

# woodside free**press**

Winter Edition 2017



Photo Credit: Nadine Ralston

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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.

Within this magazine we have news from Active Schools, CFINE, and Woodside Burgh Hall. 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](mailto:laura.young@shmu.org.uk).

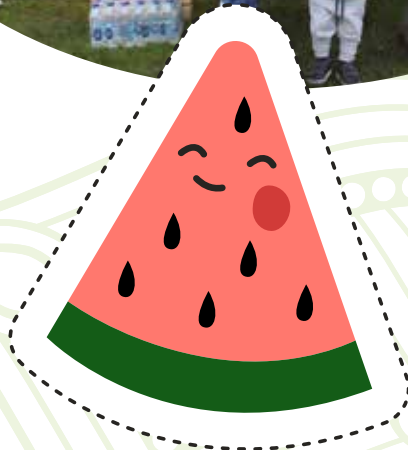
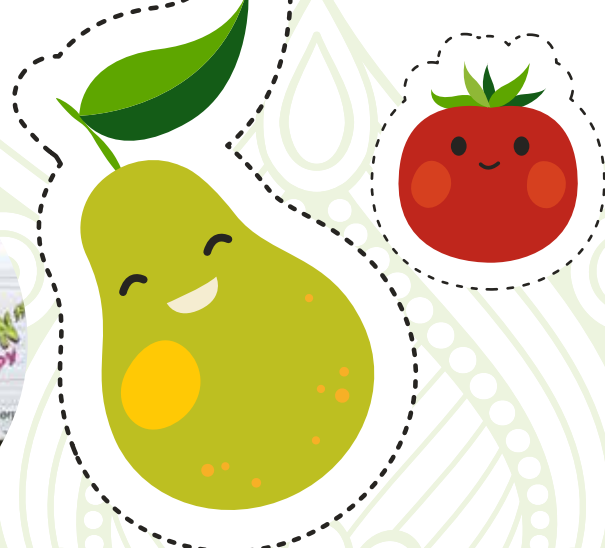
All the content in this magazine has been produced and approved by members of the editorial team.

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.



Supported by





# TUK IN GOES FORTH!

On a cold Thursday evening 'Tuk In' had its debut outing in Fersands. 'Tuk In' is CFINE's (Community Food Initiatives North East) latest initiative, a mobile community café run out of an electric Tuk Tuk.

The 'Tuk In' uses in date food which would otherwise have been sent to landfill to create delicious, healthy, low cost meals prepared by volunteers in CFINE'S 'Cook at the Nook' community kitchen. The meals are then going out to areas of high food poverty and food insecurity. Food will also be sold to businesses around Aberdeen and the profits from this will go back into the charity.

According to the Independent we waste 7.3m tonnes of food each year. In some areas of Aberdeen 1 in 3 children grow up in poverty.

CFINE began fundraising for the 'Tuk In' van at the beginning of

this year and in May 2017 they surpassed their target of £12,000 which meant they could purchase the van and pay for all the bits and pieces to get the van out on the road.

Fersands Communiy Project had invited CFINE along to their youth outreach evening, to serve food to the young people that they were engaging with. Fersands Fersands Communiy Project had put on a silent disco and the park was really alive with everyone having a great time. Sean and Richie handed out 51 portions of soup in less than half an hour, the soup went down a treat and heated everyone up nicely.

