

seatonscene

Winter 2019



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Front cover image: Lesley Davidson

Seaton Community Centre



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



editorial

How we get it all together

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

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

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

Meetings are held at Seaton Community Centre on Tuesdays at 11.30am and you are very welcome to attend in what is a very informal setting.

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CONISTON FLYER BOUND FOR SEATON FAYRE

Plans for the Seaton Fayre on the 11th April 2020 are moving forward fast, and we already have several activities confirmed. It's going to be a great day of entertainment and fun, with something to do for all ages. I'm pleased to announced that the Coniston Flyer (famous land train) will be in Seaton for rides around the area. The Flyer tours the country, and this will be a rare visit to Aberdeen for the Fayre. The Coniston Flyer is always popular with all ages so make sure you don't miss out. Seaton Fayre, Saturday 11th April 2020, at Seaton Primary School.

Seaton Linksfeld Community Network (SLCN) are proud to

have gained Level One in It's Your Neighbourhood, a scheme run by Keep Scotland Beautiful. Quite an achievement in the short space of time since we started. Activities to improve our communities are currently being planned for next year, so keep an ear out for news on Seaton Speaks, Mondays at 10am and 7pm on shmuFM. 99.8FM, or our website www.seatonlinksfeld.co.uk For more information about 'Its Your Neighbourhood' go to page 15.

We were hoping to have news about the School Road petition, unfortunately the committee meeting date is after the magazine's deadline.

Keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for the latest news.

We recently took stock of our activities and were quite surprised at the amount of that we have achieved. We would like to say a big thank you to everybody that has helped us, every effort is appreciated. We're always happy to welcome new people, the door is always open to people who want to help us improve life in Seaton. Get in touch chair@seatonlinksfeld.co.uk or drop a note marked for the attention of SLCN and let's get together.



TILLYDRONE COMMUNITY CAFE

Javier, Cafe Chef

Tillydrone café is part of the Tillydrone Community Campus and opened on the 19th of August 2019. Our mission is to be a point of socialisation for the community, a place of relaxation for families, offering affordable, healthy and diverse food and beverages.

We are open between 8am and 2pm Monday to Friday at the moment but this may increase over time. Occasionally we are open on Saturdays when there is a special activity on in the community – keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.

We serve breakfast, lunch and hot beverages

- Breakfast: 8.30 -11.30am, with cooked options.
- Lunch: 11.30am-1.30pm. We have a menu with sandwiches, paninis and toasties and three specials that change every day: a soup with homemade bread and butter, a main dish and a pudding of the day
- Everything is made freshly from scratch, we cook every day, and make it as healthy and balanced as possible.
- We offer a vegetarian option for breakfast and for lunch every day

We try to keep an eye on everything that is happening in the campus and, in the area, because we want to be part of the daily life of the community and grow with them trying to help to improve our neighborhood as much as we can by:

- Helping with the dissemination of information of local groups activities
- Supporting initiatives that build a better place to live
- We have catered for the meetings of the ALNES, the Association of Lithuanians in North East Scotland
- In the October holidays, we served lunch for the children participating in the Food and Fun programme
- At the end of October, we collaborated with a new association of families - Tillykidzevents who were fundraising for a Halloween party for the little ones

All of this is possible thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers! We can maintain these prices and level of activity thanks to a wonderful team of committed volunteers. We have a team of 12 volunteers, mainly residents in Tillydrone and Seaton, but also coming from other areas of the city. Some of them are also involved in other activities in

the campus. It is a diverse group of people, intergenerational, from different places, with different goals: help develop Tillydrone, develop their skills and get accreditation to improve their employability, meet people and share their time and knowledge... In our kitchen there are at least five languages and in the future we want to make the most of this diversity by trying to introduce in the menu occasional dishes from their home countries.

There are two areas of volunteering: the front, learning about the espresso machine, customer service and the till and the kitchen, cooking and helping with a perhaps not so glamorous task, but completely essential one is the kitchen porter one and cleaning. The plan is that the volunteers get PVG and in the future are able to do some course related with their tasks. We are also preparing a session of English for hospitality.

Looking at the future ...

We have a lot of plans to work in areas such as promoting zero waste, healthy food promotion, highlight the richness of diversity... and, of course, have fun!

Come along, see what's happening and get involved, we would love to see you in our lovely café!



