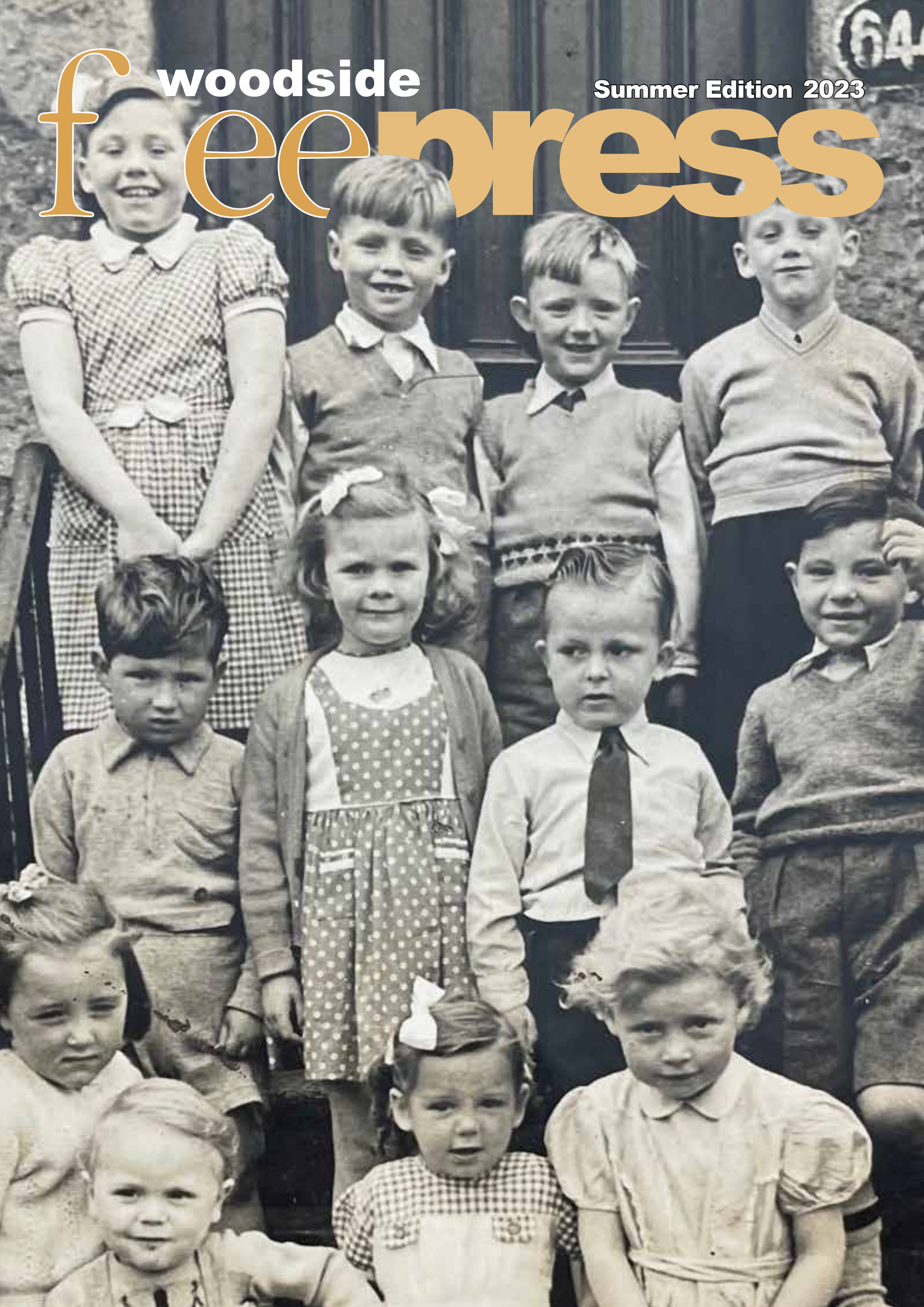


woodside
freepress

Summer Edition 2023



Contents

3	Nescan
4	Community News
5	Creative Fun Day
6	Fersands Gala
7	Mela
8	Woodside Gateway
9	Library Update
10&11	Billy's Woodside
12	Thrown
13	Nadine Ralston
14	shmu
15	PTP



Editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Woodside Free Press. This is YOUR magazine.

We are here to help you find out what's going on in Woodside and connect with your community.

In our pages you will find news, views, reviews and features.

In this edition, find out what's on this summer and read all about one of Scotland's best young musicians, Nadine and reminisce on Woodside with Billy.

If you have something you would like to say, some local issue you think deserves coverage, or if you would like to get involved by joining the happy band of volunteers that puts this magazine together, please contact Rose at shmu on **07752586312** or email **rose.ross@shmu.org.uk**.

All the content in this magazine has been produced and approved by members of the editorial team.

