

# cumming north

Summer Edition 2013

**Cummings Park Flat**  
**The BIG Dig in Pictures.**



**In this  
issue...**

**Bramble Brae Primary**

Minibeasts and Tadpoles.

**Northfield Neep**

A Pensioner and his Garden

**Historic Northfield**

A Sketch of Aberdeen

**Arts Development**

Stone Carved Compass Project

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## editorial

Here at Cumming North magazine we are really excited about our Summer Publication. Our editorial team has grown dramatically over the past few months and we are delighted with the amount of content we have received for this issue.

In this issue you can expect exciting news and photos on the makeover that the Cummings Park Community Flat went under, updates from the local schools, sports updates and important community news.

Thanks again to all the contributors; we are very grateful to everyone who submits articles and photos for the magazine. Our editorial team is always on the look-out for local people to help gather articles and information that may be used in future editions, or indeed, help in other ways as part of the editorial team. This would involve a couple of short meetings prior to publication of the magazine.

If you live in the Northfield / Cummings Park area, or are a teacher or representative based in the 5 schools within these areas and would like to get involved, please contact **Mary Clare** at SHMU on **01224 515013 maryclare@shmu.org.uk** or myself **Dave White 01224 696185**.

**Deadline for the next magazine is the 8th of October.**

Supported by



# Northfield Stone Carved Compass Project

In summer 2009, an excess in the Neighbourhood Planning budget gave the Arts Development Team an opportunity to further an idea which had been put forward by community members in Northfield - this was to capitalize on the panoramic views seen from the green space behind the Academy and the swimming pool. It was thought that it would be a great place to build a cairn and make reference to the directions and the view visible from there. The green space (a former quarry filled in) has remained barren of trees up until recently when Aberdeen Greenspace Trust carried out planting there to encourage more biodiversity. The space is owned by the Academy, and is popular with dog walkers and as a short cut.

The original idea was to build a cairn which would include stones carved by local groups and incorporate periscopes fixed on the view - this was to be flanked on four sides by stone benches carved as compass stones. The idea of the cairn - whilst popular with the community - unfortunately had to be shelved due to a variety of factors around engineering logistics and health and safety. By this time, work was already underway on the stone carved benches so this became the main focus.

The Clashach sandstone was sourced from a quarry near Elgin and we were very fortunate to be able to work with a total master of his craft: stone carver Keith Mellard. Local business Grampian Scaffolding of Northfield Industrial Estate supported the work by kindly allowing us to use their indoor yard space for the classes to take

place. We worked with students from Northfield Academy's XL group and also adult volunteers from the community over a course of about 20 weeks in total, which took us into 2010. The stones were carved with Celtic imagery relating to the direction of each compass stone. All involved got a great deal from the work including the adult volunteers who returned week after week to the young people who found a focus and purpose in carving the stone. Keith was an excellent teacher and mentor and a real inspiration to work with. The stones, once finished, went into storage and have remained there until we were able to look at finally completing this work in spring/summer 2013. Plans have been drawn up by local artist Mary Bourne, who has recently completed a public art work in Westhill, and with some additional funding from CIF (Communities Initiative Fund) and more from Aberdeen Greenspace Trust, we will soon be ready to see these beautiful stone benches finally installed in the green space. We consulted residents at Granitehill House in summer 2012 about the history of the area, and what the agreed landmarks of Aberdeen and the North East should be for the accompanying interpretation panel, known as a Toposcope. We then worked with an enthusiastic P7 class from Bramble Brae Primary School in creating line drawings of the various landmarks. These brilliant drawings have now been incorporated into the final design for the Toposcope which has been etched in stainless steel. This will sit atop a cairn and form the centre piece for the compass



stone benches. This public art work will be a lasting legacy for the communities of Northfield and Cummings Park, and along with further planting, is set to make a real feature of this urban green space. A huge thank you to every individual and local business who has contributed to this work over the last few years! It is great to see it is finally nearing completion. Look out for this public art work appearing over the coming months!

There will be an official opening of this work on the 11th September, time to be confirmed. All are welcome to join us for refreshments.

Any enquiries regarding this please contact Lindsay Dawson

**[ldawson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ldawson@aberdeencity.gov.uk)**  
**Direct dial; 01224 814734.**

# School News

## Bramble Brae Primary

**Primary 5 collected some frogspawn on a trip to the Mill of Benholm at the beginning of this term. They watched the tadpoles grow bigger and go through metamorphosis and finally released the little froglets into the Bucks Burn beside old Howes Road at the end of May.**

**They also wrote some stories, imagining that they were one of the tadpoles:**

*"I saw this person put me in to this box filled with water. It was cold for a second then the sun came out. Then this class saw me and their teacher was called Miss Chalmers and she was nice.*

*The next day was when I came out of my egg and it was not yummy when I ate it. But I got to swim about the box and it was so awesome! All the other tadpoles were so funny at some times and I liked swimming. I will be sad when I go to a pond and I will miss Bramble Brae.*

*Then the class put some fish food in the tank. Then I ate it. It was so delicious. Then I got bigger and bigger. I began to swim in the box and I like it so much and I like P5.*

*Next day when my legs were growing was scary for a minute then I grew my arms. Then at last my tail got smaller. When I grow big into a frog, then I will go to a pond."*

