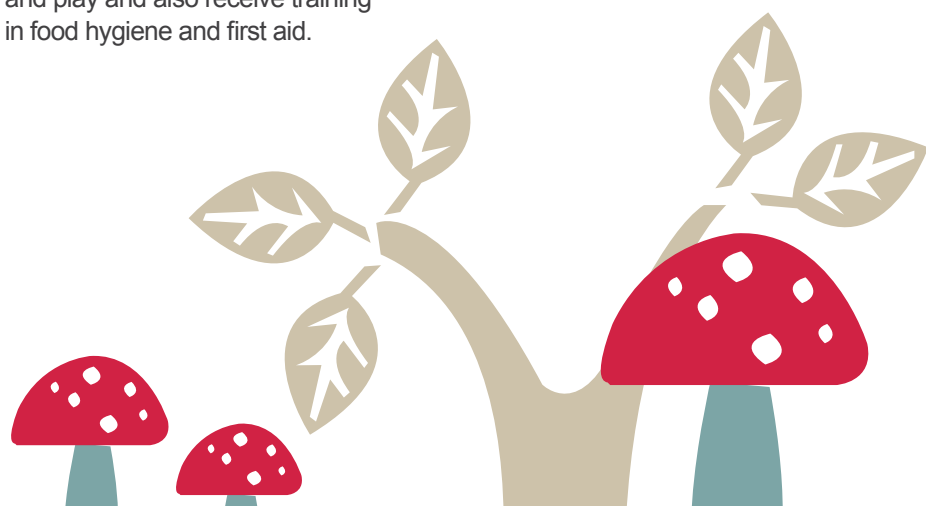
During the summer holidays Printfield are also running several activities.

There is a 4 week long out of school care programme which will run between the 14th of July and the 4th of August. There are still some spaces available.

Streetplay at Printfield Playpark for primary school aged children which will run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for 6 weeks between 1 and 3pm.

The over 12's Group will meet at Printfield Portacabin on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 6 and 8pm for 6 weeks.

Hilton Community Centre will hold a quiz and karaoke night at Hilton Community Centre on Saturday 26th July.



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ST MACHAR PARENT SUPPORT PROJECT UPDATE

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St Machar Parent Support Project is based behind St Machar Academy, where we work within the associated school groups. If you are interested in finding out more about the project then call us on 487813.

Young Mums

We are a group of parents who meet up every Monday at Cornhill Community Centre and we live in the Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton areas. We meet here because of the facilities the centre has. We take part in activities such as cooking and arts and crafts. We have visited SHMU and have also taken part in resuscitation and choking run by the NHS health visitors.

Different people will come in and talk about their services, Drugs Action have come to speak with us along with St Machar Credit Union and Scarf. The staff at the project have shown us places we can go to in our area and we have also managed to get safety equipment for our houses. It's good to get out and meet other mums and it's also good for our children to play with others. Many of us felt isolated until we came to the group. This group has been valuable for our children to meet others and for us to learn new things for the benefit of our children.

I'm a Parent, Get Me out of Here

We attended the "I'm a Parent, Get Me out of Here" programme which is part of Family Learning's resources at

Tillydrone Community Flat. The flat provided a crèche so it was easier for us to attend the session. We looked at things like reward charts, how we were parented and our behaviour and then we looked at how this affected our children, for example if we scream at them then they are only learning to scream back at us. The course was very informal we were given a book to use during the sessions that explained everything about the course. We were told that praise was very important and that treats don't have to be sweets or money but can be spending a little bit of time with our children reading them an extra story or colouring in with them. At the end of the course we received a certificate. Some of us had never had a certificate before and it made us feel like we had achieved something. We even had grandparents attend the session.

