

# seatonscene

Spring 2017



## In this issue:

SEATON NETWORK  
MAYFEST  
FRIENDS OF SEATON PARK  
SUMMER READING  
CHALLENGE

[www.shmu.org.uk/press](http://www.shmu.org.uk/press)

*Image: Gordon Grieve*

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## editorial

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine. Inside we have news from Friends of Seaton Park, Langstane Housing Association and Aberdeen University's May Festival.

Seaton Scene is put together by the good people of Seaton and we need your help to fill the pages. Staff at shmu are on hand to help out with anything you need so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

If you would like to get involved in the next edition of Seaton Scene then you can phone shmu **01224 515013** or email **[laura.young@shmu.org.uk](mailto:laura.young@shmu.org.uk)**.

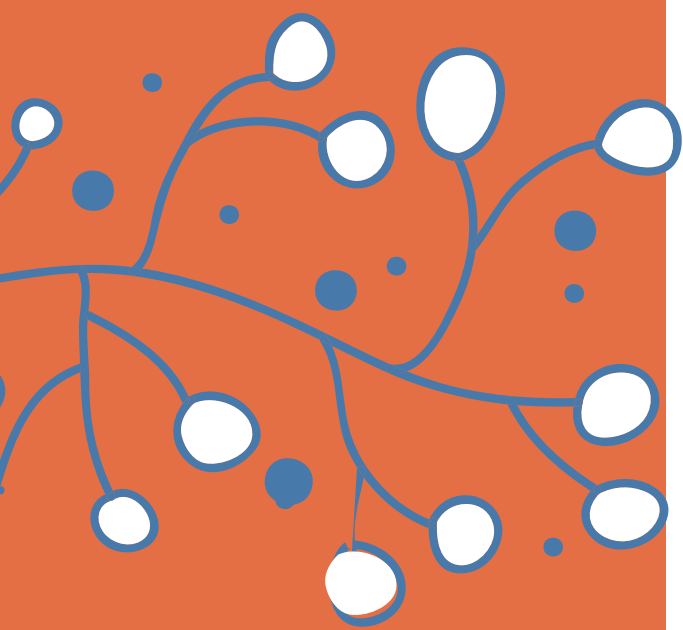
Meetings are held at STAR Flat on Fridays at 1pm on the following dates:

**First meeting – 30th June**

**Second meeting – 14th July**

**Content deadline – 28th July**

**Proof – 4th August**



Supported by







# May Festival 2017

Alan Parker

**Aberdeen University May Festival takes place 26th – 28th May this year. Intended to showcase the University's ground-breaking research, this fifth year on the festival will see over 100 events, with most of them taking place on your doorstep. It's a perfect activity weekend that won't break the bank, with activities for all ages, many free of charge.**

Emma Fowlie, Events Co-ordinator at Aberdeen University, said: "This year we've got a really varied programme, highlighting some of the exciting research we do here, as well as the chance to meet some famous faces."

Emma explained that as 2017 is Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, the centrepiece of the festival will be a live dig on the University campus, outside King's College Chapel. The site of a former grammar school, dating back as far as 1495. This is where it was a requirement for all students to pass through before going on to study at Aberdeen University.

Emma added: "In some test digs they've already uncovered some interesting pieces of archaeological

matter and the dig will be live all through the weekend."

However, May Festival is not just about history. Activities and events are featured in a wide variety of themes, including 'In Conversation' events featuring Time Team presenter and Blackadder star Sir Tony Robinson, and star of Call the Midwife Laura Main. In the 'Vision' theme, Edinburgh Film Festival Director Mark Adams will be speaking about life behind the scenes at the festival, and the 'Music' theme features choirs and musicians performing throughout the weekend, as well as the opportunity to try instruments for yourself.

May Festival evolved out of the Aberdeen University book festival Word, which ran for 12 years. Emma explains, 'The 'Word' theme is very strong this year, with Booker Prize nominee Wyl Menmuir talking about her books, and Scandi-Saturday, a day featuring authors that focus on Scandinavian works'. The Mile-Long Club, an Aberdonian group of authors, will be launching their new collection of Union Street stories, poems and sketches at one of the off-campus events.

Attractions for younger minds include Murderous Maths author Kjartan Poskitt, who promises a maths session that will exercise your chuckle muscles, and the chance to bring thoughts into reality using your smartphone, with scientist turned Guinness World Record holding magician Kevin McMahon.

The wide-ranging programme offers something for everyone, including an inflatable challenge on King's Lawn with Aberdeen Sports Village staff. Carlo Petrini, founder of the International Slow Food Movement will be chatting about how to enjoy and celebrate traditional foods. Created in light of the escalating fast-food craze, Slow Food envisions a world where everybody can access and enjoy food that is good for them, those who grow it and the planet.

