

seatonscene

Spring 2021



In this issue:

SEATON COMMUNITY
CHURCH

UDECIDE FUNDING

GOLF ROAD DEVELOPMENTS

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 Seaton Community Church, a local history feature and news from local organisations.

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 **07752586312** or email shmu's Community Media Development Worker, 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.

Seaton Scene is a community publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team or of shmu.

You can be reassured that our distribution company is taking every measure to ensure they are delivering your magazine safely and within government guidelines.

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Supported by





Golf Road

Seaton residents may have noticed a change to both School Road and Golf Road recently – there has been a permanent width restriction added to both roads to reduce the traffic issues on the road.

There is now a permanent 2.1 metre restriction which will reduce the amount of HGV traffic on the road.

Members of the Seaton community have campaigned for years for this to happen after concerns around speeding, the community being used as a rat run and increased HGV usage through the community in order to avoid King Street.

The Seaton Linksfield Community Network (now disbanded) met with members of the Communities Team and Traffic Management Teams at

Aberdeen City Council to discuss the issue. They were told at the time that nothing could be done until the AWPR had been opened and its impact on traffic in the area been reviewed.

The network then went door to door to get signatures for a petition on the issue and they managed to get almost 400 people to sign. While this was happening, the city council did their surveys and found the average speed on School Road (a 20mph zone) was 28 mph. The groups then agreed that something needed to be done to make it safer and in 2019 the network's petition was brought to the Town House and Aberdeen City Council granted their support.

After a statutory and public consultation into the potential width restriction it

was deemed that there should be a permanent width restriction installed.

The Seaton Linksfield Community Network would like to thank everyone from the Seaton, Linksfield and Pittodrie neighbourhoods for getting behind the petition and giving us their support.



ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Church reopened for 11am Sunday Worship from Easter Sunday 4th April. We would remind you that there will still be restricted numbers so you will need to pre-register your wish to attend by calling our dedicated phone number 07709 736586. You will need to provide your contact details for Track and Protect purposes, there will be no singing and you will need to wear a face mask.

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BUGGY BOOT CAMP

There is a new buggy boot camp group meeting in Seaton Park.

The sessions involve a 45 minute work out session, allowing parents to get fit without having to try and find a babysitter and you can meet other parents and make new friends.

Sessions will cost six pounds and take place at 10:30am.

Participants should meet at the fountain.

For more information email Louise at lollypopfitness@gmail.com.



PATHWAYS IN SEATON

Our Keyworker, Stan Smith has been working in the Seaton area for a number of years now, helping people to find suitable employment, guiding them through creating a CV, interview techniques and online applications. At present he is dealing with clients through phone calls and email as due to the current restrictions we are not seeing people face to face.

Have you lost your job due to Covid? It's not the end of the line!

Yes, it is going to be more challenging. To get back into employment you may have to board a new train and switch tracks.

Pathways can guide you to a new job destination, explore training or retraining opportunities, and equip

you with the skills you need to take advantage of vacancies as they arise!

Currently our Keyworkers are tentatively returning to the office two or three days per week, on a rota basis, for a few hours per day. However, face to face meetings are still some time away and we will continue to serve our clients by telephone and email until further notice.

If you would like help to find work you can contact Stan Smith by phone on 01224 682 939 or by email at s.smith@pathways-online.org Check our Facebook page, Pathways at www.facebook.com/PathwaysAberdeen1A

50 YEARS OF THE ZOOLOGY MUSEUM

HALF A CENTURY OF ZOOLOGY MEMORIES

The Zoology Museum celebrated its golden jubilee on Thursday 17th December, and we are launching the Zoology Memories Project. Take this chance to send us photos and videos telling us about a time you have explored the many fascinating cases of the museum. What made your visit special? Did you attend

any of our events? Did you engage in a staring contest with our famous tiger? Which specimen had you think 'what a mood'? We want to hear from you!

Email:
uoacollections@abdn.ac.uk

Or tag #zoology50 on our social media channels.



