

Winter Edition 2015

TillyTattle

LOCAL NEWS DEDICATED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Image credit - Morven Bush



Featured in
this issue...

COMMITTED TO TILLYDRONE
A regeneration update

ABERDEEN LADS CLUB
A history

DONSIDE COMMUNITY ASSOC.
Summer Gala

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Welcome to your Winter edition of the Tilly Tattle.

In this issue we have articles covering the regeneration of Tillydrone and the new community hub, City Church at St Machar's summer activities and the history of the Lads Club as well as our regular creative writing features.

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 01224 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.

The next set of meetings will be held at Tillydrone Community Flat on Mondays at 10am.

First meeting – 7th of March

Second meeting – 21st of March

Content deadline – 4th of April

Page plan – 11th of April

Supported by



Committed to Tillydrone

Councillor Ross Grant updates us on the latest regeneration plans for the Tillydrone Community

I wanted to take stock of the work that this Council has already done since 2012 to make living in Tillydrone better for residents and also to highlight our ambitions for the area in the future. The Council has spent or already committed to spend over £40 million in Tillydrone in its financial planning in recent years. This Council has been fully committed to the housing modernisation programme in the area, delivering new kitchens, bathrooms and new central heating systems.

I am particularly pleased to see that the installation of the new Combined Heat & Power (CHP) heating systems at the Tillydrone multi storeys is nearing completion. Around £5 million has been spent connecting almost 500 properties to the heat and power system which is much more efficient and affordable. The CHP system will halve fuel bills for everyone with the system, taking many of our residents out of fuel poverty while reducing carbon emissions by 90%.

We are incredibly proud of the £3 million Riverbank Primary school

extension that this Council delivered in 2013 which has been greatly welcomed by the parents, the staff and the pupils of the school. It is great to see this facility in use with the pupils thriving as a school community and achieving so much which is a credit to our staff and our community.

To encourage our children to be fit and active, this council has continued to improve our existing play parks in the area, most notably the 'Donny Park' at Gordons Mills Road. It is also fantastic to see the recent announcement of a full refurbishment of the Alexander Terrace play park. This will be delivered in consultation with local residents in the coming months. We will continue to ensure that our play parks are kept up to a safe and appealing standard.

Going forward, as a Council we fully recognised that Tillydrone also needs a focal point for all of the vital community work that goes on in the area. Working jointly with the community groups in the area, we have committed £3 million to progress

plans to deliver a state of the art community hub right at the heart of Tillydrone. Our community needs and deserves to have a new community facility providing a place for residents to shop, to meet and to enjoy the many great services that are delivered in the area. The news that the Council have earmarked the existing Tillydrone Shopping Centre as the location for the new community hub was based upon the feedback of the recent community consultation which showed that this was the most popular location to site the hub.

Of course, while so much positive regeneration is taking place in the area, we recognise that for Tillydrone to continue to thrive, and for people to have better life chances, the council will have to build on the work that we are delivering. With so many suggestions emerging from the community consultation, we will be looking to take as many of them forward in the coming months and years so keep an eye out for more positive projects being delivered in the area.

Councillor Ross Grant

Photos courtesy of Anne Knight



Making a Difference

City Church @ St Machar

During the last week of the summer holidays the Making a Difference (M.A.D) children's team from City Church St Machar ran a Space Academy Holiday Club that was out of this world! This is the third holiday club that M.A.D. has run in the last year, and from seeing the action unfold first hand I can tell you that the fun just goes on. The holiday club took place from the Monday to Thursday at the Northern Hotel between 10am and 12pm each day. Each morning the kids ran through the doors into the hotel ballroom and were raring to go and excited to become Junior Space Cadets and go through the vigorous Space Academy training. The Junior Space Cadets were being trained by the not so professional Space Cadet, Legweak. However, a spanner hit the works when half way through day one Legweak accidentally hit the emergency blast off button and all the team and kids took off into space. Here another adventure unfolded as we came across the villainous Dusty the Star King. As events unfolded it appeared Dusty was attempting to steal all the stars from space, and become the most

powerful villain in the universe. However, along with the help of the spaceship robot T2Me2 and a friendly martian, we managed to foil Dusty's plans and return all the stars to their rightful place. Cadet Legweak, T2Me2 and the Junior Cadets became local space heroes! Along with this space pantomime taking place each day the kids at the holiday club had a great time dancing their hearts out and singing worship to God, and they were learning about the God of the universe who made them, loves them and has a plan for their lives.

