

seatonscene

Spring 2019



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SEATON SNIPPETS

MRS MURRAY'S CAT AND
DOG HOME

Pic by Ian Talboys

www.shmu.org.uk/press

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Seaton Community Centre



Seaton Community Centre is located next to the primary school on Seaton Place East and is open for residents to use. Get in touch with the staff team for more information about the activities they have on offer.



editorial

How we get it all together

Seaton Scene is YOUR quarterly full-colour community magazine produced by Station House Media Unit (shmu), and is one of seven community magazines produced for Aberdeen's seven regeneration areas with the printing costs being met by the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. In this edition we have news from the Seaton Linksfield Community Network, East End Football Club and Seaton Recovery Project.

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team or if you have ideas for articles, you can easily get in touch with us. Please phone shmu at 01224 515013 or email our editorial co-ordinator Laura Young: laura.young@shmu.org.uk The staff at shmu are able to support and train anyone living in Seaton who are interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading.

Editorial team: Hamish Mackay, Wendy Laing, Murdoch MacLeod and Alan Parker.

Meetings are held at Seaton Community Centre on Tuesdays at 1pm and you are very welcome to attend in what is a very informal setting

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SEATON SOUP AND SANNIES

A new lunch club aimed at over 55's has got off to a great start this April. Seaton Soup and Sannies has been set up by CFINE, The Wellbeing Team and four local volunteers, Marion Duncan, Lois Frew, Craig Brock and Javier Alvarez with the aim of providing some freshly made simple food in a local setting to give older people an opportunity to get out of the house and mix with others.

The first lunch hosted 20 local people who enjoyed some delicious lentil soup and a selection of freshly made sandwiches followed by a hot cuppa on what was a rather bleak day. The lunch was enjoyed by all and the hubbub in Seaton Community Centre café was great to see and hear.



Fleet transport was booked to pick people up at Lord Hay's Court and Donview House to take them to the community centre. This allowed people who otherwise would find it difficult to get out and about the opportunity to enjoy the day.

The cost of the day is a minimum donation of £1, which everyone thought was a real bargain.

The folks attending were able to take advantage of CFINE's Fareshare goods on offer in the community centre on the way out, so some went home with apple juice, plums and lemons this time.

Seaton Soup and Sannies will run the first Tuesday of every month in the café of Seaton Community Centre and is open to anyone over 55 living in the area.

For more information get in touch with Graham at the community centre on 01224 277930.

THE HAPPY CHATTIES

Elsie J Fortune

The Happy Chatties are a new little group of folks who meet in St. Mary's Church once a fortnight on a Tuesday afternoon. It began through a neighbourly lady Evelyn who approached me explaining that The Pittodrie Community Centre had been closed for some time and she and a few others had nowhere to meet up. They missed getting together and so The Happy Chatties was born. A place of welcome, friendship for those feeling a bit lost, lonely, in need of a wee bit of company for an hour or so every two weeks, with a cuppa and a nice fancy piece and of course a chat.

We would be delighted to see you and welcome you from Tuesday 14th May onwards every two weeks from 2 – 3.30pm.

Launch of Seaton Brownies

The Brownies have come to Seaton!

The group runs on Monday evenings in Seaton Primary School between 6 and 7:30pm.

Brownies is open to girls between seven and ten.

Contact Sarah for more info on 07783179682 or oldaberdeenbrownies@gmail.com



Pic by Ian Talboys

Sea of dashing daffodils enhance King Street gateway

Hamish Mackay

Motorists and their passengers driving into King Street along the major North-east gateway to Aberdeen, have been greeted by a superb and unprecedented sea of daffodils - a splash of colours from the palest yellow to glorious gold in a 100-yard long and 20-yard deep space between Inverdon Court and the Shell Filling Station.

The thousands of daffodils, interspersed below mature trees bordering King Street along to St Ninian's Church, and a backdrop of a plantation of young trees and bushes stretching out towards the Kings Links Golf Course, have made a riveting contribution to the

on-going beautification of Seaton, with seasoned gardeners opining that this is one of the finest display of daffodils they have ever seen.

This attractive stretch of land, from the filling station to Inverdon Court, is thanks to Aberdeen City Council developing an environmentally friendly policy to a built-up area. And the private sector is playing its part. Across King Street from the display of daffodils, the management of the Brig O'Don Pub & Grill has introduced four large wooden planters filled with flowers to its frontage which further enhances the establishment's well-manicured hedges and bushes around its car park and children's

recreation area. And next door the large Lidl store also maintains a well-kept frontage and car park.

