

# cumming north<sup>↑</sup>

Summer 2025



## In this issue:

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ABERDEEN FESTIVALS

U-DECIDE

NORTHFIELD ACADEMY

FREE THINGS TO DO

[www.shmu.org.uk/press](http://www.shmu.org.uk/press)

Summer Edition 2025

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## Cumming North Letters to the editor

*The editorial team of Cumming North want to hear from you.*

*The team are introducing a new interactive section to the magazine and want to hear from the community.*

*In this section, you can write to the editors of Cumming North, let us know of issues and events taking place in the community, send us your thoughts on topics we have covered. Have your say of what you want to see represented in the magazine and what you'd like to read. We'd also love to publish your stories and photos too!*

*Please email [rose.ross@shmu.org.uk](mailto:rose.ross@shmu.org.uk) with the email subject 'CN Letters to the Editors' to have your letter included in the magazine.*

*Please contact Rose if you would be interested in getting involved!*



## Welcome to another exciting edition of the Cumming North magazine.

Thanks again to all the contributors – we are incredibly grateful to everyone who submits articles and photos for the magazine. Celebrate with us!

This summer, we find out what it was like to be trawler man in Aberdeen, hear from Northfield Academy and more!

Fancy joining in on the fun? Our editorial team is always on the lookout for local people to get involved. There are a number of ways you can get involved, such as, taking pictures, sending us a story or information gathering. Or perhaps you would also like to join the editorial committee and take part in planning and producing the magazine.

Do you have a story to tell about Cummings Park or Northfield? Whether it's a historical piece about the area, a story about your time in the community, a group you're involved in we'd love to hear it! We're always looking for more people to get involved in the magazine.

Please get in touch with **Rose** at shmu on **07752586312** or email **[rose.ross@shmu.org.uk](mailto:rose.ross@shmu.org.uk)**.

You can also get in touch with us via our new **Facebook** page - look up '**Cumming North**' and hit that like button!

Cumming North is a community publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team. or of shmu.



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## CREW COMMUNITY COLLECTION

PUPILS AT NORTHFIELD ACADEMY SUPPORT COMMUNITY WITH FOOD

*Reported by Leah Whyte*

Over the past few months, Northfield Academy S1's set up a food bank with C-fine to provide food parcels for the community.

Northfield Academy S1 pupils were working with C-fine, a local food bank, throughout January to March 2025. This was part of their Project Based Learning (PBL) "How can we as S1 pupils support C-fine to feed our community?" They created Crew Community Collection to create food parcels for those living in poverty. S1 pupils learnt how to: budget, what to donate to a food bank and how to effectively help the community and those in need.

In Scotland, 17% of adults have faced food insecurity, a situation where people lack access to nutritious food. The Cost-of-Living Crisis is making it even more difficult for families living in poverty. C-fine have been assisting those that need it, by creating food parcels. Miss McLenan, Crew Teacher at Northfield Academy said, "We did this project to give back to our community and help those in need."

Northfield Academy recognised the community needed help, and worked alongside C-fine to create Crew Community Collection. Donations of food pantry items were being dropped off to Northfield Academy and local primary schools, such as Bramble Brae, Heathryburn, Holy Family RC, Manor Park, Muirfield, Quarryhill and Westpark. This project was a giant success and over 365kg of food was donated. Amy Ether, BSCO at Northfield Academy said, "The local community profits from this support because the food goes to the local food bank."

This project was a brilliant example of project-based learning, with pupils engaging with their learning whilst supporting the community.

## S1 PUPILS SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED

PUPILS AT NORTHFIELD ACADEMY WORKING WITH CFINE

*By Naomi Warner*

S1 pupils at Northfield Academy set up a food bank at their school to help those in need.

Northfield Academy's S1 pupils worked with C-fine, a local food bank, during the months of January-March 2025. This was a part of their Project Based Learning (PBL), "How can we as S1 pupils support C-fine to feed our community?" Crew teachers planned this project, and the pupils learnt how to budget, about food choices, the impact of poverty and how to create a radio advert to promote their project.

