

woodside freepress

Summer Edition 2013

Featured in
this issue

Surfing the Don - Photography Project
Woodside Medical Centre Update
Bedroom Tax - A Personal View

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Editorial

Hello and welcome to the Summer 2013 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 wider 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

And if you would like to boost your confidence with some training, Shmu is currently running free journalism courses for the residents of Woodside. This course will take you through all the essential basics of journalism such as interview techniques and how to find a great story. If you are interested please contact Shmu on the above number.

Cover Image - Darren Wright



FUNDED BY



Surfing the Don - Vicky Mitchell

I moved to Woodside from Torry five years ago and discovered the River Don. I always knew it was there but apart from the occasional visit to Seaton Park, I never took the time to explore it. When I ventured along its banks I was amazed to find it wasn't a dirty river, but home to a diverse amount of wildlife and in places a haven of peace despite being 5 minutes from roads and housing estates.

I came across a Facebook group called, "River Don, SURF Aberdeen Project" by accident and found lots of people with an interest in the river - many of them, like me, enjoyed photography. We posted pictures of the river and the surrounding area and took part in some great events arranged by the SURF Aberdeen Project and the Ranger Service. In a short space of time a group of us had formed a friendship and started meeting to photograph the Don.

I was excited when I heard about

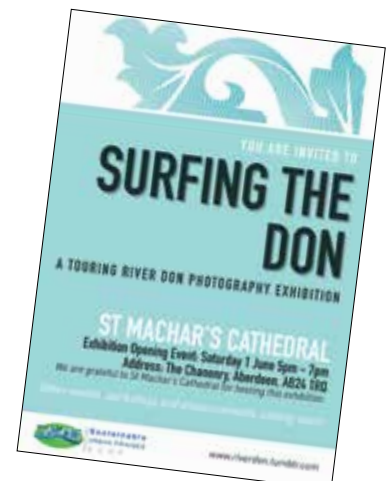
the Surfing the Don Photography Project, and was keen to get involved. I saw it as a great opportunity to bring the beauty of the Don to the attention of the people of Aberdeen. I felt this was especially important as the council had just given permission for the 3rd Don Crossing, which would affect the environment and wildlife for years to come.

Working on the project has at times been challenging, as with any group of people we have had differences of opinion and ways of working. It has also been fun spending time with friends doing something we are all passionate about. It has given me the chance to show my work in some of the best venues in Aberdeen and have my pictures printed by one of the best printing facilities in Scotland.

We have been incredibly lucky to have Alicia Bruce leading the project. She is a brilliant photographer and has loads of positive energy. It has been

clear from the start that this is a community project and she has left us to make all the decisions, as well as supporting us in arranging venues and advising us on how best to display our images and include as many contributors as possible.

I have learned a vast amount working on the Surfing the Don project, and worked with some great people. The project has made me think of where I would like to let my photography take me in the future, and shown me that it has the potential to take me anywhere.



Interview with Liam Richard Neish

By Abeer

Liam is a Printfield resident who we interviewed during his holiday following the first 14-week training in the army. I was eager to know the story behind his choice of career and if it lived up to his expectations.



What inspired you to join the army?

Liam: *I always wanted to join the army since I was a kid. My uncle - who served in the army for 25 years - was my inspiration. The army was my first choice and it will always be.*

How did you apply to join the army and what are the steps that you took to make reach your dream job?

The first step I took was that I visited the career office on Belmont Street where the Navy, RAF and the Army are based. I filled the application for the army and was invited to a number of interviews and tests which are basically Maths and English and a physical test where you should be able to run a mile and a half under 10.5 minutes.

How did you prepare for the physical test?

I went to the gym four days a week while working at a supermarket before I joined the army to prepare for this test and make sure that I passed.

What was it like to leave home and did you manage to look after yourself?

It was quite hard first then you sort of get used to it because you start

making friends and the other guys helped me through the training.

From your experience, do you enjoy being at the army?

