

Spring Edition 2014

TillyTattle

LOCAL NEWS DEDICATED TO YOUR COMMUNITY



Featured in
this issue...

SPECIAL DELIVERY
Baby drama at the Tilly Flat

JIST LETTIN AFF STEAM
Sonny tell it like it is

KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS
A guide to tracing your family tree

contents

- 3 Special Delivery
- 4 Patrick RIP
- 5 Tilly Flat Student Placement
- 6 Tilly Flat Winter Edition
- 7 St George's Drama Group
- 8&9 Jist Lettin Aff Steam
- 10 History & Reiki
- 11 The Lighthouse
- 12 School News
- 13 Getting to Know Your Ancestors
- 14 SHMU
- 15 Patrick RIP Part 2



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

Welcome to your Spring 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.

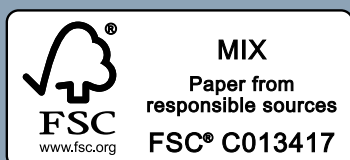
Our editorial team has expanded over the past few months and we have a fabulous team but recently we have lost one member who has secured a place at college so on behalf of the whole team we would like to wish Morven all the best of luck.

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

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website www.shmu.org.uk then click the '**PRESS**' option.

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Road to recovery

One of the highlights for me of another eventful year for the M26 group was the presentation of certificates for the completion of our computer course. After the presentation in St Georges Church by the Lord Provost George Adam, he and Councillor Ross Grant stayed for a cup of tea and were able to get updated on the activities and aims of the group. Both have been supporters and followers of the group since they first found out about it a few years ago.

The Christmas dinner in St George's Church with the lady pensioners and friends again went well but I think a course on bingo should be next for the M26 as the ladies won most of the prizes.

It was another good year for the garden, more by luck than skill, but we are always learning and willing to try new things and the tips we sometimes receive.

Our mentor Aileen Davidson is stepping back from most of the organisation but will continue with the funding and will still support us when necessary.

I would like to thank Aileen, Graeme Benson and our many supporters and wish them all the best for 2014.

CAT

Special Delivery

At Tilly Community Flat

Me: Hello Sarah – can you guess what I am going to interview you about?

Sarah: I can guess!!

Me: I heard you help deliver a baby at the community flat. Please let us know what happened?

Sarah: It all started with a phone call – I thought I was only phoning for an ambulance but little did I know that 10 minutes later I would be helping deliver a baby. I received instructions from the lady on the other end of the phone and was instructed to take Tracy into the flat.

Me: What happened next?

Sarah: I took Tracy into the computer room and prepared her for birth. Richard her husband came just in the nick of time with the ambulance staff and with one push the baby shot out into the paramedic's arms. What a grand entrance Riley James made into the world. And dad was able to cut the cord

Me: How did you feel?

Sarah: It was a brilliant experience – I was on a high afterwards and just relieved that mother and baby were well.

As Tracy stays in the flat building she pops in with Riley James regularly so we all get to see how he is progressing.

Me: Thanks Sarah for your interview. I think you must have got some of your skills from me as I was a midwife in the 70s. I congratulate you - it is not everyone that makes the Evening Express and the national press - the Daily Record as well as The Sun.

Sarah: To be honest I did not get a chance to think about it. I just did what anyone else would have done.

Me: You acted very professionally – you must definitely take after me – YOUR MUM!!

Elsie Rennie



By John Watt

Patrick R.I.P.

Part one

We often passed Patrick's prefab and stared. We were all about nine years old. Patrick sat at his window and waved. We laughed, mostly because of the pet monkey that sat on his shoulder. A cute wee thing, it was, black and white and chattered away constantly.

Patrick was an only child to a now single parent. His Merchant Navy dad died abroad, a few years past, crushed between two ships while in a foreign port. Patrick never came out. He just sat with his pet monkey, never did give it a name. He was ghostly white. Ashamed to say we laughed at his white face as much as we laughed at his monkey.

We knew that he was different. Parents spoke of him and his Mum in hushed tones. When Patrick spoke he had a stammer. Once again, the silliness of youth prevailed and we laughed. Sometimes in front of him, we were ignorant to say the least. Funny thing was we were brought up to be tolerant of everyone. Patrick had slipped through the net.

One Monday morning, we passed expecting to see Patrick and his monkey. Having a giggle

on the way to Tillydrone Primary. But Patrick wasn't there? His monkey was now in a cage, suspended from the kitchen ceiling. Now a sad looking monkey, it didn't chatter as usual, just stared.

"He won't be coming back she told us" I think it struck us then, the concept of death"

On the way back from school his Mum was waiting for us, the grief was plain to see. Even for us at nine. She told us Patrick had gone to heaven at the week-end. Her words, not mine. She told us to go home and ask our parents' permission if we wished to say goodbye to Patrick this one last time.

We didn't cry - death was not a concept of youth at nine! Cowboys and Indians died. Not people. Who can blame us? We wondered how we could see Patrick one last time, if he had gone to heaven.

Our parents were shocked, but allowed us to go see Patrick. Telling us it wouldn't be pleasant,

but that we should go. We all went together, seven of us. His mum was waiting for us, the sun was shining and the monkey was silent. She invited us into the living room, which had been cleared of all, but for a trestle holding up Patrick's coffin. It was white. Patrick's white face was raised slightly above the top of the coffin. He looked the same, sleeping we thought.

His mum stood at our sides. He won't be coming back she told us. I think it struck us then, the concept of death. Some of us cried, some spoke to the monkey. It just stared at us with the saddest of sad eyes. If monkeys could cry! We swore that monkey was crying! In later years, I often still wondered if the monkey was crying for Patrick or us.

We had been cruel to our neighbour, we laughed at his white face and his stammer, but now he was gone. The monkey died not long after Patrick. We found out Patrick had died of Leukaemia, we didn't understand what that was, just something to do with his blood. We grew up that day. R.I.P. Patrick -please forgive the silliness of youth.

Student Placement at the Tilly Flat

By Ashleigh Dunnett

I am a Social Work student in my third year at the Robert Gordon University, and my placement for semester one of this academic year is at the Tillydrone Community Flat, known locally as the Tilly Flat.



I have gained previous practical experience over the last three years and beyond through working with older adults, adults with disabilities and teenagers with learning difficulties. While working in these settings, I have undertaken a variety of key tasks, such as carrying out risk assessments and single shared assessments, providing personal care and being responsible for giving out medication.

Throughout my experience, I have strived to meet the needs of all service users as much as possible by promoting choice, treating each service user as an individual and by respecting their rights, as well as following the relevant legislation and policies.

I have gained a wide variety of knowledge and experience throughout my time working in 'Tilly Flat'. I was on placement in the flat for a total of 60 days and have had many fantastic experiences, both inside and outside the flat, such as the opportunity to work one-to-one

with service users needing help, working with children in the crèche, working with adults in the garden plot and the wider chance to build relationships with the individuals and families who use the services offered at Tillydrone Community Flat.

My experience outwith the flat includes work with the M26 group, a regular airtime slot with SHMU community radio and attending The Lighthouse. I have also been placed on valuable training courses such as GIRFEC and Management training.

The range of learning opportunities open to me via my placement have been amazing so far. I especially enjoyed attending a recent city regeneration meeting, which I found very helpful, both for my work around Tillydrone and also my local community, as I have recently moved to live in Torry.

Very little information was available to me about the setting before I arrived. However, I

have been shown that the Tilly Flat supports a broad range of different service user groups in a number of ways, such as one-to-one support, adult learning classes and information sharing. I feel that completion of this placement has allowed me to build successfully on my personal and professional development.

The challenges at the Tilly Flat have been different each day, and I have been very warmly welcomed and assisted by my colleagues. I am delighted that I had the opportunity to experience a varied mix of tasks and become a real part of the team at the flat.

I am very grateful to Suzy and Sarah at for giving me this opportunity and making me feel like part of the team. I'd also like to thank everyone involved with Tilly Community Flat and Tillydrone area for making me feel so welcome. I will really miss working in Tillydrone.



TILLY FLAT WINTER EDITION 2014

On Tuesday 17th September 2013 the most amazing thing happened in the flat a baby Riley James was born His dad rushed in to call an ambulance and fortunately Sarah Jack who works in the flat was there to help as the baby would not wait. We are very lucky to have such a talented, calm and caring worker like Sarah in Tillydrone.

We have been spending a lot of time helping people with financial difficulties. This includes issues related to the bedroom tax such as claiming discretionary grants and finding and moving to smaller accommodation. Many people have been moved to new benefits and we have been giving support and advice here too. We have some excellent partners such as Pathways, the Job Parent and Cash In Your Pocket who help in these areas too.

Recently we signed up to the foodbank partnership and we have information about all the foodbanks in Aberdeen as well as small parcels for people in crisis

and the occasional delivery of free Fairshare food. We also continue our partnership with Somebody Cares who give us food donations whenever they can.

We completed our Fairer Aberdeen Funding mid-year report and were delighted we had reached nearly all our annual targets in the first 6 months. This has been partly helped by having Sarah with us full-time now instead of half time. The increase in partner organisations from 8 to 22 who are involved with the flat gives a better service to residents in Tillydrone.

We had a great student on placement with us called Ashleigh. She was involved in most of the groups and her warm personality and fun nature warmed her to everyone at the flat. She learned a lot here and it is always useful for us to have a fresh pair of eyes to help us improve what we do. We now have a new student with us called Linsey who is settling in well.

A Cooking Group (Friday mornings) started in the Family Centre but numbers were low so

we transferred it back to the Flat. Get in touch if you would like to get involved. We are particularly keen to reach people who have been affected by drug or alcohol issues either themselves or their friends or family.

Our Art Group (Friday mornings) is going really well and they are trying out different techniques. It is free with a crèche so get in touch if this interests you. We have also been running a Tracing your Family History Group on a Wednesday afternoon which has been very popular. If there are any other classes you would like to see please get in touch.

There has been some interest in knitting and crocheting group, perhaps on a Thursday afternoon. Get in touch if you would like to learn these skills or help others to learn them.

The children and adult parties were great fun this year and the night out with the other projects was a great way to end a great year

Contact Suzy or Sarah on 486641 or info@tillyflat.com or pop in to see us at 3B Alexander Terrace, Aberdeen,

ST. GEORGES DRAMA GROUP

Well what an exciting year our drama group has had this year! We have our weekly group which meets in the church every Friday after school, which has grown in numbers. For the past few months the group has been working on writing, acting and filming their own Christmas film.

We have had three holiday clubs, which also have grown in numbers, each resulting in a DVD of the young people at work. The young people enjoy the fun that we have either through games, acting or creating new pieces of work. But the most important thing is they are learning self-confidence, how to work together and to have fun!

What will the next year hold? Well come along and see.

Spaces are available in our drama club. If you are in p4-S2 why not come along in the New Year and give it a go!



DOWN BY THE DON

Life at Donside has recently gotten even better, for one age group in particular, with the opening of a new play park. Located between the end of Papermill Drive and Cruives Courtyard, this small play area caters for some of the youngest residents with soft rubber flooring, climbing net and wall, a shaky bridge and of course, the ever popular slide.

Members of Donside Community Association were delighted to have an input in to the kind of facilities the kids would have, and look forward to helping develop the larger play area and other recreational spaces for the site. This will hopefully include a community garden, for residents of all ages and abilities to get involved. There has already been a group of volunteers out planting spring bulbs to brighten up the area.

The residents also welcomed new neighbours recently when Tenants First moved their offices from Albert Street to Donside Village Square. With one retail unit yet to be filled, we can only wonder what, or who, will be moving in next!

By Carrie-ann Holland



Jist Lettin aff Steam

By Sonny Ogg

Wisna yer last Tilly Tattleae a wi bit confusin. Thunks! abody that stopped me to make me aware, they didna ken a' wis born an brought up in Wavell. Eh a' iwis, wis led tae believe a' wis a' Fitte loon. Even my sister Kathleen hid a dig. George Fowlie catcht me tae mak ma aware also.

Niver mind it's aa sorted oot noo, it wis Marjory Sterling fa wis born an brocht up in Wavell Crescent fin it wis Hayton. Fiti a' bonnie story it wis Marjory, aboot yer childhood growing up in a Prefab.

Bang? It's the postie pittin mail thru the letterbox, wi at noise it must be a clubby book a' thocht. Nae nae it's fae Gas & Electric surely it canna be at much, tae mak at noise, hittin the fleer.

We've hid a rare summer an hiv a' saved on burnin domestic fuel. Cos a' pey by direct debit av overpeyd £197.59 on e' lectric. Wid think so hinna use it much.

Noo the gas wis something else. I'm due them. Fin ah phoned em! Makin em aware that oor BBQ wisna fixed tae the hoose gas supply, the wifie assured me it wis aa richt. We've pit yer payment up £11.00 a month. Well gee me the overpyed bak, nae bother its yer money! Wid ye like tae tak aff fit yer due aff

yer gas bill. Na na wy,yiv pit mi payment up tae cover this. Isna it great speekin tae somebody wi a gweed Scottish Tounge fin ye call a'company.

Nix day eer's anither letter fae em telling me, they hiv focht hard tae keep prices doon. Unfortunately they hiv tae pit the price up. Och me min dis is mean anither increase in mi payments? Will someone pour me a whisy! They bocht this gas eighteen months ago. Oh! dinna forget they hiv tae transport it. "Aye richt" On a' clear day een can jist aboot see the Forties Oil n' Gas Field Installations. "Well nearly." And St Fergus is only about 30 miles awa. Okay it happens every year and we hiv tae jist accept it. Grrrrrrrrr.

Is er ony point n' shiftin cos they're ah gan tae de it. If wi get oor independence will oor parliament nationalise these companies?

Must gan fir essentials, jist milk, sugar, n' breed fae een o' oor local shoppies. £3.95 wis fit it cam tae, nae pyin at! Will get it for less up Woodside, must watch eh pennies yi ken. Och! Een o' the big boys hiz jist opened a' new shoppie, must gan in an check fit it wid cost fit the few things ah need.

Gosh!! An nae tae feel like a numpty, qe bocht a' bag oh sweets fir ae £1.00. Exit richt an across e' road, got fit aye needid an staired heidin fir hame. Ah the while stappin mi moo, like a' wis postin letters wi ee's sweets. Thinkin tae mysel I've got coppers in mi pooch n' mi sweets n' it hisna cost mi £3.95.

Jist got ah flash-back fin ae wis a' bairn buyin mi ma ¼ tea, 1lb sugar, loaf n' a' 10 Woodbine aff the half-crown a' got fae family friend Sweeny every Sunday. He wis a bookie an learnt mi how tae count a ticket. This wis hoo a' wis good et maths. We wid laugh about it later in life, Ma hoppin ae wissna lang n' comin hame ha ha.

Wid yi believe it here's mail fae Sky TV! Yiv guessed e' prices his tae gan up inna? So it's richt on the phone tae cancel, they dinna likit fin yi dee this! "Fit if wi gee yi movies free for ae while, wait fir it. Wi get oor movies afore Netflix". I canna hud back ony mare. Aw get mine afore oor cinemas! "Stik tae yer guns! Cos iv'e got a brow deal".

Noo were well inta autumn an I'llaves ir drappin aff the trees, I will noo get sunlite in mi living room. Durin e' summer month's ae feel like Robin Hood uner ae

“Hey min, yi deein aa the trees?”

canopy o' leaves. Since 2007 I've tried askin fir e' trees tae be pruned, bit they try fobbin mi aff sayin twa visits hiv been deen an they canna see it's ae problem They maybe hiv a gadget that kin read hoo much daylight comes intae mi hoose.. Twa visits, hiv niver seen em' oh them the eence? Member they're part oh oor council??

So hiv tae gan inta toon wi my shoes tae Clarks cos on baith the stitchin a' bust!

Waitin fir the bus, here is guys wi a cherry-picker trimmin branches aff e' trees.

Hey min, yi deein aa the trees? Na he replied jist the bus route. Oh dinna let ony o' First Buses get scratched.

Speakin aboot First £2.50 tae gan inta toon, it wisna at lang ago yi got ae return tae Dundee fit at! Bit ae suppose they hiv transportin costs fir they're fuel ana. Wi ane oh their ane trains ae winder.

Richt in wi the shoes!! Twa lassies een fa must be an after skool temp, och at een wi the Bluetooth stickin oot oh herm lug. She'll be the gaffer. I'm back wi these, so fit div ae de wi em?

Oh sorry Sir this is “Hydrolysis” as if I'm supposed tae ken. No this happens wi older styles, hey wait a minute they're only wik's aul. It's tae de wi temperature an humidity. Christ lassie this is Aiberdeen we get 4 seasons in wan day. By the wi fits humidity? Do you hiv the receipt she snarled? No!! fa keeps receipts fin the sheen hiv fitted an worn a few times. Noo comes her punch line; we can only give you £10.00in exchange for the shoes, as I'm showin folk at's lookin. This piece oh granite is nae gan tae budge so ae finally agrees.

Walkin tae the till, she mumbles would yi like tae look at oor new stock? Aye richt ir yi wise, niver again a' said fae Clarks. Onywy she precedes tae giv mi ae voucher nae the tenner. Nithin's iver straight forrit, sign here! Sure

so ae signed “Binn Dunn” and telt her this wisna finished wi cos the receipt ae got states Material Defect. “I'll be bak” ye better believe it.

Fit wis at name again - Hydro something, here's the leckie bill flashin in front oh my eyes. They'er a' wy. One mare shoppie an hame, thank God.

Noo e' dreaded £1.00 store there aawye?, Wi massive queues! Oral B toothpaste, at's aa need. Got tae the till £1.99 please!! Eh bit yer sign above eh door say's aathin's a pound.

So ken fit yi can de wi it. Och lets jist get hame. Timed it richt for a bus An hid aa trouble free journey wi folk ae kent, wi a gweed laugh. Roll on, e' morn, it's an ither day. Bring it on!

Remember if yi buy sheen, keep yer receipt nae matter fu lang yi hid Em. An niver giv up! There is plenty oh yi oot there in Tilly gan thru the same is ae hiv an if yi wint tae let aff some oh yer steam why nae pit yer written piece in oor next Tilly Tattle.

PS - Oh by the wye there will be ae cheaper renewable fuel, bit that will tac Frackin ages.

Tillydrone 1600 to 1800

After 1629, part of the Aberdeen Loch was drained by Parson Gordon, which reclaimed land for cultivation. A few years on he started to rent out the few fields he had to spare.

There are not any records of who the farmers or crofters were. I had a problem finding any valuation records of that time.

The earliest records were maps of the area starting in the year 1748. Contents of the maps revealed Gordon Mills cotton mill was near the Don, west of the Cathedral and a few houses down by the Don - north of Powis burn loch. There was a small house called 'Middle Town House' near the bend of the river, a place named Hilltown, Cabatone, and further west of Catlontown.

About half the loch had been drained. There were 3 burns coming from the loch; one being the Powis Burn, which still runs today past the University into the sea.

By 1773 more land was reclaimed and another mill built a Cornmill, also a woollen mill. The house and cottages, starting on the bend of the river, was Donbank Cottage and the nearby Gordons Mill was Don Cottages, opposite was Cotton House.

Hayton Road runs a little bit south of the cottages; running from the Inverurie Road along to Tillydrone Road, which at that time went east towards St

Machar. South of the Motte Hill, Tillydrone cottage was built. There are more maps which I have to look at so that more can be found out about what happened here in the past.

Margaret Mead



Reiki in the Community

At the Fountain Bar's Embassy Lounge on Friday 6th December, Reiki in the Community held their fundraising night. They had acquired clairvoyant Annie Moon for this night's entertainment. The night went well with a large number of people, sufficient to fill every table.

Annie gave lots of messages that came through to individuals.

I even noticed some in tears and the shock on some others faces was something else to see. Toffee, cards and crystals were on sale, but the raffle tickets exceeded all expectations.

Many thanks to local shops, businesses, establishments and individuals who generously donated items for the raffle. The £900 raised will go towards

new therapy tables and other projects. Thanks again to everyone for their time and effort towards this event taking place.

Sonny Ogg Chairperson

The Lighthouse

At the Lighthouse, 2013 has been “the year of expansion”. This year we celebrated our 10 year anniversary, took on two new members of staff and secured the lease for a third unit in the Tillydrone shopping centre.

In September we were very excited to appoint Kathryn Rojas as a family worker. Kathryn will work alongside Iris (our parish nurse), Jill (support worker) and Amy (Intern support worker). We’re also very pleased to be able to extend Amy’s contract for a further year.

After much perseverance we have finally managed to secure the lease for Unit 3 in the Tillydrone Shopping Centre. We are very grateful for the provision of the space

and hope that our continued expansion will enable the Lighthouse to help many more people in Tillydrone.

The last 10 years have been quite a remarkable journey for us all. As we look to the future we are confident the Lighthouse will keep shining and encouraging community transformation.

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 9.30am to 11am.
Wednesday Drop In 10am – 1pm.
Thursday 12:15pm-2:30pm - Celebrate Recovery.



School News

Riverbank
Primary

Open Day and Christmas Concert

It has been a very busy couple of months at Riverbank School.

Friday 2nd November was very special. Not only was it the school's 5th birthday but it was also the official opening of the school extension. There was an Open Day at the school to celebrate both these things.

The children made invitations for many people - families of children at the school, former staff, people from other schools and people from the council. Those who came were given a tour of the school, had the opportunity to go into classrooms and, of course, to have some tea and cake. Everyone really liked the new extension and enjoyed seeing how it is being used by the children.

During the Open Day the Get About Active Travel Roadshow was at the school. Children from most classes had the opportunity to try different types of bike and to have a bit of fun whilst getting some exercise at the same time.

In the afternoon each class had a party to celebrate the birthday and opening. Everyone enjoyed the day and it was a great success.

On Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December the school held its annual Christmas concerts. This was very popular and the evening performance was sold out. Most classes sang songs and the P2 classes put on a performance of The Hoity-Toity Angel.

The children made a huge effort and put on a great performance that got everyone in the mood for Christmas.



Mrs Jolly & Mrs MacLeod
at the open day



Get About Active
Travel Roadshow



5 year Birthday
Celebration

Getting to know your ancestors

Finding out who your ancestors are can be exciting, rewarding and frustrating all at the same time.

You say how do I start? That is easy: you start with yourself

Ask your grandparents about their parents and siblings. They can be a wealth of knowledge. You can then start looking for your families online. If you don't have a computer you can become a member of the library where you can use one free of charge.

The websites that are free of charge are new.familysearch.org and ancestry.com - but if you are not confident on the computer you can come to The Family History Centre in The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter Day Saints up on North Anderson Drive, where you will receive help free of charge between the hours of 10.30am till 3.30pm.

Family Group Sheet

Father Birth, Marriage, Death
Mother Birth, Marriage, Death
Children 1
 2
 3

If you go to the registrars it will cost you; so ask relatives to let you see their certificates. Do not worry if they will not, as you can check their information through the websites or at the registrars.

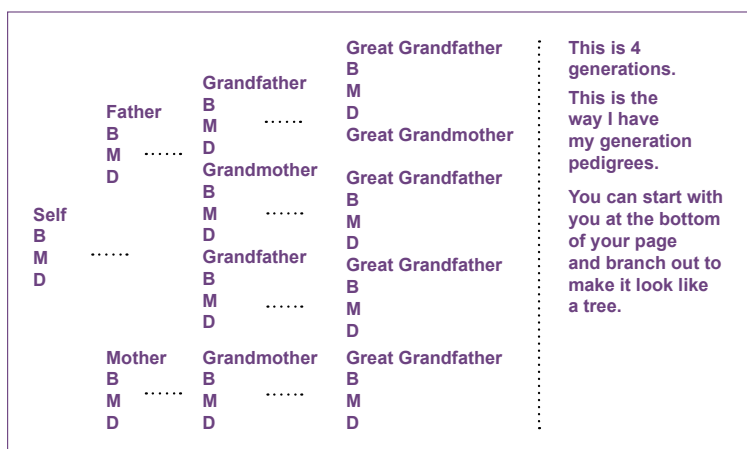
Margaret Mead

The Radical Independence Campaign (RIC) is a grassroots movement that campaigns for a 'Yes' vote in the Independence Referendum in September 2014. It is the product of a conference held in Glasgow in November 2012 of around 800 individuals from across the political Left - dubbed one of the largest political gatherings in Scotland's recent history, surpassed only by the Radical Independence Conference in 2013 which attracted more than 1000 people! The purpose of the gathering was to articulate a progressive, sustainable and socially just vision of an independent Scotland that puts people before profit.

After the first conference RIC groups began forming across the country to discuss the issues with friends and neighbours in marginalised areas. Those of us living in areas of high deprivation understand that we have the most to gain from independence. We've shown that consciousness in the polls. We know that the middle and upper classes are voting 'NO' and that working-classes are voting 'YES'. We know that there is little difference between the Tories, Labour and the Lib Dems. They all accept the idea that the poorest and most vulnerable should pay for the banking crisis through things like the bedroom tax or cuts to disability payments. This is wrong and the parties in London will not put it right!

We'll be hosting a meeting at the Lads Club at 6.30pm on Wednesday the 5th of February to discuss independence and would like to invite you to come along and get involved. For more information, look up 'Radical Independence Campaign - Aberdeen' on Facebook or visit www.radicalindependence.org

A Pedigree Chart





Welcome

You may have lived in Tillydrone for years, or maybe even just moved in. Perhaps you know lots about the area or maybe it's all new to you. Either way there's always something new to learn about your community and the aim of this booklet is to provide you with what we hope will be useful and interesting information.

Tillydrone as it is now, is a relatively new creation. Although the name dates back to Celtic times, before the middle of the last century it was only used for a few landmarks in the area, such as the castle and Tillydrone House.

Old maps of Aberdeen from the mid-17th century prove that the site became a prime area used to be the

site of the Loch of Old Aberdeen. Between the loch and the river Don were the Kuper's Halls, on which there were only a few scattered houses and a farm.

From the middle of the 18th century Hayton Road was being developed and the area soon becoming known as

Hayton. It was only when large scale house building took place after World

War II that the name Tillydrone was applied to the new community. Even now, many people living in the area describe themselves as being in Hayton rather than Tillydrone.

Some of Aberdeen's most prestigious buildings are within a short walk including St Machar Cathedral, King's College, Old Aberdeen and the Brig of Balgownie.

TILLYDRONE GUIDE BOOKLET LAUNCHED AS PART OF A MAJOR PARTNERSHIP PROJECT IN THE COMMUNITY

A brand new booklet that provides a comprehensive guide to local services in Tillydrone, as well as celebrating the rich heritage and biodiversity of the local area will be delivered through every door in the Tillydrone in January. The 'Tillydrone Guide' was developed as the result of an idea for a Welcome Pack aimed at new residents of the recently developed Donside Village. However, it soon became clear that there was a great enthusiasm, and a wealth of local knowledge and material, that could act as a more complete directory to Tillydrone and be a useful tool for all the area's residents, old and new. The Guide was developed in partnership by Tenants First, Station House Media Unit (SHMU), Tillydrone Community Flat and local community groups and residents. It was funded by a grant from the Community Support Fund; part of the Fairer Scotland Fund, and through Sustainable Urban Fringes (S.U.R.F) who also provided support with the contribution of images. The full-colour 36 page booklet, due to be delivered to homes across Tillydrone this month, was pulled together from a vast amount of information submitted to the team after a call went out to partners, individuals and community groups locally for material.

So much material was collected during the project that an exciting follow-up plan is in the process of being worked up to develop a locally focussed community website that will host the most up-to-date information on local services as well as historical information, nature trails and local news.

There is also an innovative plan to develop the nature, biodiversity and historic trails into a set of QR coded walks where residents, visitors, schools and community groups can scan QR codes along the paths and download interesting facts about where they are on their journey. An application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund is in the process of being developed to support the 18-month project, however before it is submitted, consultation events will take place with partners, community organisations and residents to ensure that the project meets the needs and aspirations of the community. So keep an eye open for information about these events – it would be great to hear what you think about the project.

If you'd like to get involved in the stage of the project please contact Denise at SHMU - denise@shmu.org.uk (t-515013), or the Suzy at the Tillydrone Community Flat- info@tillyflat.com (t-486641).

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.



By John Watt

Patrick R.I.P.

Part Two

When Patrick died we grew up, but we turned bitter, such a waste we thought. The sun dimmed, the stars lost their twinkle and cut grass lost its appeal.

We strolled on in limbo, talking about life, trying to find youth again. "But it was gone". We started stealing scooters, motorbikes and cars. The fun was back, the thrill of life crept back in. All wrong but we were alive!

Wasn't long before we were caught, driving a stolen laundry van. We could hardly see out of the windscreen. Umpteen crashes later, we thought we were the bee's knees. We were heading for the Juvenile Court they told us.

I landed in Kaimhill remand home for a while, a sobering place, but that's another story. On the day of our court appearance we got our heads together and promised that if one of us got sent to Rossie Farm, we were all going to run away. What had we to loose.

My Mum and Dad had drifted, mid-life crisis I supposed. My friend was brought up by his

grandparents. His dad had hit the skids years before and sought the company of certain ladies of the night. It hurt my friend - "everybody knew".

His granddad was very strict by all accounts. We had formed an alliance in misery, which we both shared. Thinking we were bandits, rebelling against the establishment, society, family life, all were rubbish in our eyes.

My Mum and Dad had drifted, mid-life crisis I supposed.

The court was packed, our behaviour made the local papers. My girlfriend turned up, she looked beautiful, a far cry from the misery of Kaimhill. Mum and dad were there. All my neighbours were too. My friend looked at me and winked, I knew what he meant! We were on the run if it went against us.

Already the doubts were creeping in. Could I do a runner? I thought no and felt guilty. But hey the sun was shining; my parents were looking like a couple again. I couldn't do it. When they read out all the charges we had admitted to, I felt

like a monster. How could we? The Sherriff went on for ages, the Fiscal painted us as that. He was right.

All came to an end. I was given probation. My friend was given a term at Rossie Farm. He turned to look at me. I avoided his eyes. He was then led away. His girlfriend was in tears. I walked out into the sun. A black van passed. I knew it was him. I turned away and shed a tear for my friend.

It turns out he only got sent to Rossie because his Grandparents couldn't cope with my friend. So we were told anyway. The very next day his granddad left early in the morning without saying goodbye. They found what was left of him. He had stood in front of the Inverness bound train. The guilt of his grandson being sent to Rossie was too much!

The guilt always stayed with me and because of our youthful stupidity, his granddad was gone. We were the guilty parties, but he paid the price. Never did see my friend again. I can't blame him. "Sorry old friend, I couldn't RUN".

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous

0845 769 7555

Drinkline

0800 917 8282

Benefits

Benefits Agency Advice Line

0800 587 9135

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

01224 642 711

Gas

Gas Emergency

0800 111 999

Gas Emergency with a Meter

0845 606 6766

Housing

Emergency Repairs

01224 480 281

Call Centre Emergency

0845 608 0929

Police

Non-Emergency

101

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 625 009

Water

Scottish Water Emergency

0845 600 8855