Sikh community have new base for worship (Gurdwara) in former nursery in St Ninians Place, Seaton

The small North-east of Scotland Sikh community, whom, for decades, have held worship meetings in each other's houses, have finally found a new permanent home in Seaton. The Aberdeen Sikh Sangat (congregation) has paid £138,000 to buy the former Timber Kinder Garden Nursery in St Ninian's Place, Seaton, as its place of worship (Gurdwara). The substantial building is directly opposite Balgownie Court multi-storey.

The nursery was owned by Seaton Community Enterprise Ltd and closed at the end of January 2018 after being unable to pay its way. The Aberdeen Sikh Sangat took possession of the building in early November. It will pay an annual ground rent of approximately £7000 to Aberdeen City Council. Although the Sikhs plan a six-month major renovation of the Aberdeen Gurdwara in the New Year, they held a small event in mid-November to mark the 550th anniversary of the birth of the religion's founder - Guru Nanak Dev, and have also began holding small-scale weekly congregations.

Suki Singh Pooni, one of the trustees of the Aberdeen Sikh charity set up in 2012, has been involved in the negotiations for the Aberdeen

Gurdwara. Suki, a process engineer, and his family moved from Leeds to Aberdeen in 2011. He spoke to Seaton Scene on the principles of Sikhism, explaining: 'Sikhism is a religion which worships God by being kind to one and other - everyone having the freedom to believe, and offering charity to the needy and fundamentally promoting equality for all humanity.'

'Performing Sewa (selfless service) is a fundamental tenet of the Sikh faith, and, with a new base, there can now be greater efforts from the Aberdeen Sangat to engage and help with community projects.'

The major renovation, which will cost around £50,000, includes developing a prayer hall, a large langar hall (community kitchen), an activity room for youngsters, and a residential facility for a priest once one is engaged. All the volunteers and families involved are working really hard to make the Aberdeen Gurdwara a major success.

The Sikhs are very keen to develop strong links with the local community and hope to stage community integration activities within the Gurdwara. Free food for all (langar) is a core principle of Gurdwaras., sitting as equals to eat food prepared by

volunteers. An open day will be held once the renovation is complete. The Sikhs plan to plant trees and shrubs, and landscape the immediate surroundings of the Gurdwara but with the necessary permissions from Aberdeen City Council as required.

There are approximately 30-40 Sikh families in the North-east. They have been fundraising over the past 10 years towards buying a permanent Gurdwara, and have also received financial donations on a global scale from Sikh communities.

Suki told Seaton Scene: 'Now we have our first place of worship in North-east Scotland - a very significant step forward for the Sikh community. We very much want to become valuable members of the Seaton and Linksfield community.'

'Sikh communities throughout the UK, and worldwide, are renowned for establishing, integrating and sharing their vibrant rich religious, cultural and harmonious communities wherever they settle, and certainly Seaton and Aberdeen will be no different. The Sikh community stand ready to share, love and serve and be a force for good for the Seaton and Linksfield community, and Aberdeen beyond.'



Boxing Sessions for older adults off to a great start

Boxing fitness sessions for older adults which started in the Sports Village in August have seen great attendance and enthusiasm from attendees looking to try something new.

Kevin Kerr, who runs Byron Boxing with his dad, is leading the sessions as a follow up to a successful trial during the Golden Games earlier in the year.

The sessions are running on Tuesdays at 10am in the Sports Village and are enjoyed by a mix of women and men looking to improve strength, balance and coordination. The sessions are non-contact fitness sessions which include some work with the boxing gloves and bags, but also a mix of other boxing fitness activities.

Kevin from Byron Boxing is enjoying the challenge of teaching to an older age group who are very motivated and enjoying the sessions. All the exercises done in boxing can be adapted to suit different needs and abilities and these sessions are showing that boxing fitness can be an activity for everyone.

If you are interested in giving this a go, places can be booked by phoning the Sports Village on 01224 438900.



Seaton Soup and Sannies

A lunch club aimed at over 55's continues to enjoy great success with monthly attendance averaging at around 28. Seaton Soup and Sannies was set up by Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE), Aberdeen City Council's Wellbeing Team and four local volunteers, Marion Duncan, Lois Frew, Craig Brock and Javier Alvarez with the aim of providing some freshly made simple food in a local setting to give older people an opportunity to get out of the house and mix with others.

Soup and a mixture of sandwiches are prepared in Seaton Community Centre on the day by the volunteers and this, along with a cuppa and a biscuit, is served to a busy café of people who enjoy the trip out and company of others.

