Summer Edition 2015

In the second se

Featured in this issue...

RIVERBANK SCHOOL WINS A PRIZE in a European Project

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH The Crombie Club

THIRD DON CROSSING Latest Update







TILLY GALA - PAGES 10 & 11



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Front cover photo: **Anne Knight -** Hayfield Equestrian Centre at the Tilly Gala



Editorial

RIVERBANK SCHOOL - PAGE 5

Welcome to your Summer edition of the Tilly Tattle.

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

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 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







Alexander Drive and Terrace

by Margaret Mead

The street was named after **First Earl Alexander of Tunis**. He was born Harold Rupert Leofric George Alexander on 1st December 1891, and educated at Hautreys and Harrow. After school, he entered Sandhurst Royal Military College. He was commissioned in September 1911 as second lieutenant in the Irish Guards and later made a lieutenant in the British Army (December 1912).

Earl Alexander fought in the First World War and received the Military Cross for his bravery at the Battle of Loos. He also received honours from France for his actions in battle.

He rose through the ranks quickly and by 1920 he was a major. The author Rudyard Kipling said that Colonel Alexander had a gift of handling men on the lines to which they readily responded.

After the 1st World War he participated in wars being fought in Eastern Europe. He was accidentally wounded by one of his own sentries while fighting in Latvia. Alexander returned to Britain in May 1920 as a major, second in command of 1st Battalion Irish Guards. In May 1922, he was promoted substantive lieutenant-colonel and appointed commanding officer. In 1926 he returned to study at the Imperial Defence College where he was instructed by future Field Marshals Alan Brooke and Bernard Montgomery.

He was appointed aide-de-camp to King George VI in 1937. Following the coronation celebration, Alexander returned to India, where he was made the honorary colonel of the 3rd Battalion 2nd Punjab Regiment, then in October 1937 was promoted to the rank of major-general, making Alexander the youngest general in the British Army.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, Alexander brought the 1st Infantry Division to France, where, in late May 1940, he successfully led the division's withdrawal to Dunkirk. He was also involved in the desert campaign and in the fight against the Japanese. Alexander was promoted to Commander-in-Chief of Allied Land Forces in Burma, March 1942.

Alexander was appointed to the post of Governor-General of Canada in 1946 and held the post until 1952 when he returned to Britain to take up the post of Minister of Defence at Churchill's request. He died in June 1969.

Can you help name this person?

A Tillydrone resident has submitted this photograph to the magazine to see if anyone can help name one of the people in it.

It was taken in the old Nissen Huts in Hayton Camps in the later '50s/early '60s. If you can name the lady in the back row on the second left then get in touch with Laura at SHMU.

You can email laura.young@shmu.org.uk or call 01224 515013

In the back row: Maggie Rennie; ; Nessie Clark; Mrs Clark Front row: Bella Masson; Mary Forbes; Peggy O'Brien



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Somewhere to Sit by Morven Bush

I have lived in Tillydrone for 5 years. I moved to the area in 2010 and joined the editorial team of the Tilly Tattle in 2011 where I have covered three Tillydrone Gala days and been the photographer. I have had a few of my photographs used on the front cover.

DILL PL

Just the other day I bought an ice cream and was trying find somewhere to sit and eat it. The only place I could find was the play area next to the shopping centre and I thought it would be worth putting up some park benches with paving up to them and around them in Tillydrone.

I thought of some places within the community where I would like some benches installed:



BRIDGE

There are 3 spots around the shopping centre and the church

- Two spots around the old Tilly Youth Project where you could put 4 benches
- One on the corner of Harris Drive and Tedder Road
- One on the second green patch on Alexander Terrace, near the car park
- The other side of the school fence next to Aberdeen Lads Club and the green patch across the road
 - Just across from Meadow Court on the other side of Gordon's Mills Road

These are my choices on where to put the park benches. If you have any suggestions I would love to hear them.

