

woodside
free press

Winter Edition 2024



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Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 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.

Woodside has been a busy community, this season. Read on to hear about Woodside Women's day, shmuFEST and more! Celebrate the incredible Fersands Pantry volunteers too!

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, research 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.



Supported by



Woodside Woman's Day Well Received!

Woodside Network recently supported a Women's Day on the 27th of October at Woodside Fountain Centre.

The day attracted over 60 women who attended workshops and picked up information from a range of stalls and attractions. Those attending enjoyed workshops on nutrition, the benefits of tapping & meditation, Yoga, Zumba, Dr Goldie's Menopause Workshop and chair-based exercise.

Claire Whyte of Fersands Fountain SCIO said "It was a busy day; we had some great feedback! Our organising group wanted to promote opportunities for better menopausal health, better mental health and offer information to women on a range of topics. We want women to be more involved and attend more community activities hopefully this day will act as a catalyst to encourage new groups."

The day was the latest in a series of Woodside Decide events supported by the Woodside Network to engage with more people and get residents more involved in decision making and activities in Woodside.

Claire continued, "So far, there seems to be great interest in learning more about the effects of menopause and how to cope better, so we would like to see if we can start a group for a few weeks to look closer at this.

"Although we have a Zumba class during the day there was some demand for evening classes in Zumba and Yoga so these are other possibilities we can look at."

Kit Trail of Printfield said, "It was a very relaxed and positive session. It was good to see new faces and

women supporting each other. The stalls and workshops were very popular and there was a lot of experience sharing.

"I was asked about possibly holding a follow up session at a weekend which would allow women to attend who could not on a weekday."

The public feedback was very positive! Here is what some of the women had to say. "I enjoyed, the meeting up of women, having a laugh, enjoying discussion. We have needed to talk about menopause for a long time, a lot of women have suffered in silence along time especially if it wasn't explained from their mothers, quite scary."

"I enjoyed learning about cacao, making time for myself for 5 minutes per day to appreciate myself. Loved chair-based exercise!"

"I loved learning about meditation, pressure points, yoga, and would love to do more!"

"I enjoyed meeting people, friends, meditation and Yoga & Zumba."

"Such a positive atmosphere & very informative!"

"Enjoyed the meditation, I would like to do it regularly. There was lots of useful information same as chaga"

"I enjoyed finding out about different health issues."

The Woodside Network presents
Woodside Women's Day
An opportunity to come together, celebrate and explore services and support available to you.

- Menstrual / period health
- Perimenopause / Menopause
Dr Goldie (Menopause pharmacist)
- NHS Community Support
- Alternative therapies
Meditation, yoga, tapping
- Health and Wellbeing
- Nutrition / Free lunch
- Free raffle
- Adult classes / community groups
-zumba, arts and crafts

MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER
11AM-2PM
WOODSIDE FOUNTAIN CENTRE
MARQUIS ROAD, AB24 2QY



On the Trail of Dinosaurs

Nicola Watson

The October holidays may have seemed like a daunting time filler for many a parent across the town this year, but there were rumblings in the city centre that were sure to turn heads. No, not the roadworks on Union Street, but the stomp, stomp of dinosaurs! Brought to the city by Iconic Bricks for the 2-week autumn break, kids were no longer picking tatties, but picking their favourite Lego dinosaur creation.

Eighteen statues were placed around the city centre for budding archaeologists to uncover and tick off their sheets. A map led folks around the trail from Thistle Street, down Union Street, around the shopping centres, Central Library, His Majesty's Theatre, and Marischal College. There were also ten mini Lego figures hiding out along the Upperkirkgate and down Schoolhill, looping along Back Wynd, Gaelic Lane, Belmont Street and onto Rosemount Viaduct. These illusive figures popped up in

coffee shop and shop windows for eagle eyed kids, and grown-ups alike to spot.

The dinosaur models, all made from Lego bricks, were painstakingly put together by teams of avid builders, over hundreds of hours. Creating amazingly 'lifelike' creatures of all different colours, and habitats. From the blues and greens of sea creatures to the reds and oranges of sharp clawed lizards, it was a sight to behold. There were eggs, and cute babies, all the way up to long-necked brachiosaurus and long tusked triceratops, all the usual suspects were involved. Each dinosaur was accompanied by a poster which gave details of the dinosaur's name, and how to pronounce it. A note of how many hours it took to make, the amount of people involved, and, how many bricks it took to make, as well as a little bit of background to the dinosaur.