Alan Parker, chair of Seaton Linksfield Community Network, told Seaton Scene: "This part of Aberdeen's environs and Seaton is really looking good and everybody who has contributed here to long-sighted town planning deserves plaudits."

As for daffodils, English poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850) said it all about them in evocative verse: "When all at once I saw a crowd, a host, of golden daffodils; Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze."



BRIG INN CUSTOMERS 'GROW' £650 FOR FRIENDS OF SEATON PARK

Hamish Mackay

Customers at a popular Bridge of Don lounge bar have enjoyed a Scottish theme night charity event aimed at "growing" cash for their local neighbourhood park.

And the upshot is that the kind-hearted customers of the Brig Inn in Ellon Road have boosted the coffers of award-winning Friends of Seaton Park (FOSP) by £650.

The event was originally suggested by a customer, and then organised by Brig Inn barmaid Josey Marcella, who lives in Seaton. Around 70 folks attended the fundraising event - most of them displaying some vestige of traditional Scottish attire. The £650

was raised through a programme of auctions, raffles and the sale of customers' home-made produce including baking, shortbread and tablet. Brig Inn regular customer Stevie Robb, who is a professional DJ, provided the music.

Josey, who was dressed as a fierce Scottish warrior, said: "Our theme night was such an outstanding social success, and a big winner in the amount of money we raised, that I am sure we will repeat it next year with FOSP again the named charity."

The Brig Inn's host Joe Ghaly presented the £650 cheque to

FOSP's secretary, Mary Middleton at a subsequent small ceremony in his lounge bar and told her: "Our customers have a real affinity with Seaton Park which is a near neighbour - just across the River Don, and we are sure the money raised will be put to good use within the Park."

Sheila Gordon, chair of FOSP, told Seaton Scene: "Friends of Seaton Park are delighted to have been chosen as the charity to benefit from the Brig Inn's fund-raising event. The sum which was raised is impressive and well beyond expectations. We shall take some time to consider an appropriate and good use of the £650."

CAKEFEST 6 IS THE SWEETEST SUCCESS SO FAR FOR FRIENDS OF SEATON PARK

Sheila Gordon

The Friends of Seaton Park's CakeFest 6, held in the Dunbar Halls on March 16, was our most successful CakeFest so far!

We lost count but estimate that around 200 folks came along to eat cake, buy raffle tickets and browse the craft stall.

There were 45 delicious cakes to taste and pass judgement on, and the winners were a trio of youngsters - Kez, Naomi and Rosie - with their Nutella Cake. They will have to take turns in wearing the coveted CakeFest Apron!

Second prize went to Ilze Briede with her Honey Cake and joint third were Margaret Sleeman and Yen Thomson.

Once again various local businesses did the Friends proud with super prizes for the raffle. We had gifts from Baird's Pharmacy, a meals voucher for the Shish Tandoori Restaurant, a splendid selection of toiletries gifted by Websters Pharmacy, a meals voucher donated by the Brig O'Don Pub & Grill, an extremely enticing voucher for a delectable Sweet

Topped Ice-Cream Cake, gifted by Stephen Bennett, proprietor of the Casa Di Gelato café, and a splendid baking hamper donated by Morrisons Supermarket.

Many other individuals also donated great prizes - too many to mention but we could not have had CakeFest 6 without you. We could also not have staged CakeFest 6 without our wonderful helpers and the excellent organising team.

And finally, the most important people of all - the cake bakers!

The Hut

(or as it was,
Community Centre
on School Road)

Evelyn Falconer

When it was first built, there was only the front building. My husband remembers climbing on the roof. He stayed across from it. His family moved there in 1936. It was used as a milk bar where you would buy your milk and you could pay your rent. Weddings were held there; one of them was his brothers wedding. Families would cook the food and carry it into the building. There was also a piano for sing songs!

The wooden huts were built later, and Friday dances were held there. The front hut was the baby clinic where you could get dried milk and orange juice and get your baby checked out.

Over the years there were lots of things going on in the big hall, including a leisure hour on a Tuesday, a pensioner's club on a Wednesday that was very well attended. Mrs Ward ran a sewing group in the early days and Aberdeen Ladies Pipe Band used to practice on a Saturday morning.

We had three course Christmas dinners where we served food for about 50 people and Acky Stewart would be our Santa. There were also Burns Suppers and stovie nights, all catered by volunteers with music and dancing.

