

seatonscene

Summer 2019



In this issue:

SEATON LINKSFIELD
COMMUNITY NETWORK
SEATON SINGS
STAR FLAT

www.shmu.org.uk/press

contents

- 3 Community Update
- 4 Seaton Community Workers
- 6 RAG
- 7 Seaton Park
- 8 Bosie's Award
- 10 Donside Hydro
- 11 Seaton Sings
- 12 Community Update
- 13 News Digest
- 14 shmu
- 15 Seaton Snippets

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, STAR Flat, Donside Hydro and Seaton Sands.

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

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

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

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Supported by



SEATON LINKSFIELD COMMUNITY NETWORK

Alan Parker

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day, several bags of books were donated to the residents of Lord Hay's Court. Look out for World Book Day announcements early next year.

Spruce Up Seaton

Our Spruce up Seaton campaign has been very successful, with volunteers joining us to enjoy some fresh air in the company of other litter pickers. In total over 20 bags of rubbish were filled with dropped litter. A big thank you to all who helped us tidy up a bit.

We are talking with Sport Aberdeen about future clean-ups, and another Spruce Up Seaton will be happening soon. Keep an eye on the Seaton Linksfield Community Network Facebook page for details.

Seaton Walk Through

In association with Aberdeen City Council, we are organising a Seaton Walk Through. Council officers will be joining committee members and volunteers to highlight issues in the area and create a plan to tackle the worst of them. Check our Facebook page for dates and details.

School Road Traffic Petition

A big thank you to every single person that signed our School Road traffic petition. The council have agreed to hear our case at the next Operational Delivery Committee meeting in September. We are gathering evidence to present to the committee, and are hopeful for a positive result. We would also

like to hear your thoughts, so we can present them at the meeting. Please send a short comment to our Facebook page. If you don't have Facebook, you can leave a note addressed to Chair-SLCN at the Community Centre.

We have also spoken with Police Scotland officers and are planning an awareness campaign, informing drivers of the School Road speed limit. It's twenty miles an hour, by the way.

Seaton Street Fayre

Due to circumstances beyond our control we have had to change the date of the Fayre to *11th April 2020*, so don't forget to change the date on your calendar. We are waiting on some exciting news about the Fayre, and our chair will be joining Kevin Morrison on shmuFM's Seaton Speaks, Monday 30th September from 10am on 99.8FM, to reveal all.

Neighbourhood Watch

Did you know that we have a new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme? It's free to join, and only takes a couple of minutes to sign up. You can choose which alerts they send you, which is handy if there is something happening where you are. Go to www.ourwatch.org.uk and enter your postcode. Some household insurance companies give you a discount if you are a Neighbourhood Watch member.

Who is SLCN?

We are a group of Seaton and Linksfield residents that want to

build on the improvements achieved by the Seaton Backies team, with the aim of creating significant improvements to life across the area. We have already made friends with shmu, Friends of Seaton Park and the STAR Flat, and spoken with councillors, council and police officers. They share our enthusiasm for making life a bit better. Now we would like to talk to you. If you want to hear about the full plans come along to our next meeting. With everything we have got going on your help would be appreciated.

SEATON AND LINKSFIELD NEED YOU

Send us a message on our Facebook page. No offer of help too small.

SEATON LINKSFIELD COMMUNITY NETWORK DATES

Thursday 10th
October, 2:30pm
Seaton Learning
Centre

Tuesday 5th
November,
2:30pm at Seaton
Learning Centre

Tuesday 3rd
December,
2:30pm at Seaton
Learning Centre

Volunteer extraordinaire Graham Donald: our man of many parts, roles and miles!

Hamish Mackay



No sooner had Graham Donald settled into his latest Aberdeen City Council community development officer role, attached to Seaton Community Centre, than he has been on the move again - this time to the new Tillydrone Community Campus which was officially opened on August 23.

However, Seaton Scene has been assured that Graham will continue his established role in Seaton and Linksfield while newcomer Fiona Murray will work from Seaton Community Centre on Mondays and Tuesdays.

As well as a challenging full-time career, Graham fulfils a myriad of voluntary community roles in his hometown of Brechin. And there are further demands on his precious time - commuting on an 88-mile round trip from Brechin to Aberdeen on a Monday-to-Friday basis.

Graham is married to Glenda, and there are two teenagers in the Donald family - Finlay (18) and Ellen (13). Both the young Donalds are

a quantity surveyor for eight years through my 20s, and fell into that one on the basis that I had then, and indeed still do, a keen interest in buildings”

However, he became disenchanted with quantity surveying and began looking into getting a career qualification to become a community development worker - ultimately graduating with a degree in Community Learning and Development from Dundee Northern College.