Central Library on Rosemount Viaduct had four of the sculptures and saw an increase in footfall in the range of 400-500 extra people per day. Some sculptures even had to be moved from the Children's Library to the main Lending Library to cope with the sheer amount of people coming through the doors. With those kinds of figures, it must have been a significant improvement to the shopping hubs given the dwindling figures with the amount of empty shop units on the go.

I went on the trail with my family, my son with map and tick sheet in hand. We started up in Thistle Street with the plan of working our way down Union Street, along Union Terrace and looping down to Union Square. Plans don't always, well, go to plan though. We ended up taking 2 days to complete the trail as we got distracted along the way, and didn't really follow a route as such.



But we all enjoyed it, especially my son, whose only niggle was that it was hard to get in about to some of the sculptures in the busier places and some were in places which had awkward opening hours. Apart from that, it was an enjoyable meander through the town at our own pace.

Woodside will soon be home to its own path of sorts, with the commissioning of the Dennis Law trail. But if it could be done, what other trails could be brought specifically to Woodside? What sort of themes/topics could be placed around the area to draw people in as well as educate people about how Woodside has evolved over the years? It would be good to see more installations such as the revamped Woodside Fountain space brightening up our days.



Woodside Community Centre update

Join the Woodside Junior Club!

Woodside Community Centre run the Woodside Junior club, which is open to all. Whether you stay in the area or not, pop along and find out what it's all about!

It runs on Tuesday nights and there is plenty for the youngsters to do, from having a snack at the Tuck shop to taking part in the playschemes in school holidays.

No need to sign up in advance, just come along and have fun!

Fundraising event

On the 8th of March in 2025 the Woodside Community Centre are hosting Deena McBride, a Clairvoyant, to help fundraise for the project. It's £15 per ticket, pop into the centre to get your tickets!

CAR PARK CHAOS IN THE CRES

Community Wardens surprised car owners in Woodside one night in October when over a dozen car owners were fined for parking on pavements.

This new rule came into effect in April 2024 and gives the council the right to fine drivers who bump up onto the pavement.

Several car owners were furious as they feel they have no other option as there's no street parking spaces available for hundreds of yards.

One community member said "People who live in Ferrier Crescent, where can they park? I come home from work at 6pm. Where can I park? How far away from my house do you want me to park? If the council are fining people, they should create enough parking spaces nearby, so residents don't have to park off road. There are large areas of concrete squares near the corner houses. There's some green space behind the houses that aren't used - why can't this space be used for parking? People have been using it for years. Last night at least eleven cars in the community were overhanging the kerb with two wheels on the road and two on the pavement. Technically the cars could park on two sides of the road as there's no

road markings, but that would block the road, would that be breaking the law?"

One resident said "I don't own a car, but some households have three cars so one tenement can easily have 10 cars looking for a space and cars are so big as well nowadays. Why do people think it's ok to park on the pavement, I think it's selfish."

An Aberdeen City Council spokesperson said: "We are committed to ensuring the safety and accessibility of our streets for all residents and visitors and promoting responsible parking behaviour. The enforcement of parking regulations, including the issuance of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) for parking on pavements, across dropped kerbs and double parking, is a crucial part of this effort.

"We are aware of concerns regarding parking in this area and council staff are currently reviewing the matter to determine if the area meets the criteria for an exemption to apply. If any new traffic management measures are proposed, these can take some time to implement dependant on the statutory processes required. Meantime, the enforcement of parking regulations in Woodside remain in place."

GROWING FOR WELLBEING:

CULTIVATING MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY AT THE SNUG

At Aberdeen's SNUG Community Garden, something special has been growing – and it's not just plants! Our "Growing for Wellbeing" course brought together a fantastic mix of people, all looking to boost their mental health, learn new skills, and connect with their community. Led by the amazing Viktoria Szilvas, participants got their hands dirty, learned the ins and outs of gardening, and discovered the joy of working in nature.

Growth, in more ways than one...!