Most May Festival activities are free, and some of the ticketed events are expected to sell-out fast. Mind you if tickets have gone there is plenty of drop-in fun so just go along on the day! Look out for leaflets and posters around Seaton, or go to [www.abdn.ac.uk/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/)

# New Councillors in the Seaton area

On May 4th 2017 three councillors were elected to represent the Seaton, Tillydrone and Old Aberdeen areas. Councillor Ross Grant and Councillor Jim Noble were both re-elected to represent the community and Alexander McLellan was elected to represent the areas for the first time.

Remember, even if these individuals were not your first choice, they have been elected to represent you and support you with any issues in the area.

You can get in touch with them in the following ways:

Ross Grant - 01224 346621  
or 07738688458 or email  
rossgrant@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Alexander McLellan - 01224  
346633 or email amclellan@  
aberdeencity.gov.uk

Jim Noble - 01224 522051  
or 07748760557 or email  
jimnoble@aberdeencity.gov.uk

## Seaton Community News Seaton Community Network

We would like to encourage people from the Seaton community to join our residents meetings in Northsea Court and find out what we can do to improve the area and work together to achieve this. We also want to find out if a Community Council is needed again in the area. We have also started a network page on Facebook known as the 'Seaton Community Network' and would like Seaton residents and groups to join and share what's going on in their community as we know there are a few groups in the area and this might just be another to expand your circle.

### Improvements to bus links to and from Seaton

We are also going to be discussing the public transport in the area with Aberdeen City Council, First Aberdeen and Stagecoach Bluebird to seek to improve bus links to and from the Seaton area. Some suggestions were to have links to ARI and Union Square. Many residents of Northsea Court felt that the current service doesn't provide any essential links for Seaton residents. We have a survey on both the Seaton Community Network and Northsea Court Residents Association Facebook pages.

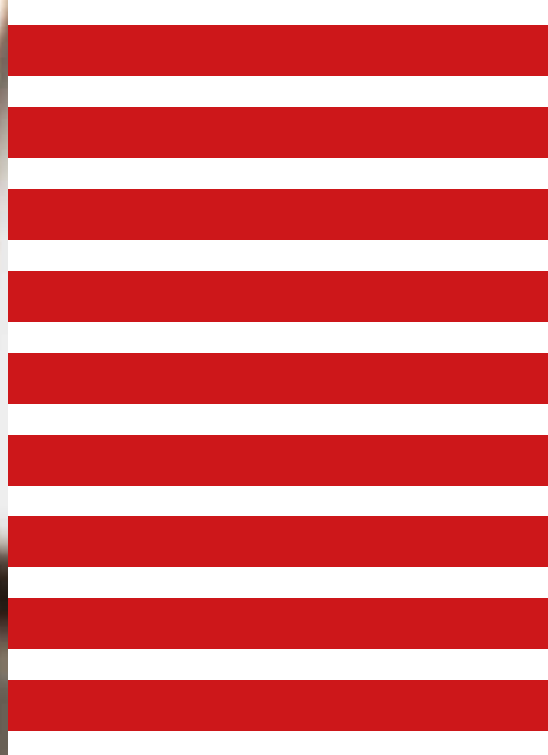
### Northsea Court Residents Association in Full Swing

Northsea Court Residents Association is now in full swing. We now have support from

Aberdeen City Council Community Development Worker – Marion Watson. There was a Seaton Walkabout on March 17th which was a great way to discuss any issues in the area that residents are noticing. Councillors Ross Grant and Ramsay Milne joined residents of Seaton on the walk. We talked about School Road being used as a rat run and asked about the possibility of a speed camera on the road and the Seaton Policing Team increasing their presence on School Road as well. We also discussed the state of the pavements and trees and wondered if it would be possible to trim the trees back and resurface the pavements. We have also got new plastic chairs courtesy of St. George's Church in Tillydrone which replaced the older chairs which were damaged during the works. The sofas were donated to us by former residents of Northsea Court. The fridge and books were donated to us by residents John and Linda from number 102 and the bookcase was donated to us from Alison in 101. We can't thank these residents enough for their generosity.

We would also like other Seaton residents to join our residents meetings, if they are having problems/issues and are unsure of who to turn to. You can find our residents meeting dates on our Facebook page and feel free to send us a message if you would like to come along.





## Silver City Surfers role in Seaton

Silver City Surfers have been working in the Seaton community since October 2015 thanks to funding from People's Health Trust using money raised by HealthKind through The Health Lottery.

We have provided weekly sessions to people over 65, enabling them to try out user-friendly technology with a dedicated group of volunteers. This has provided older people in the community with access to learning opportunities to develop and update their knowledge and skills. It has also given residents a friendly, drop-in tea and IT place to come to on a regular basis. This has helped to ensure older people do not become isolated through lack of knowledge and understanding of technology.

