

YOUR NEWS

seatonscene

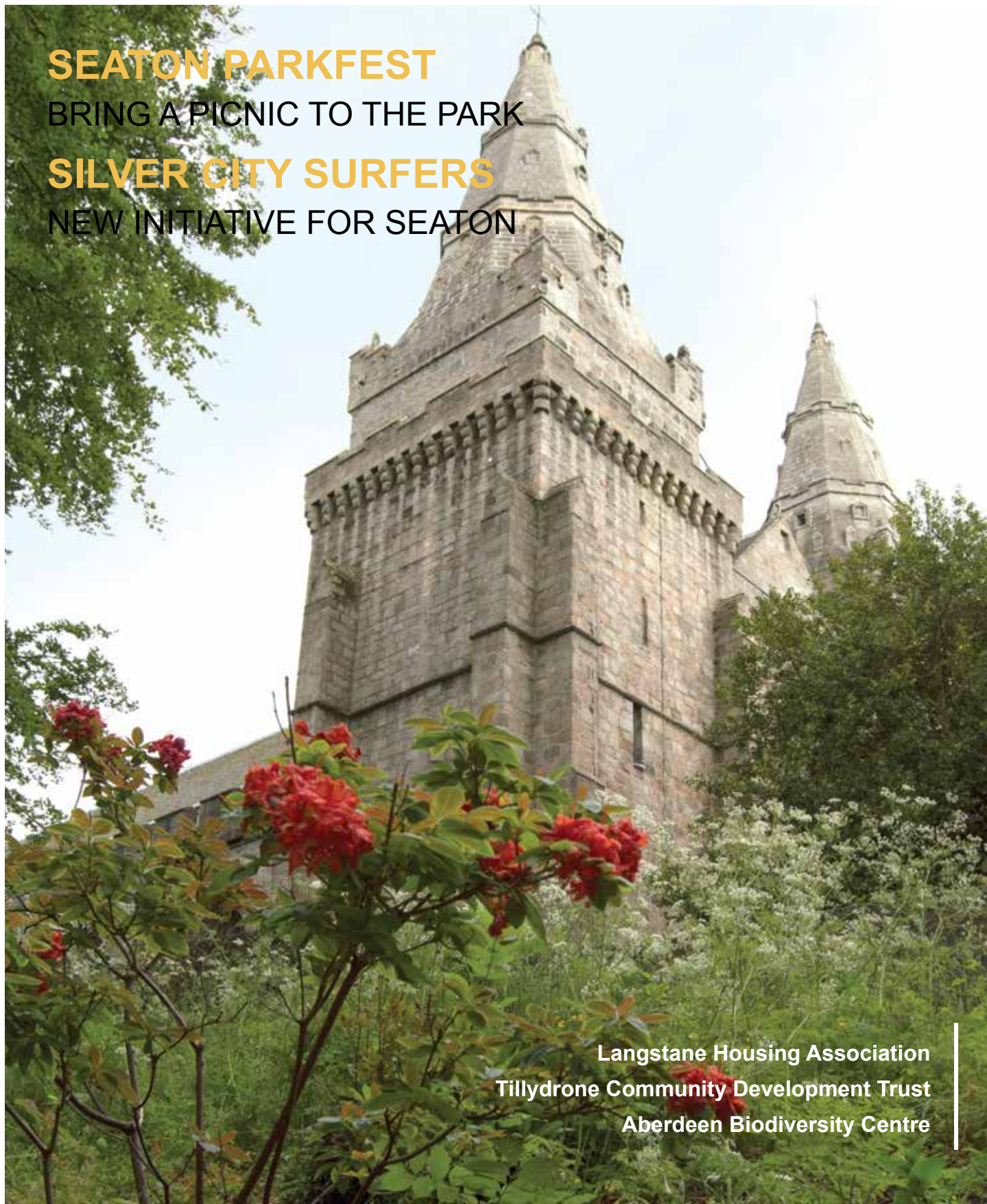
Summer Edition 2015

SEATON PARKFEST

BRING A PICNIC TO THE PARK

SILVER CITY SURFERS

NEW INITIATIVE FOR SEATON



Langstane Housing Association
Tillydrone Community Development Trust
Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre

contents

- 3 Along the River
- 4 Friends of Seaton
- 5 Langstane Housing
- 6&7 Silver City Surfers
- 8&9 Parkfest
- 10 Move More
- 11 Urban Gardening
- 12 Community News
- 13 Biodiversity Centre
- 14 shmu
- 15 Wildlife in Seaton Park
- 16 Wallace Tower

Cover Photo by Karl Sfictos



Welcome to your Summer edition of Seaton Scene.

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine. Inside we

have updates from the Friends of Seaton Park, Silver City Surfers and the Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre. 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**.

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

First meeting – 2nd of October

Second meeting – 16th of October

Content deadline – 30th of October

Page plan – 6th of November

Proof – 13th of November

Supported by



All is new along the river

- by Hamish Mackay -

A very popular path along a stretch of the south bank of the meandering River Don linking Seaton Park and the picturesque new Donside Village has been reinstated to a very high standard.

A sparkling new wooden walkway now runs from the south-east corner of the Park to the fringe of the 267-home Donside Village – a distance slightly longer than a football pitch.

The existing stretch of path had to be largely removed to create a “large hole” which had to be excavated to create a flood compensation basin.

Once walkers heading north reach the Donside Village, they now have the choice of two temporary diversionary paths to re-join the riverside walk which reaches to the Persley Bridge near the Tesco superstore.

However Alan Hannah, Development Manager of

Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association, explained to Seaton Scene that these two diversionary paths will only remain in place until the final phase of housing on the 25-acre former mill brownfield site is completed.

That final stage in the Donside Village development, which already has planning permission, is for 64 flats in a seven-storey, five-storey and four-storey complex very close to the riverbank.

Once the new homes are completed, scheduled for early 2017, a new path will be built running directly between the two housing development phases to link up with the existing path leading to Persley.

All the Donside Village homes incorporate low-energy features and have been praised for their environmental qualities.

And recently, Gordon Laurie, the director of Tenants First which is a member of the Sanctuary

Group - one of the UK's biggest social housing providers, pointed out: “By consulting Donside Community Association on aspects like the development’s child play areas, residents have also been able to influence the vision for Donside Village – a vibrant community of quality, affordable housing.

“It is rare to see such a picturesque neighbourhood so close to a busy city centre.”

Mrs Mhairi Samuels, from Golspie, Sutherland, who was visiting Aberdeen, took a stroll along the new wooden walkway and declared: “This striking wooden footpath is a very valuable asset - both for people who use the Park and the residents of the new Donside Village and beyond.

“It runs besides a beautiful riverside setting which must be great for residents of the Donside Village.”



Friends of Seaton Park secretary Hamish Mackay shows visitor to Aberdeen Mrs Mhairi Samuels just what has been achieved. Photo by Rene Ann Mackay



Photo by Lynsey Sim

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Friends of Seaton Park at Sunnybank Open Information Fun Day

- by Margaret Sleeman -

The Friends of Seaton Park were invited to take a table at the Open Information Fun Day organised by Sunnybank Community Centre at Sunnybank Primary School on 20th June. What was on offer was as colourful and varied as the psychedelic knitted and crocheted tree jackets sported by a dozen street trees at the entrance to the event. Tables were prepared in the school dining room and gym for myriad groups and agencies to display their information and answer questions: a credit union,

Silver City Surfers, Waste Aware Aberdeen, North East Scotland College among many others. There were clever juxtapositions; we were able to compare notes with the Friends of Sunnybank Park at the neighbouring table.

