

seatonscene

Summer 2018



In this issue:

FRIENDS OF SEATON PARK

SHEILA STRACHAN MBE

ABERDEEN KAYAK CLUB

Front cover picture by Jim Splaine,
an otter rests on the River Don.

www.shmu.org.uk/press

contents

- 3 Community News
- 4 Kevin Stewart
- 5 Seaton Linksfield Network
- 6 Please Don't Feed My Pet
- 7 Lord Hay's Court
- 8 Otters in the River Don
- 10 Sheila Strachan
- 11 FOSP
- 12 Community Orchard
- 13 Aberdeen Kayak Club
- 14 shmu
- 15 PTPP

Seaton Learning Centre



Seaton Learning 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 the STAR Flat at 14A Seaton Drive on Fridays at 12.30pm and you are very welcome to attend in what is a very informal setting. In planning our next issue, we will meet on the following dates:

First meeting – 5th October

Second meeting – 19th October

Content deadline – 2nd November

Proof – 9th November

Seaton Community Centre Key Contact Information

Tel: 01224 277927

Graham Donald – Community Development Officer

grdonald@aberdeencity.gov.uk

01224 277930 / 07917305803

Marion Watson – Community Development Worker

MarioWatson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

01224 277930 / 07789273615

Seaton Recovery Project

Mon / Wed / Thur

Nick McKenzie

NiMcKenzie@aberdeencity.gov.uk

01224 277819

Supported by



SEATON PAST AND PRESENT

Angela Matthew is the founder and proprietor of the very engaging and evocative Facebook page "Seaton Past and Present" which is currently proving a big hit with more than 1100 members in its group.

Angela, a lively, jolly lady who hides innate shyness behind an outwardly confident personality, is the ideal person with all the right credentials to run such a specialised Facebook page when she explains: "I grew up in Seaton and have lived in two of the multi-storeys and also on Seaton Road at one time. I attended Seaton Primary School and Linksfild Academy and my workplace is also in Seaton."

She set up the Seaton Primary Past and Present Pupils Facebook page away back in March 2013 and explains: "There was already a Seaton Primary School Facebook running but it wasn't being used, so I set up my one for people who attended Seaton Primary School in the past and present."

"Initially we just added photographs of Seaton Primary School pupils

and pictures of the school itself. However, members of the group began adding photographs relevant to living in Seaton. So, I changed the name to Seaton Past and Present. Members have posted old photographs of themselves and friends or neighbours from Seaton, and some have even found old friends through our Facebook page.

"We currently have 1100 members in the group and I would love for our members to add people they know who live or have lived in Seaton at some point. We also have several teachers and former teachers from Seaton Primary School in the group. We had a reunion for former pupils of a certain age a few years back which was organised through the group. It was a great success and we had a fantastic evening.

"I think it's amazing looking at old pictures from members who post them and would love for more people to follow suit. If members don't have the facilities or the technical know-how to



post pictures, could they please contact me through our Facebook page and I can arrange to get the photographs onto the site for them.

"We have hundreds of photographs to look through, and I hope that members enjoy viewing them. Please join our group and add pictures or memories and invite friends too."

Angela, who has a son, aged 30, also runs the Aberdeen in Colour (which has 16,700 members) and Aberdeenshire in Colour Facebook pages along with her partner Andy Rudgley. She is imbued with a splendid community spirit and is one of those folks who make Seaton just that bit special.

Robert Gordon's College pupils much enjoy shining a spotlight on STAR

Asiya Shrestha

YPI stands for Youth Philanthropy Initiative - aimed at getting the younger generation involved with charities and helping them to realise how important charities are to those people who need them the most.

Groups of S4 of Robert Gordon's College took part in a Youth Philanthropy Initiative. Each group had to choose a charity to represent and our group were instantly attracted to the Seaton Taking Action for Regeneration (STAR) Flat in Seaton Drive.

We visited the STAR Flat and we learned so much! On the Monday, STAR's administrator,

Gillian Urquhart, gave us a guided tour of the flat, followed by some members of our group attending the Sewing Club.

On Tuesday we attended the Cookery Class and met up with some new faces who explained how beneficial the flat was to them. Come Wednesday we returned to the flat with a mission to organise the meeting room. This was a fun, hands-on experience which we found really rewarding. Additionally, it made us feel happy to know that if we didn't succeed in the final, we knew that we had helped out in some small way.



Friday was the day of the finals. And although we didn't progress beyond the heats, each member of our team was satisfied they had given it their all. We are extremely grateful to the STAR flat management team for allowing us the opportunity to represent them and thank them for being so friendly towards us.