Our learners have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to email, Facetime or Skype, keep in touch with family and friends on Facebook and search YouTube for favourite songs and much more. Many have said they've been given a new lease of life and are amazed at how they can use technology.

The volunteer tutors have also found it to be a hugely rewarding experience and have had a lot of fun sharing their skills and having some great conversations with our older surfers.

The funding for the Reaching Out: Going Local project came to an end in May. We would really like to be able to leave a legacy in the Seaton area by finding community champions who would be willing to carry on providing a service for older people in the area.

If you have a couple of hours to spare, like meeting people, know how to use email, can browse the web, can shop online and are active on social media, then you may be suited to volunteering with us at Seaton and help to keep the sessions going. You don't have to be an expert and it's a lot of fun and very rewarding. Please help if you can.

If you live locally and would be interested in being a part of this well-loved group, please phone or email Suzanne Murdoch on 07519 958293 or [scsgoinglocal@gmail.com](mailto:scsgoinglocal@gmail.com)

## BLACKPOOL HOLIDAY

A group of Seaton residents have planned a holiday to Blackpool for the end of June this year. They have booked a coach and accommodation and have a few spaces available if anyone would like to join them.

The trip will run from the 22nd to the 29th of June.

Costs are:

£260 sharing per person

£270 single per person

£80 deposit per person

The cost includes bed and breakfast, an evening meal and there are two trips involved.

Each person is responsible for their own insurance. If you would like to join please get in touch with Sheila or Nancy at the STAR Flat before the end of May.

# How Langstane Housing Association broke new social welfare ground in Aberdeen

*Angela Bruce*

Langstane Housing Association (LHA), whose headquarters in Seaton on King Street is one of the most striking buildings on the Seaton skyline, is celebrating its 40th birthday this year.

It was founded as a charity in 1977 by Sandy Murray and quickly established itself as a market leader in the provision of single person and supported housing. It has now grown from a staff of two working from modest office accommodation - a former dairy, to an employer of 85 people with satellite offices in Aberdeenshire and Moray.

Proud of its Seaton roots, LHA plays an active role in the Seaton community supporting Seaton Community Enterprise, Seaton Backies Project and Seaton Taking Action on Regeneration (STAR).

LHA was borne out of one man's determination to do something about the problems faced by the city's homeless and those forced onto the streets in the 1960s and 1970s. Sandy Murray was at that time involved with a night shelter at the back of the Model Lodging House on East North Street. The Lodging House (known as the Modeller) provided women and men who had fallen on hard times with a much-needed bed for the night.

Sandy discovered, to his dismay, that anyone connected to the night shelter was, for some reason, excluded from the Lodging House.

With this discovery came the realisation that the Lodging House was not being used to its full capacity and Sandy one night went to discuss the problem, as he saw it, with the superintendent only to be told curtly it was none of his business.

Making it his business, Sandy signed up for a course in social work with the intention of becoming the superintendent of the Lodging House. He fulfilled his ambition and took over as manager and ran it for almost four years.

Although the Lodging House provided a much-needed service, the assumption that those housed there had a problem stigmatised, institutionalised and trapped them. Although there were people suffering from mental health issues and alcoholism, for many this assumption was just not true.

Those using the facility had indeed fallen on hard times, sometimes out of work, some ex-forces personnel, and single men with no accommodation due to family breakdown. Seeing the stigma attached to the Lodging House was, for Sandy, the impetus for setting up Langstane.

As well as founding Langstane, Sandy was also involved in funding the Scottish Council for Single Homeless. There was no provision in these days for dealing with housing needs of single people, whatever their circumstances.

The council housing system discriminated against single people: you had to be aged 40 before you were even allowed onto the waiting list.

It was clear, therefore, that to allow people to escape from the Lodging House and get them back into proper housing there could be no reliance on the system in place at the time. Sandy, along with a group of concerned citizens which included Hilda Wernham, the late Father John Copeland and a volunteer student group, agreed the best way forward was to set up a housing association. So Langstane Housing Association was born, and it was agreed its mission would be to house single people across what was then the Grampian Region spanning from Forres in the north to Laurencekirk in the south.

LHA founded, it employed its first two members of staff - Ken Clark and Sandy Milroy whose first office was a former dairy in Kittybrewster. Their main task in those early days was to look for properties which could be renovated or land that could be built on.