“My job titles and remits have changed several times over the years - Community Worker, Community Learning and Community Development Worker” he tells me, pointing out: “Despite all the job title changes, I have always had the same ethos and values. Without giving you a whole academic spiel on career number two, my role is to support communities and individuals to fulfil their potential in making the most of their abilities and talents in supporting communities.

“I also volunteer in several projects in Brechin. I am chairperson of Brechin Community Cinema which puts on regular screenings using our own equipment. We are currently in the process of organising our second Film Festival. And we much enjoyed an ‘Away Day’ booking at Sunnybank Community Centre in Aberdeen by hiring a 90-minute musical - “Singalong the Greatest Showman”.

“I also volunteer at several of Brechin’s community events - none larger than the Harley Davidson ‘In the City’ event which celebrates Brechin’s connection to the globally-recognised brand through the Davidson family’s roots in Brechin. Family, work (and that daunting

commute), volunteering and assisting with my own kids’ activities does take up a great deal of time but I do try and find things that are just for me.

“I try and play Golden Oldies rugby - supposedly a less physical form of rugby for us oldies who still think they have the physique of men in their prime! Recently, I have also been doing a lot of road cycling as well as some mountain biking, and walking in the hills, mostly with Glenda.

“Two things unite our family. It will be no surprise to you that one of them is football. All four of us regularly go along to the famous (for some wrong reasons - a whole season without a

win; and for some right reasons - a famous hedge and, more recently, a rather fancy-cut playing surface) Brechin City FC’s stadium, Glebe Park. This parlous pastime, and following our other team, Tottenham Hotspur, on the telly, is also something we very much enjoy (or not) together. We are hoping for better things from both clubs this season”.

Like most families with youngsters, Graham explains that ...“life is hectic and, occasionally, mad, but we do enjoy quieter times on the hills or in the back garden - just chilling-out. With me having a significant birthday coming, I find myself appreciating

the quieter moments away from the hectic family and work schedules.

“Maybe, some day, I will acquire ‘my’ little campervan and disappear into the Highlands on a more regular basis. We shall see.”

One facet that may or may not be particularly well-known about Graham is that he used to own an eye-catching 1972 MGBT sports car ...”and, yes, I was one of those folk who would drive to a show for you all to see me camped next to my beloved car. That lovely vehicle was my third ‘child’. However, it had to go. Like lively teenagers, it was proving a considerable financial drain.

Fiona is a new welcoming face at Seaton Community Centre

Hamish Mackay

A bright new cheerful and welcoming face at Seaton Community Centre is Fiona Murray who works in the community development department at Seaton on Mondays and Tuesday, and is attached to other locations for Aberdeen City Council on a full-time basis on the remaining days of the week.

She also handles administrative matters and takes the minutes of meetings for Seaton Linksfield Community Network on a freelance basis. She has now worked for Aberdeen City Council for four years but has been involved in the community scene since 2010.

She told Seaton Scene: “My story began when my daughter started school. She attended Cornhill Primary School which has a community centre attached to it. The day she began Primary 1, I decided to pop my head into the community centre to see if there were any opportunities that I could assist with. I began by running a parent and toddlers’ group on a volunteer basis, and generally helped with anything else that I could do within the centre.

“In 2012, a management committee (or association as they are referred to these days) took over the running of the programme for the centre. This is when I decided to go self-employed and became the Centre Activities Co-ordinator. This involved

organising the centre’s groups; applying for funding; ensuring all the groups had what they needed to run efficiently and smoothly; handling petty cash and various other administrative duties including invoicing.

“Through being based in the community centre various other opportunities came my way. I was trained as a volunteer for PEEP (Parents as Early Education Partners), and passed my City and Guilds award in this speciality. I also passed my Food and Hygiene certificates and went on to be trained in Cooking for Confidence.

“And the rest is history, or so they say.”

St Mary's Church Update

Putting pen to paper once more I was thinking what a privilege it is to be minister of the local Parish Church, St. Mary's with the folks of Seaton, Linksfield and Pittodrie around us, and thinking too of the times we have shared in the past and just lately and to say well done to you all. Our Good Companions Group on a Thursday afternoon which links our members with those in the community over so many years. The newer Happy Chatties, I mentioned in the last issue of Seaton Scene seems to be going from strength to strength (lots of chat going on).

Our Messy Church on a Sunday afternoon at the end of each month brings together families from the community and our church family. They are on holiday for two months.

I so enjoy the Seaton School Football Team Trophy Presentation every year in our hall, up on the stage. Such brilliant youngsters led by Craig and Claire Robertson. They have to be commended for all their hard work and commitment.

