

THE BRIGGS

SPRING/ SUMMER EDITION 2014



Photo courtesy of John Rutherford

Your Community Council Newsletter Covering the Bridge of Don and Danestone

Come & Join a Winning Team

One thing every member of the Bridge of Don Community Council has in Common is a desire to enhance Bridge of Don. Whether it is an aim to improve the sense of community, to encourage community initiative participation and promote a sense of well being and friendliness or simply to make the area look inviting, pleasant and beautiful. Members of the community may have noticed the disappearing hanging flower baskets positioned on the Bridge, one of the first things visitors and residents notice as they traverse the bridge.



Do you ever notice the numerous planters situated at the War Memorial on Ellon Road, or those beside the Scotstown shopping centre, or those positioned at the



entrance to Links Road in Donmouth. These Planters are maintained by the Bridge of Don Community Council. It was a great pleasure to accompany Councillors Muriel Jaffrey, Sandy Stuart and

Gill Samarai as they volunteered and set about revitalising all the planters through summer and autumn last year. Help and expertise from Isobel Hunter was much appreciated.



Funding for the plants and flowers is derived from the Community Council Budget, however contributing ef-

fort to their upkeep can be instantly rewarding when passing admirers make positive comments or, in particular when a very generous donation of plants and materials was made by the Parkhill Garden Centre. After many hours of focused effort you can take a step back and consider the completed work with a sense of accomplishment. While this is all very satisfying, it could

be better, much better... and that's where you come in. Yes You!

Working on the planters offers an opportunity to work as a team with others in your community who care about the environment and would like to see Bridge of Don truly live up to its potential. Next time we are going to work on the planters we are going to

advise the local residents and invite them, eh, you, to participate. If we can get more volunteers, we will invest in more planters, and we can all work together to make Bridge of Don more beautiful. You'll be glad you did. Enhanced sense of community, and a more beautiful environment are just the tip of the iceberg of benefits that can be gained.

Alternatively, if you would like to get involved you can contact the editor by e-mail and I'll put you on the mailing list for the next event.

The editor can be contacted at:
TheBriggsEditor@gmail.com.





Seed Potatoes A choice of 86 varieties there is even one called Jelly. The usual wide selection of Onion Sets, Shallots, Garlic and Rhubarb. Orders now being taken for Grafted varieties of tomato plants. We have the biggest ever selection of vegetable and flower seeds we even have Garden peas by the trug full.

Seasons Coffee Shop Tel: 01224 724711
Garden Centre Tel: 01224 722167
www.parkhillgardencentre.com

Mother Earth Multi Purpose Compost 70 ltr bag for only £4.99 This is only one type of compost from the full range of Clover Composts in stock. Positive customer comments confirm Clover composts are by far the best, for seed sowing, pricking out, potting, hanging Baskets, vegetables and much more

Open 7 days on the B977 Dyce-Balmedie Road Well worth a visit to see well looked after top quality plants

From the Chair...

Welcome the spring edition of The Brigs. Another year gone by and we still seem to be dealing with the same issues on the Community Council – too many houses in the pipeline, too much traffic on inadequate roads, poor yet expensive bus services.... - the list goes on.

However, I would like to highlight some of the positive outcomes. Such as the Aberdeen City Council have finally acknowledged that the proposed Halting Site for Travellers at Perwinnes was simply a very poor proposition for both the settled community and the travelling community alike. There were significant contributions made from a variety of sources, not just the input from the Bridge of Don Community Council representatives at the ACC's closed door consultation, but most certainly in the form of local input to the ACC from residents in the form of letters, participation in the ACC's poorly promoted online consultation and the Community Council Forum members of the Stake Holder Group's accomplishment of facilitating and establishing a better - fit for purpose - method of assessing the suitability of future sites.

I would also like to welcome the commencement of preparatory work for the 3rd Don Crossing. There was considerable opposition from many elected members to this scheme but the majority of residents in the Bridge of Don were in favour of this and most local councillors were in favour too. While I doubt it will not be the solution to all of our traffic problems (and was never intended to be), but it will certainly be a welcome and positive development.

And finally, thanks to the amazing work of an incredible group of parents and supporters, the scheme for merging Middleton Park School with Glashieburn School in the Glashieburn building was finally seen for what it was – plain nonsense!.. Once again a positive outcome for the community driven by the community.

Sheila Young.

A word of thanks from the Editor...

I hope you have enjoyed this Spring Edition of the Bridge of Don Community Council newsletter. I'd like to give special thanks to all contributors, John Rutherford for his Photograph of the Brig o Balgownie and all advertisers.

The Brigs welcomes articles from members of the Community in the Bridge of Don and Danestone areas as well as articles focusing on the local community. If you would like submit an article you can do so by e-mailing me at

TheBrigsEditor@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.



