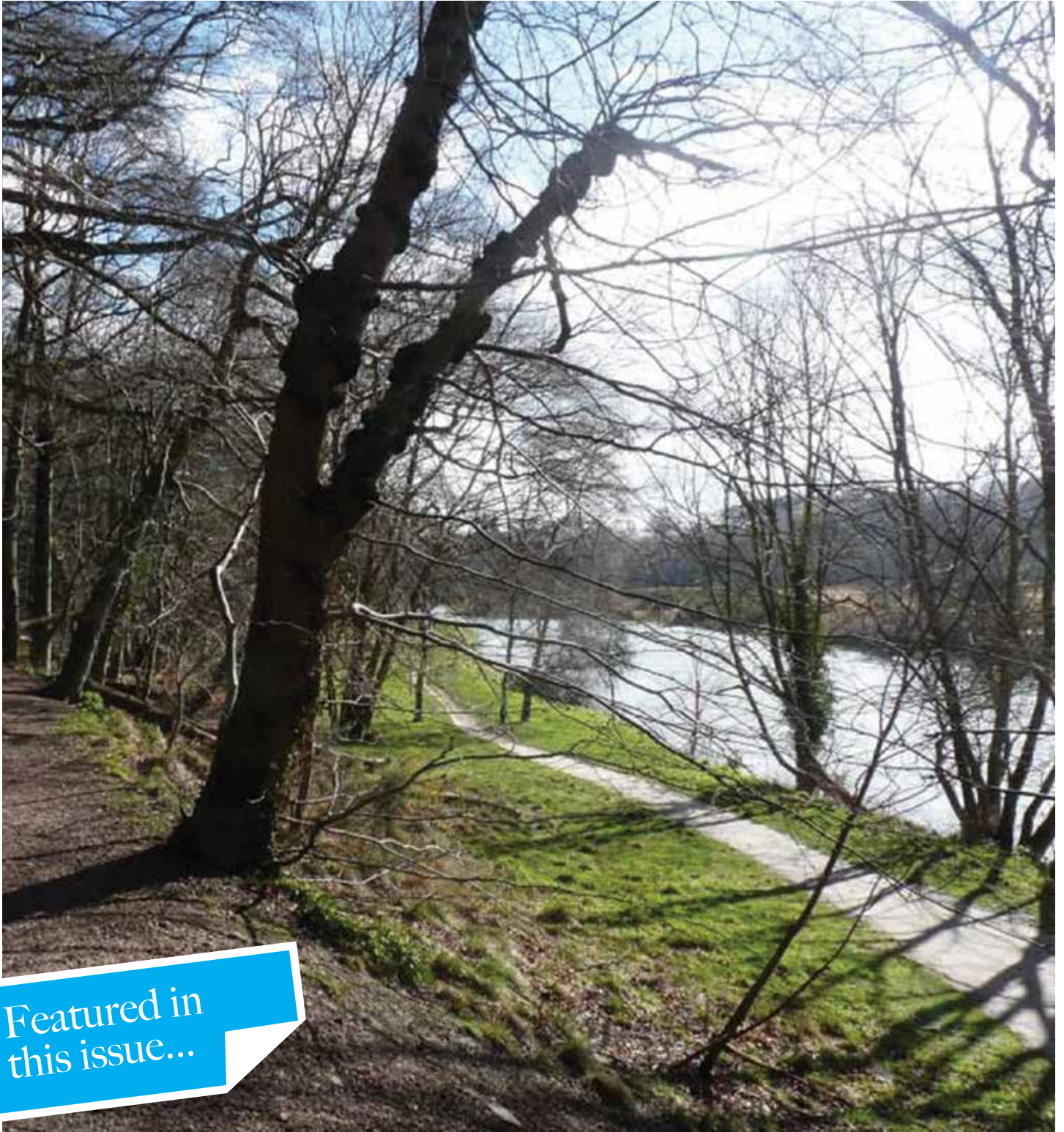


Autumn Edition 2014

TillyTattle

LOCAL NEWS DEDICATED TO YOUR COMMUNITY



Featured in
this issue...