People come to the course hoping to ease stress, anxiety, or simply to find some peace away from life's daily pressures. They find a supportive group where people can grow – in the garden and personally!

Each session provided a chance to learn new gardening skills while participating in mindful techniques.

The impact went beyond fun in the garden:

Interest in others went up by 50% as social connections blossomed!

Feelings of usefulness and productivity increased from 6 to 10.

Participants reported improvement in physical activity and self-esteem.

By the end of the course, the participants weren't just better gardeners, they were also feeling more connected and relaxed. One participant summed it up: "We came out from stress and had a funny, relaxed time with friends."

Wellbeing in nature...

Feedback from the course was overwhelmingly positive. One participant said, "I feel good and relaxed in the garden." The simple act of gardening turned into a powerful tool for improving both mental and physical health.

Looking ahead...

The "Growing for Wellbeing" course has been a huge success, giving people a chance to connect with nature, meet new people, and find a sense of purpose. We're excited to keep this momentum going with future courses, helping more people take control of their wellbeing - one plant at a time!

Interested in joining? Register here: <https://forms.office.com/e/L1wk2SCNEF>

New dates will be announced soon, so don't miss out!

The SNUG Community Garden is run by FRESH Community Wellness. You can find out more about the community garden and how to get involved by attending one of their regular volunteering sessions – they are very friendly and anyone is welcome! – or contacting them using the details below.

The SNUG Community Garden,
Fresh Community Wellness
SCIO, Seaton

**Regular volunteering sessions:
Thursdays 10-12 and 2-4,
Saturdays 2-4**

Phone: Dave 07572112974

**Email: secretary@freshcom.org.uk;
chair@freshcom.org.uk**





Volunteer Spotlight – Fersands Pantry

Many of the fantastic services at the Woodside Fountain Centre couldn't run without the selfless hard work and dedication of amazing volunteers and the Fersands Pantry is no exception.

Open two days a week, the pantry is run by a phenomenal group of women, stocking the shelves and offering a friendly face to their customers.

Catching up with Lorna, Vi and Alison, three members of this team to find out more about the pantry and lots was found out about their volunteering.

Between the three of them, the ladies have been volunteering for 50 years, not just with the pantry but with various other services at the centre.

Lorna, the longest running volunteer of the 3 has been involved for 30 years, having started out helping with the kids' clubs and playschemes when her children were small, she now helps at the pantry, and is a member of the Fersands SCIO Committee.

Lorna loves the pantry as she feels "it takes away the stigma of the

foodbank and gives people the confidence to do a shop".

On top of that, the ladies have made lots of new friends. Vi says 'A'body speaks to ye, they get to ken your name. Even when you're oot and boot, people say 'Vi, fit you deein here?' You make connections with folk. I didn't know Lorna or Alison before the Pantry."

Alison agrees. "It's nice, when you're out and about, there's always someone you end up bumping into and it's usually from the pantry they know you."

Lorna's favourite memory of volunteering at the pantry over the years is from when it was first set up six years ago. Fersands Pantry was the first pantry in Scotland and Lorna, along with a few other volunteers travelled down to Manchester to visit a Food Pantry there and learn all about the running of it. "It was brilliant, getting to see how it all worked and learn from a lady who had set up the pantries." That is no doubt a proud moment, to be part of such a trailblazing moment. Others in Scotland have now sought the wisdom of the ladies when setting up their own pantries.

Overall, Alison enjoys the great strong community spirit that she sees in Woodside. "Everybody sticks together and helps everybody out."

For those who are not familiar with the service, the pantry is open on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons and is available for Woodsiders all the way from the Haudigan Roundabout to the Northern Hotel. Simply pay £3 per year for your membership and a futher £3 each shop to get 10 items of your choice from the pantry. Items are donated by CFINE and you can certainly get more than your money's worth from the stock which lines the shelves.

You can also donate items to the pantry too, so if you are able to spare anything, why not pop in a donation.

If you've been inspired by the ladies, more volunteers are always welcome! Contact the Centre by calling **01224 524925**.

The volunteers, make the service all the more special, Well done and thank you to Lorna, Vi, Alison and the other amazing pantry volunteers for giving up their time to offer a friendly face and a supportive hand.