ACTIVE SCHOOLS

Active Schools St Machar have a new Coordinator in place!

Evelyn Mair will now be working with St Machar Academy and Seaton, Riverside, Aberdeen School for Deaf, Woodside, Cornhill, Kittybrewster, Sunnybank and St Peters Primary Schools.

She is passionate about health, fitness and wellbeing and getting everyone active in any way possible, providing tools and upskilling people to become the best version of themselves.

Evelyn said: "I'm always open to ideas or suggestions as to how we can work together to improve our local community, increase participation in activity, protect our environment and create opportunities for young people."

If you would like to get in touch, please email emair@sportaberdeen.co.uk

For updates on what's going on in and around your local area follow our Active Schools Aberdeen page on Facebook or visit our website via www.sportaberdeen.co.uk



AbleDeen

What is AbleDeen?

The AbleDeen service takes their wheelchairs, scooters and volunteers to the four corners of Aberdeen to enable people to access their local services, facilities, shops etc.

They can help you with the use of mobility equipment, manually powered wheelchairs, powered scooters and walking frames. They also have volunteer companions who can provide company and assistance when you are out and about and a safe, quiet place to relax and gather your thoughts.

Volunteering for AbleDeen

Want to make a real, practical, positive difference to people in your community? Want to learn new skills and meet new people? Do you have a few hours to spare each week? AbleDeen are always on the lookout for volunteers. Please send an email for more information.

Fundraising

AbleDeen are a charity whose aim is to increase independence, freedom, self-esteem and choice for people with disabilities. If you would like to donate to AbleDeen then please visit their JustGiving page at: www.justgiving.com/shopmobility

Locations & Times

Aberdeen Beach (Footdee)
Tuesdays 10am to 4pm

Seaton Park
Fridays 10am to 4pm

Visit www.abledeen.org.uk/ events for more information about locations.

For more information get in touch with AbleDeen at:

Telephone: 01224 254338
Email:
AbleDeen2019@gmail.com



NEW ARTWORK BRIGHTENS UP MRS MURRAY'S CAT AND DOG HOME

Earlier this year Mrs Murray's Cat and Dog Home advertised on their Facebook page to see if there were any kind volunteers out there who could brighten up the wall in the doggie play area.

They said: "We were inundated with interest and offers and it was hard to choose who to pick!

"In the end we opted for two local professional graffiti artists after we saw their work on their Instagram page and they kindly offered to give up their time to do it for us."

The team at Mrs Murray's said they had one condition for the wall which was to include our resident dog Max in it. The wall has been a

huge moral boost for the staff after all these months of lockdown and uncertainty.

They added: "We were overwhelmed when we saw the finished wall and can't thank the guys enough for an outstanding job. They really know how to put a shift in to get a job done and we would highly recommend them to other organisations – they can turn their hand to any design."

If you want to check out their other work you can look up @Skeps.42 and @Hobblegraff on Instagram.

Multistorey Facebook pages show more residents interaction

With social media being more popular than ever residents in and around the multi-storeys across Aberdeen now have a group page for their building set up on Facebook.

These pages are aimed at residents so they can get to know each other, inform others of issues within their buildings, advertise unwanted items to anyone who may like to acquire them, inform others of repairs that have been reported to Aberdeen Council and getting involved with the local community groups, community councils and tenant/residents groups within their community.

With social distancing still around and most meetings being held online councillors are also encouraged to join these pages as this gives them the chance to engage with and help tenants, also tenant and residents groups for the buildings.

Having these pages set up we can hopefully highlight the positives and negatives for living in these buildings, we do hope more positive posts can be seen in the future.

We would love to see residents show some pride in their buildings, whether that means setting up a group of gardeners to setup a nice outdoor space for everyone to enjoy, or even having a function for residents in their common rooms in the future. Now is the time to show what you enjoy about living in your building.