If you are a physical person and don't like sitting in an office all day, the army is a great job to take up.

Can you take us through one of your days?

I get up at 6 am, shower, change and shave. This would usually be followed by a locker inspection, which is why we have to iron all our clothes. If they are not in a good state, your stuff gets chucked everywhere. At about 7:30am, we join different classes such as equality and diversity which deals with bullying to tell you how to work your way around it. We have PT (physical training), then we have drill which is marching.

We later go to the ranges and shoot targets. We usually finish the day at about 10:30pm.

What are your dreams for the future?

I want to do more than 20 years in the army. I am only 19 and I still got the whole world in front of me. I want to carry on with the life I have right now.

How do you feel when you hear

about operations and combat in countries like Afghanistan?

First you do get worried when you hear about it and also when see pictures. But what you got to think about is that you are protecting your own country and you've got to risk your own life to protect everybody back here.

How often can you have a holiday?

You get 38 days off throughout the year any time you want but it is up to the army, so they could say no but you get to work it out. This time I am here for 10 days.

What is the highlight of your army experience so far?

The passing out parade in front of your family after the first 14 weeks is the highlight. You get a good feeling inside when you see your family proud of you.

Thank you very much Liam for giving us the opportunity to talk to you about achieving your dreams. I am sure you will inspire many others in our area when they read this interview. It is not hard to reach your dreams whatever they are if you keep focused and motivated. We wish you all the best for the rest of your army career.

Absafe Neighbourhood Watch: *Safety through community*



Absafe Neighbourhood Watch has grown, bringing exciting new tools and approaches to the table. We empower residents to take responsibility for their community. We help you to say "This is what I want my community to be like", so that together we make it happen. A key part of this process is taking neighbourhood watch to new places to engage and support communities who perhaps haven't had any watches in the past, but could still benefit.

At the beginning of this year, Woodside had only a single watch supporting the community - a rather dormant scheme out of Tanfield. However, 2013 has already seen another very active watch spring up out of Fountain Grange and the Tanfield watch become re-energised and rejuvenated. Both have already experienced considerable success, growing their numbers and providing better support. Tanfield is focusing on improving the state of repairs for the area while tackling dog fouling, while at Fountain Grange, the residents have made a huge effort to improve reporting of serious

crime, as well as campaigning for enhanced security of the blocks, improvements to the embankment out of the front of the buildings and they've been building on the already welcoming and social atmosphere in the community. But Absafe Neighbourhood Watch won't be resting on its laurels there – they are already partnering with the Printfield Forum to enhance representation in the area while they're also in the early stages of setting up schemes in the Fersands area. Absafe Neighbourhood Watch is also proud to be supporting the Woodside Network, looking to help grow the already wide range of projects and services.

It's such an exciting time to be involved with neighbourhood watch in Woodside right now; there's so much going on with loads of opportunities to have fun, make new friends and make a real contribution to your community. So what's stopping you? If you'd like to get involved, give Ross at Absafe a call on 01224 646353 or drop him and email on Ross@absafe.org.uk. With Absafe Neighbourhood Watch, the sky's the limit.

Meeting Update

Elaine Johnson, network member, contacted Ross Merson from ABSAFE to start a new Neighbourhood Watch group at Fountain Grange.

We have been meeting every couple of weeks to get it started, exchanging views, what actions and tools were available to us. This included whether we wanted signs to be put up, access to Permanent UV marker pens and personal alarms.

On our second meeting we achieved eight members - and the city wardens, led by Gale Johnson attended with Ross from ABSAFE, and a Kittybrewster police officer. Elaine also made banana bread which was delicious.

All attendees were encouraged to call 101 to report any breaches of the peace in the area and take note of who was involved and where and when these incidents occurred.

We agreed we would like signs to be put up to notify people this was a Neighbourhood Watch area.

