

YOUR NEWS

seatonscene

Spring Edition 2012



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
TAKE A TOUR OF THE NEW LIBRARY
BACKIES PROJECT
LATEST NEWS

Heart of the Community
Art History Group
Seaton School
Calling All Kids!

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editorial

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Seaton Scene. As ever, thanks go to all those who have submitted content and supported the development of this publication. Seaton Scene is your magazine and has the potential to be a real voice in your community. This cannot happen though without your input - we need people of all ages to get involved with an editorial team. This may involve attending one hour meetings as and when you are able, getting content for the magazine, taking photographs, submitting articles or creative writing, design and layout of the magazine or any aspect of the editorial you feel comfortable with all training can be provided.



Supported by





ARE YOU A FRIEND OF SEATON PARK?



Seaton Park is a well-loved space, but we believe it could be even better. The park is obviously the poor relation to Duthie and Hazlehead Parks which seem to get all the attention, so perhaps it is time for the community to pay more attention to OUR park.

With its wonderful trees and open space and of course the Don flowing round it all in the legendary shape of a bishop's crook, Seaton Park is our little bit of countryside in the city. It offers us all kinds of leisure opportunities, from walking the dog, playing football, picnicking by the river, letting the children and grandchildren run around, or perhaps just reading on a bench by the formal flower beds or snoozing in the walled garden (did you know there was a walled garden?). But there is a growing sense that it could be so much more with more focused care, attention and protection from the community. We must ensure that the park survives these hard financial times and be recognised by our City Council as just as important a part of the city's natural heritage as Duthie and Hazlehead parks which, for the moment, seem to be attracting all the funding and all the attention. You have probably heard how the Friends of Duthie Park have been able to access various funds to bring fresh life to their park and, closer to home, Sunnybank Park has been revitalised by its local community. Just think what we could all do for Seaton Park.

A number of residents have already offered their ideas of how they would like to see the park improved; some would like to see a formalised barbecue area by the river, others have asked for a play area for older children with a skateboard 'half-pipe' and a zip line, still others feel that more toilets are the priority. We would all like to see some means for letting people know what events are being organised.

So perhaps it is time for the community to play a more active interest in OUR park. The Old Aberdeen Community Council, with the support of the surrounding communities, would like to encourage the formation of a group of residents to become a focal point for safeguarding the park, linking with the different agencies who already look after the trees, the gardens and the paths so well, raising its profile and generally promoting well-planned development to enhance its natural attractiveness and popularity.

If you think this is a good idea, please show your support by getting in contact with us. We are not going to ask you to start

mowing the grass or digging ditches, just let us know you are keen to support the enhancement of Seaton Park. Our Facebook page is 'Seaton Park Friends' or email us at seatonpark@oldaberdeen.org.uk, or write a letter and post to Dewi Morgan at 107 High Street, Old Aberdeen AB24 3EN.

Come to a meeting!

We plan to hold a meeting in Dunbar Street Hall on Saturday 21st of April at 2pm to talk about creating a Seaton Park support group. We hope to have speakers from the Friends of Duthie Park who can pass on their experiences and suggestions and Aberdeen Council have promised their support too. If you possibly can, please do come along and lend your support. If you can't make the meeting, please drop us a line to give us your support and to be put on our contact list - the contact details are in the paragraph above.

Remember: Dunbar St Hall, Saturday 21st April at 2pm - we hope you can join us! Let's work together to create the park we want.

Well done Melissa!



Heart of the Community!

Congratulations to Melissa Bain for winning the 'heart of the community' award....

The award ceremony was organised by Jasmine Holdings and a plaque was presented to Melissa by Peggy Finnie of Finnie's Jewellers. The event held at Cineworld in Union Square was well attended, including 16 people representing Seaton who went along to support Melissa.

