

mastrick Matters

Summer 2025

**UNDER NEW
OWNERSHIP**

ALL ENQUIRIES

LCP

part of MCore

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400123



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NORTHFIELD ACADEMY

MEN'S SHED

ELECTED OFFICIAL

www.shmu.org.uk/press

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editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Mastrick Matters community magazine!

Mastrick is seeing lots of change at the moment, from new management at the Shopping Centre to new defibrilators and Lidl's move. Please read on to get all the info.

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team, or if you have ideas for the community publication, you can easily get in touch with us.

The staff at shmu are able to support and train anyone living in the area who are interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading.

So please don't be shy, this is your magazine written, edited and designed by the good folk of Mastrick. If you live in the Mastrick area and would like to come along to the editorial meetings (when it is safe to do so) or submit an article then get in touch with Rose at shmu on **07752586312** or you can email her on **rose.ross@shmu.org.uk**.

You can also get in touch with us via our Facebook page - look up 'Mastrick Matters' and hit that 'like' button, and you can view this magazine alongside previous editions on the shmu website: **www.shmu.org.uk** then click the '**PRESS**' option

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

happy reading.

Supported by



Donna Clark

It has been a busy time in the Mastrick area as well as the wider Northfield/ Mastrick North ward since my last update.

The most common issues I have been receiving include damp, overgrown hedges and trees, potholes and roads resurfacing, issues with fencing as well as increasing instances of dog fouling within the area. I still hold surgeries within the ward on a monthly basis, at The Hub @ Manor Avenue on the first Friday of the month at 10am and at both Northfield Community Centre and Cummings Park Community Centre on the third Monday of each month at 10:30am and 12pm respectively. I am looking to potentially reintroduce surgeries within the Mastrick area in the near future, so keep your eyes peeled for future developments on this.

On 28 May, I attended the Big Sing concert held at the Duthie Park, where P4 pupils from schools across Aberdeen, including those in the Northfield/ Mastrick North ward, participated in the annual singing event. This year saw pupils sing a set of eight songs, with many themed around the sea to celebrate Aberdeen's role as host of The Tall Ships race in July. It was great to see the hard work of all pupils pay off and

I would like to congratulate all pupils from schools across the Northfield/ Mastrick North area for their efforts at the event.

It was also good to see the high turnout of crowds in the city centre for Aberdeen Football Club's homecoming following their Scottish Cup victory, winning the trophy for the first time since 1990. It was anticipated that between 80,000 and 100,000 Dons fans lined the city centre streets to welcome the team back.

I recently met with the new owners of the Mastrick Shopping Centre, who have big plans on how to give the area a new lease of life and ensure that every property is occupied as well as ensuring that local needs are met.

I would like to wish all school pupils who have just finished their school exams the best of luck for when they receive their results in August. Additionally, I'd also like to wish all P7 pupils the best of luck when they make the transition up to secondary school after the summer holidays.

If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on **07977 399622** or email me at: **donclark@aberdeencity.gov.uk**.

Lidl's Lang Stracht Lease Not Renewed, Paving Way for New Era

Aberdeen is set to see a significant change in its retail landscape as Lidl confirms its current Lang Stracht store will close on July 13th. This closure, however, is not by Lidl's choice. Despite active negotiations to extend their lease, the landlord has opted not to renew, bringing an end to nearly 25 years of the discount supermarket serving the Mastrick and wider Lang Stracht community.

This forced relocation, however, has swiftly led to exciting news: Lidl has successfully secured the bid for the prominent former Press & Journal site, also on Lang Stracht. This acquisition underscores Lidl's unwavering commitment to the area and its loyal customer base.

While the closure of the existing store on July 13th will undoubtedly cause temporary disruption, it paves the way for a brand-new, modern Lidl supermarket on the highly visible former Aberdeen Journals building site. This move signifies not just a new chapter for Lidl in Aberdeen but also a significant investment in the local area, promising new job opportunities and an enhanced shopping experience for residents. The future on Lang Stracht, though undergoing a transition, remains bright for Lidl and its customers.



NORTHFIELD ACADEMY

CREW COMMUNITY COLLECTION

NORTHFIELD PUPILS FEEDING THOSE IN NEED

Reported by Kael Law

Over the past few months, S1 pupils at Northfield Academy have set up a food bank to help the community and reduce hunger.