Pages have been setup on Facebook for:

Promenade Court Residents

Linkfield Court Residents

Regent Court Residents

Bayview Court Residents

Northsea Court Residents

Aulton Court Residents

Beachview Court Residents

St. Ninian's Court Residents

Balgownie Court Residents

Inverdon Court Residents

The Citywide Multistorey Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Meetings are held through Microsoft Teams. If you would like to find out more about this or how to setup a residents group for your multi-storey building. Please get in touch with Carol Hannaford (Tenant Participation Officer) at: channaford@aberdeencity.gov.uk for more information.

Getting recycling right

Aberdeen City Council opened its Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and introduced the new recycling service in 2017. Household recycling rate has risen from 38.8% to 49%. Whilst this is good news, we would like to improve this and we need your help to do so.

Please consider whether you can recycle an item before you put it in your waste bin.

WHAT CAN I RECYCLE IN ABERDEEN?

Whether you use your own wheeled bin or a communal bin you can recycle the following:

Glass bottles and jars;

Plastics bottles, trays and tubs – all colours;

Paper and cardboard;

Metal tins and cans, including empty aerosols, foil and foil trays;

Food and drink cartons.

All recycling should be free of food and rinsed.

WHAT ITEMS ARE NON-RECYCLABLE AND SHOULD GO IN YOUR WASTE BIN:

Plastic bags or bin bags – think about reusing plastic bags

Plastic film

Mixed material packaging e.g. crisp packets or crisp tubes

Bubble wrap - reuse for parcels especially closer to Christmas

Food waste - use your food waste bin for this

Polystyrene/foam trays - use these to fill the bottom of plant pots to help drainage instead of rocks

Nappies – please put this in your general waste bin or invest in reusable nappies for an improved environmental impact.

Drinking glasses/Pyrex

Plastic plant pots - return to your garden centre for re-use

To find out more about what happens to your recycling after it gets collected, take a virtual tour of Aberdeen's state-of-the-art sorting facility search Aberdeen recycling and resource facility | Altens East' on YouTube.

Learning English

What would you do if you were stuck in another country during the pandemic?

Imagine yourself having to stay in a country where people don't speak your language. Think what would be like to have to find information, ask for help, buy food, look for work or speak to your children's teachers or doctor.

If you are a native English speaker, you may not have thought about people who are currently living in Aberdeen and who speak English as a second language. They are likely to be facing difficulties to deal with the current restrictions. Speaking over the phone or accessing information online may seem simple tasks, but that would not be the case for those who are not fluent in English.

Language barriers create a very stressful environment. People who speak English as a second language may be less likely to secure jobs. They could also become victims of exploitation and fall prey of scammers. The difficulties we experience during the pandemic are worse for those whose English language skills are poor.

Sometimes although they are able to communicate in English, they may not have the self-confidence that it takes to be fluent in another language. Think about your second language skills. Whether it would be French, Spanish, Russian or any other language, you can imagine how brave you may have to become to interact with local people and settle in a country where they speak a language you don't know well.

The Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) offer Language and Integration Projects which are tailored to help people who speak English as a second language. We have online activities every week via Zoom. We welcome people from all walks of life. In the last three years, we have met people from over 35 nationalities within the ages of 16 and 82. And that was even before we went online!

We change the topics of conversation and activities every week to share a relaxed and fun space. There are also opportunities to learn more about local services and meet people with common interests.

We have two different sessions every week:

LANGUAGE WORKS – Tuesdays
7:30-8:30 pm: We discuss topics related with work and employability in the UK.

LANGUAGE CAFES – Thursdays
10:30 am – 12:00: We have a different topic every week to help everyone to gain confidence to speak English and learn about living in the UK.

We also run free of cost ESOL (English as a Second Language) courses on regular basis to introduce people to the world of work, while learning and practicing English.

Can you help us to share this information? Anyone looking for classes or wanting to join our activities can email us at language-cafe@grec.co.uk or join our Facebook page: Learning English in Aberdeen.

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

Instant Neighbour have been working through the pandemic to support those in need.

Covid-19 has had a huge impact on the amount of people coming to them to seek help with food for a variety of reasons.