Melissa is a single mother of 2 pre-school children and chairperson of Seaton Community Project. Melissa's hard work and dedication paid off recently as she was successful in attracting funding to start up new groups in Seaton, including a women's

group and youth groups. Melissa is committed to her role of developing Seaton for the good of the whole community.

The heart of the community award is a prestigious award reserved only for those who have given outstanding contribution and years of service to their community.

Here is what her friends had to say:

"Melissa has brought so much warmth and support to Seaton community. Thank you!" (Claire)

"She has got people back into the community and out of the house

to do things with the elderly and youth." (Gloria)

"Melissa has brought Seaton back to the good old playscheme days. Much appreciated." (Sarah)

"Melissa should get a bed in the project coz she is here all day every day. She gets involved in everything and isn't afraid to stand up for what she believes." (Nikki)

"I was a bit nervous about going to the project at the start because I didn't know anyone but Melissa's warm smile made me feel really welcome." (Anne)



Adult Learning

Adult Learning classes have started again in the Seaton area. Classes on offer include Computing, English for those who do not have English as their first language, Help with Reading, Writing & Numbers and Cookery classes. We are delighted with the response and most classes are full. However we welcome enquiries for these or any other classes you may be interested in now or for the future. Should you want further information please contact Lesley at the Adult Learning Base tel 277931. Thankyou.

Regards,
Lesley Duffus

**Adult Learning and
Literacies Co-ordinator**

*Tillydrone Community Flat
3B Alexander Terrace
AB24 2QT*

T: 01224 486641

E: leduffus@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Seaton school Afghanistan appeal.

Thanks to all who donated food and cosmetic items and wrote letters to Seaton school in aid of the Afghanistan appeal.

Donations from parents and children were extremely generous and a total of 19 hampers were sent to the

soldiers in Afghanistan to lift their spirits over the festive period.

Also thanks to Claire Forsyth who helped to organise the appeal and make up the hampers.

Well done to all.



SEATON ART HISTORY GROUP

The Seaton Art and History Group has done an amazing job in the last five years as cultural ambassadors for both the Seaton area of Aberdeen and for the city as a whole.

With support from organisations such as Aberdeen City Councils' Arts Development team the group have successfully engaged in a number of high profile initiatives such as the 'Our Story' project. At present the group meet on a weekly basis and are planning ahead for their future programme of activities. One of the main aims of the group is to continue to promote and actively learn more heritages: promoting the city and areas cultural past and present through initiatives such as the Seaton blog spot guidetoseaton.blogspot.co.uk/. The group would also wish to be involved in larger scale city-wide projects such as 'The Port' project. The group feel they could contribute to this in a very positive way and I know our history group would love to be involved.

The group consist of mainly retired individual and are very much a 'hands – on' group with all 12 members devoting a lot of their time to support local causes, volunteering on various committees and giving of their time to physically help improve the area.

Seaton Art and History group wish to continue with this work and would like to be considered for any funding available to allow us to do this. They take an active role in organising our programme of events and are self-sufficient in this however they would need monetary support to allow us to bring in tutors in support of each other elements.

The group enjoy 'making' and they would like to be able to add another strand to our existing work by undertaking a series of printmaking/ photography workshops. This would be our contribution to the creative programme which, again, the group would like to be fully involved in. This could entail

using Peacock Printmakers and possibly the support of specialised tutors. The group would also wish to look at exhibiting the work at a suitable city centre location. They have also undertaken cultural visits in the past, working with groups from other areas in the country. This has been enormously beneficial for all concerned and we would like to arrange another cultural visit as part of the next terms programme. The group are particularly keen on visiting cultural providers out with the city particularly those that support the wider community.

Seaton Art and History Group would ideally like to be able to be further recognised as a force in the community by continuing to forged links with other existing groups.

If you are interested in donating funding towards the group you can contact the Community Arts Officer Linda Morrison.



SPRING SESSION

First off I would like to mention our Christmas get together, and to thank Margaret Stuart our special guest for bringing our extra special and first and only honorary member Charlie with her, we all had a great time and look forward to Margaret's return in the future, no offence Graham.