Sport Aberdeen boosts free cycling opportunities through Rock Up & Ride

Rock Up & Ride is a Scottish Cycling funded project delivered by the community sport team at Sport Aberdeen, based at its Aulton Cycle Hub (Raymond Kelly Pavilion) in Seaton.

Working closely with the local communities of Northfield and St Machar, the cycling sessions usually take place along the beach front and around Seaton Park.

As part of the project, the community sport team currently delivers one-hour led rides from the cycle hub, as well as Learn to Ride, cycle confidence sessions and adult on-road cycle confidence sessions upon request.

Bikes and helmets can be provided so participants don't need to own their own bike to come along!

Since February 2024 – Sport Aberdeen, in partnership with Sustrans, has been running these public led rides on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Bespoke led rides have also been organised for a variety of groups including menopause groups, mental health groups, New Scots

sessions and for youth work summer activity groups.

During the Easter and Summer school holidays, the community sport team as part of the Rock Up & Ride project worked in partnership with ACC's Family Learning department, at Bramble Brae Primary School and Aulton Cycle Hub, to provide children's Learn to Ride sessions, as well as covering how to ride safely as a family.

Led rides are delivered in a relaxed and sociable environment, aiming to provide an accessible pathway to recreational cycling, or simply capitalising on the various health benefits of cycling outdoors.

Everyone is welcome to join, rides are paced to match the speed of the least confident rider, and enquiries are welcome from those wishing to learn to ride and then progress onto led rides.

The project's emphasis is on building confidence for cycling and enjoying the benefits of gentle outdoor exercise in a social group.

Rides have attracted a variety of participants so far, ranging from local mums enjoying some

'me time' to individuals new to Aberdeen hoping to improve their English or explore some of the city by bike.

Partnership working has been key to the success of the project, with strong links established with ACC's Family Learning Department, Community and Learning Development via the Healthy Minds project, and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP)'s Wellbeing Coordinators and their Mighty Oaks Menopause support group.

Asylum & Refugee Care and Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) through their language café have helped to promote the work of the project to New Scots and those new to the city, whilst Fersands and Fountain Community Project has linked in local youths to the project.

Enquiries from volunteers looking to become ride leaders or assist with bike maintenance are very welcome to join, and any specific rides requests can be made by emailing

LBenson@sportaberdeen.co.uk

ABERDEEN LADS CLUB INTRODUCES NEW CHILDCARE & YOUTH SERVICES TO TILLYDRONE

Aberdeen Lads Club re-opened its doors earlier this year following a major renovation project that saw its Tillydrone building completely transformed.

The charity, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in February, was closed for 14 months while its Dill Road facility was refurbished, creating a modern, fit-for-purpose and multi-use community hub.

The Lads Club, which moved to Tillydrone in 1984 from its previous home in Mounthooly, has been providing a wide range of childcare, youth engagement and family support services in the local area for more than four decades.

The recent renovation works saw a mezzanine floor added to the building, leading to significantly more space, as well as dedicated early years, after-school and youth rooms, meeting facilities and multi-purposes spaces. The building's 27 x 16 metre games hall continues to be a key feature within the building.

Angie Johnston, the charity's manager, is delighted with the

refurbishment and says it feels more like a new building than one which has been renovated.

She said: "The building is unrecognisable now compared to what it was like previously.

"We have so much more space now, including dedicated areas for each of our services. We also have more amenities including kitchen areas, an accessible lift, and modern showers and changing facilities."

A new offering that has been introduced to the club as a direct result of the changes to the building is a pre-school nursery, run in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, with families able to access up to 1,140 hours of early years care.

This service complements all the other childcare and youth support services, which includes an after-school club, youth clubs and holiday clubs.

Angie continued: "Our intention is to encourage our children and young people to learn through their activities and interactions so

that they can achieve their full potential.

"They make their own decisions in a safe and fun environment, supported by our highly experienced staff team.

"But it's not just about the young people. Building strong relationships with their families is important to us as we aim to achieve and sustain positive outcomes for everyone."

As well as being used by the Lads Club, the Dill Road building can also be hired out for meetings, workshops and sporting activities by the local community, external agencies, other third sector organisations and wider city groups.