There were also first aid courses and computer classes, as well as a well-attended pensioners' lunch club and bingo once a week. The late Sheila Strachan was the one who did most of, if not all of the many things that went on in there.



MRS MURRAY'S CAT AND DOG HOME MILESTONE

Mrs Murray's Cat and Dog Home is celebrating its 130 year anniversary this year!

The home was founded in 1889 by Mrs Susan Murray as a place of refuge and shelter for stray and abandoned dogs and cats in the city and county of Aberdeen. This continues to be a central role for the home with around 1000 such animals passing through each year.

Mrs Murray's has expanded to offer care and re-homing facilities to a variety of cats and dogs which, for a number of reasons, their owners can no longer keep. Animal boarding has also become an important function of the home and it offers a professional boarding service for dogs, cats, small animals and birds.

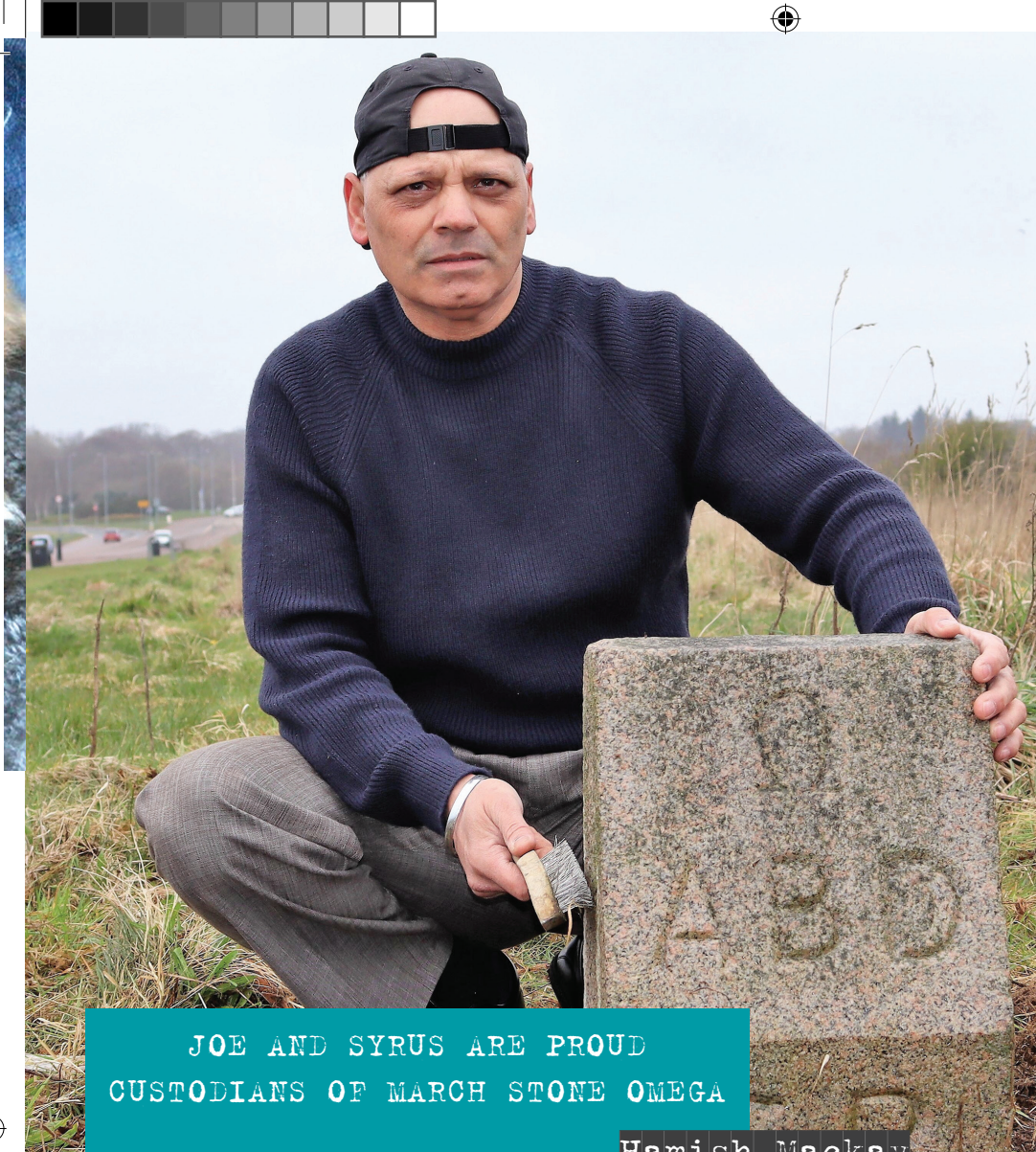
It is the only place in North East of Scotland offering this range of services. Apart from income from boarding, the cost of animal care has to be met largely from

donations, legacies and other public support.