A minibus with a tail lift is provided to pick people up at Lord Hays' Court and Seaton House (to pick up residents from Seaton, Donview and Aulton) and to take them to the community centre. This allows people who otherwise would find it difficult to get out and about the

opportunity to enjoy the day.

The cost of the day is a minimum donation of £1.

Seaton Soup and Sannies runs the first Tuesday of every month in the café of Seaton Community Centre and doors open at 11.30am. It's open to anyone over 55 living in the area.

Feedback following a recent survey was very positive with people rating the food 9 out of 10 and most of the feedback was around how much people enjoy the social aspect of attending.

"It gives you an outing and the chance to meet a few people".

"Its nice, I enjoy it. I would come every Tuesday"

"The food is lovely and the people who help and very nice and friendly. They make you feel at home"

The volunteers have planned a special Christmas lunch to be held on the 3rd of December for locals to enjoy.

WOODLANDS SCHOOL IS TO BECOME A NURSERY

Hamish Mackay

Work was due to start in November on transforming the former Woodlands School in Linksfield into a nursery for eligible two-year-olds and all three and four-year-olds. From August 2020, these children will be annually entitled to 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare - compared with the current quota of 600 hours. The estimated completion date of the construction work at Woodlands is July 2020.

Woodlands School, off Regent Walk, has lain empty since 2017 when its small number of pupils were moved to the new £18.5million Orchard Brae facility in Northfield. Woodlands School was one of the first MOVE regional Centres of Excellence - a designation celebrating schools using the MOVE programme to help disabled children and young adults gain independence. The construction work will include demolishing the west wing of the school - that is the wing nearest to King Street and refurbishing the remaining building which is in very good condition

despite lying empty for so long.

Community groups in the Seaton and Linksfield area, including Seaton Community Church and Seaton Linksfield Community Network, were invited to inspect the potentially redundant wing to see if it could be transformed into a community asset, but, as there were no takers, the decision was taken to demolish it.

Woodlands, which is in a very attractive secluded area, with good parking facilities, has a splendid hall/gymnasium but regulations will not allow it to be used by community groups when the two, three and four-year-olds are on the premises. However, it could possibly be rented by community groups in the evenings and at the weekend if there was a proven demand for such an attractive facility.

Construction work is due to begin on the creation and expansion of eight nursery buildings across the city. Ahead of the sweeping changes in nursery provision, Aberdeen City

Council has been building a raft of new nurseries and expanding existing facilities. Work is expected to start shortly on building a new nursery in Tillydrone - on a site at the junction of Montgomery Road and Gort Road.

Work is expected to start on building a new nursery on the site of the former Cummings Park Primary in December and a new nursery is planned at Kingsford School in the existing school grounds. Other schools which will undergo internal refurbishment work are Quarryhill School and Tullos School. Work will also begin on refurbishing existing nurseries at Westpark School and Woodside School.

A report to committee said: "This project forms part of the ELC Delivery Plan that will help Aberdeen City Council manage the transformational change necessary to deliver expanded services by 2020."

ASHLEY IS ACTING HEAD TEACHER AT SEATON SCHOOL

Hamish Mackay

Seaton School is still without a head teacher after two candidates - one internal and one external - were interviewed for the post some weeks ago but Aberdeen City Council's education department decided not to make an appointment, and the post has now been re-advertised.

In the interim, Ashley Verling has been the acting head teacher since October, having been depute head

at Seaton School since March, 2018. Ashley is a former pupil of Albyn School, Aberdeen, and graduated with an MA Management and Marketing Studies degree from Aberdeen University in 2002.

Since then, more recently, she has been a teacher at Crombie Primary School, Banchory Primary School and Woodside Primary School, before being appointed principal

teacher at Heathryburn Primary School. She taught at Heathryburn for just over a year before earning a significant promotion by moving to Seaton School in March, 2018 as depute head teacher.

The job description for the head teacher post runs to some three A4 pages and, to the layperson, appears extremely demanding - requiring much multi-skilling attributes.

ABERDEEN HEAT AND POWER

Lesley Davidson

Have you ever wondered about that inconspicuous grey building near Mrs Murray's Cat & Dog Home?

Not everyone knows that it's actually one of the nerve centres of district heating company Aberdeen Heat & Power (AH&P) and supplies many of Seaton's residents as well as high-profile buildings such as Aberdeen Sports Village, the Beach Leisure Centre, and the Town House.

AH&P was launched in 2002 after Aberdeen councillors voted to tackle fuel poverty by setting up a standalone not-for-profit enterprise to supply heating across the city.