In Scotland, 1.2 million people have experienced food insecurity. The Cost-of-Living Crisis is putting pressure on people who are living in poverty. C-fine, are a food bank in Aberdeen, who provide food parcels for those in need as well as emergency foods, hot foods, financial and advice services, mental health and wellbeing, housing and homelessness, and support for families. Martin, Sustainable Food Co-Ordinator at C-fine said, "With the Cost-of-Living Crisis, there is a demand for food support, so we have been extremely busy."

Northfield Academy created Crew Community Collection to address these needs. Food donations were collected throughout January and February 2025. The drop off points were Northfield Academy and all ASG primary schools such as Bramble Brae, Heathryburn, Holy Family RC, Manor Park, Quarryhill, and West Park. The items that were collected were Pasta, Rice, Sauces, Spices, Tins, Jars, Cereals, Biscuits, etc. The project was an enormous success. Amy Ether, BCSO said, "We collected 365kg of food so that is enough to feed one person for a year."

Crew Community Collection was an amazing success.



## Summer BBQ at United Free Church

United Free Church will be hosting their summer barbeque on the 28th of June from 11:30am to 2pm.

This is a free community BBQ in the Church Grounds, everyone is welcome. The church is located on Kettlehills Road, AB16 5SJ.

## fear fascination a gothic exhibition

19 May – 7 December 2025

*The Gallery, Sir Duncan Rice Library*

Step into a world of Gothic terror in the latest exhibition from University of Aberdeen Collections.

Showcasing the extensive collection of Gothic novels, this exhibition explores how these texts used fear to both terrify and excite readers with their tales of monsters and villains, and exploration of transgressive themes.

Discover hidden meanings within these classic tales that question, are the monsters truly monstrous?



# Book a bulky Uplift

Fly tipping and the leaving of items on the street are issues that keep on arising in the Northfield Community. Did you know that **Council Tenants are entitled to have 4 standard household items collected for free each year as part of their Tenancy agreement?**

Booking an uplift is easier than you may think. Go to **-www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/bins-waste-and-recycling/book-bulky-uplift** - to book an uplift or find out more.

To report fly tipping go to [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/report-flytipping](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/report-flytipping)

**Items that can be uplifted** - Beds, Mattresses, Furniture, Cookers, Fridges, Freezers, Electrical items, Internal doors

Please note any items that need to be connected to any power or water supply must be disconnected before the collection can be done. Any item that requires liquid fuel to power it must have fuel removed prior to collection. Also note that large items should be dismantled where possible.

If you are not a council tenant, you can still book a collection but the following charges apply and you must make payment before a collection can be scheduled.

£45 for four standard household items (certain items have an additional charge)

£22.50 for four standard household items if you receive Housing benefit or Council Tax benefits (you must provide your benefit reference number when booking).

### Items with additional charges

#### £90 per item includes –

American style fridge freezer, Piano, Kitchen Units, Bathroom suite (toilet, bath, sink), Sheds and greenhouses (must be dismantled), Built in Cupboards, Window frames (without the glass), Fencing, Garden toys (e.g. slides, sandpits).

#### £45 per item –

Industrial BBQ/grills, Sun bed without tubes – tubes must be taken to the recycling centres at Tullos or Hazlehead (addresses below).

### Items which can't be collected

Restrictions due to health and safety legislation means we can't collect any of the following items:

Asbestos, Builder's rubble and materials, Car engines, Central heating boiler, Glass and shards of glass, Chemicals, Liquids of any type, e.g. paints, varnishes, oils (fuels required to power any items must be removed before collection), Motorcycles, Tyres, Tree stumps, Gas cylinders

### Recycling Centres

Tullos Recycling Centre,  
Greenbank Crescent, AB12 3BC

Hazehead Recycling Centre,  
Hazlehead Avenue, AB15 8BJ







## Where are the defibrillators on the local area?

**T**here are several defibrillators across the area that are accessible to the public, in case of emergency.

A defibrillator is a device used when a person is in cardiac arrest and their heart has stopped. It is used to give a jolt of energy to the heart to get it beating.

There are a few different names for it such as public access defibrillator (pad) and AED which means automated external defibrillator.

