

Chapelton Visitor Centre

ChapeltonNews

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Introduction

by **The Duke of Fife**

Welcome to the latest issue of ChapeltonNews.

As we approach the winter months, the scenic views of Chapelton are changing. The leaves of the trees that line the town's first streets are quickly turning from lush green to colours of red and orange. And as the season develops so does the landscape of the town.



I'm delighted that after a big push Chapelton's first community centre, Hume Square, is now open providing a range of facilities to the town's residents as well as those living close by. In this issue we highlight the services these amenities will bring to the local area.

The town's community is soon to be supported by a dedicated website www.chapeltonlife.co.uk which is designed to share local news and information for the convenience of residents. There you will find a range of details regarding Chapelton's transport links, future events, improvements and community initiatives. More about this useful online portal can be found overleaf.

This issue also features some of the town's most recent media highlights. The last couple of months have seen the town captured across a range of online, print and broadcast channels allowing us to look back at some popular issues.

Finally, David Nicol from WSP Parsons Brinkckerhoff tells us of his career to date, his hobbies and ambitions.

I do hope that you enjoy reading this issue of ChapeltonNews.

Hume Square Opens



Above: Nursery school children open Hume Square

Hume Square, named after the great Scottish philosopher, David Hume, at Chapelton has now opened becoming the town's first permanent community hub.

The Square, which sits at the heart of the development to date, provides a range of facilities to Chapelton's residents as well as those living close by and will help to create a sustainable, modern community.

Teacake, the Visitor Centre, the Croft Nursery school and Chapelton Dental Care will be the first amenities to open their doors.

Marking the launch of the Square, Hamish Vernal, the Provost of Aberdeenshire performed the official opening after which five local children were welcomed to the new nursery school for the first time by owner Linda Pirie. The children were offered a tour of the new facilities and told of the fun activities the school will offer.

A number of additional commercial properties are now being identified which we look forward to telling more of in future issues.



About Chapelton's Newest Amenities

Nursery School

Chapelton's nursery school is operated by The Croft Nurseries Ltd in Stonehaven and led by Linda Pirie, a pre-school teacher.

This great facility will have the capacity to register up to 90 children from Chapelton and surrounding areas and will provide day care services for those between the ages of six weeks to five years as well as an after-school club for older primary school children.

For further information on securing a place at Chapelton's nursery school contact Linda Pirie on 01569 765 122 or at lindapirie@aol.com.

Chapelton Dental Care

Chapelton Dental Care will be run in partnership with Portlethen Dental Care which currently services the town and surrounding areas.

Dr. Geoff Gordon, who is the practice's principal dentist, will oversee the full service facility which will be dedicated to providing the very best quality of dental care to those living in Chapelton and further afield.

All children will be accepted at Chapelton Dental Care as NHS patients. New NHS, Denplan and private patients will also be welcomed including those looking to transfer from another practice.

Teacake and the Chapelton Visitor Centre

Anita Collin's Teacake has quickly become one of the most popular tearooms in the area. Her much-loved cakes and biscuits have moved together with the Chapelton Visitor Centre to their new permanent home in Hume Square. There is now more space for guests to relax whilst catching up with friends.

The centre now also provides a wide range of materials and drawings regarding the town's development, latest news and facilities for those visiting from nearby.

Teacake and the Chapelton Visitor Centre remain open Thursday to Monday from 11am to 5pm.

Above Left: Local children preview nursery school

Chapelton Life

Chapelton Life is a new website dedicated to the residents of Chapelton.

This online hub is a login portal which will support the town's community as it develops over time. Features include a regularly updated news section highlighting the very latest at Chapelton. There will also be information specific to resident's properties, its recycling, broadband, alterations, community events and transport link timetables.

Additional benefits such as a community directory and online message board will help to maintain the high quality and values that exist within Chapelton and allow residents to contribute actively to the society in which they live.

