

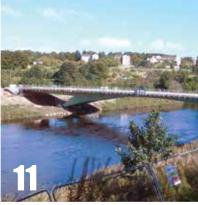


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Editorial

Welcome to the winter edition of the Woodside Free Press. This is YOUR magazine.

We are here to help you find out what's going on in Woodside and connect with your community.

In our pages you will find news, views, reviews and features plus lots of opportunities to take part in training and leisure activities for everyone in the community, young and old.

If you have something you would like to say, some local issue you think deserves coverage, or if you would like to get involved by joining the happy band of volunteers that puts this magazine together, please contact Mark Lovie at the Woodside Fountain Centre on 01224 524926 or Laura at Station House Media Unit on 01224 515013 - or email laura.young@shmu.org.uk.

All the content in this magazine has been produced and approved by members of the editorial team. The staff at SHMU are able to support and train anyone living in the area who is interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading.

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

First meeting: 25th January Second meeting: 8th February Content deadline: 22nd February

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FUNDED BY









Shmu's Youth Media Team were invited to visit Laurels Lodge to get a sneak peak of their new sensory garden before the opening event earlier this year.

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We met up with Sheila Gesma, the Home Manager, who gave us a quick introduction to Laurels Lodge and the type of work it specialises in. The home provides care and support to elderly people who suffer from dementia.

The group was then taken on a tour of the building, from the old fashioned sweetshop to the pub (we didn't have a dram though!).

First impressions were definitely a shock. Laurels Lodge felt very

inviting and homely. We were shown a variety of rooms within the care home. Each room and hallway presented different themes such as the sweetshop room, the hairdressers and the cinema. These rooms are decorated in a style that will be familiar to the residents so each person gets a say in how their bedroom is decorated.

The sweet shop was a huge favourite of the media team. As you walk through the door, you feel like you are being taken back into another time altogether. With a display of vintage memorabilia and colourful sweets in old fashioned jars, you really do

feel like you're inside an old sweetshop. This is to make the residents feel settled, give them a place of their own and bring them back to a time of their youth.

Another thing they have done to make the residents feel at home is put in the sensory garden. The garden is place where residents can go out and socialise and there will be other parts of the garden where they can plant different things and be active.

The official opening of the sensory garden was very successful and was attended by residents, staff, relatives, visitors and Care Inspectorate Linda Murray.



Printfield Community Project

Over the last 20 years Printfield Community Project has been working in partnership with Aberdeen City Council to provide up to 10 early years places for the children and residents of Printfield.

Much has changed over that period, with the influx of Eastern Europeans and a recent baby boom within Printfield and the larger Woodside area.

As part of this change, there has been a growing movement to encourage pre-school children to play outside and experience the benefits of outdoor play.

Printfield Project is based in two ground floor flats and is fortunate in having access to two front gardens. However, as many readers will know, a council front garden is not exactly the most exciting of play areas for children.

So the crèche workers and myself looked out for potential funding to improve the look of the garden and possibly install play equipment.

Looking around for different funding we discovered the Families and Community Big Lottery Fund and the Aberdeen Forward Fund. Our request could be suitable for both of these funds.

We consulted with Jim Nicol from Aberdeen City Council and the play equipment supplier as to what would be most appropriate equipment to buy to suit the preschool age group and the size of the garden at the front of the Project.

After some discussion it was agreed that we would purchase a toddler castle with two towers at a cost of £10,000 and also a retaining fence with gate at a cost of £3,000 so we had to raise at least £13,000 before we could go ahead.

Applications were put into both of the organisations for £7,000 each and after a time we were successful with both the awards.

Instillation began in July and was complete within two weeks but the plan to install a hedge is still ongoing.

Within hours of it being complete, the children were all over the equipment and were really enjoying themselves. The parents have also been using the equipment a lot, and are taking their children along when the Project is closed. This was always our intention so as to encourage more parents and children to get involved.

The impact this equipment will have on the lives of the children in the area cannot be underestimated. On behalf of the children parents staff and committee I would like to thank both the awarding bodies for their contribution to the future development of the family life at Printfield

I applied for £15,00 from Aberdeen Greenspace to improve Printfield's large play park area with a new path to make it more accessible to families and new trees for the gardens backing on to the park.