In 2020 the charity gave out nearly double the number of food parcels than they did in 2019 – 1400 food parcels to 2500 parcels. They are currently seeing anywhere between 40 and 60 people every day.

At Christmas time there was also a significant increase in the number of people needing help with Christmas gifts for their children with almost 3500 more gifts given out in 2020.

Unfortunately, due to current Covid restrictions they are severely restricted in the amount of people we could have working in the building and so they aren't able to take on hardly any volunteers which is a real shame.

The foodbank is being run by a skeleton staff and the charity are very grateful that donations keep coming in. It's impossible to say, long term however, if they'll be able to keep up with this level of demand, but folk in Aberdeen city and shire are so kind and generous, so the team are sure they will be able to keep going.

It's OK Not to be OK



Nicola Watson

On Monday 23 March 2020 the UK went into a full lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A year on, did any of us think we would still be living with some level of restrictions and uncertainties? Some may have seen it coming, some may have hoped it wouldn't and others, well... But one thing we can all agree on is that we all failed when we answered the question back in 2015, "where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?"

Some people seem to have thrived working from home and limiting their human contact, whereas others are chomping at the bit to find a cure for cabin fever. The physical signs of lockdown are easy to spot. Tight fitting clothes or a sudden preference for lounge wear but the mental signs are harder to see, and these are the ones that can hit us the hardest. Mental health is something that doesn't get talked about until something goes wrong and this is when it is often too late.

Back in the 1980s it was quite rare to meet someone with a food allergy but now you can spend an extra five minutes at the sandwich shop while someone reels off all of their intolerances to food! Mental health issues on the other hand have been the close companion of humans since the dawn of time. So why aren't they talked about the same way that we talk about physical illnesses? If you have a physical disability, have broken a bone, scraped a knee, or have a scar, people will see it and either be understanding or they won't. There can still be a stigma, but people can see that a person is unable to use a tin opener if their arm

is in a cast. What about if a person is paralysed by fear, are people as understanding? What if a person has severe depression and can't get up one morning, are people as understanding then?

It's difficult when you can't see something to understand what's going on. But for centuries people have tried to hide mental illness, it wasn't talked about to the point that family members could be placed in asylums and never spoken about again! Many see it as a weakness, something to be hidden. In the UK people have been taught not to talk about their feelings, to 'keep a stiff upper lip.' Leaving generations of people unable to show affection for their children or their parents. In today's society there is still a strong stigma attached to mental health to the point that people try to show themselves larger than life. On social media there are billions of posts showing how great a day people are having. Pictures of meals, pets, new clothes, video games, sunsets, strange or funny street signs and people with fake smiles plastered to their faces. How much of this is actually reality, and what is the reality that people wished they had?

What goes on behind the camera? A mother screaming at their child to look happy with the activity that has been chosen for them. Thousands of photos deleted that didn't capture the feeling that the mother wanted to portray. The kid just wanted to play with the box rather than the thing inside, but we can't have that. So called influencers bombard social media with countless images of what they class to be the acceptable

norm. "Choose this clothing brand it will make you happy! Choose this make up, it will make everyone fall in love with you!" But the truth? Sponsorships, bribes, 'free samples,' contracts, are people truly free to make an informed choice or be comfortable with who they are? There are so many negative influences, body shaming, lifestyle shaming, fat shaming, simply shaming. If you don't fit the template, then we don't want to have anything to do with you."

Becoming a teenager is a difficult time. Everything is changing, your body, your mind, your feelings, your skills. People can feel clumsy as they get used to their increasing height. Hormones are flooding every nook and cranny taking you on an emotional rollercoaster and don't even talk about the feelings that start developing for completely random people sending you ducking for cover to hide the traffic light red on your face every time they walk past! Not to mention your mind changing as your understanding of how the world works changes. Some people appear to just go with the flow and cruise through. Others struggle, questioning everything and thinking there is something wrong with them at every turn. Then there are those who you really don't know what's going on with them and you try to give a wide berth in the hope of keeping your head attached to your shoulders.