As it is our 130th Anniversary we will be holding a celebratory dance in the Aberdeen Douglas Hotel on 9th November, we have our annual Canine Carnival in Banchory on 2nd June and we will be involved in the Celebrate Aberdeen Parade on the 24th August.

We will hopefully have lots of other little things planned throughout the year to help celebrate 130 years of caring for the animals of the North East!

The Home is located at Brickfield, East Seaton, and accessed by a slip road off Golf Road which also leads to a sports pavilion and Aulton's soccer pitches. Its opening hours are: **Monday to Friday: 9am-4pm; Saturday: 9am – 12:30pm. Tel: 01224 483642, website: www.mrsmurrays.co.uk, email: info@mrsmurrays.co.uk.**



JOE AND SYRUS ARE PROUD
CUSTODIANS OF MARCH STONE OMEGA

Hamish Mackay

Bridge of Don India-born restaurateur/publican Joe Ghaly and his student son Syrus have an unusual preservation role to play in Seaton - joint custodians of one of Aberdeen's illustrious March Stones.

Some years ago, Joe was approached and asked to keep a watchful eye on the March Stone Omega in Seaton - located on the amenity area on the north side of the Beach Esplanade.

Joe is very community and charity-minded and he is pleased and proud that he and Syrus are the guardians of March Stone Omega.

Seaton is one of the oldest settlements in North-East Scotland with a history dating back to the early 1300s when

allegiance to Robert the Bruce by Aberdonians was repaid by granting them custody of a parcel of land encompassing Seaton.

Three of Aberdeen's nearly 70 March Stones are located in Seaton. March Stone 64 is found on the traffic island at the east end of School Road at its junction with Golf Road, and March Stone 65 is located at the north east corner of the wall adjacent to the access road to Mrs Murray's Cat and Dog Home.

Aberdeen has two sets of March Stones - inner and outer. The inner stones mark the boundary of the crofts that ringed the medieval Royal Burgh of Aberdeen and the outer stones define a much larger area known as the Freedom Lands.

MURDOCH RE-ELECTED AS STAR FLAT CHAIR

Murdoch Macleod has been re-elected for a second term as chair of the Seaton Taking Action for Regeneration (STAR) Flat's management committee.

Murdoch also serves as the Seaton and Linksfield delegate to Aberdeen City Council's Regeneration Matters organisation.

Andrew Ritchie has been elected as vice-chair of the STAR committee with the Rev Elsie Fortune continuing in her role as secretary. A new face to the committee is Janice Hutchinson who serves on several Seaton-based organisations including Lord Hay's Court Gardeners.

Gillian Urquhart is the STAR Flat's administrator. The Flat is based at 14A Seaton Drive - telephone: 01224 524209.



New faces: Janice Hutchinson and Andrew Ritchie



Top team: Murdoch Macleod and the Rev Elsie Fortune



STEALTHILY OUR FOLK LOSE THE SERVICES OF 3 HIGH STREET BANKS

Hamish Mackay

A new survey has revealed that a third of banks in Scotland have closed since 2010, raising fresh concerns about people's access to cash including for Seaton and Linksfield folk.

The BBC reports that a survey by consumer group Which? reveals 610 banks and building societies closed between 2010 and 2018 - with the total number dropping from 1625 to 1015.

Virtually unnoticed (except for individual bank account holders), the Seaton and Linksfield population have lost the services of 75% of their major neighbourhood banks - the Bank of Scotland in the High Street,

Old Aberdeen, and the Royal Bank of Scotland and Clydesdale Bank in Ellon Road - just across the bridge over the River Don. The solitary remaining bank in the area is the TSB in School Road.

The Bank of Scotland does have a branch in lower Bridge of Don at 79 Ellon Road.

There is an element of good news in that cash services are now being provided by the Post Office outlet within the Spar store at the foot of St Machar Drive. In its information leaflets the Post Office explains that cash can be paid in or withdrawn by using your debit card for your high street bank account at any Post Office Branch.

The popular, long-established St Machar Credit Union (Facebook: St Machar Credit Union) now boasts more than 5200 personal or small business account members and has a weekly drop-in session on a Friday morning at the STAR Flat at 14A Seaton Drive.

