

cumming north

WinterEdition 2013



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Redevelopment Plans**

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editorial

Welcome to another exciting edition of the Cumming North Magazine. In this winter issue you can expect news on the upgrading of the Allan Douglas Park, West Park Primary celebrating its 60th Birthday, Northfield and Cummings Park receiving ACC Children and Young People's Service Awards, updates from the Community Flat 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 lookout 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 one of 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 **Dave White** on **01224 696185**.

The editorial team would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Look out for our community magazines in 2014!

Supported by





Allan Douglas Park Redevelopment

Pupils from local schools and Cummings Park residents have given a big thumbs-up to news that the children's play area at Allan Douglas Park is to be redeveloped.

An entirely new play park is to be created on the grassy section above the multi-use games area and adjacent to Kettlehills Drive. Old equipment is to be removed from this central area and the whole section returned to grass.

Pupil representatives from Bramble Brae and Westpark Schools were keen to take part in the evaluation process, and the boys and girls had some great comments and ideas to share. Their views will be considered during the final evaluation of the four options presented.

Poster size plans showing four different visions for the park were produced by leading play area

manufacturers and displayed at the Cummings Park Community Flat last month. A good number of locals took the opportunity to discuss the plans with Officers from the Council's Parks and Countryside Section, and the overall opinion was very positive.

The new play park should be open and ready for play sometime early in the New Year and it would be great if the children who took part in the process could be amongst the first to make use of the newly developed site.

It will be interesting to watch developments at the park over the coming months.

Our pupil voice group, supported by Miss Crowe (P6 teacher), took part in a very exciting meeting about the possible redevelopment of part of Allan Douglas Park. Two members of the Aberdeen City Council's Grounds Maintenance Department - Yvonne McLeod and Lorna Graham - came to school to ask our opinions on the future of the park. First of all they explained the playpark section was now a little outdated and run down. We then moved into groups and were shown four different blueprints created by outdoor development companies who all had different ideas of what it should look like in the future. Yvonne and Lorna then asked us to score the different designs and express our views on what we liked and disliked about each park. After we visited every blueprint, we were then told to vote on which design we thought would be best for the park. In the end it was a tie between two blueprints. We don't yet know which park design will be used - all we know is that it will have a lot of exciting new play equipment.

It was a real honour for Bramble Brae to be asked to help decide on the future of such an important local space and we hope to be able to show you all the new park design soon.

By Nicole F, Kyle G & Ridwan T

Northfield Neep

(A Pensioner and His Garden)

Hi fellow gardeners,

As I write this in the warmth of the kitchen, I do not feel very encouraged to venture out to the wet and cold wind of the back garden, where dandelions and weeds grow. Apart from that the ground is very responsive to the spade and hoe. First step is to tackle the greenhouse - which is in dire need of some TLC! My tomato plants are saying – “we’ve done our bit now, it’s up to you to pick the remainder of my lovely little cherry tomatoes!” The toms need a bit of ripening before I’ll pop them in my mouth, then I’ll take the remainder indoors when required by my good lady. A quick tidy up then I can leave the greenhouse to enjoy the autumn sunshine.

Reflecting on the summer that’s been, I remember the enjoyment of this year’s fine month of July - which was almost a full month of sunshine. This was a great surprise when thinking back to yesteryears when there were often many rainy days in July. The roses certainly enjoyed the warmth, with a little trimming and dead-heading they showed us how splendid and showy they can be. My tatties in grow bags were of a late variety, which made a welcome addition to the mince doughballs (food again!) I only had the onion sets to check on in the veggie plot, so all in all I wasn’t very overworked - which is just as well as I needed to

rest my old bones from the heat of the day.

In the flower garden the geraniums displayed a fine colour show, with perennial shrubs also growing well, now having been trimmed for their winter rest. I look forward to seeing them grow on in the springtime. The spring bulbs have been prepared for next year, so the garden now has that end of year look.