In the playground there was a bouncy castle, popular as always, face painting, popcorn, a refreshment tent, and tables and seats for picnicking. There were demonstrations of Tai Chi and Falun Gong. The Aberdeen Coastguard Search and Rescue Team and Police Scotland also

had a presence - the police car being a particular attraction. A community drumming group featured early in the proceedings, setting a festive mood, and a popular DJ taught dance moves.

While the main purpose was to entertain and inform the local community, the event also served to make groups such as the Friends of Seaton Park aware of the diversity and range of community-focused groups in Aberdeen. Martina Prout and her team should be justly proud of a meticulously planned event.





Cheerio: Alan Grant with his successor, Helen Gauld

Helen takes over at the top with Langstane Housing Association

The staff of the Seaton headquartered Langstane Housing Association are becoming even more focused on top-class service to its tenants in Aberdeen and across North-east Scotland.

New chief executive Helen Gauld took over the top job from Alan Grant just as a new three-year Business Plan was being developed with the priority “to make sure that we deliver excellent customer focused services.”

Helen has taken over the chief executive role from being the director of Housing & Property Services at Grampian Housing Association.

And she declared to tenants on joining Langstane: “Having spent 23 years delivering front-line housing services, I understand what matters to tenants. Your priorities and delivering excellent service will be at the heart of what we do.”

Although Perth-born, Helen was brought up in Aberchirder and joined the Clydesdale Bank

after leaving Banff Academy. She subsequently worked for Aberdeenshire Council and Moray District Council before joining Grampian Housing Association nine years ago as senior operations manager in Aberdeen.

The Langstane Housing Association portfolio ranges from Forres and Tomintoul in the north to Stonehaven and Laurencekirk in the south. In the financial year 2014-15, its turnover was £11 million. Its committee of management is chaired by Sandra Macdonald, from Aberdeen, who at one time was an Aberdeen City Councillor. The Association’s AGM is on September 22nd.

Langstane is committed to protecting and fostering community interests and is an adviser to Seaton Taking Action for Regeneration (STAR). Helen is now looking closely at further developing the Association’s links with the communities it serves.

Alan Grant retired after a 16-year stint as chief executive

of Langstane. He was one of the founding members of the Association and championed Langstane’s promise to provide good quality, affordable housing.

He realised that housing alone was not the solution and built up strong working relations with over 30 locally based organisations that provided support to its tenants and others in the communities it served.

The Association’s newsletter, Langstane News, declared: “Alan also campaigned for tenants’ rights and gave generously of his time and expertise to the community.”

It was Grant who took the major decision to build a sparkling new HQ in King Street on the site of the then HQ which had become unfit for purpose. That decision was a significant step in the regeneration effort in Seaton. The Association also undertook a housing development in School Road, Seaton.

Website: www.langstane-ha.co.uk



case study – Rebecca

Rebecca is in her late 50s and has been a regular learner with Silver City Surfers (SCS) since 2014. Rebecca travels two miles from Hilton to the Star Community Flat in Seaton every week for our Monday session at 11am.

Rebecca began with SCS as a beginner to computers and the Internet, wanting to learn how to email confidently. She felt the need to use email to keep in touch with friends and family. Rebecca does not have a computer or Internet at home and finds checking her email via Silver City Surfers and the library service very useful.

SCS tutors at the Star Flat helped her to use email independently - she really enjoys receiving emails from her daughter. Tutors also introduced her to the Internet. From there, she went on to use the Internet to engage with job recruitment sites, sell things online, shop online and to book flights and hotels herself.

Rebecca said: “The first time I managed to book flights I felt a

fantastic sense of achievement. I didn’t have to go to a travel agent and I saved money by doing it myself. Another exciting thing about booking flights was checking in online. It saved me time because I didn’t have to go to the airport so early and check in there. I went straight through to departures.”

Rebecca still needs help and support with using Microsoft Word for creating and editing her CV. The SCS tutors can help her and show her how to do this independently.

What Rebecca likes about SCS is that it not only provides free, weekly support on anything she needs help with, but she doesn’t need to have her own device - she can use the equipment at the Star Flat freely.

