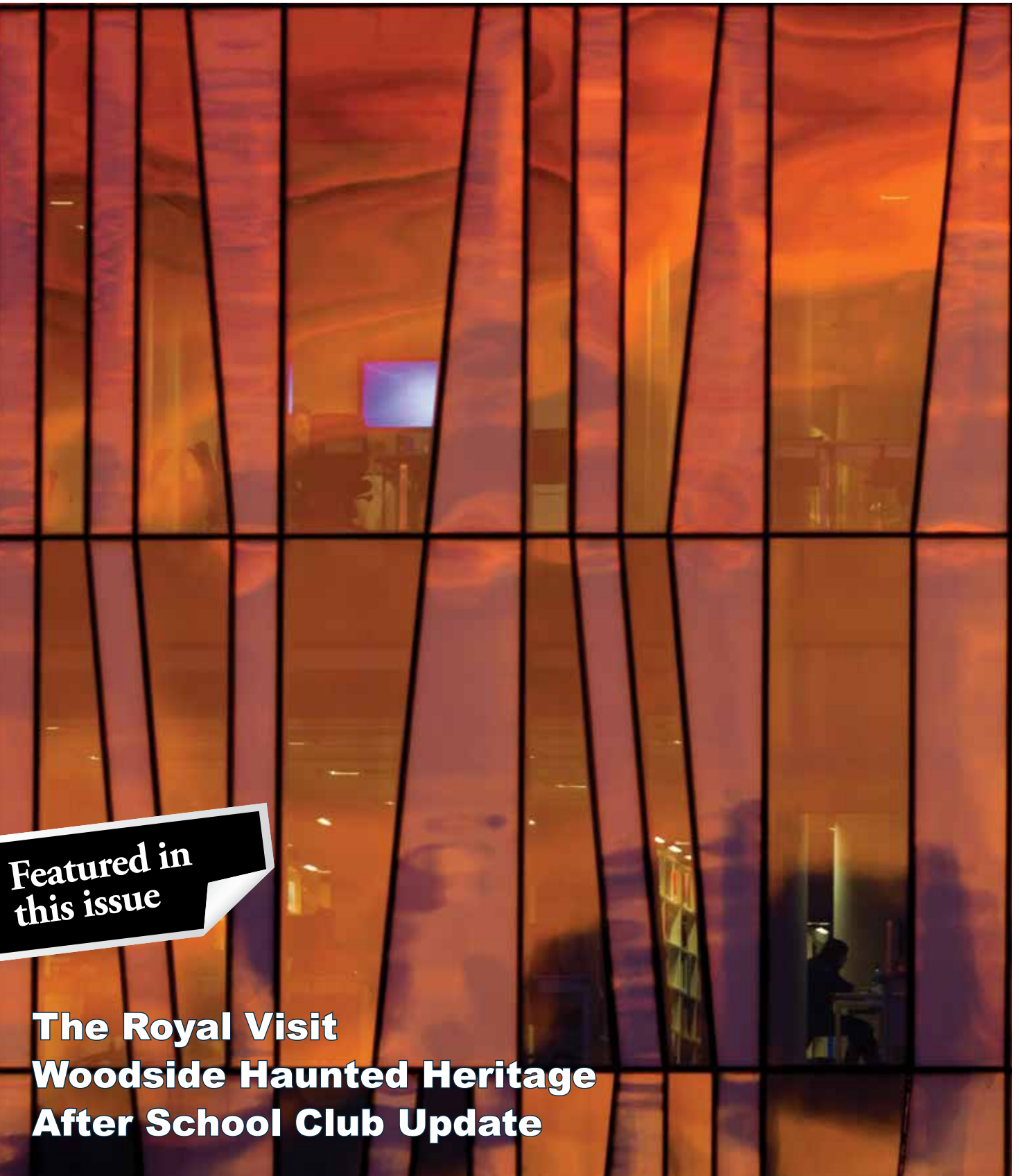


woodside free press

Winter Edition 2012



**Featured in
this issue**

**The Royal Visit
Woodside Haunted Heritage
After School Club Update**

Contents

3	Woodside Young Photographer
4&5	Woodside Network
6	Community Learning
7	Edinburgh Zoo Trip
8&9	A Royal Visit
10&11	Community News
12&13	After School Club
14	SHMU
15	Use it or Lose it!
16	Pete The Punk