THE MILLS OF TILLY
Margaret Mead Investigates

TILLYDRONE GALA
Summer fun

READER COMPETITION
Win Vue Cinema tickets

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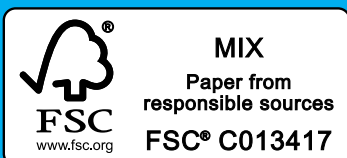
Welcome to your Autumn edition of the Tilly Tattle.

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

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



Tillydrone Community Flat



The Tilly Community Flat hosts an enthusiastic art group each Friday morning, under the tutorage of Naomi Leckie. Over the past few months the class has worked on creating a large banner.

Naomi explained: "We have all enjoyed developing the banner together and building it up. The group have been experimenting with many different arts and craft techniques such as printing, drawing, felt making, collage, carving and painting. Trying various materials and techniques has helped the women grow in confidence and

increased their interest in art. The atmosphere in the group is informal which helps people feel free to experiment and build friendships.

"The banner began as a big sheet of paper which we could work on together. There was no direction given to how the artwork had to look at the end. Everyone in the group had an input into what went on the banner. This was not always easy to agree upon but it meant everyone had to compromise and allow others to contribute towards the artwork. The result has been great to see because everyone has added to it."

Frank Doran MP visits the Tilly Flat

On Friday 11 July, we had a visit from Frank Doran, MP for Aberdeen North along with his assistant Irene Dillon. Mr Doran met with staff and members of the Management Committee. We had an informal chat around a number of topics relevant to the Tillydrone area. Mr Doran is keen to hear views from residents on what topics are currently causing concern. Please get in touch regarding your priority issues in the Tillydrone area – perhaps the impending closure of the Youth Project or lack of other facilities?

Tillydrone Network Meetings

Tillydrone Network Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month and provide an excellent forum for all organisations working in the Tilly area to share information, advise of forthcoming news and activities and offers an opportunity for joined-up forward planning and tackling problems in the area. We would like to encourage wider participation in the Network so if you or your organisation would like to have a voice on local issues, please contact Fiona at the Tilly Flat for details of meeting dates.

Come in to the flat for a chat, call Fiona on 01224 486641 or drop me an email: dev-worker@tillyflat.com

Riverbank Primary's New Film

Riverbank Primary School have just finished working with shmuTV on a short documentary about the school. A team of pupils from the senior classes in the school and the Rights Respecting School group worked with shmuTV's Ryan MacFarlane over a period of 12 weeks to gather footage and interviews at the school highlighting the school's successes and achievements. The pupils were trained in video production and involved in deciding how the film should be structured. They were involved in filming some of the footage used in the final programme which was edited together with the shmuTV produced footage.

The pupils involved have gained valuable team working and video production skills.

On the last week of the summer term a premiere took place to present the film to an audience of pupils, parents and teachers. The premiere was a great success. Copies of the film will be available for families to buy in the new school term.



Third Don Crossing Update

Balfour Beatty have been selected to construct the Third Don Crossing.

Aberdeen City Council's Finance Convener Willie Young said: "The most important thing for us is that we work with all of the people who are affected by the works for the Third Don Crossing and we are taking steps to ensure that the communities on either side of the new road and bridge are kept fully informed of the project.

An office will be set up on the Tillydrone site which will be open to the public. Council officers will be there to keep people up to date and answer any questions people may have.

Aberdeen City Council will also be holding drop in sessions at Tillydrone Library for people to find out about the Third Don Crossing.

There will be four hourly sessions on Mondays to Thursdays. Mondays and Thursdays will run between 11am and 12pm, Tuesdays will run between 1 and 2pm. The sessions on a Wednesday will start at 5:30pm.

There will also be a meeting between 2 and 3p:30m every Friday at Tillydrone Community Centre.

Construction will start later this year and the new bridge is due to be substantially completed and open to the public by late 2015.

Local Councillors for the area are also in charge of communication. If you would like to be signed up to the mailing list then email rossgrant@aberdeencity.gov.uk.



Stay and Play in Tillydrone

Tillydrone Community Flat hosts two Stay and Play Sessions with new practitioner, Susan Emery

I am Susan Emery and took up the post as Play Practitioner with the Scottish Preschool Play Association full time in May this year.

