

woodside freepress

Summer Edition 2016



Featured in
this issue

Youth Lives in Woodside
St Machar Credit Union
Third Don Crossing

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Editorial

Welcome to the Summer 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.

Within this magazine we have news from St Machar Credit Union, Instant Neighbour and Fersands and Fountain Community Project.

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.**

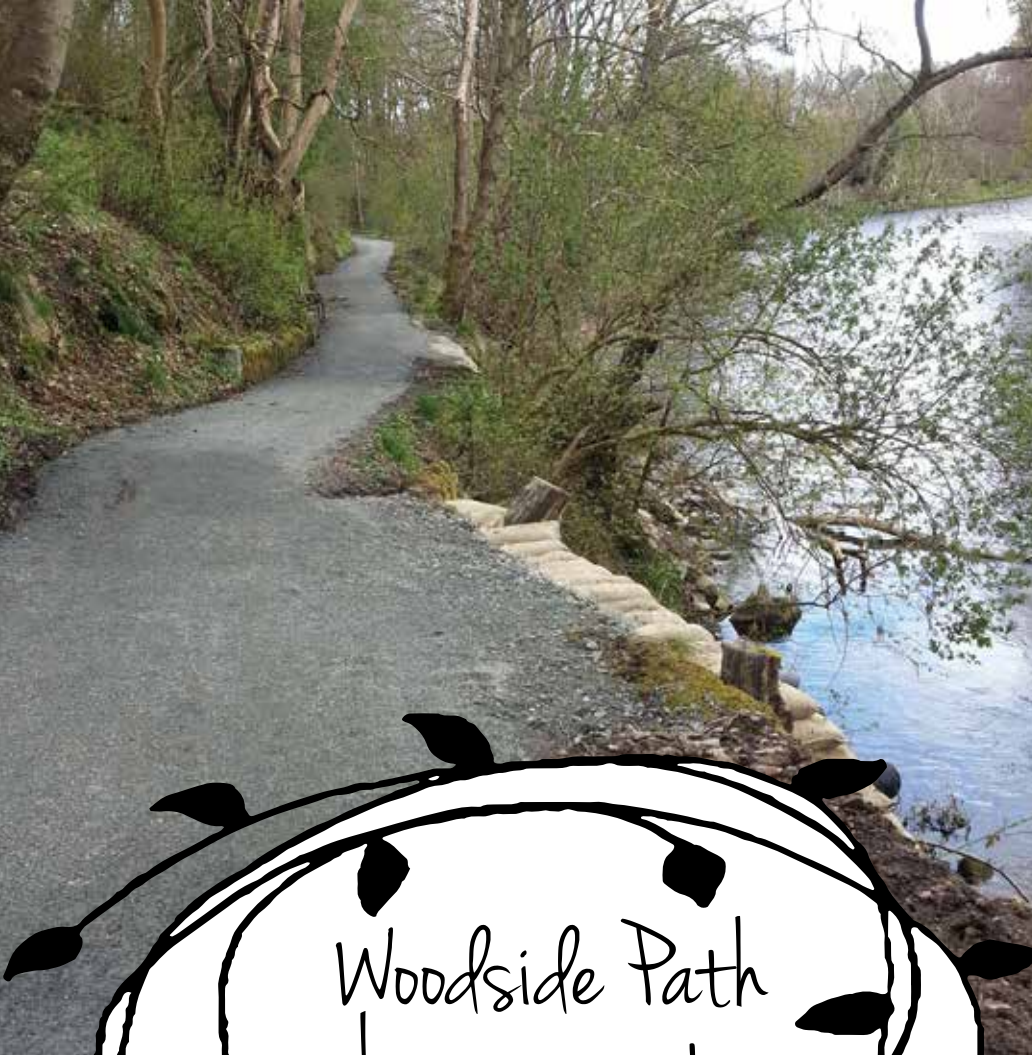
All the content in this magazine has been produced and approved by members of the editorial team.

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.