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

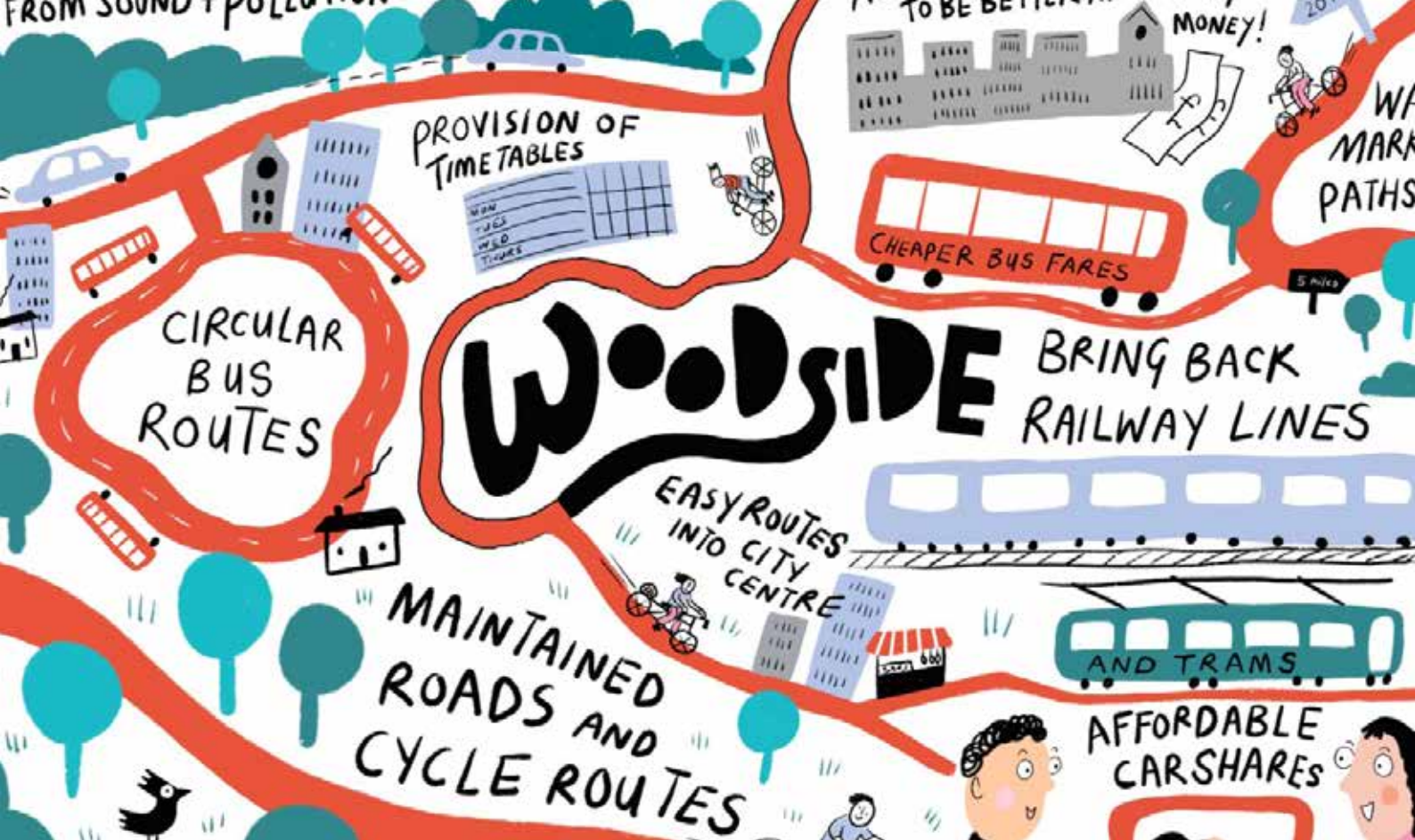
Woodside Free Press is a community publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team or of shmu.

You can be reassured that our distribution company is taking every measure to ensure they are delivering your magazine safely and within government guidelines.



Supported by





How did the Nescan Community Assembly go?

Woodside, Tillydrone, Seaton & Linksfield. Thriving, healthy places and buzzing community spaces. People connecting, feeling good, being active. Local skills, good jobs, young people thriving. Warm homes, low bills, no damp and mould. Community grown food, fresh, healthy, happy people.

Safe streets, clean air. Loud birdsong, accessible paths, wildlife and trees, nature all around. Cheap reliable buses and safe ways to wheel and cycle. Community hubs, with things to borrow and swap. Folk learning between generations, mend and repair.

These are some of the hopes and wishes that came out of NESCAN Hub's first community assembly.

Folk gathered in St Machar Academy in the dark and icy nights of January and February. They learned, they laughed, they shared and listened. They found a lot to celebrate. Folks working hard to make a better place. Folks working hard to heal the injustices of the past. Folks working hard for action against the impacts of climate change and nature loss. Folks standing up and having their voice heard

Our collective voice has power. Have your voice heard too. Those with power are listening. We know we can change things for the better, take action now for a healthy planet, it will improve our lives. But how can these changes be made in a way that is fair and just? You might not

have been able to gather in the hall in the depths of winter but you can have your voice heard now.

Add your voice to those calling for happier, healthier, more sustainable communities...visit our website, send us an email or give us a call.

Throughout the sessions, participants came up with hopes for action on topics that matter. These are now all available for people to see and to add their thoughts and ideas to.