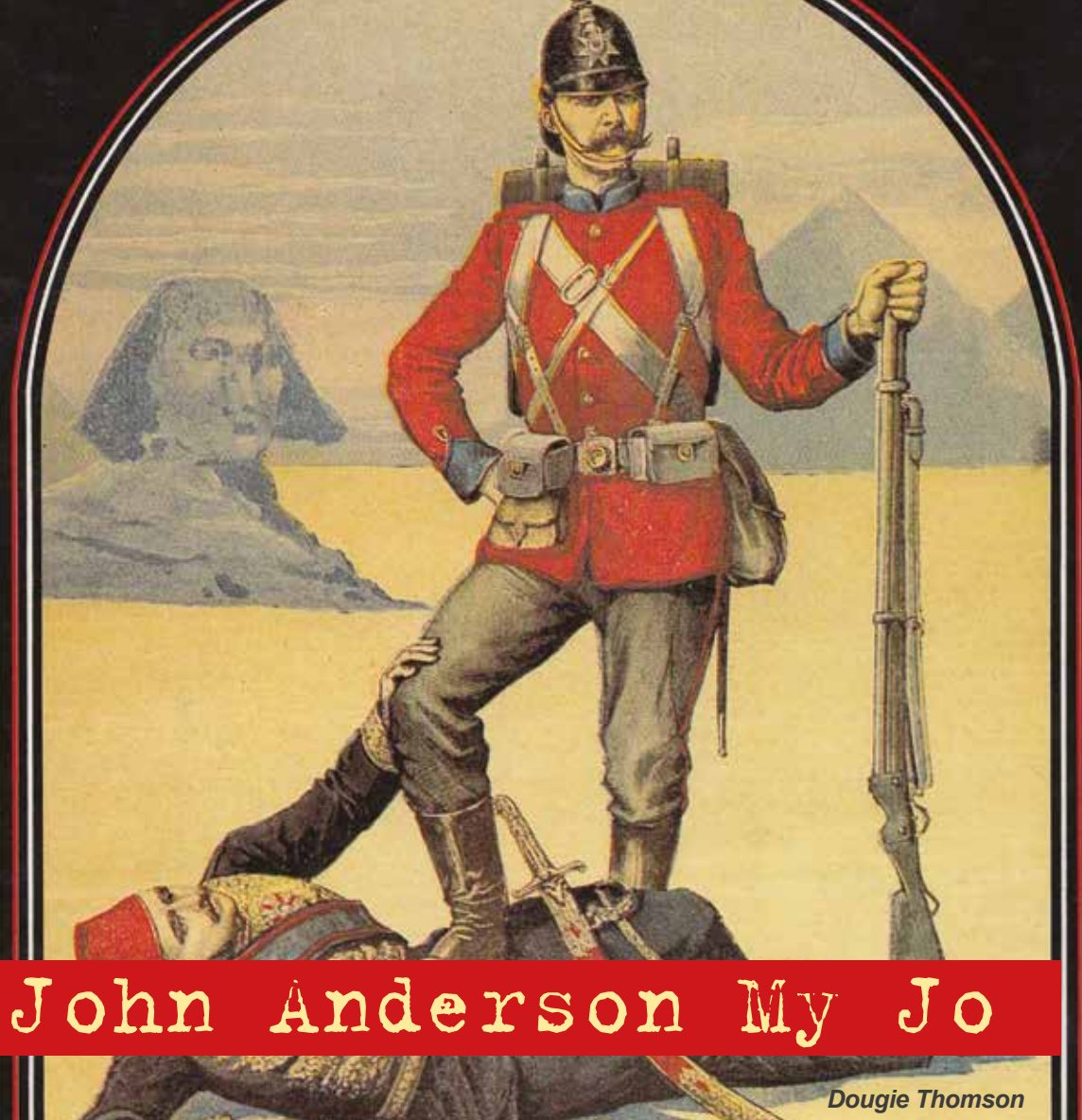
**Tuk In** will be at the Fersands Communiy

Project on Wednesday afternoons in the very near future, so keep your eyes out and we will see you all soon.

For more information about **Tuk In** contact Sean on 01224 596156 or email [SMcVeigh@cfine.org](mailto:SMcVeigh@cfine.org).







## John Anderson My Jo

*Dougie Thomson*

Woodside has a rich and interesting history, and it's great to see the Free Press feature stories on local history, landmarks and buildings. The last issue had a large piece by Pete Thomson on a local character from the Victorian era, John Anderson, founder of our Woodside Library. It's a fascinating story, but as I read through it I found myself becoming increasingly frustrated.

The article is an uncritical appraisal of the wonderful life of Sir John Anderson, about his patriotism and the 'unusual zeal' he put into his work for the country. We are told all about his 'success', his 'decades of tireless work on behalf of the nation.' And finally, about his gift to the people of Woodside, the library. But the backdrop to this stirring tale of local boy made good is the ripping yarn of colonial genocide, a mass slaughter that our own John Anderson made a considerable contribution to.

We are living at a time when the lives of our illustrious ancestors are being reconsidered. Cecil Rhodes is no longer a national hero. The appropriateness of street names and statues are being questioned. My own view is that our history is what it is, and no amount of tampering with mere names can change it. James Penny may have been a slaver, but do we really want to change the 'Penny Lane' that the Beatles made so famous?

John Anderson lived and worked during the rise of the British Empire on which the sun famously never set. The British did prefer 'soft power', of course, but its history is littered with massacres and exterminations, opium wars and gunboat diplomacy. And all powered by the guns and bullets Sir John Anderson worked 'so tirelessly' to provide. His patriotism was mirrored in Germany by contemporaries working equally tirelessly for

companies such as Krupps. Their rivalry was to come to a head in 1914 and the slaughter in the trenches. This arms race fuelled by corporate profiteering. However much John Anderson might have worn his patriotism on his sleeve, his personal wealth mirrored the wealth of the corporations he so 'zealously' served.

But Anderson was a man of his time. Before we get too critical about those times it does well to remember that our own times have more than their fair share of infamies. Woodside Library is one of my favourite buildings, and I am admiring it as I sit and write this article. But the next time you nip in to check your e-mails, you would do well to remember that its building was funded by colonial exploitation, and that every brick was bought and paid for by plunder and murder.





Margaret Aisbitt

## When do you know autumn has arrived?

When the young of Woodside are back in the rhythm of going to school or nursery and parents get used to dropping off and picking up, whatever the weather.

There is a 'nip' in the air and people talk about the nights 'drawing in'. Which means according to the Cambridge dictionary:

**Phrase verb with draw**  
**If days, evenings or nights draw in, it becomes darker earlier because autumn or winter is coming.**

Other autumnal things are coloured leaves; some brown, some red, some gold and bushes and trees covered in berries, fruits and nuts.

The highlight of this season is Hallowe'en or All Hallows' eve dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows) martyrs, and the departed.