The kids and the team all had such a fantastic time at the holiday club and so did the parents! City Church provided a free café for parents and carers to relax and hang out in whilst the kids were at the Holiday Club – no tea or cakes went to waste! The Holiday Club saw numbers of kids from Riverbank and Kittybrewster Primary school as well as kids from all across Aberdeen City and Shire.

At City Church St Machar we are so excited for our next holiday club to take place in April 2016. However for now, if you missed the holiday club, or just miss being at the holiday club we'd like to invite you to the M.A.D. kids club that takes place each Sunday at St Machar Academy between 11.15 and 12.30pm for children in P1 – P7. At Making a Difference we run an interactive, action packed event that takes all the exciting bits of Saturday morning TV and fuses it with the best parts of Sunday School – it's just like Holiday Club, but on a Sunday. Feel free to bring your kids along and stay for the service which starts at 11am, or drop your kids off with our M.A.D. team at the front door at 11.15am. Hopefully see you there!





FAMILY LEARNING AT MANOR PARK

Family Learning hosted Riverbank Primary School's Away Days in June at Hazlehead Park

The away days are part of the induction for nursery children who will be attending Primary 1 after the summer. It gives the children an opportunity to meet their new classmates, teachers and PSAs.

It gives parents an opportunity to meet other parents, their children's friends, teachers and PSAs and find out about services in their area including Family Learning.

It gives teachers and PSAs an opportunity to meet children who may be in their class and meet parents.

A great day was had by all, and the weather wasn't too bad either!

In the morning we had a nature trail and a bear hunt in the park then we decorated t-shirts and cakes in the new café. The café has been renovated recently and I think all those that attended would agree it looks fantastic.

In the afternoon the children went to the pets corner with the staff from the schools. This gave the staff and children an opportunity to get to know one another, while the parents listened to the Family

Learning Team explain all about our service. Staff from Libraries and Adult Learning team then explained what they had to offer too.

What's Happening Next?

After the October holidays we will be running Maths & Language for Parents. This six week course will show you how your child learns maths and language in school, and how you are helping without even knowing it!

So why not come along and join in because believe it or not maths and language can be fun. (This is aimed at parents/carers with children aged 3-8 years)

Please phone, text, email or Facebook us to book a place on the course.

Our contact details are

Tel 01224 764700

Mob 07785 474085

Email Familylearning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Facebook [facebook.com/familylearningaberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/familylearningaberdeen)



St George's Church Concert by Liz Wilson

We held our second concert at the church on Friday 22nd May.

I am pleased to report we had another successful evening, raising £750 for church funds.

This year we were entertained by Frank Robb. He hails from Aberdeen and is a wonderful folk singer and comedian.

Some of you might remember him from the sixties. Does "HEDGEHOG PIE" ring any bells? The audience really enjoyed his performance.

Another act performing was Aberdeen's own Barber Shop Choir, The Granite City Chorus. The choir was formed in 1990 and to date there are up to 50 members.

Twenty two people gave up their time to come along and sing for us. What a treat, they captivated everyone with their wonderful voices and great harmonies.

Speaking of wonderful voices, Sandy Davidson another well-known and popular local entertainer sang a few songs and in addition was the MC for the concert.

He did a great job and in my opinion is singing better than ever.

A raffle was held during interval when tea and coffee were served with plenty of home baking – yum!

It was a great night and everyone left the church with a smile on their face.

If you think you missed out on a good night. You would be right.

Please come to next year's St. George's concert.

What's in a name

The Tilly Tattle's very own historian, Margaret Mead aims to bring our readers a touch of local history. All the streets in Tillydrone have been named after people and Margaret will be bringing you the stories behind these characters. From Bradley to Dill, Coningham to Alexander, there's a story behind them all so read on to find out more.

