

Summer Edition 2013

TillyTattle

LOCAL NEWS DEDICATED TO YOUR COMMUNITY



Featured in
this issue...

REGENERATION
Moving Forward

PIACENZA
Tilly Youth Trip

HAYTON ROAD
A Trip Down Memory Lane

CITYCHURCH
At St Machar

contents

- 3 Tilly Community Flat
- 4 Regeneration: Moving Forward
- 5 Piacenza 2013
- 6 First Port of Call
- 7 CITYCHURCH
- 8&9 Reminiscence About Hayton
- 10 Tillydrone Library
- 11 Community News
- 12 Tenants Open Day
- 13 Community News
- 14 SHMU
- 15 Goodbye Gary



L to R - Mary Clare, Elsie, Gary, Morven, Wendy, Cat, Sonny & Margaret.

Welcome to your summer edition of the Tilly Tattle.

In this issue we have articles from Ferst Port of Call, Updates from the Tillydrone Community Flat, as well as some reminiscing articles written by our very talented and regular writers Sonny Ogg and Margaret Mead.

Our editorial team has expanded over the past few months and we a have a fabulous team. However, we are always looking for more people to get involved. So if you would like to join the editorial team or have any ideas for your 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 is 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

Supported by



Tillydrone Community Flat

It has been a really busy start to the year. Our Development Worker Gary Dawson left and a new worker Suzy Hunter started at the end of February.

We offer a range of services including crèches, childcare/parenting groups, adult learning classes and a place where members of the community can hold meetings. We also offer: Benefits Advice, Employment Support, Health Surgeries, Community Garden, Washing and Drying Facilities, Computer and Internet Access and Support and mentoring of volunteers.

New Groups: We have some new groups starting, including 'Tracing your family history' on a Wednesday afternoon, crafts on a Friday morning and history/creative writing on a Thursday afternoon. We have also been running a Healthy Helpings group with the NHS and are about to start Buggy Walks.

Welfare Rights: The introduction of the bedroom tax and changes to the benefits system has led to a huge increase in people coming to

the flat for support and help. We are monitoring the situation and with our partners such as Pathways and Cash in Your Pocket we are offering support and help.

Gardens: The front garden has been in full bloom and we have upgraded it so that the children can use it as an outdoor play area. The Community Garden at the back has had a lot of work done especially by the M26 group. They worked hard to spread the woodchip and leaf mould we had donated from the Seaton Park Gardeners.

There will be a summer playscheme for 2-5 year olds. It starts on Monday 15th July and finishes on Thursday 8th August. It will run from Monday to Thursday for 4 weeks from 9.30-11.30

If you would like to know more about what happens in the Community Flat please get in touch at 3B Alexander Terrace, Aberdeen, AB24 2QT

**Tel: 486641 or
Email: suzy@tillyflat.com**

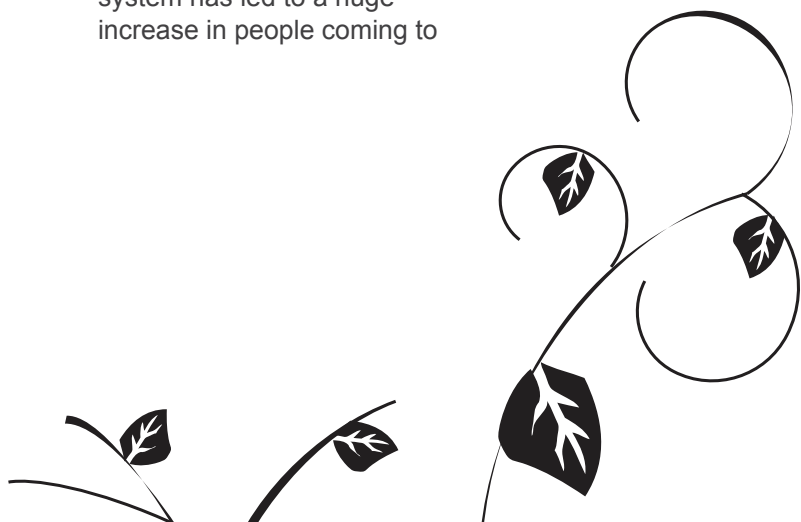


Thank you from George

Many of you will know local resident George Fowlie who has volunteered for many years in Tillydrone, researching and recording the local history. His photos have been used many times in the Tilly Tattle.

We were all shocked and upset when George was recently burgled and a large sum of his money stolen. Since then George has had many kind wishes and people have donated money to compensate him for his loss. The Tillydrone Community Flat had a raffle and gave half the money raised to George.

George has always felt that Tillydrone was a great community with great people but the reaction to this horrible incident has reaffirmed his faith in the goodness of the people in Tillydrone. George would like to thank the residents of Tillydrone and say he really appreciates the kindness and good wishes he has had.



By Carrie-Ann Holland

Regeneration: Moving Forward

Tillydrone has been classed as a regeneration area for a long time. Several reports are available online, most notably [The Tillydrone Masterplan \(2007\)](#) and [The Aberdeen Community Regeneration Strategy Tillydrone Neighbourhood Regeneration Framework \(2004\)](#), with lots of facts and figures about the area and ideas on how to make the most of what we already have to better suit the community.

In October 2012, The Housing and Environment Committee at Aberdeen City Council produced a new report called Tillydrone Regeneration – A Way Forward (Incorporating development at East Woodcroft). This report was to provide information to establish a deliverable, cost effective and sustainable mechanism for early action regeneration in Tillydrone to meet Council objectives.

This report takes its lead from the 2007 Masterplan which states “The area needs to forge a new identity and sense of purpose. Improvements in housing, environment and recreation space will have a significant effect in improving locals’ sense of ownership and pride of place, but clearly alongside this there must be programmes which address skills, training and employment.”

It goes on to describe the area, and earmarks several sites for development.

First, the former St Machar Primary School is suitable for building affordable housing for rent and possible shared equity.

The former Tillydrone Primary could be ‘swapped’ with St Machar Park, to become a new park, whilst new housing, student

accommodation and perhaps a suitable retail food outlet are built in St Machar Park.

The former Aberdon Care home would also become housing and The Tillydrone Shopping Centre would become a potential new local food retail store.

East Woodcroft, Bridge of Don is included in the report as a potential site for proposed private housing land sale to provide a cross subsidy for regeneration and 25% affordable housing.

An update to this report was presented at a council meeting on the 14th May. This provides a little more information on the type of housing proposed at each site (50% 1 bed flats, 25% 2/3 bed terraces, 25% 3 bed semis at St Machar primary and Aberdon sites, 70% 2 bed flats, 15% 1 bed flats, 15% 3 bed flats and food retail on ground floor at St Machar Park). The Aberdeen Heating and Power proposal was agreed on March 12th 2013. This district heating scheme will be introduced to tillydrone to serve 470 flats in Meadow Court, Kings Court, Donside Court, Elphinstone Court, Grandholm Court and Tillydrone Court. The CHP’s plant will be built on an as yet undetermined site. It also mentions the Tillydrone Primary

site having some affordable housing OR Extra Care Village OR Community Hub.

All of these sites are shown on the included map as well as the Third Don Crossing and Riverbank Primary School. The latter currently has planning permission for 4 new classrooms a gym and toilets.

Housing and Environment Convener Councillor Neil Cooney said: “Tillydrone is a fantastic area of the city and we are determined to improve the quality of life of locals while getting more people back into the heart of the community. There is a real will from its residents to improve the physical fabric of the area, and to see an end to the social problems for which it has become known.”

Residents in Tillydrone will be fully involved throughout this process and a comprehensive consultation plan is being developed to ensure they are included in key stages, from the inception of projects to their completion.

What do you think? We would love to hear your feedback. Please email us or drop of your comments at the Community flat.



Piacenza 2013

As part of a European project some young people from Tilly Youth got the opportunity to go to Piacenza, Italy. This was nothing like a holiday as the seminar lasted for 4 days with only a few intervals between the different sessions. Including the extra 2 days of travel, the group was away for almost a week.

C.R.E.ati.V.E, as the project was called, embarked on exploring volunteering, enterprise, entrepreneurship and the different opportunities for young people within these sectors in European countries

The few days of activities included speeches from local politicians, group activities and presentations. However, above all, by far the most fascinating part of it was listening to the young people and what they had to say about local issues. These issues were not only negative but positive too. This enabled us to recognise gaps but also to learn from each other. It was clear that everybody was able to take something away.

To give a few examples, Sweden has a youth council where they teach youngsters about politics but the young people have no voice. The Spanish had little positive to say about the situation in their home country. However, in Poland volunteering is seen as a very positive activity that can boost the lives of young people in many ways. Listening and talking to others helped us reinforce our European citizenship in many ways.

The seminar also allowed for us, the young people, to open our eyes and appreciate just how different we have it in Aberdeen. We made memories that will never be forgotten and we made friends that we'll always remember.

The accommodation itself was very homely and lunch and supper were excellent. The people were friendly and despite the language barrier by the end of the seminar we all felt like a big family. Probably that's why it felt so painful to say goodbye when it was time to leave.

The hot days and warm nights in Piacenza will always be something we'll cherish. We just hope that other young people from Aberdeen can also experience taking part in a European project.

This adventure in Italy equipped us with knowledge that we can use to enable the young people of Aberdeen to have all the opportunities they need to succeed.

We didn't just get into the plane and land in Italy. We had to fill out loads of forms and

exercises as well as prepare a video about volunteering and the way we do it. So we got ourselves pretty nicely occupied. For the video we got a set of questions about volunteering and entrepreneurship (what is it? Why do you do it? What do you get out of it?). But mostly we wanted to show the way we do it. That had to involve a bit of fun. We asked one of the parents to come in for our night and record us doing our crazy break-dance moves.

I could keep writing about that trip for hours and hours. I could've been writing about sun, great meals, playing football together and amazing people. I could've mentioned that they've got awesome beer or that we had to run 20mins to the shop to get anything more than water. But those are our memories. We went to talk about volunteering, entrepreneurship etc. We went, we loved it, we learned a lot and we can't wait to do something like that again.

Written by Virag Erdei & Krzysztof Skoropinski



A Fresh Start for the First Port of Call

Did you know there was a Charity Shop in the Tillydrone Shopping Centre? It has been there for over 10 years and aims to provide reasonably priced clothes, toys, books and bric-a-brac to the local community here in Tillydrone.

The shop is run by Bethany Christian Trust and relies on a dedicated bunch of volunteers. It also exists to tell people about the various groups running in The Lighthouse and the projects run by Bethany throughout the city. Please ask volunteers for more information or pick up a leaflet in the shop.

After feedback from the community, the First Port of Call was refurbished and re-opened on 20th March this year. Hopefully you will agree that it is looking a lot brighter and fresher after being repainted.

We would like to thank everyone in the community who was involved in the work. It was great to see everyone lending a hand to make the shop a better place to shop.

As part of the changes Bethany Christian Trust is seeking to make, we want to make the First Port of Call very much part of the Tillydrone

community. If you would like to volunteer in the shop please contact us here at the office (01224 647677).

As well as making the shop less cluttered and making it more attractive, we have expanded the opening hours so that it is open from 10am - 2pm, Monday to Friday. We would welcome any donations although we are unable to accept electrical items.

Please support the First Port of Call. We would love to see you popping in regularly and helping to make the shop a vibrant part of the Tillydrone community.

We are also keen to re-name the shop and have an official re-opening. Let us know if you have any ideas for a new name! There will be forms in the shop to fill out with your suggestions.

If you have any feedback about how we can improve the shop we provide please don't hesitate to contact the Manager Andy Murray or Alastair Elder at the Credo Centre, John Street, Aberdeen, AB25 5JQ or phone on 01224 647677.

The Nigerian Football Team

This started as a few friends who came together to play a game and to keep fit.

They have been going for 7 years now. At first they played in other venues until they managed to get permission to play at the pitch in St Machar Park. Each Saturday they assemble around 10.00am and play until 1.00pm or 2.00pm.

During the years some have gone and new ones have joined them.

They also enjoy playing for charity. I often watch them from my flat which faces the park. The men play with vigour and enthusiasm. I hope that they continue to play.



Tillydrone Gala 2013

Everybody that was at the Gala last August will remember what a great day we had so we decided to do it again. We are planning the next Tillydrone Gala for the last Saturday of the summer holidays - the 17th of August, from 11.00am-3.00pm.

So far we are keen to have lots of free attractions like last year with the bouncy castle, ball pit and gladiators. There will also be information and fundraising stalls. We are looking for 5-a-side teams for a tournament again but this year we might do tug-of-war instead of football. We also need volunteers to help out on the day.

This year we will be having a Car Boot sale at the Gala. The charge will be £5.00 per car and £5.00 if you need to hire a table

We have a small steering group to get it organised so if you have any ideas or suggestions get in touch with Suzy or Sarah at Tillydrone Community Flat 3B Alexander Terrace, phone 486641 or email: suzy@tillyflat.com

CITYCHURCH St Machar

CITYCHURCH St Machar is new expression of church for this area. It is part of a growing network of churches that meet in community centres and historic churches across the City and Shire, each seeking to do church in a way that is relevant, relaxed and informal.

The new church meets on Sundays at St Machar Academy at 11am, and is open to everyone, regardless of their background, circumstances or faith. Scott Robertson, who leads the church alongside his wife Sarah, said, "We're delighted to have begun the adventure, and we're already seeing lots of local people coming along to see what it's all about."

Over the summer, the church is planning a whole range

of activities within the local community, which people are welcome to get involved in. These would include football events, community clean-ups, picnics, and a family fun day.

For more details on these activities, or just the church in general, please do check out our website: www.citychurchaberdeen.org/stmachar or follow us on twitter @CityChurchAbdn

CITYCHURCH is a lively, mainstream evangelical Christian church. We are a local church seeking (like many churches within the local area) to help people with real needs and make a significant difference in the local community.



Reminiscence about Hayton By Sonny Ogg

Most families that moved into one of the prefabricated houses in this area at this time were mostly from run-down tenements from within the city centre. When gathering information about what life was like living in a prefab in Tillydrone, the majority said it was a Hayton prefab, not Tillydrone, that they stayed in.

Some say Tillydrone was from St Machar Drive to Tillydrone Primary School and Hayton was from the Campies down to the river. At this time Aberdeen Corporation Transport 25 buses which came to the area displayed Hayton via Hayton Road and the other Hayton via Gordon Mills Road and on its return destination to Fauld Gate in Kincorth.

Others whom at the time lived in Kilgour Avenue or Kilgour Gardens (now Alexander Terrace) quoted neither as it came under Woodside. The Hayton Army camp situated between Hayton Road and Harris Drive was originally built to train Canadian soldiers, later

used as a POW camp for Italian soldiers.

After the war multiple families moved into the some of the vacant Nissan huts. The washhouse and other washing facilities were used by many families. World War II had just finished, food was still being rationed and money was scarce. This led to some people sub-letting a room in their house to earn extra cash.

“At the bottom of Hayton Road a shop made toffee apples “

There was a lack of Council Housing and you had to live in Aberdeen for two years before getting on the housing list. Homeless men could get a bed at one of the lodging houses either at either East North Street or West North Street. These got nick-named the yodel doddle or the modeler. Homeless women were at the YWCA on Dee Street.

Minnie was born in the Barracks and moved to Hayton Road when she was about three years-old along with her brothers and sisters. When aged 12 she went to stay with her sister to help out with her children while her husband was at sea.

They lived in Kilgour. Everyone rallied round to help one another. If a neighbour was ill and unable to cook, soup or a meal would be available. At the bottom of Hayton Road a shop made toffee apples, which may have been called Kilgours. Minnie remembers the smell of this delight but she was terrified to go in because the shop was swarming with wasps.

Her mother, being so green fingered, took over six neighbours' gardens and grew everything. At age 15, along with a friend, Minnie went for an office job at Grandholm Mill.

Unfortunately she never did get that office job, her friend did, but the opportunity to be trained as a weaver was offered. Beginning on one loom, she was quickly moving up to two. As looms improved and became faster a weaver would run four looms. Quality and speed could make you good money. The Mill at this time was dependant on orders from the Russian Army and the material woven was called Russian Loops.

Margaret, whose family moved to Montgomery Road, lived there until the Prefab was due to be demolished in 1967. She could remember all her neighbours' house numbers and names. Imagine no one above, below, or either side so one could make as much noise as one wished. This left nobody to complain. It was a house of all mod-cons, with a fitted fridge in the kitchen. No more outside toilet; instead, there was one inside the house with a hand basin, a bath and heated towel rails. This was unheard of at this time.

Elizabeth's family of six moved from a two roomed house in Huthcheon Street. There was no running water within the house, just a tap on the stairwell. One had to queue with paper in hand for the toilet which was outside the main building. She recalls at that time one regiment H.L.I. that were stationed at the camp and would watch them marching up Hayton Road.



Back row L/Steven R/James.
Front L/Nellie- Centre /Jeanette-
R/Jemima (Minnie)

Inside the hut, she can remember curtains surrounding each bed and a large cinder-burning heater situated in the middle of each hut for warmth. Her brother kept ferrets which he used to catches rabbits. This was a good source to put a meal on many a table. Her brother also knew where all the best places were to collect buckies around Stonehaven. These were collected in large in large pails, or "buckets", which they later sold around the doors.

Fiona stayed in Ritchie Place and recalled it was magical growing up there at this time - all the children played outside. Neighbours were like family as they looked out for each other, always ready to lend a helping hand if needed.

Jackie stated while they lived in Montgomery Crescent she remembers her mother giving tea to Italian POW's that were digging foundations for the Prefabs. After all the prisoners had left the Camp one of the Nissan huts became a clinic. She would be sent to collect orange juice and dried baby milk.

Isobel remembers everyone from the area went to the Campies where they played cards and other board games. She remembers Dod Mitchell who ran whist nights and organised many a concert. When the huts were demolished she said the concrete bases were ideal for roller skating.

So how did children entertain themselves? They went outside and played! They amused themselves playing dress up, schoolies, lundies, ba's, jacks, shoppies, beddies, fluggies, kick

the canny, bubbly bairns, film stars. Some kids would put on concerts in the old air raid shelters. Mothers would help and for 3 old pence tea and a biscuit could be had. Many great turns with singing and acting were to be had. Swimming was popular at the "Lade" - also known as the "Raw" - beside the stepping stones behind Meadow Place. There was a good spot where there used to be a row of old cottages, just don't let your old wife (mother) catch you swimming in the Donnie.

"Fish and chips was at this time regarded as poor people's food and quite cheap. "

Hayton Infant School was built exclusively for prefab-housed children which later became Hayton Community Centre, on the grounds where the Lads Club is situated now. The newly-built school then, which is now Riverbank, would become the new infant school, where pupils went until they were eight or nine before moving up to Tillydrone Primary.

Everybody knew one another in the area because they sat out on their doorsteps and spoke to each other. Sometimes they would get buns or cakes from the Woodside shops to share. Some evenings children went to the Lads Club, which at this time was on Western Road in Woodside and it had a cafe.

There were plenty games and crafts, which was better than going to school during the day for a good few kids. Others went to the Playcentre at Tillydrone School which was run by



volunteers. Though there was Suzie's chipper in Hayton, but most said that Nardi's chipper was worth the walk up too Woodside. This was situated where the Canton House is now.

Fish and chips was at this time regarded as poor people's food and quite cheap. Poaching was against the law, but was a preferred means, rather than signing on the dole if no work was to be had. This product was usually sold on to hotels and restaurants.

A common sight was Georgie, with his horse and cart selling tatties and veg, with a number of kids following with a bucket and spade. No they weren't going to the beach - they were hoping the horse did a whoopsy to collect for manure. There was an onion Johnnie on his bicycle. Lots kept pigeons for racing with at this time. Any old pram or go-cars were highly sought after for the wheels to make a karty. One thing that I recall from my own childhood is where is the grandad that had a small shed with hundreds of bits that could fix every kids bike for a few pence.

A special thanks to Isobel Massie, Jackie Foster, Minnie Smith, Elizabeth Gray, Fiona Will, and Margaret Miller for sharing their childhood memories and stories. Also courtesy to Mr J Mackie of First Bus Aberdeen for the photograph of the 25 bus. (cover image)



Tillydrone Library

Tillydrone Library offers access to an array of recreational and educational tools for all ages. The Library is still an important part of the community and continues to provide a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for studying, recreation and research. Whether you are hunting for jobs, researching your family history or working on a school project, Tillydrone Library has the tools that you need.

At Tillydrone we have an excellent selection of reading materials. From children's picture books to local history, Tillydrone can offer any subject required. As part of Adult Learners week from 18th to the 25th May we will be launching our Health Information Point, with books about everything from life choices to health and wellbeing. If we don't have it on our shelves then you can place a reservation for a small charge of 50p (20p for concession holders). If there are titles you would like to see on the shelves we would encourage you to speak to the staff. Library users are entitled to borrow ten books at any one time, six of which can be talking books. If you are a library member you can also download audiobooks

and ebooks for your computer, mobile phone, ipod or ebook reader.

With the launch of the new Residents Discount Card, which is available free of charge to all residents of Aberdeen City, CDs DVDs and Blu-rays can be hired at half the normal price. You can apply for a Residents Discount Card online or at various libraries across the city, including Tillydrone. We have an extensive choice of DVD and CD titles, which are continually updated. Reservations can also be made, should we not have in stock what you are looking for.

Tillydrone Library also stocks a collection of fun and educational toys for our younger borrowers. Louise, our Senior Library Assistant, holds regular Bookbug Sessions, for parents/carers of children from 0-5 years old. These sessions last approx half an hour and are free. They are held once a month, on a Tuesday from 10.30am. Should you require any more information please ask the staff or you can visit the library website on www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

At Tillydrone we have fourteen PCs available for public use.

We also offer free Internet and WiFi to all our borrowers.

The latest addition to our library is the Self Issue Machine, which allows borrowers to issue and discharge their own books. If you would like to give this a try or require any other information on what your library has to offer then please pay us a visit. You will be met by the friendly faces of Tracey, Karen and Louise (Library Assistants) or Ewan (Community Librarian) and we will be happy to help.

Joining is easy, all we require from you is one proof of address, such as a bank statement or utility bill. We will sign you up immediately, allowing you to take advantage of the card straight away. And, with the summer holidays fast approaching we would encourage our younger readers to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge. The challenge is aimed at 4- 12 year olds and the theme this year is Creepy House! From the spine-tingling cellar to the Awful Upstairs discover the secrets of Creepy House and meet the hair-raising residents.

Active Ageing

Active Ageing is an initiative set up by Sport Aberdeen creating opportunities for older adults to remain active as they age. We have a range of activities across Aberdeen to be active. Sessions are specifically designed to cater for older adults to enjoy in a friendly social environment.

Health Walks: The Walk Aberdeen programme provides short, social, local, low level walks in communities across Aberdeen with trained walk leaders. There is a walk at Woodside Fountain Community Centre every Tuesday at 11am. Walks are FREE and tailored for beginners as well as those who can't manage very fast or very far. Tea and coffee is on

offer after the walk for a small cost.

Otago Strength & Balance sessions, Alex Collie Centre in Bridge of Don on Wednesday's from 2-3pm. These are part of the NHS falls Prevention Programme and cost only £2 including your tea or coffee afterwards.

Active Ageing Swim time: Northfield Swimming Pool, Mondays at 1.45-2.45pm. Free with an Access to Leisure Card.

Remember these sessions are designed for older people so if you don't think you can, come and try anyway and see how easy it is.

For more information contact Stephen on 01224 577738 or



email: sgammack@sportaberdeen.co.uk

Check out www.sportaberdeen.co.uk and click on the Active Ageing page for information about all our programmes including this Summer's FREE Golden Games Sport & Physical Activity festival for Over 65's.

Exercise: Your No.1 prescription

Food for thought

The cupboards at 62 Summer Street are worryingly bare.

The address is that of Aberdeen Cyrenians, the charity which aims to meet the needs of people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or affected by homelessness in any way. Part of that mission is to supply food parcels to those in need and right now 200 food parcels are handed out every month, hence the ongoing need for donations of the following items:

Tins of soup, beans, custard, fruit, vegetables, including potatoes and kidney beans. Packets of rice or pasta, instant soup. Jars of pasta sauce. Teabags. Cereal. Tins of fish, meat and meals such as Irish stew.

Every donation is recorded and stored by date – there are cupboards labelled 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and yes, even 2017 - and the parcels are made up of the foods with the closest use-by dates. A small army of volunteers sort all donations, not just food but toiletries, clothes and bedding.

Aberdeen Cyrenians advice and information workers have to sanction each food parcel. Amongst their other responsibilities is running a drop-in advice service four afternoons a week where anyone can go for information about budgeting, accessing welfare benefit or transition into or from employment and with assistance in the management of arrears, debt or household budgets.

Aberdeen Cyrenians has come a long way since it began in 1968 with a soup kitchen run in the city's Castlegate organised by students from Aberdeen University. Over the next four decades an estimated 50,000 homeless people or people at risk of homelessness have been supported by Aberdeen Cyrenians.

Can you help fill up Aberdeen Cyrenians food cupboards? Donations can be dropped off at 62 Summer Street during office hours, or contact the organisation or 625732 or at info@aberdeen-cyrenians.org for more information about other ways in which you can help.

Affected by Finance or Debt ?

Would you be willing to discuss your experience in confidence?

Finance can have a huge effect on people's lives but rarely do ordinary people get the chance to speak about their experiences. That is why Northfield community activist Keith Paterson, who is doing post graduate research at Aberdeen University, has chosen this theme for his research project.

The research aims to build up a picture of the experiences of ordinary people by giving them the chance to discuss, in confidence, how financial issues affect them and their families. This can be credit, debt, insurance, savings, rent, banks, mortgages or any other aspect of money or finance. Building on these experiences, a second phase of the project will investigate the social practices of financial institutions who frequently lend at very high interest rates.

If you have an experience you would like to share or are interested in being interviewed, contact the researcher Keith Paterson from Aberdeen University on 07793 655 410 or by email on keithpaterson@abdn.ac.uk

All interviews take place at a time and place that suit you and all personal information is treated in strictest confidence.



Tenants Open Day 2013

This year Aberdeen City Council's Tenants Open Day is being held on Saturday 31 August at the Music Hall from 10am – 1pm.

The Tenants Open Day is a great event organised by tenants, for tenants. It's free, fun and informative! This year there will be:

- **Stalls including**
- **Local Housing Associations (Housing Options)**
- **Welfare Reform**
- **Community Safety**
- **Tenant Participation**
- **Free refreshments**
- **Activities for children**
- **Giveaways**

If you have never been before the Tenants Open Day it is a great way for you to get information and speak to Council Officers about your housing service. There will be representatives there from loads of different council services and our external partners. So why not come along? It would be great to meet you!

If you would like more information please contact the Tenant and Community Engagement team, Carol or Caroline, on 01224 522839/523920.

M26

Road to Recovery Update

The members of the M26 Group who have been attending the Thursday computer course left Tillydrone on Friday the 19th April for Cromdale near Granton-on-Spey.

Jessie from Aberdeen Adventure drove us there and after a well needed meal took us to a nearby wood for some team building and wilderness crafts.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, Chris from Aberdeen Adventure drove the seven M26 members, our leader Graeme Benson and Jessie to the fast flowing River Spey for canoeing. Math and me in one canoe had some hairy escapades with the branches of trees on the banks but we all arrived safely at our destination further down the river.

Another excellent meal prepared by Aileen Davidson was enjoyed

by everyone before we headed for the very scenic Cairngorm National Park for abseiling. I did not do it but Graeme and five of the M26 members did, led by the intrepid Mitch.

On Sunday morning we all went hill walking after climbing a very steep part of the hill. Again the scenery and fresh air was what I enjoyed the most.

All too soon we were returning to Tillydrone after an invigorating yet relaxing weekend – thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Aileen, Graeme, Jessie, Chris and most of all to the M26 members who made it a most memorable and enjoyable time.

Then M26 would like to thank the person or persons who donated five bicycles to the group but

wish to remain anonymous. They have been used and have saved the group the expense and inconvenience of public transport.

Our garden is looking good again after some bad weather. The vegetables have been planted and also some new flowers.

Aileen would like the following from the Note Book of Life 'Earth from the Sky' brought to notice...

'Everyone makes mistakes in life,

But that doesn't mean they have to pay for them for the rest of their life.

Sometimes good people make bad choices.

It doesn't mean they're bad...it means they're HUMAN.'

By Cat.

Schools in Tillydrone by Margaret Mead

Before the schools were built in the area the few children that stayed in Hayton were taught in a couple of sheds that lay vacant.

Then in 1968, Hayton Primary School was built. The 5-9 year olds were taught there and then they went to Dill Road School. 10-12 year olds were taught at Dill Road School until they went to Powis Senior Secondary or if they managed to pass their exams to go to the Grammar School or the Central School

Later pupils went to Hazelhead which became Hazelhead Academy.

In the 70s, Tillydrone Primary School was built and a short time later St Machar Primary School was added. Dill Road school was renamed Donbank Primary School. In the 1980s the Education Department had it known that some pupils would have to attend a new school built in the Linksfeld area. The parents were not pleased as it would set up a rivalry with the pupils that had to go to Powis Academy.

The parents also had to fight to get a bus service to take the children to and from school. Then once more the arrangements changed and Linksfeld Academy closed and

all pupils moved back to Powis which was renamed St Machar Academy. Where Linksfeld was is now the Sports Village complex and will be the site of the new 50m swimming pool, due to open next year.

Tillydrone Primary School closed and then St Machar primary School and now all primary pupils are at Riverbank Primary School, the new name for Donbank. Riverbank is being upgraded and extended to accommodate the children from the new Donside Village. Another phase in the growth of Tillydrone and old Hayton.

SHMU JOURNALISM COURSE PROVES A SUCCESS

As part of the work we do at SHMU to help support Aberdeen's seven community magazines, we have been running journalism training for those who wish to become writers for their local publication.

We're now well into the third course, each consisting of six sessions, delivered once a week at our main building in Woodside. So far we have had people of all ages and from many different parts of the city take part, learning about

research, writing skills, interview technique and much more. This has been a great way to bring new writers to the magazines and over the coming editions of the Tilly Tattle you will no doubt see some new names contributing interesting articles.

The course is free although places are limited, so if you'd like to get involved then you can email denise@shmu.org.uk or call her on 01224 515013.

CALLUM JORDAN, 18 FROM TILLYDRONE

Positive Transitions 13 Graduation

Callum had previously worked with shmuTRAIN whilst at St Machar Academy and was a 'friend' through the shmuTRAIN Facebook page. He spotted both the Positive Transitions course and the shmuSOUND project and wanted to find out more.

Callum joined both PT13 and shmuSOUND, proving himself to be a natural performer, and really took to radio - he volunteered to come to shmu in his free time to co-present the Tilly Talks radio show and even helped on Packed Lunch. During the course we worked on his goals - he wanted to get into a job, get into college and start recording his own music.

As a result of the course Callum is now working full-time. He says, "Before the course I had a CV and handed out hundreds without hearing

anything, on the course Michelle helped me develop my CV. We went out job searching I handed out about 10 CV's; from that I got 4 replies - and one became the job I am doing".

Callum is continuing to work with shmuSOUND and also has an interview for the Introduction to Music course at Aberdeen College. He says "SHMU helped me in all aspects of my life, with my personal goals in music and professional goals to get a job and get into college". We wish Callum all the best in his upcoming college interview!



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.



Goodbye Gary

Farewell interview with Gary Dawson - Tillydrone Community Flat Development Worker from April 2012 – February 2013.

1) What did you find most interesting about working at the Tillydrone Community Flat.

There was so much to learn about everything that was going on and what I could do to help.

2) Who would you say inspired you?

Karen, Helen and Sarah who were all there before me. Once you got to know the people they also inspired me.

3) What project did you enjoy best?

There were a whole lot of projects like the Nursery to the Reading Bus and Diamond Jubilee Day and also it was rewarding to see the Tilly Tattle come out and distributed to everyone.

4) What is your new job?

Community Co-ordinator for Adjust project, which gives support to people who come out of prison and are coming back into the community, giving them and their families

encouragement so they can adjust to a better life.

Gary, I know you were involved with everything that went on and may I say your enthusiasm was infectious. You were an inspiration to us all – volunteers and workers alike and also all the people who came into the flat for advice as well as in the many courses. You helped build up the flat and helped make it the busy place it is today. I remember especially the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee – that was the busiest day of the year. You also let yourself get soaked at the Gala Day with people throwing sponges full of water at your face (good). I certainly enjoyed throwing the sponge. That is what I call fun!

Yes Gary I miss you. You used to come on the Tilly Talks radio show with me which is on Shmu 99.8 between 10 am - 11am on a Thursday morning. Everyone moves on and you will do well in your new experience - as they say, their gain is our loss at the Tillydrone Community Flat.

**Elsie Rennie
May 2013**

Living in Tilly

Since 1974 I have lived in Tilly

Until 2005 when I was a silly billy

I moved to be near my daughter to Murray Court

When I really aughter have moved to Meadow Court

But this was not to be because I am a silly billy you see

I volunteer at the Tillydrone Community Flat

On the Editorial Team and I like that

I've joined in lots of courses over the years

An art class, computing – new technology drives me to tears

Best of all is the Creative Writing and History Group which is good

Is this what you call intelligent food?

Joining in is part of the fun

Good luck and good health be to everyone!

Elsie Rennie

Poem for Tilly

Some go to church just for a walk

Some go there to laugh and talk

Some go there, their sins to cover

Some go there to meet a lover

Some go there to blink and nod

But few go there to worship god

Sophia

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 **0845 600 5700**

Samaritans

Need to talk **01224 574 488**

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team **01224 765 220**
Emergency Out-Of-Hours **01224 693 936**

Young Carers

Support & Information Service **01224 625 009**

Water

Scottish Water Emergency **0845 600 8855**

Alkohol

Anonimowi Alkoholicy **0845 769 7555**
Problemy z alkoholem **0800 917 8282**

Zapomoga

Agencja doradztwa w zapomogach **0800 587 9135**

Przestępstwa

Przeciwdziałanie przestępstwom **0800 555 111**

Narkotyki

FRANK – narodowa linia pomocy **0800 776 600**

Dentysta

Nagle wypadki **01224 558 140**

Lekarze

Nagle wypadki **08454 242 424**

Elektryczność

W wypadku odcięcia energii elektrycznej **0800 300 999**

Planowanie rodziny

Square 13 wsparcie i doradztwo **01224 642 711**

Gaz

Nagle wypadki **0800 111 999**
Nagle wypadki w związku z licznikiem **0845 606 6766**

Pomoc mieszkaniowa

Nagle naprawy **01224 480 281**
Centrum pomocy **0845 608 0929**

Policja

Zgłaszanie przypadków nie wymagających nagłej interwencji **0845 600 5700**

Samarytanie

Telefon dla potrzebujących rozmowy **01224 574 488**

Praca społeczna

Dyżur pracowników społecznych **01224 765 220**
Nagle wypadki poza godzinami pracy biura **01224 639 936**

Pomoc w karierze

Wsparcie i informacje **01224 625 009**

Woda

Nagle wypadki **0845 600 8855**