NHS
Grampian

involvingyou

Did you know that you can get involved with the work of NHS Grampian?

Patients, carers and members of the public are contribute in lots of different ways; helping to make a difference to services now and for the future.

By getting involved in our work you could positively influence:

- The design of local health buildings.
- The development of services in community settings.
- Patient safety and hand hygiene in hospitals.
- Improvements to services.
- NHS policies and strategies.

What will being involved mean for me?

Some of the benefits of being involved might be:

- Keeping up-to-date with local health issues, opportunities and information.
- Making a difference.
- Meeting new people.
- Training opportunities.
- Something to add to your CV.

You can choose to be involved in a way that fits in with you. We are looking for all kinds of people to get involved – you don't have to have any qualifications, just have an interest in health and local health services.

If you are interested in getting involved why not contact the Public Involvement team at NHS Grampian on the details below? One way to get involved is to join NHS Grampian's Public Forum – a group of patients, carers and members of the public who meet three times a year to discuss topical health issues. Members of the Public Forum often listen to presentations and take part in lively discussions and group work.

If you are interested in attending one of our Public Forum meeting or finding out more about involvement opportunities please contact the NHS Grampian Public Involvement team at nhsg.involve@nhs.net or on 01224 558098.

More information can also be found on our website www.nhsgrampian.org/involvingyou

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Flower baskets on the bridge

In response to the many queries received regarding the flower baskets which adorned the lamp posts on the Bridge of Don, I hope to provide some, if not all, of the answers.

Firstly, the “missing” baskets were not lost, stolen or made away with(!). The twelve baskets on the bridge were all the Community Council could afford to have put up, even after a donation towards the costs from McDonalds Fast Food Restaurant which was matched pound for pound by ACC. The baskets are purchased from the Council who then hang them on the Bridge and water them at intervals; all of which proves rather expensive!

The cost of providing two baskets per lamppost on the Bridge would swallow up the small amount of grant the Community Council receives for local projects etc, and without donations from local businesses will be impossible to sustain in future years.



In previous years the flower baskets were paid for mainly from the ward budget of Cllr Muriel Jaffrey (who also paid to have the hooks attached to the lampposts) until ward budgets were scrapped in 2009. In 2010 a businessman from south of the City, Derek Forbes, very generously

donated money to the Community Council for the baskets, even though he has no family or business connection to the area! Since then the Community Council has tried to obtain funding locally for the flowers but this is the first money we have received courtesy of McDonalds Community Support fund. As we are also responsible for the eight planters elsewhere in the Bridge of Don (including the 2 at the War Memorial) it is becoming more and more difficult to provide this welcome splash of colour on the Bridge. And that is without having to provide the Christmas Lights on the Don and Persley Bridges!

ROTARY - A CLUB WITH A DIFFERENCE



So what exactly is a Rotary club? Of course in one sense it's like any other club, a group of like-minded men and women meeting regularly – in our case every Thursday evening at Mains of Scotstown to

have a meal together, listen to an invited speaker and conduct any business - all in a convivial atmosphere. But our regular meetings are not the end in themselves – they are the channel through which we get involved in our many outside activities, raising or spending funds for both local and overseas charities, organising community events or participating in Rotary-wide initiatives. Each club member is a member of a service committee with responsibilities for different parts of our programme. Here are some examples.

Community service Participation in “Kids Out” – an annual one-day fun gala for over 500 primary children with special needs, organised totally by Rotary and involving adult helpers from all Aberdeen area clubs.

Supporting the Ryan Nicol Memorial Award for two outstanding Oldmachar Academy pupils each year. Organising and funding “Local Hero” awards for adults who have provided outstanding service to the local community here in Bridge of Don

Vocational Service Organising the local heat of the annual Rotary Primary School Quiz in Bridge of Don, this year won by Danestone. Selecting and funding two outstanding young people from the local secondary schools for an annual week-long adventure training and leadership camp held near Aviemore. Offering “Mock Interviews” for school leavers in Bridge of Don.

International Service Running the Rotary Thomas Blake Glover Scholarship, a unique student exchange scheme which we initiated 16 years ago with Rotary clubs in Nagasaki in memory of the 19th century entrepreneur who grew up here and first brought Japanese students to Aberdeen. Liaison with Mwingi School, Embu, Kenya via visits and contributions of books and sports equipment. Funding and purchase of a Rotary “ShelterBox” to provide essentials for a needy family in the event of an overseas disaster.

Charities. This committee selects deserving charities, local or national and either organises or assists fund-raising activities for them. The best known event of course is our annual car raffle in

the Bon Accord Centre, last year in aid of CLAN, but ERSKINE, Teen Challenge, British Heart Foundation, RNLI and Rotary's own Polio Eradication initiative have all benefited recently from our innovative fundraising ideas.