People can complete the process as many times as they like, or just focus on the topics that interest them.

www.nescan.org/community-assemblies



WHAT'S ON AT THE HILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE?

Back to School (for adults)

I am so looking forward to it!

The phrase "Every day is a School Day" is very well known but also very true.

You learn something new every day, whether it's from that new app on your phone or the Internet you use to access new recipes and so why not widen your horizons by joining a class to learn something new.

You can take up new hobbies, tasks and open yourself to new experiences. Make new friends and have fun doing it.

I am looking forward to the new programs coming out from Fersands and others.

I hope to continue the Yoga class for balance of physical and mental wellbeing, Zumba for the music and dance and coordination. I would love to take an Arts class this year as well.

I hope to continue practicing Reiki at Fersands as well, when the nursery garden area has been finished.

And of course, continuing to write articles for the Woodside freepress!

So come along and find something that interests you, find new friends and most of all enjoy.

Really looking forward to it. See you back at school in the autumn!

By Margaret Aisbitt

Hilton Community Centre on Hilton Road have plenty of activities to take your fancy.

Here we have the centre's full programme of groups and activities. If any of these sessions interest you, why not pop in to the centre or contact them for more information.

You can contact the centre by calling 01224 277 025, emailing Hilton.centre@gmail.com or by visiting the Centre on Hilton Road, AB24 4HS.

Sessions are as follows:

MONDAY

10am to 3pm – Create Aberdeen – A drama and sports group

4pm to 5:30pm = Theatre of dreams – School of Dance

6pm – 7pm – Elle Arts – performing arts school for children.

6:30pm to 7:30pm – Hatha Yoga – meditation and focused breathing

7:45pm to 9:45pm – Badminton

TUESDAY

10am to 3pm – Create Aberdeen

6:30pm to 9:30pm – Guarana drummers – Rehearsals for kids and adults

9pm – 10pm = Badminton

4pm – 5:30pm – Theatre of Dreams

WEDNESDAY

2pm – 3:30pm – Over 55's – light exercise for adults

2pm – 4pm – adult paint class

3:30pm – 7pm – Elle arts

7:15pm – 9:15pm – Badminton

THURSDAY

10am – 3pm –

Create – arts and crafts

1pm to 3:30pm – Indoor bowls

3:30pm – 4:30 – craft group

4:30pm – 5:30pm – Boys Brigade

6:30pm – 8pm – line dancing – choreographed dance suitable for all adults

6pm – 7pm – Elle arts

8pm – 9:30pm – yoga

7:45pm – 9:30pm – badminton

FRIDAY

9:30am – 11:30am – photography group – advanced group running every two weeks

1:30pm to – 3:30pm – open for bookings if you have a group and need a space to meet in.

SATURDAY

11am – 4pm – Theatre of Dreams

9am to 2pm – Tamil class – language for children

4:30pm to 11:30pm – open for bookings

SUNDAY

8am – 10am – God's love tabernacle

10am – 12pm – Stone Church

12pm – 1pm – Woodside Church

1:30pm – 11:30pm – open for bookings



CREATIVE FUN DAY FOR WOODSIDE COMMUNITY

Celebrating Woodside Community through Stories, Memories and Action

North East Culture Collective (NECC) and shmu are hosting a free creative fun day at Deer Park Road, Woodside on Saturday, 19th August, 2023, 11:00 am – 4:00pm. There will be a variety of creative and media-based activities that celebrates the past, present, and future of Woodside. We want to hear your memories, ideas and what you would like to see in the future for our community.

The creative fun day activities will explore the rich heritage of Woodside and are suitable for all members of the community. The NECC team of creative practitioners will deliver sessions in drama, podcasting, photography, dance, music and arts and crafts while shmuFM will broadcast interviews throughout the day with Woodside community

members. NESCAN, the climate action network organisation, will also be in attendance and will share findings from their recent work in the area.

Everyone is invited to bring a picnic to New Deer Park and soak up the atmosphere alongside friends and neighbours.

For more information visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cultureabdn or email stewart.aitken@shmu.org.uk

North East Culture Collective Co-ordinator Stewart Aitken said “North East Culture Collective (NECC) provides opportunities across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire to explore new ways to engage with communities through creative activities. The programme connects and supports creative practitioners with local organisations and community groups and provides

support through a variety of different projects. North East Culture Collective is part of a Scotland-wide initiative called Culture Collective which supports 26 projects across Scotland. The aim is to connect communities in creative and meaningful ways, especially if they remain isolated or disrupted due to Covid-19.

“Currently, NECC has 12 creative practitioners working on contracts of over six months. They have projects in Banff and Turriff working with local organisations and Live Life Aberdeenshire. In Aberdeen City NECC are working with Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC), Alcohol and Drugs Action (ADA), The Foyer, Fit Like Hubs and Aberdeen City Council’s Housing and Libraries departments on 5 projects.”

Register for a free ticket to the event through Eventbrite by following the link - <https://19augwoodside.eventbrite.co.uk/>



FERSANDS WOODSIDE GALA DAY

Fersands marked the beginning of the school summer holidays with a spectacular community Gala Day .