It doesn't get any better when you're an adult. There are those who seem to have it so together. They drop the kids off at school, head to work while arranging play dates, food shopping and paying a couple of

bills. Then they arrive at work solve a couple of major problems, have lunch then head off to collect the kids while planning the week's meals and dropping them off at their after-school activities. It's superhuman. I'm just excited when I get me and the kids out of the house on time! How do they do it? Most of them don't, it's one of those 'life lies.' People feel that they have to show the world that they are coping, that they've got it all figured out and everything is perfect.

Unfortunately, it's often those who need help. The illusion that we are coping can often be more harmful than the truth that we're not. By setting unrealistic goals, only posting the perfect pictures and deleting anything that doesn't fit with our own personal narrative are we really living our best lives? And are we really doing the best by our children? It's OK to not be OK! Asking for help is not a weakness, it's actually a sign of strength. To recognise what we can and can't do with or without help. To recognise when we're doing too much, or things are not just quite right. When we recognise how we are doing that is true coping. Our children look to us as an example of what they should be doing. If they see us running around doing 100 things, not showing our true feelings and pushing all the negative deep down into ourselves and not expressing how things are, then they think that's the norm.

Give your children the best chance, let them see that it's OK to feel, the good as well as the bad. They are both a part of us, it's how we choose to react that makes us who we are. We are allowed to feel and we shouldn't hide from it. If we are upset that's OK, we are allowed to feel that if something has happened. It's when it doesn't go away and gets worse that we need to talk and see

what's going on. Sadly, there are so many examples of people who have taken their own life because they thought they had to hide how they were feeling. That somehow there was something wrong with them for feeling the way they did when everyone else seemed to be doing fine. The people who seem the life and soul of the party, who are so full of fun and laughter can often be the ones suffering in silence.

When you are lucky enough to meet a friend or family member under the current restrictions or phone/text/video call them; ask them how they are doing. But don't just ask. Listen to the answer. And try the two times approach. Ask them once, listen and talk for a bit and then ask again. We are all experts at giving the automatic pilot answer, 'yes, I'm fine. How are you?' When someone asks us how we are. And how often do we truly listen to someone's response? Did it sound genuine? Was it in keeping with their character? Asking someone twice shows that you are genuinely wanting to know how they are and that you are not accepting the go to response. Keep in touch with people

even if they seem like they're doing fine. Let them know that you care about them and what is going on in their lives, that you're there for them. The same goes for anyone you have contact with. No-one should feel that they're alone and have no-one to turn to. Remember asking for help is not a weakness, it's a strength!

Life is hard, there's no sugar coating that. But when we have the right support in our lives, we are able to accomplish so much and get through a lot more. Don't ignore the negative because you'll be saving up problems for tomorrow. We still don't fully understand our mental health and how it can affect us, and we need to stay healthy mentally as well as physically. Just because you can't see how someone is struggling or stick a plaster over the hurt doesn't mean that it's any less valid when someone has a mental health issue. It's not a case of cheering ourselves up. We can't just go for a walk and stick a smile on our face to make everything better. Talking is the first step but listening is also important.

Be there. Be kind.





UDECIDE IN ST MACHAR

The concept of Participatory Budgeting is well known in the St Machar area of the city and has been done for the past few years to help local people decide how money should be spent in their community. This year the event had to take place virtually and successful projects were awarded funding:

Help is All Around

Since March 2020 the Woodside Junior Club has had to be closed. A lot of the kids enjoyed their club as it was their way of getting out after school in a safe surrounding. Since lockdown children have been indoors a lot more and folk are finding it harder as food bills go up, along with gas and electric. People on low incomes are struggling more and on top of that there are issues with people losing their jobs. The team at Woodside Junior Club have tried as

much as they can to help people and have been signposting people who need help and they can now help more by providing food vouchers, money for gas and electric, phone top ups etc.