Cover image of Aberdeen University Library courtesy Sean Aitken



13



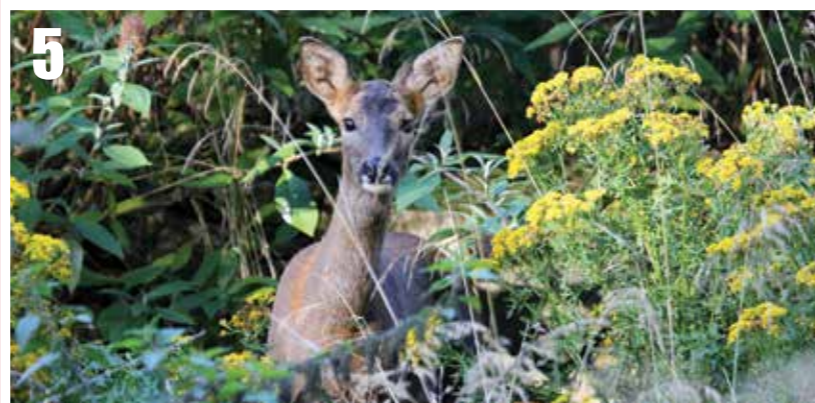
9



7



14



5

Editorial

Hello and welcome to the autumn 2012 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 Mary Clare at Station House Media Unit on 01224 515013 - or email maryclare@shmu.org.uk

FUNDED BY



Night and Dark (Woodside Church clock tower)



Rainbow

Woodside photographer holds first exhibition – at the age of five!

A young photographer from Woodside has just launched her latest exhibition – despite being just five-years-old.

Nadine Ralston began taking pictures at the age of four and has already wowed experienced photographers and judges with her creative pieces.

The P2 Woodside Primary School pupil is the youngest person to launch an exhibition in the North East Open Studios (NEOS), which took place in September and is the biggest event of its type in Scotland.

Her mum said that Nadine was so excited with the opening of her exhibition at Blooms and Balloons in Aberdeen, "Nadine's just so passionate about photography. One day she just picked up my second-hand camera and began taking lots of photos - that's where it all started.

"The photos for the exhibition were chosen by both of us together as I thought that it is very important for Nadine to have the greater input for her own exhibition", she added.

"Nadine has already received good reviews for her artwork and I hope that she will follow her passion and become a professional photographer. It's completely up to her what she wants to do, but from what people

and professional photographers tell me, she's certainly got the natural talent".

Last March, one of her photos was highly-recommended in a photography competition organised by the James Hutton Institute and Centre of Expertise for Waters (CREW).

Nadine has taken part in two exhibitions before NEOS, one at the Lemon Tree and another one at Aberdeen University as part of the Aberdeen University Photographic Society's exhibition. Suzie Rodger, who ran Nadine's exhibition at her shop Blooms and Balloons, said that Nadine's work had immediately captured her eye when she first saw it. She said: "Nadine just jumped out at me. For a five-year-old to produce such fantastic photos is amazing - I just had to get them for the exhibition".

"I hope that this would encourage other children to take photos with any sort of camera and to go for walks to explore and enjoy the wealth of wild life in our area", she added.

Abeer



Shadow (Aberdeen Sports Village)



Spiky (David Welch winter gardens, Duthie Park)



Library (The Sir Duncan Rice Library).



The Network liaises with lots of different agencies to bring services to Woodside. Here are some examples since our last update:

SMOKING CESSATION SUPPORT GROUP

There is a new group meeting in the Fountain Grange Common Room that can help you. At the moment it is supported by a member of the Smoking Advice Service but the group are planning to carry on meeting when this programme comes to an end and would welcome anyone who wants to come for a chat. Smokers welcome!!!

Smoking Advice Service – for help and support to stop smoking. FREEPHONE 0500 600 332

HEALTHY HELPINGS

A free eight week course held in the Fountain Grange Common Room. This offered a fun, interactive and informative way of finding out more about healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle (and lose weight!) Pick up a leaflet at the Woodside Fountain Centre or contact Denburn Health Centre on 01224 555522. The Network Health Group are currently working on bringing healthy living to Woodside. Eg. cookery classes/exercise/relaxation.