While we hope that you never have to use one of these devices, it is handy to know where they are should an emergency ever take place.

There are 12 defibs located across the North area.

The local defibrillators are located:

### COMMUNITY CENTRES

**Northfield Community Centre**  
**Cairncry Community Centre**

### SCHOOLS

**Middlefield Community Project**

**West Park School**

**Heathryburn School**

**Orchardbrae School**

**Quarryhill School**

**Manor Park School**

**Northfield Academy**

### OTHER LOCATIONS

**Ogilvie Construction**

**Cala Homes North**

**17 Hutcheon Low Drive**

What to do if you need a defibrillator

Call 999, ask for an ambulance and start CPR if someone is in cardiac arrest. The 999 operator will talk you through CPR and locating a defib.

If you're alone don't stop CPR to track down a defib – try and get someone else to go and find one.

The British Heart Foundation's defib finder can help you find your nearest defibrillator. It uses data from the national defibrillator network.

<https://www.defibfinder.uk/>

When looking for your nearest defib – look for signs that say AED or have a green heart image.

Once you find a defib, it may be in a locked box – the emergency services operator will be able to provide the code for you.

Defibs are designed to be used by anyone, without training and clear instructions will be given by the device. It will talk you through the whole process.





## NEWS FROM ABERDEEN CITY LIBRARIES

**M**astrick is one of ten libraries across Aberdeen City which, along with the Central Library, are all warm, welcoming spaces for their local communities and those visiting from further afield to use our fantastic services and resources. Visit [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/find-your-local-library](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/find-your-local-library) for information on all our libraries.

Mastrick Library's current opening hours are Monday and Wednesday 10am-7pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-5pm and Saturday 10am-1pm 2-5pm. Be sure to come in and pay us a visit!

Our Bookbug sessions for youngsters 0-5 years, take place on Tuesdays every 4 weeks at Mastrick Library. Spaces are limited, and booking is essential. Look out for details on our Facebook page or check with the

library staff to see when the next session is being held.

Junior Book Group. We have a new group for our youngsters, if you know anyone aged 9-12 years who would be interested in reading and reviewing some popular titles, get in touch with the library on **01224 788558** for more information. The group will be meeting once a month.

Our Lego Club for 8–12-year-olds meets every fourth Monday. Ask in the Library if you would like to join. Your Lego creations will be displayed in the library.

Over the School Summer Holidays we will again be running our very popular Summer Reading Challenge. This year's theme will tie in with the Tall Ships event. More details to follow as summer approaches.

If you know anyone who would be interested in borrowing library items but are unable to visit the library due to disability or illness, give us a call and we can give you more information on our Home Library Service where we deliver items to customers in their own homes every 4 weeks.

We offer up to two hours per day of PC access. These slots can be booked online via Netloan or by contacting libraries. We also offer printing and photocopying services.

We are always delighted to meet new faces. For more information on how to become a member, please visit our website or contact your local library.

For information on our services and online resources, please visit [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/libraries](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/libraries) or contact Mastrick Library by email: **MastrickLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk** or **telephone: 01224 788558**.



## *Discover Aberdeen Without Spending a Penny: Free Activities in the Granite City*

### **Embrace the Outdoors**

**Aberdeen Beach:** Miles of golden sand await you at Aberdeen Beach. Stroll along the promenade, build sandcastles, or watch for dolphins in the summer months. The beach is also home to the free Queens Links, offering a place for picnics and games.

**Hazlehead Park:** This expansive park, gifted to the city by Robert the Bruce, is a haven for nature lovers. Explore the walking trails, admire the flower gardens, and let the kids loose in the playground.

**Footdee (Fittie):** Wander through this charming fishing village with its colourful cottages and unique character. It's a great place to experience the city's maritime heritage and take some memorable photos.

**Donmouth Local Nature Reserve:** Observe seals at play in their natural habitat at the Donmouth Local Nature Reserve, where the River Don meets the sea.

### **Delve into History and Culture**

**Aberdeen Maritime Museum:** Discover Aberdeen's seafaring past at this fascinating museum. Explore exhibits on shipbuilding, fishing, and the North Sea oil industry, including a massive model of an oil platform.