Tel:

01224 646353

Email:

watch@absafe.org.uk

Website:

www.absafe.org.uk



New Surgery Update

Work on Woodside's new, long-awaited medical centre is at last underway. Following several years of planning, the ground was finally broken at the Marquis Road site on 29 April, 2013. Construction will last approximately one year and the new facility is expected to open in May 2014.

The purpose-built, state-of-the-art building will house the medical practice currently situated on Western Road, which will include 12 GP consulting rooms, a minor procedures room, treatment rooms and a multi-purpose room.

The development will also be home to the Community Nursing Team and an NHS dental practice. A full range of NHS dental services (including oral hygiene) will be delivered from the new premises and members of the local community will be encouraged to register with the new practice, especially families. Patients and staff of the Western Road practice were consulted throughout the planning

process and their feedback was incorporated in the design and naming of the new facility. The building itself will be called the Woodside Fountain Medical Centre, while the GP practice will retain its current identity as the Woodside Medical Group. The new dentist is to be known as the Woodside Fountain Dental Practice.

One particularly happy development is that often frustrating parking issues at the Western Road premises will be a thing of the past, with 26 parking spaces plus five dedicated handicapped spaces available at the new site. There is also a public car park just a few yards along Marquis Road.

The Woodside Medical Group would like to reassure its patients that no action on their part is required at this stage - the practice will keep us informed with regular updates as the project progresses. Anyone with further questions, please contact practice manager Shonagh Swan on 01224 492828.

Turf-cutting ceremony for new health centre in Woodside

A ceremony to celebrate that start of work on the new health centre for Woodside took place on Wednesday the 29th of May.

The new building will replace Woodside Medical Group's current premises on Western Road, and includes a new NHS-only dental practice. Miller Construction will deliver this project, which is due to be open for summer 2014.

The purpose-built centre will house the GP practice with 12 consulting rooms, a minor procedures room, treatment rooms and a multi-purpose room. An NHS dental practice, with three consulting rooms, and the Health and Social Care Integrated Team, which includes the community nursing team and care management team, will also be housed in the new development.



Woodside Medical's Group's longest serving GP, Dr Julia Wallace, and longest serving Administrator, Freda Daly – both 25 years' service - with Diane Collie, Childsmile Nurse, Aberdeen City CHP, preformed the turf cutting ceremony at the construction site on Great Northern Road.

Building community spirit?

Miller Construction, who are building the Woodside Medical Centre, are making connections in the community. They have offered to show our nursery kids around the site and speak to them about the machines and materials they use. The kids who go out to play at nursery every day are fascinated with the new building next door and can't wait to go along.

The builders are also going to visit the junior clubs to get the juniors

to design some artwork for the boards surrounding the site and will speak to the kids about the dangers on building sites. Not only that, but the Job Club that meets every Thursday on Sandilands Drive will also get a visit. Heather Sharkey from Miller Construction will explain about the different careers in construction and how to get involved in the industry.

My Appointment with A.T.O.S

First of all, when you get the letter telling you when the appointment is, I like everyone else, wasn't too concerned about it, because it was about 12-14 weeks away. But as the time grew closer it started to pray on my mind as let's face it - anything that can end up with your benefits either being reduced or stopped is bound to affect everyone in one way or another.

On the day of the appointment I woke up at 5am after a terrible night without sleep and spent the next three hours clock watching till I left for my appointment.

The worst thing about that morning was finding the actual office, which is situated at 484 Union Street. As you can imagine it is not very well signposted (as all there is a shop front fascia) and you have to speak into a security intercom to get into the building.

And once in, after you have given reception your details, you have

to sit and wait in area which clearly reminds me of a dentist's waiting room, even down to the magazines.

However once you are called then the fun begins. The nurse that I got clearly knew what she was doing when she spoke about my medication and history. She was able to calm me down somewhat before she took my blood pressure then I had an ECG which all took about 15minutes.

The outcome of all of this was her telling me that my benefits will be unchanged and that I may have to go through all of this again after the next 12-18 months.