PULMONARY FUNCTION REHABILITATION CLASSES

Each exercise and information programme for those with chronic lung conditions runs for eight weeks. The Health group are continuing to fundraise to cover the gym-hire for a year. You can ask your doctor to refer you to these classes. Contact Catriona Cameron (Community Therapy Services) on 01224 558399 for more information.

FUN TIME

Taking part in fun activities, learning a new skill, attending classes and volunteering are all really good for our mental and physical health and wellbeing. Check out our website/facebook for a list of opportunities in Woodside for adults. A paper copy is available at Woodside Fountain Centre and Printfield Project. If you have ideas for a new class or group please contact Mark Lovie - 524926.

OTHER NETWORK NEWS

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM UPGRADE PROGRAMME

The Network recently intervened to help residents get a better deal with the Kitchen and Bathroom Upgrade Programme. Many families who were originally refused an upgrade were eventually given a new bathroom or kitchen. The Network was supported by Councillors Kirsty Blackman and George Adam on this issue.

We continue to liaise with Councillors Kirsty Blackman and Lesley Dunbar to ensure progress (or lack of progress) is monitored and followed up if necessary.

If you still have outstanding issues that were raised at the public meeting please contact Councillor Kirsty Blackman 01224 522269/ 0774776814 kblackman@aberdeencity.gov.uk

If you have a new concern please contact Councillor Lesley Dunbar. Phone: 01224 346624/ 07876 745867 lesdunbar@aberdeencity.gov.uk

DAMP/MOULD

We are planning to do a survey (hopefully in conjunction with SCARF) of a small number of properties in the Fersands area

to find out if this is a common problem and to look at solutions.

OLD BUILDING

at the bottom of Western Road beside the railway underpass – the gable ends have been removed in response to concerns raised by the Network. However the site has not been cleared of debris and further concerns over safety have been passed on to Councillor Blackman.

LOCAL SHOPS CLOSING DOWN

Councillor Dunbar will contact Business Development to see if there is any way to encourage/facilitate businesses to move into the Woodside area. (Latest rumours are that a supermarket is moving in next to Poundies!)

In October we had an EGM (extraordinary general meeting) to adopt a constitution and code of conduct, elect a committee and confirm election of office bearers.

This course of action will allow us to apply for funding and grants to be used for the benefit of the whole community. Please come along and get involved!

Facebook - Woodside Network
Blog - Woodsidenetwork.wordpress.com

Margaret Aisbitt - Chair
01224 911337
margetaisbitt@yahoo.co.uk

Louisa Brown - Vice Chair
01224 489832
louisa.brown@talktalk.net

Kit Trail - Coordinator
01224 276788
printfield@printfieldproject.co.uk

Mark Lovie - Coordinator
01224 524926
mark@fersands.org



TAKE A WALK ON THE WOODSIDE

Walking is a great way to exercise – all you need are two legs in reasonable condition and somewhere to aim for. If the new Woodside Health Walk project takes off you can discover the hidden treasures of Woodside and surrounding area.

We're not talking speed walking either – just a gentle walkabout for up to an hour every week with a small group. It'll get you out of the house, stretching a couple of muscles and having a chat about the area at the same time – the banks o' the Don and the Granholm area, the new Donside Village, St Machar Cathedral, the Secret Gardens of Auld Aberdeen, Woodside Library and Stuart Park. We could arrange walks to Tesco

or Sainsburys (with a mini-bus ride back with any shopping!) and that's just a few ideas. We are looking for anyone who would be interested in a regular weekly walk to come to the Woodside Fountain Centre to let us know. As soon as we have a few names we will set up a meeting and get the group started, so get off the chair and walk in by.

Where in the Woodside area would you take a walking group?

We are also looking for adults who may be interested in leading a Health Walk group! Full training will be given and it could result in a great volunteering experience. Call Mark Lovie on 524926

Calling all Snow Angels!

The snow and ice makes it a struggle for all of us to get out and about but the elderly and people with health and mobility problems find it even harder. What will this winter bring? Well, it's anybody's guess but help is at hand!

The Woodside Winter Task Force is looking for more volunteers for the coming winter. If you can shovel snow and sprinkle sand about then we'd like to hear from you!