Hundreds gathered from all over Woodside to experience the many attractions. Crowds weaved around stalls selling freshly baked cakes, unique art work, crystals and gems, fudge and toffee. Outside, the sun was shining brightly while inside, castles were bouncing, and faces were painted.

Families had fun, buying raffles, hooking ducks and even bashing Maltesers to win mystery prizes. Friends and neighbors met and ate lunch together at the café. It seemed like the Queue never ended at Charlie Waffles ice cream and waffle stall. Kids saw Animals being created with balloons and had fun

learning facts at the Science Centre stall.

So many volunteers gave up time to plan the event and manage the attractions and all were so pleased to see the Centre filled with happiness and excitement.

Local young people also took responsibility and helped manage many of the tables, there were fake tattoos and nail decoration, hot dogs and more.

The sun kept shining as the marvelous sounds of two local bands, Northern Flights and Eklectik entertained the crowds and created a superb holiday atmosphere. The live music was a real treat, and many sat around the garden stage area and relaxed in the warm Popcorn and

candy floss breeze wondering if it was Woodside or Woodstock.

All too soon, the day came to an end and the big clear up began and I believe is still ongoing as I write.

This is another wonderful example of a community event that makes people feel good about their area, gives everyone a smile, brings people together and builds good community spirit. What a tremendous start to the holidays.

Many thanks to all our volunteers all the people who came to support us special thanks also to Aberdeen City Council, Charlie Waffles and Tesco, Northern Flights and Eklectik for their support at this event.

Mark Lovie

A place at the table: Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP)

Would you like to have a seat at the table where the community partners come together to take important decisions that would affect the quality of life in of the local communities (Woodside, Tillydrone and Seaton)?

If your answer is YES! Come and join us!

We are looking to improve the community representation within the group and your contribution as a member of the community would shape the present and future of the locality areas.

The Central (Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton) Priority Neighbourhood Partnership has been responsible for taking forward numerous areas of work to improve our communities. It is instrumental in the development and delivery of the Central Locality Plan.

The following aims have been identified in the Central Locality Plan:

Reduce the Number of People living in poverty through the creation of opportunities for employment and skills and create solutions to tackle food and fuel poverty.

Ensure people have the digital means to ensure they do not miss out on opportunities.

Improve Mental Wellbeing of the Population

Ensure People can access services timely through a person-centred approach where the needs of the whole population are considered.

Create safe and resilient communities where hate crime will not be tolerated and develop initiatives which reduce the impact of substance use and anti-social behaviour.

Maximise the spaces in communities to create

opportunities for people to connect and increase physical activity.

For full information on the Central locality plan, see this link

Final-Aberdeen-City-Locality-Central-1.3.pdf
(communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk)

If you are interested in getting involved to help achieving these aims in our local community, come and join us. Your input would influence the decisions related to what happens in the local community.

For more information, please contact **localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

Our next meeting will be held in a hybrid format (in person and online) on 27th September at 6:00pm. Seaton Community Centre next to Seaton Primary School, entrance from the main car park.

Aberdeen Mela

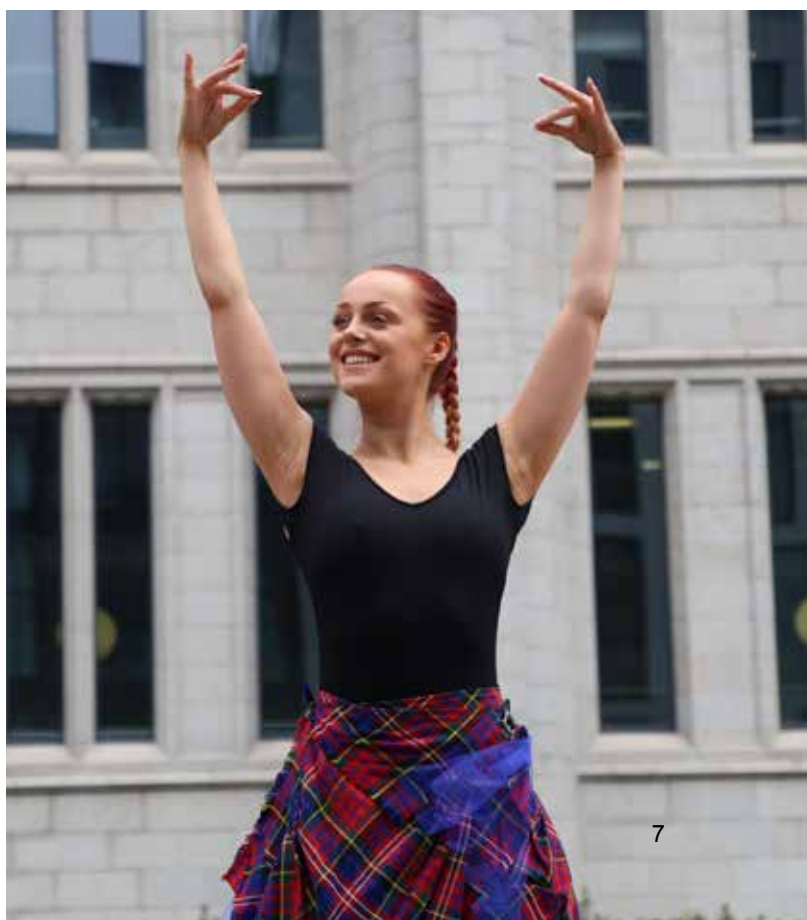
Aberdeen Mela to Celebrate Cultural Diversity at bigger venue in 2023.