Spruce Up Seaton

Members of the Seaton and Linksfield Community Network and local Councillor Alex McLellan met up on Sunday the 15th of July to take part in a community clean up. We started at the corner of Bayview Court and walked the ground as far as Beachview Court, collecting rubbish along the way. Aberdeen City Council supplied us with litter pickers and bags. We also managed to collect two black boxes and two white bags of recycling during the clean up which was disposed of safely and correctly as part of the event.

We had cleaned up the playgroup between Northsea and Aulton Courts and asked ACC to empty the bin at the playgroup on a more regular basis. After we had finished the clean up event we felt a sense of pride knowing that we have done something to improve the area and hope this encourages more Seaton residents to do the same.

With this being the first event that the Seaton and Linksfield Community Network have held we want to carry on and learn from what we have done. We hope to do more community events and hope that even more Seaton residents get involved.

OUR POLITICAL PROFILE: KEVIN STEWART MSP

Kevin has proud record of more than 20 years' service at peak of public life

Hamish Mackay

Kevin Stewart has looked after the interests of Seaton and Linksfield folk at Holyrood in Edinburgh as their member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) for the Aberdeen Central ward since 2011. And along with his notable service as a councillor on Aberdeen City Council (ACC), he has notched up more than 20 years' service in public life in Aberdeen and across Scotland.

Elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2011, Kevin has achieved status and increased recognition on a national level when he was made a government minister in 2016 - continuing a long and proud record of Aberdeen politicians who have served as ministers in the Scottish Government at Holyrood or the UK Government at Westminster.

Kevin's current role in the Scottish Government is Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning. That role within government includes housing, local government, planning, building standards, Business Improvement Districts, community planning, homelessness, regeneration and fuel poverty - widely accepted as one of the most challenging and demanding jobs in Scottish political life.

Kevin, a dapper, kenspeckle figure, with a sparky and engaging personality, is very proud that he is a born and bred Aberdonian who served as a local councillor

in his home city for more than 13 years. Whilst serving as a councillor, Kevin was the Depute Leader of Aberdeen City Council, and chaired the Finance and Resources Committee and NESTRANS, the Regional Transport Partnership.

His proudest achievement on ACC during that time was serving as the chair of the 3Rs Board,

which delivered ten new schools for Aberdeen, including the extensive refurbishment of Seaton Primary School, the new Seaton Community Centre and a new sub-station for Grampian Police (now Police Scotland). And during his time on ACC, he was

a tireless champion of the city's seven regeneration areas which, of course, includes Seaton and Linksfield.

Kevin has a very keen interest in the history of Aberdeen and it was at his instigation that the city now has its own statue of Robert the Bruce to commemorate the granting of the Freedom Lands to Aberdeen which led to the founding of the Common Good Fund. The statue is in Broad Street, outside Mariscal College.

**** In this three-part series Seaton Scene is profiling our current political representatives at Holyrood and Westminster. In subsequent issues we will feature Kirsty Blackman, MP, and Lewis Macdonald, MSP.***



SEATON LINKSFIELD COMMUNITY NETWORK

Alan Parker

The Seaton and Linksfield Community Network has been established, with a committee regularly meeting to consider issues affecting life in the area. We discuss ideas to address concerns and liaise with council officers to plan and organise events to improve life for everybody in Seaton and Linksfield.

A consultation event was held earlier this year, with people asked to give their thoughts on various aspects of life in the area, good and bad. The results of this consultation guide our work. It might come as a surprise that there were positive comments, with GP surgeries particularly being singled out for praise.

To get a clear idea of the range of comments all kinds of Excel magic was performed on the list, with the dog mess blighting our community coming in first place. Other issues highlighted included traffic speeds, the condition of Seaton's pavements and trees, litter and transport across the city.

Clearly there is a large amount of work that needs to be done to address all the issues, but the Seaton and Linksfield Community Network is definitely up for the task. One community event has already been completed, a litter collection that significantly improved the area, with others being planned. As an aside, did you know that Aberdeen City Council spends close to £4million a year picking up litter.

We met with council officials and raised the issue of Seaton's trees. They explained they are dealing with a serious Dutch Elm Disease problem across the city, and currently have to concentrate all their resources on this. There is potential for the infected trees to fall without urgent work so, whilst some of the trees in Seaton can be regarded as a nuisance, the danger posed by infected trees presents a greater threat to life and limb and, as such, is treated as a priority. Rest assured we will keep on top of this and get things moving as soon as possible.