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Stewart Park Gala

Saturday August 16th
from 11am to 3pm

Victorian Time: *Spirit of the Age*

A STUDENT CURATED EXHIBITION



As students of the University of Aberdeen's Master of Letters (MLitt) Museum Studies course, which was launched this year, we have been planning and curating an exciting new exhibition at King's Museum. We decided to focus on the concept of 'time' in the Victorian era, with our exhibition highlighting the changes that took place in British society during the reign of Queen Victoria. We were able to draw on the rich Victorian holdings of the University of Aberdeen Museums, including objects related to local and university history and collections brought back to Aberdeen by overseas travellers. One of the star items that we chose to display is a beautiful bracelet presented by Queen Victoria herself to a Banchory resident during the opening of the Aberdeen Music Hall in 1859.

Throughout the exhibition we hope to show the broad scale of

the Victorian era, from the early 1800's through until the dawning of the 20th century. We look at how people living in this period of transition valued time morally and socially, and how they responded to the many changes taking place in day-to-day-life. The exhibition looks at aspects of the era such as time keeping, memorabilia, capturing a moment in time, collecting objects, and looking back at ancient civilisations.

Victorian Time: Spirit of the Age will be open from the 10th June 2014 in King's Museum, at the Old Aberdeen Town House. King's Museum is open weekdays from 10am -4pm and Saturdays 11am -4pm.

Contact: www.abdn.ac.uk/museums e: kingsmuseum@abdn.ac.uk t: 01224 274330

Drugs Action in Woodside

The Take Home Naloxone Programme in your community

For a number of years now DA has been working to reduce the harms associated with drug use. Part of DA's role within the community involves increasing awareness around the effects of drug overdose. Drug related deaths can have a devastating impact on the lives of not only those who are using drugs, but also their friends, families, and communities.

Every Monday between 1pm and 3pm, Drugs Workers Pam and Sandy are at the

Woodside Fountain Centre (Community Centre) and can provide any member of the Woodside community with information about overdose. They can provide training on how to recognise the signs and symptoms of overdose, basic life support and how to administer naloxone.

They can also give you information on Naloxone, a life saving medicine, which can temporarily reverse the effects of an opiate overdose.

Individuals who have a history of using opiates (such as heroin and methadone) as well as the friends and families of drug users can now get a supply of Take Home Naloxone which they can administer in the event of an overdose. Having a personal supply of Naloxone could potentially allow you to save a loved ones life.

For more information of DA's Woodside services call or text Pam on: **07545204199**

Woodside Network Update

A few changes were made at the AGM (Annual General Meeting). Margaret Aisbitt is on her last year as Chairperson. Charlene Kilpatrick moves from Treasurer to Vice-Chairperson and Gordon Donald was elected to Treasurer position.

As partners in the Spring Fair we were delighted with the attendance of so many people from the area and interest in the Network has increased. Contributors were very pleased with the uptake of the services offered and requested an invitation to the next event. We are hoping to have another Fair in Autumn and continue in subsequent years. Notable attendees were George Adams and Mark Macdonald our MSP.

If you are interested in becoming a member please contact Margaret on **01224 911337**.

Cash In Your Pocket

Cash In your Pocket attended the Community Safety/ Spring Fair Event on Saturday 5th April at Woodside Fountain Centre which was lots of fun for everyone involved. The day was packed with Woodsiders, and stalls of multiple varieties were everywhere. Quality banter was abundant, with families picking up bargains and kids with ornately painted faces milling around. It was also great to see that a number of folk benefited from Cash In Your Pocket referring them to

much needed help. If you're having difficulty with anything financial, from sanctions, to having trouble making your budget add up, to pension queries, please contact us on our new phonenumber – **01224 686077**. Don't worry about call costs, just give us your number and ask us to phone you back. If you'd rather just make a referral, you can still pick up a leaflet at most Woodside community locations, or you can click the 'Get Help' button at **www.ciyp.co.uk**

SHMUFM YOUTH RADIO SUMMER SCHOOL

shmuFM's Youth Radio Summer School returns on the 5th of July.

If you are starting secondary school after the summer holidays, you could join the Youth Radio Summer School.