Rebecca said: “The Star Flat always makes me feel welcome. The tutors are friendly and very helpful, and you get a lovely cup of tea and a biscuit every time. There is a good bus service which stops very close to Seaton Drive and the Star Flat is a short

walk from it. Seaton Park is a short walk away and I sometimes go there after being at SCS, if it’s nice weather. Another good thing about SCS is that it’s open throughout the year, even on bank and local holidays. I have come a long way in a year and a half with the help of SCS and it’s allowed me to benefit from the online world. There is always something new I can learn with Silver City Surfers.”

Silver City Surfers is a small charity, which helps older people, aged over 55, with modern technology for free. SCS run five teaching and support sessions throughout the City of Aberdeen. SCS tutors are at The Star Community Flat, 14A Seaton Drive, Aberdeen, every Monday from 11am-1pm.

**For more information,
tel: 07799 371329 or email
silvercitysurfers@gmail.com
Silver City Surfers can
be found on Facebook
and Twitter**

Bring a picnic to Seaton ParkFest

and toast its outstanding success in 2015

- By Hamish Mackay -



Aberdeen's award-winning Seaton Park will next month be the venue for a major new localised attraction for the city – Seaton ParkFest: yet another memorable milestone in what has already been an extremely eventful year for the Park.

The 27-hectare Park, bought by Aberdeen City Council from the Hay family in 1947, and arguably the city's most stunningly beautiful natural park, is currently attracting substantial financial investment to even further enhance its attributes.

The Friends of Seaton Park (FOSP), a voluntary body founded three years ago, and dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Park, has been especially pro-active in working in partnership with Aberdeen City Council.

Now they are working together in staging Seaton ParkFest on Saturday, September 12 - from 1- 4pm: an outdoor event which is a pot-pourri, of festival, gala and open day - primarily aimed at entertaining and enlightening families and youngsters.

Sheila Gordon, chairperson of FOSP, explains: "On September 12 we invite everyone to help celebrate such an exciting and successful year. We will be joined by Aberdeen Play Forum and a

host of other attractions. There will be catering but, if you prefer, please bring a picnic and enjoy a good day out relaxing in the Park."

This year has so far been one of the most important periods in the history of the Park - following on its major role last year in Aberdeen's Gold Award triumph in the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom Awards.

To date £80,000 has been spent this year on a major upgrade and new equipment for the popular children's play area which will be officially opened during ParkFest. And plans are in hand to consider adding further new equipment for youngsters and, perhaps, some attractions for adults. The new equipment includes a bespoke high tower unit with tunnel chute, a bespoke toddler uni-play unit, and basket and cradle seat swings.

In June, Aberdeen City Council's finance committee, through an underspend, awarded £100,000 to the Friends of Seaton Park – funding which FOSP has earmarked for major refurbishment and repainting of the Park's famous resident steam engine, Mr Therm, and his three carriages; substantially upgrading the network of paths within the Park; and extensive sign posting and information boards.

FOSP secretary, Hamish Mackay, said he had sought assurances from the city council that the £100,000 would be spent entirely at the discretion of FOSP and this had been agreed. He added that transparency would be ensured by recording the spending of the £100,000 within FOSP's annual financial reporting system.

FOSP has also been given a sponsorship award, totalling £9000 over three years, by Aberdeen Harbour Trust's Community Action Fund. This will go towards the cost of refurbishing Mr Therm and his carriages which form the centre-piece of the children's play area.

The steam engine was built in Kilmarnock in 1946 and spent all his working life carrying coal from Aberdeen Harbour to the former Aberdeen gasworks – in the area where the ASDA store at the beachfront is now sited. He was bequeathed to Seaton Park in 1976 where he has delighted children (and grown-ups) ever since. Steam engine enthusiasts travel from all over the UK to visit this doughty piece of precision engineering.