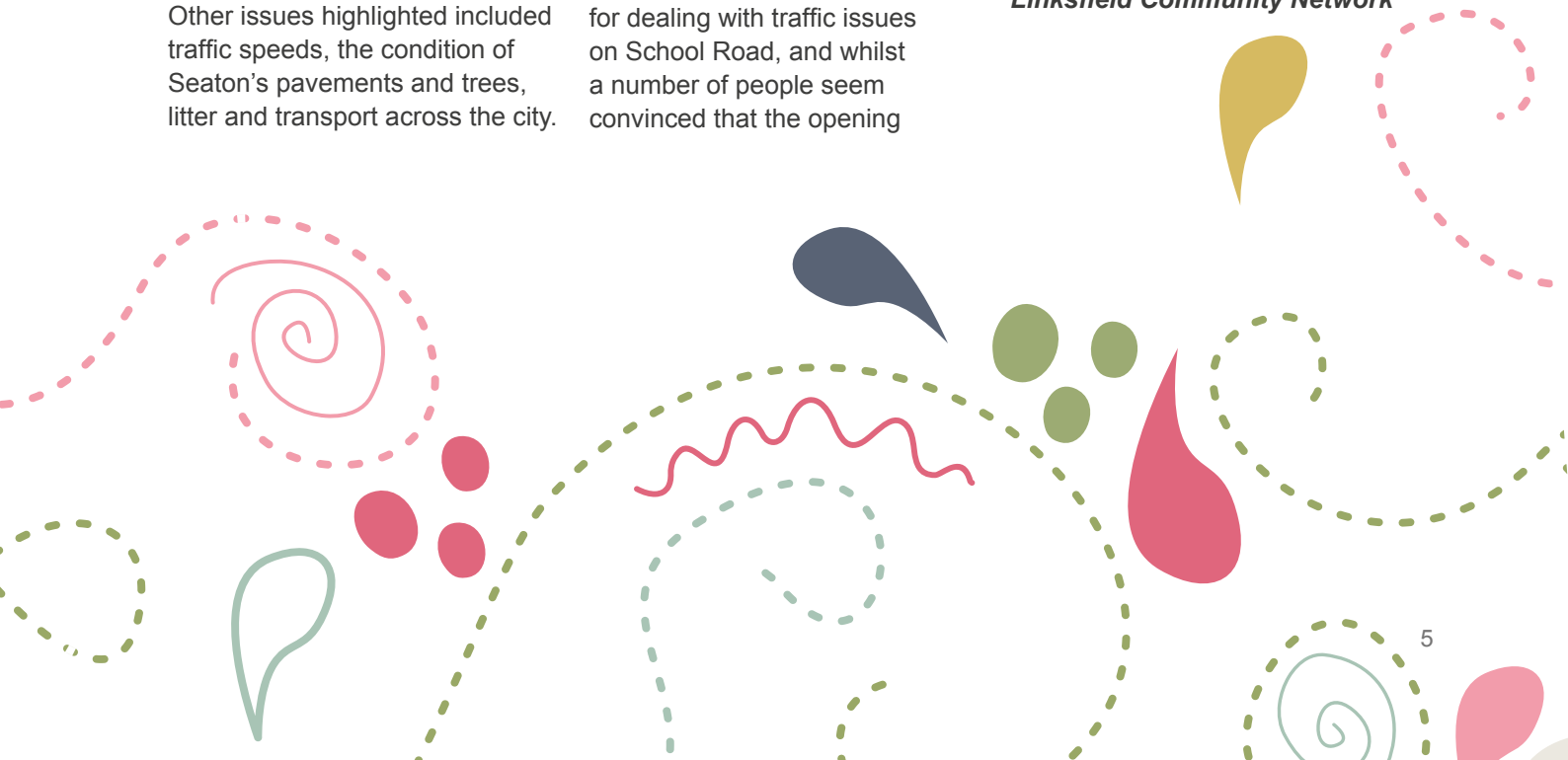
We also put forward suggestions for dealing with traffic issues on School Road, and whilst a number of people seem convinced that the opening