Returning to the Scottish banking scheme, since 2015 RBS has closed the most branches, shutting 158 of the 399 banks that have closed in those three years. The Bank of Scotland closed 86, Clydesdale shut 59, Santander closed 38 and TSB shut 35.

Gareth Shaw, head of money at Which? said: "These ongoing closures could have a huge impact

on communities across Scotland - stripping millions of people reliant on cash of their ability to go about their daily lives. Cash is also a vital back-up when digital systems fail - so the UK government must appoint a regulator to oversee these changes and ensure no-one is shut out from paying for local goods and services."

Brian Sloan, chief executive of Age Scotland, said the "alarming" reduction in banks and free - to - use ATMs "disproportionately impacts the lives of older people who were less likely to use digital banking."

Points out Sloan: "The extraordinary push by the banks to digital services leaves behind the 500,000 people in Scotland over the age of 60 who do not use the internet. That's the equivalent of the population of our capital city and is a staggering number of people to disenfranchise."

Seaton and Linksfield has a disproportionate amount of people over 60 and folk have been hit hard by the closure of the three neighbourhood banks.

However, although 290 cashpoints were closed in Scotland last year, I reckon there are still around six free-to-use ATMs sprinkled around the neighbourhood - including at the three petrol filling stations in King Street.

Says Sloan: "With an ageing population in Scotland and the projected 50% increase in people living with dementia over the next 20 years, older

people will find it harder and harder to manage their finances independently if face to face banking operations have been eroded to the point of extinction.

"Banks must now properly explore shared banking hubs to serve the communities who have been left with no branch and to sustain a network across the country which is fit for people of all ages."

The Post Office deal allows you to access your high street bank account at any Post Office branch. There are five categories: Automated - cash withdrawal -debit card; cash deposit -debit card/Bar coded; Balance Enquiry -debit card. Manual: Cheque deposit envelope and Cash deposit -Deposit slip.

All the main banks accept the services of the five categories except the TSB which does not operate the second category.

A HM Treasury spokesman said decisions to open and close branches were commercial decisions made by the banks themselves. "The government does not intervene in these decisions. But we understand the impact that closures can have on communities and people's jobs.

"Banks must now give customers as much notice as possible when a branch is closing, and ensure they are made aware of the options they have locally to continue to access banking services."

5000TH ACCOUNT MILESTONE

St Machar Credit Union (SMCU) has reached the memorable milestone of opening its 5000th personal savings account and has already notched up another 200 new customers on its way to the 6000th mark.

A SMCU account can be used for savings or for savings and a low-cost affordable loan. To be eligible you need to provide ID, state where you live or work, and supply details of your income.

St Machar Credit Union, which is based at 433 Great Northern Road, Woodside, covers Seaton/Linksfield, Tillydrone, Woodside, Middlefield, Northfield and Cummings Park. One of its newest customers is Seaton Linksfield Community Network.

For more information, please telephone: 01224 276994; email: f-credit@fersands.org; or visit Facebook: St Machar Credit Union

NO CUT IN HOURS AT SEATON TSB

The Seaton branch of the TSB in School Road will NOT be affected by reduced hours being introduced to 71 sites in Scotland from July.

Reduced hours, meaning branches will maybe only open two or three days a week, will apply to Aberdeen (Kincorth) and Aberdeen (Torry), Bucksburn, Culter and Dyce. The Aberdeen Holburn branch will close.

TSB has set out figures showing the fall in branch visits by customers against a sharp increase in the use of online and phone banking.

The School Road branch is the only bank now open in Seaton, Old Aberdeen and south-east Bridge of Don.

Seaton Linksfield Community Network (SLCN)

Plans in hand for a Seaton Community Fayre in September

Alan Parker

A big thank-you to all who came along to the Seaton Linksfield Community Network (SLCN) open meeting in early May.

It was great to meet you, and we look forward to working with those volunteering for projects.

It's been a frustrating time for our Community Network. However, we have been moving slowly forward to bring improvements to life in Seaton and Linksfield even if it sometimes feels like walking through treacle!

Our planned walk-around the neighbourhood to give both us and Aberdeen City Council an idea of some of the issues to be addressed in the area had to be postponed due to sudden illness. We have been trying to set a new date for this but trying to get the relevant people together on one day has been a bit like herding cats. Going forward we are setting dates with each of the three people involved rather than do the survey all in one day.