Other ways of being a Snow Angel: Clear your neighbour's path when you are clearing your own. Offer to get some shopping for your neighbour when you do your own.

Check on your neighbour if you haven't seen them for a day or two. Start stocking up with some emergency supplies of tins, packets, long-life milk, a torch and camping stove etc. If there's a power cut invite your neighbours in and share the above!

Woodside Winter Taskforce: Please contact - **Gordon 01224 488781, Kit 01224 276788 or Mark 01224 524926**

Adult Learning Opportunities in Woodside

Words and Numbers Class

Monday 10am to 12 noon

Come and get help from a tutor - skills for reading, writing and counting.

Creative Writing

Tuesday 6.30 till 8.30pm

Come along and join the friendly Woodside writers as they encourage each other to write stories poems articles etc. The group is very mixed in ages and interests - it's a friendly and informal group, learning about writing styles and sometimes reading out our work - and we do mini writing exercises and occasional outings etc. New members welcome.

English for Beginners

Wednesday 6pm to 8pm

Thursday 1-3pm

We are now involved in offering three English classes a week and hope soon to offer a fourth. There seems to be huge demand in the area and we will continue to try to meet local requests. Basic English

classes for non-English-speakers are on a Wednesday evening and a Thursday afternoon. A more advanced class takes place on Thursday evening. If you know anyone who could benefit from this free service, please let them know so they can come along and become more confident in the English language.

English Intermediate

Thursday 6-8pm

Computer Class

Thursday 10.00 to 12.00 noon

Come and try out the Lap Tops. The tutor will show you how to turn it on and soon you will be sending emails, surfing on line and learning what you need to know.

TAI CHI

Thursday 12.00- 1pm

Exercise - Try an ancient but popular form of exercise for all. Come join our friendly group and learn the art of relaxation through movement. Participants are asked

to make a voluntary donation towards tutor costs.

COMING SOON?

- Art workshops activities and heritage in February

What other activities for Adults would you like to see in the future?

- A Local History Class?
- More physical exercise sessions?
- Informal music group or music tuition?
- Meditation or health group?
- A book club?

If you have any ideas for a new adult group or are interested in taking part in any of the groups, please contact us at the address below.

All classes run at Woodside Fountain Centre
Fersands and Fountain
Community Project tel:
Mark Lovie (01224) 524926

Family Learning

Maths and Language for Parents

Do the words 'Can you help me with my homework' fill you with dread? This six to eight session course will show you how your child learns maths and language in school and how you are helping at home without even knowing it. So why not come along and join in because, believe it or not, maths and language can be fun. This course is aimed at parents with children aged 3-8 years and runs from January to March 2013.

Whose Money Is It Anyway?

Does trying to make ends meet make you want to cry? Want some tips on solving your own personal credit crunch? If the answer is 'yes', this three-session course will offer you practical help and tips on how to manage your financial affairs. It will run in March 2013.

The Writing Group is soon going to publish its first book 'The River Don from Source to Sea'.

With over 20 contributors, this could be an ideal Christmas present for fans of poetry, Woodside or the River Don. Only £5.00



Printfield Community Project..

Edinburgh Zoo Trip

On a pleasant Friday in August, 84 children and parents travelled to Edinburgh Zoo. It was a fantastic day, the sun was out and we saw the PANDAS!

We left Printfield at 8am and got home at 7.30pm; we hired two buses and the kids all had a ball. It was thanks to the fundraising group and grants from Aberdeen City Council and Cash for Kids which enabled this event to take place.

Roll on next year!



A Royal Visit

After the grand official opening of the flagship £57m library at Aberdeen University by Her Majesty the Queen, Woodside resident Pete Thomson reports on the project and its royal attendance.

I stare at my computer and sigh. Having promised to write something about the new university library, I've fuffed about on Facebook till the last possible minute. Typical.

Scanning the official press release for inspiration, my heart sinks; it's the usual lacklustre confection of facts, figures and fluff. But hope springs eternal. Suddenly it strikes me that, though I've passed the site every day and watched the building grow from nothing into a thing of beauty, I've never been inside. Sorted.

I jump on my bike. Five minutes later I'm turning into Elphinstone Road. A hundred yards along, there it is: the Sir Duncan Rice Library. It's a magnificent sight. Conceived as a cube evoking the ice and light of the north, the library's extraordinary glass façade seems to suck in and reflect every ounce of colour from a swiftly-changing autumn sky.