**By Liam Havelock**

*"When I emerged from my egg I was in a world of giants. I saw my brother tad was out of his*

*goo and munching it down so I told myself to go with him and do the same. So I started eating the gooey, gross-looking egg. It was actually nice. It tasted of jelly and chocolate.*

*Three days later I had back legs. I thought "What are these for?" Then I realise my gills were gone. I am going to die! Please help! My gills are gone! I went to the top of the water and took a breath of air. "I can breathe, I can breathe!" I said.*

*Two weeks later I had no tail and my habitat was different. I saw some others die. It was horrible but I was ok.*

*One day later I had front legs and realised I could walk on walls. It was spectacular! I tried to climb out but there was a net over me so I could not escape."*

**By Declan Paton**

*"I'm not sure what I'm in but it's definitely sticky and fine. I can't really see but it's getting brighter every nibble I take. Wait. What's this? Something, I mean two things are pulling me out. They're taking me somewhere. I've got to nibble faster. Actually, considering the height and speed we're going at I don't think that's a very good idea.*

*Hours went by. Or so it seemed. I swam around looking for civilisation. Hold on! I can swim?! When did this happen? Right, I'll figure that out later. Anyway I found someone else that looked like me. In fact, there were heaps of us now. This is weird. Days went by.*

*My skin seems to be getting bumpy around my head. Some older guys said that my skin was growing over my gills. I could see more clearly now. My eyes were as open as the place we were living in. I still seem to crash into things, especially when giant faces are watching.*

*As usual, everybody was leaving. Then suddenly orange and yellow flakes dropped into the water which we swam in. I took a small nibble. Surely everybody would taste it. They had to because all the jelly was gone.*

*Soon I had what we call legs. Everyone did (well except some). Now that I have legs I swim a lot faster. It's better that way because the faster I am, the better I am at swimming. I also have these bony things just under my head. They're called arms. They also make me swim faster.*

*The water is very dirty now. I think it's all because of the fish food. All it does is make it harder to see.*

*As usual the food was dropped into the tank. I was really hungry so I swam up really fast. I swam up so fast, I landed upon a rock. Was I going to die? I hope not. I took a deep breath as I landed. I waited for help. No one came. I stopped waiting and wriggled back into the water. I can breathe air now! Some weren't as lucky to learn how to breathe air.*

*Yet again, we were moved. Only this time the water was really cold. Some people got put in a smaller box next to where we*



had come from. They put some green thing in there along with the stones.

When we returned, everyone was either jumping on rocks or the green things. I thought I would try it. It's really easy once you try it. Life here is amazing. Although, I heard that not long from now we are moving again. I didn't really like the idea, however, I had my own idea! The great idea was that if I hide, they can't take me back! Genius!

The day came and I wasn't the only one that didn't want to go. The others ruined my hiding spot so we all had to go. I'm definitely going to miss this place! I really don't want to go but I have to. Goodbye giant faces!"

By Nicole Franklin

## Primary 1's Minibeast Trip to the Natural History Centre

Primary 1 have been learning about minibeasts. We visited the Natural History Centre and had great fun! Here are some of our favourite parts:

My favourite part was when I picked up the worms because they were wiggling. It felt tickly on my hands!

Aimee

I liked the garden because we saw a moth, a bee and a butterfly. The butterfly was my favourite because it had nice patterns on it.

Keira

My favourite part was seeing a butterfly outside in the garden. I liked it because it went on my finger.

Laura

My favourite part was when we got to see all the minibeasts and animals. We got to touch an owl, a fox and a bird. They felt soft and furry.

Jnr

## West Park Primary

Just a summary - Westpark put forward an application for Breakfast Club funding to Kellogg's near the beginning of the year, and we were delighted to hear of our success at the beginning of March - we were awarded a cheque for £400, plus £50 in Kellogg's vouchers!

Diane has spent the vouchers on a range of Kellogg's cereals - tested out on the children - and we think a few favourites have been identified!

So far, spending of the grant has included mugs for hot drinks, free

breakfasts for kids at end of spring term which will also happen last week of this term, more berries offered at club, and we still have a couple of hundred left.

The kitchen staff have also added an extra day (Friday) - with help from our Mr Skinley, P6 Teacher. (Mrs Hall P2/3 and Mrs Atkinson P7 are our regular Breakfast Club volunteers on Tuesday and Thursdays)





## Byron Amateur Boxing Club

The club meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6.15 to 8pm at Northfield Community Centre. It is open to both male and females alike.

There is a host of young talent coming through the club right now and the gym is bursting to capacity.

And after a busy season travelling up and down the country, we've been to Edinburgh, Glasgow, MacDuff and over the water to Ireland. The club is proud to announce they have produced six Scottish two British Champions. On another positive note, 6 club

members are of down to Glasgow soon for selection in the European Championship.

And it is hoped to resume the boxercise classes in the not too distant future.

For any further information, call **Kevin Conner 07870-483-543.**

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## Byron Sports Club News

The Club, with lots of hard work and dedication, has been granted The SYFA Quality Marks - A great accolade for them to achieve.

They are now a club of sixteen teams from the Hornets - aged 3 years old - to the Amateurs. Another exciting addition is the Byron Girls, and with this comes a change of name to Byron Sports Club.