While I am glad that it's over for this year it does slightly concern me that it will start again with the next round of examinations.

P.S. Remember to take ID with you and you need to be 10 minutes early.



Pen Recycling

My name is Charlotte and I work for the Fersands and Fountain Community Project.

My new project is to collect pens that will then be recycled into durable consumer goods and raw materials. We will receive 2 pence for each pen we collect. The money we raise will help funding an ecological project for the children in the Woodside area.

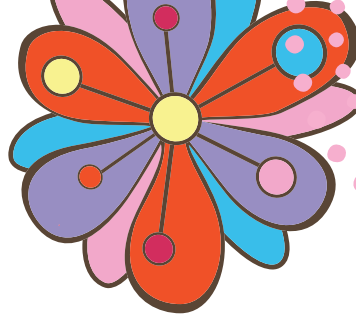
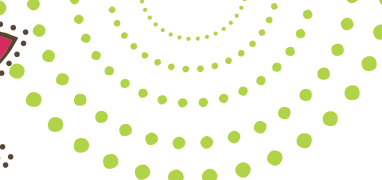
Would you like to be part of our project?

If you do, we will bring you a box, decorated by the children, for you to put your used pens in. We will then come to collect your pens regularly, usually twice a month.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact: (Charlotte) on 07572 858 688 or email: charlotte.tachelet@student.kdg.be or Magdalena@fersands.org

***Recyclingly yours,
Charlotte Tachelet***

*Items that we can collect: ball point pens, felt tips, mechanical pencils, markers, highlighters, corrections fluid containers etc
Items we cannot take: pencils and crayons.*



Not so Mini Gala Day

Fersands Mini Gala Day proved to be a great hit for all of the community. Families from all over Woodside and beyond popped in to see the many attractions.

There was the usual busy barbecue with burgers and burnt sausages, the now regular retail clothes sale bringing bargains galore, a bouncy castle with an endless queue and a crazy, colourful face painting stall. What was more novel though was the spectacular climbing wall to test the teenagers' skill, strength and nerve. There was also a photo studio for the funky families - a professional

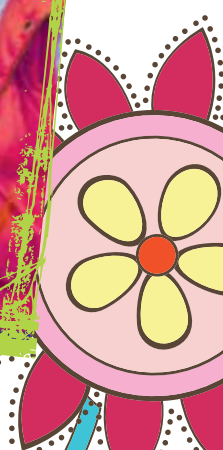
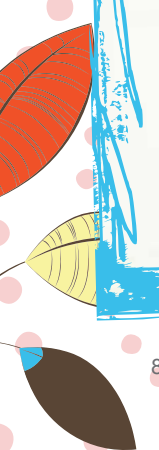
photographer was on hand to take portrait photographs for absolutely free.

In the hall we had many stalls including a henna tattoo artist and in the end room was a stage where local musicians rocked the audience. The music acts were both very experienced mature members of the community and also some teenagers performing for the first time. The audience gave them all a warm enthusiastic reception.

The gala day ended up being not so mini after all and partly due to the beautiful weather people

flocked to the centre and had a great time. Many thanks to all the Fersands Project staff who gave up their time and a big thank you to all the local volunteers who helped set up all the clothes, supervise at the chaotic castle, sweat for hours at the barbecue stall, baked cakes and much more.

The amazing thing was that all of this was organised in only three weeks! Look out for posters in early July as there may be something organised to start off the school summer holidays in style.





Glentanar BC U16 Cup Final Clash at Pittodrie

Local Woodside team, Glentanar Boys football Club, met Culter Boys at Pittodrie in the final of the Under 16s ADJCA Presidents Cup on the 9th of April. In a hard fought match, Culter eventually overcame Glentanar to win 3-1.

Both sides had scoring chances in the first half, with an early shot from Glentanar's Elliot McDonald going wide. Minutes later, Culter had their own chance to score after when Declan Milne beat the defence and had only goal keeper, Calum Ritchie to beat. However, Paul Orr raced to the goal line to pull off a great clearance. Soon after, Ritchie was at full stretch to save a shot from Declan Milne.