Moving on we started the Spring session with a couple of brainstorming meetings planning future events, on 2nd of February we visited the Zoology building on Tillydrone Road where a large collection of natural world artefacts were on display and hands on was encouraged. In the same building there are many other life sized displays from nature, the only small glitch was when I had to show the group the way to Armadillo.

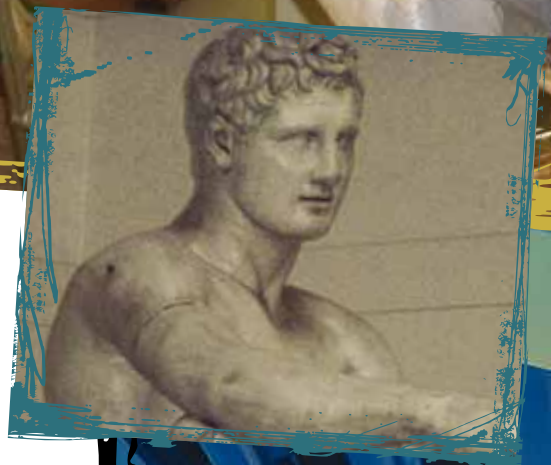
Our next outing was to the recently opened University Library on Bedford Road

which is a real eye-opener and well worth a visit. We were pre-booked and so were given a guided tour by two charming young ladies Sarah Chapman and Lynsey McNab titled as Learning and Outreach Officer who answered all our questions at great length, we also visited the Jacobite display on the ground floor, finishing off with a cuppa surrounded by students of most creeds and shades.

On the 16th of February we met at the Art Gallery to view the Van Gough to Vitriano exhibition which also included works by Matisse and Monet amongst others.

Now coming into March we look forward to visiting the archives below the Central Library, His Majesty's Theatre and possibly Marine Operations down in Fittie. More of that in our next issue.

Steve.



The Seaton Backies:

Local action making a difference!!!

There has been much activity since the report in the last Seaton Scene...

The play area revamped in June is being well used by the local community. Also last summer, Aberdeen City Council installed a new see saw and a cradle swing-seat in the large green spaces behind the flats between Seaton Road and Seaton Avenue.

In October, seven Management Trainees from Total, assisted by Aberdeen Greenspace volunteers and local residents, built two wooden benches, installed three planters, and repainted the play equipment, making a huge improvement to a third play area.

We were delighted when BP chose to improve the play area next to Aulton Court as its team building exercise. It will be a day of frantic activity as BP expects to supply 30 highly motivated staff to repaint the play equipment, lay play bark, paint two swing sets and replace the swing-seats, build two seats and a picnic table, improve near-by paths, and create a "North Sea Monster" made from half buried tyres.

The play area behind Seaton Primary School is ear-marked as a fifth play area to be given the Seaton Backies Project

treatment! One of Total's Management Trainee volunteers is organising for his church - the Jesus House, City of God Church - to get involved too!

The next major stage of the process will be the appointment of a Landscape Architect, funded through Aberdeen Greenspace, to work with the local community to create green spaces which are interesting, exciting and meet the needs not only of the local children, but of the whole community.





before



before



before



...and after!

The Aberdeen Play Forum is supporting the Seaton Backies Project in recruiting and training volunteers to provide Free Play Sessions. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Soozy Lai, Community Play Development Worker, on soozy.lai@aberlour.org.uk or call/text 07772226617.

Seaton Backies Project would like to say a big thank you to:

- Aberdeen City Council:**
Children's Play Areas, Parks and Countryside Section, Design and Development Team.
- Communities Team.
- Housing and Environment.
- Aberdeen Greenspace**
- Aberdeen Play Forum**
- BP**
- Dobbies**
- Jesus House City of God Church**
- Speedy Tool Hire**
- Total Oil (UK)**





Seaton Community Project

Youth Group...