And to this day alleviating fuel poverty remains a prime driver for AH&P which now runs five local combined heat and power (CHP) energy centres — including Seaton — and has recently celebrated its 3,000 connection.

More than 2,600 of those connections are in 33 multi-storey blocks built by Aberdeen City Council and now occupied by a mix of tenants and homeowners. They receive as much heat and hot water as they need for a competitively-priced monthly payment.

First on the AH&P grid were residents in Stockethill and Hazlehead, with the initial Seaton project completed in 2007 and an extension in 2012. A link to the city

centre followed in 2013 and projects in Tillydrone and Cairncry in 2015.

AH&P board member and former Aberdeen City Council energy manager Janice Lyon has been involved since councillors first began identifying the type of property most susceptible to fuel poverty.

She said: 'Multi-storey blocks emerged as the key issue. They all had electric storage heating and hot water fuelled by electricity, which was inefficient and costly, and 70% of occupants were in fuel poverty.'

The solution chosen was gas-fuelled combined heat and power district heating, using technology already tried and tested in Scandinavia, with its development, management, and service delivery made through an independent not-for-profit company.

'AH&P was one of the first such organisations in the UK to deliver CHP,' said Janice. 'Other regions had blended approaches with private companies running CHP ventures in partnership with the council.'

'But Aberdeen's approach — with its focus on delivering affordable warmth to those in fuel poverty — was unique at the time.'

CHP works best in areas of high concentration for heat demand, which is why it is so well suited to multi-storey blocks. Over the years, AH&P has also brought municipal buildings, schools, and sports

facilities into its district heating networks. These level out the heat demand and ensure the CHP generators run as efficiently as possible.

AH&P turned over £4 million and made a post-tax profit of £290,000 in 2018. It sets aside most of its annual surpluses to replace equipment and maintain an emergency reserve, with the balance ring-fenced for future expansion.

The board is now looking beyond its original remit to move the company forward. Ian Davidson joined as CEO in 2018 after 11 years at Scottish and Southern Energy and is drawing on his sector and wider leadership experience to develop AH&P's brief.

He said: 'There is a commitment within Aberdeen City Council — particularly through their Powering Aberdeen strategy — to support the continued growth of CHP, and we are committed to working in partnership to make that happen.'

Mr Davidson is also looking at ways to attract commercial clients — a sector AH&P has yet to fully involve — and is exploring green technologies to reduce the company's reliance on gas.

'There is much more we can do to make AH&P a truly integral part of Aberdeen's future infrastructure.'



The picture above is multi-storeys on Regent Walk which are supplied by Aberdeen Heat and Power

SEATON SNIPPETS

Kudos for Steven in city council's Star Awards

Aberdeen City Council's environmental manager, Steven Shaw, has finished runner-up in the "People's Champion" category in the council's 2019 internal Star Awards.

Steven, 50, who lives in Mannofield, has been working for the city council for the past 20 years. He is very well-known, liked and respected in the Seaton and Linksfield area for his major leadership role in the success of Seaton Park and development of other local green space improvements. Known for "leading by example", he was nominated by colleague Lorna Graham, a Performance and Development Officer for Operations and Protective Services.

Lorna told Seaton Scene: "I nominated Steven because he champions the communities at any opportunity. He works with communities to get the best out of them and works in partnership with them as much as possible. He always looks for the positives and to resolve any issues they may have".

And Lorna especially praised his voluntary work in litter-picking throughout the city, explaining: "He puts into the community in terms of litter-picking which is one of his passions. He is a great supporter of our 24-hour litter-pick, and for the last two years he has started at 4am and did not finish until 11pm"

Steven said: "I was very surprised to be nominated. I am a big fan of community and staff recognition for those who have done amazing work across the city, and, to be nominated myself, was totally unexpected. I am very lucky with the job I do. I have a great team - not just council staff, communities across the city and the schools we now work with. There are always great things going on

in Aberdeen. We have an amazing city - we are spoiled. I do work at weekends and evenings to make sure community groups have that support. We work with them but we cannot do it for them. We encourage and support and I would say that is what I enjoy the most.

"I believe if I am going to be encouraging people to plant things; to improve green space; tidy up the environment; and to litter-pick, then I need to be leading by example and that is what I do. I do enjoy litter-picking in my spare time. It is an odd hobby. It is amazing how much you can pick up in an hour. I have twin boys and they come with me and they love litter-picking. It is really encouraging that I don't have to drag them. I will keep going. It is not easy because we all have busy lifestyles and people sometimes just don't have the time".