*Aberdeen, the “Granite City,” is a captivating blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. While some attractions come with a price tag, there's plenty to see and do without opening your wallet. Here's a guide to exploring Aberdeen on a budget.*

**Tolbooth Museum:** Step back in time at the Tolbooth Museum, housed in a 17th-century prison. As you explore the historic cells, learn about crime and punishment through the ages. Closed for refurbishment at the moment but plans are to reopen this year.

**Aberdeen Art Gallery:** Immerse yourself in art at the Aberdeen Art Gallery, which boasts a diverse collection spanning centuries. Admire works by Scottish artists and international masters.

**Old Aberdeen:** Take a walk through the historic heart of Aberdeen, with its cobbled streets, medieval buildings, and the impressive St. Machar's Cathedral.

### **Other Free Experiences**

**Sculpture Trail:** Discover public art as you follow the Aberdeen Sculpture Trail. Encounter statues of historical figures and contemporary creations dotted throughout the city center.

**University of Aberdeen's Zoology Museum:** Get up close with animal skeletons and specimens from around the world at this free museum, perfect for families with children.

**Cruickshank Botanic Garden:** Explore a diverse collection of plants from around the world at this tranquil garden, located next to the Zoology Museum.



# When The Boats Come

## A FISHERMAN'S STORY – PART 1

**B**orn and raised in the Woodside area of Aberdeen to a family who were well connected to the fishing industry, I was educated at Kittybrewster and Powis Schools, an education that set me up for the challenges that lay ahead for a 15 year old lad. My father Big Alec Leslie was a trawler man along with my older brother Bobby Leslie, also my mother's father and a couple of uncles and I felt this was the life for me as well.

In 1965 myself and a schoolfriend Alan Tate went along to the trawling School for a fishing apprenticeship which was enjoyable and 1966 I made my first trip on the Ben Royal, 18 days fishing around Iceland the Faroe Island and back to Aberdeen for three days at home. Then off again, on a boat called Ben Strome with skipper Doddy Quinlin a very nice guy who showed people respect, stayed on that boat for 6 months earning around £2 a week, not a lot for the risks but that's how it was in them days.

A lot of people not connected to the fishing industry assumed that trawler men were earning big wages, but the truth is that the only ones making the money were the boat owners. On arrival at the fish market the catch was landed ready to be sold, if it was a good catch and prices were high then their wages could be decent, not great but ok. After the fish was sold the boat owners were first to get

their share, use of the boat, nets and equipment the crews food, and the bond as well as the company share all deducted first, the men all had to provide their oilskins and even the mattress for the bunks they slept in, what was left was divided among the crew with the skipper and mate getting the lions share. That was correct as they took the same risks as us but with added responsibility. About eight men shared a cabin so as you can imagine, things were a bit tight in the cabin, some men went home after a 14 trip which included working nonstop for 24 to 36 hours and sometimes longer only to find they had no wages to pick up. This happened to my father after a couple of weeks at sea. Many fishermen alleged that fish merchants (some of whom were trawler owners also) would fix the price of fish so they could increase their profits when selling the fish.

Trawling is one of the most dangerous jobs around as places like Aberdeen, Grimsby, Hull, Peterhead and Fraserburgh to name a few have all lost men in the name of fishing and putting food on people's plates. My father had a lucky escape when the boat he was on went ashore (run aground), all hands were saved by the Longhope Lifeboat, but my wife's father was not so fortunate, he was one of the crew on the George Robb which went ashore. This time he and all the crew were lost, both these took place in 1959. Then in 1968,

just off Iceland the Ross Cleaveland and two other boats from Hull & Grimsby area went down, about 60 lives lost, it was a boat called the Blue Crusader, it vanished on the 13th of January 1965 never to be seen again. That has stuck in a lot of local people's minds 13 lives lost. On the 31st of August 2010 a diver found the wreck sitting upright at the bottom of the sea, but they left it in peace. Folk in Ferrier and Sandilands were used to hearing about men in that area losing their lives at sea and that could be said for a lot of places in the Woodside area, my School friend Alan Tate (Sticks as he was known to his mates) who started trawling training with me was sadly lost at a young age when he went over the side of the boat and drowned before the pulled him out.