It is good to report some successes. Lewis McGill and a team of volunteers completed another litter pick, harvesting 15 black litter bags, three wooden pallets, two metal sheets and a bush left lying around. It would be nice to not have to put the effort in

to organising these litter picks and get on with something else.

I (Alan Parker), Hamish Mackay and Lewis met with Sandy Mathers from Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations and formally constituted SLCN) as a group - meaning we could open a bank account and start raising funds. We are now banking with St Machar Credit Union.

The Scottish Community Development Centre has advised us as to the best ways of making sure, what we are doing will endure, and worked with us to develop ideas for the future work of our network. Some exciting ideas are being discussed, and we would like your thoughts and ideas. Look out for news soon.

There is a petition to Aberdeen City Council circulating about traffic speed calming measures on School Road. It is on the Aberdeen City Council Petitions page and runs until July 10. Search for 'Speed Cameras on School Road and Golf Road'. Let's keep up the pressure to make our roads a little safer.

The best news is that we were successful in the latest round of Participatory Budgeting, so we are celebrating with a party! - a Seaton Community Fayre on Saturday,

September 28, and we are already getting excited about it.

We cannot say too much right now: we are awaiting permissions and confirmation of attractions, and do not want to disappoint anybody by letting out news too early.

What we do know is that it will be a great day to spend with neighbours, friends and family. Put the date in your diary and join us in celebrating this fabulous little corner of Aberdeen.

Don't forget that you can hear news about activities in Seaton on shmuFM. Seaton Speaks every Monday at 10am, repeated at 7pm, on 99.8FM.

If you have any news for Seaton Speaks or Seaton Scene, please get in touch with Laura Young at shmu. Telephone 01224 515013 or email laura.young@shmu.org.uk

If you would like more information about the Seaton Linksfield Community Network, please email enquiries@seatonlinksfield.co.uk

** Alan Parker is chair of Seaton Linksfield Community Network which meets regularly in Seaton Community Centre. Alan, who lives in Linksfield, is also a regular broadcaster on shmuFM.*



CASH AID FOR SEATON PROJECTS

The Locality Partnership (LP) agreed that applicants for this year's participatory pot of £20,000 should have a focus on Additional Support Needs. With that in mind, a partnership was formed between the LP and the Disability Equity Partnership (DEP) to set application criteria while also ensuring due diligence and process was adhered to.

The criteria were deliberately broad in order to allow for applications from as wide a range of projects as possible to go forward to the public vote. Applicants needed to demonstrate inclusiveness about people who have physical, sensory and learning disabilities.

The DEP gave guidance on the promotional materials as well as the accessibility and location for the accompanying public event while the LP gave advice on voting criteria.

Following the public event at Seaton Primary School, online voting, leaflet distribution across

the entire area and presentations at primary schools - allowing pupils aged 5 and upwards the opportunity to fully participate in a meaningful democratic process - 13 applications were received and voted on by the public, with the following projects receiving funding;

Woodside Community Centre, Older People Day Trip.

Woodside Community Centre, Summer Playscheme.

Lord Hays Court, Sensory Garden

Fersands, Holiday Playscheme

Granite City Taekwondo, Taekwondo Classes

Kittybrewster Primary School, Creative Energy: Imagine Our Potential

SeatonLinksfield Network, Seaton Street Fayre

Polish Association Aberdeen, Visual expressions inspired by Grampian storytelling & arts

Community Link Childcare, Community Activity Garden

Aberdeen City Council Co Leader, Jenny Laing, said: "We had a fantastic public response with 4880 votes being cast and resulting in nine wonderful local projects receiving participation funding.

"Our ambition for Aberdeen is for the city to be a place where everyone can prosper regardless of their circumstances and where perceived obstacles are removed. Public participation, particularly involving our children and young people, are also high priorities and so this year's voting process and the eventual funding awards in Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton have really reflected our ambitions".

The public event took the form of a market stall, where the 13 projects set up displays allowed members of the community to move around freely, speaking to project team members before being invited to vote.



rejoice

Title-Momentum and I

Heading-Moving onto a brighter day

Momentum and I

Heading-Moving onto a brighter day

Rowena Gatenby

Momentum Skills is a vocational mental health charity running in Aberdeen with extensive course subjects making mental health positive. I am studying the Pathways course, which runs over six months.

I chose Momentum to regain confidence in myself. I am finding it to be a fantastic stepping stone to develop new skills to enhance my search for employment.