Culter went ahead 18 minutes into the match after being awarded a corner. It was taken by Declan Milne and headed into the net by Stuart Charleton.

Glentanar equalised, just before half time, when a great pass from Elliot McDonald was met by Lewis Stephen who beat the Culter Keeper with a well taken shot.

The second half saw Culter once more taking the lead. 8 minutes in, Aiden Combe scored from a pass by Callum Buchan. The partnership of Combe and Buchan struck again 10 minutes later, making it 3-1 to (for?) Culter. The remainder of the game was dominated by Culter, while Glentanar did well to hold on to the score line. Goalkeeper Calum Ritchie had an excellent game, making many great saves.

Despite the disappointing score line, Glentanar put on a great display and fought on until the final whistle. It was a fantastic effort and congratulations must go to the boys for making it all the way to the final.



Honey, They've Shrunk The Pitch!

The new sports area in Ferrier Crescent was finished in early June and, despite being only half the size of the Marquis Road pitch it replaced, already it is earning rave reviews from local residents.

On a beautiful, sunny day, local mum Iwoma (33) told the Free Press: "It's lovely. We can let the kids out without worrying where they are".

A game was in progress when I arrived and, asked why he liked

the new pitch, Joy (11) said: "It's great to have proper goals – and it is right next to the play park".

Logan (10) told us: The fences are not high enough – the ball goes over them all the time. But it is good to have basketball nets as well – this is much better than the old place".

It's early days yet, but who knows – some future football star might yet kick his first ball at this great new facility!





What's in a name?

Stewart Park was officially opened on Saturday June 9th 1894 by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen. The opening ceremony comprised a formal procession, official speeches and a fine lunch (wisely held in a marquee in case of rain).

The seed for such a park had been planted some years earlier by a Mrs Taylor donating a huge sum of money for the sole purpose of creating a recreation ground for local children. Almost half a million pounds in modern money, so large was this gift that the eventual piece of land

would be known as the Taylor Playground. Hoping that a suitable spot would soon be found, the money was shrewdly saved by the Woodside Commissioners.

In 1891, when the boundaries of Aberdeen stretched outwardly, a key negotiating term for the proposed amalgamation was that the people of Woodside would receive their very own park. Following incorporation, dogged persistence from the Commissioners ensured the obligation wasn't to be forgotten. A suitable plot of land was found, the cost having now risen so

much that significant extra funds were requested from the new administration.

And so it was, in June 1894 at the opening of the newly laid-out and decorated park, that tributes were paid to the original generosity of Mrs Taylor and other local benefactors in a speech made by Lord Provost Stewart, after whom the park would come to be known...

For more historic images, visit The Silver City Vault – www.silvercityvault.org.uk

Personal view:

Bedroom Tax

By Pete Thomson

Five weeks after the introduction of the new government policy dubbed 'the bedroom tax', 53-year-old grandmother Stephanie Bottrill stepped in front of a truck on the M6 and ended her life. Her harrowing suicide note blamed the government for introducing a law which said the house she had lived in for years was suddenly too big for her needs.

She would have to find an extra £20 a week or move to a smaller house, far from her friends and family. For a woman already struggling to get by on basic benefits, it was all too much. She killed herself.

Tragic, to say the least, but in a culture where bankers continue to receive huge bonuses despite nearly bankrupting the country, this was an entirely preventable death.

How does bedroom tax work? First, the government laid down tough criteria to decide whether a tenant is "under-occupying" their home and thus liable to the new tax, which only affects people on housing benefit. Anyone deemed to have one extra bedroom loses 14% of their housing benefit.

Tenants with two or more surplus rooms will lose 25%. This might not mean much to the millionaires making the rules but to the many thousands already living on or

beneath the poverty line, it can be the difference between having a roof over their heads, or even, in cases like Stephanie Bottrill's, a matter of life or death. With 660,000 families affected, no one can predict what will happen when evictions begin.