Angie concluded: "Thanks to a recent fundraising campaign, we have a fully-equipped facility, which is light, bright and spacious, but most importantly fit for purpose."

For more information about Aberdeen Lads Club or its services visit www.aberdeensladsclub.org.uk or call 01224 492672.





Wallace Tower Salvation

*I can mind when Wallace
in the City spent an hour*

*I even wint for a pint
wi' him*

Intil the Wallace To'er

Harry Gordon

The Auldest Aberdonian

Aberdeen has its fair share of quirky buildings, but few as strange as the Wallace Tower. As you follow the twists and turns of its convoluted past, from well-to-do town house in the 16th century, to lodging house and then to a famous pub, you are tempted to consider the place as Aberdeen's answer to Terminator 2. It just keeps coming back to you, transformed.

In fact, The Wallace Tower was lucky to survive the horrors of sixties corporate vandalism at all. The Guest Row, a jewel of inner-city Scotland, was flattened to make way for St' Nicholas House. The Tower's neighbour, the yet more famous Provost Skene's House, only escaped the bulldozer at the behest of Queen Elizabeth. Marks and Spencer had its beady eye on the area around the Wallace Tower, but was finally shamed into moving it brick by brick (just like Arnie's cyborg) to its present location in Seaton Park, at the edge of Tillydrone. There it became the city's most unusual council house, until

finally being boarded up and falling into neglect, a fate all too common to many of Aberdeen's historic buildings.

And now it's about to be transformed again. There have been several plans to do something with the building down the years. The Tillydrone Community Development Trust have been instrumental in getting things going and but finally the builders have moved in. The idea is to turn the ground floor into a café, with an extension at the back. The restoration will keep as many of the original features as possible and flagstones and walls will be retained. The upper floors will be used as community and office spaces. The surrounding natural environment will also be taken into consideration.

All this is great news for Tillydrone and Woodside, as well as the thousands of people who use Seaton Park, considered one of the most beautiful parks in Scotland. That whole part of the city has few community facilities, so this new development is to be welcomed. One question though, will the café be licensed? Because I, for one, would like to spend an hour wi' Wallace at the Wallace Tower.

Dougie Thomson



ST MACHAR CREDIT UNION: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, TRANSFORMING LIVES

In the North of Aberdeen lies a financial institution with a difference - St. Machar Credit Union. For over three decades, it has been a beacon of hope and stability for the local community, offering financial services that empower individuals and families to take control of their economic well-being. From humble beginnings to a cornerstone of the community.

Founded in 1990 by individuals from Fersands, Woodside, and Seaton, St. Machar Credit Union emerged as a response to the lack of accessible and affordable financial services in the area.

In those days, options for obtaining loans were limited, often leading residents to resort to high-interest or illegal moneylenders. Recognising the need for change, the founders embarked on a journey to establish a financial institution that would prioritise the needs of the community.

After four years of perseverance, St. Machar Credit Union opened its doors, offering a range of financial products and services designed to promote financial inclusion and stability.

Jackie Weir, the Development Worker at St. Machar Credit Union, has been a driving force behind the

organisation's success for many years.

Her dedication and passion for serving the community have been instrumental in shaping the credit union's journey. Jackie recalls the early days of the credit union and its evolution over the years.

"When we started out, there was a lot of scepticism about whether a credit union could thrive in our community," says Jackie. "But we proved them wrong. We showed that when people come together with a common purpose, amazing things can happen."

Jackie highlights the importance of community ownership and engagement in the success of the Credit Union. "We're not just a financial institution; we're a community-led organisation," she explains. "Our members have a say in how we operate, and their input shapes our decisions. That's what sets us apart from traditional banks."

Over the years, St. Machar Credit Union has expanded its reach, serving Seaton, Woodside, Tillydrone, and beyond.

Jodie Sim, an admin staff member at St. Machar Credit Union, shares her journey of personal and professional growth within the organisation.

"I joined St Machar Credit Union 10 years ago after undertaking the shmu employability programme. When I first started, I had no idea what a credit union was but thanks to the training and support I received here, I've grown into my role."

"As well as working here, I use the services of the credit union so I can see the benefits it brings. For example, using the services here paid for my first ever holiday, my car when I passed my test."