To view the new website and register for login details please visit www.chapeltonlife.co.uk. For queries please contact Chapelton Community Interest Company at info@chapeltonlife.co.uk



Above: Home page of the chapeltonlife.co.uk website

Chapelton in the media

Chapelton has been of interest to local media for many years. In recent months the town's fast developing community and landscape has grabbed the attention of several well recognised publications and broadcast outlets.

Hume Square

The opening of Hume Square was featured across many print publications including the Evening Express and Press and Journal as well as broadcast outlet STV. This milestone event generated a great buzz for the north east's new community with nursery school teacher Linda Pirie and her latest pupils taking the spotlight.

Radio Campaign

Chapelton's most recent radio campaign saw a number of local residents voice their opinions about their new home on popular radio station Northsound 1. With positive feedback from the residents including details of their new homes, the

town's community and great location, the campaign was a great success. Listen out for a new radio campaign also on Original 106.

BBC Scotland

Chapelton is set to make its documentary debut this December in BBC TV series How Scotland Works. The episode titled 'Scotland at Home' will focus on the progress of the town, its emerging community and local amenities.

Some 'famous' faces from Chapelton will be making an appearance on the show so keep an eye out.

Chapelton has been nominated for the prestigious Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning. The final is set to take place on 10 November so we look forward to updating readers on the results in the next issue.

Having your say

You can find the latest news and share your views on Chapelton via our Facebook page and website:

www.chapeltonofelsick.com



www.facebook.com/chapeltonofelsick

In the meantime if you have questions you would like us to answer, please get in touch at info@chapeltonofelsick.com. We will respond directly and print some of the answers in upcoming issues. People and their views are at the heart of the community.

Meet the team

David Nicol, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff



What did you want to be when you were a child?

I considered various career paths as a child, including architecture and the police force before settling on civil engineering around the time that I decided to go to university. My technical abilities and desire to create things were definitely key elements in this decision.

How did you get where you are today?

My first job following university was on site with a muck-shifting contractor working on dual-carriageway and motorway sites in England. After nearly three years of working on these projects I decided to move back to Scotland and joined a consulting engineering practice in Edinburgh.

I joined WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff 13 years ago to principally work on the Royal Bank of Scotland headquarters project in Edinburgh and have since worked across a range of major schemes in Scotland.

Just recently I have returned to university part time to study for an MSc in Urban Strategies and Design. I am already half way through the course and really enjoying learning of new ideas and different ways of thinking before tackling problems.

What one piece of advice would you give to someone looking to get into urban design?

My main piece of advice would be to think flexibly. I would suggest questioning everything and don't be scared to be creative. Seek out alternative guidance and look at the world around you asking whether it works as intended or not.

David Nicol works closely with the team at WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff to ensure that Chapelton's roads and public spaces between buildings are not only distinctive and interesting but also safe and less car dominated.

David's role involves challenging previous conceptions about street design whilst maintaining the concepts of the town's masterplan, designing environments which promote lower vehicle speeds and creating a variety of pedestrian and cycle friendly spaces accessible by all.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

I enjoy the variability of my job - every project is different. I enjoy looking for and developing simple solutions and working with new people.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Outside work I am a Scout Leader. I lead a troop of 25 boys and girls in a programme of outdoor and indoor challenges, adventures and fun. For the last two years I have been Deputy District Commissioner for part of the district where I live. This involves interacting with leaders and young people from nine Scout Groups with ages ranging from 6 to 90 years.

Is there a part of the town that you are looking forward to seeing develop the most?

I am really looking forward to seeing Hume Square emerging as a recognisable place within the town. I have devoted a large part of my recent studies to trying to understand how and why town centres work so it will be great to see the scaffolding disappear and the square come to life.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

I hope that my experience and studies will lead to more involvement in significant urban designs and masterplans both in Scotland and further afield. WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff has a good portfolio of international urban design work and I am interested in getting more involved in this while retaining an interest in the schemes I have helped develop in Scotland.

Next issue:

- Community events
- New properties and developments
- Meet the team: Natalie Buxton and Julie Brander from Weber Shandwick

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