Nowadays more 'Trick or Treat' than 'guising', more pumpkin lanterns than carved turnips. Guising is the old practise of kids disguising themselves in fancy dress with masks and performing an act,

reciting poetry, performing a dance or singing for sweets or money in local houses. Usually small groups of friends got together to do this.

Now we see more kids doing the 'Trick or Treat' thing that has been picked up from American TV and childrens' programs.

Adults are having Hallowe'en parties with scary spiders, spooky skeletons and spiders web decorations.

*Enjoy your Autumn*





## Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen Launch Event

The Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen (SFCPA) launched on Friday 1st September at an event which gathered from people across Aberdeen to discuss how to progress going forward.

The partnership is chaired by Cllr Lesley Dunbar, who spoke at the event on both the successes of the partnership so far, and the critical need for such a partnership in Aberdeen.

During the launch, partners were invited to sign their names to a Sustainable Food Charter, indicating actions that individuals and organisations could take to show their commitment to driving forward the sustainable food agenda in Aberdeen. This Food Charter will be available online, and the SFCPA plan to gain city-wide support via this pledge.

### SUGAR SMART Campaign

At this event, SFCPA launched their first campaign. The campaign will recruit a broad spectrum of businesses and organisations (including local

schools, community centres, and work places) to make SUGAR SMART pledges. SUGAR SMART participants will lead the way in supporting Aberdeen residents to lead healthier lives.

For more information on the SFCPA or SUGAR SMART Aberdeen contact:

**Laura Penny**  
Sustainable Food City  
Partnership Aberdeen/  
SUGAR SMART Aberdeen  
Co-ordinator

**Email: [SFCPA@cfine.org](mailto:SFCPA@cfine.org)**  
**Tel: 01224 596156**

### Food Growing Initiative

There is an exciting new food growing initiative being launched in conjunction with the SFCPA. Aberdeen City Council recently approved £145,000 of funding for a food growing programme targeting the regeneration areas of Aberdeen.

The projects and initiatives will offer innovative community food-growing spaces and seek to promote community food

growing city-wide. The projects, which include building growing spaces in some local schools, will provide an opportunity for more people in the city to enjoy the benefits of growing their own food. This falls in line with the council's duty to create a Food Growing Strategy as part of the Community Empowerment Act.

A Food Growing Development Officer will begin in post at Community Food Initiative North East to ensure that there is effective community engagement and involvement throughout this process.

For more information on the food growing initiative, contact:

**Neil Woodward**  
Community Growing  
Development Worker  
CFINE

**Email: [NWoodward@cfine.org](mailto:NWoodward@cfine.org)**  
**Phone: 01224 596156**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SFCPAberdeen/>**  
**Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SFCPAberdeen>**





# HOW TO STOP SMOKING

**(in a hundred easy stages)**

*James Douglas*

That's it. It's over. No more smoking. And for one simple reason. I love life, I don't want to die. My contemporaries are beginning to pop off, and the smokers are the first to go. You have to take responsibility for your own health. No-one's going to do it for you.

'It's easy to give up smoking', said George Bernard Shaw, 'I've given up hundreds of times.' That's how it's been with me. I smoke. I'm on the chewing gum. I smoke. I'm on the patches. I smoke....and so on ad infinitum. But this time that's it. I'm going to be sixty soon. On my birthday I'll be nicotine free. I swear it.

You do need that extra mental push. One guy I know made a deal with God. If I give up don't give me cancer. If I have ONE cigarette, cancer's OK. It worked for him, he hasn't smoked in ten years. We smokers have all done similar things. I used to bet my partner that I could last longer than she could. I usually 'won', but after two days, there we both were, puffing away. But no when I'm sixty years old. That's it. Absolutely no more cigarettes.

And right enough. I'm sixty and one quarter, and nicotine free. I'm fitter, look better, feel better. It goes without saying I'm better off money wise. All those years smoking away! How irrational can you get? Look at those idiots outside the pub, they're slaves to that filthy little habit! Don't they know what they're doing to themselves? Why can't they be like good little me?

And then I went away hiking in the wilds of the west coast. I had been on the trail for days and was exhausted when I finally got to the bothy. There was this guy there, and we put together our resources and made something like a decent supper. We managed to find some wood and then found a little peat and soon we had a roaring fire going. We both had some malt whisky. My new friend happened to be a good conversationalist. Then, he took out the piece de resistance. Two Cuban cigars. Romeo and Julietas. Picture the scene. Wholesome tiredness, a good meal, whisky by a raging fire, conversation and a Cuban cigar. It's the smoking that made the day... perfect. How could I say no? After all, I love life.....



# Woodside Burgh Hall

*Is community ownership the answer?* Dougie Thomson

After a lengthy campaign to save our historic burgh hall here in Woodside, we finally have an answer from the powers that be. The hall has been deemed 'surplus to requirements, and is to be flogged off to the private sector. No guarantees as to the future of the building. In fact, there is nothing to stop a prospective buyer demolishing the place and creating a car park. They paved paradise and put up a parking lot.