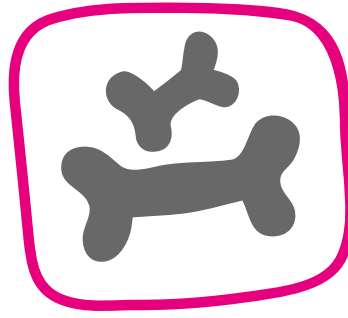
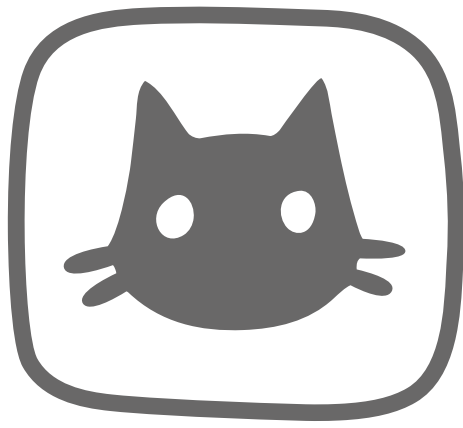
of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route will see a drop in the number of heavy lorries using the route, we remain to be convinced. We are already planning to work with Police Scotland, the council and other organisations to tackle the dangers created by inconsiderate driving in the area.

It is a credit to all committee members that we have achieved so much in a short space of time, but we've really just scratched the surface. To genuinely make Seaton the outstanding area it can be will take more people, and that's where you can help. We're not looking for more committee members at the moment, but help with community events, like Spruce up Seaton, will mean we can achieve more.

To find out more about how you can help improve Seaton and Linksfield, and see the full consultation findings, join us at Seaton Community Centre on 11th October. 5-7pm. Refreshments will be available.

Alan Parker is chair of Seaton Linksfield Community Network





PLEASE DON'T FEED MY PET



Alan Parker

Millie's something of a local celebrity after her photo appeared in the last Seaton Scene, or so she says. Since our sneak-in theft she continues to be wary of new people in the house, and still runs away when the doorbell rings, but in all she's a much happier cat. Mostly.

I recently came home to find she had barfed several times while I was out. She looked like she had just got in from a fabulous night out, totally dishevelled, and for a cat that drinks little she was guzzling from her water bowl, hangover style. Whilst really cute her bright red nose was another sign that things were not right. Thinking she was possibly dehydrated, having enjoyed the sunshine of the Seaton Riviera the day before, I explored the PDSA website symptoms checker, not wanting to disturb the vet unnecessarily.

A pop-up with bright red lettering jumped onto my screen, urging me to contact the vet immediately. As it was 6:15 no vet was available, but arrangements were made for

the emergency vet to get back to me. Long story short, Millie needed to be examined and I faced the prospect of a six limbed wrestling match to get her into her carrier. She had a different idea, peacefully walking in with absolutely no struggle. She really was unwell.

Suffering the indignities of the examination with more grace than she has ever displayed at the vet, Millie was given medications and the all-clear, but not before having one more disgrace heaped upon her. The scales were placed on the table.

I was looking forward to being told she was at least closer to her target weight, knowing I had been carefully monitoring her diet, measuring out daily rations. How wrong I was. She was the same weight as a year ago.

Cats being the infamous moochers they are, it was suggested that she might be getting food elsewhere and given her sensitive stomach it's possible she became unwell because somebody else had given her something to eat.

Wandering around Seaton I have overheard passionate arguments about not feeding another's pet, so it's not just Millie at risk

Let's face it one of the fun parts of cat, or dog ownership is their reaction to being given treats, but the responsibility of feeding anything to a pet is the owners alone. Giving treats to somebody else's pet without permission can risk that animal's health and well-being, potentially causing distressing, life-threatening illnesses that could plague the pet for the rest of their life.

If you are giving treats to other people's pets without permission please stop. Doubtless you will be doing more harm than good. If you enjoy this aspect of pet ownership have you looked into adopting one yourself? Mrs Murray's is a short walk away, and they are happy to introduce you and your furbaby. It can be stressful when they are unwell, but I highly recommend it.

In the meantime, please don't feed somebody else's pet without permission.



Wellbeing Spotlight on Gardening at Lord Hays Court

What a beautiful sight the garden and area around Lord Hays Court is just now. It really is blooming! The handiwork is thanks to Hilda Farman and Janice Hutchinson along with Meg Turner, who are residents in the building. The time, energy and money which has gone into transforming the space has been significant, with monies and help coming from various sources including a Small Sparks grant, a STAR Flat grant and donations from Aberdeen City Council's garden maintenance team. There are a huge range of bedding plants, an array of hanging baskets and multiple high planters which make the buildings entrance so much more appealing and colourful!