Every week we have goal settings, they motivate me, inspire me and enable me to see a successful future ahead. Each week on the course we set two practical goals. So far, throughout my weeks at Momentum, I have set goals to create art pieces, set myself a music project and set myself sport goals involving long walks, running and swimming.

The goals contribute to a larger action plan over twelve weeks. Currently I am creating a mini portfolio as an individual project, on my most loved music genre, hip hop. Throughout Wednesday's art classes at Momentum, and at home, I have completed collage themed art pieces to compliment the project.

The individual projects are relaxed and fun. I am expanding my knowledge and I am hoping mine will help me gain volunteer work in arts. Before art I enjoy a session in mindfulness, exploring techniques to relax the body and brain, through guided meditations.

I study a class on anxiety and depression and, so far, we have touched on subjects such as personal values and thought awareness. I have come to discover my greatest

value is kindness and to me mental health is about acceptance and patience.

There are also subjects covering cognitive rehabilitation, retraining the brain and personal development.

Yoga is an option I am taking. It is a peaceful stress-free way to engage in exercise. Yoga is teaching me to be generous to myself.

The staff and volunteer workers running Momentum are genuine and supportive. I find it to be an extremely friendly environment.

My overall objective, at present, is to create myself a vocational profile I can use for the future.

If you would like to get in touch with staff at Momentum please call them on 01224 62-55-80.

Use the free speedy shuttle bus to ARI

Please note there is a speedy free shuttle bus service to reach and return from Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Woodend Hospital and Cornhill operating from the Health Village in Frederick Street. The service is run by NHS Grampian.

The timetable is subject to change but the first shuttle runs at 6.40am and the service runs through the day until 6.15pm.

As the timetable is quite complex, your best bet is to call in to the Health Village and request a copy of the timetable from reception staff.

Although times may vary dependent on how busy the traffic, the service can often complete the Frederick Street- ARI run in less than 15 minutes.

Seaton Arms may become office block

Work has begun on interior changes to the Seaton Arms and there is speculation that it may be converted into offices. It has lain empty for quite some time and there were plans to convert it into a care home, which, apparently, fell through. Meanwhile damage has been caused to the building by vandals.

The former Ladbroke shop in Seaton Drive and the former Chinese takeaway in King Street both remain vacant.

Keep up to date via the Internet

We are grateful for the aerial picture of Seaton which heads this page to Angela Matthews who runs three very active Facebook features - Seaton Past and Present, Aberdeen in Colour and Aberdeenshire in Colour.

Photo courtesy of Ansela Matthew



SEATON SNIPPETS

Among the local Facebook pages to keep you in the loop are: @ Tillywoodsea, Seaton Scene and the Seaton Linksfield Community Network pages.

The Friends of Seaton Park also have a presence on Facebook.

What future for St Peter's School?

The future of St Peter's School is being discussed at various levels amid a proposal by Aberdeen City Council to move the school from its current location in King Street to the existing Riverbank School building in Tillydrone.

Councillor John Wheeler, Education Operational Delivery Convener, says: "We believe that our proposal represents a significant move towards securing the long-term future of St Peter's School in an enhanced environment for pupils and staff alike."

A new replacement Riverbank School will open from August 2022. Further information is available on www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations

Gordon is on the mend

Well-known Seaton-based wildlife photographer Gordon Grieve is recovering from a broken ankle after slipping and falling heavily in Seaton Park.

Gordon says it has taken some time just trying to get used to using his leg again as it was swollen and painful to walk on but he cheerfully reports: "I am getting there."

Gordon, who travels across Scotland in his quest for top-class photographic action, is a regular and valued contributor to Seaton Scene.

Marion returns to nursing

Marion Watson, whom of late has been a community development worker at Seaton Community Centre, has left Aberdeen City Council to resume her career in nursing. She initially will be based at Cornhill Hospital.

Nick McKenzie, who ran the very successful Seaton Recovery Project, based at Seaton Community Centre, has also left his city council post for pastures new.



shmu back in Woodside

The shmuCREW are returning to the Woodside area very soon. In fact, by the time you are reading this we should be all settled into our new home!

We have enhanced the facilities we already had so we have installed two new radio studios and we have got a big communal social area, similar to what we had in the old building but we will also have an IT training room and a TV studio with a control room. We are aiming to use the expansion of the building to expand our existing

programmes to reach new people in our target areas.

A state-of-the-art building was identified as a need as part of our 2010-2017 strategic plan so we're really excited that this is becoming a reality for us this year.

If you would like to come and see our new building or find out more about volunteering email laura.young@shmu.org.uk or call her on 01224 515013.