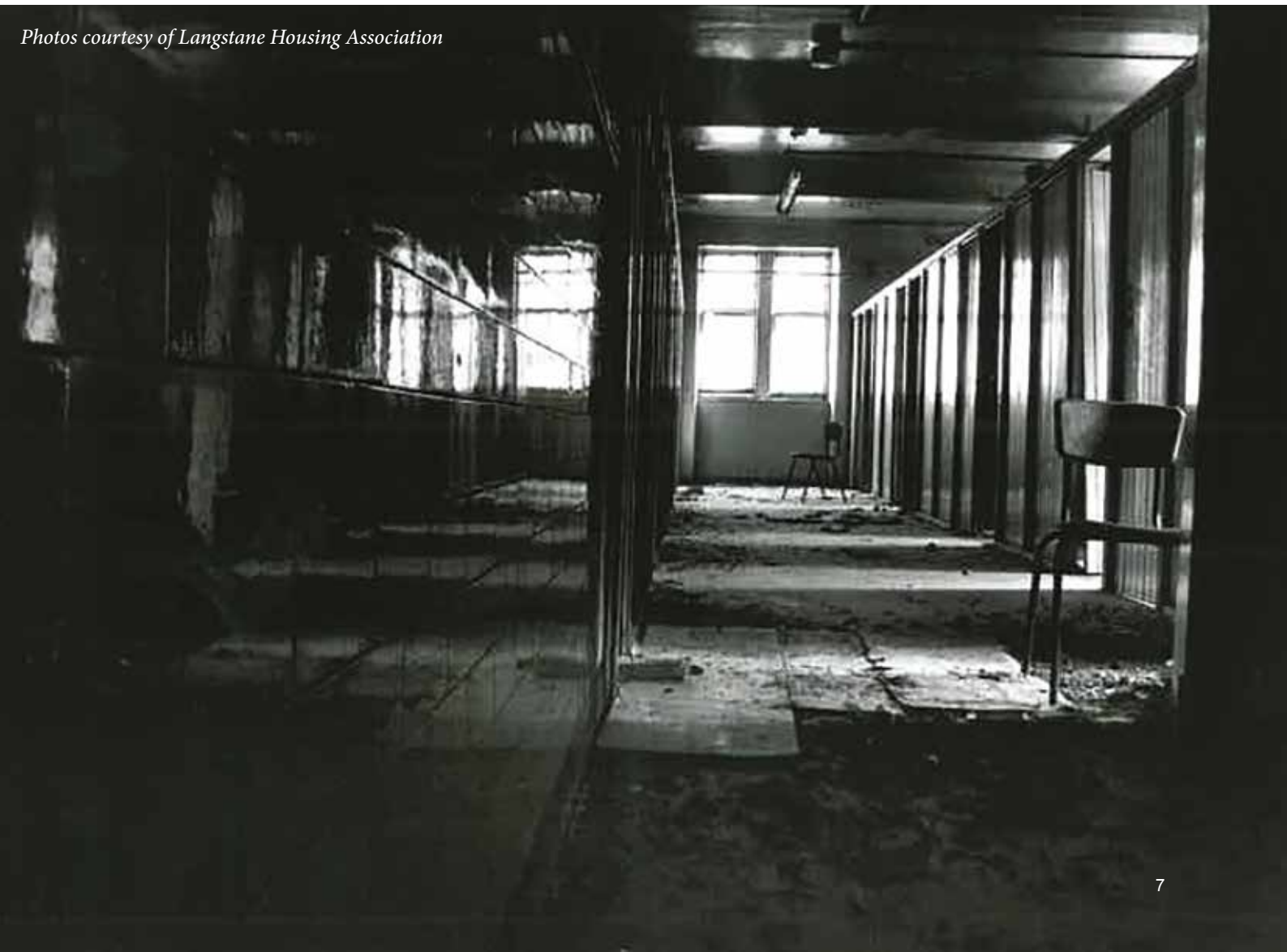
There was no telephone and the first few weeks of business they had to walk to a nearby callbox to make their calls.


Next time: The fascinating history of Langstane Housing Association will be concluded in the next issue of Seaton Scene.





*Photos courtesy of Langstane Housing Association*






# RED SQUIRRELS

*in seaton park*

Ian Talboys



The return of red squirrels to Aberdeen is one of the great wildlife success stories of recent years in the city. Ten years ago you would be lucky to see a red squirrel anywhere in the city except if you were very lucky in the woods around Countesswells.

The Saving Scotland's Red Squirrel Project, working in partnership with Aberdeen City Council and other landowners, has been working to reduce the non-native grey squirrel population. This, and the work of the City Council to manage its woodlands and create new woodlands that favour red squirrels has meant that the iconic Scottish native red squirrels have been able to move into the city and start breeding successfully. It is now reasonably easy to see

red squirrels in Hazlehead Woods and there are more and more sightings in places like Seaton Park and along the River Don corridor. More and more people are reporting seeing them in their back gardens in Old Aberdeen, Seaton and Bridge of Don. Many of our local wildlife photographers are taking wonderful shots of these charismatic animals and help to raise the awareness of these creatures through the power of social media.