### League Winners

For some at Byron Boys' Club their seasons are now finished. For the Spurs and United, it was as winners of their respective leagues. A great tribute to their coaches and managers for the work put in - Manager Jacqui Innes, Coach Dave Wright and Assistant Colin Ross for United.

Jacqui has stepped down as manager after 8 years. She says she still intends to help out with the Club when required. "I've had a great time and finish on a high, wishing them all the best of luck in the future."

Manager Duncan, Sec Karen Stewart, Coaches Brian Melville, Neil Reid, Ryan Reid and Kieran Small for the Spurs.

Congratulations to all from all at Byron Sports Club.

### Ayr Trip

Two of our teams were off on their travels too! They headed to Ayr to a football tournament. This was the Munichs and the Milans, no big wins but the experience of playing in a tournament. I have

been told everyone who attended enjoyed their time.

### Trophy Day

The Trophy day was at St Machar Academy on 22nd June - a well-attended event where every child receives a trophy, for their contributions to the club, with Club Player, Manager's Player, Player's Player and Most Improved amongst them. There were over 250 trophies handed out on the day.

Derek Melville - A founder member of the club and a Manager/Coach of Byron Thistle, and also Club Secretary, sadly passed away on the 30th January this year. Derek will be sadly missed by all at the club.

## What's Going on at Northfield Community Centre

Hi all,

Since the management committee has taken over the running of the centre full-time, there are not enough days/ hours in the week. We really are busy busy, and we want to be even busier.

Previously we told you about the management members signing the lease. However, since then the centre has achieved a charitable status. We hope this will help our bids for funding.

Currently we are getting lots more parties/events at the weekends, but as always we are looking for more volunteers to help run the office or help in the new café. We aren't expecting anyone to come and join the

management committee - just that you can spare an hour or two of your time.

In the evening, the centre has a very busy programme with different activities on, but we could be doing with some more activities for during the day.

We will also be running the playscheme again, which is very popular with families throughout the area. The playscheme will run on a Wednesday and Friday from the 17th of July to 9th August, and takes the children to various attractions up and down the Northeast.

For the younger children we have the Creation Station coming to the centre on a Monday.

Zumba is starting again on the 27th of June on a Thursday evening from 7:15pm to 8:15pm.

Tuesday afternoon in the centre is the slowest day at the moment, so we are able to close and give the volunteers a well-earned afternoon off.

The café at the centre is open when the centre is open, so why not pop in for a cuppa when you are at the shops?



## Northfield Community Disco - Gone For Good

Northfield Community Disco is now a thing of the past - the girls have all got jobs and/or are at college etc. They held their first disco in April 2004 at the Northfield Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, from then on the disco went from strength to strength, holding gigs at schools and youth clubs all over Aberdeen - sometimes as many as five a week - all free, although they did receive donations from some of the venues which helped with maintenance of the equipment, which was paid for with a very kind grant from Northsound Radio's Cash for Kids in 2004.

First Emma Thompson and Lynsey White organized the discos on their own, but they were later joined by Nattalie Uquahart, Kimberly Inglis and

Krista Cairns at various stages throughout the disco. They received a number of awards, the biggest being a national award for Building Community Spirits, in which they competed against groups and organizations from all over Scotland - and won. As Northfield Academy pupils they felt a little bit disappointed that the head at the school at that time did not see this achievement as anything to do with the school.

After a number of years it was back to Lynsey and Emma, and eventually Emma stopped because of work commitment. Lynsey soon followed for the same reasons - also the fact that schools were not having as many events as they did before. Having left word with a number of schools that they could have the disco equipment, only Bramble

Brae showed interest so they have been given the equipment with great pleasure from the girls who fairly enjoyed their discos at Bramble Brae. So that's the end of an era, and we all hope the school has a lot of fun in the future. During their time with the discos, the girls stated that they met some really nice and wonderful people of all ages, and would like to thank them for their support over the years.



# Cummings Park Community Flat

## The Big Paint

**Friday 17th June, from 9.00am - 4.30pm**

In 2012 The Management Committee applied for and received funding from Awards for All.

The funding would create a new project called Cumming-In which will help people to be practical.

One of the activities within this project was to spruce up the internal walls of the flat. We wanted to do this as a community volunteer event. It was decided to do a one-day makeover.

The Man's Group spent all of their Wednesday evening preparing the walls and removing posters from the windows.

Thursday saw some of the volunteers glossing and painting the woodwork as part of the preparation.

17 Volunteers were actively involved in the painting - some of the volunteers stayed the full day. The local Housing Officer Laura and one of our Community Wardens Julie got stuck in with the rest of the volunteers.

The committee members and the rest of the volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the day and were appreciative of the soup and sandwich provided by the flat for lunch.

Committee members, young people and agencies staff spent

the day painting the walls. Everyone was exhausted by the end of the day, but the end result was excellent.

The Community Flat now looks more inviting for people to attend classes and activities, or to just pop in for a cuppa.

A great big thank you to Awards for All, and to all the volunteers involved in the activity!

If you would like to become a volunteer within the flat, or would like to attend one of our activities, please come to the flat any afternoon and we can discuss a way forward. Contact 01224 681357 and someone will return your call.