St Mary's Church could be set for closure

A story in the Press and Journal that St Mary's Church is among the nearly half of Aberdeen's Church of Scotland buildings which could close or be sold off was initially greeted with disbelief in Seaton and Linksfield. Evidently, an Aberdeen Presbytery report, on a "once-in-a-generation" review of the Kirk's estate in the city, also named Craigiebuckler, Ruthrieston West, Woodside and Holborn among the 15 churches rated "C" in a 10-year plan which means they are "expected to be disposed of as soon as possible". Another 15 churches will continue to operate while the future of Stockethill, St Nicholas United and Garthdee is still unclear.

The minister of St Mary's is the Rev. Elsie J. Fortune who lives along with her husband and daughter in

a Kirk manse in King Street. Elsie, who is an indefatigable worker in the parish, is also secretary of the STAR Community Flat and a chaplain to Seaton School.

St Mary's has a very splendid main building and a large church hall and stands in a relatively large glebe off King Street and Regent Walk.

The report stresses that while churches will be disposed of, four new ones will be built, and others renovated. It states: "This plan is not about decline, although it is shaped by that reality, and that of an ever more secular environment. We believe the future can be bright for the Kirk and this plan is not in any way presented despondently. We do not underestimate the challenge it contains nor doubt the opportunity it presents."

Rev Scott Rennie, of Queens Cross Church, planning convener for Aberdeen Presbytery, said: "We are trying to build an estate that matches our needs. What has also changed is the way people worship - some people prefer more informal community-style buildings or worship on their lunch break. It is not just about the traditional style of buildings".

There is speculation that should St Mary's close, the church buildings and site could be redeveloped for housing.

CFINE Sessions at STAR

Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE) have launched a financial support service called SAFE. SAFE stands for support, advice, finance and education and aims to support those who need it with any financial issues from budgeting and debt to benefits advice to cooking on a budget.

Emma from the SAFE Team is in the STAR Flat every Wednesday between 10am and 12pm to provide support and guidance to anyone who needs it.

For more information about SAFE contact them on 01224 531386 or email safe@cfine.org.

Our side of the grass is greener

We folk in Seaton and Linksfieid

should thank our lucky stars that we have Seaton Park and the Kings Links virtually on our doorsteps. New research by Fields in Trust charity shows that more than 300,000 people across Scotland live more than a 10-minute walk from a park or green space. Despite this, Scotland performs better than all other nations in the UK in terms of parks and green space provision, as well as

outperforming each of the English regions. Scotland provides more green space per person than any other part of Great Britain - 45.86 square metres per person, against a UK average of just over 35 square metres. It also has the most legally protected green space - 2,143 hectares.

Building work forges ahead on new community facility just off School Road

Hamish Mackay

Building work is forging ahead on phase-one of a twin-phase new church-led community facility just off School Road but is so unheralded that many local folk are unsure just what is being created.

The timber-frame building is going up adjacent to the site of the redundant and now demolished former Aberdeen City Council building works depot which sat alongside Seaton's eponymous and ancient "Huttie" wooden-built community facility which is still in use but will be demolished in due course.

Both sites and both buildings were recently transferred to Seaton Community Church by Aberdeen City Council after it agreed a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) as the core element in ACC's plans for two new purpose-built buildings to facilitate a major expansion of its activities.

The new buildings will provide fit-for-purpose community facilities

and the church has already broken through its £500,000 fund-raising barrier in a remarkably short time. Seaton Community Church, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, currently runs its burgeoning activities from the "Huttie, Seaton School (for Sunday church services) and Seaton Community Centre.

The site stretches deceptively deep off School Road so the timber-built first new building cannot be seen that clearly by passers-by. Pastor Barry Douglas, who leads the SCC, told Seaton Scene in early November: "Our first building is now starting to take shape. The groundworks were completed within three weeks and the group have now begun to erect the building itself.

"It is our hope to have it wind and watertight by Christmas as this will allow us to work internally throughout the winter and well into next year.

The really incredible bit of news is that we have hit the £500,000 barrier in fundraising. appeal target."

The city council's co-leader, Councillor Douglas Lumsden, who was standing for the Conservative Party in Aberdeen South constituency at the 12 December general election, explained when giving the go-ahead to the CAT: "The Seaton Community Church is already working closely with the city council to improve the quality of life for residents in Seaton and Linksfieid. A number of its current projects and those that are planned meet the objectives of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan - a shared vision of Aberdeen as a place where everyone can prosper".