This news has, of course, upset a lot of local people. The Burgh Hall's history is intrinsic to Woodside as a whole. The hall, together with our library and church remind us that Woodside was once an independent town. And, far from being 'surplus', it is a building very much required by the community. Several local groups have expressed an interest in using the building.

So, after a haphazard campaign from people at the Fountain Centre, the local minister and this publication, local MSP Mark

MacDonald got involved and arranged a meeting in the Fountain Centre on September 16th. There was a healthy turnout of around seventy people. There was a follow up meeting in October. There was, of course, consternation that the hall should be threatened with such a fate, the problem is, what is to be done?

We have in Scotland the Community Empowerment Act, which will help to empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services. (Scottish Government website). This sounds just the job. If the community can come up with a plan over the next few months we can stop the sell-off and have a vital community resource.

There are two main models. To lease the building from the Council (the Phoenix Club in Torry is an example) or to take the building into full community ownership (like

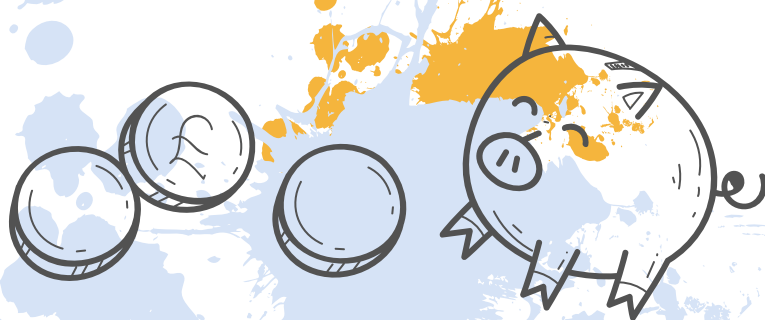
the Mission building in Fittie). There is nothing to stop something like this happening, if there is a strong community demand for such a project.

It all sounds great in theory. Trouble is, are there enough local people willing to get involved and spend time and energy to save the hall? Reality set in quite quickly when some of the more hard-headed folk at the meetings started to suggest what exactly is involved. There's fixing the leaky roof and general maintenance for starters. And then how about the day-to-day caretaking and cleaning? The Phoenix Club have raised £6,000 just to get started. Who's going to set about fundraising?

So, the ball is in our court. Just how much do the Woodside community want to save the hall?

**Want to get involved? Contact  
Madelene MacSween on  
07917284489/01224522482  
or email [mmacsween@  
aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:mmacsween@aberdeencity.gov.uk).**





## St Machar Credit Union; from sharing a space with a crèche to buying a bank!

In the early to mid-eighties, times were hard for many communities in Aberdeen. Although some were doing well in the oil industry others on low wages or unemployed found it difficult to get by.

By 1986/87 unemployment was around 3 million. Thatcher had started her third term in office and the benefit system continued to see many changes. Some people found it difficult to get bank accounts, loan sharks were operating illegally within the poorest communities. The "provv" made rich pickings on doorsteps tempting mums with domestic items and children clothes that they could pay later at a massive interest rates.

Community workers organised meetings with residents in Woodside, Tillydrone and Seaton to discuss the concept of a credit union and find out how it could help.

As interest grew residents visited credit unions in Bradford, Glasgow and Dundee to learn how they worked. The residents got serious and started undergoing training for the different tasks needed to set up a new organisation that could lend money and encourage saving.

The whole point of the credit union was to encourage people

to start saving small amounts and to teach people with no financial background the benefits of low interest loans.

St Machar Credit Union was launched 4th November 1990, after four years of preparation it became the first credit union north of Dundee with its base in Sandilands Drive. A small crowd and local journalists watched footballer Alec McLeish cut the ribbon and open the organisation for business.

These volunteers became community activists, offering support to others with satellite saving points within the communities. The Middlefield area joined in in 1999 and opened a satellite point in the Healthy Hoose.

Slowly the message started to spread - these credit union people are on your side, they want to give you a good deal, they are not interested in profit, they are all volunteers, they are all local people. You can trust them.

People who had never saved started to save, and lives began to change.

Some bought their first ever car, families had their first real holiday, weddings were paid for, funerals were paid for. People saved for

Christmas instead of getting over their heads in debt.

In 2009 the credit union moved to the Woodside Fountain Centre. This move brought them in contact with many more people and soon the membership doubled. Fast forward to May 2016 and St Machar Credit Union had purchased the former premises of the Clydesdale Bank on Great Northern Road.

At the end of 1991 there was around 250 members. At the beginning of 2017 membership has grown to now have a membership of 1500. There are five members of staff and volunteers are still heavily involved in the management and operation of the organisation and we are still keen to recruit more volunteers who are interested in helping.

It's a wonderful achievement to come from such humble beginnings to owning their own business property and have such a large membership and still operate with a strong social conscious.

Want to find out more about St Machar Credit Union? Give them a call on 01224 276994.

# Active Schools

## Aberdeen

Active Schools is an organisation which aim to provide opportunities for young people to participate in sport in schools and the wider communities, grow and support a network of people who can deliver high quality sporting opportunities, improve connections between schools and clubs and make sport a positive experience for young people who will continue to take part in activities throughout their lifetime.