Northfield Academy's S1 Crew classes worked with Cfine throughout the months of January to March 2025. This was part of their Project Based Learning (PBL) - "How can we as S1 pupils support Cfine to feed our community?" Crew teachers planned this to lend a hand to the community and to feed people in need. During this project pupils have learned about budgeting, poverty, healthy food choices, the impact of poverty on food choices, the role of food banks and the content of food parcels.

In Scotland there is an immense demand for food parcels. 262,479 food parcels were provided for people in need in 2023/2024. Out of these parcels, 86,013 were for children. The Cost-of-Living Crisis is putting a lot of pressure on families, because the cost of essentials are continuing to increase and wages are not. Families

are relying on food banks such as Cfine, located in Aberdeen. Miss McLenan Crew Teacher at Northfield Academy said, "We planned Crew Community Collection to help give back to the community and support those in need especially over the winter months."

Pupils at Northfield Academy realised people in the community needed support, therefore they established Crew Community Collection. Donations were being accepted throughout January and February. Donations could be dropped off at Northfield Academy and ASG primary schools; Bramble Brae Quarryhill, Heathryburn, Holy Family RC, Westpark and Manor Park. Items such as tinned food, dried food and other essentials were collected. Crew Community Collection was a huge success and 365kg of food was collected, which means 300 to 400 food parcels could be made.

It is brilliant to see Northfield Academy pupils helping their community, lots of people will benefit from this project.

S1 PUPILS SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED

PUPILS AT NORTHFIELD ACADEMY WORKING WITH CFINE

By Naomi Warner

Northfield Academy's S1 pupils set up a food bank over the months of January to March and have been working with Cfine to support the local community.

S1 pupils at Northfield Academy launched Crew Community Collection with a local food bank, Cfine! This was planned by Crew Teachers as a project-based learning (PBL) with the driving question, "How can we as S1 pupils support Cfine to feed our community?" Skye McGregor, a pupil in crew 1.9 has said, "I have learnt about budgeting skills, poverty's impact, healthy food choices and food banks services."

In Scotland there is a need for food banks, because 1.2 million in Scotland have faced food insecurity (not enough healthy food to eat). 262,479 food parcels were given out in Scotland in 2023-2024.

Cfine are a reliable food bank who provide food parcels, kitchens and financial support to help those in need. They are located in Aberdeen, in the Granite City. Martin, Sustainable Food Co-ordinator at Cfine said, "With the Cost-of-Living Crisis there is a demand for food support, so we have been extremely busy. We need to ensure that people do not go without a meal."

Crew Community Collection, a food bank was created by S1 pupils to feed the community. The food being accepted consisted of pasta, rice, sauces, tins, jars, cereals and biscuits etc. The time they were collected was during January to March. The drop off points were Northfield Academy and all ASG primary schools such as Bramble Brae, Manor Park, Quarryhill, Westpark, Holy Family RC and Heathryburn. S1 pupil, Leah Whyte said, "I learnt budgeting skills and how to help people facing poverty, I like helping my community, poverty is not funny and needs help stopping".





NEWS FROM ABERDEEN CITY LIBRARIES

Mastrick Library 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 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!

Pathways – Helping people find jobs since 1998. Job coaches from Pathways meet

at the library every week and offer 1 to 1 support with CV writing, training opportunities, online applications and interview skills. If you think this would be of help to you, please contact Pathways

directly on **01224 682939** or email info@pathways-online.org

Our Lego Club for 8-12 year olds meets every 4th Monday. Ask in the library if you'd like to join. We're looking for **NEW MEMBERS!** Spread the word.

Your Lego creations will be displayed in the library.

The Summer Reading Challenge will start on 21st June and run over the summer. To tie in with the Tall Ships visit to Aberdeen it will have a nautical theme this year. Ask in the library for details about signing up to take part.

Our Bookbug sessions for youngsters 0-5 years, take place 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.

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 free PC access. These slots can be booked online via Netloan or by contacting libraries. We also offer printing services and have photocopying and scanning facilities.

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 or contact Mastrick Library by email:

MastrickLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk or on our NEW telephone: 01224 070165.

WORD SEARCH

Kevin's
Diary

June 3 2025:

It's holiday season. Last night, I had a dream about what might happen in a future break of mine.

In the dream, I awake to hear voices from outside the apartment.