The Youth Radio Summer School offers free radio training for P7s who live in Cummings Park, Middlefield, Northfield, Seaton, Woodside,

Tillydrone and/or P7s moving on to St. Machar, Northfield or Torry Academy after the summer. You can book your place at Station House media Unit in Woodside to visit the radio studios and find out more.

Ask your parent/carer to call Lesley or Adele on 01224 515013 for more information.

TEAM BUILDING DAYS AT SHMU

Newbies took over the shmu studio in March as shmu launched its first teambuilding day experience. A group of employees from Aberdeen Asset Management were set the challenge of researching, programming content and presenting a live show in only one day.

The day began at the Tillydrone Youth Project (TYP) where the team were introduced to the shmu team who guided them through the teambuilding day and gave the team a crash course in community radio, show topic discussion, show style, research, legal requirements and role distribution.

After a spot of lunch, the radio rookies were transported back to shmuHQ and split into two groups. Group one were the editorial team, consisting of anchor presenter, two news/support presenters and a show producer.

Group two head up the features team, two members who devised a short feature piece on the topic for broadcast during the show. On top of all that, Team one received technical training, draft running orders, scripts and intros and outros as well as choosing the music for the show. The second team recorded and edited a telephone interview for their feature piece.

After a quick run-through, the team then presented a one hour live broadcast on shmuFM followed by an evaluation, debrief and a well-deserved cuppa.

Well done to the team from Aberdeen Asset Management on a brilliant show!

If you would like to book a team building day for your company, please get in touch with us. Call Lesley on 01224 515013 or email lesley@shmu.org.uk

SHMU INTRO SESSION

We also deliver 30 minute 'intro sessions' to any groups who want to know more about shmu. Our team will present an interactive information session on everything that we can offer here at station house media unit. This is a brilliant opportunity for groups who would otherwise struggle to be heard or gain any coverage locally. We will help you record a jingle, which will then be aired on shmuFM. We are happy to deliver our takeover session to staff teams, active groups of all ages, service users and anyone else who wants to find out more about your local media organisation. Call Denise on 01224 515013 or email denise@shmu.org.uk to book your session.

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.



Pete the Punk

letter fae woodside

A PERSONAL VIEW

A quarter of a century has passed since the 1988 Piper Alpha disaster but the images of the blazing oil platform that flickered across our TV screens that fateful evening remain with me to this day. With 167 men lost, it was the oil boom's greatest tragedy.

Most people in Aberdeen knew, or knew of, someone who lost their life that night but to a boy from the granite city, the North Sea would always be an attractive option and soon I found myself working offshore earning £10 an hour – good money in 1990 - and I loved it. The work was hard, the craic was good but, while I felt I was living the dream, danger was never too far away.

I was on the Ninian South platform one particularly foul night in 1992 when a chopper crashed off the Cormorant Alpha. Eleven men died that night.

On the same rig a few weeks later, a million cubic feet of gas escaped into one of the rig modules. With the alarm ringing in our ears, we could smell the gas as we hurried to our so-called 'place of safety', in this case the accommodation module. Not a nice feeling. Then the rig couldn't be evacuated because much of the gas had collected directly below the helideck, making it a long, long night as we waited for it to disperse. The whole episode was kept quiet at the time but in truth we were one spark away from being the next Piper Alpha. Such are the margins offshore.

But while oil companies make plenty of noise about safety these days, little has changed. Only last year, Sarah Darnley became the first woman to die in the North Sea when yet another helicopter crash claimed four lives. But this is a risk everyone working in an industry that operates at the frontiers of technology takes every time they go offshore.

In a world driven by fossil fuels, it's no surprise our oil industry has become a major issue in the Scottish independence referendum. Yes, it is a complex and often emotive debate, but when I saw David Cameron posing on an oil rig in a shiny new hard hat and slicker suit, that's when I reached for the sick bag.