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 Path Improvements

Repair work has begun on extensive damage caused to parts of our paths network by storm Frank and associated flooding in January. One of the first to be tackled is the section of the path along the Don at Woodside upstream of the Grandholm road bridge. Here there were several sections that had been eroded before the latest flooding and were due to be repaired before Christmas. Fortunately, in some ways, this work was delayed. The flooding caused more damage which has now all been fixed making the path more accessible for all. This work was part funded by

Aberdeen Greenspace Trust. The path along the Don from Grandholm up to Persley is a great place for a walk in the shade of the trees with a good chance of seeing some interesting wildlife over the summer months. Otters are often seen early in the morning with dippers hunting for food in the river amongst the rocks. You could be lucky and see a flash of electric blue colour as a kingfisher flies past.

The section up stream of here near Persley Bridge is still to be tackled once funding has been secured to do the work.

Community event celebrating the 125th anniversary of Woodside joining city

City councillor Neil Copland has helped organise an event marking the 125th anniversary of Woodside becoming part of the City of Aberdeen.

Councillor Copland has been in discussion with Woodside and Kittybrewster primary schools and the Fersands and Printfield community projects to allow children in the area to participate in a project marking this milestone anniversary.

As a result, Woodside Library will feature a display combining the children's work and council archive pictures of the area from 3-7 October.

Councillor Copland said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for the children of Woodside to learn about the history of their area and how it has changed over the years.

"My thanks go to the head teachers of both schools and the staff at the Printfield and Fersands Projects for agreeing to be involved. They all play a very important part in the community of Woodside and this would not be possible without them."

Woodside formally joined the city of Aberdeen, along with Old Aberdeen and Torry, in 1891.



Reiki in The Community

Lynne Digby, secretary of Reiki in the Community

Reiki in the Community donated some plants to add some colour and scent to an area next to the Fountain Grange Common Room entrance where we meet twice a week. Another member of the group and I cleared it up and planted the flowers. I personally am opposed to Aberdeen City Council spraying programmes of killing everything green with roundup. This is my way of helping nature a little and saying thank you to the residents of Fountain Grange for the use of the common room.

Steven Shaw, Environmental Manager at Aberdeen City Council said: "We welcome any community group or other volunteers that want to do their wee bit to help make their neighbourhood a more attractive place to live. This could be something simple like a clean-up / litter pick to raising money for a new play area. Whatever the community project is we want to hear from them and will do what we can to help and make things happen. What Lynne is doing is an example of something very simple but something that the residents and local community will all enjoy. Hopefully it will inspire other local people to do something similar."



Woodside Junior Club runs on a Tuesday evening in the Woodside Learning Centre on Marquis Road.

The club recently took part in a participatory budgeting process, they made a video requesting funds to put towards the summer playscheme. They were delighted to have been chosen and were awarded with £4000 to put towards their summer playscheme.

They also managed to get funding from the National Lottery to put towards the playscheme too and have had lots of fab days out!

The Woodside Junior Club will have spaces. Children must be primary school age and the club meets on Tuesday evenings 6-7.30pm. If children attend the afterschool club in Woodside

Community Centre we can collect them on a Tuesday for Junior Club. Please pop in and ask if you are interested.

We would like to thank the volunteers who keep the juniors up and running: Dorothy, Angie, Lesleyann, Debra, Stacey and Natalie.

There are other fun things to do in Woodside Centre as listed below:

Bingo is on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday with doors open 6pm
Boxercise is on a Tuesday 7-8 and Thursday 6.30-7.30pm.

On Thursdays between 6-7.30pm there is a drop in for teenagers.

There is also a community café open daily which serves fine soup, toasties and on certain days a cooked breakfast.

We would love to see you there!

Instant Neighbour: **What We Do**

Instant Neighbour has been supporting the Aberdeen community for over 30 years, providing emergency food parcels to those in need, averaging 100 parcels each week. In 2015 the parcels came from 23 tonnes of donated food, helping 1,237 different clients. Clients are invited to discuss their circumstances to help us develop better understanding of individual and community needs. Throughout the discussion we sign post the client to the help they require.

Food is just the tip of the iceberg when tackling poverty and handing out emergency food is not the answer, but it is a necessity.

Safe and Sound provides cots and various items for new babies, an equipment loan scheme which is designed to help ease the expense and worry of the arrival of a child. Various safety equipment is provided to ensure peace of mind for the parent and allow the infant to develop freely.

In its 30-year history Instant Neighbour has helped approximately 290,000 people move out of poverty. It has done so not merely by giving charity such as providing food parcels to those who need it, but also by providing opportunities for personal growth and development.