Bradley Terrace

In my research I could not find a British hero of World War II, but found an American who fought alongside General Alexander and Field Marischal Montgomery.

Omar Nelson Bradley was born in Randolph County Missouri on 12 February 1893.

He passed a test for West Point. Before West Point he was employed as a boiler maker at Warsash Railroad. He was

encouraged by his Sunday School Teacher to try the test for West Point Military Academy. He had planned to save so he could attend the University of Missouri where he intended to study law.

He graduated from West Point in 1915, as part of a class that produced 59 Generals during World War II.

He became a General by the year of 1943. Bradley and Patton

were always in conflict with Montgomery over his orders Bradley was nicknamed the G.I. General.

After the war he was made Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He died 8 April 1981 and was buried in Arlington National cemetery in Arlington Virginia US.





Coningham Road, Terrace and Gardens

Arthur Coningham (RAF Officer) Air Marshal, Sir Arthur "lazy" Coningham, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, DFC, AFC, born 19 January 1895 and he presumably died 30 January 1948.

His early life was spent in Brisbane in Australia. His father, also Arthur Coningham, was a noted test cricketer for Australia. He was found out to be a conman. To escape scandal he moved his family to New Zealand. He did not change and was jailed for 6 months for fraud. Young Arthur as a teenager rebuked his father by saying "you may be my father but I am ashamed of you."

Arthur Coningham was a sober living person, he neither smoked or drank or swore.

During World War I he fought in Gallupoth with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

He developed typhoid fever and was invalid and put out of service in March 1916. In April he made his way to England and volunteered for the Royal

Flying Corps. He was posted to the 32 Squadron on 19th of December after training. He was injured during battle with the enemy, He returned to France and promoted to Major in command of 92 squadron on the 1st of July 1918, at the age of 23. On the 11th of August he was injured again in an intense air combat but remained in France. He engaged in 176 Patrols over enemy lines. Coningham emerged from this war with 2 awards – DSO and a Military Cross earned while with the 32 Squadron. He was nicknamed Mary (a play on Maori) which made reference to his earlier life in New Zealand.

Between the wars Coningham remained in the RAF as an officer for the 92 Squadron. During the 1920s he served as technical and flying instructor before being posted to 55 squadron flying Airco DH 9 AS out of Iraq. In 1923 he was promoted to Squadron leader and appointed as Officer commanding of the 55 Squadron from 1924 to 1926. Staff officer duties, 1st at

Headquarters of Egyptian Group, the RAF Middle East.

Serving in RAF College Cranwell Central Flying School Coningham was promoted to Wing Commander in 1931. The next year he was stationed in Sudan and while there he met his wife, Nancy Brooks Frank who was the widow of Sir Howars Frank in July 1932.

World War II

He began as air commodore commanding the Bomber Commands' 4 group which he led for 2 years. Most of the raids over Germany were at night. In 1940 he was promoted to Air Vice Marshal. In 1942, the battle of El Alamein and continued to provide air support for the troops in the Eight Army until they moved on to occupied Tripoli in January 1943. He was a successful person he returned from the Airforce on the 1st of August 1947. Then on the 30th of January 1948 the plane he as on disappeared while travelling to Bermuda.



Donside

SUMMER GALA

On Saturday the 22nd of August Donside Community Association held their summer gala. The theme was shorts and shades and the team were fundraising for Clan Cancer Support and the Donside Community Association.

The gala was a great success and we raised £150 for CLAN from the BBQ, teas/coffee and the raffle. There were buckets for CLAN too but we haven't had a final figure from them yet. We hope there is over £100 to add so a great day for CLAN too.

We had the Deputy Lord Provost open the event and he's looking forward to getting an invite for next year's event or anything we organise in between. We had Councillor Ross Grant and one of our local MSP's Kevin Stewart attended the event as well.

I think, as many others did, Nestrans (Getabout) were the

highlight of the day. The range of bikes they had for the kids and adults were amazing. Our Chairperson, Jane Fullerton, even managed to go on the penny farthing! Co Wheels also attended with their electric car and hopefully enough interest has been shown that we may at some point get a charging point in the Tillydrone area.