Calling all kids!!

Recently down here in the project we have been thinking more and more about you the youths of Seaton and how there needs to be some focus on you. I'm sure you all remember our beloved SCAG and how much fun it was? Well we are back, we have changed a little but the reasons behind our new youth groups are just the same. We are about you and for you, we want you to be able to tell us what you would

like to do wither that be arts, game play or just chillaxing. So if your P7 -S2 we would love to see you at The Hut on School Road on Thursday nights from half 7 till 9 and coming very soon on Monday evenings over at the community centre attached to the school we would love to welcome all P4 to P6 pupils from across Seaton and on Thursday afternoons we would love it if the P1 to P3's would come join us.

Parents don't forget that we need you too, we need volunteers to help us look after the kids and also to help us make sure we can raise funds to keep our kids off the streets and give them somewhere to call their own. For further details pop in past the community centre and talk to us, you never know you might just find something for yourself there.

School Road Huts

Despite the cutbacks and uncertainty surrounding the School Road Huts, the usual services are still being provided by the staff and volunteers there. The rehab and recovery project is still going strong and advice concerning housing, benefits, and signposting to other services, use of the land line and all other queries are still on offer to all Seaton residents.

The new schedule for the Huts is as follows:

Monday:

Drop-in service: 10am - 4pm

Wednesday:

Drop-in service: 10am - 4pm

Pensioners' club: 1.30 - 3.30

Thursday:

Appointments only: 10 - 12pm

Homemade soup & bread:

12 - 1

Also, on **Thursdays** from 1 till 2, Janet Dick, the assistant minister from St Mary's Church, and Anne Mackenzie have been running an Alpha Course for those interested in finding out more about Christianity.

Last year the Huts ran an outbound course for the rehab and recovery service users with Adventure Aberdeen. Activities included abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing and other outdoor activities, such as building shelters and making fires. This course ran from July until November and finished with a two day away trip to the outdoor education centre at Cromdale, near Grantown on Spey.

The Huts phone number is still 01224 494706

The Aberdeen Law Project

Members from the Aberdeen Law Project are available for a chat and informal advice every Thursday afternoon from 12pm. The Aberdeen Law project is ran by law students and supervised by lecturers from Aberdeen University. They offer advice and representation to anyone who doesn't qualify

for legal aid and run an open surgery at Woodside Community Centre from 5.30 till 7.30 every Thursday evening, although its best to phone for an appointment. Their website is www.abdnlawproject.com; email: abdnlawproject@gmail.com and their phone no is 01224 272434.

To Spring

by William Blake

O thou with dewy locks,
who lookest down

Thro' the clear windows of
the morning, turn

Thine angel eyes upon our
western isle,

Which in full choir hails thy
approach, O Spring!

The hills tell each other,
and the listening

Valleys hear; all our longing
eyes are turned

Up to thy bright pavilions:
issue forth,

And let thy holy feet visit
our clime.

Come o'er the eastern hills,
and let our winds

Kiss thy perfumed garments;
let us taste

Thy morn and evening breath;
scatter thy pearls

Upon our love-sick land that
mourns for thee.

O deck her forth with thy fair
fingers; pour

Thy soft kisses on her bosom;
and put

Thy golden crown upon her
languished head,

Whose modest tresses were
bound up for thee.



Spring into Action at the S.T.A.R. Community Flat !

Silver City Surfers

At Seaton's STAR Flat Mondays 11am -1pm

Free drop in sessions for the over 55's.

Phone **524209** for more details or email silvercitysurfers@googlemail.com

The Silver City Surfers volunteers have been helping Seaton's over 55's to set up emails; surf the internet safely to find information and save money by comparing prices online and make posters and write letters for the past few years, funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund. We've also helped people to transfer their music and photos onto their computers.

Pop in to the STAR flat on Mondays between 11am and 1pm to tell us how we can help you, 1:1, develop your basic computing skills.