# The Big Dig

The Big Dig on the 25th of May was a great success. The Community Flat has a small garden at the rear of its property. The flat participants had discussed how “plotties” had become less of a past-time than they once were. This led to a discussion about fresh fruit and vegetables and how some people do not consider where fruit, herbs and vegetables come from or how they get onto supermarket shelves.

When asked, some people commented that they had not ever tasted fresh produce that they had grown from seed to sample. Some had mentioned that they had never grown anything from scratch but remembered the days when plots were common place. The management committee thought it would be beneficial for the community to encourage families and community members to work together in an unassuming, non-confrontational, outdoor way. Families would have the opportunity to mix together, learn and share with each other, and create an environment for everyone to use and be proud of.

Volunteers are encouraged to take part whenever they feel they can spare an hour. There is also an opportunity to come along in more structured sessions - weather permitting.

We envisage lots of opportunity to be arty and crafty with recycled

materials and garden items, encouraging people to be creative.

Our committee member, Pat Lawrence, took the lead for the project. Volunteers were involved from the start, designing areas of the garden and sharing their ideas. We secured funding from the Community and Family Fund to support the activity. The first shopping outing included the purchase of plants, seeds, trays, compost and enhancer, seeds, kids gardening and craft items, gloves and gardening tools. We hoped to get some compost donated – but alas, this wasn't to be. We aim to use local firms and people. We bought scaffolding boards from the local supplier to build raised plant beds. We received 3 local quotes for a fence to be built - the gardener started and completed the work within the week.

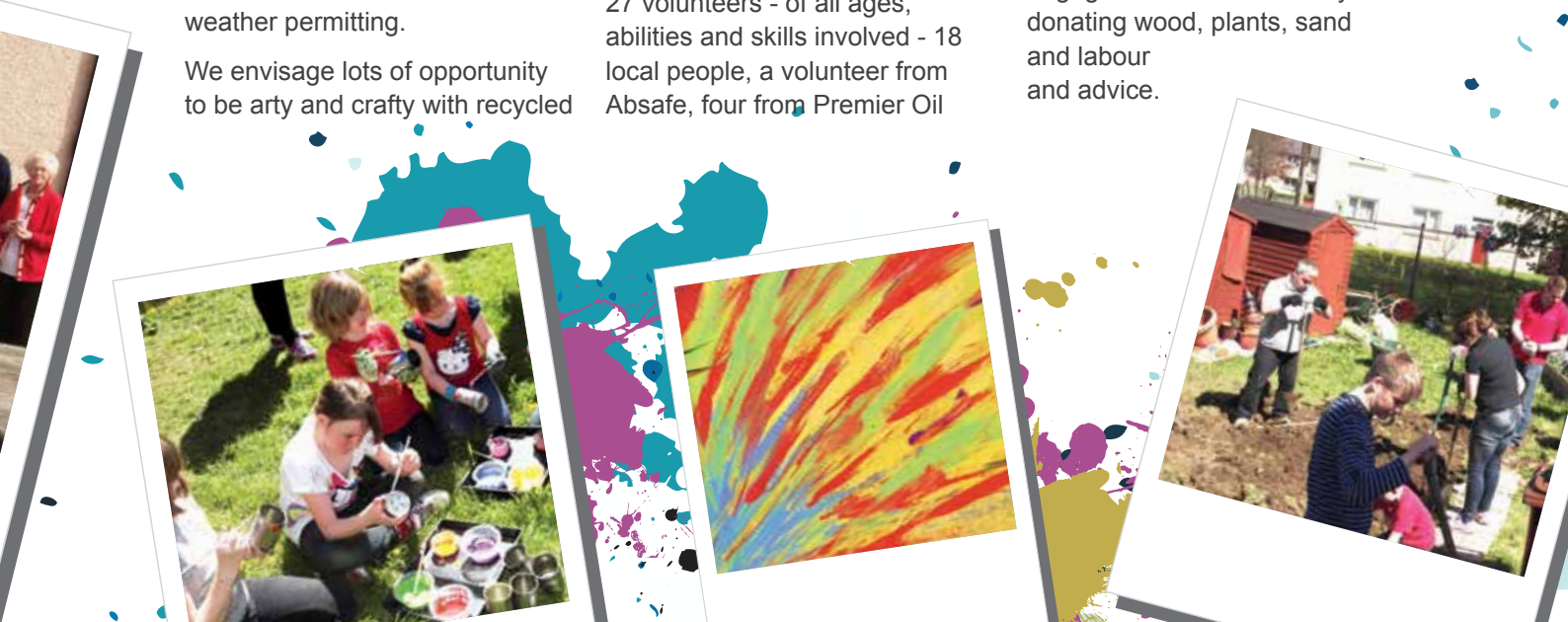
A Community Event was organised that included bringing families together called the Big Dig. We advertised for volunteers through mediums such as the Evening Express, shmuFM and throughout the local area.

The dig was arranged to start at 9.30am and continued until 4.30pm. The weather was perfect, which encouraged people to take part. There were 27 volunteers - of all ages, abilities and skills involved - 18 local people, a volunteer from Absafe, four from Premier Oil

and some who came because they had heard of the event from as far away as Tarves. The children also worked very hard taking part in the painting and digging.