We had stalls from organisations such as Waste Aware, Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre, RAS, St Machar Credit Union and Cash in Your Pocket. Not forgetting the wonderful Guarana

Drummers who added a fantastic atmosphere to the whole event.

There were also stalls from some of our residents, Dami, who is raising monies for a missionary trip, and Usborne books and Scentsy Candles.

The organisers this year were Angi Morrison, Margaret Galbraith, Jack Ramsay and our BBQ man/chef Doug Morrison. Great team effort by everyone.

Angi Morrison

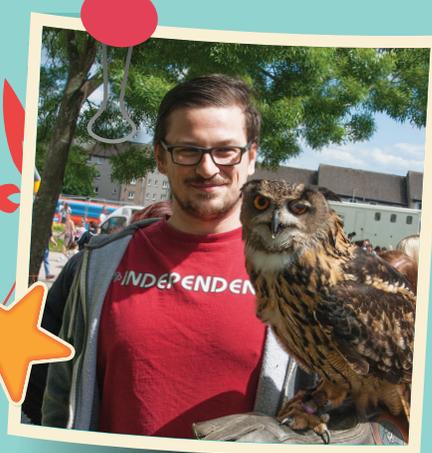
Morven, from the Tilly Tattle editorial team, went along to get some snaps of the day...



Tilly Gala



A date for the next Tilly Gala!
Saturday June 25th - so keep the
date clear in your dairies. The team
behind the Gala would also like to
thank the Community Support Fund
because without it we would not
have been able to provide a free
event for the community!





Mums & Kids Weekend In Perthshire

The Lighthouse visits Faskally House



In June, the Lighthouse Support Centre hosted their very first Lighthouse Weekend Away for mothers with children aged 12 years and under.

The weekend was held at Faskally House, near Pitlochry, and attended by eleven families plus a number of Lighthouse staff and volunteers.

The trip was specifically designed to provide an affordable and memorable weekend away packed with family-friendly activities to encourage greater mother-child interaction. The

programme included crafts, sports, a family movie, and even a paddle in Loch Faskally! Throughout the weekend formal parenting classes were held for the mums, and high-energy sessions for the kids.

One mother commented, “[the parenting classes were] really informative; emotional but fun; I learned a lot about myself and will take what I have learnt and use this in my family life.” Another said, “weekends like Faskally would never have been possible within my family without all [the Lighthouse’s] help.”

This new venture by the Lighthouse was well received and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The hope is to run a similar weekend in June next year.

For more information about the work of the Lighthouse Support Centre, please visit their website (www.lighthouse-abdn.org.uk) or their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LighthouseAberdeen)



Foul Play

The pathways and grass areas in Tillydrone are again becoming a disgrace. Owners of dogs do not always pick up their dog's mess.

It is dangerous for the health of children as if they accidentally get it on their fingers and touch their eyes they can contract glaucoma. This disease can cause blindness.

I would urge owners to be more diligent in cleaning up after their dogs.

I would also like to ask people who are out walking their dogs to keep them on a lead and make sure you can control them. It is not fair on other people who are out and about at the same time.

Volunteers Needed

The School of Psychology at the University in Old Aberdeen is looking for adults age 60+ to participate in studies on vision in healthy aging.

At the school of Psychology, the visual motion lab is currently running experiments that focus on how vision changes with increasing age. The population of the developed world is ageing faster than ever before. For example, in the UK, the number of people aged 65 and older is expected to nearly double within the next 40 years from around 10 million people to 19 million in 2050.

If you would like to sign up then please get in touch with Emily Baird at 01224 272228 or emily.baird@abdn.ac.uk

Oor Letters in Oor Box

Scores oh letters I've got in oor box
Oor only communication since oor loss
Every day I read them to try and ease the pain
Wishin ye wir here wi me
Well, ane wish in vain
Oor love wis worth those early years, sleepless nights,
sheddin tears
Bit wi got thru we showed em a,
At times we'd stumble, but didnae fa
Baith oor parents tried tae keep us apart
But us nae bein the gather wis breakin each heart
So wi eloped an heided for the toon
Tramplin the streets till wi found a room
Rememberin back gettin oor first hoose
It was very nice, but we weren't the only tenants
There were hundreds of mice
Throwin sheen at em, or batterin em we ae brush
An keepin hitten em until they were mush
Thinkin back expectin oor first one
Ye wintin a quine an me wintin aw son
But ye got yer wish a quine it wid be
An in the next four years we hid aneithar three
So four quines in five years, we've fare come far
But there'll be nae mare fir ae couple of year, cos I'm af tae war
Every day ye'd write tae me, nae kenin far I wid be
An I wid try an fine the time fin I wis oot oh the firin line
Bit fin this war wis finally done
The next time yer pregnant, aye this time ae son
Na, aneithar quine, this his made five
The Lord caad ye hame, an suddenly ye died
But after the war hid left it's scar
Losin ye wis jist too far
Oor auldest quine took oer the hoose
Ye taught her well everythin is spruce
Aye, I mean spick and span
An she learnt her sisters, every wan
Bit the years hiv fare went by to quick. At's oor youngest at the kirk
I ken some will say it's a shame their mither could nae see
But I ken darling ye were there wi me
Like ae the either quines weddin's I ken ye were there
Sittin at the top table on thon empty chair
I cried ae tear fir baith oh us
Bit I've nae mare tears tae cry
I'll tack oor box oh letters up to oor room
Please dinna ask me why
I dinna wint tae tell ye
I've got my callin fae the Lord
This is the nicht I'm going tae die

Aberdeen Lads Club

- Elsie Rennie -

In 1923 it was proposed to have a club for East End Lads. The main object of the club was to provide recreational and educational facilities for young lads aged between 14 and a half and 17 and a half. This was a first for Scotland. The first annual meeting of the Aberdeen Lads Club was on the 4th of June 1925 at the Gallowgate, Aberdeen.

Over 450 lads attended and they planned on having 600 by the end of the year 1926. It was a flourishing group over the years and a lot of the donations came from members of the public. The club was open on certain days for people to visit and they donated clothes and other items, for example boots, shoes, suits, overcoats and underclothing, all for the wellbeing of the club.

There was football equipment, all kinds of table games and billiard tables, bagatelle balls, musical instruments, boxing gloves, books and gramophone records available for the boys.

An Invitation

The Club was open every evening during the week except in July and August and the committee invite all subscribers and other interested parties to call at the club and see for themselves the work it is doing for the youth in the city.

Girls were not included until 1957. In 1960-1961 there were 2 branches of the Aberdeen Lads Club – the Gallowgate Branch and the Woodside Branch.

Activities included: drama groups, discussion groups, Sunday services – a short service was well attended. The boys held the lessons and assisted in the prayers.

They attended courses organised by the local youth council and Aberdeen Union of Boys Club.

In the Girls Section the activities included dance classes, physical recreation, concerts, cooking classes, dressmaking classes and sewing classes.

There was also the annual presentation of prizes.

The Gallowgate building was demolished in 1962 after 37 years. By 1962 there was new premises at 21 Hutcheon Street which reigned for 10 years then further development was planned at the Mounthooley Roundabout. Once again the Aberdeen Lads Club was homeless – the Woodside premises survived until 1985 but a new site was also promised and they got the site where they remain today in Dill Road in Tillydrone. It was

next to Donbank School which is now Riverbank School. So the club goes on. Nowadays it is a bit different as there are so many more rules and regulations to adhere to.

Present Day

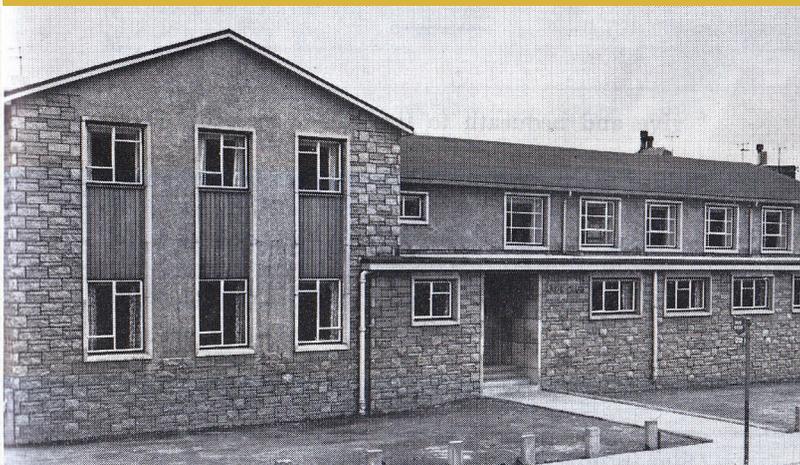
There is a community café open between Mondays and Fridays at very reasonable prices. It is very popular with kids and parents. from Riverbank or St Machar Academy. They can play pool or just chill out.

They run a holiday activities club which is supported by BBC Children in Need, Cash for Kids. There are also two community nursery classes, a 2s group and a 3-5 group which run in the mornings, Monday – Friday.

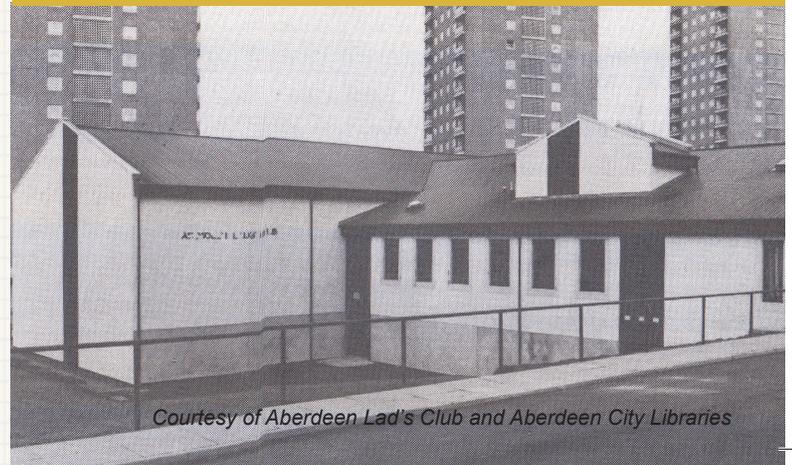
The after school club has around 45 children from primary 1 -7 attending on a regular basis from Riverbank Primary School. This runs between 3:15pm and 5:15pm during the school term. Activities are planned on the children and they have their own planning board.

In the evenings there is a youth work who is at the Lads Club on Mondays and Thursdays between 6:30 and 9:30pm. There are usually around 60 young people attending per session and there are activities such as football, bingo and arts and crafts.

Hutcheon Street Club 1966-1967



Tillydrone premises 1987-1988



Courtesy of Aberdeen Lads Club and Aberdeen City Libraries

Celebrate Aberdeen Parade 2015

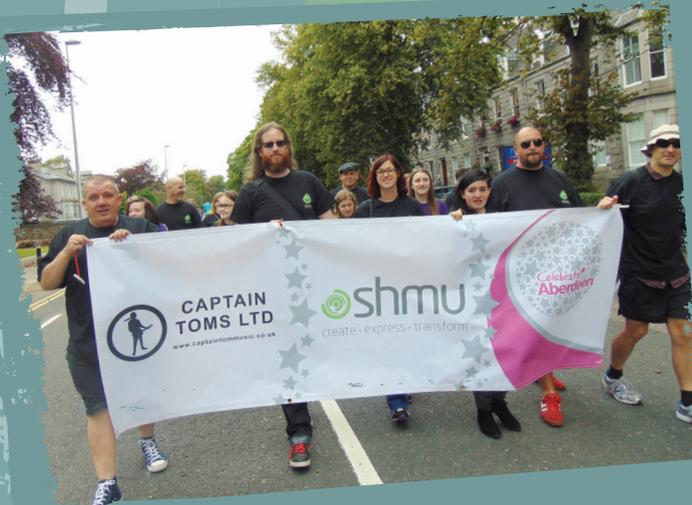
On Saturday the 22nd of August the shmuCREW headed down to Union Street to take part in the Celebrate Aberdeen Parade. Staff and volunteers were invited to take part in this event, along with their families to promote SHMU and all the fantastic work our happy band of volunteers do. We all met up at 10:30am outside Harlaw Academy, donned our new SHMU t-shirts before the parade started at 11.

Over 90 organisations took part in the parade this year. As well as the parade there was entertainment on offer throughout the weekend in the city centre.

Dave said: "Nice day for a stroll down Union Street with the shmu Crew, great to see how many volunteers there are in Aberdeen."

Emily said: "It was great to see people of Aberdeen come together for the parade"

Stacey said: "it was a good experience being part of something that charities are involved in all over the city. I didn't want the day to end! The weather was fabulous and it was a good laugh coming together with everyone!"



Photos by Hala

Tillydrone Community Flat Update

Well that's goodbye to summer (not that anyone really noticed it happening...) for another year. Here at the Tilly Flat we've had a very busy time in recent months. We had the flat repainted over the summer break and love the fresh new colour scheme – everything looks so light and airy. New vinyl flooring will be laid in the next few weeks to complete the look.

Work has started on the Community Garden behind the Flat. The ground has been cleared and I am meeting with Steven Shaw shortly to discuss plans for landscaping and planting. I have had offers of support from other expert quarters and am hoping we can create something really great. Anyone who wants to get involved with the project should get in touch with me. I am keen to get residents of all ages and abilities on board. Regular updates will follow.

Our adult education classes have started up again with a drop-in computer class on a Monday afternoon among options on offer. Please come and see us if you are interested in finding out what is on offer.

Many of you will remember the drama when baby Riley was born rather suddenly in the Tilly Flat, bringing to the fore Sarah's formerly undiscovered midwifery skills. Riley turned two on 17th September and as he now attends our crèche, we celebrated in the Flat with a cake and his wee pals. Happy birthday to Riley!

We are keen to encourage more folk to join the Tilly Tattle editorial team. If you would like to comment on local issues or to release your creative writing streak, if you are a keen artist or photographer, if you simply want to find out more about being involved then let me know and I'll keep you posted of meeting dates.





Aberdeen Housing Service Review Group

Do you have some time to spare? Would you like to improve your CV? Then read on!

Aberdeen Housing Service Review Group spent 4 days at Tillydrone Housing Office recently finding out what goes on there and what estate management involves. It is all part of the review of Housing Management in the Council by this group. This will be the third review the group has carried out – the first one covered repairs and then the second looked at community safety

This is a group of tenants and residents who work with Aberdeen City Council to review services - they highlight all the positives things they find and offer suggestions on how we can improve things from a customer point of view. Of course the group understand that their recommendations might not always be possible for example due to legal or financial constraints but a two way conversation takes place.

The group have been in the Mastrick Housing Office and Woodside Learning Centre where the Housing Team then finished off at Marischal College in September.

It is hoped that the final report will be available at the end of November 2015 and it will be available on the Council website – www.aberdeencity.gov.uk.

The group are looking for new members as there will be ongoing reviews which the group will be doing, including looking at empty properties, support services as well as the customer experience also we will going back to review repairs and community safety so there is plenty to keep the members busy.

So we are looking for tenants and residents who would like to get involved in Aberdeen City Council Housing Service by joining this

group – if you are a tenant of a Housing Association please get in contact with your landlord directly.

It is all very flexible so you can spend as much time as you have – it is your choice You may just have left school, or perhaps you are on the waiting list for a tenancy or even long term unemployed or you might have just retired and looking for something to do. This group can offer you the opportunity to gain skills in interviewing, report writing, working as part of a team or just giving you back lost confidence so come along – take the first step –the group would be delighted to meet you. Please contact Carol Hannaford Tenant & Community Engagement Officer Tel 01224 522839 or channaford@aberdeencity.gov.uk to find out further details.