The organisation has a member of staff based in each secondary school in Aberdeen who focus on that school as well as the feeder primary schools. Kim McRobbie is the Active Schools Co-ordinator for the St Machar area (you can find out more about her over the page) and has been working in the area for the last six months.

There are loads of activities taking place in the Woodside area for children and young people to get involved with.

### **At Woodside Primary School:**

**Monday 3-4pm – P5/6 Netball**

**Wednesday - lunchtime - P4-P5**

**Wednesday 3-4pm P1-3  
Multi-activity**

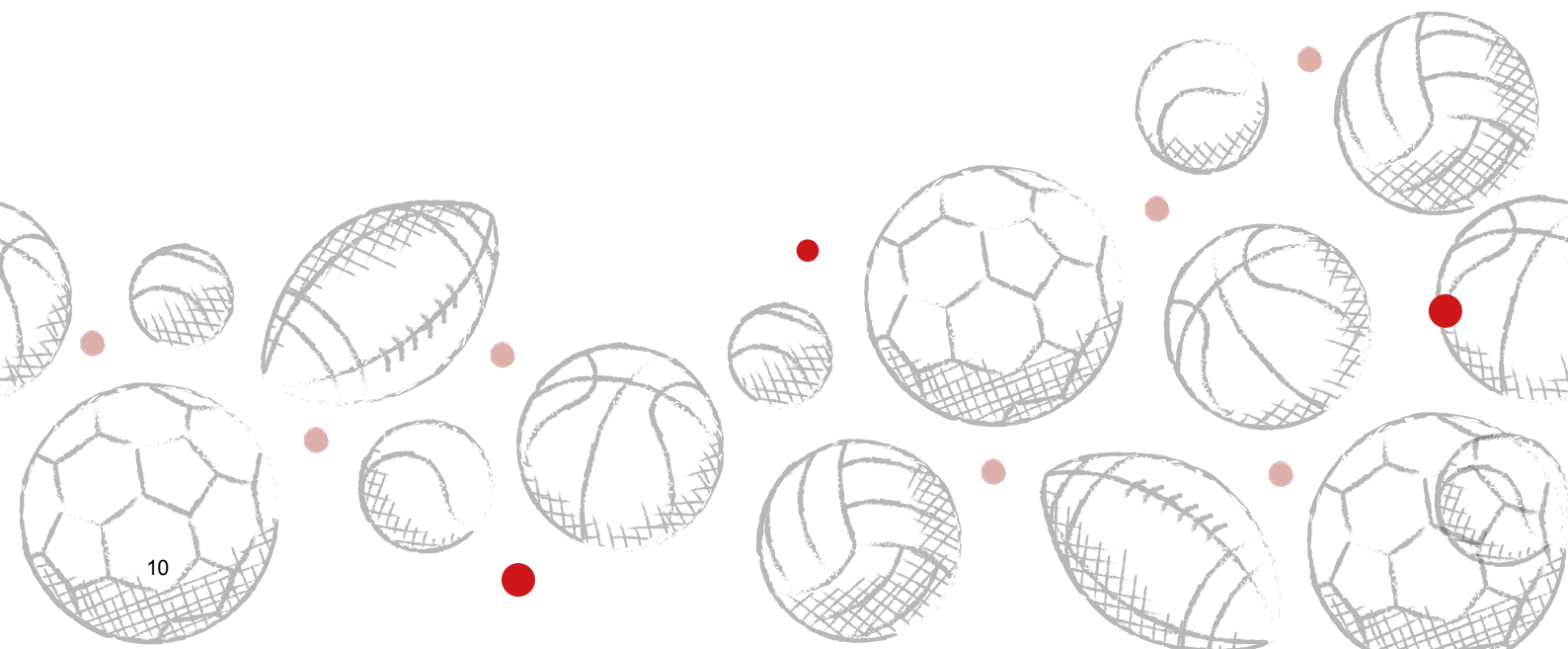
**Thursday 3-4pm P1-3 Yoga**

There are also football sessions at Smithfield House Church which is led by Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust in partnership with Jesus House Church and is supported by the SFA. This runs on Thursdays: 5-7 year olds from 4.30-5.30pm and 8-12 year olds 5.30-6.30pm.

Last year saw a great increase in activity levels for children currently at Woodside school. Essentially, 44% of children at the school took part in an extra-curricular activity, 44% of which were female. This was achieved through offering football, dance, yoga, multi-sports, tennis and boxing to the children. As with any activity

we are obviously relying on the strong support from schools, teachers, parents and volunteers to help us offer a good variety of activities for the children. Active Schools St Machar have also developed good partnerships with Aberdeen FC Community Trust and Russell Anderson Development School, both of which support and deliver football sessions in the area.

As with any charity, they rely on a strong volunteer base to continue to offer as many free activities to the children as possible. Unfortunately, the well-established Woodside school football teams have been unable to start up this term, therefore they would be looking for volunteers to help get involved and help run the teams. Likewise, if there are any keen dance enthusiasts willing to get involved with lunchtime/ after school sessions, the children would be forever grateful!