One of our Management Committee members, Sharon Weir, did a brilliant job keeping everyone fed and watered throughout the day.

The garden has been transformed! This is an ongoing activity and will require regular maintenance from volunteers - some are already very dedicated. The outcome - This has proved to be a successful activity. It has brought adults and children of all abilities together. Things are beginning to grow and hopefully once we have some produce we can use some of it in our healthy cooking classes. Positive memories have been shared, and new skills learned. We have encouraged people away from their televisions and games consoles to become more community involved. Links have been made with agencies and partners as well as local people. The garden will continue to be a resource of work and relaxation for the benefit of the community. This is a great intergenerational opportunity. Other people have engaged for the first time by donating wood, plants, sand and labour and advice.



# Northfield Library

## Lazy summer days

Here at Northfield Library we are updating our book stock constantly including the Dan Brown thriller *Inferno* which takes the reader on a tour of Florence and Venice. It is full of Brown's usual mix of fact with fiction and has fantastic twists and turns throughout the story. On the other hand, you may prefer some ideas for barbecues. You can find lots of recipe ideas for indoor and outdoor cooking. Those fortunate to be on the move and who own a tablet device or e-reader can take advantage of accessing our online digital service and selecting an e-book, audiobook or e-magazine. Just the job for sitting on transport on a long journey or not overloading your travel bags with books that are heavy and take up valuable space. Another benefit - you don't have to be concerned about overdue fines or losing a book when you are on holiday. Ask library staff for further details. For children, don't forget, we have the summer reading challenge based on 'The Creepy House'. Read six books throughout the holiday and receive various incentives and rewards for taking up the good reading challenge. On August 15th there is a Creepy House activity and storytime. This will be at 3.00pm in Northfield Library.

**Mon and Wed 2.00 -7.00; Tues, Thurs and Fri 9.45 -1.00 and 2.00-5.00; Sat morning 10.00 -1.00.**

**Byron Square, Northfield,  
Tel: 695104**

**NorthfieldLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

# Councillors Comments

One of my priorities and major drivers for me is to improve the educational opportunities for the children in Northfield. It is therefore pleasing to report that there is a silent revolution going on in Northfield Academy. The new Head Teacher Neil Hendry is certainly making an impact: when you listen to him during the Parent Council meetings, you can sense the drive and ambition from him to make improvements to attainment levels. Neil also wants the school to be more community based, the Summer Fair and the Celebration of Success held by the school is testament to

that. I would urge parents to get involved with the Parent Council and help ensure that we build on the good work currently being done.

Aberdeen City Council has bought out the Farmer's Lease for the land opposite Davidson Drive - this will allow negotiations to start with Auchmill Golf Club to secure two new holes, and with a thirty year lease, other projects will also be moving forward.

**Regards  
Gordon Graham**

# Northfield Parish Church

As summer approaches, the organisations which meet in our church halls are starting to wind down. Our church is home to many different groups from both church and community.

Here is a list of the current groups:

**Monday - Thursday mornings**  
9.15am - 11.15am - Parent and Toddlers

**Monday evenings** - Northfield Community Band, 7pm - 9pm

**Alternate Monday evenings** - Guild 7.30pm - 9pm

**Tuesday evenings** - Pilates Classes 6pm - 8pm

**Wednesday evenings** - Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 5.30pm - 9.15pm

**Thursday evenings** - Boys' Brigade Junior Section 7pm - 8.30pm

**Friday mornings** - Fellowship 10.30pm - 11.45pm

**Saturdays** - Children's Dance Classes 9pm - 4pm

**Sunday Mornings** - Church Service at 10.30am - 11.30am, with tea and coffee to follow.

**1st Sunday each month** - Church 4 U in hall 10.30am - 11.30am

Although most of the groups will be taking a summer break, the Church Services continue each Sunday and you will be made very welcome if you come along. Our very popular Breakfast Club for primary-age children will start up again on Sunday the 8th of September at 10am in the church hall. Hope to see you there!

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and look forward to meeting up with you soon.

**All the best,  
Scott Guy (Minister)**



*Inspector Kevin Wallace (right) and Constable Kevin Lynch (Left)*

## Police Scotland Update - At Least How It Relates To You.

With the first three months behind us, some of you may already have had some dealings with 'Police Scotland' and realise that we are still here to tackle the issues you raised as concerns: antisocial behaviour, drug dealing and misuse, car crime and safer roads. While our name has changed, our priority remains to keep people safe and that means you - whether you live in, work in or simply visit the Cummings Park area.

The biggest change for the Northfield Community Policing Team is the posting of myself - Kevin Wallace - as your Inspector. Otherwise your previous Local Policing Team is unchanged, ensuring that previous knowledge and working relationships continue to grow from a sound footing. Our team continues to work from the Manor Park Police Office, with the exception of the School Liaison Officer Constable Kevin Lynch, who is based in Northfield Academy.

So what has changed? The most obvious relates to technology, with a single non-emergency contact telephone number being available – simply dial 101, at a cost of 15 pence per call. You can now also email us for less urgent issues at [NorthfieldCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NorthfieldCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk). We have also launched an area specific Twitter feed (@AberdeenNPolice) and Facebook page (Police Scotland) to keep you informed of local issues, when they happen. That said don't forget the obvious though - you can still stop us in the street or drop in past the office!