There are very few cities in the UK that can claim to have red squirrels so it is great that we can all celebrate this success and enjoy seeing their antics as they chase each other around the trees in our parks and woodlands. If you see one please report it to the Saving Scotland's Red Squirrel Project at <https://scottishsquirrels.org.uk/>





*Image credit: Gordon Grieve*



# PUTTING WILDLIFE IN THE PICTURE

## *A profile on Gordon Grieve*

**Hamish Mackay**

Wildlife photographer Gordon Grieve, whose excellent studies of red squirrels grace this issue of Seaton Scene (left), and a familiar figure in the Lower Don valley a few days a week, has, surprisingly, only taken up photography seriously three and a half years ago.

Gordon, 46, from Seaton, who uses a Canon 6d camera with various lenses, tends to concentrate on the area rich in wildlife below the Donside Village but has walked as far as Dyce and even travelled around Scotland in search of pictorial material.

As he doesn't have a car he is accustomed to walking and, indeed, he feels this is a positive advantage in tracking down wildlife subjects to add to his growing portfolio

His own favourite wildlife animal is the fox - creatures who jealously guard their own territory and are now quite often seen in back gardens in Aberdeen.

He finds the most difficult bird to photograph is the kingfisher - small and very fast and tends to be rarely seen but gives its position away due to its high-pitched cry. His photograph of a kingfisher appeared on the front page of the previous issue of Seaton Scene.

Occasionally he uses makeshift hides to enable him to patiently wait for the opportune moment to snap his subject.

Gordon is now beginning to develop a small business in selling prints and framed photographs and is learning how to handle advertising and marketing his product which, admittedly is much easier now than in the past with the advent of the Internet and social media.





**Friends of Seaton Park's (FOSP) fourth annual CakeFest proved a major success and helped boost the charity's funds by just over £1000.**

CakeFest4, held on March 18 in the Dunbar Hall, followed a tried and tested formula by asking bakers to bake their favourite bake and bring it along and there was a wonderful array of 34 cakes - the largest number of entries yet.

The event attracted more than 130 people who paid an entry fee of £3 which entitled them to a hot drink and three pieces of cake of their choice from the wonderful array. Everyone who ate cake had a token to vote for their favourite entry.

First prize of the unique CakeFest apron went to Mary Stephen for her Swedish Princess Cake. Second was Karen Craik (Mars Bar Crispy Crunch Cake) and joint thirds Cath Hamilton (Chocolate CakeFest), Margaret Sleeman (Iced Lemon Drizzle) and Barbara Caveney (Mocha Coffee). Well done ladies!

There was also a tombola, a crafts stall, a display of wonderful pictures of the Park's wildlife by Gordon Grieve and birdboxes made by Seaton Park's gardeners - Derek McKay and Kat Myslek - in their own time. And on sale were FOSP's custom-made mugs featuring its Mr Heron logo.

The raffle was also a profitable money earner with prizes from corporate sponsors including

Websters Pharmacy (Gift boxes), Casa di Gelato (Ice Cream Cake), both King Street, Shish Tandoori Restaurant, Bridge of Don (Meal for two), and Gordon Grieve (framed print). The first prize was a beautiful Easter basket donated by FOSP secretary Mary Middleton.

Mary also organised the tombola.

Credit for a splendid CakeFest4 goes to the CakeFest organising group led by convener Margaret Sleeman, Mary Middleton, Mary Mackay and Sheila Gordon who are already working on CakeFest5.

Sheila told Seaton Scene: "We would especially thank the extra helpers who responded to our plea on Facebook. We couldn't have done it without them."







*Image courtesy of Norman Adams, Aberdeen City Council*

## MR THERM RETURNS WITH A SPARKLING NEW COAT OF COLOUR

**Sheila Gordon**

Seaton Park's iconic steam engine Mr Therm and his retinue of colourful carriages are back in their accustomed location as the centre-piece of the children's play area after being away for almost a year's "holiday" in Kilmarnock.

The engine, gifted to Aberdeen City Council after spending all his working life taking coal from the harbour to the Aberdeen Gas Works, had been a major attraction in the Park for more than 40 years and was looking a bit sad. Everybody agreed that he needed sprucing up although it was somewhat painful and emotional to watch him being taken apart for the long journey to Kilmarnock. Interestingly, Mr Therm was built in the Ayrshire town back in 1946.

Seaton Park was a wee bit empty and lost without him and his carriages and the rest of the play area took on a sad and dejected appearance. It was therefore, with much delight, that we welcomed back Mr Therm and his carriages in February.