We have a good relationship with the Star Flat working together on the food bank scene. Through the Star Flat, the Ritchie Family organised a great coffee morning at St. Mary's to raise funds for Race for Life and Josie Hennan has also arranged with us an indoor car boot sale in aid of Breast Cancer Research. That is what the church here is for – building bridges, building bonds between dear folks in the community and ourselves and may we by God's will continue to do so in the future.

A very peaceful and safe summer to you all. May the sun shine!

Elsie (Rev. Elsie J Fortune)



STAR Chairman, Murdoch Macleod with RAG Students

RAG FUNDING SUCCESS STUDENTS ARE A CLASS ACT!

The STAR Community Flat in Seaton was delighted to recently invite a group of students from Aberdeen University along to the flat. The students were representing RAG (Raising and Giving) which is the major student run fundraising group at Aberdeen University. In the past few years, RAG has raised over £150,000 for charitable causes each year by hosting fundraising events and partnering with students groups across campus. This year the RAG Committee kindly awarded the Flat £6,000 towards community classes and brought along a huge cheque for us. The money will be spent to allow the weekly sewing, cookery and craft classes to continue. Thank you so much RAG!

Aberdeen Action on Disability at STAR

Aberdeen Action on Disability has started a new weekly social group at the STAR Community Flat in Seaton. This group is part of a wider project funded by the Health Lottery Scotland and is an extension of the social group based

at the AAD premises on Balgownie Drive, Bridge of Don. The aim is to help local people to shape activities in their neighbourhood and form closer social links.

The group at Seaton has been meeting on Mondays from 10am to 12pm since May 2019. Many Seaton residents have joined already and had the chance to try out a range of activities in a relaxed, friendly environment. So far, activities have included designing and making scented candles and soap, sewing character cushions, and gem art. All activities have been suggested by participants themselves, ensuring that the group is run by local people for local people. Participants are forming friendships and growing in confidence as they discover skills and interests they weren't even aware they had. As word spreads, we expect more people to join, bringing their own ideas. So why not drop by one Monday and give it a go yourself?

For more information call S.T.A.R on 01224 524209.



SEATON PARK RETAINS GREEN FLAG AWARD

Hamish Mackay

Seaton Park has retained its prestigious Green Flag Award status.

This year it is one of a record number of 1970 UK parks and green spaces to receive the award which is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has good visitor facilities.

Sheila Gordon, chair of the Friends of Seaton Park, told Seaton Scene: "The award was particularly gratifying to receive this year because we did not have a formal visit from the judges. They visited incognito so must have been pleased with what they found."

The Green Flag Award, which is an international award, is now in its third decade. Paul Todd, the Green Flag Award scheme manager, said: "It is fantastic that we have more Green Flag Awards in the UK than ever before - joined this year by 126 international winners.

"Each flag honours the thousands of staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain the high standards demanded by the Green Flag Award. We congratulate each and every winner on their fantastic achievement."

Same again for FOSP top team

The committee members of Friends of Seaton Park (FOSP) Management Committee were re-elected en masse at the recent AGM.

The current management committee is now: Chair - Sheila Gordon. Vice-chairs - Margaret Sleeman and Lekky Shepherd. Treasurer - Clare Roberts. Secretary and Minutes secretary - Mary Middleton. Gardening co-ordinator - Margaret Sleeman. Web adviser - Claire Abbot. Public relations adviser - Hamish Mackay. Trustees - Steph Kiltie, Lorraine Grant and Lorna Green.

The management committee is supported by a very healthy number of volunteers who are happy to do things like litter picking or weeding or other specific tasks, and whom can be called upon when needed.

TAMS returns to the Park

The Aberdeen-based Allotment Market Stall (TAMS) is back in Seaton Park every Friday over the summer until the end of September.

TAMS is based near the park's fountain every Friday from 10am -1pm (see picture above) - selling excess seasonal fresh produce including locally grown vegetables and fruit from allotments across Aberdeen.

TAMS aim is to reduce waste, reduce food miles, and so improve our local environment.

At TAMS first visit of the summer to Seaton Park, they were joined by Aberdeen City Council Waste Aware team who were due to make further visits as the summer progressed.

SEATON STONES

Two creative individuals in Seaton have started a fun, colourful treasure hunt around the community.

Kenny and Nicola got into it by attending art class at Reach Out on King Street.

They said "We were painting stones in the class that the teacher took in and we decided to continue from there. We thought it would be nice to leave them around for people to find, take or rehide them and it puts a smile on everyone's face. There has been a few found and they have been taken down to England to be rehidden. There is one in the window at Castlegate in the hairdresser. It's very addictive and fun and we just love it."

"We find the stones from all around and we give them a wash with water at home. We use acrylic paints and sharpie markers. Then we use a gloss spray to seal it"

See if you can spot some of their stones around Seaton!