Aberdeen Mela, One World Day, the festival promoting diversity and multiculturalism in Aberdeen is returning to the city on the 27th of August.

This year the festival will take place in the new venue of Queen's links between 12pm and 7pm on the 27th of August.

Visitors to the Mela can expect a grand celebration of many cultures with food stalls serving dishes from around the world and performances of traditional music and dance. There will also be a range of activities for all the family.

Last year over 14 thousand visited the festival, and this year organisers are hoping to top that yet again. Why not venture to Queen's Links and experience it for yourself.



Takin' the Gate

They call it the 'Woodside Fountain Gateway.' It's not the snappiest of titles and the immediate question is: gateway to where? But it is good to see some resources being spent on Woodside, and, at first glance, it seems like an imaginative idea, one that combines Woodside's history with a modern art project.

They intend to reinstate Woodside's historic landmark the Fountain to its original position by the present-day Fountain bar. The Fountain lamppost was a destination for many a bus and tram passenger in days of old and has long languished among the bushes by Fountain Grange. Then to surround it with a series of sculptures, a small garden and seating.

But the Gateway project itself, on the other hand, is not without its critics. Labour councillor Mr. Tauqeer Malik lamented that resources were being spent on this project, while the Woodside library has been closed. He said that 'We don't have much

in Woodside, the library is the only space that is open to all and is the centre of the community'.

It's an argument that has some force, especially when we consider the relatively small sum that is being saved by closing the library, (estimated at £32,000). Indeed, it doesn't seem to make much sense to spend such a large sum on an art project (£155,000) in these cash strapped times.

And yet surely, we are not faced with such an either/or. The closure of the library is irrational in itself. Its use as an educational resource by the nearby primary school alone justifies its existence. Woodside has been long starved of investment and the reopening of the library should not be linked to this innovative project.

There have been mixed opinions on the project from Woodside residents. One resident, Margaret Aisbitt said "It is welcome idea to reposition the

Woodside Fountain to its original site. But I'm not sure how I feel about the poles and the amount of Space needed for the project, in such a small area."

While Aber Eladany said "I wasn't aware of any consultation for this going on in Woodside. I knew of the similar project going ahead in Tillydrone and was aware of their consultation, however I don't recall Woodside residents being consulted for the Woodside Gateway.

"I like the idea of the project, but I would have liked to have seen the sculptures for the poles designed by Woodside artists and had more input from the community involved."

The construction of the feature will begin on the 21st of July and will take up to six weeks to install.

Dougie Thomson



Woodside Gateway 3/4 17

A new mini-park that creates a warm welcome to the neighbourhood through sculpture, planting and the reinstatement of the fountain.

Sculptural pieces reflect Woodside's proud heritage from the old canal and development of the railway to the Grandholm Mill with its world-famous Coombe Cloth and the Donside & Muggemoss Paper Mills.

Smooth concrete forms anchor the columns and provide casual seating to rest on the way to the shops, watch the world go by and catch up with friends.

New planting creates a beautiful backdrop of native species such as heathers, birch tree and wild grasses, whilst attractive paving creates a high quality plaza.

The 'Woodside Fountain' has been positioned centrally, combining the best of past and present, whilst the shapes of the new elements echo the fountain.

Local nature to be found in and around Woodside is represented here (developed with the Fernside Adult Art Class)

Colourful polycarbonate pieces cast colourful shadows across the pavement during the day like stained glass.

Developed with **bigg** DESIGN





Image - Josh Pizzuto-Pomac

What now for Woodside Library?

As Woodside residents are aware, Woodside Library, along with five other Libraries across Aberdeen City and Bucksburn Swimming Pool were closed following the announcement of Aberdeen City Council's Budget in March.

Since then, a group of campaigners from Woodside and across the city have been fighting hard to save the libraries and the swimming Pool. So, how are they getting on?

Save the Library Campaigner Ross Anderson, updated the Woodside Free Press "The campaign groups have been working with lawyers from the Govan Law Centre and Grampian Community Law Centre to bring forward legal challenges against the closures. We are

currently waiting on the outcome of legal hearings due at the Court of Session in Edinburgh during August and September 2023."

The public are now able to have a say in the future of Aberdeen's Library Service. Aberdeen City Council have launched a consultation which will run from July to October, to gain input from those who live and work in Aberdeen about the running of the libraries. The first stage of the consultation is a survey which can be found online through the Council's website or accessed from the libraries or Marischal College. This survey will run until the end of October, while a range of focus groups and workshops to explore the delivery of the library services and

ideas, will run from September to October.

Keep an eye out for more information regarding focus groups and workshops by completing the survey.