The new force structure does allow us to call in specialists and colleagues for assistance within our CPT, with Road Policing, Proactive Units and the high profile Campaign Against Violence (CAV) patrols being the most obvious to date. These providing support and knowledge to ensure we provide you with the best possible service - focus having been given initially to domestic abuse, drug search

warrants and violent crime.

We continue to work with other key partners and this is seen in the work of the Northfield Youth Action Group, which has assisted Project Fit in moving forward - providing alternative diversionary activities for local youths - and on a different level has seen Operation Trinity being relaunched to tackle the antisocial use of motorcycles in Aberdeen, recognising the concerns that this behaviour causes you during the summer months.

The most important part in our work, however, is you. Please take time to let us know what is happening, what concerns you, and help us keep people safe. Over the summer, think about your property - secure doors when they are out of your view, and keep your keys and valuables out of sight. Together we can make a difference - take care and enjoy yourselves.

**Kevin Wallace, Inspector,**  
Northfield CPT

# HISTORIC NORTHFIELD

## A little sketch of Aberdeen

Now we are beyond the bid for the City of Culture, let's take a look at times gone past. Towering over Broad Street is St Nicholas house, not quite down yet.

It takes its name from our city's Patron Saint, hence the old medieval church of St Nicholas, the city's Mither Kirk. We at one time had many such places named after Saints; the very ground that Union Street sits on is St Katherine's hill, complete with a chapel, levelled off in the early 19th century to create one of Scotland's finest high Streets.

Another such chapel, St Ninian's, sat on Castle hill. It was home to the ancient Sang school; a song school where young men were trained as choir boys. These were known as Castrati, a type of singing in a high soprano style achieved by castration - ouch!!

St Mary's sat in Old Aberdeen and was an early name for Kings College, built on a marsh. Another St Mary's was the chapel of the Blessed Virgin of Stoneywood with a probable pre-Christian well (a place where votive offerings were made to the Deva, or water spirit - a wishing well to you and me), also the chapel of St Mary on the Dee, a Templar Priory. There was also a Templar preceptory in the Castlegate. St Peter's sits off King Street and there was a medieval hospital there, it was for ageing Friars and their sick, hence the Spital.

St Machar's, a great Cathedral, sits on the curving bend of the Don, above where a ford crossed

the river, sited as to its likeness to a shepherds crook, and a stone's throw from the medieval Motte of Tillydrone (the hill of the thorn tree) and the medieval bridge of Balgownie (the pool of the Smith).

St Fittick's and its wee kirk lie in acres of grassland at Balnagask, Torry and it has a Lepers squint, which is a small hole in the base of the wall in order that leprosy sufferers could hear Mass. Mass was heard not seen, but the Lepers were kept away as they were shunned and had their own land known as a Lepers Colony - there was one between Old Aberdeen and Aberdeen, heading across Causwayend.

Out at Dyce on the banks of the Don is the ancient chapel of St Fergus, home to a very fine collection of Pictish symbol stones and a cute little gargoyle on the left eave of the front gable.

All of the above places got their names in medieval times or before. The medieval town was quite small and was a Royal Burgh. The centre of activity was around the Green/Denburn, and the Back Lands around what is now the St Nicholas and Bon Accord centres. This is where cottage industries were: spinning, weaving, tanning in pits, and 'bakers ovens' - small holdings where pigs were kept. The reek of human refuse mixed in with the smell of faeces and urine used in tanning and dyeing was awful - things were a bit mingin' in those days.

Amongst all of this there were

in the town, in days gone by, religious houses known as Friaries and they were sited around the ancient burgh - these were very important places in medieval times.

At the site of Marischal College was the Grey Friar's Chapel and the Friary. These Friars, or as we might say Monks, were clad in grey habits and were of the order of Franciscans.

Down in the Green were the Carmelites, hence Carmelite Lane, and they were the White Friars. Across from the Green in the lower end of modern Market Street were the Trinitarians - they were the Red Friars, hence from the purchase of their lands by the Incorporated trades, we have the name Trinity centre.

High up on a ridge over the Denburn sat the Dominican Friary, the Black Friars, a well known street name, once well populated by warehouses and shops around the Woolmanhill area. The Friary was perched on ground that at one time fell sharply away to the Lower Denburn, now the site of the Cowdray Hall/ Art Gallery.

Aberdeen was once a great place of trade, especially with the Baltic regions, and famed as it is today for its religious tolerance and cosmopolitan outlook, more later, but in the meantime, let's leave with a traditional Aiberdeen farewell, "Happy to meet, Sorry to part, Happy to meet again"

**Mike Middleton**

# Northfield Academy News

## Hazlehead Park Competition Winner

Congratulations to Jade Gilbert S5, who won first prize in the Evening Express Hazlehead Park logo competition. Jade's entry was selected from over 300 to claim the first prize and the honour of her logo being displayed around the park as part of the £10million revamp. 'Friends of Hazlehead' committee member Myles Edwards praised Jade for her drawing, saying that it was "absolutely fantastic and we were all very impressed with it as soon as we saw it". Both the winning logo and a picture of Jade planting a tree at Hazlehead Park at the launch of the revamp can be seen below.