During ParkFest, head gardener Derek McKay and his staff will informally speak to visitors who find their way to Cathedral Walk



Photo by Karl Sifotos



Photo by Hala Eladany



Volunteers, such as Friends of Seaton Park, are one in four of the adult population in Scotland. The Scottish Household Survey 2013 said that more than 1.25 million people gave up their time to help a good cause. The value of the estimated 162 million hours of help is reckoned to be worth more than 2.6 billion to the Scottish economy.



– the beautiful display of flower beds and manicured grass leading from St Machar’s Cathedral to the ornamental fountain which marks the spot where Seaton House once stood. And visitors should try and find their way to The Walled Garden with its splendid displays and quiet corners which is the secret area of the Park.

The River Don winds its way along the west of the Park – providing river walks and wildlife vistas. Follow the River Don path as it climbs into the woodland and you will come to the magnificent 14th century Brig O’ Balgownie.

Also taking part in ParkFest will be members of Aberdeen Kayak Club which has its permanent operational base within the Park. The club, founded in 1976, is one of the focal points for the development of canoe-sport in North-east Scotland.

It is primarily involved in recreational river paddling, on both quiet waters and the foaming rapids, and with the competitive discipline of slalom. The club has also been awarded funding by Aberdeen Harbour Trust’s Community Action Fund and is currently seeking additional funding towards enhancing its facilities within the Park.

Looking ahead, the currently flooded areas of the Park towards the Don Street entrance have been the subject of a survey and public consultation. Plans to fully drain the north side, and the present natural loch on the south side, to become a properly managed wetlands area that will attract a range of wildlife and have suitable planting, were due to come before an Aberdeen City Council committee for a decision on August 27.

The Park has also come under scrutiny by horticultural experts

this year. Sheila Gordon explained to Seaton Scene: “In August the Park was visited by the Scotland in Bloom judges and assessed by the It’s Your Neighbourhood judges.

“This is the first time we have been involved with the It’s Your Neighbourhood process for which the result will be known in October. All the improvements and assessments will help in our endeavours to gain the coveted Green Flag status in 2016.”

For more information about Friends of Seaton Park (FOSP) and how to join it please go to:- www.seatonpark.oldaberdeen.org.uk or, mail to: seatonpark@oldaberdeen.org.uk

FOSP, in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, has newly produced two free leaflets in colour – “Seaton Park Guide” and “Seaton Park Nature”. which are being distributed locally.



MOVE MORE

and feel better

People with cancer can Move More and feel better in Seaton

Move More Aberdeen is a free physical activity service, delivered by Sport Aberdeen, for people affected by cancer. Anyone diagnosed with cancer, at any stage of their treatment can benefit from being more active. Evidence tells us it can reduce fatigue, increase fitness, and improve quality of life. It can even help treatments to work better and reduce the risk of cancers coming back.

"The staff and volunteers are so warm and friendly and helpful"

"The session has a great vibe about it!"

Seaton residents have access to a variety of Move More Aberdeen physical activity groups on their doorstep. These are gentle movement groups, walking groups and circuits classes. All of these activities have been designed specifically to help people affected by cancer. They are led by trained volunteers and exercise professionals with cancer rehabilitation training.

"Thank you for the opportunity to participate and chance to improve my fitness and wellbeing."

"The session has a great vibe about it!"

The nearest groups are based at the Beach Leisure Centre. Participants can get involved in gentle movement classes, circuits and a walk group at this venue.

To find out more call your local Move More Coordinator on **01224 577729** or email movemore@sportaberdeen.co.uk

Here is what some of our participants have said about Move More Aberdeen:

"I am really enjoying the circuits group - it's exactly what I was looking for. I like the different exercises and the varying degrees of difficulty that you can opt for."

Try vertical gardening to save space – you can do this indoors and outdoors by hanging things on the wall.

You can be really creative with old bottles and jars, even lightbulbs. You can hang these on walls or use them as planters and it's a great way to save space if you only have a small space to use.