The contractor, Kilmarnock-based David Ogilvie Ltd, chose the week of the mid-term holidays for the triumphant return of the

prodigal steam engine ...so lots of Mr Therm's fans were able to come along and see him being put back together again. This was a fascinating spectacle and experience and there were big crowds each day to watch the intricate assembly work.

And there are still big crowds every day! Mr Therm looks absolutely splendid in his new coat of colour. And the carriages are now decorated with the design ideas of children in our local schools. So, the girls and boys are due a big thank-you for their captivating art work.

And a big thank-you to all you youngsters, who regularly visit the Park, for your patience while Mr Therm returned to his birthplace for a lengthy "vacation". Please come and play on him anytime you choose!



## ParkFest 2017

For those of you who enjoyed ParkFest in 2016, we have begun preparations for 2017! It will be on Sunday 10th September from 1.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. We will have some of your favourites plus some new attractions. Any local groups reading this and would like to take part, please be in touch at [friendsofseatonpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofseatonpark@gmail.com). We are also looking for helpers on the day so if you would like to be involved, please be in touch at the same email address.

## Outdoor Ping Pong Table

Friends of Seaton Park (FOSP) have secured enough votes in the recent UDecide voting exercise to be able to fund an outdoor ping pong table for the Park.

FOSP chair Sheila Gordon told Seaton Scene: "A big thank-you to all who voted for us. At the time of writing, we don't know where it is going to be located, nor when it will arrive, but do look out for it and bring along your bats and balls when it arrives so you can enjoy a game."

## Tree Planting in Seaton Park

**Margaret Sleeman**

To celebrate Seaton Park's 70th birthday, Friends of Seaton Park have been tree and bulb planting! Over three days towards the end of October 2016, 70,000 early crocuses were planted on the ground north of the Hay memorial fountain. Over 50 volunteers were involved in the effort and the group would like to thank them.

The Friends planted twenty fruit trees at the end of February this year in an effort to start a community orchard as well.



# Seaton Learning Centre Programme 2017

The Seaton Learning Centre beside Seaton Primary School is your local community centre and has lots on offer for local people!

The Breakfast Club runs Monday to Friday from 7:45 to 9:15am during term time. This is followed by a creche from 9:30am until 11:30am.

On a Monday, the Citizen's Advice Bureau runs a drop-in service at the centre from 10am until 3pm. There is also a smoking cessation service in the centre from 10:30am until 12:30pm. If your child attends Seaton Primary School they can attend Tae Kwon Do sessions in the school gym at 6:30pm.

There is a PEEP Group in the centre on Tuesdays (during term-time) from 9:30am to 10:30am. PEEP is a chance for parents to bond with their child and become involved in their learning. There is also a ballet class in the evening from 7pm.

On Wednesdays there is a beginners computing class from 1 to 3pm. There is an opportunity for a coffee and a chat in the coffee bar on a Thursday morning from 9:30am.

If you are interested in learning or improving your English skills there is a class on a Monday and a Friday from 9:30 until 11:30am.

On a Sunday Seaton Community Church use the building from 10am until 1pm and they provide a creche for younger children. The Lighthouse Chapel International are also in the centre from 10am.

For more information on any of these groups you can call the centre on 01224 277930.

We have availability for new start up groups and if people want to have meetings you can book one of our rooms through Charlee Riley, Centre Operations Officer by email on [criley@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:criley@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

## SPEND A SUPER SLEUTHING SUMMER AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!

The Tesco Bank Summer Reading Challenge Scotland takes place in Aberdeen City Libraries again this year with the exciting theme of Animal Agents.

Animal Agents is a detective agency with a difference - animal characters solve a series of cases with a little help from their friends. The Challenge runs from Friday 30 June until Saturday 26 August and encourages children to read or share up to six books from their local library over the summer holidays.

Any library book can be read - from picture books to talking books and when children complete 2, 4 and 6 books they receive stickers and rewards. By reading books and collecting stickers, children will help the Animal Agents find out what's really been going on behind the scenes and who is to blame! Animal Agents is a must for all eagle-eyed youngsters and will test their skills and ingenuity along the way.

For more fun and activities, check out the Summer Reading Challenge website [www.animal-agents.org.uk](http://www.animal-agents.org.uk) where children can also create a personal reading profile and add books they've read to the Book Sorter.

Fun, free events take place in libraries throughout the holidays for children taking part in the Challenge.

The Challenge is aimed at children aged 4 to 12, however children under 4 can take part using the Pre-school card, collecting up to 6 themed stickers. The regular Bookbug Story and Rhyme sessions

continue in libraries across the city throughout the holiday period when children can take part in the Bookbug Library Challenge.

