

# YOUR NEWS seatonscene

Spring Edition 2015

## THE SEATON SEWING BEE

Where there's always a buzz!

## THE HARLEQUIN DUCK

Rare duck spotted on the Don



Friends of Seaton Park  
Summer Reading Challenge  
Cruickshank Botanic Garden

AIYF  
Seaton Backies  
Cakefest 2

## Contents

3	AIYF
4	Mrs Murray's Cat and Dog Home
5	Connect Art and Textile Project
6	Seaton Sewing Bee
7	Summer Reading Challenge
8	Woodlands Community Ranger
9	Seaton Backies Project
10	Cakefest 2
12	Seaton Park
13	The Harlequin Duck
14	shmu
15	Cruickshank Botanic Garden

Cover image of Harlequin Duck on the  
River Don by Andy Coventry



## Editorial

Welcome to your Spring edition of Seaton Scene.

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine. Inside we have an update from the Seaton Backies Project and the Woodlands Community Ranger. Friends of Seaton Park and Cruickshank Botanic Garden both have news which they have shared with the Seaton Scene team. We also have news about the Harlequin Duck, which was spotted on the Don at the start of the year.

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

Meetings are held at Seaton Community Project at 1pm on the following dates:

**First meeting - 26th of June**

**Second meeting - 10th of July**

**Content deadline - 24th of July**

**Page plan - 31st of July**

**First proof - 7th of August**

Supported by







## *Noye's Fludde* A Community Opera

Based on the story of Noah's Ark, Benjamin Britten's community opera, *Noye's Fludde*, will see children, amateur and professional singers and musicians take the stage together in an eagerly anticipated addition to the AIYF programme this July.

With rehearsals getting underway in May, the project aims to bring children, families and individuals from Tillydrone and Seaton

Aberdeen International  
**Youth Festival**

Supported  
by Aberdeen  
International  
Youth Festival

communities together to take part in this exciting production. If you would like to find out more about opportunities to take part please email [projects@aiyf.org](mailto:projects@aiyf.org).

The opera will be staged at Queen's Cross Church on Friday 24 July at 8pm, and Saturday 25 July at 4pm and 8pm. Keep an eye on our website: [www.aiyf.org](http://www.aiyf.org), or Facebook page, for project updates and ticket booking details.



# Mrs Murray's Cat and Dog Home

Mrs Murray's was founded in 1889 to serve as a place of refuge for stray dogs and cats in the City and Shire of Aberdeen.

You can find out more about Mrs Murray's or rehoming any animals you can look up [www.mrsmurrays.co.uk](http://www.mrsmurrays.co.uk).



The Home has since expanded to take in animals from their owners who, for a variety of reasons, can no longer keep them and find new homes for them.

Each year over 1000 animals pass through our doors - most abandoned and unwanted.

We receive a lot of support from the local community, through donations, fundraisers, bake sales etc which we are extremely grateful for. Recently one of our supporters John Sim, ran the Inverness Half Marathon in March and donated all his sponsor money to our animals, it came to the grand total of £1235!

It is with the support of people like John and all the people who sponsored him that helps us to continue looking after the animals in our care. We have also recently been nominated for the Petplan Animal Charity Team of the Year 2015 award by our supporters. We are delighted that people continue to support the work we do here for the animals at Mrs Murray's.



John Sim and Sisco, who is still waiting for his forever home.

## Recipe for Success

1 teaspoon of ideas

½ cup of goodwill

1 pinch of positivity

⅓ cup of imagination

1lb of leadership

2 spoonfuls of teamwork

1 cup of market vision

2 tablespoons of challenge

1 bag of hope

## Family Learning

The Family Learning Worker for Seaton is Lorraine Young.

We provide opportunities for mum/dads/carers to become more involved in their children's learning.

*This term we are offering:*

### • Whose Money Is It Anyway?

A three week budgeting course in Seaton Community Centre

### • Family Storytime

A three week course where we read stories to our children and then do a craft activity in Seaton Primary School

*You can also look out for:*

### • I'm A Parent...Get Me Out Of Here!

### • Maths & Language For Parents

### • Confidence and Assertiveness

### • Challenge Dad & Challenge Mum

For more information please contact Lorraine on 01224 764700, 07801 129494 or [lyoung@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:lyoung@aberdeencity.gov.uk)





## ‘Connect’ Art and Textile Project, Seaton

by Alex Stuart

At the beginning of the year, I visited Seaton Community Project where I was greeted by a handful of smiling faces.

These were the members of the ‘Connect’ art and textile project, headed by artist Linsay MacDonald and they were in the midst of a weekly creative splurge. Both Linsay’s and the participants’ enthusiasm shone strongly, as might thaw the remaining snow on the windowsills outside, as they launched into an explanation of their on-going work.

Included in the array of talents were lino-printing, embroidery and paper mache. The individuality of members was clearly expressed through their creations as, after all, it was hard to forget we were in Aberdeen when a rather large seagull mask protruded its orange beak upwards amidst the surrounding works of art. However, it was a canny fox mask that took pride of place in this room. With its bright colours and cunning features, the artist caught both the beauty and playfulness of

the animal which was created to honour the fox which residents at spotted regularly at the bus stop next to Seaton Place East. Linsay concluded that through the project, individuals were ‘exploring different mediums and art techniques’ and were endeavouring to communicate stories through their artwork. The purpose of such a group it seemed to me, lay not only in the improvement of artistic abilities but arguably and more importantly, in the sense of community it evokes and strengthens.

As member, Sol Mogollones, threaded her intricate woven design she commented that ‘Connect’ has allowed her to meet people, increase her self-esteem and feel ‘that you are creative and can create something beautiful.’

After several sessions of imagination and remarkable effort, the group project culminated in a celebration of all the work produced in an exhibition on

Saturday 7th March at the Music Hall.

The ‘Lift’ Arts and Wellbeing Project took place in all the regeneration areas from September 2014 to February 2015 and the exhibition featured work from all the communities involved.







## *The Seaton Sewing Bee, where there is always a buzz*

The ladies of the Seaton Sewing Bee have been very busy bees recently. The ladies, guided by Sewing Teacher Saji Poole, have been creating lots of fabulous garments. Some of the ladies who come along to class had hardly used a sewing machine since they had left school and were very nervous at the prospect of attempting to sew again. With Saji's friendly manner and patient guidance they have been helped and supported through the different stages of garment making. They have gone from the first tentative steps at threading the machines, to pinning and pattern cutting, their skills and confidence have grown immensely along the way.

The sewing class is free to the over 60s as it is funded by a Changes Fund Grant and the class has also benefited from donations of sewing machines and materials from local organisations and individuals.

These donations were gratefully received and have been upcycled in to all manner of garments including tops, dresses and pyjamas. The ladies at class have now gained enough skills to be able to do their own alterations with trousers being hemmed, tops being shortened and even curtains and blinds being altered. Some very lucky grandchildren have had the cutest pyjamas, shorts and dresses made for them. The ladies all work hard at class but always have time to fit in a wee cup of tea and a biscuit while they catch up with blether.

Over 60s who live in Seaton are eligible to come and join the class. The class runs on a Monday afternoon between 2 and 4pm at the S.T.A.R. Flat. If you fancy sharpening your sewing machine skills, you would be more than welcome to come along and the only thing you need to bring is yourself!

**For further information phone Gillian at the S.T.A.R. Flat on 01224 524209**





## Get ready for the 2015 Library Summer Reading Challenge!

The Tesco Bank Summer Reading Challenge Scotland takes place in all City Libraries again this year with the exciting new theme of Record Breakers and runs from Friday 3 July until Saturday 22 August.

The Challenge encourages children to read up to six books from their local library over the summer holidays. Any library book can be read - from picture books to audio books – and children will receive stickers and rewards throughout the Challenge. The Challenge is aimed at children aged 4 to 12.

### Bookbug Story & Rhyme Sessions

Tillydrone Library	Tuesday	30 June	10.30 – 11:00am
Tillydrone Library	Tuesday	28 July	10.30 – 11:00am
Central Children's Library	Tuesday	30 June	10.30 – 11:00am
Central Children's Library	Tuesday	14 July	10.30 – 11:00am
Central Children's Library	Tuesday	28 July	10.30 – 11:00am
Central Children's Library	Tuesday	11 August	10.30 – 11:00am

### Summer Reading Challenge - Record Breakers Event

Tillydrone Library	Thursday	9 July	2:00 – 3:00pm
Central Children's Library	Thursday	9 July	2:15 – 3:45pm

### Contact details

Tillydrone Library 01224276975 or [TillydroneLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:TillydroneLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Central Children's Library 01224652546 or [ChildrensLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ChildrensLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Or visit our website [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library)

## What's happening at the Seaton Rehab/Recovery Project?

It's been couple of hectic months here at the Seaton Recovery project. We've been painting & decorating the office, also getting new office furniture. It's now looking rather smart & welcoming.

The project has now managed to secure funding from Fairer Aberdeen Fund to pay for our second part-time Development Worker. Elena Aspe has been welcomed into our small team at the Project by staff and clients.

With summer soon to be approaching, we are in the process of organising our Fa's Fit 2 Programme of outdoor activities. Last year we were linked to the

Commonwealth Games and received a 'Game On' plaque for our participation. The feedback we had from participants was really positive. This summer we are planning more activities that help our clients (and staff) increase their physical fitness. Between now and summer we are planning to do some local 'health walks' to get us out and about and ready for bigger challenges!

**Nick McKenzie** Development Worker





# A welcome return!



## **Hello from your Woodlands Community Ranger. I am glad to say I have been busy in Seaton over the past few months.**

The recycled tyres we placed around the totem pole and filled with top soil last winter have now been planted up with surplus plants from a project in Torry. These plants will promote biodiversity and make the place more colourful for a nice sunny seat! Thanks to Volunteer Rangers Josh, Jules and Jonathan for this one.

Another set of these surplus plants were gifted to the Seaton ASN group based in the community hub. I had carried out some work there a while ago with the chaps from Community Service so it was good to be back helping again. I worked with Sheila and her excellent staff in 2 sessions with the children,

focussing on planting, watering and tool work. What can I say? I thoroughly enjoyed my time with staff and children and we planted approximately 25 plants in the sun and wind.

In another visit after school finished, the Volunteer Ranger Team also put in a robust “story/ chill out circle” on the slabs in the outdoor learning space for both children and staff to use for sitting, climbing or jumping! While we were there we cut up some recycled timber to be used as a construction kit or musical instruments (they work, I tried it!) or anything else the children wanted to use them for. Hope they have some use out of them!

Finally, I am pleased to say I managed to pass on some of the surplus plants to the hard working gardening team and they have already been planted.

We're always happy to help Derek and the team.

If you have any project you feel we may be able to help or if you are looking for natural materials big or small then please do get in contact on 01224 897 400 or [lochinch@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:lochinch@aberdeencity.gov.uk). Also, if you would like to volunteer with myself on a Tuesday then please do use the contact details provided and mark it for the attention of The Woodlands Community Ranger.

Of course, you can listen to my show on SHMU every Wednesday at 11am to catch up on the latest goings on within the Ranger Service. Check us out on 99.8fm or at [shmu.org.uk](http://shmu.org.uk). Also, our Facebook Page at Aberdeen City Council Countryside Ranger Service.

Tara for now.

**Stephen**





# The Seaton Backies Project

Some of you may be aware of the hard work and dedication shown by the volunteers of Seaton Backies to improve the play spaces for the local children over the last 5 years.

The Backies Plan has now taken a step forward and the volunteers are working closely with Aberdeen City Council to discuss how they can improve the Backies more.

The Council has made drawings based on suggestions from the

local community and are looking at ways to engage with the local community further. We plan to hold a series of workshops over the coming months and plan to be chapping on doors to try to speak to as many people we can who may be affected.

## Planning for Real

The Seaton Backies held a Planning for Real event on the 7th of February with the aim to engage with the local community about

environmental matters in Seaton. Pupils from Seaton Primary School who live in Seaton, created a 3D map of the area which allowed the local people to put in pins with their thoughts and concerns on it. A range of issues were brought up from the need of wind breakers to the speed people drive down School Road at. These issues are now being looked at by the Backies group and they are working towards how best to resolve them.

## Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7 worked with Seaton Backies Project for 4 Friday mornings in January.

In the 1st week we painted maps of Seaton. In the 2nd week we cut out different house types in the area and coloured them, glued the 3D models together and glued onto the maps. In the 3rd week we put the maps together. On the 4th week we discussed things that would be good in certain areas, and were given flags to write our ideas on. We were working with Jeni and Casey from Aberdeen City Council who were leading the consultation process. It was great to have the chance to get involved in improving our local area.

By Julia Twardowska, P7

The Play Park beside Aulton court is getting some new landscaping put around it to help shelter it from the North Sea winds. The Architects will be in the Aulton Court common room Wednesday 24th June from 6pm-7.30pm to show the plans and to gather opinions.

If you would like to be part of these groups taking the plans forward or are interested in looking at other environmental issues for Seaton please contact Emma on 01224 611168 or email [emcpherson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:emcpherson@aberdeencity.gov.uk)





# CAKEFEST

# 2

**Cakefest 1 was held in March 2014 and was such a success that we decided to do it all over again so Cakefest 2 happened on Saturday 28th March 2015.**

Cakefest 2 was opened by Robbie Shepherd who is well known to many in the North East of Scotland for his work as an entertainer, comedian, MC and broadcaster. Robbie is also a keen gardener. His speciality is sweet peas. One year ago he took the supreme award for sweet peas at the prestigious Aberdeen Royal Horticulture Society summer show at the Duthie Park – winning the Shirras Laing Trophy for a set of six vases each with differing blooms.

Robbie has also co-hosted the BBC Beechgrove Garden show when it went on the road. Like most folks, Robbie also likes cake, so with all these qualifications, who better to open the proceedings?

We had the same format as last year which was a £3 ticket bought you a coffee/tea and let you try three slices of cake, which had all been baked by volunteers. For a small fee, you could sample more cakes. The cakes (which were all affa fine) were scored out of 10 and a magic formula in the spreadsheet, devised by Annette and Mike, worked out who had won. The winners in each of the four categories were awarded a uniquely decorated wooden spoon to commemorate their success.

We also had a raffle and craft stall. We would like to thank everyone who baked cakes, made things for the stall and provided raffle prizes. We made nearly £1,000 which was a magnificent achievement.

A good time seems to have been had by all. Cakefest 3 has been requested so we have booked Dunbar Street hall for Saturday 19th March 2016. We hope this is enough notice so you can start planning which cake you will bake. All entries will be very welcome.

**Sheila Gordon**





Robbie Shepherd  
and his wife, Esma  
- photo by Mary  
Middleton



Mary Mackay - photo by  
Mary Middleton



A big thank  
you to Stephen  
Bennett for  
his ice cream  
cake - photo  
by Murdo



Linda Robertson and the hamper  
she won - photo by Mary Middleton

Photo by Dewi Morgan







# Lending a Hand in Seaton Park



**Shortly after Christmas, Derek Mackay, the Seaton Park gardener, asked the Friends of Seaton Park if we would help to put down bark in the Walled Garden.**

The gardeners had pruned the shrubs and removed perennial weeds the previous autumn, and putting down bark was the next stage in preparing the beds for the growing season. The Friends of Seaton Park had helped with this task two years ago, and knew from experience how little ground is covered by a barrowful of bark!

It would take Derek and his assistant, Sam King, forever to do it on their own so we were happy to help. The dates Monday, 23rd and Tuesday, 24th February were agreed for a 'Mega Barkathon', and the event was advertised as 'drop in', with

volunteers invited to give as much time as they were able to.

As the date approached, we had some weather worries. We would not be able to do the job if the ground was hard with frost, because that would mean the bark would lock in the frost. If the weather was rainy, folk would be reluctant to turn out. In the event, we were quite lucky, for it was dry, though pretty cold and windy.

A system was established: Derek brought tractor-loads of bark up to the Walled Garden, and some of the group took barrow loads to the flower beds where others were waiting to spread it out with rakes. People gave up their time generously and several came back the second day. We were pleased that two officials from Aberdeen City Council, Steven Shaw and

Andy Kinghorn, abandoned their desks for a while and joined in.

The work began with the central section of the garden, which is planted with azaleas and camellias, and then we moved on to the western section with its small monkey puzzle, wall-trained shrubs, and bulbs, some planted by our group two years ago. The bark we put down will suppress annual weeds and set off the plants.

We can now really look forward to the magnificent display in April/May of the azaleas in their striking colours - magenta, violet, yellow and orange. Some people would go so far as to say that the azaleas in flower in the central section of the Walled Garden are one of the main sights of Old Aberdeen.



## **New Face at Seaton Park**

There is a new gardener at Seaton Park. Her name is Katerina but she prefers Kat. She'll be helping out Derek with all the hard work which is taking place in the park so make sure and say hello if you see her.



## **Dynamic Duo:**

Herb Nicoll and Graham Trengove take a well deserved breather as they toil away during the Barkathon. Both volunteers are members of the Friends of Seaton Park, and Herb is a familiar figure in the park on his constant self-imposed mission to gather up litter.

While the Friends of Seaton Park aims to lend a hand practically from time to time, the group is also active in encouraging other improvements in the park. We also fundraise. If you are interested in joining the group, please visit the Friends of Seaton Park website - [www.seatonpark.oldaberdeen.org.uk](http://www.seatonpark.oldaberdeen.org.uk)

**Margaret Sleeman**



# The Harlequin Duck



## Rare duck makes a splash on the Don

The rare Harlequin Duck, which has only been seen in the UK a handful of times, has been spotted on the River Don in January.

This photograph, which photographer Andy Coventry kindly shared with the Seaton Scene team, shows a young male in winter plumage. The duck was spotted again in February.

The local RSPB group said this was the first time a harlequin duck had been seen in the North East and there had probably only been around 12 sightings in total in Scotland.

The bird is normally only resident in Iceland and North America,

although they sometimes spend winters in the warmer climates of California and North America.

Andy said, "His stunning plumage is starting to show in this photograph, well worth a look in the coming weeks ahead."

Bird watchers flocked from all over the country to see the duck. The last two mainland records for Harlequin sightings were for Ayrshire in 1996 and Wick in 1991.

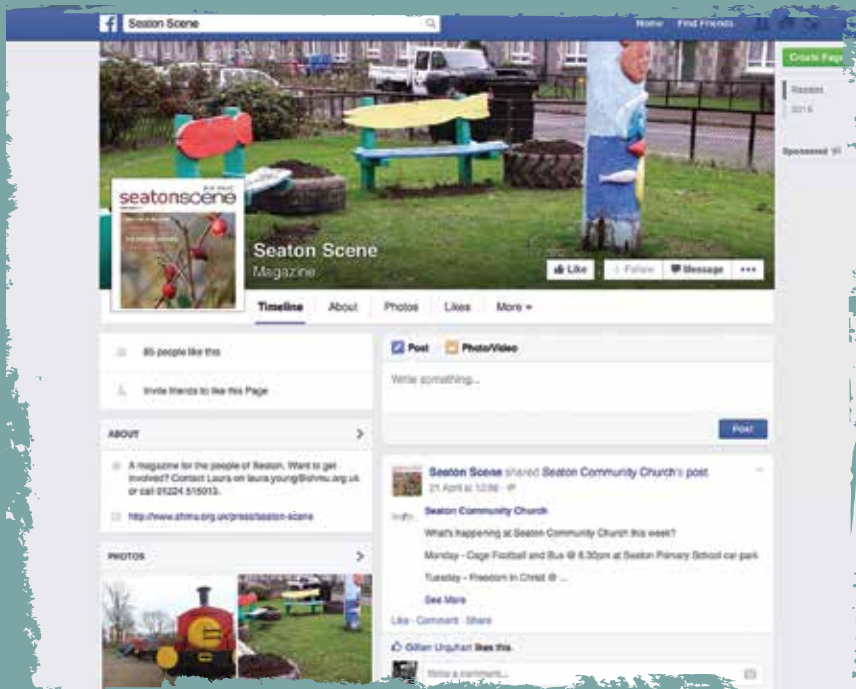
The duck was even the feature of BBC 2's *Winter Watch*. Chris Packham and Martin Hughes-Games made the trip to the River Don to film the bird as part of the programme.

Chris Packham said, "Typically this bird would probably be wintering somewhere between here and Iceland. These males disappear out to sea as soon as the females lay down on their eggs so what's weird is that it's in a habitat where it would normally be breeding in spring time during winter."

The River Don is a hub for other wildlife, including a family of otters who have settled in the area, so grab your camera and your binoculars!

If you would like any of the wildlife you spot to be featured in the *Seaton Scene*, email your pictures to [laura.young@shmu.org.uk](mailto:laura.young@shmu.org.uk)





## FACEBOOK

The Seaton Scene magazine is now on Facebook.

Keep up to date with what's happening by searching "Seaton Scene" on Facebook.

We're always looking for more people to get involved in the magazine so hit that 'like' button!

## SHMU POSITIVE TRANSITIONS 23 STARTING EARLY JULY 2015

Positive Transitions is a 12 week employability & skills development course which incorporates community media training to increase core skills and support young people (16-19) into education, employment or training. This course is run in partnership with the SDS Employability fund.

Radio, video and digital music production are used to engage and motivate young people, as well as help to develop confidence, communication and team work skills.

Employability sessions cover job search skills, CV's, industry sectors, body language and interview skills with the aim of securing a positive destination.

Young people on the course are supported financially with a training allowance of £55 per week plus travelling expenses. The opportunity is available to young people living throughout Aberdeen City.

The next Positive Transitions course will begin at the start of July and SHMU are currently inviting young people to come along for a visit.

To date shmuTRAIN has worked with 296 young people and gained 253 positive destinations giving shmuTRAIN a 85% success rate.

Once we meet the young person and we think the course would benefit them we will refer them onto Skills Development Scotland who are the referral agency.

If you work with any young people aged 16-19, not in education, employment or training, who would benefit from an employability & skills development training course please contact Brian Webb:

brian@shmu.org.uk, 01224 515013  
for more details

*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.*





# Friends of Cruickshank Botanic Garden

**V**olunteers from the University of Aberdeen and Lend Lease contractor on the University's new Rowett building at Foresterhill revived three neglected outdoor spaces at Cordyce School in Dyce.

Work on a warm 18th March included major weeding, extensive painting, and general tidying of three neglected courtyard areas. Cordyce provides secondary education and support to young people with a range of educational and behavioural needs; the school now aims to use the spaces as calm areas in which to work with the children.

After the early morning fog cleared the volunteers were delighted that the sun came out. The three teams got stuck in and were rewarded with home-bakes from the school children. By the late afternoon the areas were weed and clutter free, freshly painted and ready to be put to use by staff and pupils.

Fraser Lovie, a Policy Adviser at the University said "this type of volunteering is a great way of supporting the community, encouraging team-building,

and undertaking tasks that simply wouldn't have been done otherwise. We were delighted to work alongside Lend Lease who undertook this as part of a national commitment to community events on major capital projects.



Luke Nicol, Principal Teacher at Cordyce School said: "The volunteers have done an excellent job in transforming cluttered, overgrown areas into spaces that we'll now be able to use more regularly with our young people. The time and effort of the University and Lend Lease is greatly appreciated by all at the school."





# COMMUNITY CONTACTS

## Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous **0845 769 7555**  
Drinkline **0800 917 8282**

## Benefits

Benefits Agency Advice Line **0800 587 9135**

## 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 **101**

## Samaritans

Need to talk **01224 574 488**

## 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**

### **Include 01224 Dialling Code When Calling from a Landline.**

Since 1 October 2014, people in Aberdeen have to include the area code whenever they dial a local number from a landline – in the same way people do when calling from mobile phones.