Aberdeen's Bosies voted Scotland's 'Charity Shop of the Year'

Hamish Mackay

A well-known and very popular Aberdeen charity shop – Bosies, which opened only nine years ago, has been voted the top charity shop of the year in the 2019 Scotland's Business Awards.

Bosies was founded by Maggie Lenahan in 2010 after her elder sister Wendy was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer. Maggie is, a breast cancer survivor after having a mastectomy at the age of 45.

Bosies is very much a family affair at management level with Maggie, as manager, running the charity shop along with her daughter Debbie Hamilton. Maggie's husband Ted is in charge of the furniture and white goods shop, and the family trio are supported by a dedicated team of 18 volunteers.

To date this commendable volunteer venture has raised a splendid total of more than £100,000 which has been donated for several purposes at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary – Bosies' sole beneficiary.

Maggie, whom lives in Torry, explains to me the raison d'être of Bosies: "Breast cancer can be devastating for both the sufferer and their close family. This is why we at Bosies have dedicated ourselves to raising funds to help sufferers, carers and families in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

"All the monies raised goes to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, for research and specialised equipment purchases, as well as to help improve the environment for palliative patients and their families."

Bosies initially opened as a small shop at 12 Justice Street in 2010 - expanding next door the following year to encompass the sale of furniture and white goods. And last year it further expanded into adjoining premises which had the added advantage of giving Bosies an impressive frontage on to the Castlegate. All three premises are rented from the same lessor.

Maggie is now hoping that Bosies new-found recognition on a national scale thanks to the charity award may help attract the attention of Aberdeen's business and commercial community.

Major national car sales firm Arnold Clark became the first large company to lend a very helpful hand - buying and fitting all the new signage, and then a further significant contribution by transporting Bosies volunteering team to Glasgow to attend the Scotland's Business Awards ceremony. There was additional help from Aberdeen businessman Ernie Booth who provided the labour to carry out the entire fitting of the new shop.

Maggie told Seaton Scene: "Save for the help from Arnold Clark and Ernie Booth, we have done all the work in creating Bosies off our own bat so far. We paid for everything ourselves when we started and the launch of our third shop has meant that our overheads have risen significantly.

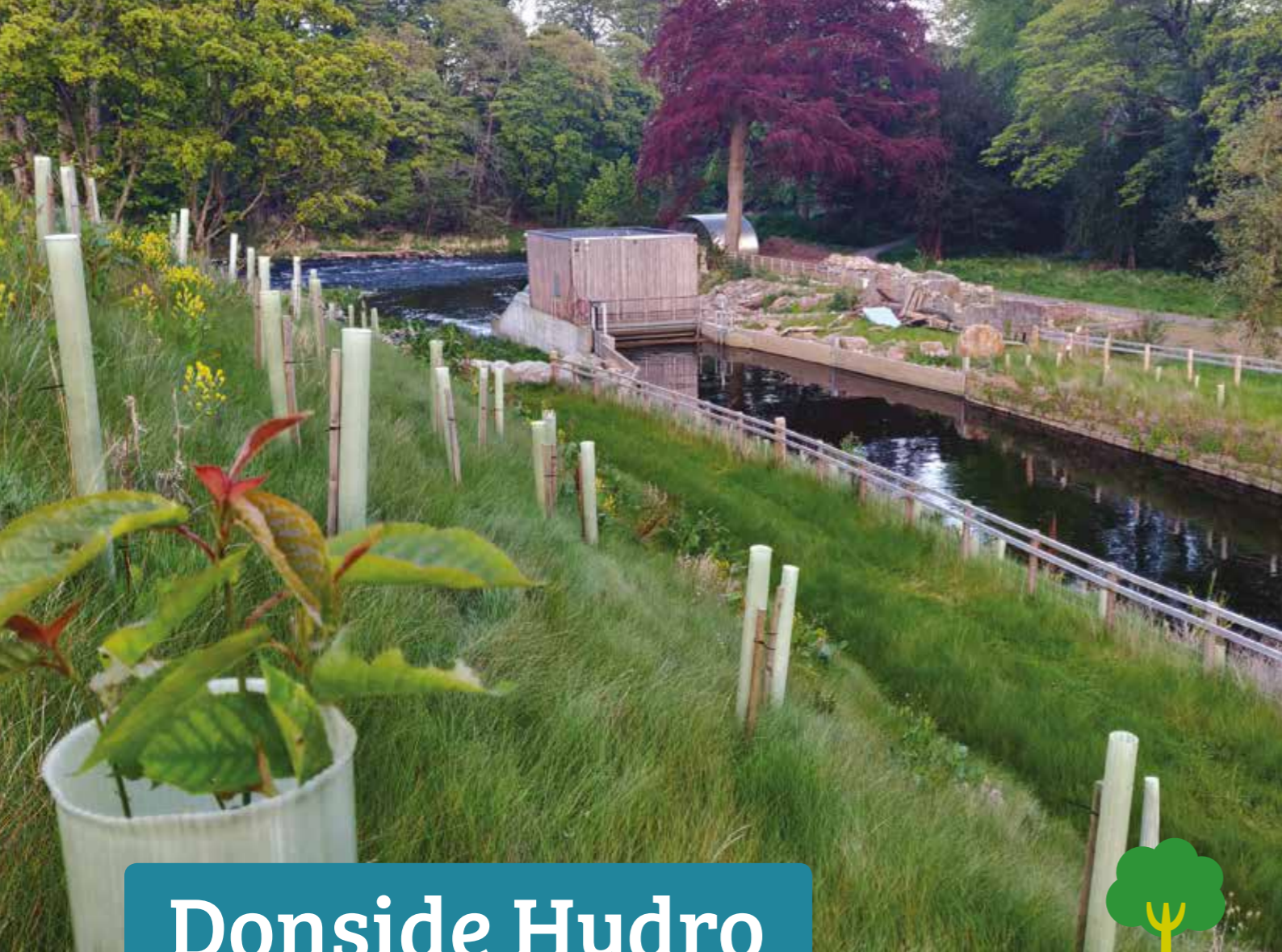
"It would be really nice, now that we are hailed as Scotland's 'Charity of the Year', if one of the big companies – perhaps in the oil and gas sector - would come along and help us financially to achieve further success and even more monies for cancer research.