"My father had an account here and unfortunately, he passed away. If it wasn't for the free life assurance available with our accounts - because he had COPD and cancer, so not a lot of places would have taken him on - then we would have had no way to pay the £7000 funeral bill.

In a world where financial insecurity is all too common, St. Machar Credit Union facilitates empowerment for the North Aberdeen community.

As we look to the future, one thing is certain - St. Machar Credit Union stands out as a shining example of what can be achieved when communities come together for the greater good.

Originally published by ACVO – View the full article at acvo.org.uk/acvo-news



Thank you, Norma.

Spooky Going On At The Laurels Lodge

The staff and Residents at Laurels Lodge were having a Halloween decorating competition using four different areas each to be decorated by a team made up of carers and residents. Janet Calder and I were invited to go along and judge which we both thought was an honour to be asked.

The Lodge was decorated to a high standard, any witch would have been proud to rest her broomstick there. The residents and carers had decorated 4 areas of the home and were proud of their hard work.

Walking through each area we saw that a high standard had been achieved by all and knew it was going to be a hard task to find a winner, in fact to tell the truth they were all winners but our job was to find the best and so we decided that area two was the winner by the very narrowest of margins.

The winners received a hamper full of lovely stuff also a box of chocolates, the three runners up also got a box of chocolates but they agreed that the hamper would be shared by everyone so in the end they were all winners quite right, Janet and I thought we were also winners for being allowed to take part in what was a lovely afternoon.

Dave White
Janet Calder



In the Summer edition of the Woodside Free Press, we had the pleasure of chatting to Norma, hearing about her memories of Woodside and sharing them with you all.

We are sad to share that Norma passed away on the 2nd of October.

Norma loved Woodside growing up and her family were delighted when she got accepted to Laurel Lodge Care Home so she could return to the area.

Norma's daughter Carol said "My mum, Norma, loved Woodside. She was born there in 1937 and her grandparents and aunts and uncles all lived in the same area between Gt Northern Road and Bedford Road. She was an only child but loved playing with all the children in the neighbourhood. She attended Woodside Primary School, and it was a family joke between her and my dad as to who went to the best school (he was a Middlefield Primary loon).

"She married my father, Jim, at Woodside South Church in 1955 and they had 66 years together. Most of those years were spent in Northfield where they eventually settled and lived from 1964 until he passed away in 2021.

"When she was a girl her father, Alex, worked on the railways and he spent much of his time in and around Kittybrewster. Her mother, Ina, worked at Grandholm Mills (J & J Crombie). They both moved to Murray Court later in life and two of Alex's sisters moved to Fullerton Court, so as a family they never really ventured far away from Woodside.

"Mum was a very sociable person and used to love dancing and ice skating when she was young. Years later, when she was in her late 60's, her cousin gave her an old pair of white, lace up skating boots and she and her grand-daughter went on a few trips to the Linx Arena at the beach. Age was definitely not a barrier to something she enjoyed so much.

"She was diagnosed with vascular dementia a couple of years ago and subsequently moved back to Woodside to Laurels Lodge Care Home where she passed away in October 2024. Laurels was great at caring for mum and keeping her occupied and engaged with trips, quizzes, musical entertainment etc.

It's quite fitting that one of her last trips out was back to the Linx Arena to go ice skating at the age of 86! If you've never heard of wheelchair ice skating then believe me it's a thing and we have the photos to prove it!"

shmu Turns 21 in Style!



Around 700 people gathered in Deer Road Park and shmuHQ to celebrate shmu's 21st birthday on the 22nd of September.

The community media charity couldn't have asked for a better birthday party than shmuFEST!

Guests showed up from across shmu's communities to enjoy the fun filled day. There was truly something for everyone, from live performances of poetry, music and dance throughout the day, to a silent disco, a BBQ, street art, craft, circus tents and more!

The day was an absolute hit with those who came along, across the day volunteers new and old attended, community members and partner organisations paid a visit. Here's what some of them had to say about the event, and shmu itself!



"The good thing about shmu is, it's open to everybody, you can see that looking round here, there's people from all walks of life and they're all enjoying themselves, there's not a frown in sight. Radio has been a closed shop for years; I started in the 70s and if you didn't know someone you didn't get in. But shmu opens the doors for so many different people for media, magazines, editing, they can do everything here."