The SCC's current activities include tackling loneliness, promoting parenting and life skills, and encouraging children to exercise, as well as helping run a hot meals service during school holidays.





Seaton Early Learners

Seaton Early learners is run by Aberdeen City Council, and we take children aged 2-3 years. We take in any child who is eligible for "Me2" funding. For more information on this go to the following link:

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/family-information-service/find-me-2-childcare-places

We also provide low cost places for children who are not eligible for funding.

The sessions run between Monday to Friday 9am-12am or 1pm-4pm.

We are registered with the regulatory body The Care Inspectorate and at our recent Inspection we received 5 (very good) for care and support of children and 5 for our environment. Our report can be viewed on the Care Inspectorate website or here

at Seaton Community Centre. The staff are all qualified and registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

We have spaces for up to 20 children in both the morning and afternoon sessions.

The children have free access to the outdoor area where there are lots of resources for them to build, dig, climb and space to run about. The children also enjoy looking for beasties and taking care of the plants.

We have a good relationship with the school nursery and a couple of months before the children are due to move on, we visit the nursery once or twice a week. This helps the children with their transitions and helps them get to know the staff and the other children.

Our indoor environment is set up to promote curiosity and enquiry. We have lots of natural and authentic resources such as

a home corner with real cutlery, pans, kettle etc.

We are always on the lookout for resources such as kitchen utensils, old toasters, kettles, pots and pans, cushions, fabric etc so if you have any feel free to drop them in to us.

The children love making their own playdough, playing outside in the rain and love all sorts of water play from washing the windows to watering the plants.

The children get a healthy snack during their session: usually milk or water, a selection of fruit and cheese and crackers, breadsticks or toast. The children help to prepare snack and they pour their own drink and serve themselves from a plate. This encourages the children's independence.

If you want any more information, please phone 01224 277932 and leave a message.

FOODBANK FOR PETS IN SEATON

A foodbank for pets has been set up in Seaton to support Aberdeen pet owners who are facing financial difficulties.

The project was set up this year by the STAR Community Flat and Mrs Murray's Cat and Dog Home.

Emergency food packs are given to people who are struggling financially and could potentially face giving up their pets because they cannot afford to feed them.

So far 30 packs for dogs and two emergency supplies for cats have been handed out.

Now dog and cat homes are setting up similar schemes in other parts of the country with a leading pet charity in Edinburgh launching a similar initiative.

Marie Simpson, manager of Mrs Murray's rehoming centre, said:

"The pet foodbank has been a great success for those in need of it and now other centres are setting up similar schemes which shows how much it is needed. It does help those who really need it.

"We have worked alongside the Star Community Flat in Seaton to issue vouchers and those who collect the food are always so grateful.

"It helps people who are struggling and ensures those who need a little help to tide them over have somewhere to turn to.

"We have had people hand in donations specifically for the foodbank.

"The parcels have been handed

out to people mainly based in the Seaton area but anyone in need can go along to the Star Flat to get a voucher.

"Sometimes just a little assistance with feeding costs can be the difference between keeping your much-loved pet and companion or having to rehome them."

Anyone in need of a parcel can collect a food voucher from the STAR Community Flat at 14A Seaton Drive in Aberdeen.

Vouchers can then be handed over to staff at Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats in exchange for food.

The home depends largely on donations so if you can help at all please visit mrsmurrays.co.uk/donate.

ST MACHAR CREDIT UNION

Dorothy is a regular St Machar Credit Union saver

"I found out about the credit union through one of my friends and was surprised how easy it was to open and start my account. All the volunteers and staff, I've met are friendly and willing to help.

"I think the credit union can benefit people who find it difficult to save – it's good to use for putting money away. You can plan for holidays with the grandchildren or for driving lessons. It's also an opportunity to regularly save in case you have an emergency."