Now that the days are getting longer and warmer why not take a wee stroll along to the S.T.A.R. Flat to see what's on.

We have some new classes which have proved very popular and there are still spaces available at some of them.

We have a monthly Councillors' Surgery as well as a monthly City Wardens Drop in Session. Great for getting your local issues tackled. If you want to get to grips with computer and your not "senior" enough for the Silver Surfers come along to our beginners computer class.

If life is a bit hectic? - Give yourself a break and book a slot in the Chill Out Room, it's free and popular with all ages.

Monday:

- 10.00-10.45 - Councillor's Surgery (last Monday of the month)
- 11.00-1.00 - Silver Surfers Computer Class
- 3.00-4.00 - Monthly City Wardens Drop in Session

Tuesday:

- 10.00-12.00 - Pathways: Advice with benefits and return to work advice

Wednesday:

- 10.00-12.00 - Hearing / Audiology Clinic (Monthly)

Thursday:

- 10.00-12.00 - Beginners' Computer Class (New)
- 11.00-12.00- Acupuncture Group
- 12.00-2.00 - Cookery Class (New)

Friday:

- 10.00-12.00 - Credit Union for savings and loans
- 10.00-11.30 - C-Fine fresh fruit and vegetables
- 12.00- 2.00 - Beginners' Computer Class (New)

We have a free lending library with some fantastic books. We also have facilities for computer and phone use for jobs and benefit queries.

Acky Stewart the S.T.A.R. Chairman has a few words to say about Audiology (Hearing) Clinic which has been running at the flat. The services has been running over the winter months and provided the following services.

- Supply of replacement hearing aid batteries (always available at the flat)
- Replacement tubing
- Hearing aid moulds
- Replacement hearing aid service
- General hearing aid advice

As I have two hearing aids myself I have benefitted from this service. It was great, no more travelling to Woolmanhill, just a short walk to the flat.

If you have any questions or suggestions about what the flat does please get in touch, either drop in by or give us a phone. The flat is open daily between 10.00-2.00 and we will be pleased to see you.

S.T.A.R. Community Flat,
14A, Seaton Drive, Aberdeen,
Phone – 01224 524209



Aberdeen University's New Library

Aberdeen University Library's tradition of public access is being continued with the new library building, completed and opened last year.

Most of the ground floor is open to the general public, with the Hardback Cafe on the left and the reception desk on the right, as you enter through the main entrance. By producing an item of photo ID, members of the public can be issued with a day pass which allows them access to all seven floors of the library, where they can browse and read, but not borrow, the books.

The Gallery: The cube shaped room in the centre of the ground floor, also in the public access

area, is used as an art gallery and also has 2 walls of high-tech digital displays so that special collections from elsewhere in the library can be viewed.

The Schools Service offers borrowing of printed material for a small fee, access to information facilities, a range of open journals and utilities and advice on web-based research.

Hardback Cafe, open to the public, serves hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and snacks.

Hardback Cafe Termtime Opening Hours:

**Monday - Thursday:
08:30 - 19:30**

Friday: 08:30 - 17:00

**Saturday and Sunday: 1
1:00 - 16:00**

01224 273330

library@abdn.ac.uk

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/>

The Health Show on *shmu*FM

Nothing is more important to your wellbeing and happiness than your health, so here at *shmu*FM we've teamed up with NHS Grampian to broadcast the Health Show.

Each week the show will cover the important stories from the past week, the best health advice and the latest campaigns being launched - all presented by a SHMU volunteer and a guest from your local NHS services.

We are live on 99.8FM on a Thursday from 9-10am, then a repeat goes out on a Monday between 2 and 3pm. Alternatively, you can listen

again online by visiting: www.shmu.org.uk
We'd like you to get involved too, so if you wish to suggest any topics or guests to be included in the show, or give any feedback to the Health Show team, just email: healthshow@shmu.org.uk



Seaton TV coming to a computer near you soon...