I currently lead two sessions at Tillydrone Community Flat – a Stay and Play session on a Thursday afternoon from 1:30 until 3pm and a baby massage session on a Wednesday afternoon from 2 until 3pm with the new block due to start soon.

The Stay and Play sessions are aimed at families with children from birth to three years although older pre-school children are welcome to attend too. An adult comes with the child and the hope is that they use the session as an opportunity to meet other

parents or carers and to have fun and play with their child. Each session usually has a messy or craft activity as well as some other resources available such as puzzles, train set, dolls, or vehicles for example. We have a small snack (usually some fruit and a savoury nibble), story time and song time. At the community flat, we are lucky that we can use their garden so in the good weather we have been out there a lot in the paddling pool or blowing bubbles. If you would like to join us please feel free to drop in any Thursday afternoon.

Baby massage sessions are a chance for you to practise massage techniques with your baby in a small group. You only need to bring yourself, your baby

and a towel with you. These sessions are available in six week blocks and aim to help you relax and bond with your baby. Massage may also help with issues such as colic and teething. If you think you would enjoy this then please give me a call to check when the session block is due to start and book your place.

Both of the sessions are part of SPPA's Off to a Good Start Project which is funded by the Big Lottery which means they are free to attend. If you would like more information you can reach me at 0778 545 5800 or susan.emery@sppa.org.uk and we also have a facebook page – www.facebook.com/aberdeenstayandplay

The Mills Of Tilly

*Margaret Mead investigates the history
around the mills of Tillydrone.*

The first mills in the Tillydrone area are thought to have been built in the early 1600s; constructed of wood and powered by water.

First recorded in history books is the Gordon's Mill which was built by William Gordon, who is thought to have been injured at the battle of the Bridge of Dee. It started off as a woollen mill and was later converted to a papermill by Patrick Sandilands in 1696.

In 1661 James Gordon drew a map of the area, which is included in this article. In 1654 his father Robert Gordon of Straloch made a map depicting what appears to be Gordon's Mill.

Gordon's Mills also appears on the map drawn by Taylor in 1773. Various materials such as wool, cotton, damasks and linen were produced at the mill from the 1700s. The flax for the linen was grown in some of the fields nearby.

In 1886 the mills were converted by Patrick Shand to manufacture brown paper wrappings. Then, in 1893 the Donside Paper Company was formed and the mills renamed as the Donside Mills. By the 1920s the mills were producing 400 tons of newsprint per week. By the time the mill closed in 2001, however, production centred on high quality art paper.

The Woodside Works began operating in 1785 and by 1820 employed over 3,000 people. This factory closed in 1850, after the trade depression of 1847-48.

Across the river the textile company called Grandholm Works started up in production. It became one of the largest flax spinning mills in Britain. There was an additional corn mill 250 metres upstream on the south side as Grandholm was on the north.



Thomas Leys of Glasgoforest was one of the partners of the firm along with a Mr Still. This company later produced linen. Mr Still left the business and a Mr Masson took his place. The mill was still known for a time as Gordon's Mills before becoming Grandholm Works.

Grandholm Works was declared bankrupt in 1848 and was taken over by Alexander Haddon of Haddon & Curtis briefly from 1848-49. Grandholm was one

of the few mills to weather the financial storm of 1840 – 1850 when the Aberdeen textile industry collapsed.

J&J Crombie took over the business in 1859 to take over with great success. Crombie cloth is still produced in England to this day. Crombie coats and military uniforms were their main exports. There was a great demand for these uniforms during the Great War but in 1928 the Crombie family sold the business. The Crombie name was maintained. During the 1970s, 80% of the mill's export was to the former USSR, the USA, Germany, France and Italy but the end of the Cold War saw orders decrease so the factory shut its doors in 1991.

The mill's power source was water from the Don which turned a massive wheel, 25 feet in diameter. This wheel was thought to be the largest in the world when it was built in 1826. It was located in Woodside until 1965 and was then dismantled and taken south to Edinburgh where it can be seen in the Royal Scottish Museum.