I turn my head to see police talking to people next door.

They'd had paint sprayed on their door - words that are unsuitable for a family magazine like this.

I then noticed paint on the door of the apartment I was in. Written were the words, "YOUR NEXT" with a drawing of a bullet.

As another policeman approached, he said, "It's shocking, isn't it?"

I said, "I know. It should be 'YOU'RE NEXT. With an apostrophe. What are they teaching kids in school nowadays?"

The policeman smiled and said, "We'll look into it and be back in touch."

I awoke and have vowed to never watch crime dramas on TV before bed again.

MORRISON'S MELODY

Lucy Spraggan - "Last Night (Beer Fear)"

This track has the musical quality and the ability to make me laugh out loud (sample lyric: "I think I said too much, like, do you like my bracelets? Oh wait, they're handcuffs.) - a rare feat

I'd put her at the top of English humorous and observant songwriters, alongside Squeeze, Madness and Blur.

T	E	Y	E	N	R	U	O	J	C
B	A	G	E	L	Z	Z	A	D	R
M	M	O	C	A	F	L	O	R	A
K	C	O	L	F	I	D	D	L	S
G	I	G	A	B	A	N	D	A	H
A	F	U	N	K	Y	K	I	P	S
E	C	O	A	L	I	T	I	O	N
V	E	N	R	T	A	P	T	O	R
X	C	P	A	R	A	D	E	R	Q
A	V	I	A	S	T	O	P	T	B

All the words below will be found in the puzzle below – except one.

The words that are there are found horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. In some instances the words are backwards.

The words are collective nouns used for African animals.

Can you spot the word that is not there?

The words:

- BAND
- BLOAT
- CLAN
- COALITION
- CRASH
- DAZZLE
- FLOCK
- JOURNEY
- PARADE
- PRIDE
- TROOP

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER: YOUR VOICE NEEDED FOR LOCAL MARKET DAYS!

Are you ready for the vibrant buzz of a local market, right on your doorstep? Imagine fresh produce, unique crafts, delicious treats, and a place to connect with your neighbours – all within Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill!

We believe that local market days could be a fantastic addition to our communities, fostering a sense of togetherness, supporting local businesses, and providing convenient access to a diverse range of goods and services. Our vision is to host these exciting events three to four times a year, including a special festive Christmas market to truly capture the seasonal spirit. But before we roll out the stalls and fire up the food trucks, we need to hear from you.

Envision the Markets:

Mastrick: A seasonal community hub for local goods and family outings.

Sheddocksley: A vibrant marketplace for Browse and supporting local talent.

Summerhill: A convenient destination for unique finds and seasonal events.

These markets are more than just shopping; they're about creating vibrant community spaces, offering a platform for local talent, fostering neighborly connections, and supporting our local economy.

We Envision:

Seasonal Celebrations: Each market day will have its own unique feel,

reflecting the time of year – from a summer fair to a bustling autumn harvest event, and of course, a magical Christmas market to kick off the festive season.

Diverse Vendors: From farm-fresh produce, delicious baked goods, and ethically sourced meats to handmade crafts, unique artworks, vintage finds, and specialist services. We want to represent the incredible talent right here in Aberdeen's local area.

Community Hubs: More than just a place to shop, these markets could host community information stalls, local group performances, or even small workshops, adding to the vibrancy of each event.

Family-Friendly Atmosphere: Safe and welcoming spaces for all ages, with accessibility a key consideration.

Your Opinion Matters – We Need Your Feedback!

Before we take the next steps in planning and seeking the necessary permissions, we desperately need to gauge the interest and gather the insights of the people who would use and benefit from these markets. Your feedback is crucial to shaping a market that truly serves our communities.

Here's what we want to know:

Your Interest: Would you visit a local market in Mastrick, Sheddocksley, or Summerhill?

What You'd Like to See: What types of products, services, or activities would you most enjoy at these seasonal markets?

Timing & Location: What time of year, days, and specific locations within these areas would be most convenient for you? We have some ideas, but it's always good to know your thoughts.

Your Suggestions: Do you have any other ideas or concerns that would help us make these market days a success?

How to Share Your Views:

We've made it easy for you to contribute. Please visit our dedicated online feedback form at www.msscouncil.co.uk/markets

Alternatively, you can email your thoughts directly to **councilmss@gmail.com**.