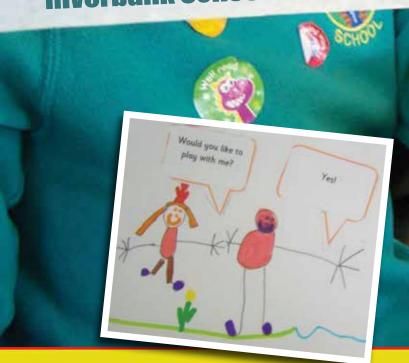
CHURCH & HOPPING CENTRE

DDIS ROAD

You can email your ideas to: laura.young@shmu.org.uk



Riverbank School P1s win a Prize in a European Project



P1b pupils of Riverbank Primary School took part in an E-twinning programme entitled "Around the World with a Pencil" and were awarded a Quality Label early in May 2015. E-twinning is a European Commission programme, which offers a platform and ICT tools for schools in European countries to collaborate.

P1b pupils in Aberdeen collaborated with two schools in Greece (P1s and P7s) on an interdisciplinary project. The main focus of the project was on creative writing, hoping to encourage reading and writing for pleasure. The three schools worked together and produced stories using different tools and techniques.

The children followed the hero of the project, a travel-loving pencil called "Cilius". Cilius travelled to a different destination every week and shared what he had seen and learned with the children. These travels ignited a story to be created by the pupils. The pupils had many opportunities to develop their literacy skills in a fun and creative way. They also practised their Rights to an Education that develops every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. Lastly, they developed Global Citizenship skills by communicating with the Greek pupils by post and Skype, sharing and co-creating stories with them.

Upon completion of the project, the E-twinning Team assessed the Project and awarded it with a National Quality Label. Achieving this award is a public statement of the teacher, Miss Karakouloglou's, commitment to quality, high levels of good practice and to European collaboration.

Roand the the the

Judges' comments for this project were:

"A shining example of using TwinSpace as a forum to display work. Well-structured and clear page layout. Especially like the dual language approach taken."

"Stories, comics and videos produced are of excellent standard for age of pupils involved in project. Clear evidence of post-project evaluation."

"Quality label submission makes clear that communication, planning and exchange was done primarily through other ways, but the success of this exchange is clear in the quality of finished work that is visible on the TwinSpace."

A big congratulations to Riverbank School's P1b!

SAINT GEORGE'S TILLYDRONE CHURCH : CROMBIE CLUB

Saturday mornings for Tillydrone's primary school pupils will never be the same again with the opening of a free film club in St George's Church. Operating as pure entertainment for the young ones, the project has generated opportunities for others in the area and has some big plans for the future.

The Crombie Club was officially launched by Lewis Macdonald MSP on the morning of Monday the 15th and the first films were shown to P1 – P3 children on Saturday 20th June.

Rev Jim Weir, Parish Minister in Tillydrone for the last 14 years, said: "There's been a need for something to keep our kids busy and interested at the weekend. The Crombie Club will give the kids the shared experience of going to the pictures, entertain them for a few hours, and have them leave with a healthy snack and drink too."

Rev Weir continued: "We know that weekends are sometimes difficult for families in lots of ways, and dropping off the kids at the Crombie Club gives folk the chance to get on with other things while knowing that the kids are safe, entertained and looked after."

The name of the club comes from the world famous mills that once operated in the area.

The project is supported by Tillydrone's Riverbank primary school, where most of the junior audience will come from. St Machar Academy is also involved and has helped find senior pupils from S5 and S6 to volunteer and help with the running of the club. Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE) under its FareShare franchise plays an important part in helping provide the drinks and snacks for the club. Although held in the church, there's no religious aspect to the club and people of all faiths and no faith will be made welcome.

Bill Mitchell, secretary of Crombie Club, said: "The Church is a great venue and we've been delighted about the support we've had from all sections of Tillydrone. We've received funding from Fairer Aberdeen Fund and Comic Relief for the equipment we need to make Crombie Club a powerful and exhilarating experience.

The Saturday morning kids club is just a start – long term we want to have other groups use the set up and have, say, older people getting together for a film night, parents and toddlers, our migrant communities – perhaps a Polish film with English subtitles to bring folk together. The options are endless."

Lewis McDonald, MSP for North East Scotland said: "The Church saw a gap where there wasn't as much for youngsters to do at the weekend and the Crombie Club was born. The work was done by the Church but I'm delighted to have been involved and have the chance to be able to congratulate the group in Parliament for all their hard work."