We Play

Printfield Community Project are going to be supporting children aged between one and two who don't have access to nursery by providing weekly play sessions. These play sessions will encourage development, improve social skills, build emotional confidence, encourage physical activity, support learning and creativity through play. Sessions will include outdoor play, planting and growing, messy play, dance, arts and crafts. Children will benefit from a positive and stimulating environment, social interaction, encouragement, support

to meet important milestones, a smoother transition on to nursery.

Jim Duncan from the Printfield Community Project said: *"Thanks to the UDecide funding the community project will be able to support children from the area to benefit from a comfortable and caring environment which will support them through important milestones as they grow up. What we hope to do is encourage friendly interaction between the children while working closely with their parents and carers to develop social skills."*

Fit Like Benches

While most people have relied on being outside and spending time in their garden during the Coronavirus pandemic, a significant number of people in Tillydrone live in flats with no access to their own outdoor

space which can lead to isolation and health issues. We need people and connections and in order to get this we need to be visible. On a walkabout, my daughter suggested we should have picnic benches all over Tillydrone as there's so many nice grassy bits they could go on and it would be good for people like us who live in a flat to sit outside and enjoy the sun and just chat to people. There will be sets of two benches being installed in the community so while we're still socially distanced we can become socially connected. There are five proposed sites for the benches and the community will be asked to vote for where they would like the benches to go.

Proposed bench locations include:

St Machar Park

Green space between Formartine Road and Coningham Gardens

In between the high rise buildings

Tillydrone Play Park at Gordon's Mills Road

Between Alexander Drive and Dill Road

Storehouse Foodbank Hub

Catalyst Vineyard Church have experienced an increased demand for support from their Storehouse Foodbank due to Covid. The group has secured premises in

the St Machar area which will help support those in the area who need help with food, clothes and household products.

Kendall Thow from Catalyst Vineyard Church said: *"It means that we can top up our food reserves. We rely on donations from the public but sometimes these donations can dip as people's situations change. It is vital that we always have food on hand for the hundreds of people who need it, so having a bit of a reserve is always so helpful."*

"We would also love to extend that support to include referrals to our free debt help service through our CAP debt centre, parish nursing services, and befriending services. Our hope is that this Storehouse Hub would become a meeting place (when regulations allow) for many of the services that we supply already, like drop-ins, and be a great community resource."

Earth and Worms

The group want to alleviate food poverty while providing a safe space to help people with their mental health. The project started in March 2020 and has developed from an idea to a place where we can utilise waste and produce food. We use natural solutions to sustain our growth with worms playing an important role here by producing a highly nutritious fertiliser for the plants

we grow. This and other elements bring other people into the space to learn about natural ecosystems and more. The team wish to use the funding to put up a polytunnel in a bright and sunny area of the site creating enough room for everyone involved to sew, plant and harvest fruit and vegetables. The polytunnel increases the growing season and improves crop yields which would mean we could provide fresh and local food to community venues like the flat and the campus for individuals to pick up.

Aberdeen Lads Club Little Learners and After School Club

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Aberdeen Lads Club has had to ensure the children who attend their nursery and after school club play outside no matter what the weather is doing. To be able to ensure they can stay safe and dry while playing outside they want to purchase all weather suits in order to make sure that the children stay safe and dry while enjoying outdoor experiences. The funding for the suits will ensure the children and young people have suitable clothing without adding any more financial burden to the families. They also want to put up some screening in order to protect the nursery children from some of the harsher weather and to ensure more privacy for the nursery.



Adult Services

Our Create-Express-Transform project is now in full swing! It has been great to see the film groups take shape and some really interesting topics and conversations coming together. We can't wait to share some of the footage with you all! We also launched the Songwriting and Music courses on in March and these groups are working well together.



Women's History Month at shmu

On International Women's Day we had a range of shows to celebrate the day. The Breakfast Show team kicked it off with mentions on their show at 7am. Darcey followed this up with a show looking at influential women in the entertainment industry. Dave then shone the spotlight on female icons of the 1970s in a themed Skool Daze show.