If you are currently unable to visit the Library due to disability, illness or caring responsibilities, the Home Library service is a free service for those of all ages on a temporary or permanent basis. Library staff will visit your home to learn about your borrowing tastes and drop by to deliver and collect items on a monthly basis. Contact the home Library team to apply for this service by calling **01224 498930** or email **HomeLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

BILLY'S WOODSIDE



Billy Collie was born in a flat at 644, Woodside Road in the 1950s, delivered by his Gran, who helped introduce many of the family to the world.

On one side of 644 lived his grandma and Aunt and on the other, he lived with his mum, dad and eventually his baby sister.

Woodside was Bill's stomping ground until the age of 13 when his family moved to Bucksburn where his dad was originally from. After six years in Bucksburn, he married his wife, Wilma, and the couple moved to Heathryfold, where they live to this day. But Bill has never forgotten that he's a Woodsider and remembers his childhood there very fondly.

Bill shared some of his best memories of the area with the Woodside Free Press.

His mother had lived in Woodside all her life, brought up in her Grandma's flat on Woodside Road and it was in Woodside that she met Billy's father. He said, "My father came from Bucksburn, he and his best

friend met at Bucksburn Fountain on a Sunday night and would walk all the way down to Woodside fountain. It was called the walk to walk, and seemingly, teenagers would walk from Bucksburn down to woodside and back again. And that's how my father met my mother. And eventually they got married."

"Oh aye, I missed Woodside when we left. It was like a community, you just kent a'body."

There were plenty of good stories of his parent's romance. "Before they were married, during the war, my father was said to be missing in combat. Of course, my mother was really upset, then a telegram came through, saying that he was on his way home on the train. When she found out, my mother actually ran from Woodside all the down to the train station. Just because she was so relived. And I said, 'she couldn't have run ah the way doon', and I was

telt, 'Aye she run ah the way doon'. That's a real good story."

Woodside wasn't just the place his parents fell in love but is also the place of all his best childhood memories. The setting for many of these fond memories, none other than the Silver Grill chipper, across the road from his home.

"I was friendly with the mannie, Bob English, who owned the Silver Grill. I just loved hanging about the place. There was the chipper on one side and then a café with a duke box on the other.

"A lot of the bikers hung about there after their work, I was amazed by it. I sometimes used to get a lift on the back of a motorbike, my father would ging aff his heid like. We just went along, doon muggiemoss road, doon by Perslay and back up here, nae helmets on or nothing.

"I remember when the chipper got its first coca cola machine. It was a big barrel and you put in your bottle and pulled this big handle, and the coke came out frozen. It only cost like six



pence or something and it was really cold. One day when he opened it up to refill it, I saw how it worked and I was blown away with it, it to me it seemed like magic.

"I had a lot of great times in there, I was fascinated with the Duke Box too, to this day when I hear a record playing that was on that duke box, it takes me right back."

Another of Woodside's characters, Billy remembers vividly is Andy McKessock, a man who shared his love of Woodside. McKessock was the owner of the shop, the Little Wonder, that Billy's family lived next door to. "He sold everything, I'm nae joking, hoola hoops. He made orange juice icicles. He had white jeans and baseball boots when they first came oot.

"He also sold ornaments. I remember buying an ornament for my mum, it was like a crinoline lady, and had a pin cushion on her bum and you pulled it oot and it was a tape measure. Funny the things you remember." One of Billy's most prized possessions is 'Woodside Way', a

short book by McKessock, which Billy searched high and low for, for many years.

"He wrote all about Woodside because he was just that kind of guy, he was very knowledgeable and very educated. Everybody knew him and how much he loved the area."

Billy also spent a lot of time playing football, he even got injured when having a game of footie, but he didn't let it bother him. The Playground on Station Road was my stomping ground, I played on the swings here, played football, I burst my eye in the park playing football. I still have the scars from that. An older lad kicked the ball and it hit me in the face, there was blood everywhere.

"The park was looked after by what we all called a granda. I remember he used to lock the park up for an hour and go awa for his lunch. We used to get back in and when he'd come back, he'd chase ye."

Eventually, it came time for the family to move to Bucksburn, but Billy desperately wanted to stay. After a

while of trying to think of any way that would allow him to remain among his friends and continue to attend St Machar Academy, he had no option but to move to Bankhead. But he always looked back on his time in Woodside fondly and he was never too far as his Gran's house was never empty of family.

"Oh aye, I missed Woodside when we left. It was like a community, you just kent a'boday."

Billy has lots more memories of Woodside to share and The Free Press editorial team want to hear your memories of Woodside too. Share your stories of Woodside over the years with the editorial team, using the contact details on page 2!



AN EVENING AT THE THEATRE



It's not every day that Woodsiders get to visit the National Theatre within their own community. But on Saturday the 15th of July, residents were treated to a performance by the National Theatre of Scotland, at the Woodside Community centre.

NTS made a stop at Woodside, on their tour of local venues and community centres across Scotland. Tickets were 'pay as you feel' and Woodsiders took the opportunity to enjoy a different kind of evening out in their own community.

'Thrown', a play by Nat McCleary and Johnny McKnight follows five incredibly different women on their journey to compete in the Highland games as Backhold Wrestlers. Jo, Imogen, Chantelle, Helen and Pamela navigate their personal struggles, and find themselves grappling with their personal identity and what it truly means to be Scottish.