Instant Neighbour offers employment experience to volunteers on a regular basis. We work with people who are in between jobs at the moment, or unemployed, people who have been struggling with addictions or mental or physical conditions

which makes keeping a regular job difficult. Working as a volunteer at Instant Neighbour allows them to get into a routine, to practice new skills, to build their self-esteem and raise their dignity.

We have volunteers working within some of the key components of the daily work of Instant Neighbour, e.g. customer service, stocking food, delivering furniture, or working in the shops.

We supported 70 volunteers with Instant Neighbour last year.

Instant Neighbour runs three shops, two of which go under the premium brand: Home Comforts, at Union Square, 1-3 Great Western Road and at our head office St Machar Drive.

Last year 104.2 tonnes of furniture and household items, electrical goods, and clothing were recycled through the shops, providing furniture to 2,488 households and businesses.



Pathways in Woodside

Pathways have been actively working in Woodside/Printfield helping people to find work for a number of years now and our Employability Keyworker, David Cook, meets with people looking for help at the Woodside Community Centre on Fridays from 10am till 12 noon.

David has helped many people from the area to find work across a number of industries and types of jobs. One of David's clients had worked in the hospitality industry successfully for a number of years but had been paid off and had found it difficult to find a new position. During this period their Personal Licence required to be renewed and they could not afford to do this. David applied for funding and the client successfully passed their refresher course. With new licence in hand David helped them to apply for a number of positions and they were successful in gaining employment.

Pathways help people from the age of 16 upwards and from all backgrounds and help to identify the job or training that is right for you. We also you to develop a plan to reach your job goal, help with CV's, assist in completing application forms and we also have access to funds to remove barriers to work e.g. clothing or equipment needs. Last year the team of five Employability Keyworkers covering the city of Aberdeen helped 328 people into work.

If you would like help to find work you can contact David Cook by phone on 01224 682 939 or by email at davidcook@pathways-online.org

Donside Hydro



Scotland's first urban community hydro fully under construction

Over the past few months, Aberdeen Community Energy (ACE) and the Donside Community Association (DCA) have been finalising the details to allow construction to begin on the Donside Hydro Scheme in the Donside Village, Tillydrone.

This significant milestone has been met and construction work began in earnest at the riverside location at the start of June.

As you'll be aware, with lots of activity ongoing, there will be some disruption and inconvenience caused to the riverside pathway. We apologise for this in advance - it'll be for a short time while Scotland's first urban community hydro is created.

As well as the start of this hugely exciting phase, ACE is continuing to engage with businesses and individuals who may be interested

in supporting the initiative financially, in the forms of donations, loans or investment. This includes the launch of our Community Share Offer. This offers members of the immediate communities and indeed country the opportunity to help support the project

meet its social and environmental aspirations, as well as securing investors a solid and low-risk financial return.

We're targeting a 7% annual return on investment.

As the project progresses, we're doing our bit to help Scotland achieve its climate and energy goal of generating 100% clean, renewable energy by 2020.

With construction underway, we'll be sure to keep you updated and involved at every stage of the project.

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

ACEnergy.org.uk
www.facebook.com/ACEnergy2016
twitter.com/ACEnergy2016





POLICE RESPOND TO LOCAL CONCERNS OVER THIRD DON CROSSING

John McQuat

As a Sergeant based here at Tillydrone since December 2015 I have had the opportunity to speak with a large number of people in the community and attend various community meetings. As a result of this I am aware of the concerns residents have over the impact of the Third Don crossing opening.

In response to these concerns my officers and I, with the support of our colleagues from Roads Policing ran an operation earlier this year where we stopped a large number of vehicles, who in the most part were driving considerably and lawfully.

Also in response to your concerns PC Davie Orr who is our School Based Officer at St Machar Academy ran an education event aimed at the S1-S3 age group on Thursday 28th April.

This involved the mock scene of a Road Traffic Collision being set up in the playground, whereby a child had been knocked down by a car whilst crossing the road. A car with a smashed windscreen was very kindly supplied by Overton Garage. All three emergency services were present. They showed and talked the pupils through what each emergency service did at the scene. The pupils then got the opportunity to see all the emergency service vehicles and speak to the various emergency service personnel.