We are at the Seaton STAR Flat (14A Seaton Drive) on Fridays 10 am to 11 am (not on bank holidays) Open an account, pay into your account, complete all paperwork for your savings and low-cost loans at our weekly collection point

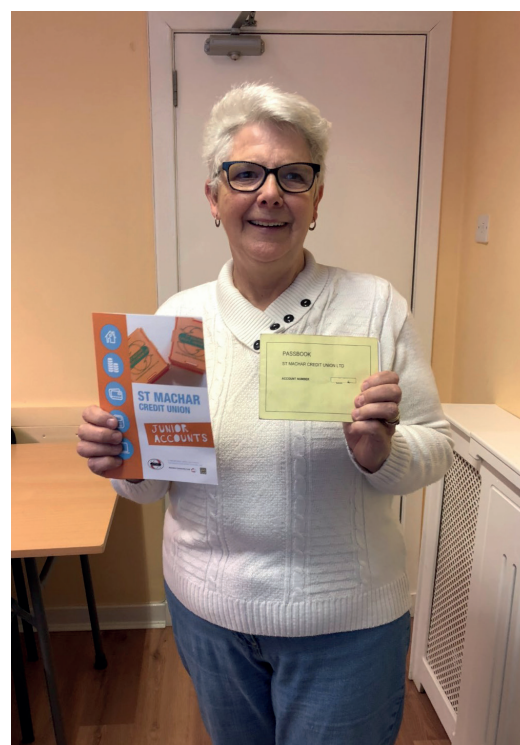
ST MACHAR CREDIT UNION

433 Great Northern Road

Woodside

Aberdeen

(01224) 276994



In Conversation With

shmu are launching a new project called In Conversation With. We are looking to recruit volunteers to go into nursing homes and sheltered accommodation, facilitating conversations with people which will be recorded. These recordings will be edited to go out on the relevant community shows on shmuFM. They can also be transcribed and put together as articles in the community magazine. We know that quite often older people are unable to make it along to shmuFM or to community magazine meetings to participate which is unfair

so we wanted to take away that barrier and have people go to them to ensure they can be included properly. The residents can decide the themes of the conversations so it could be general reminiscence or it could be about a local issue to get their perspectives on it and that would be up to them.

Sessions will start off on a monthly basis but there is obviously room for this to grow as much as the volunteers and participants would like it too. Initially we will be focusing on nursing homes and sheltered accommodation in our target communities of Woodside,

Seaton, Tillydrone, Northfield, Middlefield, Cummings Park, Torry and Mastrick but we are looking for volunteers from all over to get involved and help. There is also room for this to expand depending on the interest we get from people!

If you can spare some time to be involved with sessions, edit or transcribe audio then please get in touch with Laura. We would love to hear from you!

Email: laura.young@shmu.org.uk

Phone: 01224 515013

Recovery on Air on shmuFM

Aberdeen in Recovery (AiR) are back on shmuFM's airwaves after a short break earlier this year.

AiR are a recovery support group made up of members who are recovering from substance dependence.

In partnership with shmu, they are working hard to promote recovery in the city and try to

reduce the stigma associated with substance dependence and recovery.

Volunteers from AiR present a live show every Thursday on shmu 99.8FM at 2pm and they cover a range of topics, from local to national news, interviews and lived experience stories.

For more information about the

work of Aberdeen in Recovery get in touch by contacting them on 01224 638342, 07936 800808 or email info@aberdeeninrecovery.org.

For more information about getting involved with shmu get in touch by emailing info@shmu.org.uk or give us a call on 01224 515013.

DONS NEW STADIUM MAY NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE AT LEAST THE SUMMER OF 2023

Aberdeen FC supporters appear to be more than a little surprised that the club's proposed new stadium at Kingsford, near Westhill, may not be built and ready for matches before at least the summer of 2023.

The club has just spent nearly £13million on its futuristic new training complex at Kingsford, near Westhill, named Cormack Park, after the club's vice-chairman and financial backer, Dave Cormack, and which was officially opened by the Dons former manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, on 31 October. The training ground is the first phase of a two-phase development.

The club's fundraising effort for the new stadium is dependent on getting at least £15million

by selling the existing Pittodrie stadium for housing in an area of the city which has seen a considerable number of new housing developments. However, the downturn in the Aberdeen housing market could see that figure drop to £10- £12million, and I understand that a new stadium at Kingsford will cost at least £50million which would leave a funding shortfall of perhaps as much as £40million.

Dave Cormack, a former chief executive at Pittodrie, insists that the near £13million investment in Cormack Park is money well spent. He pointed out: "It is a quality environment. We have spent closer to £13million than the £10million budgeted when we started. We have invested in

a hybrid pitch, which the English Premier League teams use, at a cost of £750,000 on its own but it will be really durable in the winter".

The Cormack Foundation regularly supports charitable projects and, having given £1million to the AFC Community Trust, Cormack is delighted that the Trust will also have a home at the new facility at Kingsford. He said: "We want to be part of the fabric of the community and the Community Trust has done a fabulous job. We are delighted that it will also be for use by the community".