## S1 Winners - Press and Journal Competition

Congratulations to Jake Thain, Lauryn Shearer, William Urquhart and Callum Hopkins for winning the February A-Z of Energy competition, which is run by the Press and Journal. Our team won for their excellent description of what mud is used for within the energy sector and the picture shows them with Shells communications advisor, David Rodger, and their prize of an iPad.

## Heptathlon

On the 5th February 2013, a group of 15 Northfield Academy boys and girls took part in the City Schools Giant Heptathlon Event held at Aberdeen Sports Village. They were competing against several city centre schools in a range of activities including shot putt, step ups, bean bag challenge, hurdles, sprint, long jump, triple jump and team relay. The pupils put on a fantastic show and did Northfield

proud, with some pupils gaining personal bests in several of the different activities! The pupils involved consisted of 7 girls and 8 boys from S1 and S2, these pupils were Kieran Pratt, Calvin Dunbar, Flynn Clark, Cameron Mann, Scott Kerr, Ellis Main, Jack Hosie, Kieran Parker, Morgan Christie, Rhianne Bryson, Lauryn Shearer, Tiegan Harper, Kira McBain, Emily Howie and Ashlyn Hardie.



## Aaron William Football Tournament

The Aaron Williams Football Tournament will take place on Monday 24th June and will run until Friday 5th July 2013, at Northfield Playing Fields - KO times will start from 5pm. The tournament will be in a 'Champion's League' style 7-a-side format with teams starting in groups of four then progressing to knock out rounds.

All group games will be played in one evening along with knock out stages where possible. All clubs and self made teams will be welcomed to take part in the tournaments from under 7's to under 16's. However, all must have one adult representative present during their matches. There will also be a tournament for adults.

Entertainment will also take place throughout the evening with catering facilities on site

servicing hot and cold food and drinks, inflatable bouncy castles, "Beat the Goalkeeper", hair and face painting and an on-site photographer.

## UKMT Team Challenge 2013

On Monday the 4th of March, two first year pupils, two second year pupils and Mr Gibb of the Maths department travelled to Aberdeen University to take part in this annual prestigious event. It involves a competition between the best S1 and S2 pupils in Mathematics in Aberdeen city and its surrounding areas. Our team had been practicing together and individually in the build up to the event at lunch times with a number of their peers. Eventually the final four were selected, Shannon McPake and Rianne Gorman from S2 and Calvin Dunbar and Jake Thain from S1.

The quartet spent the entire day at Aberdeen University competing in the challenges. Each pupil was an outstanding ambassador and credit to the school. In the end Northfield successfully beat their previous final score and finished a commendable 14th, with a number of schools very close by in the final scoring. A few tweaks here or there and the position could have been even greater. The objective, however, was to have fun and enjoy completing complex Maths problems, and this objective was completed. Jake and Calvin are now eligible to take part next year and I'm sure they will aim to beat their position in the competition from this year. Thank you to Mr Gibb for his help with this event.

## SHMU JOURNALISM COURSE PROVES A SUCCESS

As part of the work we do at SHMU to help support Aberdeen's seven community magazines, we have been running journalism training for those who wish to become writers for their local publication.

We've now delivered three courses, each consisting of six sessions. The sessions

are once a week at our main building in Woodside.

So far we have had people of all ages and from many different parts of the city take part, learning about research, writing skills, interview technique and much more. This has been a great way to bring new writers to the magazines and over the coming editions of Cumming

North you will no doubt see some new names contributing interesting articles.

We're looking into doing a fourth course and places are free - although numbers are limited - so if you'd like to get involved then you can email [denise@shmu.org.uk](mailto:denise@shmu.org.uk) or call her on 01224 515013.

## Positive Transitions 16 - Now Recruiting!

All enquiries to Michelle Trail (Employability Development Worker) 01224 515 013 or [michelle@shmu.org.uk](mailto:michelle@shmu.org.uk)

Positive Transitions offers a 10-week training course for those aged 16-19 living in Aberdeen City who are not in education, employment or training. Young people can be referred by a partner service or agency, a family member or they can contact SHMU themselves.

This programme encompasses

a range of digital media modules which have been developed by SHMU, these modules are used not only to engage young people in a dynamic and different way but also to build employability skills such as communication, research, team work and confidence building.

The employability module follows the SQA in Employability with evidence coming from both digital media

and employability modules. Trainees completing the 10-week course will achieve their SQA.

Liam from Northfield took part in our Positive Transitions 12 course and managed to get a job, where is still working now. George, also from Northfield, is still on our current course and has managed to secure a number of interviews and a potential job offer.

## shmuSOUND Summer Sessions

Our music projects here at SHMU are coming along very well and we have lots of exciting work planned over the summer.

The recording studio has been in full operation since late last year and we've seen a lot of young people taking part in our Creative Scotland Youth Music Project. It is open to young

people from Cummings Park and Northfield aged from 14-25.

What we offer is expert music tuition and the chance to record some tracks in our state-of-the-art studio – and it's **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

We also hire our studio out and we provide a sound engineer. We can cater for everything

from a solo acoustic act to electronica, a massive choir or jazz band.

For more info on anything related to music at SHMU or the recording studio, email Stevie Kearney on [sound@shmu.org.uk](mailto:sound@shmu.org.uk) or phone 01224 515013.