I would always encourage any member of the community who sees dangerous driving particularly around our schools to note the registration mark and report it to ourselves as soon as it is safe to do so.

Finally, my officers and I remain committed to proactively deal with any inappropriate driving/cycling, so that all road users can be safe in our community.

Third Don Crossing

Aberdeen's Third Don Crossing officially opened to members of the public in June this year.

The £22 million pound bridge was six months overdue and came in £4 million over budget.

Jenny Laing, leader of Aberdeen City Council, opened the bridge to members of the public and was accompanied by children from Riverbank and Danestone Primary Schools.

Aberdeen City Council Leader Councillor Jenny Laing said: "This is fantastic day with the opening of a bridge project which is the largest the city has had for 30 years. "We'd like to thank particularly the two communities either side of the bridge for their patience during the construction phase as we recognise they have been inconvenienced during this time.

"It's been estimated that about 10,000 vehicles will use the new crossing every day, which will alleviate congestion on the other two main crossings at the Bridge of Don and Persley Bridge which currently cope with 40,000 vehicles every day."

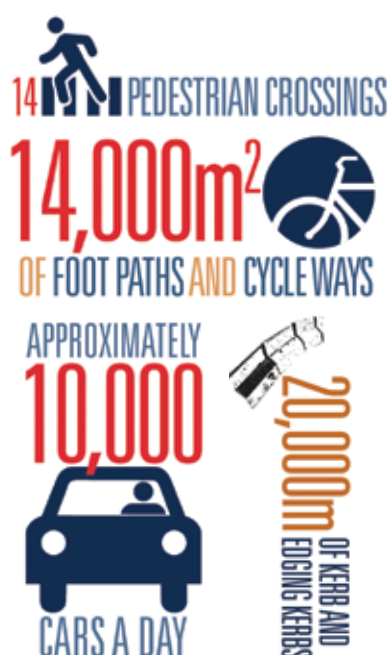
However, less than a week after the bridge was opened members of Tillydrone Community Council raised concerns over the increased amount of traffic travelling through their area.

Community council member Brian Downie said a 20mph speed limit throughout Tillydrone would help ease concerns and has called for a public meeting to address these concerns.

He said: "I have seen a big increase in the number of vehicles going up and down Hayton Road so it's now turned into a rat run in my eyes.

"We struggle to get from Hayton Road to Tillydrone Road and Tillydrone Avenue because you have to cross both lanes to get on to these roads. We really need toucan or pelican lights on Hayton Road.

"I believe the whole of Tillydrone including the Third Don Crossing should be made 20mph which would help this."





RELOCATION RELOCATION RELOCATION

St Machar Credit Union moves to a new building *By Jodie Molyneux*

When one door closes, another is sure to open, and this certainly rang true for St Machar Credit Union, as the closure of Clydesdale Bank allowed the group to move into bigger and better premises at 433 Great Northern Road on 12th May 2016. The opening ceremony was led by Councillor George Adam and attended by members of SHMU and MSP Mark McDonald.

After complaints regarding waiting times at the old location at Woodside Fountain Centre, and staff and volunteers finding themselves without space to properly conduct their work, the search was on for a new location. Luckily for St Machar Credit Union, upon the closure of Clydesdale Bank the owner was keen to sell the property and after negotiations with the Financial Conduct Authority, the Scottish League of Credit Unions, auditors, solicitors and surveyors, the sale went through in November 2014. The new location was subject to a flooring, electrical and heating update and now boasts a waiting area, two interview rooms, a meeting room, a processing room and a confidential phone area. It is hoped that the new premises will become a friendly, spacious area for current customers to discuss saving and borrowing, and indeed to encourage new ones to the credit union.

Jody Reid, a board member at St Machar Credit Union said: "I think

it's amazing that we're on the main road into Woodside and we'll get passing trade. It's our own building and belongs to the members of St Machar Credit Union. I'd also like to say to people to get involved in the credit unions, get your money saved and don't go to money lenders because the interest is far too much and they're very dodgy. Come along and get involved, save up money for your kids' futures as well."

Lord Provost George Adam attended the opening and said: "I know this community very well having served as a Councillor in the area for seventeen years.

The past few years have been extremely tough for many people in this city, and no more so than for the people of some of our most deprived areas which need our support the most.

"Changes to benefits and loss of employment have made life extremely difficult for many people.