Entering via a revolving door, I stop for a moment to take in the equally breathtaking interior; eight floors gathered round a delightfully asymmetric central atrium. I wander over to the welcome desk and introduce myself.

While this is definitely not where you'd come to borrow a copy of *50 Shades of Grey*, the building is open to the public. I produce ID, get a temporary pass and head for the lifts. Gliding up and down the library's north wall, the futuristic steel and glass capsules offer magnificent views

over Woodside and Tillydrone, Seaton Park, the twin spires of St Machar Cathedral and the seascapes of Aberdeen Bay.

Wandering round the top tier (Religion, Philosophy and Psychology), I can't help but feel a little bit awed by the sheer volume of knowledge on display. With 15 miles of books in this building alone, no one could ever do more than scratch the surface of human learning.

Making my own stately progress from top to bottom of the library, I'm impressed by the sheer numbers of students beavering away.

Apart from more scenic views to the east, I like the bare functionality of the stairwell's undressed concrete as I make my way down to the next level.

Exploring the History and Archaeology section, my hand lights upon *The Silver Chief*, a book about the 4th Earl of Selkirk who spent a small fortune helping Scots from all over the highlands and islands settle in the new dominion of Canada. A quick glance through it recalls the resourcefulness, the steely determination against seemingly insurmountable odds that's made the Scots successful wherever they've gone in the world.

This is what libraries are all about. Barely 10 minutes in the place and I've learned something. I didn't mean to, that's what happens in libraries. We learn

stuff. This place cost £57m, but its state of the art facilities are worth every penny. The other side of the coin is that the city council is currently discussing closing eight community libraries to save £450k over five years.

Well, we all know they're a bit strapped at the moment, but that's not really a huge sum to keep not one or two but EIGHT libraries open for five years. Call me old-fashioned, but given the unquantifiable benefits of public libraries not just to individuals but to society as a whole, then £450k is surely an absolute giveaway?

To even consider closures shows just how desperate things are, but then we must remember the underlying cause: councils everywhere are under the cosh from central government cuts. On a more positive note, I bump into a fellow on the next floor who tells me the Queen was positively beaming when she opened the library on 24 September. On a day of much pomp and ceremony, Her Majesty was delighted to be shown some of the university's greatest treasures as she toured the new building: a bit more exciting than opening the Olympics then, ma'am?

Making my own stately progress from top to bottom of the library, I'm impressed by the sheer numbers of students beavering away. It's no surprise to learn that in its first year it received more than 700,000 visitors.

The toilets throughout are immaculate, flushed with



rainwater harvested from the rooftop. The environmentally friendly building also collects some 15,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year from solar panels.

On the ground floor I visit the Pharmacopoeia, a small museum of the natural sciences presenting a brief but fascinating history of

health and the development of medicine. Then, finally, it's time for a wee break. I duck across to the Hardback Café, also on the ground floor, and order up a latte and a Danish pastry.

Sipping my coffee, I reflect on all I've seen. Busy departments equipped with the very latest

study facilities, friendly staff and a bright vision for the future mean the Sir Duncan Rice Library is not only a learning environment fit for the 21st century, but one that will serve the city and its students for many generations to come.

Images by Andy Coventry

Library Drama

Only weeks before its official opening by the Queen, the new University Library was the scene of drama. Whilst replacing glass panels on the outside of the building, three workmen became stranded 70 feet in the air after the cradle they were using became jammed.

Police cordoned off the area whilst the Fire Brigade worked to bring the men down. A specialist crane had to be called in due to the fire engines being unable to reach the cradle. Despite being stuck for two hours, the men were unharmed.

Article & image - Vicky Mitchell



Reiki Inspiration

Whaar er ye gan tae mae lovely?

Astral travellin aa by yersel

Ground yersel saafly whaar yer sittin.

Dinna tak a' traivel tae hell.

Mynd an l'wiz proteck yersel saaf.

An ither's att ar sittin aroon.

Traivel wye, high in e sky.

An twice circle e; moon.

Instant success for new job club

A Job Club set up by Fersands and Fountain Community Project is helping young people in Woodside make their mark in the job market.