Feeding the birds is a vital part of having a garden, but my wife and I cannot understand where our regular blackbirds and seagulls have gone - despite us leaving grapes, bread and seeds out for them. We are delighted to welcome back our friendly robin who has been missing for a while - he is now enjoying the cheese and breadcrumbs laid out for him (or her – Robina, perhaps?) A few crows have appeared but they are very nervous and fly away at the slightest puff of wind! The fatballs and peanut containers do not last long and need regular filling - however, it’s great to watch the birds jostling for position so they can get a better grip on the containers.

I will now don my slippers leaving the garden to rest until next year. I wish you all well and hope you have all had a success with your gardens. (Time for a nibble – GANNET!)

Until next year,
Mr Northfield Neep



Cummings Park Flat Update

Family and Community Garden

Autumn is here again - time to get the Community Garden ready for spring. The flat has received a donation of a large planter for the front garden. The spring flowers and bulbs are ready to go. Fruit trees and bushes have been ordered for the new orchard in the back garden. Brussel sprouts will be ready for Christmas, making space for spring cabbage and other spring vegetables. The Ladies Group has been making

ornamental slabs to be put into the garden, along with painted boards by the ladies and the children to go onto the fence. With our cold frame and new green house, everything is going really well. We will be asking the children to help with the planting of the flowers and bulbs. We are looking forward to seeing a great display next year. Thanks to the flat volunteers, neighbours, funders and ACC.

Community Litter Pick Up

On the 8th of November we held our very own community litter pick up. The staff and volunteers of the Cummings Park Flat worked alongside Bramble Brae Primary School, Northfield Academy's Eco Group and Aberdeen City Councils Environmental department.

The children and young adults were accompanied by teachers

and staff and everyone mucked in together to help clean up the community. Everyone was provided with pickers, high viz vests, and refuse bags. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped out.

If you would like to attend the next Community activity please let us know.

Keep Fit Information

Active Ageing Programme - Activity for Older Adults.

Health Walks

Short local walks of 1 – 2 miles in communities across Aberdeen.

Nearby Walks

Cummings Park Community Flat Mondays at 10.30

Middlefield 'Healthy Hoose'

Mondays at 2.00

Refreshments after each walk!
Health Walks are free

Active Ageing Swim Time:

Northfield Swimming Pool, Mondays at 1.45-2.45 - free with an Access to Leisure Card.

For more information, contact Stephen on 01224 577738. sgammack@sportaberdeen.co.uk

Exercise: Your No.1 prescription

School News

Bramble Brae Primary

Grampian Safe Team Visit

On 19th September, Bramble Brae's P7s went on a trip to Gordon Barracks on Kings Street. We were going with Miss Anderson, Miss Moir, Ridwan's mum and Lauren's mum. We were all going to learn about safety.

First we got on the bus at about 9:30am then got off at about 10:00am, and then we went to the assembly hall and were put in our groups.

Our first activity was the first aid part. We saw two people standing up and two people on the floor - Ridwan phoned the ambulance. Daniel put pressure on a bone that was sticking out of a boy called Cameron. The other man on the floor was unconscious. They got up and they were ok.

We moved on to our next activity, the fire one. We had to spot hazards which would cause a fire, like overloaded sockets, straighteners on the bed and a toy on top of a lamp. After that we went to another room then I had to lead Ridwan, Kevin, Daniel who all had goggles which were covered in masking tape.

We moved on to alcohol. We had to put on goggles that made us feel drunk. The people made us walk on a line with the goggles on. I went off the line and walked in to a sign. We got back safely.

We went outside to our next activity - it was the construction site. We had to find hazards like wire all over the site and wood inside the cementer.

We then got picked up and we to electric stage. We had to spot

hazards and the men told us what to do if we find a substation door open (phone them).

We moved on to the bus safety - which was my favourite one - because Ridwan got a brick (which was fake) thrown at him. The man told us stuff that was like he thrown of him and it was real on his duty.

It was now time for road safety. We had to find stuff that would have caused a crash (on a bike) like music and laces not tied.

After that we had to go to the assembly hall to say goodbye. We got on the bus and went back to school, and then it was golden time!