### **Bookbug Story, Song and Rhyme Sessions**

Tillydrone Library  
Tuesday 27 June  
10.30 – 11.00am

Tillydrone Library  
Tuesday 25 July  
10.30 – 11.00am

Central Children's Library  
Tuesday 27 June  
10.30 – 11.00am

Central Children's Library  
Tuesday 11 July  
10.30 – 11.00am

Central Children's Library  
Tuesday 25 July  
10.30 – 11.00am

Central Children's Library  
Tuesday 08 August  
10.30 – 11.00am

(Booking essential at Central Children's Library)

### **Summer Reading Challenge Events:**

#### **Animal Agents**

Tillydrone Library  
Tuesday 11 July  
2.00 – 3.00pm

Booking essential

Contact details  
Tillydrone Library T: 01224 276975 E: [TillydroneLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:TillydroneLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Central Children's Library T: 01224 652507 E: [ChildrensLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ChildrensLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

# Hamish honoured for his work in the community

**Seaton- based freelance journalist Hamish Mackay has won an Aberdeen City Council award for his “outstanding” work in the community.**

Mackay, who is a regular contributor to Seaton Scene, has been presented with an inscribed silver star by Aberdeen’s Lord Provost George Adam after he received a nomination from city councillors asking that Mackay be recognised as a “Community Star” for his work as secretary of the award-winning Friends of Seaton Park (FOSP) group.

Mackay, who lives in Seaton, has been secretary of FOSP from its launch at a public meeting five years ago - prompted by speculation that cash-stricken Aberdeen City Council was poised to sell off its parks as a cost-cutting measure.

Lord Provost Adam, whom retired as a councillor prior to the local government elections, told Mackay: “The request by councillors that you be recognised as a Community Star is in recognition of the outstanding work you have done with Friends of Seaton Park.

“During my time as Lord Provost I have been struck by the commitment of individuals like you who go out of their way to make a difference to the lives of people in our city and who are prepared to give up their own time and talent for the benefit of the wider community.”

Mackay said: “While I am very pleased to win this award, the Friends of Seaton Park is very, very much a team effort run on

very disciplined and professional lines. We also have had a tremendous rapport with the Lord Provost, the then council leader Jenny Laing and our three local councillors prior to the election - Ross Grant, Ramsay Milne and Jim Noble, and the city council’s officers led by Steven Shaw.”

In the past five years, upwards of £400,000 has been invested in the Park led by the city council and with financial input from Aberdeen Greenspace, and Aberdeen Harbour Community Action Fund. Mackay, a former pupil of Dornoch Academy who graduated in journalism from the University of Westminster in London, began his career on local weekly newspapers, and then spent 25 years with the Press and Journal as a senior news executive.

Although he belongs to Armadale, North Sutherland, he has lived in Aberdeen just months short of 50 years. He was a founder member of Bridge of Don Community Council and secretary of Balgownie Community Centre whilst living in Bridge of Don, and moved to Seaton 16 years ago and had served as secretary of Seaton, Linksfield and Pittodrie Community Council and secretary of STAR (Seaton Taking Action for Regeneration).

## Grampian Credit Union

We are all about helping local people have safe accessible savings and access to fair affordable loans. Good money management is the way to make sure you have enough for the good times, and funds to fall back on when things need sorting out.

### Make a Budget

You can work out exactly how much you have coming in, and how much you have going out every month. It’s very easy to remember the regular monthly bills like rent or electricity; but what about one –off costs? What do you spend each on little things? Add up the weekly cost, multiply by 52 and divide by 12. You might be surprised how much you spend on the little things.

### Monitor Your Bank Account

Make sure you check your bank account regularly. You should check there is enough there to cover your household bills. If you can, have a separate account for household bills and transfer enough into it each month.

### Make Some Changes

You don’t need to make big changes to your lifestyle to save money. It is the little and often expenses that you can cut back on and save. If you spend £2 every weekday on a coffee you spend £250 per year.

### Budget for Special Events

Using cash can help control your spending. If you are having a day out, take the amount of cash you can afford to spend, so you are not tempted to overspend on your debit or credit card.

### Deal with your Debts

If you have debts and are struggling to pay them, get help. Contact the Citizens Advice Bureau, or speak to Cash in your Pocket for advice on who to contact.

### Open a Savings Account

All Credit Union members save as much as they can afford, starting from as little as £3.00 per week, or £12.00 per month.

Call us on 01224 576990, or go to [www.grampiancreditunion.co.uk](http://www.grampiancreditunion.co.uk) to learn more about opening a savings account with Grampian Credit Union.

## Million Pound Makeover for SHMU Becomes a Reality!



Having secured just over £1m from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant scheme – the same fund that has contributed towards the new Tillydrone Hub – shmu has spent the last 12 months consulting with the community members, partners and project users in order to design a plan for a purpose-built new building.