The Crombie Club will show mainstream films for children every other Saturday morning and plans weekly showings during the school holidays.



St Machar Parent Council

Would you like to have your say and make a difference to your child's school?

We are a friendly group of parents and staff who meet once every 6 weeks to discuss school matters and how we can work together to support the school community.

Recently we have been involved in meetings/ discussions on how the Third Don Crossing will affect the pupils, staff and the environment around the school i.e. the loss of part of the school playing field and road safety concerns.

We are working closely with the main contractor, Balfour Beatty, to ensure that positives come out of this project for St Machar Academy i.e. on-site work experience placements for pupils and the possibility of future Trade Apprenticeships.

All our meetings are held in the school staffroom. Look out for Groupcall alerts to find out when our next meeting is.



Come along for some chat, coffee and cake. We look forward to welcoming you!

Friends of Cruickshank Botanic Gorden

Growing friendships Colette Jones

It began when my spade sliced in to the front lawn. I turned over green turf to release black earth. This took three days, perhaps a week. Passers-by, strangers, stopped and spoke. Some asked questions. What was I intending? What would I grow? Some gave advice. I should take the turf away. I should bury the grassy clods deep. Some helped. A stubborn root removed. Heavy stones lifted.

Growing fruit and vegetables in the front garden of a city tenement triggered conversations that lead to friendships and sensation.

That first year I put in raspberry canes, currant bushes, rhubarb, potatoes, beans, peas and kale.

I assembled a cage round the fruit the following year. By the third year the raspberry canes were too numerous for the cage. I got rid of it and shared the crop with birds and light fingers and yet I still had too much. 2015 is the fifth year of my garden. Every month plants flower to cheer our tenement and passers-by, who are now friends: in January Chinese witch hazel; February anemones; March hellebores; April ornamental



In the fourth year of 'growing-food-out-front' my next-door-neighbours at number 35 scraped back their patch and planted kitchen herbs. quince; red currants, fritillary; May camellia, bluebells, bugle, bleeding heart, saxifrage; and now buds poised for a cascade of summer blooms.

What of sensation? I diverted insistent chuggers one warm afternoon last summer offering

them fennel, marjoram, sweet cicely. "Wow!" Truly astonished, the young man asked "How do you get a plant to taste like that?" The opening of the Third Don Crossing has been delayed by a further four weeks. It will now happen in January 2016.

Balfour Beatty senior project manager, Ken Brown, said at a Bridge of Don community council meeting that inaccurate maps of piping, cabling and gas mains provided by Aberdeen City Council are to blame.

An Aberdeen City council spokeswoman said: "Due to delays associated with underground utilities, the contractor has been granted an extension of time to complete the contract by the end of December."

Construction on the bridge began in November 2014 and marks the biggest infrastructure project in the North East over the last 30 years and will cost around £18 million. However, steel beams for the crossing have now arrived in Aberdeen at both the Tillydrone (Gordon's Mills Road) and Grandholm construction sites.

A viewing area was constructed so members of the public can watch the huge steel beams for the bridge being lifted in to place. The first of the steel beams which weigh 60-tonnes each were lifted into place over the river on the 9th of July.

The project requires the construction of two major bridges, with the first being a 26m skew span reinforced concrete bridge over the Mill Lade at Grandholm Village - which is at a more advanced stage already - and the second a 90m span steel box girder bridge over the River Don.

Once the steel beams have been positioned, construction can start on the reinforced concrete deck.





The £18million Third Don Crossing will see the construction of a new single carriageway link road between the Parkway/ Whitestripes Road junction and the Tillydrone Avenue/St Machar Drive junctions, including the construction of the new bridge.

Third

Crossing TPD:

their say for their community

Residents in the Tillydrone area of Aberdeen have had their say on what the priorities should be for their community including the location of a £3million Community Hub.

Tillydrone residents have

Aberdeen City Council held a one-week consultation with people in the area in March to find out what is important to them.

People from the City Council and partner organisations captured people's views using a range of media including iPads, on-line surveys, and paper surveys.

The consultation event was held to better understand what is important to the residents of Tillydrone, including finding out what would be important to include in the new Community Hub, and where such a new development may go.