This is a fantastic opportunity to bring more life, local produce, and community spirit to Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill with regular, but special, market events throughout the year. Let's make these market days a reality – but only with your input and enthusiasm!

Don't miss your chance to shape the future of local commerce and community gathering in our neighbourhoods. Your voice is the most important ingredient!



Lifesaving Device Installed at Mastrick Community Centre!

We're delighted to announce that a new Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) has been successfully installed at the Mastrick Community Centre, making our community even safer. This vital piece of equipment is now readily available to provide immediate assistance in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest, a leading cause of premature death.

The installation of this defibrillator is a testament to the dedication of local residents and community groups who have worked tirelessly to bring this essential resource to Mastrick. While we sincerely hope it will never be needed, its presence offers immense reassurance, knowing that immediate lifesaving intervention is now just steps away.

A sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, at any time, regardless of age or fitness level. In such emergencies, every

minute counts. A defibrillator delivers an electric shock to the heart, helping to restore a normal rhythm and significantly increasing the chances of survival. Knowing where these devices are located and how to use them can truly make the difference between life and death.

While the new defibrillator at Mastrick Community Centre is a fantastic addition, it's helpful to be aware of other publicly accessible defibrillators in our local area. In an emergency, always dial 999 first, as the ambulance service can direct you to the nearest available device. However, for your general awareness, here are some other known locations in and around Mastrick:

Mastrick Primary School: While primarily for school use, in an extreme emergency, staff may be able to assist.

Arnold Clark Autoparts: Available for public access

Kingsford Primary School: While primarily for school use, in an extreme emergency, staff may be able to assist.

Sheddocksley Sports Centre: Accessible during opening hours.

Tesco Superstore (Lang Stracht): Situated near the customer service desk.

Further information regarding defibrillator locations can be found at www.defibfinder.uk.

Remember, every second counts in a cardiac arrest. By knowing where these devices are and being prepared, we can all contribute to a safer and more resilient Mastrick.



A New Era for Mastrick: *LCP Properties Acquires Local Shopping Hub*

A significant change is on the horizon for the heart of Mastrick, as LCP Properties, a prominent national commercial property and investment company, officially announces its acquisition of the Mastrick Shopping Centre. This strategic move marks a new chapter for the beloved local hub, promising renewed investment and a commitment to enhancing the community's retail experience.

Situated in the well-established residential suburb of Mastrick, north-west of Aberdeen city centre, the shopping centre plays a vital role in serving the daily needs of thousands of residents. Its existing mix of national and local occupiers, including familiar names like Boots, Semichem, William Hill, Indigo Sun, Spar, and JG Ross, already draws a good level of footfall. With generous on-site parking and excellent public transport links, the centre is a true neighbourhood asset.

LCP Properties, part of the wider M Core collective, brings a wealth

of experience and a strong track record in managing and enhancing retail properties across the UK. The company has been particularly active in the Scottish market, with recent notable acquisitions underscoring their confidence in the region's retail sector. Their philosophy centres on intensive management of property assets to maximise income value and generate repeatable, reliable cashflows, all while ensuring efficient control of financing and operating costs.

While specific details of the acquisition, such as the purchase price, remain undisclosed, this move aligns perfectly with LCP's strategy of investing in well-located, convenience-led shopping centres that serve local communities. Their focus on long-term investment and proactive asset management suggests a commitment to the Mastrick Shopping Centre's future.

"We are delighted to welcome Mastrick Shopping Centre into our growing portfolio," commented a spokesperson for LCP Properties. "We see immense potential in this well-established community hub and are committed to working closely with existing tenants and the local community to ensure its continued success. Our aim is to enhance the shopping experience for residents and provide a vibrant, accessible destination for everyday needs."

The acquisition by LCP Properties signals a period of positive evolution for Mastrick Shopping Centre.

While immediate changes may be subtle, the new ownership's proven expertise in property management and investment is expected to bring a fresh perspective and potential for future improvements, ultimately benefiting the residents of Mastrick and the wider Aberdeen area. The community can look forward to a renewed focus on local retail, with a dedicated owner at the helm.





Building Bonds, Boosting Well-being: Mastrick's New Men's Shed Takes Shape!

An exciting new chapter is unfolding in the Mastrick area, as the Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council is pleased to announce that construction is now well underway for a brand-new Men's Shed. This highly anticipated project is set to become a vibrant community hub, offering a unique space for men to connect, share skills, and foster a strong sense of belonging right here in their local neighbourhood.