Angie's Culture Show looked at the theme of 2020's International Women's Day which was #choosetochallenge along with a great playlist full of female artists. Molly's Youth Media Science show celebrated International Women's Day with a whole show dedicated to Women in Science. We finished off the day with a special MoshPit of 2 hours of rock, grunge and metal by bands fronted by female vocalists.

Throughout the rest of the month a group of volunteers came together to celebrate local women by producing audio clips which were played out on shmuFM from the 1st of March. This culminated in the broadcast of Oor Quines on the 30th March, a show which focused on local women from history and the present day who are inspiring.

Keep an eye out on the next editions of community magazines which are coming out soon as they will be focusing on women from across the regeneration areas and what they have done for their community. It was great to see our volunteers come together from Press, FM and Youth Media to make this happen and we were happy to have so many male allies joining us to commemorate the month.

Youth Media

The Youth Media team are continuing online calls twice weekly at the moment, and we are seeing good engagement from a core group of young people with others joining us when they can.

This month we have been able to post out science kits to our youth team for a session facilitated by Helen, our Curiosity Fund science mentor. Helen guided us through how to swab household items and grow microbes on petri dishes of agar jelly, and a week later we identified the microbes with Helen's help. It was really fun to have

something practical for the group to do as they have been saying this is what they are lacking from school at the moment, and we are looking at more things we can do at home as part of the Curiosity Project with lots of plans in the pipeline.

We have produced two Saturday shows this month, one about future opportunities where we interviewed Yvette about how to get a job, and one about history, for which Megan hosted a history quiz for the team. We are aiming to keep all of our sessions as active and engaging as possible while we are still at home and will be running additional workshops and tasters during the April holidays.

The First Daily Air Service from Seaton Airport

Alan Johnstone

Seaton airport was located off the east side of King Street on an open area between the Seaton houses and the Esplanade. The first daily air service was introduced on 7th May 1934, between Aberdeen and Kirkwall via Wick, and continued throughout that summer. Air circus displays were also held there, but by the following year the space was needed to host the Royal Highland Show and air services were transferred to Kintore.

The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported on the launch of the new service. "Aberdeen is now a place on the air map, having been made so by the inauguration yesterday of a regular daily air service between Aberdeen and Orkney. The seven-seater plane, which was named "Aberdeen" by Lady Provost Alexander, arrived in the morning from Lossiemouth, where it landed on Sunday evening on account of meeting adverse weather at Huntly on the way from Inverness to Aberdeen with passengers. Soon after it reached the flying field at Seaton, the inauguration ceremony took place.

Lord Provost Alexander said it was a notable and historic occasion, for they were about to inaugurate the first regular air service from the city of Aberdeen, and they were all proud that the close interest and connection between Aberdeen and The Islands would be continued by the new service. In this connection he said that for 140 years the main shipping connections between the northern

islands and the mainland had been maintained by an Aberdeen company, the North of Scotland and Orkney and Shetland Steam Navigation Company.

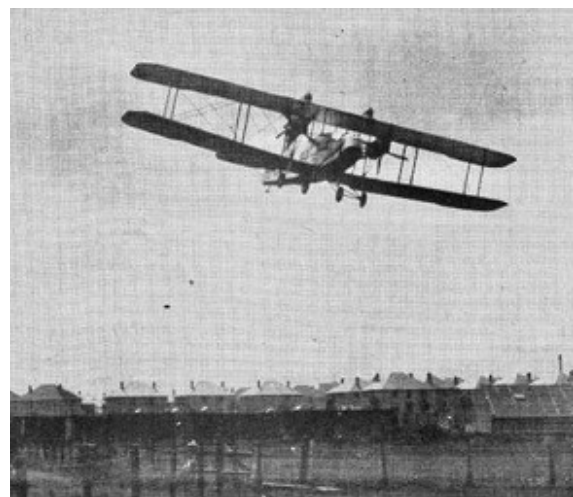
The Lady Provost named the plane "Aberdeen". At her first attempt the bottle of champagne, hanging from the plane by a piece of string, became loose, and the bottle fell to the ground. Laughing heartily, the Lady Provost lifted the bottle, wrapped a towel round its neck and broke the bottle on the plane. In the process she was sprayed with the champagne. The Lady Provost presented Capt. Fresson with a full-sized "toy" Aberdeen terrier as a mascot, which was placed in the pilot's cabin for luck.