Backhold Wrestling, is the traditional wrestling style of Scotland. As the play explains, it involves locking your arms around your opponent, left arm over the others right, hands clasped but fingers not interlinked, then they try to throw one and other to the ground.

But the five were wrestling with much more than opponents in a tournament. Identity, whether it be gender, class, cultural or national, was the group's main struggle throughout the piece.

Much like in backhold wrestling, the women found themselves trying to trap and topple each other, in an effort to better understand and define themselves and their struggles.

The audience were invited to challenge what it means to be Scottish. Who defines our National Identity, and does it really need to be a one size fits all, blanket cover?

The message is clear, there is no one definition of 'being Scottish', and we as individuals are not one dimensional, there are many contributing factors which make us who we are, we should not need to be less of one thing to feel like another. And yet, that is the reality that many face across the nation.

Impressed with the thought-provoking performance, the audience will certainly look forward to any future ventures of the National Theatre in Aberdeen.

Fersands and Fountain SCIO, Senior Community Worker, Claire Whyte commented, "it's been a wonderful experience having such a huge production accessible in the heart of the community for our local residents, we hope they return again in the future".

Woodside teen does Aberdeen proud in prestigious National Music Competition

Nadine Ralston, 16, had the honour of competing in the final of the Scottish Youth Musician of the Year 2023, after securing victory in the regional final in Aberdeen.

Her skills on the harp secured her place in the national final of Solo Performer of the Year, in the competition, after beating competitors from across Aberdeen City.

Nadine couldn't believe it, when it was announced she had won the Aberdeen Final and would be going on to perform at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) with musicians from across the country. She said, *"when I was at the regional final and they said my name as the winner, I was so shocked and thought 'how can it be?'"*

She pushed aside her shock and nerves to fully enjoy the fabulous experience in Glasgow.

"The whole competition was unreal! I even got to visit the RCS ahead of the competition as they let me borrow a pedal harp for my performance. I got to try their harps and choose which one I wanted to play! It was such an amazing experience, not only running about RCS and looking in their practice rooms but also performing on their stage. Just being able to say that you performed in RCS is a great honour.

"I tried to just enjoy it, take my time and really enjoy showing off the piece I played, rather than rushing to get it over and done with. I think that showed in my performance.

"I also met so many talented people. When we were in the green room backstage, we were all just speaking to each other. The amount of experience that everyone had, they were all amazing musicians. So, it was great to be able to speak to them. And when we



weren't playing, we got to go and be a part of the audience and watch the other people play. Which is amazing because you got to really appreciate their performance and skill."

Having never imagined when she first began playing the harp, she'd end up in a National Competition, Nadine realised just how big an impact her hobby has. *"I started playing the harp for fun and to see where it would take me, now I'm doing things I never imagined I could!"*

Nadine "fell into" playing the Harp at the age of nine, when she first picked it up at Woodside Primary School. Captivated by the melodic and peaceful sounds the instrument produces, the harp has brought her only joy and an excitement to learn new things. Since then, she has gone on to study at Aberdeen City Music School, honing her craft.

The teen's passion for her instrument and her gratitude for every opportunity

to play is evident when she speaks. Although Nadine doesn't plan to go on to study music when she leaves school, for the moment, she is dedicated to the harp and will continue to play as much as possible. Nadine said "I want to learn more pieces and just perform and just enjoy it really. I'm going to go with the flow and see where it takes me.

"I want to thank my teachers, who are amazing, I wouldn't have gotten this far without you!"

If you'd like to see Nadine in action, you can catch her free pop-up performance during this year's Wayword Festival. Nadine will be performing in the main hall of the King's Pavilion on the University of Aberdeen Campus on Saturday the 23rd of September from 4:45pm to 5:15pm.

Make sure to book a free ticket to the event through the Wayword website.

We are all about keeping well here at shmu and we have plenty on offer to give both your mental and physical health a boost.



Wellbeing Walks

We held the first of our Wellbeing Walks on Thursday the 27th of April. Despite the drizzle, we had a brilliant time, and enjoyed a scenic Walk along the River Don. We topped this off with a cuppa and a catch up at our Wellbeing Café.

Our Wellbeing Walks are held on the last Thursday of every month. If you are looking to get more active,

meet new people, socialise, share stories of Aberdeen, our community Engagement Wellbeing Walks may be for you!

If you'd like to join us, no sign up required, but if you'd like more information, contact Sarah by emailing sarah.igesund@shmu.org.uk or by calling her on 07592 355 131

Volunteers' week 2023

Here at shmu we are unbelievably lucky to have so many brilliant and inspiring volunteers, so we had to celebrate all their amazing work this volunteer week.

Throughout the week, we hosted a variety of events, from an open day where we welcomed new faces hoping to volunteer, as well as an afternoon celebration, an awards evening and a radio take over day.

We had a great time shaking it up and getting to interview our FM volunteers live on Air, throughout the day. As expected, they are just as brilliant in the guest chair as they are on the presenter mic.

The celebration evening was full of emotion, as we had the honor of presenting our brand new 'Angela Joss 'Bee You' Memorial Award' to Angela's family. Angela was a beloved volunteer, friend and inspiration. We'd like to thank Angela's family for coming along to receive the award.