Bosies is helped run most efficiently by 18 volunteers whom Maggie praises as "a tremendously kind-hearted, people-friendly, diligent and hard-working team whom have enabled Bosies to become the success story it now is."

For those not au fait with the North Scottish or Doric languages, a 'bosie' is a hug or cuddle. And part of Bosies advertising package proclaims proudly: "No one gives Bosies like Aberdonians!"

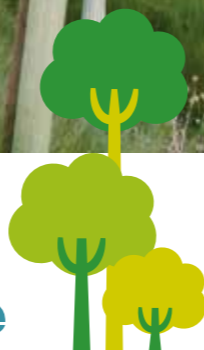
A collections service is available, and deliveries can also be arranged. Bosies telephone number is: 01224 588111.





Donside Hydro

Donside energy scheme hits million-kilowatt hour milestone



The Donside renewable energy scheme has hit a memorable milestone of generating one million kilowatt hours.

The exciting, innovative hydro scheme turns the currents from the River Don into power. It is operated by the community and has been in place since 2016 - led by local group Aberdeen Community Energy (ACE).

ACE director Jane Fullerton said: "This memorable milestone is an exciting landmark. It's a million kilowatts, so it is really something exciting to shout about. It just shows that it is working and is doing what it is meant to do.

"We're loving the rain. Last year was terribly dry and the turbine didn't

work for a number of weeks, so we are absolutely delighted. We are creating clean, green energy, which isn't causing any pollution. It's fantastic."

The hydro sells electricity to the national grid and is expected to generate thousands of pounds for a community fund.

The turbine has an otter screen which protects small creatures from falling into it. Jane explains: "The screen stops creatures and it stops plastics from floating away in the river. We have to clean the screen by hand, and sometimes we have people out cleaning it every day."

The income generated from the project is channelled into initiatives

that will achieve social and environmental benefits for the local area. The hydro boasts the UK's widest Archimedean screw turbine, which is a fish-friendly hydro unit.

There are several projects underway at the site which is adjacent to the Donside Village housing complex. There are plans to transform the site around the hydro which are currently under public consultation. A new piece of artwork is also planned - based on the Archimedean screw.

Thanks to a splendid new wooden path along the west bank of the River Don, a delightful walkway linking Seaton Park to the Donside Village has been created and it is attracting a steady flow of visitors.



SEATON SINGS

Sehrish

Monday mornings are not always very good mornings but if a motivational factor for you is music, accompanied by a rich aroma of tea then Seaton Sings is for you. The common room of Lord Hay's Court is full of life roof cracking genuine laughter from the lovely elderly people on a Monday morning.

*What is Seaton sings?
Who can join the group?
I'm not a singer, does it matter?
How to get registered?*

I was worried they might ask me to play piano or provide a drumbeat. Would they accept me as a minority? Oh no, I don't have musical instruments, oh I never seen a piano before, oh I'm just a shower singer! These were all thoughts going through my head before joining the Seaton Sings group which has been running successfully for about two years in the common room of Lord Hay's Court.

Seaton Sings is a musical group run by Alec. He has a cheerful personality wrapped in the helpful

heart and he teaches the members about music, guides us through the different numbers, including the Scottish music. He tells us all about general musical events and activities as well in the Aberdeen.

