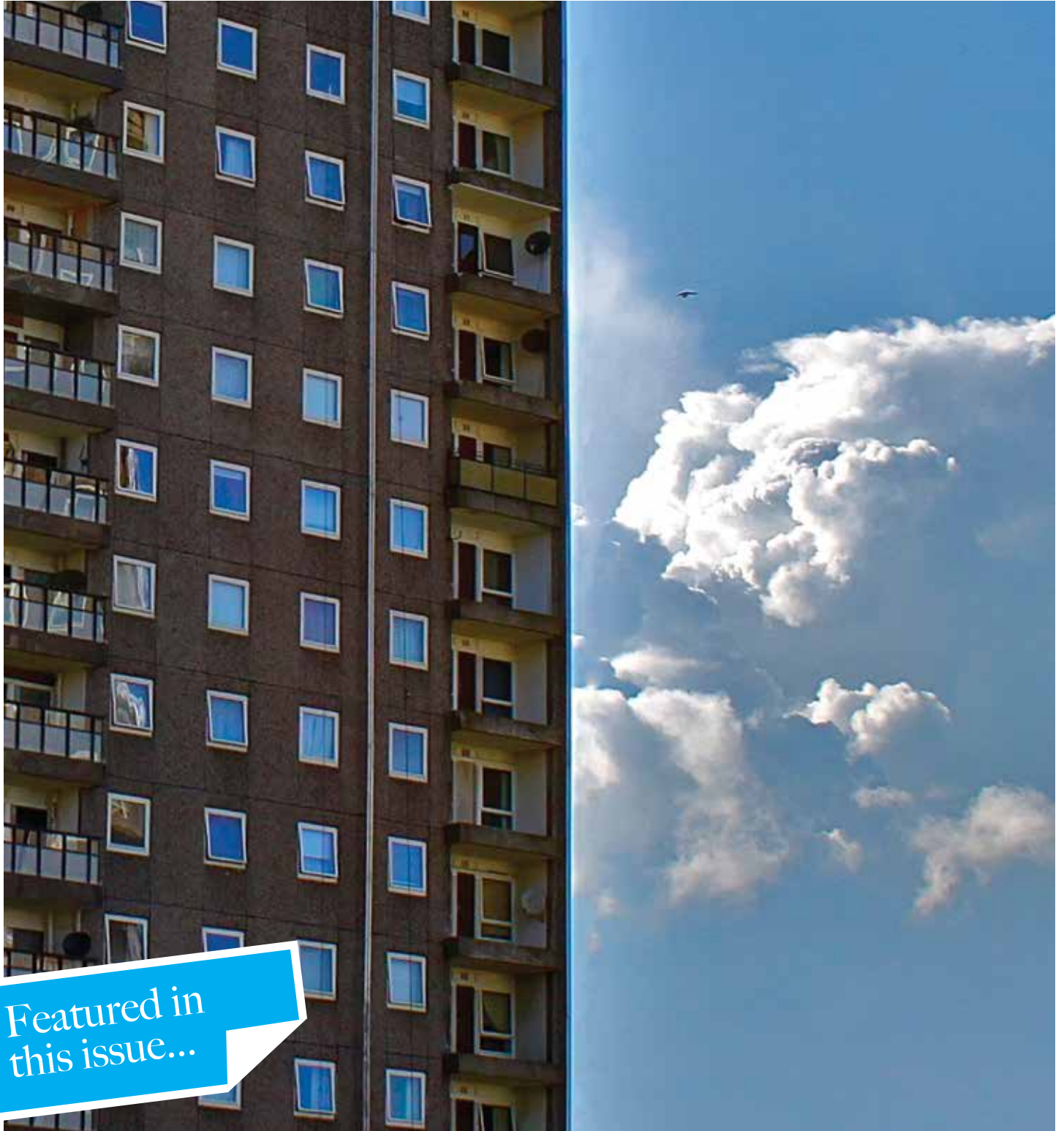


Summer Edition 2014

TillyTattle

LOCAL NEWS DEDICATED TO YOUR COMMUNITY



Featured in
this issue...

THIRD DON CROSSING
Update on controversial build

RIVERBANK PRIMARY
School News

WILD DOLPHIN ART PROJECT
Swims into Donside

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

Welcome to your Summer 2014 edition of the Tilly Tattle.

In this issue we have articles about the Third Don Crossing, Riverbank Primary School and St George's Church and much more.

Mary Clare, unfortunately, has moved on from SHMU. This is one of the last magazines she worked on. We would like to wish her all the best with her new job and welcome Laura, who will be taking over the role.

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 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 Laura at **SHMU** on **515013** or you can email her on **laura.young@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.