# Active Schools Coordinator St Machar Associated Schools Group (ASG)

**Name:** Kim McRobbie,  
**Contact:** [KimMcRobbie@sportaberdeen.co.uk](mailto:KimMcRobbie@sportaberdeen.co.uk)  
**Mobile:** 07825 228173,  
**Office:** St Machar Academy, PE Dept.



**Sport:** I like to challenge myself and try every sport at least once. My main interests are playing netball and walking football!

**Other Activities:** I enjoy volunteering as a football coach with Aberdeen FC Ladies. This has increased my confidence and skill base and given me the opportunity to see many different parts of Scotland. To relax, I can often be found exploring the beautiful walks and parks in and around Aberdeen - especially on a sunny day!

**Career:** After graduating from Robert Gordon University in 2013, I worked with local schools, clubs and organisations to increase football opportunities for girls within the area.

**Promoting fun based sessions and running weekly festivals,** allowed me to see first-hand the benefits that children get from participating in sport. This gave me the desire to work with Active Schools, helping make sport more accessible to all.

**Statement:** Recently becoming the Active Schools Coordinator for the St Machar ASG has highlighted the positive sense of community within the area. I am excited to work with all 7 Primary Schools, St Machar Academy and local community groups to continue supporting and growing the activities on offer. My main goal is to work with volunteers, schools, parents and children to offer a wide range of activities, helping

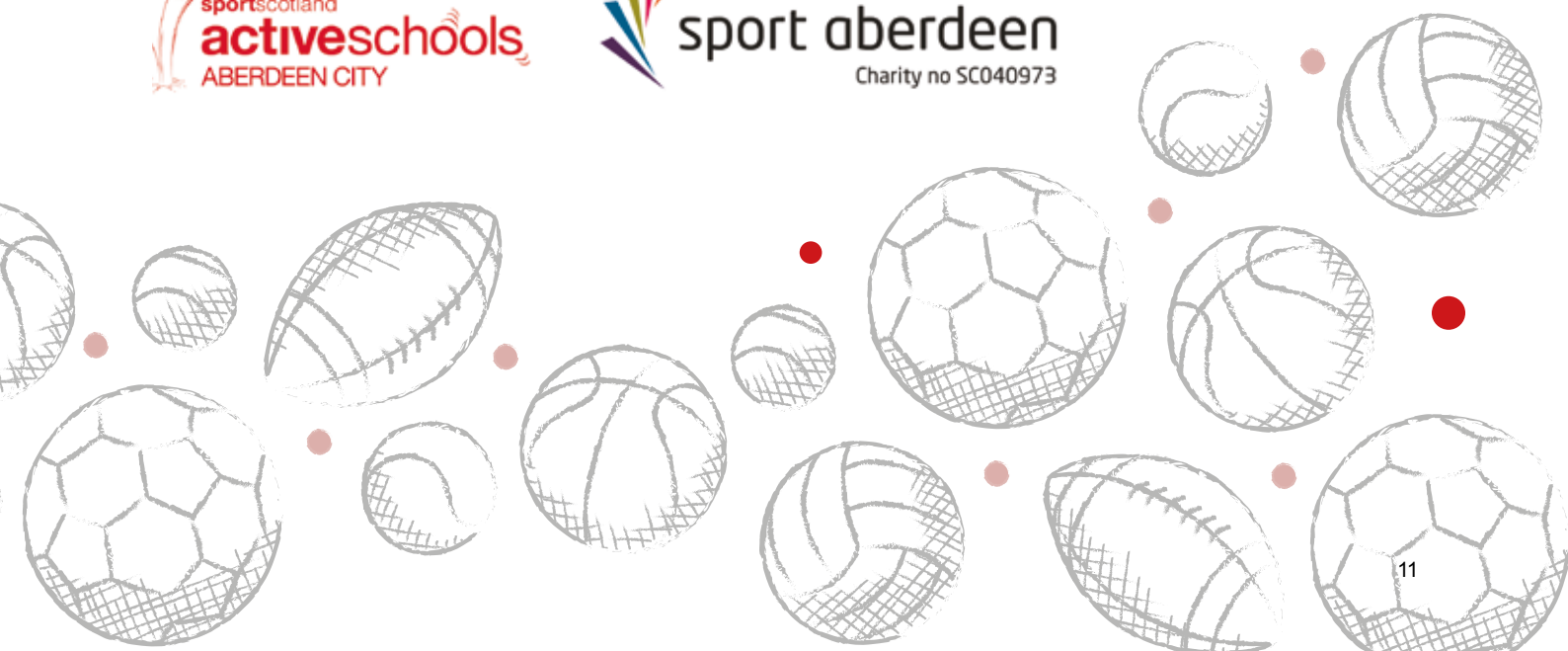
many children and young people become more active, more often!

**Volunteering:** Help me achieve this goal by volunteering with one of our exciting activities! Ongoing training and support is provided. Aged 12-25? Why not get rewarded by signing up to the Saltire Award Scheme!

To keep up to date with the activities on offer, like the 'Active Schools St Machar' Facebook page. Sessions will also be promoted within each school.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all throughout the year.