This is an open group, and anyone can join at any time with no previous experience is required and there is no registration. In this group we sing together with the elderly people living in the Lord Hay's court, then we have a refreshment break with tea prepared by one of a group member who is the best tea maker in town I believe.

In the past few months, Seaton Sings group was in touch with the Primary 7 pupils from Seaton School and they visited the Lord Hay's group many times with their teachers. I can't pen the feelings, I can't sketch the watery eyes, I can't portrait the dimpled cheeks, but it was the outstanding reunion of elders and youngsters. The kids really enjoyed their frequent visits and singing their favourite numbers with Seaton Singers, they played games arranged and small snacks as well.

But you don't really care for music, do you?
Well, it goes like this,
The fourth the fifth, the minor fall, the major lift

It's the heart
Afraid of breaking
That never learns to dance,
It's the dream afraid of waking,
That never takes the chance....

And when I get that lonesome feeling,
And I m miles away from home,

I hear the voice of mystic mountains
Calling me back home.
Take me back...

To the black hills of Dakota
To the beautiful Indian country
That I love...

This year Aberdeen based charity North East Sensory Services (NESS) celebrates an amazing 140 years of improving lives. NESS is a local charity operating with the main aim of achieving independence for blind and deaf people. It is the first integrated joint sensory service in Scotland and delivers much needed information, equipment and support.

Everyone who experiences sight loss and hearing loss is affected in different ways and may need different support at different times. Getting the right practical and emotional support helps make sense of their sight and/or hearing loss and find ways of managing day-to-day life whilst maintaining their independence.

Amongst the many things NESS offers by way of services to their service users, daily living aids are perhaps some of the most vital things people find life changing.

Adaptive and assistive technology that can transform the lives of people living with a sensory loss. From simple kitchen gadgets to complex pieces of technology, there is a wide range of technology available that can help people stay independent and get on with life. NESS stocks a range of technology and equipment. Demonstrations and training sessions can be arranged on an individual basis or in the home. Group training sessions are also run on a regular basis.

NESS offers social support for older people living with a sensory loss to help reduce social isolation and also supports a wide range of clubs, groups and activities that bring people together. They also run the Young People's Sensory Service (YPSS) which aims to support young people who have a sensory loss to get the most out of their childhood. Fun activities, social groups and trips help youngsters make friends

and gain new experiences – at the same time as developing important life skills. Support for young people is vital and YPSS help children and young people with a sensory loss to build confidence, self-esteem and life skills. Plus, their parents also get a chance to share their experiences.

Earlier this year NESS was awarded Gold recognition by Investors in People amongst only very few third sector organisations to receive such credit. A true mark of distinction, the Investors in People framework underpins the world recognised Investors in People Standard.

NESS would not be able to do everything that it does without the support and generosity of people like you, the businesses that NESS works with and the dedication of their team of volunteers. More about how you can help and what this amazing charity does can be found online at www.nesensoryservices.org

Seaton targeted for high rate of false fire alarms

Hamish Mackay

Seaton residents have been given free advice on fire safety and the prevention of false alarms in a targeted community safety event.

The event had a range of partners and information delivered by Aberdeen City Council officers, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Police Scotland and other invited partners. The focus was on fire safety, fire prevention and how to prevent false fire alarms.

It was revealed that the most common causes of false fire alarms in multi-storey buildings included

people smoking or vaping in communal areas such as hallways and drying rooms; dust created by home improvement works; electrical faults; fire alarms being triggered by cooking; and malicious callouts.

Aberdeen City Council's chief officer on early intervention and community empowerment, Derek McGowan, said: "We have been working closely with SFRS to help residents as most fires and false fire alarms are preventable. As well as being potentially dangerous in the event of a real fire, false fire alarms can cause a lot of inconvenience to multi-story

residents as lifts are out of action for up to an hour afterwards."

The partners have also visited Seaton Community Church coffee and chat, Lord Hay's Court coffee afternoon, Bayview Court and Promenade Court. In May SFRS officers gave a special presentation on fire safety during a special assembly at St Peter's and Seaton primary schools.

*** Residents are urged to book a free home safety visit from the SFRS by calling 0800 0731 or texting 'fire' to 80800**



News Digest

Multis clean-up

Aberdeen City Council has taken the cleaning of its residential multi-storeys back in-house after a period of years when the work was contracted out. The work will now be carried out by the city council's own cleaning services division.

Renovation time at St Machar's Cathedral

The session clerk of St Machar's Cathedral, Alan Grant, has revealed that considerable work is being undertaken at the Old Aberdeen landmark.

Alan, the former chief executive of Langstane Housing Association, was speaking as the cathedral's congregation bade farewell to its minister, the Rev Barry Dunsmore, 65, who was retiring to Glasgow after five years in the post.

Alan said: "Barry has led the development of a vision for the future of the cathedral, which has already seen new pews installed and a new floor in the nave.

"Later this year, work will start to renovate the roof, the stained glass and the famous heraldic ceiling, which celebrates its 500th anniversary next year.

£10,000 grant for Sunnybank

The National Lottery has made several grants from its Award for All scheme to Aberdeen projects.

A £10,000 grant has been made to Sunnybank Community Centre to build a soft play area for under-threes. A spokesperson said: "We have many families that come to our centre, but we are limited on what we could set up for very young

children to get them mobile and using all their limbs.

"This is essential for them as many are in pushchairs and car seats, so a safe place to play and crawl and climb will be great."

£6180 has gone to the St Machar Parent Support Project and Pathway Services has been awarded £7010 to develop courses on overcoming anxiety.

Vattenfall boosts half-yearly sales to £7billion

Swedish wind developer Vattenfall has said it is looking to further expand in Scotland as it celebrated a sizeable half-year profit growth.

Vattenfall operates the £350million 11-turbine European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre in Aberdeen Bay and is on the hunt for more Scottish wind projects - including onshore wind.

Vattenfall, which has six operational Scottish wind projects in the north-east and Highlands, celebrated pre-tax profits of £880million for the first half of 2019 - up £137million on the same period last year. It also experienced increased sales from £6.4billion in the first half of last year to £7billion between January to June this year.

Haircut on a Sunday

Seaton and Linksfield now has a barber's facility on a Sunday. The traditional Scottish barber, Eclipz, next to Spar at 605A King Street, is open from 11am to 4pm. However, the special discount for senior citizens continues to be only applicable from Monday to Thursday.

New Chinese takeaway opens in King Street

A King Street former Chinese takeaway premises, which had been closed for several months and up for sale, re-opened in July, once again as a Chinese takeaway. The Eastern Feast, at 653 King Street, is immediately next door to the Shalimar Tandoori.co.uk Indian takeaway. The lady front of house in the Eastern Feast is Xiao Hong Lin.

Seaton now has two Chinese and two Indian takeaway premises again. The other two outlets, both in School Road, are the Soy Cook Chinese and the Tandoori Hut Kebab House & Grill. Just down the street is the Seaton Chipper.

There is also an Indian restaurant and takeaway and a Chinese restaurant and takeaway just across the River Don on the A90 in Ellon Road.

Lorry driver denies causing OAP's death

A Dundee HGV driver, Gerald Clark, is to go on trial in November charged with causing the death of Bridge of Don senior citizen Molly Allan.

Mrs Allan, 83, who was married to Ian, and a mother to three grown-up family, lived in Simpson Road, Bridge of Don. She was killed in a collision with Clark's lorry on a King Street and St Machar Drive crossing on September 10 last year. She was on her way back home after visiting her niece at the TSB in School Road.

Clark has pled not guilty to several charges in connection with the incident including causing Mrs Allan's death by careless driving. The trial is expected to last for five days.

Success at shmu

Sarah* lived with her family in Canada for several years as a result of her stepfather's role in the Oil and Gas industry. Once she found out that the family was returning to the UK, Sarah was heartbroken and didn't want to leave behind her life and her friends in Canada.

On her return to Scotland, Sarah enrolled at a local secondary school for the remaining 18 months of school life. Unfortunately, Sarah did not have a good experience during this time and was badly bullied. After leaving school, Sarah was unable to obtain a positive destination and went to see her Careers Advisor and as a result was advised to apply for the Positive Transitions (PT) course at shmu.

Sarah was extremely worried about participating in the PT course after her bad experiences at school.

"I felt a bit anxious about attending the course at first as I wasn't very confident when it came to meeting new people".

Sarah began the course with some trepidation, but found that radio training was hugely beneficial, as she had to work in a team. Radio also allowed her to develop better planning strategies and Sarah learned to prioritise tasks much more effectively.

Sarah also found filming was an effective way of addressing her anxiety;

"I really enjoyed being part of the creative process from beginning to end, as it allowed me to express myself and be more confident in my abilities"

The teamwork required to create the film also supported Sarah to grow in confidence and work on her interpersonal skills.

Since taking part in the course, Sarah has stated that she now feels a lot more confident in all aspects of her life.

"The course gave me the opportunity to be more creative, meet some amazing people, have a lot of fun"

In order to continue to develop her confidence and motivation, Sarah was offered a work placement at shmu's new HQ in the role of Receptionist. The new reception at shmu HQ is a busy environment and the first point of contact for guests, visitors and building users, so the ideal place for Sarah to demonstrate her new-found confidence and people-skills. Greeting building users and answering phone calls has significantly supported the development of Sarah's communication skills, and on completion of the work placement, she offered to continue to volunteer as

Receptionist over the summer holiday period.