When asked about his involvement in the project, Mike Chalmers from Aberdeen City Council said: "I was initially asked to visit Janice and Hilda early last year to give some advice about creating a garden area at the front of Lord Hays Court. When I arrived, they had already made a

start and had some good plans of their own on how the area could be improved but being such a small group the heavy work of removing turf and cultivating the ground ready for planting was taking time, so I offered to help with the preparation work and was able to donate a number of plants from our nursery that were going spare.

The ladies' enthusiasm kept growing and we decided that some planters around the front of the building would make a big difference, so I provided a few and left it for the group to do the planting and to maintain them throughout the year, which they have done to a very high standard. Hanging baskets have now been added to the area and it is looking really good. I will continue to assist the group where ever I can to allow them to achieve this and any other plans they have in the future".

Janice Hutchinson who has lived in the building for a couple of

years is delighted at the progress they have made and rather than vandalism, there has been great appreciation of the work that has gone in from fellow residents and locals.

Janice and Hilda have also been successful in securing monies from Community Gardening Aberdeen to do more including growing vegetables and there is a plan to add a seating area to the front entrance. And so the project continues. Well done everyone!

The Wellbeing Team are based in Aberdeen and are keen to help spread the word about what activities, services and opportunities are available for older adults and how you can get involved in your community.

Are you part of a community group who would like to know more about Wellbeing? Call us on 01224 522270 or email wellbeing@aberdeencity.gov.uk



OTTERS SIMPLY LOVING LIFE IN THE RIVER DON

Ian Talboys

Otters are one of our more charismatic wildlife species that has shown a dramatic increase in numbers and range in the last 10 years... and our rivers in Aberdeen are home to a thriving population both in the River Don and the River Dee.

Even some of the smaller burns now support otters, maybe just for foraging or for part of the year but signs of them have been seen along the Denburn near the Den of Maidencraig Local Nature Reserve.

In many places otters are extremely secretive and difficult to spot as they can be sensitive to disturbance. However, along the River Don the otters seem to have become accustomed to people and are seen regularly. They are often to be spotted anywhere between Donmouth and the Diamond Bridge or further upstream.

Otters are excellent swimmers and can travel a long way underwater as they hunt for prey which includes fish, frogs and even shellfish. Otters are not always popular with anglers as they compete for the same fish!

Often the first sign of an otter is the splash as they dive under water or re-appear on the surface, or as they jump into the water from the bank.

If you are looking out for otters, keep an eye on the boulders in the middle of the river where they often rest or eat their fish. They will also rest on the banks of the river but are usually very difficult to spot there. They can be easy to spot as they swim along the river too.

Many local wildlife photographers have captured some fantastic images of the River Don otters.

Look out on some of the local social media sites to enjoy them.

Our local wildlife photographers, familiar contributors to Seaton Scene, include Andy Coventry, Gordon Grieve, and Jim and Rosemary Splaine. Andy recently staged an exhibition in Powis Community Centre to celebrate and raise the awareness of otters. It also put the spotlight on World Otter Day on May 30.

Otters need your help!

The International Otter Survival Fund is based in Broadford, Isle of Skye. It exists to conserve all of the world's 13 species of otters and its head of operations is Dr Paul Yoxon. Its contact points include: Tel ++(0)1471 822 487; website: www.otter.org; and email: enquiries@otter.org



Photos By: Jim Splaine



Sheila Strachan MBE

Alan Grant

"If you want to know what is going on in Seaton, go to Sheila Strachan's house". That was the advice given to Rev Elsie Fortune when she first came to the parish, and which she shared with us at Sheila's funeral.

It was good advice! Sheila spent most of her long life in Seaton, married to Jim and bringing up a lively family. And throughout, she always showed her interest in the people of Seaton and what was going on in the community. It seemed to many of us that there was hardly an organisation in this very busy community which had not benefitted from Sheila's guidance and input.

It is hard for those of us who only knew her in the last few years to do justice to the range of her activities and commitment. But we shall remember the old Seaton Partnership, the creation of STAR and of course the management of the STAR Flat, which has proved such a great community asset.

Sheila was the driving force which led to the setting up of Seaton Community Enterprise and was its Chairperson from its establishment in 1991 until she died. It was a huge disappointment to her that the business met hard times and that the nursery had to close

in January of this year. But she could take great pride in what had been achieved till then. The nursery itself had provided high quality child care for many years as well as giving employment and training to many local people. The After School Club had provided a much needed facility for children and their families, and the old Lunch Club was a great place for the older residents of Seaton to meet and catch up with the news!

And of course, Seaton Community Enterprise, despite its difficulties in the last couple of years, raised a lot of money for STAR to use to support community projects.