Urban Gardening top tips

WWW

There are some really useful websites to help you make the most of your green space.

www.rhs.org.uk

The Royal Horticultural Society website is a good starting point and provides basic information on how to get started.

www.snh.gov.uk

The Scottish Natural Heritage website gives an overview of greenspaces and wildlife in gardens and allotments in your area. It also includes information leaflets on gardening for butterflies and birds.

Uk.pinterest.com

Pinterest is a great resource if you are looking for creative ideas to get going with urban gardening ideas. You can use various types of materials in small spaces, both indoors and outdoors.

More locally, the Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre are happy to help with any gardening queries you may have. For more information you can contact:

biodiversity@abdn.ac.uk

Wild bees and other pollinators are in decline.

To do your bit for the environment you should plan nectar and pollen rich plants to encourage pollinators to return and ensure we have an abundance of fruit and vegetable crops.



Use
recycled
materials

You can use recycled materials to create bird feeders and bug boxes. It's a great way of attracting a variety of wild life to your green space.

Cream of Potato Soup

Ingredients

2 tablespoons of olive oil

1 medium onion

2 large (600g) potatoes, chopped

3 cups (750ml) chicken stock

160ml cream

Method

Heat oil in a pan.

Add chopped onion and cook on a low heat.

Stir the onion to prevent sticking and cook until the onion is soft.

Add the potatoes and stock, bring to boil and then simmer for 20 minutes.

Use a hand blender and blend until smooth.

Return to the heat and add cream.

Gently reheat without boiling.

The soup can be served as it is or with a swirl of cream added to each plateful.

Serve with some garlic croutons or with some nice crusty bread.

Handy tip – this soup is suitable for freezing and can be defrosted and heated in a microwave.

Murdo's words of wisdom

Live without

PRETENDING

Love without

DEPENDING

Listen without

DEFENDING

Seaton Speaks without

OFFENDING

Seaton Primary Pupils Past and Present

There is a Facebook group for past and present pupils from Seaton Primary School. They're looking for people to get involved and share their memories of Seaton and the school.

Angela Matthew, a Seaton resident who founded the group said: "It was set up by me due to another Seaton Primary page ran by an ex pupil being discontinued. It was a way of keeping everyone that went to Seaton Primary or was attending

there to keep in touch, find old school pals, share old school photos etc. It also became a page to talk about Seaton and the people who live and have lived there. We don't really do events but we did have a Seaton School Reunion a couple of years back. I believe there is another one maybe going to happen."

To find out more search for Seaton Primary Pupils Past and Present on Facebook.

Plee for Community Council in Seaton

Are you interested in having a Community Council in the Seaton area? A resident has been in touch with the Seaton Scene editorial team to try and spread the idea of setting up a Community Council for Seaton.

What are Community Councils?

Community Councils are established by Local Authorities as set out in the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. Community Councillors are all volunteers who have an interest in their local area and who have been elected by their local communities. They are statutory consultees on planning and licensing matters for their area.

"In addition to any other purpose which a Community Council may pursue, the general purpose of a Community Council shall be to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for which those authorities are responsible, and to take such

action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable.'

Who can be a Community Councillor?

Anyone who lives in the area and is on the electoral register can be a Community Councillor. Applicants must be 18 years or over. There are also two additional places for young members who are 16 or 17 years old.

How do you establish a Community Council?

The elections for all Community Councils across Aberdeen City are due to be held around October this year.

Application forms will be available from 3 September 2015. The deadline for submitting a nomination form is 1 October 2015. If you are interested in becoming a Community Councillor or want to find out more, please contact the Community Council Liaison Officer on **01224 522723** or email communitycouncils@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Outdoor Learning at the Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre

We recently recruited a new member of staff, Vicky, who will be working with young people, teachers and community groups to deliver outdoor and environmental education using the resources at Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre (ABC). Here she tells us a bit about her role, and what she gets up to.