By Kieran

The Baillie John Porter Award

Bramble Brae recently received the great news that they were to be the 2013 recipients of the Aberdeen City Council Baillie John Porter award for pupil attainment. This award is presented to the primary school with the most significant value-add in terms of PIPs assessments at P1, P3, P5

and P7. Bramble Brae ranked highest of all city schools in this regard over 2012-'13. Staff and pupils attended an evening presentation ceremony on Wednesday, 25th September at The Beach Ballroom to receive the trophy and certificate from Mrs. Evelyn Porter, wife of the late Baillie Porter.





ACC Children And Young People's Service Awards.

On Wed 25th September in Aberdeen's Beach Ballroom all the nominees for the ACC Children and Young People's Service.

Awards gathered to hear from Councillor's Sponsors about who would take home an award - in that illustrious group were three from the Cumming North Area.

All three, we are glad to report, were winners in their categories.

The first to receive an award was Project Fit, who received the Integrated Working Award. This was for the work that the Scottish Fire and Police Service, Northfield Academy, Sport Aberdeen, Ali at Kettle Hill, Street Sport, Youth Team & Northfield Community Learning Association have done over the last year with the youths in the Cumming North Area, at the Kettlehills

Sports area, Northfield Swimming pool and the Northfield Community learning Association.

And finally giving a big thanks to the youths who without them the project wouldn't work.

The next group from the area was the CPD's Mariah, Megan Rod, Megan Kerr & Ross Walker who won the Raising Achievement Award. This group is also due to pick up the renowned 250 hour Dynamic Youth Award –they will be the first group to do this in Aberdeen. The group has worked tirelessly on the award under the supervision of Ingrid Taylor and Sarah Duncan at NCLA.

And finally Bramble Brae Primary won Baillie John Porter Award - you can read about this on the Bramble Brae Page.

CIYPP

Cash In Your Pocket Partnership Service continues to support Aberdeen and Shire citizens 2000 people were referred for help by the service last year

Cash In Your Pocket Partnership is a free referral service that enables those facing hardship or working with them to identify help quickly through filling out one form. The person in need is then referred to one of the 90 services, projects and departments working together with Cash In Your Pocket Partnership for help including food parcels, debt advice, benefit claims, insulation and fuel meter advice to name a few.

Often referrals result in an increase in benefits or financial support.

Since the implementation of the Welfare Reform, needs have changed to include benefit sanction, advice with dealing with the 'bedroom tax' and help required to appeal to the Welfare Fund.

If you are an Aberdeen or Shire citizen facing financial difficulty or work with or know someone facing hardship, you can contact Cash In Your Pocket Partnership by filling out a referral form on-line at www.ciypp.co.uk. Hard copies of the forms are available at hospitals, GP surgeries, from your health visitor or health worker as well as from your community projects. The service has proved its usefulness over the years so please make sure you make use of it!

60th Birthday

This year Westpark School is celebrating its 60th Birthday! To commemorate this, the Pupil Council led the whole school in planning and organising special events and celebrations.

The celebrations started back on Friday 21st June when we held a Diamond Jubilee party for staff, pupils and their families from 3-6pm. We had a bouncy castle, inflatable assault course and adult and child sumo suits to entertain everyone. The assembly hall was filled with various stalls (tombolas, home bakes, jewellery and bric-a-brac to name a few). Hotdogs from the kitchen and an outdoor BBQ offering burgers went down a storm too! All in all a very successful affair.

We held a 60th Jubilee Sports Day on Wednesday 26th June on which we invited parents/carers to come along and enjoy

a picnic, while they watched the children participate. Luckily it was a dry day and everyone enjoyed the races - the sack and egg and spoon in particular!

On the last Thursday of term we held a "Street Party" for all pupils in the afternoon. All classes prepared a tasty snack to bring along and everyone enjoyed music and a picnic outside in the sunshine. Mrs Clark - our kitchen supervisor - got very involved baking 4 large cakes which the winning house then decorated, and which everyone enjoyed at the party. The new House Captains were also announced during the event. A lovely end to the School Year!

The celebrations will be continuing all year with a 1950s themed school lunch, a special celebration concert in November where we will have displays sharing 60 years of Westpark memories, and - finally - the winning entries for our School Mural have been decided - all pupils will be involved in creating this with the end product displayed in School.