The wives, mothers and partners of those who went on the trawlers were a special breed of women who would struggle to bring up the children and run a home on what must be called a pitiful wage and with very little, if any support from the men's employers, these women should be described as being brave and industrious and very good at making do and mend. Having to stay at home and carry on as normal without knowing whether their loved ones will return from a very hazardous job and if they lose a partner, what to tell the kid, this is something that sometimes gets overlooked by people outside the industry, but they also played their



# Home

part making trawling and  
Aberdeen grow.

Working as a trawler man has plenty of hazards to deal with, but it also has its good points such as friendships and bonds that grow among the crews who are men all facing the same tasks and the reliance on one another for their crew's safety as well as getting the best catch possible. All boats have characters on board and some have more. I remember one of our crew stopped working and went below deck only to appear a few minutes later with his mattress strapped to his back, when the skipper asked what it was all about he said 'I paid for it so I might as well get the use of it', the fact was we had been working nonstop for over 72 hrs. The skipper took the hint and told us to get some shut eye. There was many like him who went fishing with a sense of humour and I suppose it helps when you sleep 9 – 10 in a cabin, friends are not hard to come by while fishing, in fact now long retired I still meet up with other retired trawler men and others connected to the fishing industry every Tuesday at Morrisons in King St. We talk about the past and keep up to date on others we all know and have a good laugh and a joke for a couple of hours.

**To be continued....**

**Alec Leslie**






A large crowd of people is gathered on a city street, likely during a festival. On the left, a tall sailing ship with many masts and rigging is visible. In the background, modern city buildings are visible. The scene is bright and sunny, with many people wearing summer clothing. A blue banner with yellow text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

# *Aberdeen's Festival Fever:*

A Year-Round Celebration





**T**he Granite City is known for its rich history, stunning architecture, and vibrant cultural scene. Throughout this year, the city comes alive with a diverse array of festivals, offering something for everyone. From music, and light shows to crime writing and traditional celebrations, Aberdeen's festival calendar is packed with exciting events. Here's a glimpse into some of the upcoming highlights.

***A Celebration of Tradition:  
Scottish Traditional Boat Festival  
(June 27-29, 2025)***

Head down to the charming harbour of Portsoy for the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival. This popular event showcases the region's maritime heritage with a flotilla of historic boats, demonstrations of traditional crafts, and lively music and dance performances. The festival will take place on Saturday the 28th and Sunday the 24th of June. Tickets can be bought from the festival's website.

***Aberdeen Highland Games  
(15th June)***

On 15th June 2025, Aberdeen will host their Highland Games at Hazlehead Park. A staple summer event, which starts at 10am and will include a day of fun for all the family. You can expect traditional Highland game events, stalls and activities as well as entertainment from professional performers.

There will be more information relating to ticket prices released on Aberdeen City Government's website closer to the time and if you are interested in applying to set up a trade or charity stall at the event, this can also be done via the website.

***A City in Celebration:  
Granite City Festival  
(June 28, 2025)***

The Granite City Festival is a highlight of Aberdeen's summer calendar. This vibrant event brings the community together with live music, street food, family-friendly activities, and a buzzing atmosphere. The music festival takes place at Hazelhead Park spanning the entire weekend. Tickets for the festival can be purchased on the website through upfront payments or a payment plan.

***The Tall Ships Races  
(19th July)***

After 28 years, the Tall Ships Races returns to Aberdeen to become the largest free family event being held in Europe. This four-day festival will start on the 19th July with 50 tall ships from all around the world arriving in Aberdeen Harbour. There will be an opening ceremony celebrating the fleet's arrival, over 1000 sailors will come together for a parade, there will be live music and entertainment and visitors will be able to board the tall ships for the first three days before they set sail.

In addition to these highlights, Aberdeen also hosts a variety of other festivals throughout the year, including:

***Aberdeen Comedy Festival  
(September 22-28, 2025)***

Get ready for laughs with a lineup of top comedians.