Set up in June this year, the club has been run as a trial to see if it could make a difference to our community at a time when several similar facilities are offering support to unemployed people in the city.

The proof is in the pudding and from around 10 individuals attending the club twice a week, four have now found employment in the leisure and retail industries. Others have interviews coming up in the very near future. Great stuff. How does it work? Well, the club looks at barriers preventing young people from finding employment. Getting up at a decent hour to attend club sessions is a great start. Once there, training and support is offered in interview techniques, CV building and all the other skills needed to find a job these days. It is also vital to

build a youngster's confidence, so they can relax and use their new skills when applying for work. The club is currently working with Asda and has visited its beach megastore to find out what is involved working for a retail giant. Asda recruitment officers explained to the club exactly what employers are looking for in today's very tight job market and, following a series of mock interviews with club members, offered guidance on interview techniques and how candidates can create a better impression. With several successes notched up so far, the Job Club will be assessed after a further ten weeks operation.

Anyone interested in joining the Job Club please contact Claire on 01224 524928

Cut your costs this Winter

Would you like to cut your energy bills and stay warm this winter? Advisors at the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre can answer your questions about heating and insulating your home. We can also carry out a Home Energy Check with you that will help you find out about free or discounted insulation and financial support that may be available to help you get ready for winter. No matter what your circumstances or where you live, help is available. If you are finding it hard to heat your home, a package of help is open to people across Scotland. The package could help you in different ways, all for

free: a Home Energy Check, a benefit and tax credit check and Scottish Government-funded measures to make your home warmer. Depending on your circumstances you may be eligible for a new heating system such as central heating or a new boiler – absolutely free. Also, free cavity wall and loft insulation is currently on offer to all Aberdeen residents under the Universal Home Insulation Scheme.

For more information or to find out what financial support you are entitled to, call the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre on freephone 0800 512 012.

Woodside's Haunted Heritage

With winter fast approaching and the last remnants of our glorious summer now on the wane it is perhaps time to turn our thoughts to the darker nights and to all things spooky.

With this in mind I would like to tell you about an exciting new project entitled Woodside's Haunted Heritage. This project falls under the umbrella of the Creative Communities programme, an exciting series of art workshops for residents of all ages from Aberdeen's seven regeneration areas and will be run by the Arts Development team.

Each area will be allocated a lead artist who will work in the local community for four weeks culminating in a community event. I have been asked to work in the Woodside area exploring its haunted heritage and will offer participants of all ages the opportunity to explore the darker side of their area.

The project will start on the 19th of January and run until the 23rd of February culminating in an



exhibition/event. Leading up to the start of the project I will be working with various community groups exploring the areas ghostly stories and its heritage both visually and through the written word.

On the 19th of January we will be holding an ice cream van pop-up event outside Woodside Fountain Community Event, come along and have an ice cream... or possibly a hot drink if the weather gets too chilly and take part in an informal workshop.

Check us out at:

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/creativecommunitiesaberdeen

Twitter:
www.twitter.com/CC_Abdn

Blog:
creativecommunitiesaberdeen.blogspot.co.uk

For further information please contact Margaret Stewart, Community Arts Officer on 01224 814740 or mstewart@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Dental Care in the Community

We are a team of three dental nurses employed by NHS Grampian and will be visiting Woodside on a regular basis. We will be providing help and advice on dental and oral health for adults and children, including registration with an NHS dentist. We have already visited some areas, so watch out for our planned future visits to Woodside.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Hi, we are Woodside Partnership After School Club. Our four members of staff - Emma, Charlene, Sandra and Nicola - are based in Woodside Fountain Centre five-days-a-week and we pick up children from Woodside Primary School and Kittybrewster

Primary School. The club supports parents and carers returning to work or education. Recently a member of staff Stuart left to follow a more musical career. The workers and kids are all very sad to lose "Stuie" and wish him the best of luck in his new adventure.

Is your kids' club special? Would you like to see it featured in the next edition of the Woodside Free Press? If you are proud of your club or the pals you hang out with, we would like to hear from you now!

For More information on Woodside Partnership After School Club please contact Kit Trail or Mark Lovie 276788 or 524926.