After submitting a plan, this grant was agreed and I approached the city council's Design and Development Department to take this forward. Within a couple of months this plan was complete and the residents have been very pleased with the outcome.

Jim Duncan - Family Development Worker

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Woodside Community Council

Earlier this year residents in Woodside expressed an interest in setting up a Community Council in the area. Community Council elections across Aberdeen were due to be held this year so local people were encouraged to submit their applications by the 1st of October.

Woodside has been successful in gaining a Community Council so well done to all the newly elected members.

The notice of poll was released on Monday the 13th of October and the successful Community Councillors are:

Donna Loraine Clark
Moira Selbie Geddes
Cecilia Ann Gvozdinsky
David Henderson
Charlene Kilpatrick
Laura McDonald
Jessice Charlotte Mennie
Archibald George Robertson
Douglas James Thomson

What is a Community Council?

Community Councils are statutory bodies, set up by an Act of Parliament. Their term of office is 3 years and elections took place earlier in the year. They have no executive powers although being close to and part of the local community they play a vital role in representing the views of the community to local authorities and other public bodies.

They receive annual grants from the City Council (minimum £500 plus a sum equal to 11p per elector in the CC area). Anyone who lives within the CC area and whose name is on the electoral roll can be nominated or apply to become a Community Councillor. There are also places for young people aged 16 and 17 years and other co-options are allowed.

Look out for more information on the newly formed Woodside Community Council in future editions of the *Woodside*Free Press.



Families flock to Stonehaven

Fersands Family Centre organised a family day to sunny Stonehaven. They invited all families in the area with children under five to jump on the coach and go for a paddle and an ice cream. Lorna, the lead Nursery Worker and Julie, the Family Worker went along to support parents, get to know the families and pass on information about the Family Centre.

All the families had a great time, there was some nice weather and there was lots to do, everyone involved agreed they would love to do it again next year.

Many families don't have access to transport or don't get the chance to go on a day out with other friends, so we are happy that this was a great success.



Summer Memories for

Fersands Families

Junior Playscheme for 5-12 year old

Summertime at Fersands and Fountain Community Project is all about giving the children the best possible summer. We aim to ensure all children in the area have the chance to take part in exciting and fun activities in the holidays. We give every child the chance to tell a positive story about their summer holiday regardless of their family situation.

Over five weeks we run day trips and summer camps for the local children. We visited Stonehaven, Camperdown Park in Dundee, Balmedie Beach, Satrosphere Science Centre and other interesting places where kids could have fun, learn new things and make new friends. Rain or shine, the children had a great time - and are already looking forward to next summer.

Thanks to Hopscotch Charity 10 children aged between 10-12 years old were able to visit the west coast of Scotland. They took part in some amazing outdoor activities such as mountain biking, speed boating, swimming. They also paid a visit to Oban and Fort William.

It was a fantastic adventure and unforgettable experience for all the children involved.

Playscheme Stats

Nine volunteers from five countries: Scotland, Poland, Turkey, Pakistan and Latvia helped during playschemes.

Seven volunteers were from the local community.

In total volunteers delivered 414 hours of service free of charge.

We took 35 children on residential breaks ranging from one to five nights.

Pive nationalities attended play scheme activities (Scottish, Polish, Latvian, Chinese, Romanian).

25-37 children attended every day trip. Total kids registered for play scheme 48.









Youth Playscheme

We provide 10 day activities for 12-16 years and two summer camps which last for five nights with Camp and Trek. The activities included a street party, Transition Extreme, graffiti workshop, dolphin and seal watching, breakout games, coasteering, trampolining, orienteering, laser tag and swimming.

Twenty one young people aged between 12 and 16 years old registered to take part in summer activities with an average attendance of 10. There were seven nationalities registered including Polish, British, Latvian, Russian, Indian, Turkish and Mali.

We also took 13 local youths away on a residential with Camp and Trek. This year we tried a new outdoor project called Abernethy. The location was fantastic, the young people loved meeting up with some people they had met last year, and they got to try new

things in a beautiful location. The girls group really enjoyed their camp because they got to meet up with the other groups they had been at camp with last year. This really enhanced their friendships and everyone got on really well, needless to say there was lots of tears at the end of that camp! Until next year...