It's been an altogether lovely year for Westpark so far and as we approach the end of our Jubilee year there are a few exciting times to look forward to during the Winter Term!



Westerton Memories

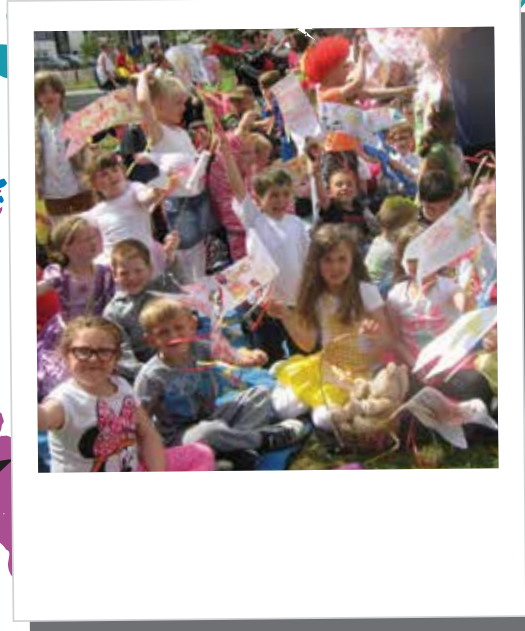
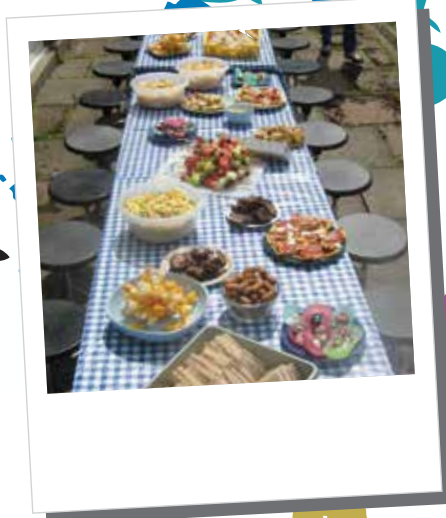
During the period of the early 1960s, Westerton Primary had very close links to the Northfield Parish Church. It was through the Church that the Northfield Christian Youth Fellowship held its Saturday night picture shows, which took place in the assembly hall in the winter months. We watched films often produced by the Children's Film Foundation - many now well-known actors appeared in short films - and of course there was the Big Picture! Lots of baddies in black hats and the good guys in white, old fashioned Cowboy films with "howdy partner" and "go for your guns" leaving

young boys galloping doon the brae, slapping their back pockets all the way home.

One great feature of the nights out was the Tuck Shop - one of the biggest I ever did see! Liquorice pipes and lucky tatties, fizzy pop - soaked through a stra' that tickled your nose - and sherbet dabs that in combination with the fizz created rude belching as soon as the lights went out.

Those were the days of coo' candy, pea-shooters, conkers, and itchy coos - great times fondly remembered.

A loon



Westerton/Westpark 60th Birthday

It was back in the early 50's that the 63rd Boys Brigade first moved to what was then Westerton school with about 14 boys and a couple of officers, Rev. Bruce was the chaplain. Many a good enjoyable Friday evening was held at the school and by 1954/55 our numbers had risen to around 75 boys and 7 officers. There was a strong bond between Westerton School and the Boys brigade, open nights where the lads put on a show were always well attended, halcyon days indeed.

Capt. J. Duncan (retired)

The Grandas at the Swings

Today we know our local swings as the Allan Douglas Park - this was the site of an old quarry called Old Town, filled in and levelled off. As a child I played at the "swings", and they were a world away from the atmosphere of today - this was an age of innocence and respect for your elders.

Back in the 60s, it was a great place to play and you could be there for long periods of time. We were watched over by a granda - the affectionate common name given to a group of men employed to maintain the "swings" (not to be confused with a Parky.)

The granda was usually an older man who in many cases was an ex service man, with war experience, or someone coming to the end of their working life. In either aspect they were very experienced in life and we as children had a lot of respect for them, but we "aye thocht they were affa auld".

I remember well the old black and white photos, taken at the "swings". Many happy, smiling, freckled faces were captured, and now create very fond memories of our past.