OUR POLITICAL PROFILE: Lewis Macdonald MSP

Hamish Mackay



Scottish Labour MSP Lewis Macdonald is very proud to have been a founder-member of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, and to have represented Aberdeen and North East Scotland at Holyrood for the past 20 years, one of only around 20 MSPs have reached this memorable milestone.

Lewis, 62, a New Year's Day baby, has always been a staunch supporter of a devolved Scottish Parliament, and believes it has achieved a great deal for local people. "I've always believed decisions should be taken as close to local communities as possible," Lewis told Seaton Scene. "That is why I supported creating a Scottish Parliament in the 1990s, and why I now want to see more power being devolved from the Scottish Parliament to local councils and communities."

Lewis, an Aberdeen University MA graduate in history, followed by a PhD, has lived in Aberdeen most of his life. He was born in Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis, and spent his teenage years in Insh, Aberdeenshire, where his father, the late Rev. Roderick Macdonald, a noted Gaelic scholar, was the

Church of Scotland parish minister.

He has close family links with the media. His brother Iain began a journalistic career with DC Thomson in Aberdeen, and was for many years a reporter with BBC TV and radio in the Highlands and Islands. His remaining brother Lindsay is a sub-editor with the P&J.

Lewis is married to Sandra, who works in the oil industry and represents George Street /Harbour ward on Aberdeen City Council. Her ward includes Sunnybank and Pittodrie, and she previously represented Tillydrone and Old Aberdeen. "Sandra's involvement in local government is a real help to me in my job," says Lewis. "She makes sure I am up to speed on local issues – as well as keeping my feet firmly on the ground!"

Lewis and Sandra have two daughters - Sophie, who is a physician associate at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, and Iona, who is training to be an engineer. "We've always told our kids to aim high and follow their dreams," says Lewis. "Aberdeen is a city of opportunity, where there's plenty people who will encourage young folk to make the most of what comes their way. Jobs nowadays can take them anywhere in the world, if that's what they want to do."

Lewis has spent 12 years as constituency MSP for Aberdeen Central, and eight years as a regional MSP - covering the whole of North East Scotland. "You do much the same job, whether for a single constituency

or the whole region," he points out. "Constituencies are important because they keep MSPs connected to local issues. The regions work well too, because you can take an overview of wider issues like the East Coast Rail Line and the AWPR."

As MSP for Aberdeen Central, Lewis had a lot to do with Seaton and neighbouring communities, and they remain an important part of what he does today. "People still look for me to help with local issues in Seaton," he explains. "I enjoy visiting the sheltered housing schemes in the area every year, and, of course, there are fantastic things happening in Seaton Park, and lots of good ideas about public access to the banks of the River Don."

With his Aberdeen regional office at 70 Rosemount Place, Lewis keeps in touch with issues in the city even when his parliamentary duties require him to be in Edinburgh. "My Aberdeen office is my front door for the whole region," he says. "I hold regular surgeries there, and even when I'm at Holyrood there's a warm welcome for constituents at my office from 9 - 5pm."

Lewis is an optimist when it comes to Aberdeen's future. "I have lived here for over forty years," he says. "I have raised my children here. I have seen the city deal with good times and bad. Communities like Seaton are what Aberdeen is all about: always looking outwards to the wider world, but firmly based on the solid rock of which the city and its people are built."

Community Contacts

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 9177 650
Drinkline 0300 123 1110

Crime

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Drugs

Drugs Action Helpline 01224 594700

Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens 111

Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency 111

Electricity

If you have a power-cut 105

Family Planning

Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village 0345 337 9900

Gas

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999
Gas emergency with a meter 0845 606 6766

Housing

Emergency Repairs 01224 219 282
Call Centre Emergency 0845 608 0929 or 116 123

Police

Non-emergency 101

Samaritans

Need to talk 01224 574 488 or 116 123

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team 0800 7315520
Emergency Out-Of-Hours 01224 693936

Young Carers 01224 212021

Water

Scottish Water Emergency 0800 0778 778

CFINE

01224 596156

Home-Start

01224 693545

Pathways

01224 682 939

Cash in your Pocket

0800 953 4330

Citizens Advice

01224 569750

Terrence Higgins Trust

0808 802 1221

LGBT Youth Scotland ehpburn@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Seaton STAR Flat

01224 524209

Seaton Project

01224 277930

Seaton School

01224 277920

Local Councillors

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Councillor Alexander McLellan

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07500 99952

Councillor Jim Noble

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