As an Assistant Education Officer I will be focussing on using outdoor learning to help young people and local community groups connect with nature and green spaces, and learn more about the environment and biodiversity within them. It's fantastic to have the opportunity to further develop the use of the beautiful Cruickshank Botanic Gardens, which I think are a perfect learning resource for this purpose. It will be good to create new opportunities for our local communities to use the gardens, as well as looking for opportunities to help them look after green spaces in their local area. Having originally trained as a primary teacher, I'm a big believer that the outdoors offers a unique learning environment allowing children to develop skills which are not as easy to develop in a classroom. It's an excellent environment for them to build on their problem-solving skills to overcome challenges and develop resilience, and also to deepen their understanding of the natural world by experiencing it first-hand. Being a big lover of the outdoors, I am definitely

an advocate of this, and enjoy hobbies such as hill walking and cycling in my spare time. I'm hoping that during my time in post I will be able to inspire people in our local communities to develop an interest in being outdoors and connecting with nature and green spaces, and reap the benefits of this.

I have really enjoyed my first few months in post, which has given me the opportunity to take part in delivering some of our CPD courses to primary teachers, and it's been really rewarding to get positive feedback from teachers who have felt the courses have built their confidence in teaching science. I have also thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a few of the annual calendar of events we participate in, such as the May Festival and Night at the Museums. They were both a lot of fun and really gave the Centre a chance to shine. I have settled in well to working with the team at the ABC who are a dedicated, supportive bunch, and have been out and about meeting the partners we work with at various events and meetings who are also very supportive of the work we do and I look forward to working with them on projects in the future.

My colleague Liz and I are also going to be doing our leadership training for the John Muir Award, which is an environmental award that encourages people of all backgrounds to connect, enjoy

and care for wild places. We are hoping that we can offer it in the grounds of Cruickshank. We are fortunate to have such a beautiful green space right in the city centre and it seems like an ideal opportunity to give people in our local communities the chance to enjoy and appreciate a green space on their doorstep. I'll be looking for interested individuals and groups to participate in this, so please do get in touch if this is something you would be interested in.

I'm currently very excited about a few outdoor learning projects we have coming up involving our local communities. We attended the Tillydrone Gala Day, where we had a stall on urban gardening and how to attract wildlife to green spaces. We did an activity on how to make bird feeder with a lemon rind, which was a hit with the kids, and also took along a few items from our collection so people could find out more about what we do. It was great to see so many people in our local community really interested in what we do, especially when we came across some people who didn't know much about the Centre and that it was open to the public. I have also made a link with the community in Donside who are keen for us to work with them on their community gardening project I'm really looking forward to getting the chance to get to know the community better.

shmu Annual BBQ

SHMU held its annual BBQ on Saturday the 8th of August and the Seaton Scene team had a great time. The sun shone for one of the few days of the summer that Scotland seems to be allocated. Jacqui, who presents Cumming North on a Monday morning did a fantastic job manning the BBQ stand and making sure everyone was well fed so well done her.

The BBQ is held every year to say thank you to our volunteers for all the fantastic work they do throughout the year, whether they are involved in the radio aspect, community magazines, youth media or any of our music projects.

If you would live in a regeneration area and would like to get involved in volunteering at SHMU you can contact Denise on 01224 515013 to chat about the various possibilities.

Danielle said: "Nice afternoon with the sun shining and was great to see everyone all together"

Michaela said: "Great fun, lots of laughter and a great group of people there to have fun with"

Dave said: "Great day and thanks to Jacqui Innes and Simon Gall who kept everyone fed.....thanks to all who organised it"



Photo by Reneé Slater

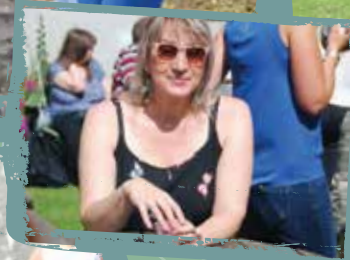


Photo by Reneé Slater





Seaton Park lies in the north east of Aberdeen, and with the River Don as its west boundary, it is the most rural of the city's parks.