After the mill gates closed in Aberdeen the area was redeveloped for housing and business purposes.



City Church St Machar

- An Introduction by Scott Robertson -

Hello there! For those of you who we haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet we are City Church St Machar. City Church is a multi-site church (one church, many places) which meets across the city and the shire. Five years ago, there were 150 of us and now there are many more of us gathering across four different locations. This will soon increase to five locations. We have a site which runs every Sunday morning from 11-12.30pm in the main hall of St. Machar Academy.

The last few months have been really exciting and really busy for us at City Church St Machar. We ran a holiday club in the Northern Hotel at the start of the school summer holidays and we had over forty children come along and join us on our toy shop adventure. We played lots

of games, sang lots of songs, won lots of prizes, learned from the bible and got lots of the leaders very messy with gunge. As you can see from the pictures a great time was had by everyone. Our kids work runs every Sunday morning at the same time as the church service so please feel free to bring your kids along to join in the fun.

We also did a bit of gardening around the Academy just before the end of term to help give it a little bit of a makeover. Our brilliant team helped to get things looking great by planting lots of new plants, pruning trees, cutting grass and tidying up all the litter from the flower beds.

Finally we have been hanging out at St Machar Park every Friday evening playing football, chatting and serving hot

chocolate to any young people who want to join in. We want young guys and girls to have a fun thing to do on Friday evenings when there isn't much else on so our team has been getting to know lots of people and showing off their footy skills. If you want to come and hang out with us we are in St Machar Park from 7pm - 9pm every Friday and everyone is welcome.

We are a church that is passionate about family and community so if you want to see how you can be part of things why not pay us a visit one Sunday morning. You will get a very warm welcome, some breakfast and a cup of quality coffee. We would love to see you there. Come and see us at St Machar Academy from 11am - 12.30pm every Sunday.

Tillydrone Gala

TILLY GALA, SAT 16 AUGUST 2014

The weather was kind for this year's Tilly Gala on Saturday 16th August, with sunshine and warmth to encourage the community to come along for some family fun. The event kicked off at 11am with a welcome and opening remarks from Lewis MacDonald MSP. Visitors were able to participate in a range of activities including bouncy castles (endlessly popular with younger participants), a beat the goalie session with Aberdeen Football

Club and face-painting provided by Aberdeen Lads' Club. For a small fee, folk were also invited to hurl wet sponges at the faces of some local lads, including brave Councillor Ross Grant. Stalls selling a variety of goodies, tombolas, a BBQ provided by Tilly Vision, free home bakes kindly donated by City Church, info stalls with lots of freebies from partners working in the community all made for a fun and informative few hours. Ron Bird and his Guarana Street

Drummers kept the party feel going with some help from local DJ Dylan Munro (also known as D-Mix) who plays at events all round the city as well as presenting a show on shmuFM. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the day and planning for next year's event will start very soon!

Massive thanks to all those organisations and individuals who gave up their time and resources to participate on the day, and to Fairer Aberdeen for providing event funding.



Photos by CY Shelley Photography and Morven Bush





Newly launched community trust reflects on 2014 so far...

2014 has been an exciting year for Aberdeen FC with great success on and off the pitch. The main success off the football park has been the launch of the new AFC Community Trust, which is an official charity that stands alongside the football club, and is based at Pittodrie Stadium. The vision for the Community Trust is "to provide support and opportunity to change lives for the better" and already in the first half of the year we have been delivering a wide range of programmes to a wide range of participants.

One programme that AFCCT deliver, funded by the SPFL Trust, and, more recently, NHS Grampian is Football Fans In Training (FFIT). This is a 13 week programme designed to help men aged between 35-65 to lose weight, gain more knowledge of healthy eating, and to help them sustain their new found healthy lifestyle. A Female Fans in Training programme has just started and both have been received very well. One male said: "I am much happier which

led to an improvement in my home life. My relationship with my daughter improved significantly especially with physical activities." One female said: "I have type 2 diabetes and since starting FFIT my nurse has been so impressed with my readings. Girls, thank you so much for helping me to feel great!"