In a House of Commons where more than 70% of MPs are millionaires, the government could raise huge sums towards tackling the deficit by alternatives such as raising tax levels for higher earners. Instead, they rearranged tax allowances in such a way they actually awarded themselves a £50k a year tax cut. Nice work if you can get it. In the real world, thousands have their benefits cut.

"Anyone deemed to have one extra bedroom loses 14% of their housing benefit."

One criticism of the policy is that it lacks flexibility for individual circumstances. While there are some exemptions, those affected include families with sick or disabled children who need their own room because of their condition or to house specialised medical equipment; separated or divorced parents who require a room for when their children visit have also been hit.

One Fersands tenant said: "When I applied for housing there were scores of empty houses here. The council was delighted

to give me a 3-bedroom flat. It needed a lot of work but over the last 10 years I've spent a lot of money making it a home, including £4k on a new bathroom a couple of years ago.

"I've never been in rent arrears and, though I lost my job a few months ago, I was covered by housing benefit. Now, I need to find an extra £17 a week from £70 benefit or I could lose my home. At a time when basic living costs like food and energy are spiralling, it's impossible.

"I was advised to apply for Housing Discretionary Payment," he continued, "But this is a limited pot for those most in need, like the disabled or foster carers, so I'm not holding my breath. I've offered to move to a smaller property. None are available. I feel I'm being penalised through no fault of my own".

While it is true councils have had bedroom tax forced upon them, housing providers are taking a variety of approaches. The more enlightened, like Liverpool's Knowsley Housing Trust and Leeds City Council, are reclassifying thousands of homes to minimise the policy's effect on tenants – bedrooms reclassified as dining rooms, for example – and in Scotland the majority of SNP councils have stated they will not evict anyone taking all reasonable steps to

address housing debt caused by bedroom tax.

Aberdeen City Council Head of Housing Donald Urquhart told the Free Press: "The effect of the under-occupation issue and rent management will be kept under review. Any tenant who wishes to preserve their tenancy will be required to meet all conditions of their tenancy including rent payment".

On evictions, Mr Urquhart said: "The council has not adopted a policy of eviction etc. This does not mean that they have either considered and formally rejected such a policy nor that they won't in the future".

This doesn't actually tell us very much, but while there has been as yet no clarification on the decision-making process, city housing workers have been instructed to deal with bedroom tax arrears as normal housing debt, which suggests ACC will follow standard procedures once a tenant's arrears reach critical levels.

So, what are the options?

Tenants not wishing to move, or who want to cover rent shortfalls while waiting for a smaller property, can consider taking in a lodger. It should be noted that apart from the first £20, which will not affect benefit, lodger income will be deducted pound for pound from benefit.

Some tenants may be tempted to borrow from payday lenders and could fall into a spiral of debt. Stuart Cuthbertson of St Machar Credit Union said: "Payday lenders are a very expensive option. We are here to offer a low-cost alternative. Based at Woodside Fountain Centre - please drop in or call 01224 524935 – the Credit Union offers

savings facilities and very low-cost loans. We are also gearing up for the introduction of Universal Credit, when housing benefit will be paid direct to tenants. A number of tenants have already asked for their bedroom tax to be paid directly through their Credit Union to the council."

What options are there for those wishing to switch to a smaller property?

Downsizing: a tenant moving to a smaller property through the downsizing scheme can receive a £1,000 payment from the council, which can be used to clear current arrears.

Apply for a smaller property: ACC tenants can apply using a standard housing application. This allows the tenant to state their preferred areas.

"Some tenants may be tempted to borrow from payday lenders and fall into a spiral of debt."

Register for a mutual exchange: an option for tenants wishing to exchange properties. The council keeps a register of interested tenants who then contact potential exchanges on their own behalf.