Supported by



New Face at Tillydrone Community Flat

Hello, my name is Fiona Dallas and I've recently taken over the post of Development Worker at the Tilly Community Flat.

Prior to being here, I spent some time working in the oil industry and before that, several years working for the Food Standards Agency where I held the consumer engagement remit for Scotland – travelling around, working in partnership with various charities, health groups and local authorities, to meet with and gain the views of a variety of groups and individuals in relation to food safety and healthy eating. I also took forward the educational projects, working closely with teachers to develop a

range of games and resources for schoolchildren across Scotland.

I am not a resident of Tillydrone (I am originally a Kincorth quine) but my mum grew up in Coningham Gardens prefabs and attended Tillydrone School so I have a tenuous link with the area! I have very much enjoyed my initial introduction to the job, the people and to Tillydrone and am looking forward to working with you all in the future.



Fiona Dallas

Tilly Flat Update

Suzy Hunter left her position as Development Worker at the flat towards the end of March. Though sad to leave everyone, she is looking forward to future challenges including a stint running a B&B in Ballater, a return trip to Sri Lanka to teach English, and is contemplating volunteering to assist in an eco-house build project which will allow her to learn many new skills! We would like to thank Suzy for all her work over the last year and wish her well in her future endeavours – she will be missed!

The flat continues to be an increasingly busy, useful and popular resource. The introduction of the welfare

reforms has hit many people hard and this is evident in the increase demand for food bank vouchers. 2013-2014 has seen a huge increase in visitor numbers to the flat – up by fivefold on the previous year. Uptake on classes continues to be good, with art proving very popular and the twice weekly health treatment sessions providing some much needed relaxation for local residents. We will review the existing courses and facilities going forward and are always keen to hear about any new suggestions or ideas you may have – please let us have your thoughts on this.

Community Centre

Over 50 and looking to get yourself moving? Then come along to Tillydrone Community Centre on Mondays from 1 – 2pm for their chair based exercise class. The cost is £1.00 with tea and coffee provided. The class are having fun while exercising. Four members of the class entered a ten pin bowling competition and were pleased to win first prize – the oldest member of the team was 82. She said “it shows if I can do it at my age those younger and able have no excuse.”

The class has been organised by Hayley Buchan who you can contact on 07554 332436.

The Old Man's Figments

by John Watt

T

he old man grew weary. He sat at his typewriter for the last time. The years hung heavy on his shoulders. All his memories had finally worn him down. The struggle, the strife, the grief, lost friend, lost loves. He had reached the end of the road. His old life was coming to an end. All his neighbours and friends were already gone. He was lost in haunted memories. His beloved prefab was coming down soon. No more laughing kids. No more drinking with his mates. He couldn't handle it.

He sat at his typewriter for the last time. He started battering his keys on his old typewriter. He was going to let the Figments go before he left. They had been his companions for a long time now. They couldn't make up for his last years but they had helped. He hammered away. First out was Fee Fumm, a beautiful wee fairy. He had conjured her years before. In the old man's world she sat on his shoulder wherever he went. Strolls down Persley Den. Cold walks along the shoreline, down by Seaton Park. She was always there along the meandering paths of life. She had been there a long time now. She sat on his

shoulder and watched him type. Next to appear was Wee Billy... in the old man's eyes Wee Billy was himself as a small child who grew up too quick. They had shared many an adventure. Climbed mountains, swam the seas. Flew the sky-ways...chased the eagles. What fun they had. Fee Fumm and Wee Billy now sat on his shoulder watching. The old man hammered away again. All his Figment friends were now here, dozens of them, all conjured up in the old man's head over the years. Fee Fumm the fairy, Wee Billy, Max the cheeky one, Sammy the snitch. The old man had written stories about them all these years. Now it was time to let them go.

The sadness was shared by them all. They knew the old man's time had come. He stood up to go. His Figment friends all stood silent. The old man was heading for Persley Den, the scene of many of his stories. His old bones creaked as he started walking slowly out of his old prefab. The Figments seemed to form a procession behind him. None of them spoke. They had enjoyed their outings with the old man over the years but knew the end was near. He reached Persley Den after a

painful walk. His bones were finished. His wee Figment friends felt his pain; the tears were falling from them all. He walked slowly along by the side of his woods. The old man found his favourite log where he sat facing the moon. The stars were out and the moonbeams danced. The ghosts of his childhood waved - Maxie, Bobby, Liz, Josie. All sat beside him. None spoke. All the old man's Figments were all here - they formed a circle round him. He wept. Closed his eyes and drifted away. He drifted towards the moonbeams. All the Figments and creatures of the night grieved as one. All wept. He was found next morning cold and frozen through, long gone. He looked as if he was smiling, still sitting upon his favourite log. The beautiful spot had seen another sad soul drift. Nobody could understand why the ground around him was flattened as if by little feet. They say that if you go down to Persley Den on a moonlit night you can sometimes, if you are quick, see all the Wee Figments still dancing on moonbeams... hoping for the old man to come back. And he did! But that's another story...



