

# ChapeltonNews

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## Introduction

by [The Duke of Fife](#)

Welcome to the latest issue of ChapeltonNews.

Spring has sprung at Chapelton. With buds bursting into life on the saplings in Chapelton Community Wood and flowers bringing a bloom of spring colour to residents' gardens, the town has most definitely come alive.

The milder spring air has also allowed for a series of community events to take place in the great outdoors. In this issue we learn about some of the exciting activities that have taken place at Chapelton, including the very popular Easter egg hunt and second woodland planting.

We also find out more on the Way Ahead event which allowed local residents, prospective buyers and those living within neighbouring

areas to view the plans for future phases of the town, giving them the opportunity to have their comments and views heard.

In this issue ChapeltonNews readers will be offered a glimpse of the now complete Hume Square with a series of images which demonstrate how artists' impressions of the community hub have been brought to life.

Finally, we meet Pablo Fernandez Cabrera from Brooks Murray Architects who has been working closely with the Elswick Development Company team on the design of the initial phase as well as the plans for the next phase. Pablo tells us of his career background, his favourite elements of the Chapelton community and what he plans to bring to the town.

For residents requiring further updates please visit and register your details at [www.chapeltonlife.co.uk](http://www.chapeltonlife.co.uk)

# The Latest from the Chapelton Community



The town's growing community has quickly found its place and is already enjoying the benefits of the Chapelton way of life.

A commitment to ensuring contact and interaction between the residents, which began before they even moved in, has meant that the new community is a well-integrated group of people of all ages and backgrounds including children, young families, newlyweds and retired couples living within the town.

## Easter Treats

The recent Easter egg hunt, which took place on Good Friday, offered some of Chapelton's youngest residents the chance to get outdoors and uncover a hoard of chocolate eggs of all shapes and sizes with their families.

More than 50 residents and children as young as two years old gathered with their wicker baskets at the town's neighbouring Elsick House to find eggs hidden in the enchanting gardens. Not all the keenest collectors were the youngest.

## Looking Forward to the Future

With the progress of the first phase well underway, the Way Ahead open day allowed local residents, prospective buyers and those living within neighbouring areas to hear of plans for the future of Chapelton.

The event, which took place on Saturday 16 April, introduced a number of new house-types, including bungalows and starter homes, which will feature in the next phase beginning in the summer of this year. Other ideas being considered, such as a retirement neighbourhood and a pub, were put out for discussion.

Attendees were able to speak with members of Elsick Development Company and Chapelton's three housebuilders whilst enjoying light refreshments from the popular Teacake and giving their feedback.

## Green Fingers

In celebration of National Gardening Week (11-17 April) and the arrival of Chapelton's latest residents, 30 people took part in a second community tree planting on Sunday 17 April.

A follow on from last summer's successful planting, the gardening activity at Chapelton Community Wood allowed green-fingered residents to mark their arrival by planting out a series of silver birch and sessile oak saplings.

Led by The Duke and Duchess of Fife and Rangers from Aberdeenshire Council, the event gave residents of all ages the opportunity to enjoy the spring weather as well as a community BBQ.

# Vision to Reality



The recent completion of Hume Square has brought the vision of Chapelton's first community hub to life.

This key milestone in the development of the town has turned artists' impressions of the area into a reality offering Chapelton residents, as well as those from nearby towns, new community facilities.

Sitting at the heart of the first neighbourhood, Cairnhill, Hume Square now boasts a popular visitor centre, a bustling modern tearoom and a nursery school providing daycare facilities to 50 local children.

The success of Chapelton Nursery School has allowed the town's ethos of providing residents a home where they can live, work

and play to be realised. The nursery currently provides three residents with teacher and assistant roles helping them to further their careers whilst working near their homes and growing families.

Designed by award-winning architects, Brooks Murray, the Square also features a series of terraced properties which remain true to the local area and its heritage.

The centre of Hume Square is the town's first formal green space which will contribute to Chapelton's hierarchy of green areas. These will offer residents places to enjoy the outdoors, whether to congregate socially or to enjoy some gardening or just the fresh air.

In the future, we look forward to further residents making Hume Square the centre of their new community and to additional commercial properties opening which will serve residents.



## Have you heard?

The success of Chapelton has been hitting the news-stands as well as local air waves.

Aberdeen's Press and Journal featured two articles focusing on the development of the town, the housebuilders' progress and the evolution of the Chapelton community.

Local radio station, Original 106, has also launched a spring campaign featuring some of the town's first residents and their thoughts on their new home in Chapelton. Listen out for short clips on your way to work to learn more about Scotland's largest planned new town.

## Having your say

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

[www.chapeltonofelsick.com](http://www.chapeltonofelsick.com)



[www.facebook.com/chapeltonofelsick](https://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](mailto: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

Pablo Fernandez Cabrera from Brooks Murray Architects



Award-winning architects Brooks Murray were appointed to design Chapelton in 2010. From the first Charrette and early planning stages, the company has worked closely with Elswick Development Company to design and co-ordinate the first two phases as well as oversee construction which is now well underway.

As Project Architect at the organisation, Pablo Fernandez Cabrera supports town architect Gavin Murray in inspiring new designs, ensuring that the development structure supports the emerging community and progressing plans for the next phases.

## Where was home originally and what brought you to work in Scotland?

I still call the sunny island of Gran Canaria in Spain 'home'. I had finished studying architecture in Madrid in 2009 when I decided to move abroad and explore new horizons.

I literally knocked on Gavin Murray's door asking for an opportunity and it took me just a year to discover an ambitious project of a new town which, 7 years later, still fascinates me. I have no doubt I will be calling Chapelton 'home' sometime in the near future.

## Tell us about your typical day working with Elswick Development Company

Every day is quite unique and there are no 'typical' days. I like taking those early morning flights to visit the site and see new parts of the town taking shape.

## What elements in Chapelton would you like to be featured in your own town?

Chapelton is compact, walkable and safe and these are elements that should be featured not only in my own town but in every town or neighbourhood.

## Where did you draw your inspiration for the designs of Chapelton?

Historic towns and villages should always inspire towns of the future. The inspiration for the designs of Chapelton came from many historic examples like Stonehaven, Banchory, Old Aberdeen, Dunkeld or the historic fishing village of Footdee. With this in mind, our aim is to build a community that is recognisable, walkable and honest to its values.

## What have you learnt from your own family home which can be featured in the town?

I grew up in a small community of 50 houses set in a valley, with very narrow streets which couldn't be used by cars, and lots, lots of trees. In 20 years I can see Chapelton having a similar character.

## Do you feel like there is anywhere else in Scotland that is like Chapelton?

There are a few interesting 'place-making' initiatives across Scotland which are great for Scottish communities. Like Chapelton, these locations will have their own character and share the aim of being great places.

## Are all Spaniards good at football?

It looks like we are, but only in the last 10 years. Sadly I'm one of those Spaniards that can't play football well so will have to try other sports.

## Next issue:

- New Housetypes Introduced
- Community News
- Inside Chapelton's Homes
- Meet the Team: Alison Dumphie of Chapelton Community Interest Company

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