With a national shortage of smaller council properties, most people don't have the option to move to a smaller property, which is part of the problem with the policy. Another option, however, is to rent privately. With private rents normally much higher than those of councils and housing associations, this could lead to situations where a social housing tenant moves from a 3-bedroom property costing £300 a month to a 1-bed private rental at £600. As the tenant would no longer be under-occupying, housing benefit would pick up the entire rent,

costing the government an extra £300 a month. This doesn't make sense.

Landlords have not been slow to pick up on this and with private rents spiralling, council arrears everywhere are going through the roof. ACC's rent account has taken a significant dent since the new tax was introduced.

Welfare Rights and Citizens Advice offices are under siege, reporting as much as a 900% increase in referrals. Food banks are struggling to cope with the upsurge in demand – half a million people in the UK are now said to be relying on food banks. Many tenants face stark options: pay the rent, feed the kids or heat the house. Nobody should be forced to make such choices.

There are no easy answers. The important thing is that people take the first step to getting help. The Cash In Your Pocket Partnership (CIYPP) is one of the best-placed to offer assistance through its network of more than 60 organisations. Referral forms to the partnership are widely available from community centres, libraries, housing offices and volunteer organisations or by emailing ronnie.wood@ciypp.co.uk. The most efficient means of contacting CIYPP is by filling in a very simple self-referral form on their website: <http://www.ciypp.co.uk>

In conclusion, it seems bedroom tax is with us at least for the immediate future. Those affected will have to deal with it as best they can, but if people are taking all reasonable steps to address the problem, it will be a hard-hearted council indeed that evicts them.

The Tivoli

ICONIC Aberdeen theatre The Tivoli in Guild Street has lain like a sleeping giant since it finally closed its doors in 1997. Many rescue attempts to revive its fortunes failed including its final incarnation as a bingo hall in 1966.

Now all that is about to change since Aberdeen businessman Brian Hendry has taken on the challenge to restore the building and auditorium to its former glory and is preparing to host shows from September.

The theatre was famed for its twice-nightly variety shows and packed audiences. While the restoration has been on-going, members of the public have had full access and local artists including Eric Auld and Howard Butterworth have featured in exhibitions.

Held in great affection in the hearts of Aberdonians for generations, The Tivoli has seen such legends as W C Fields, Robert Wilson, George Formby, Tony Hancock, Frankie Vaughan, Jack Milroy, Andy Stewart, Lex McLean, Jimmy Shand, Calum Kennedy, The Alexander Brothers and Aberdeen's own Robbie Shepherd all take to the stage.

Presenter of Radio Scotland's Take the Floor, Dunecht-born Robbie looks back fondly on his

time at the Tivoli. His earliest memory was appearing with Calum Kennedy in the summer of 1961 having passed an audition with the Garlogie Four – two mouth organs, fiddle, piano and vocals and at the time with his wife to be, Esma, on piano. Robbie sang lead vocals on Bothy Ballads and Scottish Music Hall songs.

Robbie said, "I will never forget how Calum spent time with me learning how to project on stage and get the ending right for maximum applause."

When asked about the great acts of the time Robbie remembers, "Calum of course, Robert Wilson, Will Starr, Angus Fitchett, Swan and Magee and Roland Smith. When Calum was struggling to keep it going later on, I was in the audience to see the guests he brought in like Denny Willis and Dickie Henderson."

His lasting memory was when he was to have his own Summer Season in 1964 competing with Andy Stewart at His Majesty's Theatre. Robbie recalls, "Aberdonians will remember the time well – along came the typhoid epidemic. Andy still prospered, but I was advised to cancel and pre-advertising alone cost me £500, which was a lot of money in those days."

"It's such a lovely theatre. Brian has shown me round and I wish the venture all success," Robbie added.

Companies, groups and residents have all been offered the chance to sponsor their very own seats just like back in the halcyon days when regulars used to reserve the same seats every week and queues used to form in Guild Street.