What most people do not know is that there were toilets - both boys and girls - a drinking fountain in the swings, and the granda had a wee bothy.

I as a child had a wonderful time there, and I am sure that many of my chums did too. There is word of possibly more budget being spent at Allan Douglas Park. It has a multi goal, a full skate park facility and a climbing frame, but needs more of the "old style swings" for the wee ones in particular.

If you are one of my generation, please enjoy my memories, enclosed within my poem.

Still the loon.

Mikey Middleton

The Grandas, Swings and Summer days

*Kin ye mind the grandas at the swings?
They watched yer kids an' ither things.
They could sort yer bike or dicht skint knees
Or pull oot stings fae bumble bees.*

*Ane aul' mannies that I kint,
A'body thocht he hid a wint -
Bit he wisna daft! Bit he hid a squint!*

*One time I got ma photie te'en
Wi bucket and spade an' a' ma freens.
There wis Frunkie Yule an' Alan Bell -
Oh fit grand tales we could tell.*

*The swings wis great on sunny days -
Lang 'oors spint a' day at play.
The drinkin' fountain bubbled sweet
Fin gaspin' for a drink and seat.*

*Ye'd drink yer fill an' exclaim "oh boy!" -
For bairns at play it wis a joy.
Yer hair cropped close in crew cut style,
new shorts and sandals, or jimmies, flies.*

*The roonaboot gid roon an' roon,
An' on the chute we gid up an' doon
Till wir puggled oot wi' oor exertions.
A fun filled day - that wis certain!*

*The swings we caw'd up high and higher -
"Hey, watch oot min, am oan a flyer!"
But as the granda te'en oot his bike
The swings wid close for anither night.*

*We weary kids wid traivil hame
To mithers side and TV themes,
And sleep wid tak us aff tae dream
O'swings, and juice and custard creams.*

**M.A. Middleton
A Loon**

Northfield Academy



New Year, New Uniform

A very smart start to the new term at Northfield Academy. Senior pupils are now wearing a school blazer along with a white shirt/polo shirt and a new school tie. Young pupils are wearing black trousers, skirts, leggings with a white polo shirt and black sweatshirt. Mr Hendry said "I am delighted with the support of our parents and families who have ensured our pupils are ready for a successful year. Our young people have taken a great deal of pride from wearing the new uniform."

Balfour Beatty

Congratulations to Toni Cocker and Liam Davidson, who following interviews, were both awarded the first Balfour Beatty Northfield Academy Summer Scholarship. Both Toni and Liam spent four weeks during the summer break working at Balfour Beatty. George Hood, Divisional Managing Director, said that "Both Toni and Liam were outstanding and a real credit to Northfield Academy". It is hoped that this opportunity will become a regular summer experience for Northfield Academy pupils. Northfield is delighted to be developing a partnership with Balfour Beatty which will offer a great deal of opportunities for its pupils.



Celebration of Success

Excited pupils, staff and parents gathered in the Music Hall on the evening of Tuesday 11th June for our glittering annual awards ceremony to recognise the success of over 276 pupils. This was our eighth awards ceremony and it was a fantastic evening showcasing everything that is excellent about Northfield Academy.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Gayle Gorman, Director of Education, Culture and Sport in Aberdeen City Council as our guest speaker. Mrs Gorman encouraged all our young people to engage well with their learning and take advantage of the many opportunities that Northfield Academy offers all pupils.

Awards were presented to pupils for demonstrating excellence in their effort, behaviour and attendance. Trophies were presented to senior pupils who had progressed well in national courses, as well as pupils who have excelled in a variety of areas including sport, music, art and drama. With so many awards being presented, it is no surprise that many of our pupils are inspired to succeed as they travel on their own journey to excellence!

This year's awards ceremony engaged pupils, parents, staff, MSPs, councillors, school partners and the community to recognise the achievements of our pupils. Undoubtedly it ensured the deserved public recognition for pupil success and encouraged our pupils to aspire to be outstanding in all that they do. This culture of achievement in school is crucial for enabling all our pupils to be confident with the language of success and ensuring better outcomes for all our learners.