***Aberdeen Fringe Festival  
(October 24, 2025)***

Showcasing a diverse range of performances, from theatre to music and comedy.

***Envirolution  
(September 20th, 2025)***

A free community festival based in Seaton Park, aiming to increase connection and engagement with the natural world. Envirolution wish to support communities to achieve a more sustainable future.

With such a diverse and exciting lineup of festivals, Aberdeen offers a year-round celebration of culture, arts, and community.



# Funding for North Projects from UDecide announced!

**A**berdeen City Council's participatory budgeting fund U Decide recently announced the funding awards, and a few projects in the North have been lucky to secure funding!

U Decide was a participatory budgeting fund, which means that a fund of £60,000 was available from Aberdeen City Council's Community Planning Team, and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund.

This meant a total of £20,000 was allocated to be split across the priority neighbourhood's North, Central and South. Projects from these localities applied for funding and the public were then given the opportunity to vote for which projects in their area, they would like to award funding to, to have a direct involvement in how public funds are spent.

The North locality saw seven projects splitting the £20,000 pot!

Of these projects, a few were located in Northfield and Cummings Park. They are:

Play Later Lights – Northfield Community Learning Association – awarded £2760

"Young people have reported that they don't feel safe skateboarding/ BMXing/football when it is dark in the park. Parents are also not keen on their children being at the park when it is dark.

"The use of portable battery powered flood lights would alleviate the worries and would mean the skate park and other areas could be used by young people in the winter months. The lights, being portable could be used where and when the young people require them. They can use them themselves, unsupervised and have fun in the dark evenings, bringing young people together doing a positive activity."

Cummings Park Gamers Unite – Cummings Park Centre – awarded £2615

"This project aims to organise gaming nights that will bring gamers together from different backgrounds to enjoy various video games in a friendly environment. There will be a mix of competitive

tournaments, casual play and opportunities for participants to connect and share their gaming experiences. Friendly competitions with prizes for winners to encourage participants to compete and showcase their skills

"Outcomes/Impact – Strengthened relationships, positive lasting connections, new friendships and enriching community. Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities. Increase volunteering opportunities in the area and the communication of them and to provide more activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together."

Try Wellbeing Activities 2025 – Family Learning - £2025

"Family Learning and Sport Aberdeen, are using Cummings Park Centre plan to deliver wellbeing physical activities and arts/crafts wellbeing sessions and offer wellbeing sessions aimed directly at those who currently experience mental health symptoms, or are felt from time to time, or from those in the process of recovery.



"For this, EFT Natural Healing Therapy sessions would be purchased from a local community business which would not only provide the skills necessary to reduce stress, low mood and anxiety but help assist develop a local small business

"The families targeted and expected to attend have many wellbeing needs and the activities provided are designed to combat many of these by ensuring all abilities can participate, sessions/activities are good fun, everything is easy for beginners, there is a role for everyone, provides the ability to improve confidence and improves social skills for families, adults and children alike."

The Flourish Project – The King's Community Foundation - £3000

"One in six children aged 5-16 have a probable mental health disorder and since Covid, mental health issues in young people have increased by 58%. In 2025, children face many challenges such as bullying and complicated home lives which can result in depression, low self-esteem and difficulty making friends. They can be angry with the world and subsequently can be withdrawn or disruptive at school and home, because they struggle to cope with their emotions.

"Our Flourish Project helps to improve mental and emotional well-being, self-esteem and resilience by supporting children to see their own potential, giving them 'permission' to dream and helping them to develop future aspirations with achievable goals.

"Over 8 weeks (8 x 1 hour sessions) our volunteer trainers help young people to see themselves in a more positive way by looking at:- how personal life beliefs are formed; the power of thought and how it effects behaviour; effects of social media; positive self-esteem and healthy self-talk and celebrating personal growth and development."



## Mrs Meadows was here

This hot weather has been great, a change from last year at this time. I have three lots of tatties planted as well as peas, carrots, parsnips and spring onions. The strawberries this year are looking a lot better than this time last year. The pear tree is covered in white flowers, apple trees are taking longer to flower but they will catch up with all this hot weather.

Last Autumn, I collected the fallen leaves, put them in black bags, tied them up and left them aside until this spring. They will be dug into the planter; the leaves are a great way to add compost in between the straw.

The blue planters have been filled with lots of bulbs and perennials. They are at their best at this time. A flowering cherry tree was donated by the Ann Crombie Intergeneration Award. The children from Heathryburn School came to help plant the tree.

Our broken shed has also finally been broken up to make way for a new one!

**Futher news later...**

*Mrs Meadows*



## A Course for All Ages (even mine)

They say, 'use it or lose it.' Like all cliches this one has a lot of truth to it. Anyone who works out at the gym will tell you how quickly a spell of laziness will undo all your hard work. Surely, it's the same with the mind. Keep the little grey cells working out by learning a language or a musical instrument. As the poet says, 'make it new.'

So, when the present writer, no longer in the first flush of youth, saw that shmu was running a course Introduction to Community Film, I quickly volunteered. I bought a good camera and mic with the thought of making YouTube videos. But I'd never really used it, using the equipment for little more than snapshots. This course was just the thing to get me started.

Trouble was that I feared that this old guy would be taking up a place from a young person, and we all know that opportunities for young people are getting harder to find. But the folk at shmu assured me that this was no problem, and that all were welcome.

And so, my Thursday mornings for the next ten weeks were occupied with the workings of cameras, microphones and editing software. There was talk of shots and interview techniques. I personally struggled a bit with the editing side of things, with my failing eyesight. It seemed to me that all this new tech is made with young eyes in mind. But I took to camera like a duck to proverbial water. Although you are exposed to all aspects of film making, there is scope for specialising.

The staff up at shmu are enthusiastic and help you to go with your strengths.

Then, finally, let's make a film.

At the time they were doing the yearly Winter Wonderland at the Woodside Community Centre. I thought that filming local folk transforming the Centre into something magical would make an interesting short film. All agreed, and the cameras started rolling.

I was amazed at just how much work is involved. But finally, we got the film finished and I had that satisfied feeling from having actually made something.

Then the ten weeks were over, but my involvement in film making is still open, for there is a film making group at shmu that I'm thinking of joining. I enjoyed this course with shmu and feel confident and enthusiastic about getting some filming done over the summer.

So, if you are at a loose end, want to re-train or just improve your skills, why not check out what shmu has to offer? It's on your doorstep after all. Use it. What have you got to lose?

See Santa Claus Comes to Woodside on YouTube. It already has a mighty 39 views!

*Douglas Thomson*







# Operation Armour

**Operation Armour is an intelligence led operation relating to the criminal and anti-social use of Electric Bikes and Electric off-road motorcycles across Aberdeen City.**

For the past few years Police Scotland have been inundated with calls from the public in relation to the use of Electric pushbikes, scooters and Electric off-road motorcycles that are being used on pavements, roads and in public places illegally. This anti-social behaviour is intimidating communities and posing serious dangers to both pedestrians and road users.

Electric pushbikes or e-bikes in common language, must meet a particular criterion to have the same legal standing as regular non-assisted bicycles. This is required for e-bikes to be permitted on the roads, cycle paths and other places where bicycles are allowed under UK law. Electric assistance can only be provided to a maximum of 25kph (15.5mph). The motor

used must be of no more than 250 Watts (maximum continuous rated power). The e-bike's pedals must be in motion for motor assistance to be provided. The rider must be 14 years of age or over.

Trial areas have been set up for e-scooter rental companies throughout the UK however not in Scotland. Due to this E Scooters here are illegal to use. To ride one you must have the category Q entitlement on your licence. A full or provisional licence for categories AM, A or B includes the entitlement for category Q. Provisional licence holders do not need to show L plates, and you do not need to wear a cycle helmet by law, however it is recommended. You must have insurance for an E scooter however unless it's within a Trial area it is very unlikely the rider will have any in place. The most common charges you will come across in relation to E scooters is no licence or no insurance.