The evening also had plenty of laughs, with the rest of the volunteers collecting awards of their own.

We cannot thank our volunteers enough for all they do, they truly are brilliant, and we truly appreciate it. If you'd like to volunteer at shmu, we'd love to have you! Get in touch via volunteer@shmu.org.uk or by calling 01224 5150103



Pete the Punk

BOB DYLAN AT THE ARMADILLO

I FIRST CAME ACROSS BOB DYLAN performing on a cinema newsreel in the early 1960s, a gangly young man singing protest songs with a passion rarely seen in pop music. He stood out from the crowd even then, though few could have foreseen this upstart from Duluth, Minnesota going on to become the leading contemporary musician of his age or, even less likely, that he'd still be making albums and touring the world more than sixty years later.

Raw talent, immense charisma, quick wits and an uncompromising anti-Establishment stance soon saw Dylan hailed as the voice of a generation; by 1966 he was a *bona fide* star, an iconic cultural figure always there or thereabouts on the fringes of my life, where, for six decades, he stayed.

Despite my lengthy diversions into the worlds of punk and rave culture, I still managed to amass quite a few Dylan albums along the way but always regretted never having seen him play live. Tonight that's finally about to change, though, given his advanced years and stories about his voice being a bit ropey nowadays, we make for the gig with few expectations and even, perhaps, a sense of mild trepidation.

The SEC Armadillo is surely the jewel in the crown of Glasgow's reclaimed waterfront, a 3000-seat venue overlooked but far from overwhelmed by the nearby OVO Hydro. Once inside this beautiful building, we find this is not only our first Dylan show but our first with a 'no camera, no phone' policy. It's no big deal: they give you a small case to put your phone in which locks electronically for the duration of the show; on the way out, you simply pass the case over an unlocking post, drop it in the bin provided and bingo! - your phone is ready for action.

We enter the auditorium and head for the front where, by some miracle, the missus has obtained seats. Dylan and his band take the stage shortly and a brisk run through 1971 single *Watching The River Flow* sets the scene beautifully for what is to come.

Next up is *Most Likely You Go Your Way (And I'll Go Mine)* from 1966 album *Blonde On Blonde* and, while Dylan might look physically frail at 81-years-young, he's in great form, the sole concession to the passage of time being that he no longer plays guitar onstage but sticks behind the piano nowadays.

It is apparent the no phone, no camera policy is a huge success. Rather than wasting half the night trying to capture images/videos to post on social media, the audience focuses its full attention on the performance and the gig proceeds in an almost church-like atmosphere.

Sitting less than twenty feet from the great man is a humbling experience: his voice, though weathered with the weight of accumulated years, is spot on, each song delivered with absolute assurance, and I'd never realised just how accomplished he is as a pianist.

More than half the 17-song set is from 2020's much-lauded *Rough And Rowdy Ways*. *Key West (Philosopher Pirate)* is a particular highlight, a 10-minute rumination on love and mortality bathed in a wash of glorious accordion.

Picking the very best people to work with then letting them do their own thing is one of Dylan's great gifts, the crack 5-piece behind him serving the music with subtlety and grace but never afraid to cut loose when opportunity presents itself.

In a set liberally sprinkled with deep cuts from across Dylan's long career, 1967's *I'll Be Your Baby Tonight* is another special moment but, with tracks from *Nashville Skyline*, *John Wesley Harding*, *Slow Train Coming* and *Shot Of Love*, there's something for everyone.



A couple of times over the evening the maestro steps out from behind his piano, raising his arm in appreciation to the crowd before making his somewhat unsteady way back to his keyboard. He has us in the palm of his hand and over the piece we laugh together, we cry a bit, and it is abundantly clear just why the ex-Robert Zimmerman has come to be the legend he is.

After ninety glorious minutes, Dylan revisits his oft-maligned born-again phase and closes with the brilliant *Every Grain Of Sand*, at last picking up his harmonica and giving us a wee toot before disappearing into the night, leaving a delighted crowd howling vainly for more.

What a privilege to be there.

PETE THOMSON

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

Penumbra First Response 0800 234 3695

Fersands and Fountain Community Project

01224 524925

Printfield Community Project

01224 276788

Woodside Fountain Centre

01224 485983

Woodside Community Council

woodsidehiltoncc@gmail.com

Woodside Medical Practice

8am – 6pm

Contact: 01224 492828

Woodside Network

Contact: printfield@printfieldproject.co.uk

or mark@fersands.org

St Machar Credit Union

Info: Credit Unions are financial co-operatives owned and controlled by their members, that offer savings accounts, low cost loans and other services.

Phone: 01224 276994

Councillor Hazel Cameron -

hacameron@aberdeencity.gov.uk 07977399518

Councillor Neil Copland -

NeilCopland@aberdeencity.gov.uk 07768 427392

Councillor Deena Tissera -

dtissera@aberdeencity.gov.uk 07977399589

DOMESTIC ABUSE

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: sdfmh.org.uk

Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381. Website:

grampian-womens-aid.com

Rape Crisis Grampian Telephone: 01224 590932.

Website: rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk