

seatonscene

Spring 2016



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BACKIES GRAND UNVEILING
SCHOOL NEWS
SEATON PARK UPDATE
CHRISTINE BURGESS
CAKEFEST PART 3

www.shmu.org.uk/press

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editorial

Welcome to your spring edition of Seaton Scene.

We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Inside we have updates from the Friends of Seaton Park, Seaton Backies and Seaton Primary School. We also included some gardening tips for all the urban gardeners out there.

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.

We are thinking of changing venues for the next batch of editorial meetings but keep checking the Seaton Scene Facebook page for more information or get in touch with Laura.

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

First meeting – 15th of July

Second meeting – 29th of July


Content deadline – 12th of August

Page plan – 19th of August

Proof – 26th of August

Supported by





Seaton Primary School

Modern Foreign Languages

Seaton Primary has been working hard to enhance pupils' experience of modern languages in the classroom.

In August 2015, seven pupils represented Aberdeen as part of a twinning project in Regensburg, Germany. They participated in a project called Mini Regensburg which involved working in a pretend city run entirely by children. They experienced the same rights and responsibilities as adults and were able to work, vote, get married and even sit their driving test! Later in the week the children enjoyed a day trip to Munich Zoo and the Allianz Arena.

Seaton Primary has a high proportion of pupils who speak English as a second language. We celebrated European Languages Day. We invited parents to read stories and sing songs in their own language. This was a great experience for pupils throughout the school and we enjoyed learning a little bit of Polish, Irish and Greek amongst others languages.

In further celebration of European Languages Day upper stages pupils from P5-7 created German and French cafés for parents and fellow

pupils. The children wrote menus, prepared food, took orders and even did the washing up! This experience encouraged the children to use their language skills in a real life context while sharing their learning with parents and younger pupils and gaining skills for adulthood.

Earlier this year we visited the Belmont Cinema to see two foreign films - French film entitled 'Zararah' and a German film called 'My Friend Raffi.' It was a valuable experience even if reading the subtitles was a little tricky at first!

"It was a unique school trip because we had never experienced a foreign language film before" – **P6 Pupils.**

We have been very fortunate to have a German Language Assistant with us for the past few months. Miss Waldheuer is a teaching student from Germany and she has been an asset to our learning. She has helped perfect our pronunciation and taught us about German culture and customs by teaching us a range of songs and games.

Seaton Primary Eco Schools News

Love Our School Grounds Event

Seaton Primary School recently joined the Eco Schools initiative. We are aiming to earn the Silver Award by the end of the summer term. As part of our environmental review, we held an exciting event called Love Our School Grounds that took place on 28 March 2016. Each pupil and member of staff was given 2 tags, one with a heart on it and the other a sad face. Everyone wrote one thing they love and one thing they think needs more love on the tags and hung them in the appropriate place in the school grounds. The Eco Committee will now use the information gathered to decide what actions the school might take to improve the school grounds over the coming months. We are all looking forward to the exciting changes to come.

**By: Griffins Macharia (P7),
Rebekah Douglas (P6)
& Alex Taylor (P6)**



eco friendly

Wetland project will boost wildlife in Seaton Park

By Alan Parker



Seaton Park's Don Street entrance has flooded for years, with the large area of standing water beginning to be colonised by wetland plants and attracting new varieties of birdlife. Aberdeen City Council had attempted to manage the situation by pumping the excess water away but the regular flooding continued to create problems throughout the Park.

The Seaton Park Wetland Project, a £90,000 flood management scheme, was drawn up by Aberdeen City Council Environmental Planner Anne-Marie Gauld following consultation with Friends of Seaton Park (FOSP), local residents and Park users. The project will return the north area to use for various sports and preserve the south area as a wetland.

The drainage to the north is being cleared and renovated. Work to the flooded south area will involve creating a number of deeper zones to hold the water - halting its spread to other areas. This work, along with the addition of more wetland plants and installation of a wooden viewing platform, has been delayed following the arrival of a pair of nesting swans

– protected by law until they finish rearing their cygnets. The swans are a beautiful sight, but they are aggressively protective of their new family and should be left alone.

Completion of Aberdeen's award-winning East Tullos Burn Environment Improvements Project at St Fitticks Park has seen that area blossom, with a variety of wildflowers attracting numerous insect species including ladybird, butterfly, damselfly and dragonfly, with many local, rare and migrant birds regularly spotted. A similar gathering is beginning to happen in Seaton Park, and the wetland viewing platform is bound to be a popular addition to the park's attractions.

Anne-Marie assured me that the city council has a maintenance strategy for the wetland, and she will continue to involve the Friends of Seaton Park to ensure that the area is kept in the best condition possible. Meantime remedial work is forging ahead on some of the Park's network of paths – grant-aided by Aberdeen Greenspace and the community engagement group Sustrans. And there will be additional signage.

Aberdeen city council leader Jenny Laing told Seaton Scene that it was "only right and proper" for the local authority to invest in Seaton Park and she praised the Friends of Seaton Park.

She pointed out: "Their input has been invaluable. This aspirational project is incredibly exciting, not just as an environmental exercise but also as a programme of community development. Seaton Park is much loved by everyone in Aberdeen and we are grateful to the Friends of Seaton Park who have committed so much energy to this project"

In a leading article, the Evening Express commented: "The Wetland will create a natural environment in the heart of the Granite City, hopefully attracting an abundance of wildlife. Everyone owes a vote of thanks to the Friends of Seaton Park who have put so much into turning this vision into a reality."

Seaton Park's iconic steam engine Mr Therm has meantime left the Park to be refurbished. Its carriages are also to get some TLC.



Team parade: Most of the team involved in the Seaton Park Wetland Project get together for a souvenir photograph. From left - Anne-Marie Gauld (Environmental Planner, Aberdeen City Council (ACC)), Eric Wilde (ACC), Richard Nicholson (ACC), Hamish Mackay (Secretary, Friends of Seaton Park), Annette Ross (SEPA), Ian Talboys (ACC), Sheila Gordon (Chair, Friends of Seaton Park) and Andy Kinghorn (ACC). The Aberdeen City Council staff pictured here are predominantly in the Environmental Services directorate.

Seaton Park may win award for overcoming adversity

By Hamish Mackay



Aberdeen's celebrated Seaton Park is in the running for a new UK award for overcoming adversity as typified by the massive clean-up by Aberdeen City Council's stalwart staff and a small army of volunteers following the very severe flooding earlier this year after the River Don burst its banks upstream.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom Discretionary Award for Overcoming Adversity will acknowledge the resilience of those who work year-round to put the bloom back into their cities, towns and villages after such extreme challenges.

The winner of the new award will be announced at the RHS Britain in Bloom UK awards ceremony in Birmingham on October 14. Also being announced that day will be the winners of RHS Britain in Bloom 2016 - the nation's most prestigious community gardening awards.

Aberdeen, in which Seaton Park plays a major role, has been short-listed in the city section under the title "Growing Smarter, Granite City Aberdeen", and faces competition from Oldham

and the two London boroughs of Havering and Tower Hamlets.

Meantime this is the 50th anniversary of Beautiful Scotland (run by Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB)). Aberdeen and the city's parks are contesting the domestic awards while Seaton Park will also be featuring in KSB's "It's Your Neighbourhood" (IYN) campaign along with a number of other Aberdeen horticultural bodies including Tillydrone Community Centre.

The IYN campaign celebrates the achievements of communities which have come together to clean-up and green-up their local area. It is non-competitive but entrants are marked and last year Seaton Park scored 85%.

When the Beautiful Scotland organisation was launched in 1966 it was run by the then Scottish Tourist Board and supported by the Scottish Women's Rural Institute - providing a platform for beautification of cities, towns and villages across Scotland.

Run by Keep Scotland Beautiful since 1983, and now

in partnership with the Royal Horticulture Society, the "Bloom" awards campaign focuses on year-round horticultural and gardening achievements, environmental responsibility and community participation, and recognises exemplar work in areas such as tourism, biodiversity and sustainability.

Meanwhile FOSP will stage ParkFest 2 on Sunday, September 11 from 1-4pm. ParkFest1, last September, featured a number of outdoor attractions plus a tented village of various charities, local bodies and organisations. Despite almost incessant rain, ParkFest1 was declared a major success, and FOSP promises it will be bigger and better this year.

Wet, Wet, Wet:

This eye-catching portrait picture illustrates just some of the serious flooding which beset Seaton Park early this year.

Credit to Ian Talboys

Credit: Rosemary Splaine



SEATON TOTEM POLE'S 10TH BIRTHDAY



Summer 2006 saw the arrival of one of the most prominent features in Seaton: The Seaton Totem Pole.

This structure can't be missed as you come into Seaton, from School or Golf Road, and has definitely become an important part of the landscape over the last ten years. This year the monument celebrates its 10th birthday so the Seaton Scene editorial team thought it was a good opportunity to revisit the history of the totem pole.

Aberdeen born wood carver Kenny Grieves approached Aberdeen City Council and asked it to join a Scottish network of carved totem poles. The Arts Development Team met with local people and staff at Seaton Community Project to discuss the idea. Local people were really keen to bring this project to Seaton. Kenny and Xwa-Lack Tun, a First Nation artist from Vancouver, visited Seaton Community Project and Seaton School in the spring to carry out some guided drawing sessions with local people.

The Totem Pole Project took place at the end of August at Seaton Community Project. There were activities for all ages which included after school workshops, carving

activities and jewellery making classes. An opening ceremony kicked off the week and involved blessing and cleansing the tree. Xwa-Lack-Tun and the team from Arts Development got everyone drawing and eventually a final design was created. This design incorporated elements and symbols from the community of Seaton. Everyone who attended the event then got involved with helping to strip the bark off the tree. The design of the tree was penned onto the wood before the carving started the next day. The next day the carving took place and encouraged local people of all ages to come and take part.

At the end of the week local people were digging a 5'6" deep hole in the ground where the Seaton Totem Pole would stand. They then rolled the pole on a trolley down Seaton Road which must have stopped a lot of traffic! The totem pole weighed over a tonne and had to be lifted using a system of ropes. At least 100 strong people would be required to lift the pole and it wasn't long before Seaton's strongest folk gathered round to help with some of Seaton's smaller people coming along as well. The ground was blessed and an offering was

given to Mother Earth by Xwa-Lack-Tun. The pole was then cleansed with burning sage. Xwa-Lack-Tun choose witnesses from the crowd with a local connection who will continue to look after the pole in the future.

So far, so good! However, the pole had been put up before the team realised they had forgotten to re-attach the seagull which had been carved to go on top of the pole. There were a lot of suggestions as to how to get the seagull on top of the 15ft high pole. The Fire Service came to the rescue with their platform and there was a cheer from the community as the seagull was placed on top of the pole where it belongs.

The Seaton Totem Pole has been in that spot since that day and is a really well loved part of the community. If you have any memories or comments of the pole we'd love for you to get in touch with us and share your views.

It sounds like it was a fantastic day and a great example of the community coming together.





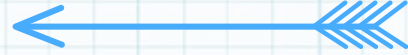
Hello there I'm Alan, you may have heard me on shmuFM. I've just joined the Seaton Scene team and was asked to share my thoughts on the things that make this such a pleasant area to live in, but it seemed rude not to introduce myself first!

A friend invited me to Aberdeen for Christmas 2000. New Year's Days 2001, with the weather a typically Aberdonian mix of wind that blows right through you and glorious sunshine, I decided this was a place I could live, or at least give it a shot. I packed everything I owned into a van and drove the 600 miles from London to Aberdeen the following September, giving myself six months to see how I settled in. 15 years later, I love the city as much as ever.

I am often asked 'You've lived in London, New York, The Hague, the Swiss Alps. Why choose Aberdeen?' It chose me really! It can be chilly and wet occasionally, but the people have always been warm and welcoming. So much for my fears of anti-English abuse. These days I'm asked, 'so you've lived in Rosemount and the city-centre. Why Seaton?'.

I have to admit it wasn't by choice, but I can honestly say I have never been happier to have moved somewhere. Seaton doesn't have the noise of the city centre, but it's close enough if you need to spend time in the hustle and bustle. There isn't the late night rowdiness experienced in other places, just a calmness that is uncommon these days. The beach and Seaton Park aren't far and, nine times out of ten, people smile back if you smile first.

I love exploring places, and what a great place to be able to spend



time ambling around, concentrating on nothing in particular, fascinated by the history and captivated by the sparkling granite. I often look for things I didn't notice last time. It's all too easy to miss the things that make somewhere special and Seaton is full of them.

Like many I had heard tales that it was not the best area to live in, that it was troubled and dangerous. That is as far from my experience as it is possible to get. My neighbours tell me the arrival of the totem-pole in 2006 breathed new energy into the soul of the community, that the neighbourhood was recharged by people pulling together to create, according to Native American custom, a symbol of the fellowship of everybody living in the same village.

When was the last time you stopped and admired the totem-pole? Sensory adaptation means, like many everyday sights, sounds and smells, it can blend into the background of day-to-day life. Next time stop for a second, admire the great effort that many put into realising a figure that represents the members of the Seaton family, and remember why this is such a great part of a great city and smile. Then smile at the next person you see!



The Seaton Backies Project

The Seaton Backies initiative has been working in partnership with Aberdeen City Council for the last few years with the main purpose being to improve the play and social spaces for the residents in Seaton.

The Backies story began with a group of local mums who were disappointed with the lack of play features that were in the 'backies'. Together with the local community worker, Aberdeen Playforum and Aberdeen Greenspace they embarked on a journey applying for funding, doing up local play parks and consulting the local community.

Over the years the Backies have improved six play spaces in Seaton by repainting, tidying up and installing new pieces of equipment and benches. They

have also become proud sponsors of the local school football team.

As residents in Seaton you may be aware of the recent works within two of the 'Backie' spaces. These spaces have had a major makeover with the wash houses being removed, new fencing being installed, and pathways being updated and new play equipment being installed.

The Backies always aimed to make these spaces areas where children could play safely and the adults could enjoy being in.

Although it might look like the works have finished however there are more opportunities to improve spaces within Seaton.

If you would like to work with Aberdeen City Council in order to continue to improve shared community spaces please contact Emma on emcpherson@aberdeencity.gov.uk



The big friendly read

celebrating 100 years
of Roald Dahl.

Get ready for the 2016 Summer Reading Challenge in your library!

The Tesco Bank Summer Reading Challenge Scotland takes place in Aberdeen City Libraries again this year with the exciting theme of The Big Friendly Read celebrating 100 years of Roald Dahl.

The Challenge runs from Friday 1 July until Saturday 20 August and 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 talking books – and children will receive stickers and rewards throughout the Challenge.

The Big Friendly Read features some of Roald Dahl's best-loved characters and Quentin Blake's wonderful illustrations. Children can collect limited edition Quentin Blake cards, each celebrating a popular Dahl theme: Mischief, Invention, Adventure, Wordplay, Child Champions and Friendship. For more fun and activities, check out the Summer Reading Challenge website

www.bigfriendlyread.org.uk where children can also create a personal reading profile and add books they've read to the Book Sorter.

Fun, free events will 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.

**Bookbug Story &
Rhyme Sessions
Tillydrone Library
Tuesday 28 June 10.30
– 11.00am, 26 July 10.30 –
11.00am, 23 August 10.30 –
11.00am**

**Summer Reading Challenge
Events Big Friendly Activity
5 July - 2.15 – 3.15pm**

**Booking essential for Summer
Reading Challenge events
Contact details
Tillydrone Library T: 01224
276975 E: [TillydroneLibrary@
aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:TillydroneLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk)**



The Allotment Market Stall

Aberdeen's The Allotment Market Stall (TAMS) initiative is spreading its catchment area to include the East of Aberdeen.

TAMS will cover this area which includes Seaton, Old Aberdeen and Tillydrone - hopefully from Friday, July 15 and will operate the stall into October every Friday from 10.30am to 3pm.

TAMS already runs a stall at Duthie Park on a Friday with the same opening hours as Seaton Park. They also run a stall in Hazlehead Park on Saturdays from 10.30am-3pm.

The produce comes fresh from Aberdeen allotment sites, and the proceeds of the market stall go back to the gardeners to help them maintain their allotment site. TAMS is seeking volunteers to work on the market stalls.

Domestic Abuse: Support for victims

Bob McKinney – Police Scotland

I was asked to put an article together about domestic abuse and that got me thinking; from the storylines of Eastenders, to headlines in the newspapers, to many of the popular songs on the radio it seems that domestic abuse is all around us. Without being alarmist, that is probably true. Domestic abuse is blind to post codes, ethnicity and social status; it's a blight which affects families in almost every community in the country.

The Scottish Government defines domestic abuse as:

Any form of physical, sexual or mental and emotional abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere.

This definition covers same-sex relationships and relationships which ended many years ago, however briefly they lasted, as well as financial abuse.

Some of the sorts of things that amount to domestic abuse are violence, abusive name-calling or constantly putting someone down (emotional abuse, which is often the greater part of the

abuse), with-holding clothing or phones to limit someone's ability to contacting others (isolation), withholding money to such an extent that someone can't feed themselves or their children properly, with the perpetrator often spending the money only on themselves.

Often the forgotten victims are the children; although they might be in another room, they've got ears, they can hear what's going on and it affects them too - effects which may stay with them for life.

On average victims suffer 35 incidents before they contact the police. Many never do. But it doesn't have to be like that. Police Scotland have a cadre of officers who are trained to support victims who are dealing with domestic abuse and others who are trained investigators who investigate allegations of criminal domestic abuse. Getting help is as easy as calling 101.

There are also many myths surrounding domestic abuse. One of these is that it will automatically lead to the break-up of the family. That's not necessarily the case but the Police do have a duty to try to keep a victim and any children safe. We have a number of ways of doing this, but those methods are not for this article. Suffice to say that this could

be done directly or through a trusted intermediary.

Another myth is that if the Social Work Department become aware of the abuse that it will automatically lead to any children being taken away. Again, that is not the case.

Police Scotland work with a number of partner agencies in the North East to keep people safe and some of those in the arena of domestic abuse are:

Grampian Women's Aid,
tel - 01224 593381, www.grampian-womens-aid.com

Aberdeen Cyrenians' Violence Against Women Project, tel - 01224 625732, <http://www.aberdeen-cyrenians.org>

Rape Crisis Scotland,
tel - 01224 590932, www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

These organisations are staffed with trained people who genuinely want to help. They will listen and believe; they will preserve victims' confidentiality and do what they can to keep victims and children safe. They can offer a way out of domestic abuse and have many successes in doing so.

If you know someone who is a victim of domestic abuse, urge them to seek help, even if it's just support to deal with the situation at home.



Derelict site in King St to be transformed

By Hamish Mackay

Plans are in hand to transform an ugly derelict site just off King Street, Aberdeen into a mixed-use development comprising retail outlets and student accommodation.

The developer, Aberdeen-based West Coast Estates, hoped to submit a planning application to Aberdeen City Council in early June. A public exhibition has already been held and residents will have the opportunity to formally comment on the proposals once the application has been lodged.

The proposals for the development at 500 King Street - next door to the Bobbin pub and close to Aberdeen Sports Village - envisages three retail units and beds for 90-100 students.

West Coast Estates director Iftikar Mian said: "I am delighted that so many people from the local community took the time to view our proposals and provide us with valuable feedback. It is clear from this early feedback

that the design and landscaping proposed is warmly welcome and would fundamentally clean up a site that many see as an eyesore."

West Coast Estates claim that the new development would provide jobs and additional retail choice for the local community and student accommodation close to Aberdeen University.

Part of the development will feature a Secret Garden for both the residents and the local community.

West Coast Estates is a private family-owned development founded in Aberdeen in 1991. Focusing primarily in Scotland it has built up an extensive portfolio across retail residential and office properties. It points out that environmental care and community involvement are integral to its business practice: its business model encouraging people to shop within walking distance of their homes and thus avoiding unnecessary travel and saving energy.

New mixed recycling bins in Seaton - how we are getting on

Liina Roostoja, Waste and Recycling Team, Aberdeen City Council

A new mixed recycling service is being rolled out city wide, so if you live in a flat or a tenement you'll get new bins nearby to make recycling easier. Seaton was one of the first areas to get the new bins. The blue-lidded mixed recycling bins mean you can recycle paper, cardboard, plastics, glass and metals, all in the same bin.

Aberdeen City Council's Recycling Team has been monitoring the new bins for weeks and we are happy to see the positive results. However, there have been a few issues with the new bins. I would like to highlight the main concerns and give explanations about them.

In streets with two communal general waste bins, one of the waste bins got swapped over to a mixed recycling bin. Now that residents are able to recycle less should be put in the waste bin.

Some of the streets suffered with overflowing waste bins, which have serious consequences, particularly with seagulls causing nuisance when the bins are too full to close. All material in the waste bins ends up in landfill which is environmentally unfriendly and expensive way to dispose of waste.

The bin lids are locked to avoid contamination such as plastic bags. There is a flap on top of the lid to put your recycling in the bin. If the contents of the bin are contaminated, it's difficult to send it to the re-processor for recycling and it may end up in landfill.

We have free reusable bags available to make recycling easier. If you would like to order your free bag, please contact wasteandrecycling@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Like the Recycle for Aberdeen Facebook page – www.facebook.com/recycleforaberdeen.

S.T.A.R. Flat - Here to help you

Have you been to the S.T.A.R. Flat lately? If you want to know what we then do read on... If you are interested in learning about computers, then we can help. On a Monday morning we have the Silver Surfers over 55's Computer Class and on a Wednesday we have a basic skills computer course which is open to all ages. Looking for employment or need help with a C.V. then come and make an appointment to see Stan from Pathways, he is at the flat on a Tuesday.

If you are feeling arty and crafty we have an art and craft class on a Thursday morning. Once a month on a Thursday we have an information session with iConnect who advise on self-directed support and form filling.

Friday is very busy at the flat with lots going on. We have savings opportunities with the Credit Union. C-Fine supply fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs which are on sale at very competitive prices. Collections of fresh fish orders take place on a Friday morning.

The Flat also has a supply of hearing aid batteries and food recycling bags which can be picked up. You can also borrow mobility aids from us and book the chill out room for a half hour session. If you need to use a computer or a phone then please pop in and do so.

You are very welcome to come in and see us, we are open - Monday to Thursday 10-2pm and Friday 9.30 to 2pm.

Focus on St Ninian's Church

How many times have you walked past St Ninian's Church on your way to Lidl without realising that inside there is a very welcoming group of people who come together each Sunday morning to worship God and learn more about the Christian faith? Our church is the one with the red doors and the little garden at the front and a low wall which small children enjoy walking along!

Although I was born and brought up in Glasgow, I came to be the priest in St Ninian's last September after four years in Suffolk and before that, nine years in Luxembourg – all very different and very rich experiences! It's lovely to be back in Scotland particularly to be nearer my family (one grandson in Westhill and three grandchildren in Glasgow) but

also to find again that unique Scottish welcome.

Part of my job is to meet up with some of the classes in Seaton Primary School in preparation for their monthly school assembly – I just love all the questions which the children ask when I share stories about Jesus and God. I like to think that church is the place where adults can ask all these questions and find out more for themselves. None of us has all the answers. Life places us all in different situations at different times. We also serve good coffee and cake after the service which begins at 10.30 every Sunday and lasts for just over an hour. Know that you will find a welcome when you come in through our red doors, either at 10.30 or around 11.45 for a coffee or tea.



For a conversation or more information, just phone Reverend Joan Lyon on 01224 740791 or email joanblyon@gmail.com. Our website is www.stniniansaberdeen.aodiocese.org.uk

Northsea Court Residents Association

Northsea Court now has a Residents Association set up in the building. And we also have a Facebook page – www.facebook.com/northseacourtresidentsassociation for better communication with other residents, local businesses, and city councillors.

The aim of this association is simple: to have a better working relationship with Aberdeen City Council and other organisations to help create a better community.

Since the launch of the Association we have been meeting every couple of months with the Housing Officer from Tillydrone Housing Office – Graham Walter. We have been giving him feedback on some of the issues that some residents are noticing with the building, for example vandalism, urination in the lifts, drying rooms, dogs and also the common room.

We have also had Councillor Ross Grant come along to our meetings and he has been making suggestions and giving

us some advice about some of the issues and helping us get results which has been a positive experience so far.

Since the set up in November 2015, the Residents Association has seen some progress. Some residents have received keys for their drying rooms after the doors were replaced and the rooms were also cleaned out as well. We have discussed some of the issues in regarding people hanging around the building, upgrades to the lifts and also the renovation of the Common Room. Renovations to the Common Room are still ongoing, but so far a new kitchen area has been installed and the bathroom has been updated. So we are currently having our meetings in the Bayview Court Common Room.

We would appreciate more residents to come along to the next meeting. If you have any concerns, chances are you are not alone so please let us know either by coming along or posting on our Facebook page.



John Muir Award

Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre are going to be offering the John Muir Award in the grounds of Cruickshank Botanic Gardens to interested individuals in 2016! The John Muir award is an environmental award scheme for people of all ages and backgrounds which aims to get people outdoors and connect with, enjoy and care for wild places. The first level of the award, the 'Discovery Award' only takes four to five days to complete and will run during the Summer holidays (dates TBC). We will be looking for people aged 14-18 years old who would like to do the award during the Summer holidays.

For more information on the award please see the following website:

www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award

Get in touch with us:
01224 274545
biodiversity@abdn.ac.uk
www.abdn.ac.uk/biodiversity

Chasing Dynamic Dragonflies

As a part of the Energetica Summer Festival the public are invited to Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve for a "Dynamic Dragonflies" event on Tuesday, July 12 from 2-4pm. This gives you the opportunity to see colourful dragonflies and damselflies. You should meet at the nature reserve car park off

Scotstown Road, Bridge of Don, at 2pm. Bring suitable clothing and your camera to photograph these eye-catching creatures. Booking essential. For more information and booking, please phone 01224326429. The event is free but donations to support the Countryside Ranger Service are appreciated.



Million pound makeover for shmu!

Aberdeen City Council will work in partnership with Station House Media Unit [SHMU] to extend the existing community media hub in Woodside after members of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee gave their seal of approval.

The facility at Station Road will undergo a makeover to the tune of £1m following a successful bid to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF). The project will turn Station House into a cutting edge, internationally acclaimed centre for community media, enabling shmu to play a key role in the cultural development of the region; gain further recognition as a hub for employability and criminal justice programmes; as well as deliver a unique approach in community development and youth work across a range of communities.

The purpose-built accommodation will be adjoining the existing Station House Media Unit building and will lead to at least a 100% increase in usable activity space.

It is anticipated the extended building will feature fit for purpose radio studios to accommodate the

organisations FM community radio station, a TV studio for live broadcasting, a music recording studio, digital editing facility and a digital learning centre.

Amenities such as additional office space, a new multi-purpose community/social space including a small scale performance area offering work experience will also form part of the extension plans.

Welcoming the news of the grant award shmu Chief Executive Murray Dawson said: *"We are absolutely delighted with this grant award. Our five-year strategic plan, developed three years ago, set an aspiration to operate out of state of the art, fit for purpose facilities. This grant award will turn that vision into reality and will provide a fantastic boost to all of our volunteers, service users and staff."*

"We have delivered exceptional programmes and services for more than 15 years from a relatively poor facility base. The prospect of operating from a building designed specifically for our programmes, in conjunction with our stakeholders, is a really exciting proposition."



Christine Burgess

- 16 December 1948 - 6 April 2016 -

A highly respected retired Aberdeen University lecturer, Christine Burgess, whom, latterly, became deeply immersed in the community affairs of the East of Aberdeen, has died, aged 67.

Christine's death was marked by a largely attended service of thanksgiving and celebration for her life at King's College Chapel, Aberdeen, conducted by Rev David Hutchison. Among the mourners were Kevin Stewart, MSP for Aberdeen Central, and Aberdeen city councillors Ross Grant, Ramsay Milne and Jim Noble.

Latterly Christine was a prominent management committee member of Friends of Seaton Park (FOSP) - especially appreciated for her work in FOSP achieving charitable status and identifying fundraising streams. She was also the chair of Old Aberdeen Community Council (OACC) for six years and a very active member of both community bodies until the last few weeks of her life. Additionally, she was a founder member of Old Aberdeen Heritage Society and vice-chair of the city-wide Civic Forum.

In her very rewarding academic career she rose to be director of Aberdeen University's Language Centre and an active member of a number of university committees and, in her retirement, was on the business committee of the university's general council.

Gordon Mutch, chairman of OACC, paid tribute, saying: "We in Old Aberdeen will greatly miss Christine's intelligence, compassion and thoughtfulness in all the many facets of her life."

Here Lekky Shepherd, co vice-chair of Friends of Seaton Park, a member of Old Aberdeen Community Council and a close and long-time friend of Christine, pays tribute to her:

"One of my most enduring memories of Christine will be her on the other side of the tennis net, face fierce, concentrated, focused, as she sent down a flashing forehand whizzing cross-court past me, followed by a characteristic little grin – part satisfaction and pleasure at the shot and part apology as I scrambled in vain to try and get it back.

"It sums up that wonderful combination of strength, fierceness, determination and gentle dry humour that is Christine to me. She brought that same combination to all that I saw her do – a firm resolve, quiet determination and a calm rational approach so needed especially in her work for the Old Aberdeen Community Council, in particular, in scrutinising planning matters where a clear-sightedness, a command of the facts is so necessary.

"After an especially difficult meeting – with a free and frank exchange of views – there would still be a giggle

about something amusing that had been part of the rough and tumble – often rueful, facing the frustration, dealing with it and managing to restrain any anger – while lightening the load of the worst of the burden of trying to do the best for everyone.

"This mixture helped in all of her work for Old Aberdeen, not just the Community Council but all its other support organisations. And it is the Heritage Society that gives me another enduring memory of Christine when in 1989 they held the St Luke's Fair, filling the length of the High Street with medieval booths – long before market stalls in Belmont Street became a regular feature – with Christine, in wimple and pinafore over long skirt, greeting the visitors with her wide welcoming smile, so much a part of proceedings and clearly revelling in the celebration of presenting the joys of Old Aberdeen to the wider world of the city and beyond.

"The Rev David S Hutchison, chaplain to Aberdeen University, who conducted Christine's thanksgiving service, and delivered the lead eulogy, and others have spoken of her loss to Aberdeen and Old Aberdeen in particular – she has been its greatest champion for so long. We that are left will have to try and continue her work with some of her firm resolve, her calm determination and her gentle humour."



Friends of Seaton Park CakeFest Part 3



The Friends of Seaton Park held their pre-Easter CakeFest in the Dunbar Hall, Dunbar St, on Saturday, 19th March. It was opened this year by Ian Talboys, Countryside Officer with the Aberdeen City Council Ranger Service. Picking up on this year's big project in the park—the draining of flooded land and the reconfiguration and enhancement of the wetland area—he discussed some of the species, including dragonflies, that might be attracted to the park once the work was complete.

The CakeFest followed the tried-and-tested formula of a bake-off competition in the guise of a coffee morning. By nine o'clock, specially decorated trestle tables

spanning the hall were ready to receive the cakes freshly baked by the Friends of the park and also by friends and family. This year saw the largest number of cakes yet, thirty-two, and in addition to the classic Victoria sponges, and exquisitely iced chocolate cakes, there were novelties such as the cake decorated with a gravity-defying leaning tower of Maltesers, and the shortcake topped with chocolate in which there was hidden a delicious caramel-filled Rolo. For £3 those attending got a drink and three slices of cake of their choice, and then voted for their favourite. The winner this year was Gwen Paxton with her luscious Donmouth Apple Cake, and the runners up were Carron

Craik and Linda Trotter, both with lemon drizzle cakes, and Shona Mutch with date slices. Other attractions were the craft stall, plant stall, raffle, and Easter egg colouring competition for children. Over £1000 was made for the benefit of Seaton Park.

This was the most colourful CakeFest yet, with bunting, and vintage embroidered tablecloths and daffodils on each table. Many commented on the friendliness of the event. Perhaps the secret is that it is not simply 'put on' by FoSP, but that it truly connects with the community, depending on willing helpers on the day and on a small army of bakers.

Margaret Sleeman