There were 455 responses. Of these, 35% were male and 65% were female. There were responses from all age ranges in the local community.

When asked about their preferred location for the hub, 40% identified the current site of the Tillydrone shopping centre, and 24% identified the previous Tilly Youth Project site.

Respondents identified the Community Hub could be used for a range of activities, the most favoured activities being: a meeting place, a café/catering facilities, somewhere to get information and advice and job support, a childcare facility and somewhere to access fitness classes. Each of these received more than 50% of responses.

There were lots of positive comments about the local area including its sense of community. There were also some improvements that were identified and lots of ideas for how these improvements could be progressed including: having a local clear up; getting people together to help older people; having better shops, having places to sit outside and inside; more dog bins and green areas; more activities for younger children.

Aberdeen City Council Regeneration and Transport Spokesman Councillor Ross Grant said it was good that residents took part in the consultation.

He said: "The people of Tillydrone need to help to shape what facilities are provided at the new £3million Community Hub, and where it will be sited, so it was great that so many residents took part in the consultation week.

"We'll take the results and analyse them further and we'll hold more events in the coming months so people can get a chance to comment again on what the community has said so far."

This was the first step in a longer consultation process which will also include site visits to see other community hubs amongst other approaches.

Partner organisations which took part in the consultation included Aberdeen Lads Club, St Machar Parents Support Project, Tilly Flat, NHS Grampian, M26, Tillydrone Community Council, Lighthouse Support Centre, Tillydrone Community Centre, Tillydrone Family Centre, and Aberdeen City Youth Council.

The findings of the consultation will be considered by the City Council in due course and it will make the final decision about the location of the hub.





TILLY GALA, SATURDAY 27th JUNE 2015

The sun shone and the crowds were out for the annual Tillydrone Gala Day, coordinated by members of the Tillydrone Network.

Lots of organisations played their part and families were able to enjoy many activities including a bungee run, bouncy castle, pony rides courtesy of Hayfield Equestrian Centre and interaction with some beautiful owls brought along by The Owl and Pussycat Centre.

Snacks were available at very reasonable prices courtesy of Aberdeen Lads Club and the Lighthouse Support Centre and free ice creams were provided for the children. A table-top sale took place in Riverbank School with some fantastic creations on offer, our friends at Reiki in the Community did their wonderful work in the Lads Club, face painting, glitter tattoos, balloons, tombolas, the opportunity to throw a wet sponge at local dignitaries (big thanks to ClIrs Ross Grant and Willie Young, and MSP Kevin Stewart for braving this) and Beat the Goalie kept everyone occupied and entertained.

There were many information stands provided by multiple partner organisations with stands from Drugs Action, NHS, Aberdeen University, CFINE, Cash in Your Pocket, Police Scotland, Aberdeen City Council, City Wardens, NHS, Library Services and a host of others.

Marvel Comics superhero Star-Lord made an appearance to the delight of his many fans.

Thanks to Ron Bird and the Guarana Street Drummers for getting the day off to a rousing start and we are also grateful to newly elected MP Kirsty Blackman for opening the event. The general consensus seems to be that it was a fantastic day out for all and the Tillydrone Network would like to thank all partners for making it possible and all local residents for a fantastic turn out.



Photos by Morven Bush



Come Home

If I had the power to turn back the clock. Go back to the house at the end of the block. The house that was Home when I was a kid. I know that I'd love it more than I did.

ck there at r

If I could be back there, at my mother's knee. And hear once again, all the things she told me. I'd listen as I never listened before. For she knew so well, what life had in store.

All the advice my dad use to give. His voice I'll remember as long as I live. But it didn't seem really important then. What I'd give to hear them say it all over again.

And what I'd give for the chance I once had. To do so much more for my mother and dad. To give them more joy and a little less pain. A little more sunshine, a little less rain.

*

But the years roll on and we cannot go back. Whether we were born in a mansion or shack. But we can start right now, in the hours that's here. To do something more, for the ones we hold dear.

*

And since time in its flight is travelling fast. Let's not spend it regretting, that which has past. But let's make tomorrow a happier day. By doing our "good to others" today.

Inon

reative

My Fime Warp - John Watt

I spoke with my daughter a few days ago. We spoke about age. I realised that nearly 40 years have passed since leaving Woodside, my happy hunting grounds and I don't know where they have gone? They are missing. One minute I was wandering the earth the same speed as everyone else then I turned round and found myself here with a mosiac of blurred memories keeping me company. It's weird to say the least. So where does time go? Does it all pass at the same speed all the time for everybody? Some say what a slow day; others wonder where the day has gone. So where have my 40 years gone? Who stole them? Are they drifting about someplace waiting for me to catch up? Are they all rushing about someplace like a mad video watched by nobody, just flashing lights from a faraway place rushing to get nowhere.

I sit and watch a crazy film, a time traveller watching the world rush by, in a bubble, lost in limbo, constantly drifting in and out of time. I often think of the H.G.Wells story, where the guy sits in his time machine and watches the world flash by. The seasons change, he sits and watches from his time machine, marvels at the changing scenery but he went back eventually. I wander back nearly forty years and chase my kids along Findhorn beach, stroll along by the River Don and wander along the Fountain, heading for Millers bar to meet some mates or maybe catch the old man sneaking a pint before heading home; ten bob in his pocket but pretending he is a millionaire. Always I land back here. Always I struggle to stay back then, stay where all was one, all was as it should be and all was good with the world, mother, father, Maureen, the kids, the in-laws, grandparents... all there. The River Don meandered through Seaton Park and the salmon swam by as we sat and watched. Seals made an appearance if we were lucky. Why does time go so fast? It's not fair. I will build a time machine and go back, take Jacob with me and we can all run along Findhorn Beach lost in time, build a bonfire on the beach and burn the time machine so we can all stay in the past. Got to go, I feel a drift coming on...

Writin

Prefabs by John Watt

I think back with nothing but fond memories of my prefab,

Our little oasis in a journey through youth.

Where do you start with enough memories to burst the banks of the River Don?

Let's start at Ritchie Place.

I see the Mannie Bain scuttering with his pigeons,

Jesus he loved his pigeons.

Wee Fiona is crying, David, her brother just nipped her. His mother, Wifie Bain will scud his lug!

Jimmy is sitting on the front step, whispering in Betty's ear. We thought it was funny...

Fiona has stopped greetin;

Her ma gave her a strawberry from their garden. We're surprised there are any left...

Me and Davie raided the strawberries the night before! Sorry Mannie Bain...

Stroll on down past the Hidies' hoose.

Hawco Hide is fighting with Brian, his brother, Wee Derek, the youngest stares.

Mannie Hide is fixing a bike for Derek, all from bits off other old bikes.

They were the best kind, the heart went into it.

Wifie Hide has her rollers in.

Nae a bad looking wifie, the kids thought.

Go past the Hidies, what a racket; fighting and banging, great stuff.

Mannie Steele is cutting his grass.

Immaculate garden, not like oor midden,

the grass was forever three feet tall

and great for hiding in!

The Steeles would soon be off to church.

Charlie Steele was glowering at the Hides fighting.

His sister is at the window now. She was nice the kids thought again!

Skip down to my pal's hoose,

The Rutherfords'.

Mike, my pal and his sisters, Anne and Matty.

Peter was the big brother.

Mike is not allowed oot... again.

Turn round and head back up Ritchie Place.

Pass the Holts' hoose,

Would turn up at his hoose at New Year with a bottle of cordial, first foot in...

Got oor first drink there, Rum!

Canna let on to the Wifie Holt or she would kill her husband!

Pass the Murrys' hoose.

Oh I loved Edith! A beautiful girl.

Her mother started saving up sixpences for oor marriage

So she said ...

Joe and Tony are building a raft from old wood in the front garden.

That stupid thing won't float.

They carried on banging away engrossed,

Passed a few more houses.

Christ is that wifie still peeping oot her curtains? Nosey bugger!

Ah Gwen is sitting on her front step, I like her as well.

Gwen Reid, where are you now?

Back at the top of the street now,

My other pal, Sandy Ewan is banging at his window. What a state he is in!

Patch, his dog has ran off with the Bains' dog! The thought of the two dogs running around the Don made me smile.

Pretended to be concerned but na, couldn't give a monkey's, let them run.

Told Sandy I would catch up with him at the Munganese.

Looking for tadders, oh the joys...

All gone now, no more prefabs...

Never meet anyone who doesn't miss their old prefab.

Me? I would move in to one tomorrow.

Bugger if they were cold and draughty!

But if you don't know anything else.

Well it was oor wee oasis, oor wee island ..

See you in another wee story soon... Hides; Bains; Ewans; Murrys.

And that's just Ritchie place

Alexander Drive for the next wander...

Loved it all!

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Shmu

MEDIA ACCESS PROJECT

shmu has recently received a grant from The Big Lottery to run a new five year project working with prisoners at HMP and YOI Grampian. The project is called the Media Access Project or MAP.

The project will give prisoners the opportunity to create media in the prison such as this magazine. They will also have a chance to create and broadcast prison based radio programmes, write and record their own music and work on film based projects.

Apart from gaining qualifications for this work, participants will also develop skills such as team work, effective communication, planning and employability.

It is anticipated that 3750 prisoners will have the opportunity to get involved over the five year period. They will then have the opportunity to receive extra help from a MAP Support Worker who will meet with them in the prison and help create a realistic plan of support with them and continue to work alongside them after their release.

It is anticipated that participants will make good use of their new skills to help them into employment, further education or training. There is also an expectation that some will continue to create media after they are released. This can then be shared in the prison and elsewhere to show others the benefits of taking advantage of some of the supports available both in the community and prison.



TILLY TALKS NEEDS YOU

Tilly Talks is the community radio show dedicated to the area of Tillydrone. The show looks at the issues facing people in the community, what's on and events as well as celebrating successes in the local community.

We need more people to join the team and make sure the show is the best it can be for the residents of Tillydrone.

Full training is provided from staff at SHMU from presenting toproduction of a radio show.

If you would be interested in getting involved or have any questions then email Adele on adele@shmu.org.uk or call the office on 01224 515013.



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.





Donside Village Community Association

Greening Donside What's It All About?

The Donside Community Association along with Langstane Housing Association and Tenants First have been successful in a funding application to the Climate Challenge Fund for their project "Greening Donside".

The aim of the project is to work with the residents of Donside Village to look at ways we can reduce our carbon emissions and live a more environmentally sustainable lifestyle. Through the project we hope to help residents reduce their energy use in the home, participate in community food growing, reduce waste and promote sustainable transport options.

We will have regular updates on our Donside Village Facebook page and on our community notice board, where we advertise Greening Donside activities as well as community events.



Summer Gala 22nd August 2015

Come join the residents of Donside Village for our "Short & Shades" themed Summer Gala. We will have something for all the family from electric cars to a cycle road show, bouncy castle and face painting, BBQ, cake stalls and much more! So don your shorts & shades and join us from 12 noon at Donside Village Square on Saturday 22nd August 2015.

All funds raised to CLAN and Donside Community Association.



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Alcohol		Gas	
Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 769 7555	Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Drinkline	0800 917 8282	Gas Emergency with a Meter	0845 606 6766
Benefits	The a least sector the	Housing	
Benefits Agency Advice Line	0800 587 9135	Emergency Repairs	01224 480 281
Crime		Call Centre Emergency	0845 608 0929
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Police	
Drugs		Non-Emergency	101
FRANK – National Helpline	0800 776 600	Samaritans	
Dentist		Need to talk	01224 574 488
Emergency - G-Dens	01224 558 140	Social Work	
Doctors		Social Work Duty Team	01224 522055
NHS 24 Emergency	08454 242 424	Emergency Out-Of-Hours	01224 693 936
Electricity		Young Carers	
If you have a Power-Cut	0800 300 999	Support & Information Service	01224 625 009
Family Planning		Water	
Square 13, Support & Advice	01224 642 711	Scottish Water Emergency	0845 600 8855

Include 01224 Dialling Code When Calling from a Landline.

Since 1 October 2014, people in Aberdeen have needed to include the area code whenever they dial a local number from a landline – in the same way people do when calling from mobile phones.