PAUL HAZEL

"I thought it was a fantastic, fun day with lots of activities and really nice people! It was just great fun, I really enjoyed it, I liked the music, creating the artwork and listening to the stories."

MARK

"A big thank you to everyone who organised shmuFEST. It's been a good time spreading joy here in Woodside and a fantastic day getting everybody together!"

MIKE MELVIN



"I loved doing the dancing for Afristyle, representing and performing in front of everyone."

PERFORMER



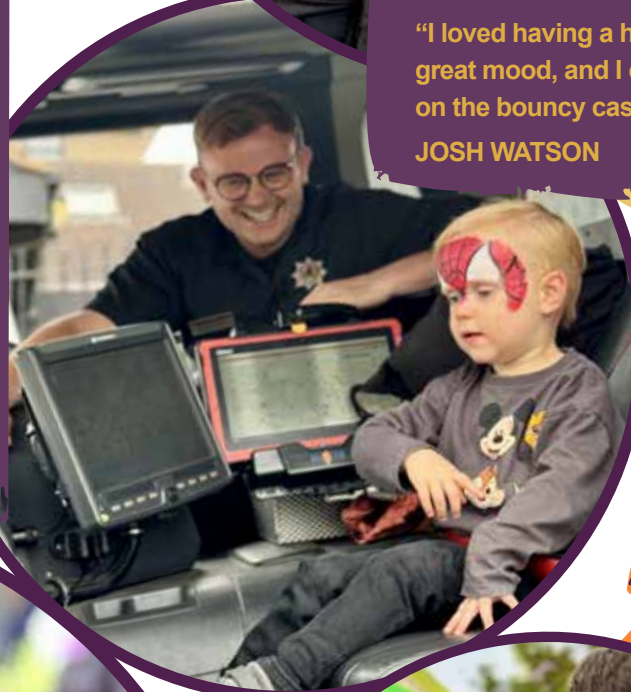
"It was amazing, there were lots of familiar faces around, the weather behaved nicely, you've got a birthday every year, so I hope to see something next year too! It was a great experience."

COMMUNITY MEMBER



"It is such a cool day today; I really love it. I hope it happens on a regular basis, wandering about I have seen so many people that I know from all different places. Earlier on I was trying to explain to my family what shmu does and I was like 'well it does this, and it does tv and it does radio and it does youth employment and all sorts of stuff. But I couldn't explain it, I couldn't put it in a box, but coming along to shmuFEST, that explains it, that gives you an idea of how all-encompassing shmu is and how many different people come and what an amazing opportunity it is for so many folk."

KIRSTY BLACKMAN MSP



"I loved having a hotdog! I am in a great mood, and I can't wait to go on the bouncy castle next!"

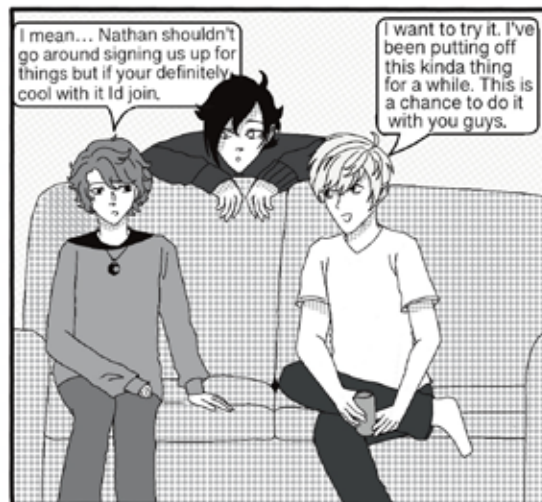
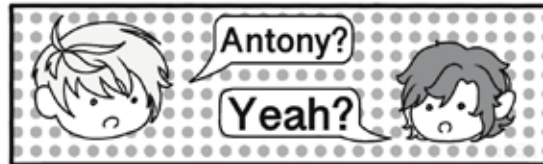
JOSH WATSON



"To have a shmuFEST and have us as guests is just brilliant! I have never been involved in anything like this before!"

MURDOCH

Don't Luke now



Don't Luke now, is a comic series by Katie Watson exploring Social Anxiety.