An Inspector Returns

The new Inspector for Tillydrone, Darren Bruce, returns to the community after working in various high profile units in the city.

Tillydrone is a great place to work. There are good bits and bad bits, like in any job, but the community groups, people and partner agencies working and living in the area covered by this station make policing more rewarding.

In my 17 years of service, I have previously been stationed here 3 times. On this occasion, I took up the role of Inspector in March and am impressed with enthusiasm that officers are showing me. I have high expectations of officers in Tillydrone who will continue help the people and businesses in the area.

Before this, I was a Detective Inspector in the city, previously working in both the Rape Investigation Unit and Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit. Criminal investigation and community policing go well together and I haven't had to adjust too much to this new role thanks to my previous positions here. I do understand that working together can achieve longer lasting results and I get enjoyment from being accountable to this area.

Over the coming months, we will continue to identify local policing problems and will continue to tackle them.

I personally hope to have met with people working for a safer area to provide the support of my team and other specialist resources available to me.

Whilst on the topic of resources, many people across Aberdeen have expressed disappointment at the proposed closure of our local Service Centre and Control Room. This is an ongoing matter and please be reassured that no matter what the changes are to be, my officers will continue to respond to the needs of Tillydrone. There is a great deal of local knowledge and experience amongst my officers and it is my job to ensure that people covered by the Tillydrone station get our help. We have come through a huge period of change during the transition to Police Scotland and the focus has always been to provide the same high level of service.

Football

A Poem by John Brown

Walking out the tunnel,
Thinking the score is going
to be one all.

You hear the fans roar anticipating
what player is going to score,

When at Old Trafford there will
be plenty more.

Standing in the line knowing the
team is fine

This is the transfer I would
like to sign.

Running down the wing, in your
head you start to sing.

When you run in don't be late,
pass it to your team mate.

Take a free kick in a triangle,
an accuracy angle,

The goalkeeper will mangle,
A mega spangle.

Take a mathematical tackle the
goal will be a crackle,

Celebrate with a sparkle.

When you earn to place the shirt,
all the girls will flirt.

It's such a beautiful game.

Who cares if it rains for a moment it
can take away all your pains,
It's like electric pumping through
your veins.

Injecting through the main,
everyone it can be hard

It's such satisfaction playing for
your hearts passion,

What a reaction.

90 minutes is that all we can run
with the ball,

No matter how big or small.

Schmichael very tall.

The chants the fans will call,

We will break any wall.

I broke my ligament, this is
really significant.

The Lighthouse

The Lighthouse Support Project are celebrating securing new premises.

At the time of writing I am looking forward to the open day at The Lighthouse on Thursday the 24th of April.

This is to celebrate the completion of the extension and general refurbishment, especially the new kitchen.

I am sure John, Wilma and their very dedicated team will organise everything perfectly as usual so members of the community, backers and supporters will see some of the good work done by the Lighthouse Project. I am still surprised at meeting people who were helped by the Lighthouse years ago, some even with jobs that they still have.

The team of volunteers with diverse talents go beyond the call of duty and will go to great lengths to help anyone.

One of the long-term users of the facilities and a fairly recent user have both got jobs so the men's drop in is a bit quieter at the moment. People getting their lives changed for the better is what the Lighthouse is about and both say the Lighthouse played a big part.

There may be other changes happening soon which will also be reported in your Tilly Tattle.

Poem by a Lighthouse user

Once I was lost upon the sea,
It seemed all hope was gone.
My ship was drifting helplessly,
Battered by the storms.
But then I saw a brilliant light,
Shining brighter than the day.
It seemed to beckon – come to me,
I will light the way.
Now my ship is in the harbour,
Anchored firmly near the shore.
In the shadow of the lighthouse,
Safe forevermore.
Often I wonder,
Just where I would be,
If the lighthouse – Jesus Christ, the Lord
Had not rescued me



Destination Unknown

Ever since the launch of the Platinum bus route in November last year there have been questions over the bus' key destinations. We caught up with First bus to have a chat about residents' concerns.

A lot of residents have expressed discontent with the list of key destinations which is featured on the bus. Many of the main destinations in and around Tillydrone, such as Seaton Park, the Wallace Tower and the River Don are not included in the list. I spoke to the communication team at First Bus to ask them about this.

"We're delighted with our customers' reaction to our Platinum services. We've lost count of the number of positive comments we've received, including really good feedback on our places of interest vinyls.

"Given the length of the route it was, unfortunately, inevitable that some areas and attractions were not

represented. The vinyl was intended to give a flavour of some, not all, of the key destinations along the route and we certainly didn't want to cause any offence to Tillydrone customers or anyone else.

"However, taking on board the feedback, I'm pleased to confirm that our vinyls were updated a month or two ago and now feature 'Sir Duncan Rice Library'. In addition, I'd encourage customers with any further suggestions to get in touch - depending on the feedback we may add some further destinations."

If you would like to get in touch with the First Bus you can phone 01224 65-01-00.

Art Project Gives Donside Community a Purpose

Housing provider Tenants First is helping residents swim with the tide by sponsoring Aberdeen's Wild Dolphins art project.

Tenants First was among the first of a wave of North-East organisations to support a cause which will entertain locals and tourists, educate children and raise thousands of pounds for charity.

Residents of the first phase of Tenants First's picturesque Donside Village will this week choose an artist to decorate their life-size dolphin sculpture. Pupils at Tillydrone's Riverbank Primary will also decide how to decorate a baby dolphin artwork donated by Tenants First. Local artists have used their talents to create a range of designs from which participants can choose. Jim Currie, treasurer of Donside Community Association, said: "Wild Dolphins is a fantastic project, bringing together professional artists to work with schools and community groups.

"We are delighted that Tenants First is providing sponsorship to support Donside Community Association in bringing this project to Donside Village. The project will help to highlight the Aberdeen area and as a new community it will help to let people know where we are. "It will be a great opportunity too for community involvement and I'm sure there are many ideas of what our dolphin might look like. The support it gives to the charities involved will also help vital work."

For 10 weeks this summer the project will create a public art trail of dolphins across Aberdeen. All adult dolphin sculptures will be auctioned off at the end of the exhibition to raise funds for the ARCHIE Foundation (the children's charity of The Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital) and environmental charity Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

Schools are encouraged to use their dolphin sculptures to stimulate discussion, debate and research. Baby dolphin sculptures will go on public display before being returned to schools as permanent mementoes of their participation.

Riverbank Primary P6 teacher Megan Holmes said: "The pupils are really excited to take part in this project and are delighted Tenants First donated a baby dolphin to the school.

"Riverbank does a lot of art but this is obviously a little different. The pupils cannot wait to decide on a design and to see the dolphin brightly painted. The dolphin will take pride of place at Riverbank Primary for many years to come."



School News

Riverbank
Primary

UNICEF Day for Change

On Thursday 13th February it was the UNICEF Day for Change. This year the focus was on a right to education. The pupils and staff were invited to take part in a dress as you please day for a small donation. There were lots of activities going on in school including:

- Teas and coffees
- Home bake sale
- Smoothie bar

- Parents support sheets on numeracy
- Autographs were being handed out by Russell Anderson from AFC
- Wes Magee a popular and well known Scottish children's author came along to assembly and spent time with each class.

Riverbank raised **£632.92** for Unicef.



UNICEF Day for Change



Wes Magee
UNICEF Day for Change

Mrs Jolly

I am being seconded out by UNICEF and the Aberdeen City Council for at least a year from the beginning of May as a Professional Advisor (UNICEF) and Quality Improvement Officer (ACC). The acting Head Teacher post is being advertised and we will let you know once an appointment has been made. I am looking forward to a new challenge but will miss the pupils, parents, staff and community of Riverbank and Tillydrone.

Regards
Mrs M Jolly



5 year Birthday
celebration

shmu visit

On Thursday 20th March Jamie, Julija and Lukas from P5 at Riverbank School went to visit and talk on the radio show at SHMU.

When we arrived at SHMU Sasha and Robert met us, they spoke about how we were feeling and what was going to happen on our visit. We were all feeling nervous but were looking forward it. Denise came and spoke to us and she told some of the things we should and shouldn't do while we were on the radio. The microphones are very sensitive and pick up every sound.

Sasha let us see in the studio where we would be - it is a small room in a larger room. We all had a seat in the studio and each seat had a microphone and headphones.

We could hear what was on the radio through the head phones.

Robert spoke to us and asked us lots of questions. We spoke about waste week, science and engineering week, the Easter holidays and what our favourite song was. Jamie chose "Timber" and Lukas chose "Let It Be." Robert played both of our songs on the radio as well as his own favourite song which was "Iris." We also got to say hi to our teacher and our friends.

When we got back to our class we found out that our teacher Miss Robertson and our class had been listening to us on the radio.

We would like to say thank you to everyone at SHMU for making us feel so welcome.

Jamie, Julija and Lukas.

National Science and Engineering Week

During National Science and Engineering Week all pupils including nursery children have been engaging in some forensic fun.

The early stages pupils have had to deal with some naughty teddies who have been playing tricks on the children and the children have been charged with discovering who the naughtiest teddy was. They did this through teeth impressions, finger prints, identikits, fibre investigation using a digital microscope and shoe print match.

In the upper school the pupils became trainee forensic scientists and took part in a CSI Riverbank set of investigations that included taking their finger prints using drinking chocolate or chalk, taking dental impressions of their own teeth, chromatography, white substance testing and fibre

identification using the digital microscope.

Other activities included visits from the techfest planetarium, Grace Banks, who brought science outdoors and Laura Cherry, who carried out some forensic fun drama scenarios. A practical look at safety for p5 to 7 took place and pupils got to try on PPE used in the workplace.

Many classes have been carrying out their own science investigations and teachers have done some science team teaching. There has been a class visit to Satrosphere. On Friday the week ended with a K'nex challenge with 3 classes.

The school has been well supported by our STEM ambassador and her colleagues from Nexen.

House Points

At Riverbank School we are all in house groups. The groups are Hayton which is blue, Seaton which is red, St Machar which is purple and Kings which is yellow. I am in the St Machar house group.

Our aim is to fill our house points bottle full of tokens. We can get tokens by doing many things including saying please and thank you, holding doors open, being nice to people and for completing knitting squares.

When you get your tokens you put them in the bottle with your house name on it.

The bottles get counted at the end of the month and at the end of term. Whoever wins at the end of the term gets to choose a prize or treat for the people in the winning group.

Written by Julia, P5

Aronas and Dillon

Hi, our names are Aronas and Dillon and we are in P6/7b. We would like to tell you about what we have been doing in school.

Aronas - in P.E it has helped my life improve. It has made me more fit and healthy. I have become a better sportsman and I feel I am stronger than ever before. We have had the chance to try out a range of sports.

These include, basketball, badminton, tennis, gymnastics, table-tennis and football.

Next term we have a health month where we are going to learn about all areas of health.

Dillon - I enjoy rainbow times on a Friday afternoon. We can socialise, play on the computers, go outside to play if the weather is nice, do art and take in our phones. I really like my rainbow time but we have to earn it.

Sunnybank Learning Centre – ESOL Open Day

*Saturday 21st of June 2014,
1pm to 4pm.*

This open day has a particular focus on the St Machar area however is open to anyone. There will be a vast number of services there to provide information on the support they can give to people from ethnic minority backgrounds living and working in the area. GREC are looking to provide multi-lingual volunteers so that information provided can be translated to those unable to speak English.

There will also be light refreshments and activities for children available on the day.

History of Hayton

Margaret Mead updates us on Hayton's history

The history of Hayton is not very well documented before the early 18th century, where it can be seen on a map dated 1743 as a small hamlet and farm. The road would have been very basic until later years when the mills were built. The area east of Hayton Road was the Seton or Seaton Estate. This estate was bought by James Forbes in 1782, subsequent to the sale of his former estate, Newe, to 'Bombay Jock' Forbes, founder of the Bombay mercantile business Forbes and Co.

James Forbes met and married Margaret Gordon. They had two children but the son died in childhood. Their daughter Elizabeth Forbes married Lord James Hay, second son of George 7th Marquis of Tweeddale - the 1st Marquis was Lord John Haya who was descended from the French aristocracy. James Hay managed to procure a few estates in England as well as Scotland. The last Laird of Seaton, Major Malcolm Vivian Hay, was often in residence at the House of Seaton. He died in an Aberdeenshire nursing home in 1962 and the house subsequently burnt down in 1963.



Ayr Summer Camp 1989

Butlins Holiday Village

Do you know anyone here? Aileen Goymer Davidson will provide a prize for the person who can guess the most names.

Contact Fiona Dallas at Tillydrone Community Flat on **486641** or email dev-worker@tillyflat.com.

"A Night of Music and Song"

Liz Wilson



On the Friday 7th March St. George's Church held a concert to raise funds. Linda Barclay and I organised the event.

The compere was Sandy Davidson. He did a great job, and sang a few songs. I also sang as part of the show.

Other performers were:
Sweet Adelines' Quartet - Singularity

1 VOICE ABERDEEN - a choir conducted by Paul Hudson. Ross Whyte was the pianist and Linda Barclay was a member of the choir

Kat Gillies played the cello, Steven Reid - singer.

We raised £604 and this was divided between St George's Church: Tillydrone Vision & Alzheimer's Scotland: Aberdeen Dementia Resource Centre. Councillor Len Ironside attended as Deputy Lord Provost.

The evening was such a success. It is to become a yearly event.

I invite all your readers to next year's event. Watch this space.

The Third Don Crossing

Members of the Tilly Tattle editorial team spoke to people about their views on the Third Don Crossing.

Preparation work has begun on the controversial Third Don Crossing. This bridge will connect Tillydrone and Bridge of Don. The building work will start in July or August this year.

Labour MSP Lewis Macdonald for North East Scotland:

"This new road and bridge will change both Tillydrone and the banks of the Don forever. That is why the council must do all it can to reduce the impact of the scheme on people's homes, on road safety and the environment."

Mr Macdonald is also concerned about the proximity of the road to people's houses and the impact of cutting down trees."

SNP Cllr Sandy Stuart Bridge of Don:

"As much as it will take away traffic from Bridge of Don and King Street, it will also take away the traffic away from King Street and Saint Machar Drive. It will benefit people in Tilly working in Bridge of Don. There are lots of pluses for the crossing."

Tillydrone resident and environmental campaigner Lynne Digby:

"I believe one day, not in the too distant future, we will look at the devastation that we have caused and view the earth respectfully and not as a means of growth and money."

Conservative Cllr Ross Thomson

"I was delighted to see work on this hugely important project finally happening. Aberdeen's poor infrastructure is bad for local business, bad for the local economy and is the source of most local anger and frustration. Aberdeen's infrastructure has been ignored by local politicians for too long. Increased connectivity will provide a better environment in Aberdeen for new and existing businesses to work and grow."

Reader's Letter

Dear Tilly Tattle,

So the Third Don Crossing is on its way. Whatever the benefits for Aberdeen as a whole, there can be no doubt that the new bridge is bad news for this part of the city.

It's a done deal, and there's nothing we can do about it. But now that the work has started, it's horrifying to witness hundreds of mature trees being felled. The bridge area itself resembles a bad day in the rain forest, with the destruction of one of the most attractive areas of meadowland in the city. There has been yet more felling along the length of Tillydrone Avenue and beside the roundabout by the Zoology building. It all seems a bit over the top.

Because this was a contentious issue, it was assumed that the local environment would have been treated with sensitivity. Yet, even those who were in favour of the bridge have been shocked to see what has happened.

One of the reasons the bridge is being built is to open up the north bank of the Don to development, and I for one am dreading what is to come next.

Douglas Thomson



Lewis Macdonald with Lynne Digby



Affordable homes bring Village life to the city

Aberdeen's 267-home Donside Village has been given the seal of approval from the Scottish Government, the City Council and residents whose properties neighbour the nature-rich River Don.

Housing provider Tenants First created the £52 million development on land formerly occupied by a paper mill. Donside Village was designed to make life resident-friendly while retaining the convenience of being near central Aberdeen.

Yvonne and Jamie Duffield, plus the couple's three children, moved into a four-bedroom end-terrace townhouse last year.

Yvonne, 33, said: "We love living here. We were in a small three-bedroom house before moving here so this home's massive in comparison - it's so spacious it's unreal.

"We've been in Donside Village since February 2013 and have been very impressed by the community spirit that exists. Residents are always arranging events which most people attend, most recently at Christmas when the kids sang carols and handed out hot chocolate.

"It's a great place to bring up a family."

In total, 146 Donside Village homes are available for social rent. The remaining 121 properties were sold to families keen to buy an affordable home in Aberdeen's heated housing

market. The properties range in size from one-bedroom flats to four-bedroom townhouses. The keys to the last batch of homes were handed over last month.

The Scottish Government gave £25 million in grant funding towards the project.

During a visit to Donside Village, Housing Minister Margaret Burgess said: "It is my belief that each and every one of us should live in a comfortable home which doesn't cost the earth to keep.

"These new homes are a welcome addition to the supply of affordable housing in Aberdeen. The Scottish Government's £25 million funding to this development is making a real difference to people's lives in the Aberdeen area." All Donside Village homes incorporate low-energy features pioneered by Tenants First. This includes a closed panel construction method offering superior insulation properties, higher standards of air tightness and also energy-efficient components.

Councillor Neil Cooney, Aberdeen City Council's Housing and Environment Convener, said: "We were delighted to be able to support this project which has seen the old mill site transformed into a picturesque new community boasting affordable homes perfect for the modern family.

"Aberdeen City Council, like all local authorities, faces significant challenges in terms of housing,

particularly affordable housing, but we remain fully committed to meeting the housing requirements and aspirations of our citizens.

"The delivery of affordable homes for the city is central to the council's Strategic Infrastructure Plan which aims to achieve a 'Step change in the supply of housing' by 2017.

"I would like to thank Tenants First for their tireless efforts at Donside and look forward to what they achieve during the next phase of the development."

Tenants First is a member of Sanctuary Group, one of the UK's biggest social housing providers.

Tenants First's Director Gordon Laurie said: "We are proud to have worked with Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Government to produce these 267 homes.

"By consulting Donside Community Association on aspects like the development's child play areas, residents have also been able to influence the vision for Donside Village, a vibrant community of quality, affordable housing.

"It is rare to see such a picturesque neighbourhood so close to a busy city centre. We are currently developing plans for a second phase of Donside Village homes so more families can live here in future."

Get ready for the 2014 Library Summer Reading Challenge!

The theme for this summer is Mythical Maze which invites children to discover more about myths and legends from all over the world. By taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge through Aberdeen City Libraries, and trying to read 6 books over the summer, you can join the mythical creatures who are this year's stars of the Summer Reading Challenge. Minotaur, Unicorn, Yeti, Mermaid, Dragon, Nessie, Garuda, Leprechaun, Medusa and Anansi will also appear on a free downloadable app featuring interactive activities, clues and rewards.

Collect stickers and incentives as you work your way through the Challenge and explore different zones on the maze. There will

be more activities plus hidden 'treats' for children to unlock on the Mythical Maze website www.mythical-maze.co.uk which will go live before the summer holidays and there will be themed activities in libraries during the holidays.

The Summer Reading Challenge is aimed at children aged 4 and over but younger brothers and sisters can join in by sharing books with family and carers. Bookbug story and rhyme sessions for younger children will continue over the holidays.

Summer Reading Challenge – Mythical Maze event at Mastrick Library

Saturday 26th July 2.30 – 3.30pm

Summer Reading Challenge – Mythical Maze event at Northfield Library

Monday 28th July 2.15 – 3.00pm

For more information contact:

**Mastrick Library on 01224
788558 [MastrickLibrary@
aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:MastrickLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk)**

**Northfield Library on 01224
695104 [NorthfieldLibrary@
aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:NorthfieldLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk)**

**or visit the Aberdeen City
Libraries' website [www.
aberdeencity.gov.uk/library](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/library)**



GOODBYE MARY CLARE

Over the past four years I have worked with the Tilly Tattle editorial team and it has been an utter privilege working with such a passionate group of people. Everyone who is involved in the editorial process is extremely dedicated to producing a magazine that their community can be proud of, and I feel very privileged to have been involved in it. I wish the editorial team every success with future issues, as I have no doubt that their magazines will continue to thrive. (I will however, be checking the magazines online during my lunch break!)

All the best for the future guys,
Mary Clare



TEAM BUILDING DAYS AT SHMU

Newbies took over the shmu studio in March as shmu launched its first teambuilding day experience. A group of employees from Aberdeen Asset Management were set the challenge of researching, programming content and presenting a live show in only one day.

The day began at the Tillydrone Youth Project (TYP) where the team were introduced to the shmu team who guided them through the teambuilding day and gave the team a crash course in community radio, show topic discussion, show style, research, legal requirements and role distribution.

After a spot of lunch, the radio rookies were transported back to shmuHQ and split into two groups. Group one were the editorial team, consisting of anchor presenter, two news/support presenters and a show producer.

Group two head up the features team, two members who devised a short feature piece on the topic for broadcast during the show. On top of all that, Team one received technical training, draft running orders, scripts and intros and outros as well as choosing the music for the show. The second team recorded and edited a telephone interview for their feature piece.

After a quick run-through, the team then presented a one hour live broadcast on shmuFM followed by an evaluation, debrief and a well-deserved cuppa.

Well done to the team from Aberdeen Asset Management on a brilliant show!

If you would like to book a team building day for your company, please get in touch with us. Call Lesley on 01224 515013 or email lesley@shmu.org.uk

SHMU INTRO SESSION

We also deliver 30 minute 'intro sessions' to any groups who want to know more about shmu. Our team will present an interactive information session on everything that we can offer here at station house media unit. This is a brilliant opportunity for groups who would otherwise struggle to be heard or gain any coverage locally. We will help you record a jingle, which will then be aired on shmuFM. We are happy to deliver our takeover session to staff teams, active groups of all ages, service users and anyone else who wants to find out more about your local media organisation. Call Denise on 01224 515013 or email denise@shmu.org.uk to book your session.

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.

The Three Musketeers

They are on a mission... a mission to prove their three toddlers with the best opportunities for a good start in life through the Stay and Play sessions at Tillydrone Community Flat.

Alice, Donna and Jane first met in the spring of 2013 when they started coming to one of the Stay & Play Groups in Tillydrone. The group is run by a SPPA Play Practitioner and funded by the Scottish Government and the Big Lottery. These sessions are available for families with children aged 0-5. The mothers stay and play along with their child throughout the session. The focus of the sessions is developing social skills, speech and language development and on healthy eating and physical development. However, at this stage in the child's life the main focus is simply to have fun while developing and learning.

The Three Musketeers" meet up every Thursday afternoon without fail – and they are always on the lookout for other activities that can fill their day.

Donna: "Before we started coming to the group, we did feel a bit isolated and I was the only one at home during the day to keep my son entertained. He didn't get to meet other children. During the Stay & Play sessions we meet other people. Angus especially loves the singing. Angus is a fussy eater and when he's sitting down around the snack table at Stay & Play he can watch other children eating their snack and that has had a positive effect on his eating habits at home.

Coming to the group has made me feel more confident about my role as a parent as I can chat to the other mums and the play practitioner about any problems and take home ideas from the group."

Jane: "Before coming to the Stay & Play session I didn't know any other mothers with young

children. I have always been working and so had no network of other families with children so we stayed at home most days.

When we first entered the room for Stay & Play, Bernie was very shy and didn't want to leave my side. This was his first contact with children his age. When the practitioner said "Let's sit down and do some singing," I thought – "Yeah, good luck with that," as I just knew he would never sit down and sing. Bernie did wander around the first couple of sessions but now after 6 months he walks confidently into the room, smiles at the play practitioner and eagerly sits down for singing. He has learned the actions and sings along with a big smile on his face. It really shows how quickly toddlers learn and how much they pick up if you expose them to the right activities. Coming to the session is also good for my child's behaviour. All the children here are expected to behave and it is good for him to see other children behave nicely. It has benefits for me as a mum to have positive behaviour reinforced by the play practitioner and other mums as well.

Before coming to the Stay & Play sessions Alice and her son Robbie did not do messy activities at all, and they would both shy away from slime to shaving foam. Robbie certainly didn't like the feel of anything messy and wouldn't even go near a paintbrush. But having heard about the benefits of messy play during the sessions, Alice now encourages Robbie to at least give it a go.

Alice: "I have now realised that there are lots of benefits connected to messy play: it is a fun way to socialise with

other children, and for instance learning to hold a paintbrush will encourage my son to practise for the time when he is old enough to hold a pencil and start mark-making and then move on to writing. Also, trying out something new and unknown is a great way for Robbie to build up his confidence and resilience, so when he grows older he will not be put off by new things, but hopefully feel confident to at least give it a go. Since joining Stay & Play I have seen Robbie doing things that he would never have done before or do at home. The practitioner brought in a bag of leaves one day and let the children play in the autumn leaves, encouraging the children to listen to the rustling noise, have a go at smelling the earthy leaves and just having fun kicking the leaves about was a whole new experience for both of us. Now Robbie will not walk past autumn leaves without a little kick about which he and the rest of the family find great fun. Previously, he would never touch dirty stuff, but just the other day he put his fingers in some mud and quite enjoyed the sensation. It's like discovering a whole new dimension for him."

I feel I do all I can for my son to be happy and to develop into a confident boy. We come here and have a variety of experiences rather than being stuck in the house which often leaves you feeling lonely and frustrated. The sessions have benefitted me and my son. The problem for many people around here is opening your front door and have the courage to get out and use the many activities on offer.

New Chairperson at Tillydrone Vision

Tillydrone Vision elected a new chairperson at their first AGM as a registered Scottish charity.

Tillydrone Vision, a charity supporting communities in Uganda, has elected a new Chairperson. Aileen Goymer-Davidson, who has worked with many community groups in Tillydrone, has taken up the role after the charity's AGM on at the beginning of April.

Aileen said, "I'm really pleased to have been chosen as Chairperson. I have to pay tribute to Rev Jim Weir, Tillydrone's Parish Minister and our first Chairperson, who started all of this off. Jim saw us through some big projects and the important change from a community good cause to a registered Scottish charity. He's left big shoes to fill."

"None of this could be possible without the amazing and constant support of the people of Tillydrone and a bit of help from our friends. They're the stars in all this."

"During last year's visit to Uganda we visited the local hospital and we're going to try and do something there in the coming year. We've another big project planned for the Primary School that will make

a big difference in the lives of the orphaned girls who live there all year round."

Tillydrone Vision is planning another visit to Uganda in April 2015. Part of the work in Tillydrone is to give some young people the once-in-a-lifetime chance to travel to Uganda and see for themselves what poverty in Africa means to so many people.

The charity keeps close to its roots by having representatives of the Tillydrone Community Council, Riverbank School and St George's Tillydrone Church on its management committee.