The new purpose-built accommodation will extend the existing Station House Media Unit building in Woodside, and will include new radio studios, a recording studio, an IT training room, an edit suite and a fantastic new social space for our volunteers to enjoy.

The building work will take approximately 12 months and during this period shmu will be moving to a new temporary home based at Aberdeen City Council's Rosehill House on

Ashgrove Road West. The programme for the commencement of the new build has yet to be finalised but it is anticipated that the project will start in July. We understand that moving to Rosehill House may make it more difficult for volunteers from Seaton to be able to access our services, but we hope that it won't impact too much and that we can support volunteers to continue to take part during our year away from the Woodside building.

Although over £1m has been secured to support the project, the organisation is embarking on a fundraising campaign to meet the shortfall (approximately £120,000) and also to begin work to identify funding for Phase 2 of the plan, which is to transform the existing building into a small community venue.





# Donside Hydro

## Donside Hydro team partner with Aberdeen University to deliver post grad hydro seminars

Development work is continuing to forge ahead on the banks of the River Don, near Tillydrone, on one of the most exciting and innovative urban community projects in the UK.

At the heart of the development is the Donside Hydro scheme - Aberdeen's first community energy project and Scotland's first urban community hydro which, in its initial phase, saw the installation of the UK's widest Archimedean screw turbine.

Now, amongst on-going general landscaping, Aberdeen Community Energy (ACE), an arm of Donside Community Association, is seeking funding support from the general public for a target of £10,000 to buy land to create a riverside park at the recently-built Donside Village.

The Donside Village sits on the south bank of the River Don, on the site of the former Donside Paper Mill, before the river meanders through Seaton Park to the sea. The Village was built in 2012 for social landlord Tenants First Scotland which is now part of the Sanctuary Group. It is a development with a mixture of affordable homes offered for sale and lease.

ACE is a community benefit society established, owned and run by the community. The Donside Hydro harnesses its energy from the River Don - creating electricity which is sold on to the national grid. Many thousands of pounds worth of annual income will be generated from the project to be channelled into initiatives that will achieve social and environmental benefits for the Tillydrone regeneration area.

The founder of the project and chair of ACE is Sinclair Laing who explains: "Our vision is to deliver on the ethos of a sustainable community that truly works for local residents, visitors and the area's natural riverside setting. We are dedicated to delivering a project that is aligned with local and national government policy on energy,

climate change and sustainable communities. The ACE team work incredibly hard and successfully delivered the fully functioning Donside Hydro last September."

A Community Share Offer which offered investors a target 7% annual return launched in August successfully raised £500,000 ten days before the closing date of September 16. A Bond Offer followed which raised the remaining £600,000 required to fund the project - promising buyers an extremely competitive 4% fixed rate annual return.

ACE has garnered a number of awards from bodies including Scottish Renewables and ACVO and developers and co-investors Highland Eco Design have also won awards for Donside Hydro.

Scottish Government Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, Paul Wheelhouse, said: "Helping to develop local energy projects for communities is a priority for this government: this is why we supported the Donside Hydro through the Scottish Government scheme with Local Energy Scotland.

Sinclair Laing points out: "It is important to mention that we wouldn't be where we are today without the Scottish Government led Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) with their selected support agency - Local Energy Scotland and our developers - Highland Eco-Design. These organisations bought completely into our vision and were instrumental in moving the project forward in terms of funding and expertise.

"We are the stewards of the Donside Hydro but it belongs to all of us, and we want to make sure that it can be used to its full potential over and above generating clean electricity and a sustainable income for the local area."

# Community Contacts

## Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 9177 650

Drinkline 0300 123 1110

## Crime

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

## Drugs

Drugs Action Helpline 01224 594700

## Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens 111

## Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency 111

## Electricity

If you have a power-cut 105

## Family Planning

Aberdeen Community Health 0345 337 9900

and Care Village

## Gas

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999

Gas emergency with a meter 0845 606 6766

## Housing

Emergency Repairs 01224 219 282

Call Centre Emergency 0845 608 0929 or 116 123

## Police

Non-emergency 101

## Samaritans

Need to talk 01224 574 488 or 116 123

## Social Work

Social Work Duty Team 0800 7315520

Emergency Out-Of-Hours 01224 693936

Young Carers 01224 212021

## Water

Scottish Water Emergency 0800 0778 778

## CFINE

01224 596156

Home-Start

01224 693545

Pathways

01224 682 939

Cash in your Pocket

0800 953 4330

Citizens Advice

01224 569750

Terrence Higgins Trust

0808 802 1221

LGBT Youth Scotland

[ehepburn@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ehepburn@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Seaton STAR Flat

01224 524209

Seaton Project

01224 277930

Seaton School

01224 277920