It has led to the rise of pay day loan companies and folk becoming reliant on foodbanks just to get by.

"It isn't acceptable in this, of all cities, and in the 21st century people deserve to have opportunities to choose a different way of living. That is why I am so pleased to see our city's Credit Unions doing so well, and why it is so pleasing to be here with you as you open the doors to a new chapter in supporting this community in a very practical and

meaningful way. Thank you to everyone – all the staff members and volunteers - who have worked so hard to make this happen

St Machar Credit Union, the first in Grampian, was started up by residents of Woodside and Seaton fed up with banking not suitable for those on low incomes and now, in the days of instant cash through pay-day loans with sky-high interest rates, the Scottish government is encouraging residents to consider credit unions as a new source of affordable, high quality and ethical financial services. The figures seem to prove that these efforts are working; "in 2015, savers put £454m into credit unions in Scotland, up almost eight per cent on 2014, while borrowers took out £276m, up five per cent".

The new credit union is available to anyone who lives and works within the areas of Seaton, Linksfield, Tillydrone, Powis, Froghall, Sunnybank, George Street, Old Aberdeen, Woodside, Middlefield, Heathryfold and Hilton. Anyone interested can visit 433 Great Northern road to enquire about savings accounts, low cost loans and possible annual dividends - as with credit unions, all profits are invested back into the organisation or shared out amongst members.



FINANCIAL SERVICES IN WOODSIDE

ST MACHAR CREDIT UNION

Info: Credit Unions are financial co-operatives owned and controlled by their members, that offer savings accounts, low cost loans and other services.

They are authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (St Machar Credit Union PRA 213576)

Any profits a credit union makes is invested back into the organisation or shared out amongst members as a dividend.
Phone: 01224 276994

Opening hours: 9:30am – 4:30pm every weekday except Wednesday (12:30pm finish on a Wednesday)
Location: 433 Great Northern Road

CASH IN YOUR POCKET

Info: Working with partner organisations to reduce inequalities for people living in economic disadvantage within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

Phone: 0800 953 4330
Location: Anywhere! You can now phone Cash in your Pocket for financial advice for free from your mobile or landline.

CITIZEN'S ADVICE

Info: Aberdeen Citizen's Advice Bureau gives residents of Aberdeen free, confidential and impartial advice on a range of topics including benefits, debt advice, work related problems, immigration and housing.
Phone: 0808 800 9060

Opening times: Wednesdays 10am-3pm
Location: Woodside Community Centre, Great Northern Rd



A new face at Fersands Family Centre

Introducing Susan Byun, Childcare Manager

Hi my name is Susan, I recently started work as childcare manager at Fersands Family Centre.

I am employed to support the children, parents and staff to deliver high quality of early learning and childcare. When I first started the staff, parents and children were so welcoming, friendly and helpful. I love being able to help our children develop their skills and see them grow.

Fersands Family Centre provides a welcoming atmosphere when children are away from their parents to ensure that all the children feel happy and relaxed. We encourage them to feel confident in cooperating and developing good relationships with the staff caring for them and with other children in the group. If you have any questions, please come and see me at the Family Centre.

Challenges ahead for childcare providers

The Scottish Government currently

offers all three and four year olds a guaranteed nursery place for 600 hours of free childcare a year. Recently, vulnerable two year olds whose families receive welfare were also promised 600 hours free childcare. Furthermore, the Scottish Government has pledged to increase this provision of free early learning and childcare to 1140 hours by 2020 which is equal to 6 hours childcare per day during school term.

The problem is that many childcare providers are already at capacity and most have morning and afternoon sessions of around 3 hours. If sessions had to increase to 6 hours the morning group and afternoon group couldn't both exist in the same premises. The capacity of all child care providers in the city is being looked at to work out how the new challenges can be met.

It's great that the government is thinking about the children.

It's great that they understand all children particularly children from vulnerable families need high levels of stimulation, encouragement, challenge and support.

Places like Fersands Family Centre will have to look at these changes and decide how they can adapt to offer twice as many hours to the same number of children. What do parents in Woodside want? Do you want 600 or 1200 hours free childcare for your two year old? Do you want your three year old to attend nursery six hours per week? Will these service be inundated with requests or will families choose not to send their children away from home for such long hours?