In our Spring issue, Seaton Scene will take an in-depth look at the success of the AFC Community Trust.

THREE TOP SCOTTISH GREEN SPACE AWARDS COME TO SEATON GROUPS

Hamish Mackay

Wonderful, wonderful Seaton Park has once again been recognised as one of the UK's leading parks at a top national awards ceremony.

After retaining its prestigious Green Flag Award status earlier in the year, Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) again scored the contribution of Friends of Seaton Park (FOSP) as "outstanding" in its annual "It's Your Neighbourhood" (IYN) campaign, announced at its annual awards ceremony and seminar in Stirling.

Two other Seaton-based voluntary organisations - the fledgling but ultra-keen Lord Hay's Court Gardeners group and Seaton Linksfield Community Network - were also recognised in the IYN awards list. This was the second year in succession that the Lord Hay's Court Gardner's

group earned recognition for its horticultural prowess - principally for the splendid display at the frontage and lawn area of their multi-storey building. Their next challenge is going to be creating a sensory garden for which they already have been awarded a £2800 grant by Aberdeen City Council.

Altogether 28 gardening organisations and groups in Aberdeen featured among more than 160 groups taking part in the "It's Your Neighbourhood" initiative. Seaton and Linksfield's near-neighbours on the awards list included Fittie Community Development Trust, Friends of Sunnybank Park, Oldmachar Academy Parent Council, Kittybrewster Nursery and Denburn Court Tenants and

Residents Association. You can read the complete list of participants on the KSB website and photographs of the award ceremony on the KSB Facebook page.

IYN is a non-competitive initiative that places particular emphasis on community involvement, and it is run by KSB in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). Two of the four RHS Britain in Bloom discretionary awards went to Dundee City and the remaining two to East Dunbartonshire and North Ayrshire.

And news of Friends of Seaton Park's very, very popular annual CakeFest event. This year's cake jamboree, CakeFest 6, on Saturday, 28 March, is moving to a new venue - The Mission, in St Machar Drive.

Community Contacts

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 9177 650
Drinkline 0300 123 1110

Crime

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Drugs

Alcohol and Drugs Action Helpline 01224 594700
Aberdeen in Recovery 07936 008808
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

Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village 0345 337 9900
Family Information Service 01224 346034

Samaritans

Need to talk 01224 574 488 or 116 123

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team and Emergency Out of Hours 0800 7315520

Young Carers

VSA 01224 212021

CFINE 01224 596156

Pathways 01224 682 939

Financial Advice at CFINE 0800 953 4330

Citizens Advice 0808 800 9060

Aberdeen City Youth Council

www.facebook.com/aberdeencityyouthcouncil

Terrence Higgins Trust 0808 802 1221

PDSA 01224 632042

Seaton School 01224 277920

St Machar Academy 01224 492855

Community Information in Seaton

STAR Community Flat

10am – 2pm

Contact: 01224 524209

Seaton Learning Centre

9am – 5pm

Contact: 01224 277 930

Friends of Seaton Park

Contact: friendsofseatonpark@gmail.com

St Machar Credit Union

9:30am - 4:30pm

except Wednesdays – 09:30am to 12:30pm

Contact: 01224 276994

St Machar Parent Support Project

Contact: 01224 487813

YOUR LOCAL MP

Kirsty Blackman,

46 John Street

Aberdeen AB25 1LL

Tel: 01224 633285

Text: 07464606650

Email: kirsty.blackman.mp@parliament.uk

YOUR LOCAL MSPs

Lewis Macdonald,

70 Rosemount Place

Aberdeen AB25 2XJ

Tel: 01224 646333

Email: Lewis.Macdonald.msp@parliament.scot

Kevin Stewart,

Third Floor

27 John Street

Aberdeen AB25 1BT

Tel: 01224 624719

Email: Kevin.Stewart.msp@parliament.scot

YOUR LOCAL SNP COUNCILLORS SURGERY DATE

Councillors Alexander McLellan and Jim Noble hold a joint surgery on the first Friday of the month at Seaton Community Centre at 12noon. If you cannot attend their surgery you can call them on 01224 346633 and 01224 522051 respectively, or email them at amclellan@aberdeencity.gov.uk and jimnoble@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Ross Grant does not hold a surgery in Seaton but can be contacted on 01224 346621, and by email at rossgrant@aberdeencity.gov.uk