Electric-off-road motorcycles are capable of high speeds and are illegal to use on roads. The

rider must have insurance, a driving licence and must wear a helmet. Most of these electric off-road motorcycles are not registered for road use and therefore cannot be insured. The riders routinely conceal their identity and do not have registration plates on the bikes, making them difficult to trace. The riders will also 'goad' Police to take chase, however Police Scotland tend not to pursue them given the risk of serious injury or worse.

Throughout the month of May, the Community Action Team have been making efforts to identify those that own these E-motorcycles and identify where they are being stored. Various nominals and addresses have been identified throughout the city with help from the public.

To date several E-motorcycles and E-Scooters have been seized by the Community Action Team, and various nominals have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal and Children's reporter for various Road Traffic and Misuse of Drugs Offences.

# Community Contacts

**Aberdeen City Council Helpline** - 0800 0304 713

## **ALCOHOL**

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - 0800 9177 650

**Drinkline** - 0300 123 1110

## **CRIME**

**Crimestoppers** - 0800 555 111

## **DRUGS**

**Alcohol and Drugs Action Helpline**

01224 594700 or 07927192706

**Narcotics Anonymous**

0300 999 1212

## **DENTIST**

**Emergency - G-Dens** - 111

## **DOCTORS**

**NHS 24 Emergency** - 111

## **POLICE**

**Non-Emergency** - 101

## **ELECTRICITY**

**If you have a power-cut** - 105

## **GAS**

**Gas Emergency** - 0800 111 999

## **WATER**

**Scottish Water Emergency** - 0800 0778 778

## **HOUSING**

**Emergency Repairs** - 03000 200 292

**Family Planning** - 0345 337 9900

**Mental Health Aberdeen** - 01224 573892

**Breathing Space** - 0800 838 587

**Samaritans - Need to talk**

01224 574 488 or 116 123

## **SOCIAL WORK**

**Adult Protection** - 0800 731 5520

**Joint Child Protection Team**

01224 306877 or 0800 731 5520

**Aberdeen Carers Support Service** - 01224 914036

**Age Scotland** - 0800 1244 222

**CFINE** 01224 596156

**Financial Advice at CFINE** 01224 531386

**Pathways** 01224 682 939

**Citizens Advice** 01224 586255

**St Machar Credit Union** 01224 276994

**Northfield Medical Practice** 01224 662911

**Woodside Medical Group** 01224 492828

**Penumbra First Response** 0800 234 3695

## **LOCAL COUNCILLORS**

**Councillor Donna Clark**

07977399622

[donclark@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:donclark@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Councillor Gordon Graham**

01224 523594

[ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Councilor Ciaran McRae**

07500 999617

[cimcrae@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:cimcrae@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

## **Area MSP**

**Jackie Dunbar**

– **MSP for Aberdeen Donside**

01224 011 936

[Jackie.Dunbar.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Jackie.Dunbar.msp@parliament.scot)

## **Area MP**

**Kirsty Blackman**

– **MP for Aberdeen North**

**Aberdeen office:** 01224 633285

[kirsty.blackman.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kirsty.blackman.mp@parliament.uk)

## **Northfield United Free Church of Scotland**

**Tel:** 01224704005

[northfieldufchurch@outlook.com](mailto:northfieldufchurch@outlook.com)

## **ABZWorks**

[abzworks.co.uk](http://abzworks.co.uk)

01224 070200

## **DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT**

Domestic Abuse is not acceptable. It is not your fault and you are not alone. Domestic Abuse is when you are hurt, bullied or frightened by:

Your husband or wife. Your boyfriend or girlfriend

Your current or ex-partner

Their behaviour can be; controlling, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

## **Help and support**

### **Police Scotland**

If you are in danger and it is an emergency, call 999.

For non-emergencies call 101

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline Free** and confidential advice. Open to all. 24 hours a day.

Telephone: 0800 027 1234. Website: [sdafmh.org.uk](http://sdafmh.org.uk)

### **Grampian Women's Aid**

Telephone: 01224 593381. Website:

[grampian-womens-aid.com](http://grampian-womens-aid.com)

**Rape Crisis Grampian** Telephone: 01224 590932.

Website: [rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk](http://rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk)