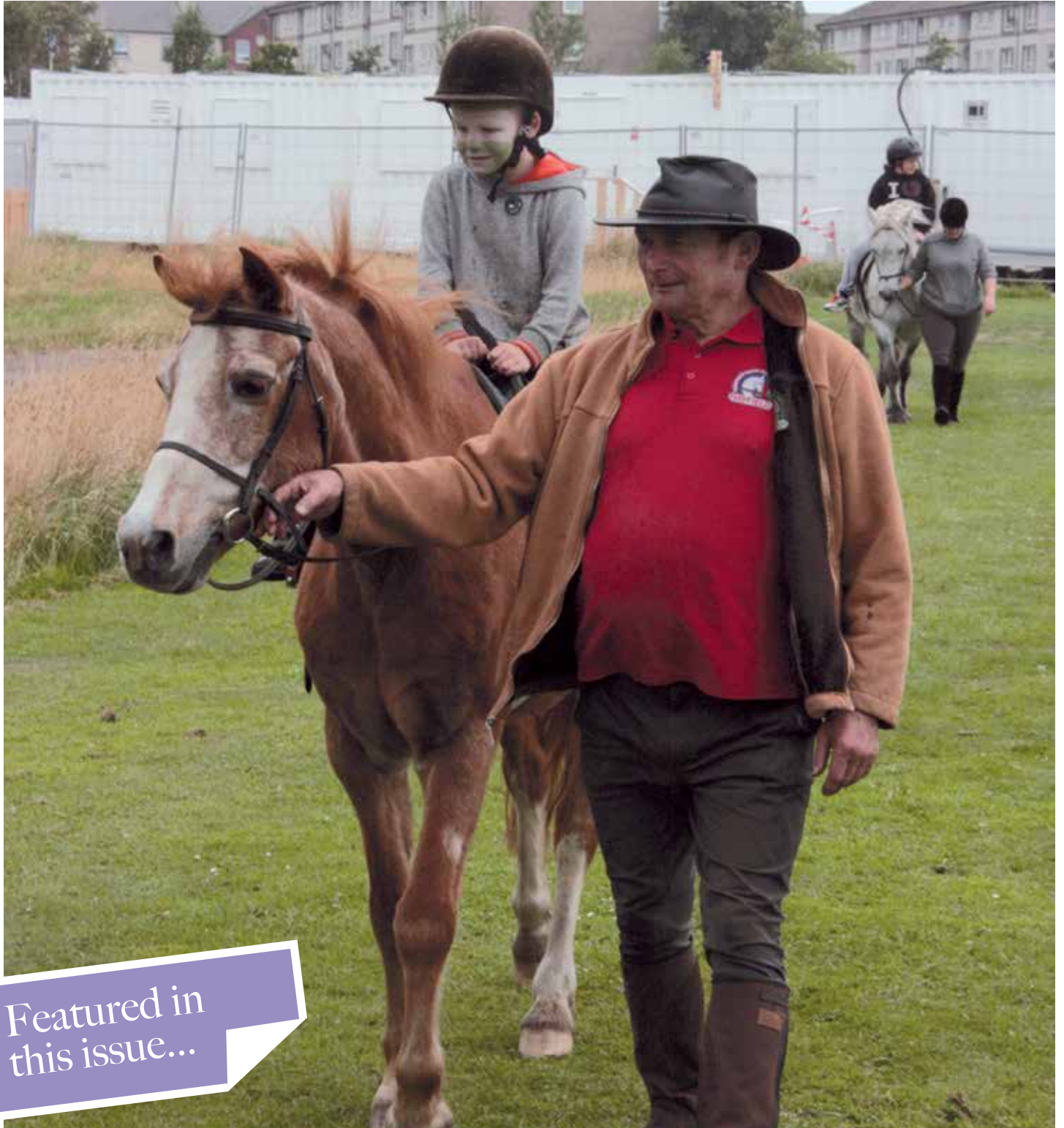


Autumn Edition 2013

# TillyTattle

LOCAL NEWS DEDICATED TO YOUR COMMUNITY



Featured in  
this issue...

**A HOLISTIC APPROACH**  
Wellbeing in Tillydrone

**TILLYDRONE REGENERATION:**  
Interviews with your local MSPs

**TILLYDRONE GALA**  
Summer fun

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Top from left - Morven, Sonny, Suzy, Cat, Carrie, Margaret, Elsie & Mary Clare.

## *Welcome to your autumn edition of the Tilly Tattle.*

In this issue we have articles from Aberdeen Lads Club, Riverbank School, update on Tillydrone Regeneration, Tillydrone Gala day as well as some reminiscing articles written by our very talented and regular writers Sonny Ogg and Elsie Rennie.

Our editorial team has expanded over the past few months and we have a fabulous team but recently we have lost one member who has secured a place at college so on behalf of the whole team we would like to wish Morven all the best of luck.

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team or if you have ideas for the community publication, you can easily get in touch with us. The staff at SHMU are able to support and train anyone living in the area who are interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading. So please don't be shy, this is your magazine written, edited and designed by the good folk of Tillydrone!

If you live in the Tillydrone area and would like to come along to the editorial meetings or submit an article then get in touch with Mary Clare at SHMU on **515013** or you can email her on **[maryclare@shmu.org.uk](mailto:maryclare@shmu.org.uk)**

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website **[www.shmu.org.uk](http://www.shmu.org.uk)** then click the 'PRESS' option.

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# A Holistic Approach to Wellbeing in Tillydrone

Scotland is changing in a fundamental way. We are in a society where we are living longer, in which the balance of life is changing.

For the first time ever, Scotland is home to more people over the age of 60 than children under the age of 16. For most older people, the prospect of living a healthy life after retirement is looking more important than ever before.

Communities within Aberdeen need to be places where older people are given the opportunities to thrive and live life to the full for as long as possible, by providing the opportunity to develop and create wellbeing opportunities as a result of listening and acting on the needs of older people.

## So how could this be accomplished?

The Wellbeing Service at Aberdeen City Council is a small team of individuals who aim to offer a flexible service in the promotion of older people's wellbeing, through a variety of creative approaches. A person's

wellbeing is everything you need as an individual to keep you as healthy and well for as long as possible.

Together, we create and highlight opportunities which will promote the health and wellbeing of adults aged 65 and over by working in partnership with different agencies around Aberdeen.

The Older People's Wellbeing Team are looking to create and develop wellbeing opportunities for older people in Tillydrone - but we need your input! If you are 65 or over, or have an interest in the Wellbeing of persons over 65, The Wellbeing Team would love to hear from you!

***"What do you want to see happen in Tillydrone in the promotion of Holistic Wellbeing?"***

***"What would make a difference to staying connected and reducing loneliness and isolation?"***

If you would like to discuss promoting wellbeing for over 65s

in Tillydrone, please contact a member of the wellbeing team below:

**Hayley Buchan**  
07554332436  
[hbuchan@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:hbuchan@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Jayne Buchan**  
07584601075  
[jaybuchan@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:jaybuchan@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Susanna Brook**  
07584601093  
[sbrook@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:sbrook@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Darren Smith**  
07584601073  
[darsmith@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:darsmith@aberdeencity.gov.uk)





# Tillydrone Regeneration

*The regeneration of the Tillydrone area is a hot topic and will only become more important in the coming years. We've had school closures, talks of new schools, a vast increase in housing and documents from the city council on the redevelopment of the area. Tilly Tattle writer Carrie-Ann Holland has been looking in to the issues surrounding Tillydrone and its future. She spoke to two local MSPs - Kevin Stewart and Lewis Macdonald - to get their thoughts on some of the big issues.*

## Interview with Kevin Stewart MSP

**Q: In 2008 Aberdeen City Council, led by a Lib Dem/SNP coalition, decided to close St Machar Primary School. At the time plans were already under way for Donside Urban Village. Why now do the SNP want a new school?**

**A:** In 2008 the Liberal Democrat/SNP coalition had some tough choices to make because of falling school rolls and budgetary pressures. The school estate had been neglected for years and while we were able to build ten new schools in the city during our time in administration on the council, a new-build school for Tillydrone had not been included in the initial planning of 3Rs,

which dated from before we took office. My colleagues and I said at the time that if money had been available then we would have liked to see a new school for Tillydrone and now that monies are available I believe that this should happen.

**Q: Where would you like to see a proposed new primary school built?**

**A:** Regeneration is about much more than just new housing and in my opinion people in communities should have a major say in the siting of any new buildings. It is extremely important to get the right balance between new housing, new

business opportunities and new community facilities. It is extremely important that the people of Tillydrone have their say in any new project.

**Q: What are your thoughts on the regeneration of Tillydrone?**

**A:** The Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Regeneration Committee, which I chair, is currently looking very closely at how regeneration projects are working across Scotland, details of which can be found at the following web address:- [www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/58480.aspx](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/58480.aspx)

## Interview with Lewis Macdonald MSP

**Q: In 2008 Aberdeen City Council, led by a Lib Dem/SNP coalition, decided to close St Machar Primary School. At the time plans were already under way for Donside Urban Village. Where do you stand on this issue?**

**A:** I strongly opposed the SNP's decision to close St Machar School. I attended the formal consultation meeting which they held at the time, in order to spell out my objections, I wrote to the Council as part of that process, and I worked closely with parents in Tillydrone to try to save the school.

One of the arguments we made was that the Donside village would be certain to increase the number of primary-age children in the area, and I called on SNP Schools Minister Maureen Watt to call in the proposals, partly because the SNP council appeared to under-estimate the likely number of kids to come from 300 new houses, many of them family homes. Ministers refused to call in the closure decision.

We also argued that it made no sense to close what was then the second-newest school in the city, when it served an area in need of positive support in education. Kevin Stewart and his Administration closed a whole range of facilities in the area, such as St Machar School, Aberdon House and Portal Community Centre, as well as pushing forward the Third Don Crossing against the wishes of most local people. It seemed to be a clear case of picking on a disadvantaged community. We predicted that Riverbank School would be put under severe strain by the number

of kids both from the existing community and from Donside, and so it has proved. I have continued to work with parents and others in the local community to try to secure the resources the school needs, if it is to provide the best possible start in life for local children.

**Q: Where would you like to see a proposed new primary school built?**

**A:** The very people who closed St Machar School now talk about building a new school, as if they think local people will forget who shut down the last new school in this community. That is the kind of behaviour that gives politics and politicians a bad name. When Labour took office in the Town House last year, the council acted quickly to make up for the loss of St Machar by extending Riverbank School. That extension has been designed on the same basis as the new and upgraded 3Rs schools, such as Seaton Primary. The right thing now is for parents and the school community here to engage with the council on how best to meet local needs, building on the existing site at Riverbank and bringing the whole school up to the highest standards at the earliest opportunity.

**Q: What are your thoughts on the regeneration of Tillydrone?**

**A:** The best people to achieve regeneration in Tillydrone are the people who live here. Sticking together in the face of threats such as the Third Don Crossing and a proposed homeless hostel at Aberdon, the local community has shown enormous strength when others might have given up the fight. That determination is

the community's best defence. The Third Don Crossing and new road through Tillydrone now look likely to happen, after the SNP, Tories and Liberals on the council voted it through last year. The community is entitled to look to the council both for measures to reduce the impact of the new road, and also to get whatever advantage might come from increased traffic access to the area.

I welcome the council's Combined Heat and Power scheme for Tillydrone, which will provide affordable heating for the multis and the Lads' Club in the next 18 months, and I hope other local residents are able to benefit from the development of this scheme.

Donside Urban Village brings new people into the area, and it is important that they are given every encouragement to shop locally and to become part of the wider Tillydrone community. I believe redeveloping the shops and other public facilities on and around Hayton Road should be the number one priority for local regeneration, and that access for local young people to local jobs would give the whole community a lift.

Tilly Tattle and SHMU play an important role here too. Nothing matters more in regenerating communities than giving local people a voice, which is why I called on the Deputy First Minister to come here a few weeks ago and listen to local views. Community-based papers and radio are part of what is needed to move this community forward, which is why they have my full support.



# Aberdeen Lads Club Summer Fun

Our end of term trip for our After School Club was voted for by the children and they wanted to go out on the Party Bus, which is a locally run business.

The Party Bus took the group to Balmedie Beach to play in the fantastic play park there. We also gave the children a chance to go on boogie boards down the sand dunes (a bit like sledging on sand). It was great fun but unfortunately the weather was not good that day, but we didn't let this dampen our spirits.

The bus was bouncing with the children dancing and singing their hearts out - they had a brilliant time. Many thanks to Susan Smith and the driver, who were fabulous with the children.

Our nursery children went to Dizzy Rascals for their summer trip and they had a great time running around playing in soft play areas, slides and ball pits. The kids had great fun and we had very sleepy children on the journey home. Unfortunately due to child protection guidance we were unable to take photos of the nursery children playing in Dizzy Rascals.

Our Holiday Activity Club had a great summer, the weather was very kind to us and the children were able to enjoy trips out across the city. We had visits to His Majesty Theatre and were shown how things work behind the scenes - but we can't tell you anything as it's a secret!

The children also went ice skating, tubing and enjoyed many more healthy physical activities. The children also baked, had arts and crafts fun and we were very lucky to get tickets from Arts Development to see Skerryvore, who came highly recommended. Skerryvore are a very chatty, fun group of young guys who talked about their instruments and how they got into playing in a humorous and enthusiastic way. They got everyone up and dancing although there is no pressure to do so - the children had a brilliant time and were so impressed they even collected autographs at the end!

We look forward to the next holiday period. With the support of the local community, we hope to be able to provide our Holiday Activity Club for the many families who rely on this service for their children to have fun activities to take part in, make new friends, help out with childcare and work commitments and most importantly keep the local children active.

**Aberdeen Lads Club,  
Dill Road, Tillydrone,  
Aberdeen, AB24 2XL,  
01224 492672,  
angie@aberdeenlads  
club.org.uk**



watching Skerryvore



meeting Skerryvore



fun outdoors



Party bus!

# RIVERBANK School News



## **Riverbank Extension News** **Riverbank's extension completion is running to schedule.**

The new extension and 1st phase of internal changes to the school should be completed, for the most part, by the end of the October holidays with only a few minor works continuing into the beginning of November. The contractors have been really busy during the holidays to keep the building schedule on time. The hall, the four classrooms and the corridor which links all the areas of school together are in place and work on the interiors is beginning, as is the work on the new entrance for the nursery and the courtyard. Internally, the stage has been partitioned off and now houses the library and the computer suite. It has been painted, carpeted, has a new lowered ceiling which will help deaden the noise, but still allow plenty of light into the room and is looking super.

The children are having P.E. outside on the fine days and the staff at The Lads' Club have been very accommodating, letting the children use their hall when needed and whole school assemblies will be at the church.

Mr. Weir, the minister, is managing to fit the first assembly in before he goes off with a group to visit Bezalal School in Africa. The two schools have a great link going and the children from Riverbank will be making a DVD and writing some letters for the children to share news from Tillydrone.

The school are planning to have their official opening in November.



## **Adventure Aberdeen** **Kayak Launch**

Tim Baillie, Olympic Gold Medal Winner, met with instructors from Adventure Aberdeen and 6 children from Riverbank School to Launch the Kayaks on Friday 30th August on the River Don, within Seaton Park.

The children had their first ever kayaking lesson and a 'golden' opportunity to meet with Tim Baillie, who is promoting his sport and we are hoping, in Riverbank, that we can apply for some funding to make kayaking a sport that we can become involved in and hopefully inspire our children to take up the sport - and perhaps bring another gold medal to Aberdeen.

### **Alcohol**

Alcoholics Anonymous

**0845 769 7555**

Drinkline

**0800 7 314 314**

### **Benefits**

Benefits Agency Advice Line

**01224 522709**

### **Crime**

Crimestoppers

**0800 555 111**

### **Drugs**

FRANK – National Helpline

**0800 776 600**

### **Dentist**

Emergency - G-Dens

**01224 558 140**

### **Doctors**

NHS 24 Emergency

**08454 242 424**

### **Electricity**

If you have a Power-Cut

**0800 300 999**

### **Family Planning**

Square 13, Support & Advice

**0845 337 99 00**

### **Gas**

Gas Emergency

**0800 111 999**

### **Housing**

Emergency Repairs

**08456 080 929**

### **Police**

Non-Emergency

**0845 600 5700**

### **Samaritans**

Need to talk

**01224 574 488**

### **Social Work**

Social Work Duty Team

**01224 522055**

Emergency Out-Of-Hours

**01224 693 936**

### **Young Carers**

Support & Information Service

**01224 358639**

### **Water**

Scottish Water Emergency

**0845 600 8855**



# Tillydrone Gala

## Saturday 17th August 2013

Wow what a summer - it's been BBQ's most weekends. Hours of organising and preparation, yet the forecast for this particular day is rain. But what the weather don't know, we Tillydrones are not easily put off with a wee bit of rain. Parents, children, grandparents, aunts and uncles came from across the city to take part.

It may have been overcast but there were plenty of activities from projects - SHMU, Lads Club, St Georges Church, Tilly Flat, Credit Union, M26 Group, TYP Dance Group, Guarana Drummers, CFINE, SCARF, Seed Truck. There were refreshments from the Lads Club for a minimal Price.

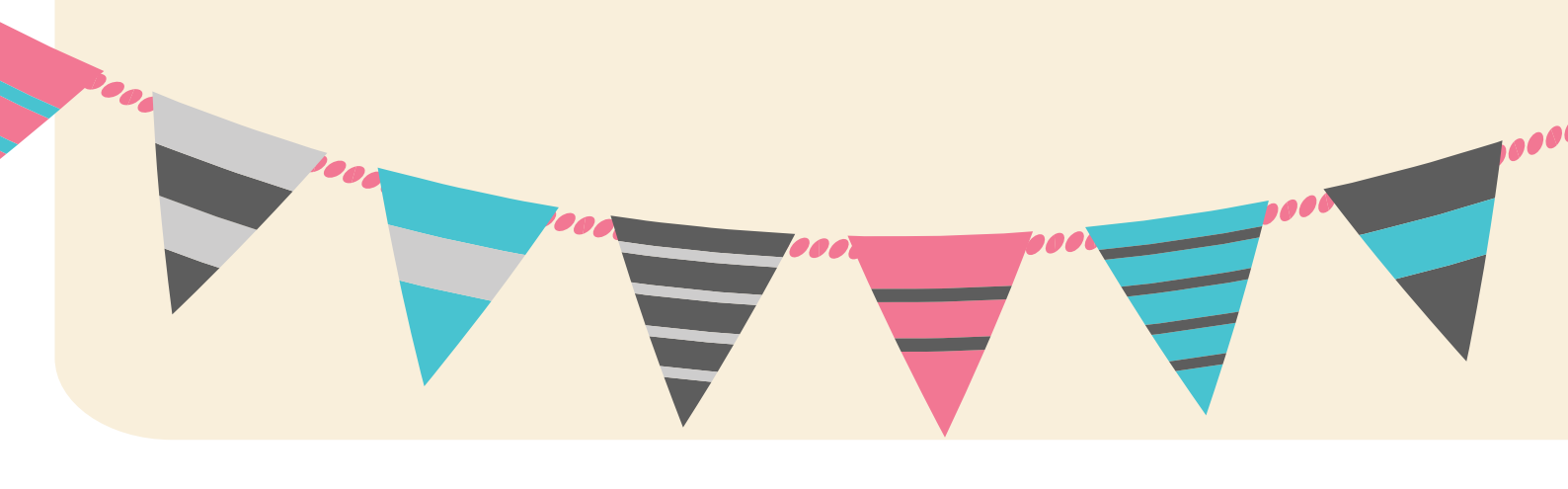
If you drew a picture you got a free ice cream, M26 Group sold the tatties, City Church gave out free cakes. There were some fantastic prizes with the raffles, Tombola did well. A special thanks to Gary for his bravery getting wet sponges thrown at him, but all in good fun.

The burger stall had a steady flow and again held the Hot Chilli Burger - low and behold our Suzy from the flat managed to eat a whole one! But unfortunately she never got a tee-shirt. All the burgers were supplied from our own Tilly butcher - The Lurch Monster.

The football trophy was won again this year by Qismat, and

they also supplied enough free pizza for everyone. Hayfield Equestrian Riding Centre deserves a courtesy mention for taking some ponies along - this was a first for many children and also scary for others. A big thank-you to everyone involved.

It is such a pleasure to see children so happy with getting their faces painted. Tilly Dance Group were in the process of taking the mats out when the rain started to come on. One cannot complain really because it was just nearing finishing time. So the last thing to say is a big thank you to all who attended. See you all next year!







## History By Sonny Ogg

# Wavell Crescent: Hayton Prefabs

I was born on the 30th of December 1946 in the original 18 Wavell Crescent, Hayton. The current tenant of 18 Wavell Crescent occupies the second house of that same address in almost the same spot, but now it is Tillydrone and not Hayton. Our prefabs had two bedrooms, kitchen, separate toilet and bathroom and a good sized living room and were of similar dimensions to the bungalow of today. Our gardens were all large and many families whose dads were good at the garden work were able to make a big saving with vegetable and fruit growing. The Tillydrone prefabs were more attractive to look at but were a lot smaller in all the room sizes. I think if you ask a lot of the folks who grew up in the prefabs both in Hayton and Tillydrone they would all say it was great times.

The River Don held fascination to all the children who lived near it and there were always some lads trying to make a rope swing from the tree branches, which meant invariably that you would swing out over the river. Unfortunately, there were mishaps - with one lad being just a youngster about six and not strong enough to hold onto the rope he slipped into the river and drowned. Fathers were often down the Don chasing their kids up the road away from the river as my own dad did many a day.

The two bridges had girders all the way across, with nothing to stop you from landing in the river if your foot slipped. The stepping

stones however were a whole different story, the water was shallow and it was fun playing there with all the stones having names like the piano, mother of pearl and a flat one we called the bed.

Across the road bridge at Grandholm Mills (or where it used to be), going under the bridge and along the footpath would lead you to a small beach area. This was popular with families and older ones who could swim, especially in summer when the kids could paddle and make sandcastles. There was ample opportunity to go picking wild fruit for your mum to make jam - I think there are still some brambles beside what used to be the water bailiffs house and round the back road of the mill.

### **“There was ample opportunity to go picking wild fruit for your mum to make jam”**

While summers were great, the prefabs could be cold in wintertime and the ice would be thick on the inside of windows; metal frames were deemed responsible. Mum and dad were first up and the gas cooker was used to warm the kitchen and boil the kettle for tea and make toast, the oven door would be open with chairs around it while you sat and had your hot toast and tea and your coats warmed before walking in the snow to school.

There was a lovely atmosphere in the prefabs, everybody knew everyone in the crescent and most of us went to the same school and played on the street quite happily with an ear out for the odd car or lorry that might come round.

Before the motor vehicles became the thing, we had our vegetables bought round by horse and cart and we would often get some bread and were allowed to feed the horse as long as we kept our hand flat out. The coal man used a horse and cart - I remember him well and always wondered how he managed as he did not seem to be any taller than the cart!

He lived beside the Deer Road swings. Looking back it is hard to believe that even the baker drove a horse and cart and it was always bath buns we were sent out for and a plain loaf. I think the best thing for us as kids and especially if our mums had a tuppence to spare was the three wheeled bike with the ice cream tub in front of it - the flavour was out of this world as it was such a luxury then.

I remember once when someone said there was a donkey on Alexander Drive, of course, this was big news and we all rushed to see - and sure enough there was the donkey! Well, Beefy Murray (as my father knew him) thought it was a good idea at the time to use it for cutting the grass! I think his idea backfired as the donkey was not there for long. To this day, his family still laugh about it.





# Touring Tillydrone

Aberdeen City Council's Creative Learning Team launched the 2013/14 Creative Communities programme at the Tillydrone Gala back in August.

Despite there being bit of wind and rain there was a great atmosphere and turn out and local folk met with lead artist Sophie Ormerod and other Creative Learning Team staff. They were inspired to create drawings and paintings on postcards which were then mailed back to them or to a recipient of their choice to spread the word about the forthcoming project.

Over the following four weeks Sophie delivered art workshops across the community with different age groups who helped construct and then added artworks to a bike pulled trailer which acted as

a touring exhibition. Artworks were created in response to the outdoor environment, encouraging participants to explore and express their area in a new light.

Throughout the project Sophie, could be seen peddling around Tillydrone exhibiting the creative contribution, stopping to meet with people passing by and informing and including them in the project.

There are many more opportunities to take part in the Creative Communities project up until the end of March 2014. Further projects will take place in Middlefield, Torry, Northfield, Cummings Park, Seaton and Woodside for four weeks at a time and will be delivered by a different lead artist in each area.

On offer are opportunities for residents to engage with

high quality arts projects in an informal, friendly environment. Projects will explore traditional as well as more experimental arts projects. Participants are encouraged to follow the project as it moves from area to area with workshops available to residents from all of the above areas. We invite you to be inspired, take part and try something new.

***Creative Communities is funded by The Fairer Scotland Fund and Aberdeen City Council.***

**facebook:** [www.facebook.com/creativecommunitiesaberdeen](http://www.facebook.com/creativecommunitiesaberdeen)

**twitter:** [www.twitter.com/cc\\_abdn](http://www.twitter.com/cc_abdn)

**blog:** <http://creativecommunitiesaberdeen.blogspot.co.uk/>



# St George's in Tillydrone

St George's Church is open to anyone and everyone in Tillydrone – it's your church and everyone is welcome. If you are searching for something, unhappy, going through a tough time or just plain curious as to what God is all about then go along and see what the church has to offer.

St George's was the first church in Aberdeen to have individual seats and not pews. It can be divided by screens and is still a very up-to-date building, modern although it's been here since 1971.

It was in 1961 that Aberdeen Presbytery planned to build a new church in Hatyon/Tillydrone – then it was planned for 1966-67. In 1961 the Rev John McGhee of Greyfriars said he did not like the idea that Hatyon/Tillydrone had been neglected. For 20 years he had youngsters from the area coming to his Sunday School. Since 1968 services were held at Tillydrone Primary School until the present church was completed in 1971.

On 13th September 1971 Aberdeen's newest church - St George's Tillydrone - was filled to capacity for its dedication ceremony. Four hundred people or more crowded into the school to hear the dedication performed by the Moderator of Aberdeen Presbytery the Reverend Walter J Gordon. The moderator received the keys to the church from the session clerk, who held his post for over 20 years, first as session clerk to St George's

West Church, John Street which was united with Tillydrone in 1969.

In attendance were the Church's minister Rev Norman Faulds and the Rev Catherine McConnachie - the Church of Scotland's first woman minister - and two church members Mrs Helen Mair and Mrs Isobel Montgomery, whose families had been connected with St Georges's since its beginnings in the 1870's.

A triple anniversary service was held in September 1978 at the Church - the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the original building of St Georges West Church in John Street, the 10th anniversary of the amalgamation of St George's congregation with that the new St Georges Church in Tillydrone and the 7th anniversary of the opening of the new St George's Church, Tillydrone.

Rev Norman Faulds gave his last service had been at St Georges since it opened in 1971. He moved to Edinburgh to take up a new post there.

In 2002 St Georges celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a special service. A commemorative wall hanging which depicted the Tree of Life mentioned in the Book of Revelation was dedicated. Much of the work was done by Carol Marple - a fabric artist based in Edinburgh. "The numbers at the Sunday School at this time was 250" said Miss Elsie McGregor – Senior Elder. Rev Stewart Jaffrey conducted the service.

It's now 2013 - how is St George's Church today?

The church has a service on a Sunday at 11.15 am conducted by Rev Jim Weir, with the Sunday school and crèche at that time too. The Sunday School restarted on 8th September. There is also Guild on Mondays at 7pm and Girls Brigade at 6.30pm on a Wednesday.

The church is also a community venue for local meetings such as the Tillydrone Development Trust, open to everyone living in Tillydrone held on the third Monday of each month at 6.30pm. The Tillydrone Community Council also meets there on the third Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm.

The building is also used for a drama group for the children of Tillydrone on Fridays at 3.30pm, with workshops held over the summer months. There is also a Zumba class on a Tuesday evening.

On August 8th it was the venue for the public meeting with Nicola Sturgeon the Deputy First Minister to discuss local issues in particular the impact of the Third Don Crossing.

On September 8th a group of people from Tillydrone went to Kamuli in Uganda, which is part of Tillydrone Vision – it is the church that set up this group.

The Church is an excellent community facility – please give it your support.

**Elsie Rennie**



## The Mission Church: Life Changing

There are some things in our lives that change us aren't there? Sometimes it's dramatic events that shape our lives. But for me, it's actually been the day-to-day reality of working in Tillydrone that has been slowly changing my life.

I work for The Mission church on St. Machar Drive, and because of this I've been involved in Tillydrone, especially at the Lighthouse Support Centre. I've helped with children's clubs and family fun days, with addiction recovery courses and weekends away, and with supporting people individually.

The friendships I've made and the ups and downs of life that I've walked with people have had a huge impact on me. I've seen

the struggles and challenges that can often result from unemployment and poverty. I've seen the power that addiction often has on people's lives. But I've also had the privilege of getting to know some great people, seeing lives changed, and seeing people overcoming addiction and getting back to work through God's help.

I'm now about to say farewell to Tillydrone. I'm moving down to Paisley to complete my training for church work. And I'm glad to say that I leave not only having seen lives changed around me, but having had my own life changed.

I'm more sensitive to the problems of isolation and loneliness and abuse. I've

got more understanding and empathy for people facing problems of debt or depression. I've got a deeper love not just for my two daughters but for the guys I've met in Tilly, especially those struggling with addictions. It's made me realise more clearly that following Jesus involves living the kind of life that he did, making time for all kinds of people, especially those that others would often ignore.

I'm sure that wherever I go in the future and whatever church I work for, the way I act will be greatly influenced by the way my life has been changed here in Tillydrone.

**Dave Lazonby**



## SHMU'S YOUTHTV PREMIERE WWII FILM AT 50+ FESTIVAL

Over the Summer Break young people from the youthTV project joined a couple of past trainees from Positive Transitions to take part in a unique film project in conjunction with the St Fitticks Arts Festival.

The original brief was to interview local World War II veterans to capture their stories for future generations. SHMU teamed up with the Gordon Highlanders Museum to connect with the veterans and the group also spoke to older people who were young children growing up in Aberdeen during WW2. The Gordon Highlanders also very kindly arranged an education session to give the group an introduction to the history of the Highlanders and the wars they fought in.

The interviews and filming all took place over a very hectic 2-3 week period in early August with editing taking place at the end of the month. The group were supported by tutors at SHMU but did the majority of filming, directing and planning themselves. Due to the tight deadline, our resident editor here at SHMU pulled it all together with a little help from a few members of the group.

All of this hard work was rewarded on the 10th September at the official screening at The Belmont Cinema, as part of the 50+ Festival. There were over 70 people in the audience including some of our young people and a few of the 'stars' – the veterans and older people who kindly agreed to be interviewed.

The audience was treated to a question and answer session after the screening, giving them the opportunity to ask the young people questions about their experience making the film. The group bravely stood up in front of the 70-strong crowd and answered questions confidently; in fact when asked what making the film meant to

them, Danielle commented that it had really helped to boost her confidence.

The group also agreed that it gave them a much greater insight into the realities of war and of just how close to home it came. They found the subject matter all the more interesting hearing it from a local perspective. It also made them see and think of older people in a different light, now knowing some of the fascinating and sometimes harrowing stories behind them. It made them grateful to be living in a time of relative peace; knowing that the veterans were their age when they were conscripted.

We also had some lovely feedback from one of the veterans – Muriel, who was a WREN during WW2, was present at the screening and said that she enjoyed watching the interviews even more than she did being interviewed!

At the end of the Q&A a number of audience members came down to congratulate the young people on a job well done and to offer their services and stories for future projects. We could have stayed all day chatting!

As a final well done to the young people, the staff of The Belmont treated them to a soft drink in the café downstairs and gave them all a souvenir pack containing a ticket stub from the screening, a programme and two free cinema passes to return and see a film of their choice. This was totally unexpected and the group wish to pass on their sincere thanks.



*Station House Media Unit (shmu) is situated just off Great Northern Road in the old Station House Community Centre, Woodside. We offer free access to, and training in video and radio production, and magazine and online publications to residents of all ages living in Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Northfield and Cummings Park.*



## Credit Union

The credit union is all about saving and borrowing. You can pay into your credit union account by cash, bank standing order or through your benefits. Lauren works at the credit union and completed the Community Jobs Scotland scheme, and has been kept on by the credit union. She said, "One of the credit unions loans deal offers is we charge £15.72 interest (26.8% APR) on a loan of £250 repaid over 26 weeks, AND you save at the same time just under £50 on the low income/benefit deal and that's your money! Use your savings to secure future loans. It keeps our and your money circulating in the community ". Board member Molly Sandison - the treasurer of the credit

union - is very clear that the credit union offers standing order payments through members' bank accounts, "The credit union has never gone for direct debit status. Every day we see people with bank charges or unauthorised overdrafts because companies are taking direct debits on unexpected days or for unexpected amounts. People on benefits or low income jobs cannot afford these charges". "If you don't have enough money in your bank account on the date your credit union payment is due - use your online or banking phone app or phone your bank to move the payment to a day that you do have the money to pay - a standing order payment gives you more control", she added.

Every Monday we have a local collection point in Tillydrone on the ground floor of Aberdeen City Council Housing Office on Formartine Road from 10am till 11am.

We also operate junior savings at the Riverbank Primary School on Fridays from 9am till 9.30am, this is for pupils and their families during term time only (Photo - Left to right - credit union staff Jackie, Stuart, Jade, Lauren)

Main office Open Monday to Friday 9.30am till 4.30pm (01224) 524935 email f-credit@fersands.org website www.stmacharcreditunion.co.uk

## Suzy's Volunteering Trip to Sri Lanka

I was really lucky to get two fantastic opportunities. First I volunteered at a beautiful B&B in Ballater and in exchange I was given a volunteering experience in Sri Lanka.

I had never travelled outside of Europe and was worried about how I would cope with the heat, language, different customs and habits and the toilets. As it turned out it was an amazing experience and even the toilets weren't that bad. The people were generally very polite and quite reserved but immensely kind and helpful.

As volunteers we were welcomed in the schools, where we helped the children and teachers with their spoken English. The locals

were surprised to see us on the public transport - the buses, trains and tuk tuks. These were decorated with flowers and gods of all religions and usually had pop music blasting out.

We travelled to the north where the worst of the civil war happened and I found it so difficult to square in my mind the kind, gentle, helpful people I found amongst both the Sinhalese and Tamils in all parts of the country and the fact that they had been engaged for almost 30 years in perhaps the worst civil war ever.

The country seems to be doing really well but my greatest wish is that there might be investment in psychological services,

especially for those traumatised by the war. I would like to thank the Management Committee at Tillydrone Community Flat for giving me the time off to have this adventure and also Jackie Burns for providing cover.

Suzy Hunter (Development Worker, Tillydrone Community Flat)





# The Lighthouse

10 years and still shining brightly!

The Lighthouse Support Centre in Tillydrone Shopping Centre, Hayton Road, celebrates its 10th birthday in October this year.

From small flickering beginnings the Lighthouse has continued to develop and grow into a bright, welcoming Centre right in the heart of the Tillydrone community. It is very much appreciated by the 'Lighthouse family' who attend week by week and many new friends have been made over the years.

Client Quote: ***"The Lighthouse is a bit like Cheers a place where everybody knows my name"***

Some of the volunteers who were there at the opening of the Lighthouse 10 years ago still give their time on a regular basis to provide support. In 2007 the Lighthouse was awarded The Queens Award for volunteering in recognition of the outstanding level of help given regularly given to other people by our devoted team of volunteers.

The Lighthouse is a welcoming Centre which provides confidential, holistic support – physical, emotional, spiritual – to men and

women of all ages, support to families and to offer hope and show the compassion of God.

Volunteers are available to provide one-to-one support at sessions and help in times of need and crisis. Hot drinks, healthy snacks, and soup are provided at sessions. The men's Monday group enjoy pool, table tennis, drafts and other sports and go on fishing trips, cycling and other 'active sports' outings whilst the women enjoy going on outings for coffee and to the shops! The women's Wednesday Drop In Group, and Transform Tuesday group has a varied programme of activities, crafts and group discussions and a beauty therapist attends fortnightly.

## Men's' Cycling Trip

Food parcels which are donated by supporters and Churches are given out weekly at sessions and these are very much appreciated.

Group sessions are offered from time to time on: Parenting; Relationships; Celebrating Recovery; Life groups.

## Parenting Class

If you would like a chat with us and a coffee at any time we would

be pleased to welcome you to the Lighthouse. Session times are: Men - Mondays 11am - 1pm.

Women: Tuesday Transform group 9.30a.m. to 11 a.m; Wednesday Drop In 10a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday 12-15pm-2-30pm Celebrate Recovery.

Over the last ten years, many lives have been impacted by the work of the Lighthouse. Along the way, we have had our discouragements and challenges but it has been hugely rewarding to see some lives transformed, many families supported and some difficult relationships restored. We trust the lighthouse, in partnership with the other agencies and local groups, will be able to keep shining brightly in the community for years to come. Bring it on!

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, the Lighthouse will be celebrating with 'FRIENDS' PAST AND PRESENT on SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER from 12pm-2pm.

Tickets £1. Please phone Amy on 07809339208 or pop in at one of the session times.