As well as the under 16's programme we did a small programme for the 16-25 year olds. This included a two day pottery workshop, Breakout Games and a CSI investigation with Stratosphere which eight young adults attended and it was a fantastic way of getting adults into science!

At the end of the summer programme we got the young people to complete a feedback form some of the findings are listed opposite.

OF YOUNG PEOPLE
HAD FUN ON
THIS SUMMER
PROGRAMME.

OF YOUNG PEOPLE SAID THEY FELT MORE CONFIDENT BECAUSE OF THIS SUMMER PROGRAMME.

OF YOUNG
PEOPLE FELT
LISTENED TO.

Woodside C After school Club

Woodside Partnership After School Club is a service which provides care for children from Woodside and Kittybrewster Primary Schools. We have four members of staff to make sure the children are looked after and have fun. We can take a maximum of 30 children per day. This is a little bit of work done by After School Club children which they really enjoyed...

Here are some interviews by the after school club journalists, Maryam Fawaz and Megan Imlach who are both in Primary 5 at Kittybrewster Primary School.

Gyta Age 6

- Q. Why do you like it?
- A. Because the games are fun.
- Q. What is your favourite thing about club?
- A. Drawing.

Nico Age 9

- Q. Do you like it in Club?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why do you like it?
- A. Because of the game hall.
- Q. What is your favourite thing in club?
- A. Playing catchphrase.

Milena Age 6

- Q. Do you like it in Club?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How do you like it?
- A. Amazing!
- Q. What is your favourite thing in club?
- A. To see your friends.

Chloe Age 8

- Q. Do you like it in Club?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why do you like it?
- A. Drawing and Hama Beads.

Derryn Age 7

- Q. Do you like it in Club?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How fun is it?
- A. Amazing!
- Q. Why do you like it?
- A. Snack is good and I get to play.

Cara Age 7

- Q. Do you like it in Club?
- Q. How fun is it?
- A. Really fun.
- Q. Why do you like it?
- A. All the games.

Igor Age 10

- Q. Do you like club?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How fun is club?
- A. Very fun.
- Q. Your Favourite thing to do?
- A. Lego and football table.
- Q. Why do you like it?
- A. 'Cos you meet new friends and play in club.

Emma (worker)

- Q. Do you like club?
- A. I totally love club!
- Q. What is your favourite thing to do in club?
- A. I get to do activities with you guys in club.
- Q. Why do you like it?
- A. Because we have the best boys and girls in the world and everyone is very kind.

Summer Holidays in Club By Maryam Fawaz

In the summer holidays I had to come to holiday club. It was fun, we went to the cinema four times, four times! We watched Cinderella. Two by Two. Home and The House of Magic. We got drinks and snacks. I loved it as it was so much fun. We went to lots of parks and in one I nearly fell off the see-saw because I went too high, but I was ok. We also played party games and won sweets this was amazing fun. I really wish it could have been longer as it was so much fun! We also went to the foam factory, Satrosphere and Codonas.

Newbie in Afterschool Club.

By Megan Imlach

I started After School Club in August and I have made lots of new friends in club and also in school, I really enjoy walking up to club with them from school. We have lots of cool games to play which is really fun. We get lots of different snack which are yummy. I really enjoy coming to After School Club.











Woodside Parish Church

Dates for your Diary

Dec 5 - Christmas Fair in the large church hall on at 10am-12am

Dec 6 - Messy Christingle Service for all ages at 5-7 pm in the large church hall

Dec 13 - Christmas Concert with WPC Choir and the Granite City chorus and friends

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Watchnight Service on at 10:30pm, starts with refreshments

Dec 25 - Joint Christmas Day Service at St. George's at 11:15am on





Woodside Community Food Outlet

by Margaret Aisbitt

Woodside had a new food outlet at Fountain Grange Common Room on the Saturday 1st of August after discussions with Christine Mclean from CFINE.

Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE) is a charity and social enterprise. They aim to improve health and wellbeing and contribute to community regeneration in disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. CFINE is the lead partner in the Food Bank Partnership Aberdeen.

We made up posters and had them distributed over Woodside to advertise the Community Food Outlet.