**Thanks,**  
**Kim**





## COME AND JOIN OUR LANGUAGE CAFES

### *New sessions opening in Woodside*

#### **What are language cafés?**

Language Cafés are one-hour sessions with activities organised to chat in English. They are not English classes but they provide a friendly and interactive space to practice and improve your English.

#### **Who can come to a language café?**

The sessions are open to adults whose first language is not English. It doesn't matter what your language level or ability is, our friendly and flexible team of volunteers will be on hand to help.

#### **What are the benefits of attending language cafes?**

If you are learning English, this is the perfect space for you to practice your language skills and increase your confidence.

It is also a great way to meet other people in your community, get out and about, make connections and have fun.

You can find more information about Aberdeen and get additional help from our volunteers.

#### **Who, where and when?**

This project has been running

since August 2016, coordinated by Grampian Regional Equality Council. We have three language cafes running at the moment:

**Tuesdays: 10:30 am** at Sunnybank Community Centre (1 hour)

**Wednesdays: 5:30 pm** at Woodside Community Centre (1 hour)

**Thursdays: 10:00 am – 11:30 am** City Centre (Sopranos Aberdeen, 18 Guild Street)

For more information please contact **Adriana Uribe** at [auribe@grec.co.uk](mailto:auribe@grec.co.uk), 01224 595505.





# *From peace in the home to peace in the world:*

## education for all - the fight against domestic violence

Domestic violence. Two words that should not even be in the same room together, though in a world currently awash with revelations of sexual improprieties in high places, the sad fact is that sexual harassment and domestic violence exist at every level of society. No area is immune.

In recent years, it is unfortunate that Woodside has had some of the highest rates for the reporting of crimes of domestic violence in Aberdeen.

Thankfully, support is available to victims through a variety of agencies and a great deal of work goes into raising awareness of this issue, ongoing work that includes the upcoming global campaign, "16 days of activism against gender-based violence".

The campaign ran from International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November to Human Rights Day on 10 December. This year's theme was: "From peace in the home to peace in the world: education for all."

In Aberdeen, the Violence against Women Partnership's programme of events includes a candle-lit vigil at St. Nicholas Square, a relaxation session for women experiencing violence and a civic reception for partners who provide year-round services to mark the 16 days of activism campaign.

The campaign continues to raise awareness in our communities about the negative impact of

violence against women on all members of the community. While poverty and inequality are conditions in which violence thrives, everyone in all of our communities is affected. We all know victims.

If you are interested in finding out more or taking part in any of the events, or need more information on services, please contact Councillor Lesley Dunbar, Chair of Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership.

**LesDunbar@aberdeencity.gov.uk or telephone 01224346624**  
**LesDunbar@aberdeencity.gov.uk or telephone 01224346624**

## The BIG move

In our last edition we updated you on the shmu extension and our move to the former Rosehill Day Centre. Work to extend the existing shmuHQ building is well underway and staff and volunteers are all settled in at our temporary home.

The preferred contractors, CHAP, started work on the development in August this year and have made great headway as you can see from these photos. We have secured a significant amount of funding to pay for the fabric of the building, but we are currently working hard on a fundraising strategy to ensure we have enough money to pay for the equipment to turn it from a fantastic building to a state of the art community media centre.

Our aim is to enhance the facilities we already have so we will install two new radio studios and we will have a big communal social area, similar to what we had in the old building but we're also going to have an IT training room and a TV studio with a control room. We want to use the expansion of the building to expand our existing programmes to reach new people in our target areas.

Murray Dawson, Chief Executive said: "We identified a need for this state of the art facility

in our 2012-2017 strategic plan as we have been short of space for several years. Our new space in Rosehill Day Centre is much bigger than shmu so we're able to trial some of the new programmes we would like to run and use it as an opportunity to grow into the new space before moving back to Woodside."

We are aiming to be back in our Woodside building by August next year where we will then look at phase two of the redevelopment. Our aim for the existing building is to make it into a multipurpose space which can be used for cultural events in the evening, for example a small cinema or theatre and for workshops or teaching during the day.

Murray continued: "The building was a core part of our strategic plan and it will allow us to develop other aspects of that plan. We want to do more of what we already do, we don't always need to be expanding and increasing in size but with the work we are currently doing in Aberdeenshire we need to look at what that means for us as an organisation. We need to have a clear sustainable financial plan for this and make sure that we don't take our eye off the ball with the key core work that happens in the regeneration areas of the city."







# Pete the Punk

## nick cave & the bad seeds

**I first came across Nick Cave in 1982 as the wild-haired, half-naked frontman of antipodean proto-Goths, The Birthday Party.**

He dropped off my radar then until 1986, when I heard John Peel play Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds' fabulous murder ballad, *Long Time Man*.

Impressed, I bought the *Your Funeral... My Trial* album and its predecessor, *Kicking Against The Pricks*, then promptly forgot all about him until rave reviews of 2008 release *Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!* caught my eye.

That album didn't quite cut it for me but I did buy his next – 2013's *Push The Sky Away* – on which (though not lacking rockers, like the mighty *Jubilee Street*), there seemed a definite shift away from rock and roll towards a more considered, textured approach. Intriguing, so when I told the missus there was a Cave gig coming up in Glasgow around that time, she was all for it.