Capt. Fresson, replying, said the difficulties of running a service from Aberdeen had been considerable on account of the difficulty of obtaining a suitable landing ground. He hoped, however, that very soon the city would have its own municipal landing ground. The saving of time and money would enable people to make it worth their while to utilise the air services.

He then took two parties, in the first of which were the Lord and Lady Provost, for flights over Aberdeen. The first trip from Aberdeen to Kirkwall began at 2pm with a full complement of seven passengers, six of whom, including two ladies, made the journey for pleasure, but the seventh, Mr A. Hall of Messrs A. Hall and Son, building contractors,

Aberdeen, combined business with pleasure. At 3.15pm a landing was made at Wick, where after a short stop the plane took off again, and in twenty-two minutes the last "hop" was completed to Kirkwall. In all, the journey was made in ninety minutes' flying time. The passengers had about an hour in Kirkwall and the return flight was commenced at 5.17pm. In the remarkably short time of one hour and twenty minutes the return journey to Aberdeen was made.

The caption for the photo read "First air-liner to arrive at Aberdeen descending over Corporation houses at School Road to alight on the field at Seaton farm from which flights will be made daily."



Community Contacts

Aberdeen City Council Helpline - 0800 0304 713

ALCOHOL

Alcoholics Anonymous - 0800 9177 650

Drinkline - 0300 123 1110

CRIME

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

DRUGS

Alcohol and Drugs Action Helpline

01224 594700 or 07927192706

Narcotics Anonymous

0300 999 1212

DENTIST

Emergency - G-Dens - 111

DOCTORS

NHS 24 Emergency - 111

POLICE

Non-Emergency - 101

ELECTRICITY

If you have a power-cut - 105

GAS

Gas Emergency - 0800 111 999

WATER

Scottish Water Emergency - 0800 0778 778

HOUSING

Emergency Repairs - 03000 200 292

Family Planning - 0345 337 9900

Mental Health Aberdeen - 01224 573892

Breathing Space - 0800 838 587

Samaritans - Need to talk

01224 574 488 or 116 123

SOCIAL WORK

Adult Protection - 0800 731 5520

Joint Child Protection Team

01224 306877 or 0800 731 5520

Aberdeen City Carers Service- 01224 914036

Age Scotland - 0800 1244 222

CFINE 01224 596156

Financial Advice at CFINE 01224 531386

Pathways 01224 682 939

Citizens Advice 01224 586255

St Machar Credit Union 01224 276994

Old Aberdeen Medical Practice

01224 486702

Tillydrone Clinic

01224 276723

Woodside Medical Group

01224 492828

LOCAL COUNCILLORS:

Councillor Alex McLellan

07500 999522

amclellan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Jim Noble

07748 760557

jimnoble@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Ross Grant

07738688458

rossgrant@aberdeencity.gov.uk

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

Domestic Abuse is not acceptable. It is not your fault and you are not alone. Domestic Abuse is when you are hurt, bullied or frightened by:

Your husband or wife. Your boyfriend or girlfriend

Your current or ex-partner

Their behaviour can be; controlling, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

Help and support

There are services available to support you, and they are still open. You do not have to wait for an emergency to get help. Tell someone you trust or contact:

National Domestic Abuse Helpline Free and confidential advice. Open to all. 24 hours a day. Telephone: 0800 027 1234. Website: sdafmh.org.uk

Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381. Website:

grampian-womens-aid.com

Rape Crisis Grampian Telephone: 01224 590932.

Website: rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk

LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline

Telephone: 0300 999 5428 or email info@galop.org.uk

Men's Advice Line

Telephone: 0808 801 0327