In recent years, areas within the park have continued to flood, despite attempts at drainage. A recent public consultation by Aberdeen City Council and CEBC Eco Engineering Ltd in partnership with Walking the Talk, confirmed that the public support a planned area of managed wetlands to the south of the main park entrance, with the playing fields to the north being completely drained.

The mixed habitat of the park attracts a wide variety of wildlife. The wetland area, mostly referred to as the loch, draws gulls, mallards, swans, sandpipers, snipe and the occasional curlew. The trees on the south path to St Machar's Cathedral are home to woodpecker, and roe deer can be seen here in the early morning and later in the evenings. In

spring, the Long Walk, (the formal garden which stretches from below St Machar's Cathedral to the fountain), is seeded and planted with annuals which attract honey bees, butterflies and hover flies. Bull finches, long tailed tits and small garden birds are also seen here.

Peace, quiet contemplation, and shelter from a flinty northern wind, can be found in the Park's three walled gardens. The azaleas show particularly well in April and May.

On Walkers' Haugh, the high path which leads from the Park to Nether Don and the Brig O' Balgownie, there have been sightings of red squirrel, which is most encouraging so near to the city. Access to the river on the lower path is good, and sightings of dippers, goosander, goldeneye, teal, heron and otters will reward patience. The famous Harlequin duck, blown south it is thought, from Iceland, favours the reaches of rapid water

upstream of the kayak course, but can be seen occasionally on half submerged rocks near the gardeners' bothy.

Work on paths from the Don Estuary to Persley Bridge via the Donside Urban Village continues and will give walkers and bird and nature watchers further amenity. The peripheral paths within Seaton Park are mostly in need of repair, and it will be a consolation to many folk to learn that the funds for path upgrades in Aberdeen's parks come from the City Council's Bus Lane Fines' Pot.

Friends of Seaton Park, working with the City Council and other agencies are quietly confident that the work to create a managed wetland in Seaton Park will begin in 2015.

This is a happy turn-around from previous concerns that the Park may close.

Visit Friends of Seaton Park at www.oldaberdeen.org.uk/



TILLYDRONE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

breathing life back into the Wallace Tower



The Tillydrone Community Development Trust was established to deliver community led sustainable regeneration projects in the area. Although the Wallace Tower sits very close to Tillydrone, it is in actual fact an impressive gateway to Seaton Park. After a community consultation in 2012, renovating the Wallace Tower and regenerating the wider area of that sleepy sliver of Seaton Park leading towards St Machar's Cathedral became a focus. After three years of careful design and planning we have successfully received planning permission and listed building consent to breathe new life into the ancient building.

The Tillydrone Community Development Trust have released the artist's impressions for the renovation of the Wallace Tower. The Trust has made every effort to get the design right in order to both respect the quality and

integrity of the building and its listed status, and allow us to feasibly bring the Tower back into long term use. Plans include a two-storey glass extension with adjoining link to the tower which will be a perfect space for viewing the idyllic River Don Valley and ideal for artists, photographers and wildlife enthusiasts. The community cafe will be located on the ground floor of the original building and extension and will offer a range of refreshments and lunch. The first floor will be transformed into a flexible community space, to accommodate community activities, meetings and exhibitions with the second floor being designed to lease to two small businesses/offices as well.

The Trust believes it has struck a delicate balance with the plans to offer something for everyone, local families from areas like Tillydrone and Seaton and

groups, as well as university students and tourists to the area. We are still long ways off turning our vision into a reality as we are about to embark on the production of our Wallace Tower business case before we restart our fundraising campaign for capital funding.

We also have not yet announced our exciting plans for the surrounding area to make that part of the park an iconic destination. This can all be achieved more speedily if we have as many members as possible getting involved so if you are interested to get involved and help transform a sleepy part of Seaton Park into a unique visitor destination in Aberdeen and across the region, please get in touch by emailing tcddt@mail.com or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TillydroneCommunityDevelopmentTrust