Our first delivery included various fresh fruits and vegetables, at reasonable prices, and some free cereals. The first day was good and we made over £30. Moira Geddes and I decided to run it every fortnight. So on the 15th we had a reasonable day but most of our customers were dragged off the street!

At this point we were beginning to think this was the wrong place

as we are off the main street and hidden from view. After talking to some locals we found it was seen as for people on benefits and not as a part of healthy living and eating initiative. This was very disappointing.

On the third try we only had one customer and Moira suggested she take the left over fruit and veg to the Woodside Parish Church the next day. This worked out very well and the congregation welcomed the opportunity to purchase the fruit and veg after the service finished.

Talks with the Minister Markus Auffermann and Christine from CFINE were held on the 24th September at Fountain Grange and Markus agreed to hold the Community Food Outlet at the Church after the Sunday service at approximately 12:15pm.

All residents of Woodside are welcome.

The first date was Sunday 4th of October and we will be in the church fortnightly from that date.

Free calls to the Cash In Your Pocket Phoneline

For help with:

Benefits, budgeting, help with forms, appeals and reconsideration, getting back to work, low-cost loans, savings, pensions, community care grants, debt, food parcels, crisis grants, universal credit, sanctions, home & fire safety checks, volunteering, stop smoking, repairs & adaptations, heating your home... or any other money matter

Taking that first step to getting help with money matters can be difficult, particularly when you don't know who to contact, or where to go to get the help you need. It's even harder when you've not got any money, or no credit on your phone.

Now, to make it easier for people in the community to access the help they need, Cash In Your Pocket have installed a dedicated mobile phone in Woodside, to provide free calls to the phoneline.

The phone is available for use at Fersands Community Project and by pressing a single button, you will be put directly through to a member of the Cash In Your Pocket team who can provide advice, information, or where necessary, make an immediate referral to the most relevant partnership organisation(s) to get the specialist help you need.

If you, or anyone you know, is struggling to manage your money, unsure of your benefit entitlement, need help with form filling, looking to get back into work, have been affected by welfare reform changes, or need help with any other money - related matter please give us a call on 01224 686077, or drop into Woodside Community Centre.





Woodside Juniors Group

On Thursday 1st October 2015 the Woodside Junior Club Volunteers received an award to show appreciation towards their hard work and dedication to help kids aged 5-12 years develop friendships, life skills and inspire them to grow as individuals. The three longest serving volunteers attended the event at the Beach Ballroom to collect the award. The Junior Club runs every Tuesday and 3 days a week through the summer holidays. The longest serving volunteer, Angela McPherson has helped for 24 years. Angela's mum, Dorothy McPherson has helped for 18 years and Lesleyann Gray began helping around seven years ago. The other volunteers include Deborah Ferguson, Stacey Pattillo, Natalie McPherson and Courtney Ewing.

Get **help** with:



BENEFITS Pension Universal Credit

HEATING YOUR HOME? STOP SMOKING

LOW COST LOANS FIRE/HOME SAFETY CHECKS

SAVING & BUDGETING Too Many Bedrooms

Repairs & Adaptation Food Parcels





Hell on Wheels

So, they've ripped out the most beautiful piece of meadowland on the Don. The super-crane has come and gone. Thousands of trees have been felled, and the new road ploughs its way down to the Zoology building. The Third Don Crossing is about to

arrive and our lives about to get worse, more traffic, more noise, more pollution. I for one will be watching to see if the roundabout on Great Northern Road turns out to be a 'second Haudagain'. If so I will be looking for a shift. Carmageddon is not for me.

Marquis Road Blues

In the summer of 2004 the then Fersands and Fountain Free Press (now Woodside Free Press) featured an article entitled Cash Landings. It was all about how the Housing Department had finally got round to doing something about the deplorable state of the communal landings in the Fersands area. During his local ramblings, your intrepid reporter was surprised to

discover that the landings in the six-in-a-blocks on Marquis Road are completely untouched some ELEVEN years later. The surrounding fencing is looking pretty sad to boot. The entrances and landings in the eight-in-a-blocks look as though they could also use some TLC. So, come on Aberdeen City.

Let's get some work done.