So there is no doubt that Seaton has lost a great servant, with a lot of fingers in a lot of pies. And many of us feel we have lost a good friend. We shall miss her friendly presence. As Elsie said, we went round to Sheila Strachan's house to find out what was going on! There was always a welcome, and a cup of coffee on the go! All her friends will miss her, but not as much as her family. Jim died last year and Sheila's health was never quite right after that. Our thoughts and prayers are with her large family of son, daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



It was a privilege for me to conduct the celebration of the life of Mrs Sheila Strachan's MBE. To see so many people at her Service on the 5th July showed how highly regarded and loved she was, such a focal point in the community and so central to the life of her dear family and the folks living around her. Sheila worked so hard here as she did all her life, so genuine, generous, such a people's person. Her life yes – not an easy one by any means but filled with such good things and such good people. Alan and Nancy have set their thoughts down in such a special way. We all have our own special memories of Sheila which we will hold close to us for all time. Sheila lived for those she loved and those she loved will always remember. We will indeed Sheila.

God Bless you all in the days ahead.

Elsie
Rev. Elsie J Fortune

The Seaton community has lost a great person in Sheila Strachan MBE. Sheila did so much for the people of Seaton, namely the pensioners and the Kinder kids. She was involved in so many communities, namely helping the young and old. She was always organising bus trips to Blackpool or Glasgow or Dundee. She would go out of her way to help if she could. Blackpool trips started over 20 years ago which we all had a great time on. She became involved with the STAR Flat which she was president of for many years. I have lost a true friend

Nancy Bain



FRIENDS OF SEATON PARK: SUMMER 2018 ROUND UP



It's been a busy summer in the park,
here are some highlights

July:



We had long wanted to paint a mural on the wall of the Gardener's bothy. An offer from Seaton Community Centre Art History Group was too good to turn down. We are extremely grateful to the staff at Seaton Community Centre (Graham and Nick) and the class leader Graeme). Also, class members and members of the general public who turned up week after week. Paint was sourced by the Aberdeen City Council Area Supervisor, Andy Kinghorn, and other equipment such as brushes and rollers came from various sources. We were a motley crew. We quickly learnt to wear the same clothes for painting days as they gradually got more and more paint splattered. This was a totally new experience for most of us and it was so much fun. It was great to see the wall go from being grey and boring to a multi coloured masterpiece over the weeks. Well done everyone.

The Participatory Budget exercise, also known as UDecide, which was held in Spring of 2017, awarded us funds to install a table tennis table. This was exciting but daunting. The practicalities overcame us during 2017 but by early 2018 we had decided the location and liaised with Aberdeen City council. Remember to bring your own bats and balls and please have fun using the table.

Perhaps the best July news was retention of our Green Flag. Worth all the hard work to see our Green Flag flying above the play area.



August:

The Britain in Bloom judges visited the park in early August. Seaton Park is part of the Aberdeen City council submission. The judges tour various projects throughout the city, ending at Seaton Park for a tour of the Wetland area and a walk up the formal garden to the Cathedral where a cuppa and a fine piece are laid on.

Also, in August is a visit from the Its Your Neighbourhood Assessors. This visit looks at the projects which FoSP have undertaken and is a very informal visit. However, we do hope to get similar marks to last year – 95% and a rating of “Outstanding”.

Later in August the Great Aberdeen Run was routed through the park. What a great opportunity to showcase our wonderful park.

September:

Sadly, we won't be having ParkFest this year. There were too many challenges for us so we reluctantly decided to cancel the event. We hope to be back next year with this popular event. However, we really need the assistance of more people on the organising committee. So, if you'd be interested in helping us in 2019, please get in touch at chairoffosp@gmail.com

During 2018, we have made a special effort to keep the park free of litter. Many, many thanks to all the individuals and groups who have helped. Also thank you to Aberdeen City Council for the professional litter pickers and big bins to put litter in. We really appreciate that most people put their litter in a bin or takes it home. And to everyone else – please do the same!



NEW COMMUNITY ORCHARD IN SEATON PARK

Margaret Sleeman

The orchard is one of three major planting projects undertaken by the Friends of Seaton Park in partnership with Aberdeen City Council to commemorate the 70th anniversary in 2017 of the purchase by the city of the land that would become Seaton Park. In proposing the scheme, we had in mind not only the provision of unsprayed fruit for the public, but also the enhancement of the park's biodiversity, for fruit tree blossoms will feed pollinating insects.