Head Girl and Head Boy Appointment for 2013-2014

Northfield Academy is delighted to announce that following interviews, our Head Girl and Head Boy for session 2013-2014 will be Leah Gray and Liam Yeats. Congratulations to them both on their appointments.

Football Teams 2013-2014

From August we will be entering the following teams in the Aberdeen Schools League and Scottish Cup: Under 13, Under 14 and Senior boys, and Under 15 and Senior girls.

The school also offers Badminton, Basketball, Insanity Fitness, Free Running, Rugby, Dance, Netball, Gymnastics, Chess Club, Euroclub, Northfield Voices, Rock Band, Samba Band, Fashion Club, Movie Making Club, BBC School News Report, Maths Club, Enterprise in Engineering, Film Club, Science Club and Eco Club.



Northfield Parish Church, Byron Square

Christmas Events

Sun 15 Dec 10.30am –

*Carols led by Northfield Band
Light lunch provided by
Community Council*

Fri 20 Dec – Schools Services

*9.30am Heathryburn
11am Westpark*

Sun 22 Dec 10.30am –

Christmas Celebration

Tues 24 Dec 7pm –

*Christmas Eve Carols for
all the family*

Wed 25 Dec 11am –

*Christmas Day, in Hall.
Bring your gifts!*

Sun 29 Dec 10.30am –

Last Sunday of 2013

Sun 5 Jan 10.30am –

First Sunday of 2014

You will be made very welcome at any of the above services. Have a wonderful Christmas, and we wish you all the best for 2014!

Scott Guy (Minister)

Vandalism

Vandalism – an act committed by any person who, without reasonable excuse, wilfully or recklessly destroys or damages any property belonging to another.

While this definition may be new to some residents of the Cumming North readership, the reality is that most of you - over time - will have suffered personally from this unacceptable behaviour and understand the impact it can have on our lives. Since January 2013 the police have taken 40 reports of vandalism which have occurred within the Cumming North area - the same as was recorded over the same period in 2012. While 20 were detected last year,

18 this year have resulted in charges.

When these reports are reviewed, it is clear that windows and vehicles are the targets to mindless individuals who damage our property, with 21 incidents relating to windows, 14 to vehicles, 2 to doors, a set of garden furniture and a fence being damaged. This behaviour is not restricted to one location, with damage being caused across 13 streets in the area this year - with Provost Rust Drive reporting 7, and Cummings Park Circle and Drive with 5 reports each.

Single incidents can result in hundreds of pounds of damage being caused and if those

involved are not stopped, they can go on to target several properties or vehicles at a time. Disruption and detection is a priority and this is where you can assist. Please take time to report to police or wardens any suspicious activity, and in particular, damage being caused in the area. With your help, we can make a difference - descriptions, clothing and names can all help us identify those responsible and make the area safer and more enjoyable to live in.

Northfield CPT in partnership with Aberdeen City Wardens will continue to investigate and deal robustly with any incidents similar to the above.

Councillors Comments



Cnclr Gordon Graham

I would like to start by setting the record straight with regards to the regeneration of Middlefield.

1. There is no intention to have the houses demolished within two years.
2. There is no intention to have the road built in two years.
3. There is no intention to evict residents.

It is disappointing however that people have been sent letters by others saying that this was the case.

The situation is that a lot of people have been complaining that nothing has been done for 5 years since they were promised new houses and alternative accommodation. Bathrooms and kitchens have not been modernised and in some cases the pavements are a danger.

As a result of this I and my colleagues have been trying to get the situation resolved sooner rather than later. We still need to get agreement with the Scottish Government with regards to funding and the route; they still need to identify compensation packages for homeowners.

However as a council we have allocated staff to make progress, they will get in contact with people to determine their needs with regards to new housing.

It has been agreed that when people move from Middlefield Court they will be provided with home loss payment, which is £1500 per household. There is also discretionary payment to cover disturbance cost estimated to range from £200 to £1600 per household. I would expect the people who move into Middlefield will get the same or similar.

Should people have any concerns about this or any other issue, then please get in contact with me on 07736329751.