MARQUIS ROAD



Don't Fence Me Out

There's hardly a day goes by when the infamous Haudagain roundabout doesn't feature in the local press. And then there's the hardy perennial of the rip off bus fares, lack of provision for cyclists, air pollution, pavement parking, and accidents. In short: the traffic.

Trouble is, there aren't really any alternatives (except walking). And yet there is a great resource on our doorstep: the river Don. For traffic the river is an obstacle, but for the walker/cyclist it could become an asset. All it needs is for the existing footpaths to be joined up and we have a network of traffic free routes, all the way along the Don (on both sides), through Seaton Park and Old Aberdeen. From Dyce to the Mounthooly roundabout, and scarce a car to be seen.

The fly in the ointment is the fence by the old Donside Mill (now Donside village). If this was to go then all the byways join up. But despite every effort from the community, the fence is still there. All we need is some wire cutters (and a little imagination) and Aberdeen could be as modern as, well, every other European city.

@Shmu

Woodside Juniors Group

at shmu







shmuFM had a visit from the Woodside Juniors Group on Tuesday the 6th of October

The group came along to the studio and met Laura who gave them a tour of the building and chatted to them about what they were going to do while they were here. After a quick cup of blackcurrant juice the group piled in to the studio.

We had Jamie, Jayden, Cayden, McCaulay, Domnus, Taylor, Billy, Bobby and Ryan in the studio and they were absolute professionals. We taught the group the basics on the desk and they were soon speaking on the mic and playing songs like seasoned DJs. Part of the reason the group had come along was to make a jingle

which promoted their upcoming car boot sale fundraiser.

The group are in full swing fundraising for their Christmas activities so keep an eye out for some of their future events. If you would be interested in sending your child to the Tuesday group then pop in to the Woodside Community Centre café and speak to Dorothy or Angela.

If you have a group that would like to come down to SHMU then get in touch with Denise on 01224 515013 or email denise@shmu.org.uk.

St Machar Academy Head Teacher Retires

Many of you may not been aware that Ms Isabel McIntyre, Head Teacher of St Machar Academy is regretfully retiring in January, 2016, due to ill health in her family.

Ms McIntyre has had a long and successful teaching career, with almost all of the past thirty years being spent at St Machar.

St Machar Parent Council have worked closely with Ms McIntyre to encourage more parents to become closely involved in the life and running of the school.

Ms McIntyre was asked to describe her experiences as Head Teacher.

Can you describe any funny moments?

In the year before the Olympics one of the competing athletes, David Florence, a world champion canoeist from Aberdeen came to do an inspirational talk to our pupils. It had an effect because the following week I had a rather irate email from a resident complaining about some of our pupils canoeing in the duck pond in Sunnybank Park where the water was not of the best quality. The pupils had a canoe but no life jackets but they must have thought that it was not very deep!

There have been so many funny moments where my jaw has dropped and I cannot believe what has happened.

Can you describe any proud moments?

Seeing how politely pupils treat visitors to our school.

Any time I receive a letter praising either pupils or staff.

Watching staff and pupils develop their leadership skills.

The Annual End of Term
Ceremony where so many
young people are rewarded for
attainment and achievement.

Gaining an Eco Flag.

St Machar pupils gaining the Aberdeen University Law prize two years in succession.

Becoming a School of Ambition.

Winning the John Stodter School Award at the Children and Young People's Service Awards.

What are your hopes for the future?

I hope my successor is able to continue to move the school forward and build on the work which has been undertaken by all the staff to offer a large number of learning opportunities to pupils. I hope learning and teaching is at the heart of everything and that the school keeps trying to 'get it right for every child.' St Machar is a school

where people are valued and high quality relationships are key- whether that is pupils, staff, parents or our wider partners. These relationships are essential to further progress.