Woodside After School Club



After school club is fun
Friendly after school club
Tasty snack
Everyone is friendly
Reading is fun

Snack for every one
Club is good
Happy people
On every day
Only Woodside & Kittybrewster
Lots of fun for every one

Caring people
Lots of people waiting to go home
Unbelievably talented staff
Brilliant every day

Iona - Age 9

"It's fun"

Courtney

"EPIC"

Hannah



after...



school..



fun!



Hannah



Evie



James



Nico

Goodbye stewart we will miss you I have had lots of fun with you the games we played Goodbye stewart
By Franky

Bye
Bye



"Stu was a good friend and fun as well I could play with him."

Jonny - age 8



Chloe

"It's cool"

Chloe

A nice club
Fersands
Time outs
Eat your snack
Red Cheeks

Snack time
Cheesy feet
Have fun
Only people who are nice
Only people from Woodside & Kittybrewster
LOL Every day

By Chloe

"It's great, the best place in the world. Better than school."

Shawn



Shawn

A fun club
Friends
Table Football
Epic
Random
School Club
Cool
Open club
Our club
Lovely People

Evie & Hannah



WHY WATCH TV WHEN YOU CAN MAKE TV!

The shmu Youth TV multi-camera studio is ready for action!

shmu TV aims to give YOU the skills to make TV programmes that YOU want to watch. This is going to be a project where you can choose what you want to make and we will help bring your ideas to life. We are looking for enthusiastic young people aged 14-19 who want to be part of this exciting new Internet TV channel. Come along and get involved. You need to be from the regeneration areas to be eligible but no experience is necessary. What is a multi-camera studio?

Shows like the X factor, The One Show, or The Voice are all examples of multi-camera shows. They are filmed on a set and use more than one camera. Like a theatre performance everything is rehearsed and planned so that the LIVE show runs smoothly. We have a multi-camera studio where we can make LIVE TV shows. Over the October break we are running drop in sessions where you can try your hand at different TV jobs from being a camera operator, director, set designer, make artist, script writer, floor manager, presenter, musician.... It's amazing how many people are needed to make a short TV show.

We definitely have a role for you!
For information and training times please contact: tv@shmu.org.uk

Or text -**TRAINING** and your name to 60300

SHMUSOUND: WANT TO TAKE YOUR MUSIC TO THE NEXT LEVEL?

We are currently looking for young musicians from the Woodside areas to take part in a fabulous new project called *shmu*SOUND.

It's open to those aged 14 to 25 and is based at our state-of-the-art recording studio in the Tilly Youth Project.

You will be given a range of workshops from our expert tutors on all aspects of making music and then get the chance to record a 4-song demo with Iain McPherson, who is Scotland's Sound Engineer of the Year.

As the project is being funded by Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative, it's all absolutely FREE too!

To find out more, get in touch with Stevie by email - sound@shmu.org.uk - text **TRAINING** and your name to 60300 or call on 515013.

This is a great chance to live your musical dreams!



Burgh Hall under threat

The future of Woodside Burgh Hall is in doubt after its management committee refused to sign up to Aberdeen City Councils new leasing agreement for community centres.

Under the leasing agreement unanimously agreed in a full council meeting held in April this year, community management committees will take responsibility for the running and maintenance of their facilities as well as being given greater decision-making powers.

It is understood that the Burgh Hall requires significant repairs to the roof and under the new agreement the hall's management committee would be responsible for footing the bill. This has led to their decision not to sign up to the new agreement. If the situation is not resolved then the building may close, leaving many community groups searching for new premises.

The Burgh Hall housed the first school in Woodside and is well used by many groups including a pensioners group, children's craft, dancing and martial arts groups. It is also currently being used by children from Woodside School for PE lessons whilst their gym hall is closed due to building work.

Woodside Library

Opening Times:
Mon & Wed 2pm - 7pm
Tue, Thu & Fri 10am - 1pm and
2pm - 5pm, Sat 10am - 1pm

The library contains a large collection of adult and children's fiction and non-fiction books, large print books, talking books, CDs and DVDs. Regular story times and events throughout the year. Disabled access. Coin-operated photocopier. Free internet, email and word processing facilities are provided. Also, there is Book Bug Session at the library for babies, toddlers and families from 10:30 till 11:00am on Thursday 22nd November and 20th December.

Unfortunately there has been talks in the local press about possible closure - we want to know your views on the matter so please get in touch with the Woodside editorial team by emailing - denise@shmu.org.uk. Or contact the Woodside Network - mark@fersands.org

Use it or lose it!