Regards
Gordon Graham




The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Richard Baker MSP for North East Scotland

holds regular surgeries for constituents on
Fridays between 12 noon and 2pm

80 Rosemount Place, Aberdeen, AB25 2XN

Tel: 01224 641171

E-mail:
richard.baker.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Interested in Computers? Want to share your knowledge with older people in Northfield?

Silver City Surfers run free sessions to help older people learn basic computer skills in a social setting on Thursdays from 11am till 1pm at Northfield Community Centre. We are looking for Volunteers who are patient, friendly and willing to share their skills in emailing, searching the internet and using technology to help people over 55 to stay in touch. We do not need experts - if you can use your computer for the basics please get in touch! Phone Chris, 07799 371 329 or email silvercitysurfers@gmail.com if you're interested in Volunteering or coming along to a session.

Silver City Surfers are helping those who are over 55 to learn basic computer skills 1-to-1 in a social setting.

SHMU'S YOUTHTV PREMIERE WWII FILM AT 50+ FESTIVAL

Over the Summer Break young people from the youthTV project joined a couple of past trainees from Positive Transitions to take part in a unique film project in conjunction with the St Fitticks Arts Festival.

The original brief was to interview local World War II veterans to capture their stories for future generations. SHMU teamed up with the Gordon Highlanders Museum to connect with the veterans and the group also spoke to older people who were young children growing up in Aberdeen during WW2. The Gordon Highlanders also very kindly arranged an education session to give the group an introduction to the history of the Highlanders and the wars they fought in.

The interviews and filming all took place over a very hectic 2-3 week period in early August with editing taking place at the end of the month. The group were supported by tutors at SHMU but did the majority of filming, directing and planning themselves. Due to the tight deadline, our resident editor here at SHMU pulled it all together with a little help from a few members of the group.

All of this hard work was rewarded on the 10th September at the official screening at The Belmont Cinema, as part of the 50+ Festival. There were over 70 people in the audience including some of our young people and a few of the 'stars' – the veterans and older people who kindly agreed to be interviewed.

The audience was treated to a question and answer session after the screening, giving them the opportunity to ask the young people questions about their experience making the film. The group bravely stood up in front of the 70-strong crowd and answered questions confidently; in fact when asked what making the film meant to

them, Danielle commented that it had really helped to boost her confidence.

The group also agreed that it gave them a much greater insight into the realities of war and of just how close to home it came. They found the subject matter all the more interesting hearing it from a local perspective. It also made them see and think of older people in a different light, now knowing some of the fascinating and sometimes harrowing stories behind them. It made them grateful to be living in a time of relative peace; knowing that the veterans were their age when they were conscripted.

We also had some lovely feedback from one of the veterans – Muriel, who was a WREN during WW2, was present at the screening and said that she enjoyed watching the interviews even more than she did being interviewed!

At the end of the Q&A a number of audience members came down to congratulate the young people on a job well done and to offer their services and stories for future projects. We could have stayed all day chatting!

As a final well done to the young people, the staff of The Belmont treated them to a soft drink in the café downstairs and gave them all a souvenir pack containing a ticket stub from the screening, a programme and two free cinema passes to return and see a film of their choice. This was totally unexpected and the group wish to pass on their sincere thanks.



Station House Media Unit (shmu) is situated just off Great Northern Road in the old Station House Community Centre, Woodside. We offer free access to, and training in video and radio production, and magazine and online publications to residents of all ages living in Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Northfield and Cummings Park.



The Deansloch Runner (Spooky)

(A short story shortened)

It was a fine, warm night, which was unusual for October, and two lads fresh from a few drinks in the Lord Byron decided to have a nice quiet stroll home - stopping off at the bakers shop on the way. John and Ronnie, as they were known, left the shop armed with their hot steak pies in hands after having worked out the route they wanted to take - round the back of the shops and up Stewarts Crescent until Deansloch Terrace.