On behalf of the members of St Machar Parent Council, the staff, parents/carers and pupils, I am sure you will join me in wishing Ms McIntyre a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Mrs Andrea Smith

Clerk of St Machar PC



Mr Trabel McIntyre



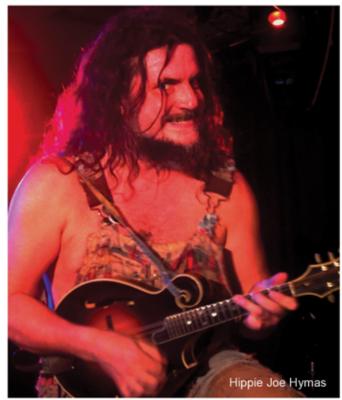
Music. It's a funny old game. You look forward to a gig for months but somehow it doesn't quite come off on the night and you end up feeling decidedly underwhelmed. The other side of the coin, of course, is going to see a band you don't really know and being totally blown away. The missus and I are certainly disappointed by Leftfield at the Music Hall. Oh, they are excellent in parts - the lightshow is great and we dance our socks off at times, but the set is poorly put together and we can't help but leave feeling there was definitely something missing. A few nights later we trundle out to see Hayseed Dixie, a band we know nothing about. The first surprise is that the place is packed: not unknown, but for a Wednesday night at the Lemon Tree, impressive.

We make our way to the front just as the band comes on: acoustic bass and guitar, mandolin and banjo. No drums. And they look like hillbillies. Play like 'em, too. A bluegrass version of Rainbow's All Night Long kicks off proceedings and the crowd surges forward. Game on. Now, this is not a band looking to change the world, but from a medley taking in Edwin Starr's funk classic War and Black Sabbath's War Pigs, these guys have the audience in the palm of their hand. When they're not reeling off clever and often hilarious bluegrass covers of Motorhead or AC/DC, main man John Wheeler keeps the banter flowing, eyes twinkling as he good-naturedly slags off Coldplay, slugging regularly from a bottle of prosecco. Vibrant hillbilly takes on the likes of Eye Of The Tiger and Don't Stop Believing follow - not to mention a fabulous Hank Williams/Elvis Costello mash-up.

It's blindingly obvious these guys are top notch musicians. Indeed, the Guiness Book of Records lists recent recruit Johnny Butten as the world's fastest banjo player. Mandolin maestro Hippie Joe Hymas meanwhile prowls the stage picking impeccably, gurning like a cartoon villain at every opportunity.

The set throws up a few surprises. Queen's Fat Bottomed Girls gets the full Dixie makeover and Motorhead's Ace Of Spades features some splendid interplay between Hymas and bassist Jake "Bakesnake" Byers, the latter sporting the best redneck beard this side of Deliverance. As if on cue, Duelling Banjos makes an appearance, tonight twinned – and rather charmingly at that - with Beatles classic Michelle.

We temporarily desert bluegrass as Black Sabbath's Paranoid is given the olde English folk song treatment, stopping only for Wheeler to deliver a strong anti-fracking statement. Coming from Americans with first hand experience of fracking and its environmental challenges, this is timely and relevant. At this point, a good oldfashioned rammy breaks out down the front. A swift plea for calm from the stage soon timmers things down, though, and the main offender is quickly ejected.



Phew - just like old times there but the feelgood factor is swiftly restored. Wheeler gently chides the audience. George W Bush is all our fault, he claims: after all, didn't his forebears, the Campbells, emigrate from Scotland in the 1820s? Oh well, sometimes you just have to put your hand up and apologise. At least he didn't mention Trump. Wheeler then announces "the best killin' song ever" and the band embarks on a joyful, near-vaudevillean romp through Bohemian Rhapsody, complete with 4-part harmonies of which Queen themselves would be proud. Next comes a highly amusing account of how Hayseed Dixie came about. Wheeler - after a skinful of best corn liquor, the story goes - came to wondering how AC/DC might sound were they born in Tennessee rather than Australia and, just for fun, put his ideas on tape. Whether this is entirely accurate is debatable, but it all adds to the fun and the rest, as they say, is history. Fifteen years, 12 albums and nearly 1,200 gigs later - this is their eighth visit to Aberdeen - they're as popular as ever. It's not hard to see why. They launch into one last, gloriously extended medley with a singalong Hotel California that near raises the roof, taking in Careless Whisper, Living On A Prayer and Eternal Flame along the way. Somewhere, they slot in a majestic Comfortably Numb that highlights Wheeler's superb vocals, rocking to a close with Highway To Hell. Suddenly, it's all over and the boys leave the stage on a tidal wave of goodwill. No doubt they'll be back soon. Don't miss 'em!