Shmu is launching the YTV training programme in association with Creative Identities in April 2012 and are looking for young people from Seaton to get involved. The project will give you the opportunity to take part in hands on TV and Video training led by professionals from the industry, with the ultimate goal of producing and broadcasting your very own live TV show on *shmu*TV's forthcoming internet TV channel.

So if you, or someone you know, are between 12 and 19 years old, are interested in getting involved in making television and live in Seaton, then get in touch with Simon on 01224 515013 or send an email to ytv@shmu.org.uk



Station House Media Unit (*shmu*) is situated just off Great Northern Road in the old Station House Community Centre, Woodside. We offer free access to, and training in video and radio production, and magazine and online publications to residents of all ages living in Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Northfield and Cummings Park.



Support for Carers

I have been receiving advice, information and support from VSA Carers' Services for a number of years now and always find Arlene, the support worker, really easy to talk to, no matter what my queries are about.

In the last few months I have attended Mental Health Training workshops, which have really helped me understand my daughter's condition and some of the best ways to support her. The workshops also helped me look at my own mental health and discussed why it is important to look after myself as well as my daughter.

I have also been in a position to give something back to VSA Carers' Services by attending meetings and groups to represent my fellow carers and make sure our views are expressed when important decisions are being made about mental health services at a local and national level.

The highlight of my involvement with VSA Carers'

Services was being invited to meet The Princess Royal when she visited the Carers' Information Point at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. She was very knowledgeable about carer issues, easy to talk to and interested in my situation and my experiences of being a carer for my daughter. The picture still has pride of place on my wall!

I am so glad I have support when I need it and would urge any other carers out there to get in touch and see what a difference the information, advice and support can make. It has made my situation feel less lonely and gives me the confidence to know I am doing the best I can, whilst reminding me that I matter too.

For further information please contact:-

VSA Carers Services
38 Castle Street
Aberdeen. AB11 5 YU
Tel - 01224 212021
Carers.info@vsa.org.uk

VSA is registered Charity number SC012950



ANNES SHMU RADIO EXPERIENCE

I had often listened to Shmu radio station but that is as far as my knowledge of Shmu went. Then at an open day at Seaton community project, I met Denise from Shmu radio. She told me all about the station and how it was run by volunteers from the community. She asked me if I wanted to give it a try. I went along to a training session, (training is only 2 hours per week for 8 weeks), then I started co-presenting my own shows... live!! You can hear me, along with my co-presenter Richard Wood, every Friday from 10-11am and again from 7-8pm, on the Seaton Speaks show. This is a show which focuses on topics and news about the Seaton area, so tune in to Shmu 99.8fm.

Would you like to host your very own radio show?

Then why not give it a try yourself?

Call Hayley or Adele at Station House Media Unit on 515013 for more info.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

ALCOHOL

Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 769 7555
Drinkline 0800 917 8282

BENEFITS

Benefits Agency Advice Line 0800 587 9135

BREATHING SPACE:

Freephone from landline 0800 83 85 87

CRIME

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

DRUGS

FRANK – National Helpline 0800 776 600

DENTIST

Emergency - G-Dens 01224 558 140

DOCTORS

NHS 24 Emergency 08454 242 424

ELECTRICITY

If you have a Power-Cut 0800 300 999

FAMILY PLANNING

Square 13, Support & Advice 01224 642 711

GAS

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999
Gas Emergency with a Meter 0845 606 6766

HOUSING

Emergency Repairs 01224 480 281
Call Centre Emergency 0845 608 0929

POLICE

Non-Emergency 0845 600 5700

SAMARITANS

Need to talk 08457 90 90 90

SOCIAL WORK

Social Work Duty Team 01224 765 220
Emergency Out-Of-Hours 01224 693 936

YOUNG CARERS

Support & Information Service 01224 625 009

WATER

Scottish Water Emergency 0845 600 8855