An impressive list? Yes, but all Rotary members know how much real satisfaction – and fun – can be had in following the Rotary motto of “Service above self.” So we are a club with a difference. We are always on the lookout for new members. If you want to provide service through Rotary, why not contact our secretary Graham Donaldson on 01224 744144? Or just follow the links on our website, most easily reached just by googling “Aberdeen Balgownie Rotary” We look forward to hearing from you!

Moyra Cowie
President 2013-4

Bridge of Don Festival

We are going to see some major changes to Bridge of Don in the coming years as more developments arrive. If Bridge of Don were a town it would be in the top 25 by population in Scotland, yet we lack many of the amenities you would expect of a town. One important aim of the Community Council is to create an annual year long festival of Bridge of Don. Bringing the community together!

The festival will be aimed at the whole community, from kids to seniors and everyone in between. We are hoping to run events kicking off in 2014, starting small at first, we hope year on year the festival will grow to such a point that everyone in Bridge of Don will be involved in some aspect of it. Some of the events we are in the middle of planning include a fun sports day, Xmas Light competition, Quizzes, Tea Dance plus much more (if we get the volunteer's)

But we can't do it without your help, please follow <http://www.facebook.com/BofDF> and keep an eye out for our meetings - if you have any ideas please send them through and we hope our events will get you all excited!



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Making Waves...

SHY & DRS (Mark and Darren Scott) are twin brothers from the Bridge of Don and ex- Oldmachar Academy pupils who are not your typical "Rappers". The guys are trying to change the image of typical "Hip Hop" and subjects such as anti-knife campaigns to relationships are the subject matter of their songs - which always have a positive meaning.

The twins also have very good university degree's- SHY (Mark Scott) has a masters in Psychology and DRS (Darren Scott) has a 1st class honours degree in Sociology . The guys used to be managed by Midge Ure's management company under Stereophonics and Culture Club's ex manager Ronald Gurr, however a few years ago they collaborated with North East Multi platinum artist Sandi Thom and through this song, got signed to her Record Label last year. They recently shot a video with Sandi Thom called "The Love is Gone" which got to #32 in the official Scottish charts.

SHY & DRS

DEBUT ALBUM
OUT NOW



The guys have also collaborated with Eminem's band D12 who are idols of the guys and the band that got them into "Hip Hop" when they were just 15. Having had a top 40 hit, been played on National TV, National Radio and recently been sponsored by Scotland's National Energy drink "Nae Danger" the guys are set to take the industry by storm; not to mention

the fact that there is simply no other band out there like them - Scottish white twins who rap about positive things and make good music with Music legends, like Nazereth, are very rare indeed. We are delighted to hear of their success and wish them all the very best in the future (Ed). If you'd like to hear their work log on to www.shyanddrs.com.

ASAP

Armed Service Advice Project is based in Citizens Advice Bureaux across Scotland, where our trained specialist advisers offer information, advice and casework support. We can work with a wide range of other organisations to put together a support package that's right for you.

Our service is free of charge and totally confidential.

We support people who are Serving in the Armed Forces, Regular or Reserve, and their dependants, Ex-Service, Regular or Reserve (including TA) and their dependants

Members of the Merchant Navy who served in support of legally defined UK military operations, and their dependants

We can assist with a broad range of issue, including:

Benefits – entitlements, support with applications and appeals against unfavourable application outcomes.

Debt and money advice – budgeting, debt management, income maximisation and improving your financial situation
Housing – whether you rent, are an owner occupier, or are homeless.

Work-related problems – terms and conditions, dismissal, sickness absence, intimidation, unfair dismissal and redundancy issues

Consumer issues – help with everything from broken kettles to difficulties with gas and electricity supply.

Relationships – issues relating to separation, children, bereavement and other family matters.

Service related matters – including referrals to the appropriate organisations.

If we can help you, please contact:

Kate Dean
Regional Support Officer
Tel: 01224 569754
Email: Kate.Dean@aberdeencab.casonline.org.uk



Enhancing the Community, Leading from the Front!

Local residents, friends and neighbours have got together to revamp Buckie Road Park. With the excellent support from Aberdeen Greenspace and Aberdeen City Council the park has been painted and new seating installed.

Local residents have got together to hold informal events at Christmas and Easter both of which have been warmly welcomed by the community. It hasn't been a hard job and they would encourage other communities in Bridge of Don to do the same!

Contact them through their Facebook group (Buckie Road Park).

Photo Courtesy of Chris Sansbury

Your Advert Here!

The Brigs Publication is produced and delivered in batches of 10,000, one for every household in Bridge of Don and Danestone.

Adverts are very competitively priced and The Brigs staff can often be at hand to help with the arrangement and publication of an advert. If you think you might like to support your local Community Publication and gain some very effective exposure for your business of organisation, contact the Editor at:

TheBrigsEditor@gmail.com