It was a revelation. I'm not so easily impressed these days but between Cave's brooding, stalking presence and the Bad Seeds' magisterial performance, it was one of the greatest rock and roll shows I'd ever witnessed. Cave's slow-burning career seemed set to burst into full flame when disaster struck. His 15-year-old son Arthur died in an accident in 2015 and Cave retreated from public view. Rather than give interviews, he commissioned the film *One More Time With Feeling*. Initially planned to record the making of his *Skeleton Tree* album, the project grew in the making to include poignant interviews with Cave and his wife, Susie Bick.

Despite *Skeleton Tree* having been half-written at the time of Arthur's death, its lyrics at times seem an almost apocalyptic document of human grief. Eyebrows were raised, and doubts as to how its songs would translate live or even if Cave could bring himself to play them. In September 2017, the band embarked on a major European tour. Their biggest yet, tonight they roll up to the SSE Hydro in Glasgow, a cavernous hole I didn't think much of on my one previous visit.

Any doubts Cave and the Bad Seeds can handle the *Skeleton Tree* material live instantly dissipate as he walks onstage and leads the band into three straight tracks from it, an opening as mesmerising as it is unexpected. In the more familiar territory of 2013 epic *Higgs Boson Blues*, Cave gets up close and personal with the crowd with what has become one of his most-loved signature phrases, "Can you feel my heart beat?"

As Cave and his combo cut their way through a classic set including *Jubilee Street*, *Tupelo* and *Into My Arms*, the arena seems to transform into a gigantic cauldron bubbling with love for the music, love for the band and, most of all, love for Cave himself.

The ultimate showman, Cave gives everything in return. There's not a dry eye in the house as he croons his

way through an emotional *I Need You*, the pain etched on his features a clue, perhaps, to how Cave has risen from highly-regarded cult figure to global stature in so remarkably short a time.

The loss of his son has given Cave - a shamanic, almost god-like figure onstage - an aura of fragility: the maverick outsider has become one of us. On a very special night, a common sense of collective humanity gathers and binds thirteen thousand souls to him in a life-affirming celebration of the togetherness of human experience.

The now-transcendent set takes in *Red Right Hand* and *The Mercy Seat* before closing with *Skeleton Tree*.

Cave pulls random members of the crowd onstage for the duration of the encores and, though *Stagger Lee* lacks anything like its usual punch with all these bodies milling around, he sits them down as he and the band close with a near-hymnal *Push The Sky Away*.

As the last notes fade into the night, there's an almost tangible sense that, for many, this has been no ordinary gig but something more akin to a spiritual experience. Personally, I had not dared believe these guys could top their Barrowlands show but life had other ideas, its trials and tribulations a significant factor in elevating the art of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds – surely the greatest live band in the world right now – to an altogether new and unprecedented level. Where Cave and his band go from here - how they move on from such triumph - is impossible to guess. I just hope I'm there to see it.



# Community Contacts

## Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 9177 650  
Drinkline 0300 123 1110

## Crime

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

## Drugs

Drugs Action Helpline 01224 594700

## Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens 111

## Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency 111

## Electricity

If you have a power-cut 105

## Family Planning

Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village 0345 337 9900

## Gas

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999  
Gas emergency with a meter 0845 606 6766

## Housing

Emergency Repairs 01224 219 282  
Call Centre Emergency 0845 608 0929 or 116 123

## Police

Non-emergency 101

## Samaritans

Need to talk 01224 574 488 or 116 123

## Social Work

Social Work Duty Team 0800 7315520  
Emergency Out-Of-Hours 01224 693936

## Young Carers

VSA 01224 212021

## Water

Scottish Water Emergency 0800 0778 778  
CFINE 01224 596156  
Pathways 01224 682939  
Woodside School 01224 484778  
Kittybrewster School 01224 484451  
Woodside Parish Church 01224 484562  
St Machar Academy 01224 492855  
St Machar Parent Support Project 01224 487813  
Aberdeen Lads Club 01224 492672

## Community Information for Woodside

### Woodside Community Council

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month in the Fountain Grange Common Room at 7pm

Contact: [woodsideccsec@gmail.com](mailto:woodsideccsec@gmail.com)

## Fersands and Fountain Community Project

01224 524925

## Printfield Community Project

01224 276788

## Woodside Fountain Centre

01224 485983

## Woodside Library

10am – 1pm 2pm – 5pm

Contact: 01224 484534

## Woodside Medical Practice

8am – 6pm

Contact: 01224 492828

## Woodside Network

Contact: [printfield@printfieldproject.co.uk](mailto:printfield@printfieldproject.co.uk)  
or [mark@fersands.org](mailto:mark@fersands.org)

## 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.

Phone: 01224 276994

Opening hours: 9:30am – 4:30pm every weekday except Wednesday (12:30pm finish on a Wednesday)

## 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

## 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.

Opening times: Wednesdays 10am-3pm in Woodside Community Centre

## Legal Advice

There are law students who visit Woodside Community Centre every second Thursday. Their sessions started on the 26th of January and will run every two weeks from then. If you need legal advice you can visit them between 5:30 and 7pm in the centre.