## Money and Benefits Advice: Outreach Service

Since 2009 Citizens Advice Bureau Aberdeen has been running a benefits and money advice service exclusive to people residing in the Manor area.

We deal with problems people are experiencing with debt and benefit issues and we have two workers based in the local area.

One of us has experience in dealing with debt issues such as rent arrears, council tax arrears and loans to the private sector such as banks, credit card providers, catalogue companies and fuel suppliers amongst others.

We offer advice and assist in providing means to alleviate the stress debt causes and deal directly with the creditors on behalf of our clients. We make

available options for our clients as to how they can best resolve the issues that debt presents.

Our other worker has experience in income maximisation and advises on whether an individual is entitled to state benefits from the DWP, the Pension Service, the local authority or HMRC. We advise on appeals and deal directly with the benefit agencies if there are any issues to be resolved. We have experience in dealing with the recent issues affecting benefit recipients such as the medical assessments currently experienced and the forthcoming reforms that will have a major effect upon people's livelihoods.

We are also prepared for the forthcoming challenge

presented by the "Bedroom tax" that is causing a great deal of anxiety among many tenants of Aberdeen City Council. We expect many people placed in accommodation by the local authority will be penalised for accepting accommodation with more bedrooms than they require. This is because there will be a decrease in their housing benefit payments, even though the said accommodation may have been offered by the local authority rather than sought after by the tenant.

If you would like assistance from our service then we are based at the Manor Community Project every Friday between 10am-3pm. You can drop in to the centre or arrange an appointment by telephoning 07795622114 or 07944803490.

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## Exercise: Your No.1 prescription

Active Ageing is an initiative set up by Sport Aberdeen creating opportunities for older adults to remain active as they age. We have a range of activities across Aberdeen to be active. Sessions are specifically designed to cater for older adults to enjoy, in a friendly social environment.

Health Walks - The Walk Aberdeen Programme provides short, social, local, low level walks in communities across Aberdeen with trained walk leaders.

There is a walk at Northfield Community Centre every 2nd Tuesday at 11am. Walks are free, and for beginners as well as those who can't manage very fast or

very far. Tea and coffee is on offer after the walk at a small cost.

Active Ageing Swim Time - Northfield Swimming Pool, Mondays at 1.45-2.45. Free with an Access to Leisure card. Want to get some more exercise and love swimming? Join us at Northfield swimming pool on Monday's from 1.45-2.45 for a relaxing Swim Time.

Otago Strength and Balance Class - Alex Collie Centre in Bridge of Don, Wednesdays from 2-3pm. These are part of the NHS falls Prevention Programme and cost only £2, including your tea or coffee afterwards.

Walking Football - Still in love with the game? Come and try

this lower impact version, all the same rules of football but no running. Torry Sports Centre, Thursdays at 10am. £2, including your tea and coffee afterwards.

Remember these sessions are designed for older people so if you don't think you can, come and try anyway and see how easy it is.

Want to see an activity in your area, get in touch and let us know what you like!

For more information on all these activities contact Sport Aberdeen at: [sgammack@sportaberdeen.co.uk](mailto:sgammack@sportaberdeen.co.uk), [www.sportaberdeen.co.uk](http://www.sportaberdeen.co.uk) (click on the Active Ageing page) or call 01224 577738.

# Northfield Neep

(A Pensioner and His Garden)

Hi fellow gardeners,

With the arrival of spring and the promise of summer soon to be here - better late than never - I reckon it's bye-bye to the frosty mornings (with a silent prayer) and time to get my tender plants out into the good earth.

I'm still a bit cautious and don't want to be too much of a hurry for them to meet this wonderful world of ours with all the lovely colours of the summer shows. Being easily reminded of my passing years, my grinding hips and squeaky muscles, I'm cutting back on the veggie plot and have planted more perennial bushes with the help of a gardening friend. Plot one has a rhododendron now in full bloom, plot three has smaller bushes to keep it company while plot two a number of rose bushes (three) has been planted.

I will use my tender plants to form a border around these areas and will be hoping for a nice colourful show during the balmy months ahead. I have used a small corner of my rhubarb patch to plant some onion sets and they are coming on very well; the rhubarb is also growing on well and will be a very welcome addition to the crumble that we enjoy.

The plants used for edging these areas will be Petunias, French

Marigolds and Geraniums. When I feel a bit more relaxed about Jack Frost elsewhere in the backie, I have potatoes growing away in their bags they are late ones and are on the move now. In the greenhouse I will be watching my two tomato plants developing in the compost bags, and using the warmth of the house to sort out my daffodils and tulips to allow the bulbs to rest before replanting in the autumn.

On a nice summer evening I still enjoy a walk around the area admiring the many fine gardens on offer - nature's perfume can linger heavenly in the air and I keep thinking that it's quite free for us all to appreciate (mother nature can be a generous soul).

While sitting on my newly acquired garden seat in the warmth of the late summer sun, the mind starts thinking of any improvements I can make when nature nods off. However, I'll just dream on in the meantime and hope all gardeners will have a pleasant and carefree summer to enjoy their gardens with lots of sunshine with a few drops of rain through the night.

Bye for now

Mr Northfield Neep  
(*Neepie to my friends*)