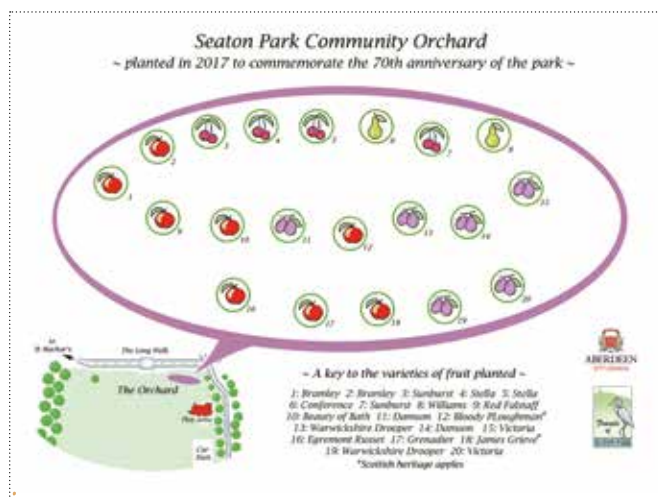
The varieties to be planted were chosen by the Friends, taking

into account pollination partners as necessary. We decided on apples, pears, plums and cherries, and chose varieties known to do well in the North of Scotland. A couple of Scottish heritage apples were included, James Grieve and Bloody Ploughman, the latter so named as it has crimson streaks in its flesh.

The twenty trees, full standard size, were planted in late February 2017 with the help of Council staff. The event was enlivened by the appearance of the Primary 2 class from St

Peter's School who happened to be in the park. They enjoyed watching and helping out, some of them digging and shoveling enthusiastically! We hope that they and others will watch the trees grow and enjoy them and, in time, their produce.

[The Friends of Seaton Park would like to thank the following officers from Aberdeen City Council for their advice and help: Richard Nicholson, Ian Talboys, and Mike Chalmers.]



ABERDEEN KAYAK CLUB'S FOUR YEARS OF HARD WORK REAPS DIVIDENDS FOR THE PARK

Hamish Mackay

After four years of challenging and sustained fundraising Aberdeen Kayak Club (AKC) has completed an impressive project to enhance its facilities in Seaton Park and significantly contribute to the on-going good upkeep of the River Don and its banks as it meanders through the Park.

A number of guests and club members attended an official opening ceremony on June 30 when a plaque recognising the main funders, unveiled by AKC member Tim Baillie - the 2012 Slalom C2 Olympic champion.

The project had two main objectives:

- * Improve access on/off the River Don for canoeing.
- * Apply protection to prevent further erosion of the river bank.

AKC chairperson Bill Telfer explained to Seaton Scene that the previous access point and its path had been undermined by the river, and, in any case, was not the best location because of the current in the channel.

"The new access point is a little upstream in the pool above the weir where the current is slower. This means that, for novice paddlers and those who are less able, getting started in canoeing is a bit easier. The path has been designed with a gradient that is suitable for wheelchair users and people with other disabilities."

For the river bank protection, the erosion protection method employed is called willow spilling. This is a "green" solution whose use is encouraged by SEPA. This method uses willow posts which

then have thin willow cuttings (coppiced young trees) about three metres long woven round the posts and backfilled with soil.

Bill adds: "Both the posts and the woven cuttings are freshly cut when required and both will strike roots into the river bank and grow. This stabilises the bank and resists further erosion. On the section of the bank that was worst affected there are three tiers of spilling with the bank re-profiled above and seeded with a grass and wild flower mix. The willow is already growing well."

Further information on Aberdeen Kayak Club can be found on its website: www.aberdeenkayakclub.org.uk

Photos from Sheila Gordon and Bill Telfer





The BIG move

Work is well underway at shmuHQ in Woodside. Our contractors, CHAP, have been hard at work since August last year and haven't been put off by the cold snap we recently experienced.

Our aim is to enhance the facilities we already have so we will install two new radio studios and we will have a big communal social area, similar to what we had in the old building but we're also going to have an IT training room and a TV studio with a control room. We want 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.

Woodside Free Press editorial member, Dougie Thomson met up with shmu's Chief Executive Murray Dawson for a tour of the building for a very special edition of the Woodside on Wednesday show.

Murray explained: "We're trying to incorporate a lot of old shmu into the new building so downstairs when you walk in it will be quite open and you'll be able to see the radio studios so it's a mixture of the old foyer and the hall. You can see everyone, get a cup of tea and there's places to sit and work. There will be proper fit for purpose equipment, state of the art studios and a TV room with proper soundproofing.

"There's a lot of work going in to make sure the equipment is professional and built to the same standards of likes of the BBC."