Please contact us and let us know what you think about these changes. You can phone Fersands on 01224 524925.

YOUTH LIVES IN WOODSIDE

Fersands and Fountain Community Project (FFCP) have worked in partnership with Alcohol and Drugs Action and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership to carry out a large piece of research with 12-25 year olds who live in the Woodside area.

In March 2016, the World Health Organisation (WHO) released a piece of research comparing the health and wellbeing of children in 42 European and North American countries which including Scotland.

The WHO findings suggest Scottish teenage girls are sicker and more stressed than any of the other 41 countries.

The Guardian reported that the WHO findings suggest teenagers in the UK are the least satisfied in life through feeling pressure to achieve well at school, being overweight and consuming too much alcohol.

Staff from FFCP spent April and May developing and fine

tuning our questionnaire with our partners and meeting with agencies to seek support in carrying it out. Some of the topics included health and physical activity, sexual health and relationships and young people's perceptions of their community.

Acting Depute Head at St Machar Academy, Karina Dobson was a great help by supporting us in the school. Over 50 questionnaires were completed in the PSE lessons and returned to us.

Printfield Community Project, St Machar Parent Support Project and shmu have all supported this project as well which has been fantastic.

The questionnaire finished on the 2nd July at our Gala Day and we will now spend a couple of months analysing the findings and by the next edition of the Woodside Free Press we will have a spread on some of these findings.

Mark Macdonald MSP

Firstly, I would like to express what an honour it is to be back serving as your MSP in the fifth term of the Scottish Parliament. Thank you to everyone who took part in the electoral process and cast their votes on the 5th May. It is important to get involved in the democratic process to ensure your voice is heard, and I am humbled to have been chosen to represent your community in the Scottish Parliament.

As well as my responsibilities in the Scottish Government, I will continue to work hard to improve things for the Woodside Community. I am aware of certain issues that have been raised at the Woodside Community Council, and will ensure that I have representation present at future meetings.

As your representative, it is important for me to hear from you so I am aware of any issues that may be affecting your day to day life or your wider community. This allows me to make the connection if there are any wider issues that can be resolved through my work in the Scottish Parliament.

If you would like to get in touch with me, please do not hesitate to contact me on mark.mcdonald.msp@parliament.scot or speak to a member of my staff in my constituency office on **01224 789457**.

I would like to finish by saying I look forward to serving as your Member of the Scottish Parliament for Aberdeen Donside for the next 5 years, along with the challenging and rewarding work it brings.

Around Woodside

Meet the Other Half

I was leaving Woodside Library the other day when I noticed that the door to the other half of the library was open. I had never seen it, so I asked the librarian if I could have a look.

I was amazed. A wood panelled room, with statuettes of the great writers around the windows. A huge painting of Sir John Anderson (founder of the library) glowers down from the wall. This was the old reference library, the 'scholar's room'. Great stacks of old files were piled all around.

If ever there was an example of the stupidity of the powers that be, this is it. Here we have the 'jewel in the

crown' of Woodside and it is being used as a big cupboard.

I believe the excuse is 'disabled access'. There are three steps leading up to the room. Now, we are all for the rights of disabled people. But too often this well intentioned legislation is used as a smokescreen for lack of imagination and simple cost cutting. In these days of improved disabled access, surely we can find a solution to the problem of three steps.

Next time you visit the library ask to have a look. The song says 'you don't know what you've got 'till it's gone.' It hasn't gone yet. Go see



Losing Our Marbles

On a trip to London recently I made a point of visiting the British Museum and the famous 'Elgin Marbles.' In 1801 these classical art works were looted by Lord Elgin from the Parthenon in Athens. To this day the Greeks want them back. Quite right too.

Here in Woodside we have our own version of the story. For it seems that a marble statue of Good Queen Victoria has been taken from Woodside Library and placed somewhere in the Townhouse. Now, when Sir John Anderson died in 1886 he made it clear that library (and its contents)

were the property of the people of Woodside. He made a statement of his wishes so that: 'ruthless hands may be prevented from someday trying to upset my good intentions.' Such 'ruthless hands have indeed been laid on Oor Queen Vic.

We want her back!