Turning into Deansloch Terrace, Ronnie remarked on the sudden change in temperature, and how chilly it was compared to a minute ago - John nodded in agreement as both the lads walked on. Just as they reached the bottom of the cul-de-sac they spotted a little brown wire-haired terrier coming toward them - it was brown in colour and in a bit of a rush. Suddenly it stopped looked toward the top of the cul-de-sac then started loudly whimpering and barking. It then turned around and fled back the way it had come, still making the terrifying sounds. This gave them a bit of a fright - but a worse moment was yet to come.

John glanced towards the cul-de-sac and saw the figure of a man running down the hill. He brought Ronnie's attention to this and both men watched as the shadowy

man ran along the terrace in the same direction as the dog. The air had grown extremely cold, and as he ran, his body passed straight through the parked cars that were in his way. By this time the lads were really shaken up, and found it hard to believe what they were seeing. Seconds later they saw it running back toward them, back up the hill with the little brown terrier alongside him. Near the top of the road the two just vanished into thin air. Ronnie and John did get a better look at him when he returned, and described him as about 22 to 28 years old, and his face was twisted as if in severe pain with a tear around his left cheek and blood coming from it. His clothes were like that of a Victorian farmhand. After a swift retreat both lads ran for the next mile.

Two weeks later the lads still had not mentioned to anyone for fear of people taking the mick, however they decided to tell a few trusted friends in the pub, and to their surprise, they are not the only ones to have this experience. They were told that a week after their run-in with the ghost, council workers removed the remains of a brown wire-haired terrier from the bushes near the park not far from Deansloch Terrace. John and

Ronnie have both walked along the terrace since that night, but only in daylight hours - never again in the dark. At a chance meeting in the library, John met Mike Middleton - who is quite well known for his knowledge of the Northfield area in times long before it was a housing estate. John told his story to Mike, and after thinking about it, he told John that apparently a young Irish lad Patrick Hopkins was killed while working with a group of labourers who were clearing a small copse of trees. He died when a rope supporting a large branch snapped. The branch crashed into Patrick's face - killing him outright - and landed on his dog, who fled despite being seriously injured. Witnesses swore they saw Patrick's spirit chase after his dog and return a short time later, only to vanish. He seems to only appear when a dog is killed or dies in the area, and then he runs to collect their souls. If you have cause to go along Deansloch Terrace at night, then watch out for the Deansloch Runner.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE
DEANSLOCH RUNNER?

By Jack-A-Nory

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous **0845 769 7555**
 Drinkline **0800 917 8282**

Benefits

Benefits Agency Advice Line **0800 587 9135**

Crime

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

Drugs

FRANK – National Helpline **0800 776 600**

Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens **01224 558 140**

Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency **08454 242 424**

Electricity

If you have a Power-Cut **0800 300 999**

Family Planning

Square 13, Support & Advice **01224 642 711**

Gas

Gas Emergency **0800 111 999**
 Gas Emergency with a Meter **0845 606 6766**

Housing

Emergency Repairs **01224 480 281**
 Call Centre Emergency **0845 608 0929**

Police

Non-Emergency **101**

Samaritans

Need to talk **01224 574 488**

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team **01224 522055**
 Emergency Out-Of-Hours **01224 693 936**

Young Carers

Support & Information Service **01224 625 009**

Water

Scottish Water Emergency **0845 600 8855**

Activities within the Cummings Park Community Flat in the area

Arts and craft sessions, Basic Computing support, Community events, Community Involvement, Cooking class, Cumming North Magazine, D.I.Y class, Fruit and Vegetable outlet, Grand Parents as Parents support group, Growing fruit and Vegetables, Health Walks, Healthy lifestyle support, referrals to Cash In Your Pocket, Knitting and Natter group, Ladies Group, Local Pensioners Lunch group will start soon, Men Only group, North East Scotland Credit Union collection and advice, Support with gaining employment with Pathways, Local housing officer drop-in, Volunteering and Youth group enquires.

Additional activities out with the flat include –English spoken as another language, information on childcare groups and crèches as well as dance classes and boxing sessions at Cummings Park Community Centre.

Further details can be obtained by calling 01224 681357 or by cutting off this slip and posting it to Cummings Park Community Flat. Cummings Park Drive. Aberdeen. AB16 7BB.

Full Name.....**Telephone Number**

Email

Address.....

Address.....

I would like further information on

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