Sarah has taken on any additional tasks she is offered, is always keen to learn and now has the confidence to ask questions if she is struggling, something she would have been very reluctant to do before her time on the PT course. Sarah's favourite part of the role has been meeting new people and interacting with different generations.

Sarah feels a lot more positive about her future as a result of her engagement with shmu, and notes that it has enabled her to become more independent and pro-active about her choices in life. Sarah has always expressed an interest in make-up and beauty, and it was her goal in life to become a qualified Beauty Therapist; during her time on Positive Transitions she was encouraged and supported to apply for the Beauty course at NEScol, securing a place on the course beginning in August 2019. Until the start of her course, Sarah is going to continue to volunteer as Receptionist at shmu.

"I would definitely recommend the course at shmu to anyone that is struggling to get a job, as it is a really good opportunity and it has boosted my confidence no end!"

**not real name*

For more information about Positive Transitions, email michelle.trail@shmu.org.uk or call 01224 515013 and ask for Michelle, Kirsty or Yvette.

Seaton Snippets

Seaton Backies Project is wound up after almost 10 years

The groundbreaking, innovative and enterprising Seaton Backies project is being wound up after approaching 10 years as a group for good in our community.

The project was set up to improve play areas across several locations for the children of Seaton. And over the years many volunteers and Seaton residents have contributed much hard work and dedication in developing and improving the play spaces for local children.

A number of Aberdeen City Council officers were involved with the project from its inception and did an exceptional job in engaging with the community and getting the play parks in place for future generations to enjoy.

As the project has moved towards achieving its aims and the residents' children have grown up, the number of volunteers has steadily decreased. Over the last two years there have been a number of attempts to recruit and expand the group to ensure it continued. However, this has not brought any new members forward, and the decision has been taken to disband the group.

Hamish Mackay, a member of the Seaton Linksfield Community Network management committee points out: "We should pay our grateful thanks to all of those who contributed in one way or another to the success story of the Backies group. Thanks are especially due to Sarah Stephen, who has played a sterling role in the success of the group since its beginning, as its long-serving and indefatigable chairperson

and committee member Murdoch Macleod, now chair of STAR and the STAR Flat. Sarah and Murdoch are the last members of the group."

Defective railing replaced at St Ninian's Court

Aberdeen City Council at long last have replaced the metal railing along a path from St Ninian's Court to King Street and enclosing an adjacent area of grass.

The previous unsightly railing had dangerous jagged open ends and lengthy sections had completely corroded. The new railing is a welcome addition to a number of significant improvements in this part of Seaton which houses four residential multi-storey buildings. The improvements include improved street lighting, a recently erected and much-used children's' play area and a splendid gardening feature at the front of Lord Hay's Court - principally created by a small team drawn from its residents.

And the Lord Hay's Court Gardeners are set to embark on another ambitious project - a sensory garden, following a recent substantial grant award from the Locality Partnership. Meanwhile, the large area of trees planted some years ago between Lord Hay's Court and the King's Link Golf Course is developing into a very attractive environmental amenity.

Aberdeen Sports Village

Aberdeen Sports Village currently have the following free classes for over 60's on the dates listed:

Evergreens Boxing

Tuesday 11.00-12.00
Sports Studio - 18th June to 9th July

Seated Exercise

Wednesday 15.15-16.00
Sky Studio - 19th June to 31st July

Walking Hockey

Thursday 13.30-14.30
Hockey Pitch 13th June to 4th July

Other sessions we are involved in run at Lord Hays Court (Mondays at 15.15) and Seton/Donview House (Thursday at 13.30). The classes run weekly and include chair-based exercises which are open to people living in those areas.

Aberdeen University OTC building is up for sale

Aberdeen University's OTC building, whose frontage is at 142 Don Street, is up for sale. The selling agents say the Roy Strathdee building is suitable for a number of commercial uses or residential development. The Aberdeen University OTC is an army reserve unit that recruits exclusively from university students. Its aim is to train the future generation of officers for both the regulars and reserves. However, there is no commitment to join the army after graduation.

The Roy Strathdee building is part two-storey and a single storey and there are a number of lockups. The ground floor is 9751 sq ft and the first floor is 3232 sq ft. There are a number of male and female changing areas.

The folks in the four multi-storey residential buildings across the road - Inverdon Court, St Ninian's Court, Balgownie Court and Lord Hay's Court, have become well used over the years to the strains of pipe music emanating from the OTC Pipe Band's practice sessions.

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 **0800 7315520**
and Emergency Out of Hours

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