Pete the Punk

The vulture of culture...

Primal Scream have travelled a long road in the three decades since they formed in 1982. Singer Bobby Gillespie had to be prised from behind The Jesus And Mary Chain drumkit before they could get going properly and, though they produced the odd gem of an indie single in their early days, no real breakthrough was forthcoming until they teamed up with producer Andrew Weatherall.

Without him, it's fair to say the band might have come to nothing; but with Weatherall's input, a shedload of drugs and Gillespie's steely determination that nothing in the world was going to stop him becoming a rock and roll star, this was always an unlikely outcome.

In the roundabout way these things often happen, Gillespie and the lads bumped into Weatherall at a rave. A tape of the song *I'm Losing More Than I'll Ever Have* was eventually passed to him and, following the application of much Weatherall studio wizardry, the tune was released as *Loaded*, reaching number 16 in the British charts and becoming the band's first major success.

Three further hit singles followed as the boys continued recording with Weatherall and *Screamadelica* was finally released in late 1991, a critical and commercial success that also won the inaugural Mercury Music Prize.

Another six studio albums have been recorded since those halcyon days and while they have never quite nailed the spirit of the times with as much wit and aplomb as they poured into *Screamadelica*, they've continued to build on that early success until Primal Scream is now one of the most popular live acts around.

It's been six years since they last played Aberdeen (a gig so marred by sound problems it's probably best forgotten), but we're nothing if not forgiving up here and tonight's show sells out in hours.

I make my way to the Music Hall and, leaving the joys of the mosh-pit to the young or foolhardy, drag my ancient carcass upstairs where I can see what's going on.

A set of sub-psychedelic guitar noise from opening act Toy is sadly mutilated by extremely muddy sound (the lot of support bands everywhere), but their energy shines through the murk and their more lucid moments conjure up visions of 90s indie heroes Ride, so their efforts are not entirely wasted.

Primal Scream take the stage to a massive roar, kicking off gently with a little bit of rock and roll. But before we've had a chance to settle, gather our thoughts for what lies ahead, we're reeling beneath a ferocious, strobed-up version of *Swastika Eyes*. All is well with the world.

We're just getting our breath back when the opening chords of *Movin' On Up* take us by the scruff of the neck and fire us headlong back into the melee, Bobby Gillespie's Jagger fantasies in full flight over a bed of burning gospel.



Gillespie himself would be a star in any setting but, though his light might shine just a little less brightly without the pulsating organism of Primal Scream behind him, his love of the limelight is the real driving force behind the band. He pouts and pirouettes across the stage as if propelled by the elixir of youth itself and, ever the master showman, plays all corners of the crowd until everyone is convinced the show is for their eyes only. To the delight of all, this is shaping into a greatest hits package. Sadly, there's no Mani on show (he's back with the Stone Roses) but his boots are more than ably filled by My Bloody Valentine's Debbie Googe.

An unobtrusive figure in the wings, Googe nonetheless forms the tightest of rhythm sections with drummer Darrin Mooney and, for all her slightness of figure, pumps out the huge, looping basslines of *Higher Than The Sun* with considerable verve before the whole edifice collapses into a percussive, shamanic reading of much-covered Bo Diddley classic *Who Do You Love*.

Hypnotic stuff, but any respite offered by the slow-burning soul of *Damaged* swiftly evaporates as the band kicks into the drug-drenched maelstrom of *Shoot Speed Kill Light*. Just as the last bars die away, its deranged fury somehow transforms into the joyous hedonism of *Loaded*, a transition embraced with some enthusiasm by the sweat-soaked crowd.

Just when we think things can't get any better, Primal produce a hi-octane *Come Together* that builds into a magnificent wall of sound before exploding into a thousand pieces as the band marches offstage.

They re-emerge with *Country Girl*, not just a crowd favourite but their biggest UK hit, reaching number 5 in 2006. *Jailbird* is up next, which has 'em absolutely rocking in the aisles, and the entire house roars out the chorus of *Rocks*, the final hymn in what has turned out to be a truly remarkable service. It's over. The Reverend Gillespie has spoken. But the beatific expressions around me tell their own wondrous story: the light shines on!