Running Down Roundup

They say that when spring is in the air a young man's (person's?) thoughts turn to love. But they can also turn to those guys in the protective suits, going round Aberdeen spraying Roundup


around the verges. The stuff does what it says on the tin, killing everything leaving and leaving an ugly yellow streak of death around all our green areas. Only trouble is that Roundup contains Glyphosate, which (according to The World Health Organisation) 'probably causes cancer.' It's soon to be universally banned.

And so, Aberdeen City Council, if you're quite finished poisoning the citizens and would like to improve your Britain in Bloom credentials, you'll have to go back to more traditional methods. (They're called strimmers).

Woodside in days gone by

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

This article examining the relationship between Woodside and Kittybrewster first appeared in the P&J on 27 February 1971. Written just 45 years ago, the language already seems a little old-fashioned, and with the demise of the mills, the Woodside described in the final paragraph sadly no longer exists.



Great Northern Suburbs

*Alas the change! Houses like men
Have just their life to live it;
Kind canty Kitty's but and ben
Is levelled with the divot.*

- William Cadenhead

IT MAY seem almost an outrage to link Woodside with Kittybrewster, but both now largely form part of the Woodside Ward of Aberdeen, and, in the beginning, they had a common origin on the wooded slope to the Don.

From this slope, strangely enough they both derive their respective names. Woodside is obvious, Kittybrewster less so, but the modern linguistics experts allege that "Kettibrauster" as it was called in the 17th century derives from the Gaelic phrase meaning "the steep wooded slope".

As a built-up area, of course, Woodside is the older community. It was a village when Kittybrewster was just open fields, and it became a police burgh in 1868 and maintained its separate civic identity until 1891, when it merged with Aberdeen - "on its own terms" as it often used to insist.

Today, when both both localities are being ever more rapidly torn apart and put together again, the human sense of continuity is much stronger than mere stone and lime survival. I found evidence of this in abundance. Mr. Robert Watt, the minister of Woodside South Church, the tower and clock of which dominate the area, told that when he came to the charge in 1967 the invariable question was "Now how are you liking Woodside?" Nobody mentioned Aberdeen - and he was equally intrigued by the constant reference to "the Fountain" long after the fountain was no more.

He soon came to the conclusion that never in his previous experience had he met up with a community in which the family spirit was so strong, or the clear sense of distinctive identity so well-developed. He would admit of course that something of the same local patriotism is to be found in Torry or Footdee. But Woodside remained unique.

Continuity of employment strengthens this feeling. Father and son for generation after generation have followed one another at Grandholm, Donside and Stoneywood. And the Woodside tradition goes right back to the eighteenth century and the calico printing heyday of Woodside Works.



Journalological

Take 2!

The Youth Media Team at shmu have been working really hard over the last few months to put together the second edition of their magazine, Journalological. This group has been meeting for around a year and a half now and involves young people who attend school or live in the Torry, St Machar or Northfield areas. Initially they started off contributing articles to shmu's community magazines and covering the issues affecting young people in those areas. They soon caught the bug for journalism and asked if they could create their own magazine. The group worked incredibly hard to get the first edition out just before Christmas last year and it was well received by secondary schools and other youth organisations throughout Aberdeen. The group were so pleased with their magazine that shmu successfully applied for funding to produce three editions of Journalological a year. We set to work, creating a task list of all the ideas the young people wanted to cover and set a deadline of having the magazine back from the printers before the summer holidays started. If you would like to read Journalological and see what the young people have produced, you can visit www.shmu.org.uk/PRESS and select the Journalological option. If you, or someone who know, are academy age and live or study in Torry, Northfield or St Machar and would like to get involved in shmu's Youth Media Team then please get in touch with Denise on 01224 515013 or email denise@shmu.org.uk.



Recycle

Remember to recycle your food and garden waste this summer!

Liina Roostoja, Waste and Recycling Team, Aberdeen City Council

Aberdeen City Council began a food recycling service for properties with communal waste collections in June 2013. Food recycling bins are now in place at flats, tenements, student accommodation and multi-storey properties. Depending on where you live, the food recycling bin is located either on the street nearby or in the communal courtyard or bin store. Households are also provided with free kitchen caddies and bio-liners. Individual houses are provided with a brown wheelie bin for garden waste and food leftovers.