"His confidence and self-belief has sky rocketed"

Along with working with adults, we also have various programmes working with youngsters from Aberdeen City. One of which is the Footy Tea programme, funded by the Tartan Army Children's Charity (TACC). The young people are chosen from Seaton Primary. The pupils get an hour of football coaching, and then get taken to Pittodrie for a healthy meal. This encourages a healthy, active lifestyle and also promotes good manners, educates the young people on

life skills, and helps them access top class facilities in Aberdeen - something they would not otherwise be able to do. Some of the young people have serious issues with behaviour, issues with family, and a real lack of confidence. To see them progress over the 9 month programme is fantastic. One parent said: "A few years ago my son would not have walked into a room of strangers. Over the past few months his confidence and self-belief has sky rocketed and everyone comments."

Another programme we deliver, which is funded by the SPFL Trust, is the Still Game programme. Still Game is designed for over 65's to come and make new friends, remain active, learn about what is on offer throughout Aberdeen for the elderly community and to try new activities and gain new experiences. One Still Gamer stated: "I look forward to every Tuesday. By attending Still Game we feel that we are still part of a community."

Creative Writing

A Hospital Experience

- by Elsie Rennie -

Voluntarily I went because I was upset – I had been confused and made a mess of my life. My daughters said I needed help and I knew that to be true. The doctor said he could help me but I would have to go in to hospital – so in I went. Would they ever let me out? It was a locked ward; you had to ask someone to unlock the door but to start with I wasn't interested and I soon made "friends" with other people and got to know their problems. There was a garden, where you could walk around which I did - I even pulled out a few weeds to keep me occupied. I played the piano and took a great interest in my surroundings. This was about 20 of us at various stages of recovery. Because I was a trained nurse I was always of the mind that I was observant, aware of my fellow "patients"; "prisoners" or so I thought. I smiled to myself at the tactics of the nurses – they were all very professional and helpful. I was given a nurse who was my minder and was asked to call on her if I had any problems.

I settled into hospital life very easily. I was used to institutions. I even folded napkins as we did in a group. You could go for a walk with a carer. Later on we went to a cooking morning and there were other discussion groups. I became an expert at jigsaw puzzles. I even started a domino game in the evening and six of us played. There were books of all kinds and games from snakes and ladders to scrabble. There were plenty of things to do if there

was any motivation at all in our troubled minds. There were two TVs – one in a small room where you could smoke if required and the other was in the lounge/dining room which was very large and spacious with comfy chairs all round and ledges with books, games, jigsaws, videos, DVDs and they also had a piano. Regular checks were made by a doctor and there was always three or four nurses around, as well as carers and other personnel.

We had to queue up for our medication and I found this a bit tedious so I always waited till last. Gradually I improved and was given permission to go to the staff canteen for lunch. Usually there were 3 or 4 of us. We got vouchers and could choose our lunch from a good selection. I was in the ward for approximately 4 weeks. We were allowed visitors and I had them regularly at visiting times – my grand children came and I encouraged them to speak to other patients who had very few visitors. I felt I was the fortunate one.

When I look back I would say the experience was different – the staff were all supportive and discussion groups helped pass the time. The counselling I received from the professional doctors and nurses was helpful and I thank them all for their dedication. There is not enough recognition for these hospitals where one day we may all need their help. I lost my freedom but with help I recovered.

Mosaic

- by Anonymous -

Sometimes when you reach the top of life's hill and you look down below, you see all the scenery spread out before you. The ones that are most vivid are the childhood visions; school friends, old girlfriends, childhood haunts. The special visions combine to form a beautiful mosaic of colour and laughter. They usually concern someone you think about, someone you left behind; so many tangents, so many crossroads. You want to jump into that special mosaic and stay. But life goes on.

For now I will keep my mosaic fresh in my head. I am sitting on the grass by the River Don and the sun is shining; fish are jumping. The air smells sweet. My childhood friend is close to me. We thought nothing would change; life would always be about rivers and close friends. Laughing like fools at nothing, this would be life. But sadly you drift, tangents again, choices, different paths. But the beautiful mosaic is never far away from your thoughts and always you are left with a thought forever gnawing at your brain, what if? What if you stayed? Never went off on tangents, didn't cross at the junction... what if..?





Do you have a bulky item you need collected?

Residents of Tillydrone are trying to encourage people with these items to stop dumping them on the street and phone Aberdeen City Council to collect them.

Council tenants can get 4 items collected for free each year and people who receive council tax and/or housing benefits will receive a discount.

This campaign has started since Councillor Ross Grant and residents began highlighting improvements which had been made to the communal areas in the community. This sparked some more discussion about other improvements which could be made.

Once an item has been reported to the Council it can take up to ten days for it to be collected but residents are being urged to put their items out for collection tidily.

Councillor Ross Grant said: "We as Tillydrone residents can certainly do our bit to keep our patch as much as possible, free from bulky goods."

Chairman of the Tillydrone Community Council, Brian Downie said: "It is a big issue and it needs to be resolved."

Mr Downie feels flytipping is a problem throughout the city and wants to increase awareness of the Council's pick up scheme.

Tillydrone Community Council are looking for funding to distribute posters and leaflets throughout the area about the Council's collection service.

To arrange a collection call 01224 219281.



How Far Does The Tilly Tattle Travel?

- By M. Neil -

Once I have read my Tilly Tattle mag it gets sent to Dubai. When the family have all read it, it is shared with friends when the family go to Mumbai. Then onto Goa for their annual breaks. The Tilly Tattle, along with The St George's Church magazine and weekly info sheets are passed round neighbours,

relatives and friends. They may not know where we are on the map but they are certainly interested and keen to find out as much about us as they can. Incidentally, the family in Dubai have received a map of The Dolphin Trail along with the libraries and of course newspaper cuttings showing the dolphins.

Would you like to win two tickets to see a film of your choice at Vue Cinema?

Just answer this question to enter.

What is the height of Muggers' Bridge?

Drop your answer off at the Tillydrone Community Flat or SHMU or phone Laura on 01224 515013. Please include your name and contact details. The person with the closest guess wins the tickets, good luck!

COMPETITION TIME



Cash In Your Pocket Partnership

Aberdeen Welfare Matters invited Cash In Your Pocket Partnership to get involved in Tillydrone with the Welfare Matters Hub. Our intention was to promote awareness of Cash In Your Pocket Partnership (CIYPP) and HUB services. To do this we planned a programme of activities to help us engage with people living, volunteering and working in the community. This included holding information stalls at the shopping mall, the Lads Club, the Community Flat, the Health Clinic and Tillydrone Library.

During June and July we embarked on a series of talks and awareness sessions that enabled us to explain the pathways to help and encourage people to seek help at the earliest point. Over 20 visits, meetings and information sessions took place over this period.

Following the circulation of an information leaflet throughout the community, contact with those interested in the services, or seeking help has steadily increased. The team saw 141 people during June and July. Noticeably an information coffee morning held at the Hub on Thursday 3rd July was well

attended. On the day there was free fruit and Veg, a £5 free junior credit union savings voucher and the chance to win a £20 Lurch's Pick & Mix Voucher, kindly donated by the local Tilly butcher. Over a cuppa and a chat, attendees were able to take advantage of the help on offer, to resolve issues around benefit entitlement, debt, access to community care grants, rent arrears, heating costs and household repairs. Tillydrone resident and prize draw winner Dorothy Irvine said: "This is a good thing. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and winning the butcher's voucher was just an added bonus!"

Over a two month period CIYPP staff spoke directly to 134 people at the hub and one off community information stalls, held at 5 locations. This resulted in 40 referrals to organisations who could help and where possible advice was provided to encourage residents to get help for themselves.

At the same time the CIYPP introduced a local phonenumber service available to all citizens of Aberdeen. This service was launched in Tillydrone.

An important part in the success of the awareness campaign was the support we received from all those who provided accommodation, help with advertising, local businesses and a willingness to get involved with advice and suggestions. The Welfare Matters hub aims to bring together services to make it easier for people to get better, more joined-up help. We have been working with the Job Parents from Aberdeen Foyer, a Benefits Advice Officer from Aberdeen City Council and Lone Parent Advisers from Jobcentre. They all have people working in the hub and feedback is that people are finding it easier to get help there than having to go into town, for example. We have been helping raise awareness of what is available.

Our experiences in Tillydrone have helped CIYPP develop new thoughts on how we should approach our work within communities and how people are being affected by welfare reform. If you or anyone you know are struggling with finances or would like information on the help that's available, please contact CIYPP on 01224 686077.

Get **help** with:



BENEFITS Pension Universal Credit

HEATING YOUR HOME? STOP SMOKING

LOW COST LOANS FIRE/HOME SAFETY CHECKS

SAVING & BUDGETING Too Many Bedrooms

Repairs & Adaptation Food Parcels

TILLY TALKS

New presenter needed for community radio show.

Tilly Talks is the weekly radio show dedicated to the community of Tillydrone. We are looking for more people to get involved in producing and presenting the show so we can expand our team. Full technical training and support is provided by our radio worker, Adele, for anybody who is interested in getting involved.

The show goes out live between 10 and 11am on a Thursday morning and aims to promote the great work that goes on in Tillydrone.

For more information contact Adele on 01224 515013 or email adele@shmu.org.uk.



CREATIVE COMPOSITIONS

Station House Media Unit (shmu) will launch a cross-cultural music and film project with the Aberdeen Multicultural Centre and Aberdeen's Ethnic Minority Forum. Collective Compositions, which will be the first of its kind in Aberdeen, was funded by Creative Scotland and will bring together musicians from a diverse range of minority ethnic backgrounds to record and perform a range of unique pieces of music. shmuSOUND supports the local music scene and focuses on supporting artists and bands to record, promote and broadcast new music.

The project will be filmed by a team of volunteers and turned into a 'making of' documentary which will be premiered later this year. Collective Compositions aims to raise the profile of the city's minority ethnic musicians while creating a space where people from different cultures can learn through music.

Simon Gall, shmuSOUND Development Worker said: "It's important that cultural organisations in the city start to properly reflect the changes which have taken place over the last 10 to 15 years in the demography of Aberdeen. This is a valuable project which represents and celebrates the true cultural landscape of the city."

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.

LIVE LOCAL MUSIC FROM THE BAND OF THE WEEK SHOW

We've just released another free compilation album, this time with a twist – it's the Band of the Week Unplugged: Volume I!

Every performance was captured LIVE on the Band of the Week Show.

It features: Ashley Park, Suburban Saints, Nicky Aiken, Dave Angus, Descena, Margaret Finlayson, Victoria Sponge, Leanne Smith, Daniel Mutch and Will Leatherbarrow. Each of these artists has previously been featured on shmuFM.

To check out the album, visit our website www.shmu.org.uk/sound/band-week-unplugged-vol-i

We also have more free compilation albums available on our Bandcamp page - these contain 12 studio tracks each from previously featured bands, for free.

For more up-and-coming local talent, make sure you tune in to the Band of the Week Show on Monday nights from 8-10pm on 99.8fm. Alternatively, the show repeats on Fridays at midnight and you can stream it from our site, either live or as a repeat whenever you'd like by using the listen again feature. Enjoy!



AHOY

Pirates rule the day at Donside Summer Fair

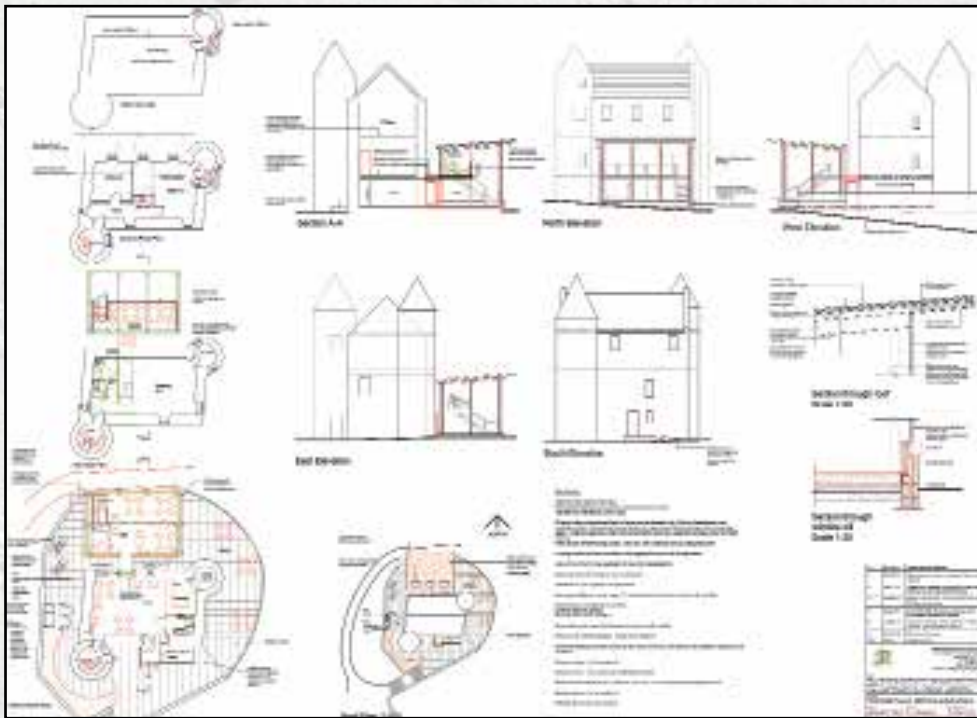
On August 3rd, pirates invaded Donside as residents celebrated another summer living in Tillydrone.

With a bouncy castle, face painters, Guarana Drummers, Aberdeen Waste Aware, Tenants First, The Tilly Flat, shmu and Aberdeen Forward providing entertainment and information there was plenty to keep both young and old entertained. Add to that stalls raising money for Penumbra, The Archie Foundation and Cancer Research (amazing home bakes at great prices, how can you say no when it'll help cure cancer?). There was also a lucky dip in the meeting room and a barbecue proceeds of which were split between The Archie Foundation and Donside Community Association.

In total the fair raised £150. Emma from the Archie Foundation who was there on the day was very pleased with the amount.

Angi Morrison who helped to organise the fair said: "I have to say I am so pleased that everything came together as well as it did and we managed to raise that much."





Wallace Tower Renovations

The Tillydrone Community Development Trust have released the artists' impressions for the renovation of the Wallace Tower. We asked Chairperson, Ross Grant some questions about the plans.

What are your thoughts on the artist's impression?

The artists' impressions are brilliant, bringing to life the vision that the Development Trust has been building for the past three years. The impressions show a Wallace Tower that is buzzing with activity and breathing new life - we hope that it captures the imagination of residents and hope that the impressions inspire residents to get involved in this exciting project.

What are the plans for the Tower?

The Trust has made every effort to strike the right balance to respect the integrity of the building and listed status, whilst allowing us to maximise the use of the building. Plans include a substantial two story glass extension with adjoining link on the east face of the tower which will be a perfect

space for viewing the idyllic River Don Valley and ideal for artists, photographers and the community in general.

The community cafe will be located on the ground floor of the original building and extension and will offer a range of refreshments and lunch. The first floor will be available as a multipurpose community space, to accommodate community activities, meetings and exhibitions with the second floor being designed to lease to two small businesses/offices as well.

What stage are you at with the renovation plans?

We have spent a great deal of time carefully reviewing the feasibility and design of the hub, and the plans have changed substantially as the process has developed. We have now submitted our application for planning permission and listed

building consent. It will then go to the planning committee for their consideration. The Development Trust have a number of priorities in the coming 6 months: we have now officially launched a fundraising campaign to raise the necessary amounts to realise the vision; the Trust will also be focusing on its five year business projection plans for the Wallace Tower to make the venture sustainable; the Trust are also looking to increase its membership and we would strongly welcome any residents interested in becoming a member for an annual fee of just £1. We need the support so please get on board and show Aberdeen our community leading and driving forward the regeneration agenda.

Anyone interested should email our Secretary Lynn Cunningham at lynniecee@msn.com.