He continued: "Our aim for the building is there will be more happening. We'll have the new bit but we also still have the old bit which we can still use. We might have theatre, discussions,

performances, question times etc. It's exciting, that part of the journey hasn't started yet, all our funds have been invested in this new bit. It'll be a fantastic building, people will know about it and if we create a niche venue then hopefully members of the community will start to programme what's happening with that. It's not a huge space so I think it'll be easy to fill and if we did something once a month then it will soon catch on. How great would it be to have a venue in the communities rather than the city centre? So many people live round here. One of things we'll be able to do from the start is link each room to each other so if something is happening here we can play it out live on air and we could film it using the TV studio and stream it live. The interesting thing is that places like this are normally in the city centre and we were very certain that if we were going to invest this much money it was going to be in our heart, where we have always been, not in the city centre, its in our communities.

"We have 57 North Presents on shmuFM so what you can imagine now is people doing their unplugged tune, play live from our TV studio and broadcast to radio studio then do an interview, rather than cramming it all in one space. We've launched shmuTV for primary school so working with schools for a whole term to make a short film and we're hoping to tie in with secondary pupils. The next challenge would be to get some funding for adults to do the same thing."

We are currently fundraising to help with the outfit of the newly refurbished building – we currently have money for the building but there is still more to do! We'll be holding lots of different fundraising activities throughout the summer to help Pave the Way to Woodside. Keep up to date with our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for more information on how you can help.



Innovative Aberdeen jobs project is proving a major success story

Seaton Keyworker, Stan Smith



An innovative jobs project, which has attracted substantial financial backing from the European Structural Fund, is delivering new and successful ways to help people from across Aberdeen on their journey to employment.

The project - "Progress Through Positive Partnerships" (PTPP) - has a particular focus on Seaton, Tillydrone, Torry, Woodside and Middlefield, offering a range of support and training options, as well as work experience and volunteering opportunities.

So far it has helped more than 30 people into work, while others have gained qualifications and approaching 20 folk have been on work experience placements. The PTPP project is open to city residents facing two or more barriers to employment. Aberdeen City Council, which is spearheading the project, has contracted Pathways to provide a keyworker service for project clients.

Supported by a dedicated keyworker, individuals identify what is holding them back; how they could build on existing skills or develop new ones; outline their

aspirations; and identify the steps they need to take to achieve them. Each client will have a bespoke action plan tailored specifically to their needs to help them move towards training, education, work, volunteering, or self-employment.

The project's Seaton keyworker is Stan Smith (pictured). He meets people, by appointment, in the Seaton Taking Action for Regeneration (STAR) flat at 14A Seaton Drive.

Stan told Seaton Scene: "This is an innovative project with lots of exciting and new opportunities for people. It is different from anything that has been done in Aberdeen before and offers a great deal of training and support to people who want to take a positive step forward in their lives. I am really keen to meet people in Seaton and discuss the project with them so that they can possibly benefit from what is on offer. If anyone is interested, they should get in touch with me as soon as possible."

A broad range of opportunities is available through the project. They include welding, engineering and care sector courses, outdoor activities, coding, creative activities, work experience at Pet's Corner and in the Aberdeen parks, childminder and nursery training, as well as a broad range of training opportunities with CFINE including office skills, warehouse, kitchen and cookery,

customer experience, foodbank, and driving positions, supplemented by CV preparation, interview skills and job-seeking support. Station House Media Unit (SHMU) is also involved in the project - providing employability training for young people aged between 16 and 25.

Progress Through Positive Partnerships is a non-mandatory programme which means that people's benefits are not affected if they choose not to join, or if they decide it is not for them.

Part-funded by the European Structural Fund, the £2.2million project sees Aberdeen City Council work in partnership with a range of organisations to provide increased employability services and positive outcomes across the city. The ESF is contributing £880,000 (40%) of the project funding.

** For more information, please visit: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/esfgetstarted; email: esfgetstarted@aberdeencity.gov.uk; or call the project team on 01224 523879. If you wish to make an appointment with Stan Smith, please call Pathways on 01224 682939.*

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 ehepburn@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Seaton STAR Flat

01224 524209

Seaton Project

01224 277930

Seaton School

01224 277920

Local Councillors

Councillor Ross Grant

01224 346621

rossgrant@aberdeencity.gov.uk

07738688458

Councillor Alexander McLellan

01224 346633

amclellan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

07500 99952

Councillor Jim Noble

01224 522051

jimnoble@aberdeencity.gov.uk

07748 760557