The Waste and Recycling Team has received feedback about the service through door-knocking campaigns and by meeting residents at events. Here are the main issues raised by the residents who do not currently use the food recycling service and our responses:

Your brown wheelie bin is for both food and garden waste. We have received the feedback that some residents are not aware that a brown garden waste bin is for food leftovers too. Yes – both garden and food are organic and can be processed into compost. If you

do not have much garden waste, please still use the bin for food leftovers or use a communal food bin nearby.

You can use any container if you don't have a green kitchen caddy from the Council. Some people have said that because they don't have a caddy, they cannot recycle food leftovers. In fact, you can use either the Council's green caddy or any basket or pot you have at home. As long as the food leftovers end up in the brown bin or in the communal food bin, we don't mind which basket you are using.

If you think that you don't consume much or you have nothing to recycle because you don't waste food – that's brilliant! But remember, 'leftover' does not mean only wasted food but also peelings, egg shells, teabags, coffee grounds, bones etc and it's all great for compost. It all counts, even the small amounts!

By getting into the habit of recycling food waste, you'll notice what types of food are regularly leftover or go off before you can eat them. This will help you to plan meals and shop smarter to avoid food waste.

If you eat fruit outside, please use the nearest communal food bin to recycle peelings or cores.

Once collected, your food and garden waste is sent to a recycling facility in Aberdeenshire and made into compost, a valuable resource for horticulture and landscaping.

Free replacement liners are available to pick up at all local libraries, Learning Centres and the Council's Customer Access Points at Marischal College, Kincorth, Mastrick and Woodside. You can also order liners online.

Visit www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling or contact the Recycling Team on wasteandrecycling@aberdeencity.gov.uk or 03000 200 292 for more information.

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/recycleforaberdeen

Read our latest blog 'Spring Garden: Get Your Green Fingers Ready!' about creative gardening by using recycling materials www.recycleforaberdeen.wordpress.com





Pete the Punk

Neil Young

It seems a long time ago now but back in the dark ages before they invented mp3s or even cds, we used to carry vinyl LPs around like trophies. Neil Young's *After The Goldrush* was one album I loved to show off as a teenager; his music sounded fresh, different and exciting to me at a formative time of my life.

Young is 70 now and has inspired many people and opinions over the years. Multi-talented genius, shaman and eco-warrior or crusty old hippy whose best days are behind him? What better way to find out than a wee road trip to see him at the SSE Hydro.

The great day arrives and we trek across Glasgow in 24° heat. Nestling on the banks of the Clyde, the Hydro is an impressive edifice, its silver skin shining in the sun.

With a capacity of 13,000, it is clearly designed to rake in huge amounts of money and we do our bit, buying bottles of water from one of dozens of food and drink outlets.

Heading into the cavernous arena, we thread our way as close to the stage as we can as the lights dim.

After a theatrical preamble in which a couple of guys dressed as dustbowl-era farmers scatter handfuls of seeds across the stage, the great man himself ambles on, sits at a piano and opens with a splendid solo reading of *After The Goldrush*, which goes down a storm.

There follows a short but sublime set of acoustic classics: *Heart Of Gold*, *The Needle And The Damage Done* and *Out On The Weekend* are all there, and pictured below

is the moment Young brings an actual tear to my eye, his plaintive reading of *Mother Nature (Natural Anthem)* with sonorous accompaniment from an old-style pump organ one of the evening's most affecting moments.

A grand opening then, and while it's hardly downhill all the way from here, the electric, and greater, part of his set leans just too heavily on material written with current band The Promise Of The Real. Despite the presence in this new-ish combo of Lukas and Micah (sons of Willie) Nelson, they come across as tight enough but nothing exceptional. Would they even be playing at this level if it wasn't for their illustrious father's connections? We'll never know, but Young swears by them.

As the temperature rises to uncomfortable levels, Young's lifelong love for extended guitar workouts gets a little wearing - a 20-minute *Down By The River* one notable exception. Thankfully, he returns to his acoustic from time to time with the likes of *Unknown Legend* and even in his eighth decade, he's in great voice throughout. Given his roots as a farmer's boy from Winnipeg, we can forgive an old hippie and champion of the working man the odd lapse, notably the embarrassingly mawkish *Monsanto Years*; then again, maybe we should just be glad someone is out there singing about this stuff. All in all, it's a good night, though at the rate our heroes are shuffling off this mortal coil, we really should be turning out to celebrate them while we still can.