We all know politics is a dirty business but speaking as an ex-oil worker, I found Cameron's attempt to hijack the debate while standing on an oil platform not just downright distasteful, but a grave insult to everyone who has ever worked, lived or died in the North Sea during the oil and gas era.



Some might say this is par for the course for Cameron, very much in keeping with the conduct of his government's vicious campaign against the NHS and the welfare state.

It does look like the Tories realise they've little chance of winning the next election and are doing as much damage to the NHS as they can while in power. Why? Could it be because virtually every member of the Tory cabinet has well-documented financial links to the private health sector? Lucrative directorships and consultancies await.

People are dying of starvation because their benefits have been cut or taken away altogether. Others have killed themselves after ATOS found them fit for work while they were plainly anything but. Yet Cameron can still look us in the eye, assuring us it is all for our own good - that pursuing policies that make the rich richer at the expense of the poor will somehow lead to a fairer society.

It's stuff like this that really pushes me towards voting "Yes" in the forthcoming independence referendum, even though I've never been a big supporter of the SNP and I can't say I'm a fan of Alex Salmond - he has not been kind to Aberdeen. But a vote for independence is not the same as voting for Salmond and in the event of a Yes vote, he would have to call an election at the earliest.

To me, the whole independence issue is one of self-determination - an opportunity to be governed by MPs elected by Scots. At present we are (allegedly) represented by Cameron and his fellow Old Etonians despite Scotland electing one solitary Tory last time around. And the more I hear that lot twittering on about how Scotland won't be able to do this, that or the next thing as an independent nation, the more convinced I am it's time to wave goodbye to the whole sorry lot of them.



Exploring the Don

One of the reasons I love Woodside is that I can step out my front door, jump on my bike, and within minutes be in a park, exploring woodlands or dawdling along a riverbank.

One beautiful May day, I cross the old stone bridge at the top of Station Road and head down under the railway, bearing left to the Woodside Trail.

Accessible to cyclists nearly all the way to Persley Bridge, the recently resurfaced trail is also popular with joggers and dog-walkers. Young mums with buggies enjoy the sunshine and tranquility, just five minutes from a busy main road.

There's nothing better than to follow this sun-dappled path in late springtime, the riverbanks and verges teeming with growth and colour. Myriad insects, butterflies and bees go quietly about their business, all part of nature's great push towards summer.

Otters thrive here. Through the trees, I spy a heron vigilant in the shallows, waiting for the unwary

fish or eel that will become its supper. Deer often slip along the valley to Seaton Park, where they can be seen frolicking in the early morning haar.

The riverbank is dotted with derelict buildings and abandoned machinery, recalling a bygone age when textile and paper mills provided work for generations of Woodsiders.

I pause by one such relic to catch my breath, the sun glinting on the river as it loops eastward to the sea. A chorus of birdsong accompanies me as I leave the greenery of the trail for Mugiemoor Road, turning across Persley Bridge and into Laurel Drive.

Cutting through a gap in the trees by Bannatynes, I negotiate a sharp incline to a path skirting Snuffie's Pool and on to Mill Lade Wynd. A hundred yards on, I pull into Danestone Country Park, the sunlight streaming through air alive with spores and pollen as the path, initially hugging the river, arcs northwards then east to Grandholm Drive.

Here, I can continue straight into the Bridge of Don and perhaps explore the Brig o' Balgownie, the Don Nature Reserve or Seaton Woods, but today I bear right, following the perimeter of Grandholm Village to Grandholm Bridge.

Built in 1891 on the site of a ferry that served Persley Estate (the name possibly derived from the Gaelic preaslach, or wooded place), the bridge remains in use today and stands at the eastern extremity of the Woodside Trail.

It's hard going on the bike from here up to Gordon Mills Road, but what with stopping to take a few snaps here and there, the whole journey has taken only 40 minutes. You could probably walk it in a couple of hours. We're very lucky to have so much natural beauty on our doorstep.

*Peter Thomson,
with thanks to Abeer Helmi*

Images: Nadine