The restoration of the 450-seater auditorium is going well and future programme plans include pantos, bands and comedy as well as provision for rehearsal and meeting rooms.

Brian Hendry told us, "The grand re-opening of The Tivoli will take place at the beginning of November."

As part of The 50+ Festival, three concerts will be staged in September prior to the grand re-opening: a variety show with the Tiller Girls on September 8, Fiona Kennedy's Scottish show, The Kist will be performed on September 12 and international fiddle and cello duo Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Hass will appear on September 15.

Pauline Alexander



Woodside Network

the voice of your community



Confidence to Cook Course

At the end of the cooking class last week we divided up the odds and ends that couldn't be stored for another time. I don't like broccoli (or any vegetables really) but there was a small bit in with the half leek and other bits and bobs that I took home. I enjoyed the soup we'd made in class so I decided to experiment. I made vegetable soup and threw in the broccoli. Then I liquidised the lot. Absolutely delicious! In fact I was so pleased I gave some to one of my neighbours who appreciates a bit of home-cooking.

I really enjoy the class. I was a bit worried at first as I am the oldest one there but we all get on great and I enjoy the banter as we cook. I'm so glad I joined up. I wouldn't miss it for the world. On the bus home yesterday we were discussing how we could carry on meeting and cooking once the class stops and maybe do something for the community, so watch this space!

Here's a sample of recipes that we've cooked and enjoyed.

Soups

Carrot and Coriander
Lentil
Curried Parsnip

Main Courses

Coronation Chicken
Beef Stroganoff
Fish Pie
Quick Pizza
Onion Quiche

Sweets

Blueberry Muffins
Banana Coconut Pudding
Rice Pudding

Francis

This course is suitable for anyone over 18 who would like to find out about cooking easy, healthy and tasty meals on a budget. The classes, ingredients and transport to Sunnybank Community Kitchen are free (Small exclusive groups of up to six for the 6-8 week course).

**Contact Louisa - 01224 489832
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Tesco set to open new store

Woodside shoppers will soon have a bigger choice of facilities when a new store opens. Tesco - one of the country's leading supermarkets - has taken over the retail space previously leased to Au Naturale in Great Northern Road. The premises will be completely refurbished prior to the store's grand opening in early August.

The new shop - which will operate under the Tesco Express banner, selling mainly groceries and toiletries - is expected to create 20+ new jobs. The new posts will be a mix of full and part-time. Tesco spokesperson James Moggam told the Free Press the company was really looking forward to opening in Woodside and serving the local community.



An update on Woodside Library

There is an update report about libraries that went to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee at the end of May. The consultation is still ongoing and analysis of responses underway. We had 1050 responses to the online survey, 28 people attended an open session in the Town House in March. Up to the end of March, 11 emails and four written responses had been received from individual and stakeholder groups.

The analysis of the consultation will consider whether current community learning and library services are adequate and meeting the current and future needs of the community.

I can say that there are no current plans to close Woodside Library. As for the home service, it has been redeveloped since 2008 and has increased its capacity and is currently working at considerably less than its potential.

We are about to launch our volunteer programme later this year where we will be recruiting volunteers to work with us on several projects to enhance and enrich our services.

We believe that volunteers can work alongside library staff in a number of areas such as local history and ICT classes and support; however, they should not be seen as replacements for library staff.

The theme for this year's Summer Reading Challenge is 'Creepy House'. Readers are dared to explore the creepy house and discover its secrets (and some hair-raising residents!) along with six young adventurers and their intrepid dog.

As children taking part in the challenge read their books, they will receive shuddersome stickers that will reveal the residents! This year, the outrageously popular smelly stickers are back, but be warned - the stench is just as nasty as you'd expect to find in the Creepy House!

Please phone Woodside library on 01224 484534 to book in advance for the summer Bookbug Story and Rhyme Sessions on Thursday 1st August at 10:30am, 29th August 2013 10:30-11:00 and 26th September 2013 10:30-11:00.