The Men's Shed movement has gained significant momentum across the country, and for good reason. These sheds provide a welcoming and inclusive environment where men can come together to work on projects, learn from one another, and simply enjoy good company. It's often described as a "shed at the bottom of the garden, but bigger and better," providing a much-needed antidote to isolation and a positive boost for mental and physical well-being.

The Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council

is absolutely thrilled to see the Mastrick Men's Shed taking shape. This has been a key aspiration for the community, and it is incredibly rewarding to witness the progress. There is a strong belief that this shed will become a cornerstone for men in the area, offering a place to engage, learn, and build lasting friendships.

The vision for the Mastrick Men's Shed is one of versatility and camaraderie. While the specifics are still being finalised, the space is being designed to accommodate a diverse range of activities, from woodworking and DIY projects to crafts and perhaps even a dedicated area for general conversation and socialising over a cup of tea. The emphasis is firmly on creating a relaxed and supportive atmosphere where everyone feels welcome.

The Community Council, alongside Mastrick Community Centre, Aberdeen North Parish Church of Scotland and other local organisations, is warmly inviting all men from the Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill areas to get involved. Whether you're keen

to share your expertise, pick up a new hobby, or simply looking for a friendly place to connect with others, the Mastrick Men's Shed will be a space for you.

The success of this shed will truly be a testament to the community's spirit. Everyone interested in becoming a part of this exciting venture, whether as a member, a volunteer, or with ideas for activities, is encouraged to reach out. This is a community shed, and the aim is for it to be a reflection of the needs and interests of the men it serves.

Further updates on the Mastrick Men's Shed's development, including details on how to get involved and anticipated opening dates, will be shared soon. In the meantime, the Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council looks forward to seeing this invaluable community resource flourish, building stronger bonds and a more vibrant community, one shared project at a time.

MASTRICK MATTERS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Mastrick Matters are looking for volunteers to join our editorial team! The Mastrick Matters is your community magazine, and for it to be truly representative of the community, we need residents to get involved and help out with the production of the magazine.

The magazine is put together by a local editorial team of volunteers, with the support of shmu's Community Media Development Worker, Rose. This is the community's platform to celebrate their successes, share their news, raise awareness to issues affecting them and anything that is important to them.

How does the editorial team work?

We produce three editions of Mastrick Matters per year. The

Editorial team meet three times during the production of each edition to discuss ideas, plan content and plan the page layouts of the magazine.

We currently meet at the Boards and Beans Café in Mastrick Community Centre for editorial meetings. The next magazine we will be producing will be the Autumn edition and meetings will begin in August.

What can I do as part of the editorial team?

There are a variety of things that editorial team members can get involved in. There is no pressure to do everything, just what you are interested in doing. Rose is also available to support volunteers to help them to contribute.

Here's some of the things you can do:

Join the meetings, share your thoughts and ideas.

Connect with other community members.

Write articles.

Photography – we always need photos for front covers and for content within the magazine.

Proofreading/editing.

Attending community events.

To make Mastrick Matters as representative of the community as possible we need your help! Please get in touch with Rose by emailing rose.ross@shmu.org.uk or calling **01224 515 013** to enquire and/or arrange a time to chat further. Or if you'd like to chat to our current fantastic volunteers, we can organise a meeting of the team.





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.

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



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**

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



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?



Community Contacts

Aberdeen City Council Helpline - 0800 0304 713

Virtual School Helpline - 01224 523322

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

Mastrick Doctors

01224 662933

YOUR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE:

Local Councillors

Councillor Ciaran McRae

01224 346630

cimcrae@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Graham

01224 523594

ggraham@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor David Cameron

07876760760

Dacameron@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Donna Clark

07977399622

donaclark@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Steve Delaney

01224 346614

Sdelaney@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Cllr Kate Blake

07977399530

kablake@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Jackie Dunbar

– MSP for Aberdeen Donside

01224 011936

Jackie.Dunbar.msp@parliament.sco

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

There are services available to support you, and they are still open. You do not have to wait for an emergency to get help. Tell someone you trust or contact:

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

Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381. Website:

grampian-womens-aid.com

Rape Crisis Grampian Telephone: 01224 590932.

Website: rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk