

Torry's Vision

Winter 2020

Image - David Hunter



In this issue:

AABDY'S TORY

HANDS OFF OUR
GREEN SPACE

LOCHSIDE ACADEMY

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Torry's Vision

Winter Edition 2020

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editorial

Welcome to the Winter edition of Torry's Vision community magazine. Read on for news from the Lochside Academy, the Hands off our Green Space Campaign, Dolphinwatch and Victoria Road School.

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team or if you have ideas for the community publication, you can easily get in touch with us. The staff at SHMU are able to support and train anyone living in the area who is interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading. So please don't be shy, this is your magazine written, edited and designed by the good folk of Torry.

If you live in Torry and would like to come along to the editorial meetings (which are online at the moment) or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at SHMU on **0752586312** 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.

You can be reassured that our distribution company is taking every measure to ensure they are delivering your magazine safely and within government guidelines.

Torry's Vision is a community publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team or of shmu.

happy reading.



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LOCHSIDE ACADEMY 2020 VIRTUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Recognising student success during Covid-19 lockdown

Lochside Academy's 2020 Annual Awards Ceremony, planned to take place on 23 June in the Music Hall was, like many other events, cancelled because of the Covid-19 lockdown at that time. However, the team that had been organising the event agreed to take the Awards Ceremony to the virtual world. Instead, the school planned a series of announcements to be released during the last week of the summer term online on social media and on the school's website. The announcements were timed to coincide with diplomas, certificates, medals and gift tokens arriving through mailboxes having been posted out by the school's office staff in the days prior to the announcements.

Monday announced the recipients of Diplomas of Excellence. These awards were presented to pupils in S1-S4 who have an excellent attendance record, always wear full school uniform and demonstrate consistent positive behaviour, effort and attitude throughout the academic session. Tuesday's announcement was the winners of Pupil Achievement Awards. These awards were presented to recognise the special achievements of pupils

in a variety of fields both within and outwith the school such as performance in music, art, drama, sport, science and languages. Wednesday announced the winners of Effective Contributor Awards. These were presented to individual pupils to recognise their hard work and commitment to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. Thursday's announcement was the winners of the Successful Learner Academic Awards. These awards recognised outstanding pupil attainment in particular fields of study and were awarded to the highest attaining pupils from S1-S3, S4 and S5/6. Friday's final announcement was the 'Gold Envelope Awards', the final awards presented to students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their particular fields. The first of these awards was the Robert Gordon University Prize for Developing School Ethos, presented to the senior student who has fulfilled the role and responsibilities of being a senior student to an exceptional degree and is an inspirational role model for aspiring young people. This was presented to Hannah Evans. The Lord Provost

of Aberdeen's Cup of Excellence, presented to a senior pupil who has exceptionally demonstrated the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence; Successful Learner, Confident Individual, Responsible Citizen and Effective Contributor, and who has demonstrated truly remarkable success in all that they have achieved. This was presented to Emily Scott. The University of Aberdeen Principal's Award of Excellence is awarded to senior pupils who have achieved excellent results in all academic subjects undertaken. The two winners of this award were Nadia Vitri and Alberto Rodriguez. And finally, the Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust House Championship Cup was awarded to Lochside Academy House Group that had accrued the most points during the academic session derived from a variety of competitions and activities. The 2020 winning House was Don House.

Details of all award winners are available online on the school's website: <https://lochside.aberdeen.sch.uk/annual-awards-ceremony-2020/>



Torry St Fittick's Church is Ready to Welcome You

The church reopened for services in September.

At the time of printing the church can hold a maximum of 40 worshippers in line with social distancing, however, the church is also available for private prayer for those who feel unable to attend the Sunday services.

To attend the Sunday services, or to prebook a private prayer slot you need to call the church office. You can prebook a Sunday slot on a Thursday morning by calling **01224 899183**.

New Mosaic for Bruce Garden, Victoria Road

A Tribute to John Main has recently been installed in the Bruce Garden, a new mosaic commissioned by the Torry Community Group, and funded by the Coastal Communities Fund. This mosaic is called 'Poppies for John Main' as a tribute to John Main who helped plant the garden. The design was inspired by Charles Rennie Macintosh and the commission was carried out by local artist, Penny Linemann.

More of Penny's art can be seen at www.lineman.uk



TORRY MEMORIES & HERITAGE SOCIETY "TORRY TRAMS" *Pat Robertson*

The first trams in to Torry started on 10th February 1903. The tram track initially ran from Guild Street to St. Fittick's Road. Almost two years later on 15th July 1905 the track was extended from Bridge Street to St. Fittick's Road. The tram route eventually closed on 28th February 1931.

The Torry tram depot opened in 1904 on the corner of Market Street and North Esplanade West and could hold six tram cars. In 1910

it became the paint shop for the Ferryhill tram line but closed in February 1931. The building still exists and is a Category B listed monument.

Although the trams are now long gone from Torry there are still reminders of them on Victoria Road. Some of the rosettes that carried the tram wires can still be seen on the walls of some of the houses on Victoria Road.

TORRY'S LISTED MONUMENTS *Pat Robertson*

Following our article in the summer edition of Torry's Vision here are the names of the Listed monuments in the Torry area.

Sacred Heart Church on Grampian Road/Glenbervie Road

Nigg Parish Church on Nigg Kirk Road

St. Fittick's Church and Churchyard on St. Fittick's Road

Former St. Peter's Church

(now St. Peter's Court) - 191

Victoria Road

Victoria Bridge

Wellington Suspension Bridge

Girdleness Lighthouse and Fog Signal Greyhope Road

Former Torry Tramshed Market Street/ North Esplanade West

Corner site 53/57 Victoria Road and 2/8 Sinclair Road

Railway Viaduct over the River Dee

Edward V111 Pillar Box on Girdleness Road/Gregness Gardens

Tullos Primary School Girdleness Road

Smokehouse (John Ross Junior) 82/84 Sinclair Road

Torry Quay and Mearns Quay Drainage Terminals and Valve Houses

Capstan Jetty Greyhope Road

Pair of Leading Lights Sinclair Road

Torry Battery Greyhope Road

Balnagask Motte Baxter Place





Campaign moves forward to save and convert the fine granite buildings of Victoria Road School

The initial clear out operation is now complete on the site of the former Victoria Road School.

Lawrie Demolition, the contractor, has been busy removing tons of pigeon guano, collapsed ceilings and other debris. Due to the health hazards these have posed, it has not been possible for the architects and engineers to gain full access to many parts of the building so it is hoped to follow on shortly with an asbestos removal contract and detailed timber rot investigations.

Project architect, David Murray of DMA, said: *"This is a big step forward and we're all very eager to get into many parts of the building which have been inaccessible until*

now to get vital information we need the allow us to complete the technical design.

"We are now busy exploring a variety of solutions to reduce the project's carbon impact and reduce energy bills for the Association's tenants."

The project has full planning permission and the building warrant application is now being processed. It is hoped that the main building contract will get under way at the beginning of next year.

In future phases of this redevelopment the plans are to convert the two historic school buildings along with new build.

Fostering the already strong sense of community in Torry, the project is being driven by the housing needs and aspirations of families, couples and single people who want to live in a new setting on Victoria Road. Fifty homes for social rent will be built, a mix of one, two, three- and five-bedroom houses and apartments set in mixed soft and hard landscape. Multi-purpose community facilities, including a small nursery, will be provided in partnership with Torry Development Trust to breathe new life into the area.

To keep up to date with our progress like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or visit www.victoriaroadschool.co.uk

NESS Energy Project

The NESS Energy Project continues to progress well, with main structural piling works, undertaken by Bauer Technologies completed at the end of September 2020, with the emphasis shifting to the next phase of main civil works. Also during September, a 45m high tower crane was installed on site to facilitate the continuation of main civil works.

During the next few months, physical structures above ground will become clearly visible. As part of the above ground structure, the waste bunker will be constructed using a method called slipform, this method is the most efficient manner but requires continuous work over a 24-hour period for approximately 8 days.

The work has a platform and it moves up using jacks approximately 100mm every hour. This prevents the concrete from sticking to the formwork creating the wall.

Concrete trucks and pumps will be used throughout the entire period, and these will be screened to avoid noise, and lights will be positioned to avoid any glare off site.

If you wish to contact the project team, you can do so on:

Email : projectteam@nessenergy.co.uk

Web: www.nessenergy.co.uk

Tel: 07460556592



Best Start and Smile Pantry – Covid Update

This initiative has involved a range of partners and has been led by CFINE. Families with young children who are eligible for Best Start Foods, living in the AB11 area, can apply for Best Start and Smile Pantry membership.

The pantry got off to a flying start at the end of 2019 and by March 2020, up to 60 families with young children in Torry were offered support with oral health for themselves and their children, access to the fantastic food bargains at the pantry and getting support on a range of issues from the SAFE team.

However, as we all know Covid arrived in March. Initially the pantry adopted social distancing, the use of alcohol anti-virus hand sanitiser and gloves if required but numbers rapidly decreased as the news of the pandemic spread and people stayed home.

The pantry closed on the 19th of March. CFINE closed to the public the following week and set about planning how to get food to pantry users and others in need. Along with

food the following was provided: dental packs, sanitary and personal hygiene products, nappies, wipes and baby food and formula.

During this process of adapting Best Start Pantry members also received a welfare call or email and they have been provided with food and anything they have requested.

The pantry was due to reopen at Poynternook – then came the Aberdeen lockdown! But this has now lifted and we are gradually reopening the Pantry to existing members and will be in touch by letter to invite them along to a time slot.

CFINE also offers a Community Food Pantry for those people who do not fit the Best Start and Smile Pantry criteria, with 230+ members from across the city. If you want to know more about the pantry contact Nicky at CFINE on nmckay@cfine.org or call **01224 596156** for more information, or Teresa from the Communities Team - tedufficy@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

THE NAME IS BREAD... BREAD GUY!

Mandy, the Quine fae Torry

It was almost two years ago when the iconic and well-loved north-east baker, famed for its delicious butteries and their iconic lighthouse logo, Aitkens Bakery closed its doors. It felt that the heart and soul of the community had died and that it would never be the same again for us as residents.

Two years on, in June 2020 whilst in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Bread Guy established itself within the disused Glenbervie Road premises.

This artisan baker has a wealth of experience and knowledge of the craft, initially started in Kelly of Cults where he had his apprenticeship. The name itself "The Bread Guy" has a wee story to it. As part of his apprenticeship with Kelly's of Cults Gary was expected to assist with the delivery of their products to various businesses throughout the North-East and as most of their clients weren't aware of his name so they called him "The Bread Guy"

Gary is a born and bred Torry loon who grew up a couple of doors down from Aitkens Bakery and wanted to establish a good quality bakery that highlights local produce to Torry folk.

The Bread Guy establishment is managed as a family affair by Gary McAllister, Managing Director and Head Baker alongside with his brother Christopher and sister Donna together with a team of bakers. They have two young apprentices who are learning the art of bread making and confectionery by traditional methods that have been passed down through generations of bakers.

The ethos of Bread Guy is to support local businesses within Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, including Katy's Eggs, Graham's

Dairy, The Witches Kitchen, From Bakery Lane and the Sandwich Larder. They have also established a senior citizen discount which runs every Wednesday with 10% off all products. The Bread Guy has also introduced a Torry Community Fund donation box which will be donating to local community groups and good causes in the Torry area. The first recipient is Brimmond Court Sheltered Housing Tenants Association who do an amazing job organising activities and events for their 60 tenants.

If you would like to put forward a local group you can email Gary and the team at thebreadguydelivery@gmail.com



Rotary Club of Aberdeen St Fittick

Rotary International is a worldwide humanitarian organisation of over 1.2 million and we are the local club for Torry. We're ready to offer a helping hand where we can. The Coronavirus pandemic has affected everywhere and during this time we offered support to the Hub at Tullos Primary School and provided some assistance to Lochside Academy. This initiative was led by Sheena Anderson, a former Club President with assistance from other members. We are currently looking at continuing to provide assistance in the coming months. We are also involved in the monthly Bruce Garden clean up.

We also hold an Annual Quiz in March for schools and youth organisations in Torry. We managed to get the last one in just before lockdown and we would hope to be able to hold this again in March 2021. Keep your eyes peeled for notification of this friendly fun filled evening as it turns points into pounds for those participating. We also organise and support the annual quiz involving all the primary schools in Torry, Kincorth and Cove, and again, we hope to be able to hold this next year.

As part of the Greyhope Week our current President, David was tasked with finding Dot and getting his picture taken. After much searching, with his dog Breagha he found Dot and here's the proof.

We are happy to help so please feel free to get in touch via e-mail:

secretary@stfittick.rotary1010.org

Hands Off Our Green Spaces in Torry

In June people in Torry received a notice that St Fittick's Park and Doonies have been included in the Council's Proposed Local Development Plan 2020 as opportunity sites (OP 56 and 61 respectively) for development of an Energy Transition Zone (ETZ). Torry folk were surprised as there had been no community consultation whatsoever regarding this. Yet another unwelcome and unwanted industrial development in Torry was on the horizon. This time on the last remaining green and wild spaces which we had all been assured when the AHEP (Aberdeen Harbour Extension Project) was approved that St Fittick's would be protected and improved, to compensate for the destruction of the view over and access to Nigg Bay. The PLDP was approved by a full council meeting on 2nd March when councillors voted against a proposed amendment to remove both these OPs from the PLDP by only 1 vote! So, they stayed in.

News of the ETZ proposal spread like wildfire in our community as the statutory neighbourhood notices were issued. Appalled and heartbroken we set to work to oppose this beloved precious green space being taken away. The opposition was not to an ETZ but to where it was to be sited as plenty of unused facilities to develop an ETZ were close by in Altens and East

Tullos, which had been included in the plan for the AHEP in 2015.

Renee Slater, community activist and stalwart, immediately setup the 'Hands Off Our Green Spaces in Torry' Facebook page allowing the community to express views on what losing this dear green space would mean and share ideas how to oppose it. A petition was set up and signatures quickly reached 3000! Other page members researched documents from the council, the Local Development Plan, Harbour Board and studied the feasibility study for the ETZ and shared a substantial amount of legitimate objection points for the community to use in official objection submissions to ACC. Objection points included that plenty of brown field sites were nearby to develop, the unsuitability of St Fitticks due to flooding and contamination, a successful award winning SUDS system in place at East Tullos Burn to help control these, which at the same time has become a beautiful wetlands, home to many species of plants and birds. The park is currently in the running for an award from RSPB.

Many are concerned about St Fitticks Church and what the effect of any development would mean to this historic site, (it is a scheduled monument). Would it be damaged, hidden or access hindered?

Statutory consultees such as Scottish

Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and Environmental Agency Scotland were unaware of the decision to include the park in the PLDP. Improvement to the surrounding areas of the church were promised as part of the mitigation for the AHEP but have yet to materialise along with other measures of improvement that were supposed to have been started within 6 months of the new harbour development beginning.

Torry has been the sacrificial lamb for a host of unwanted industrial developments over the years with few direct benefits to Torry folk. With other positive, community led initiatives happening in the area improving Torry, why not involve us properly in decisions for the park and Doonies? This is not just a piece of grass, this is a place that is a valued asset for Torry and Aberdeen. Let the local community lead the way.

If you would like more information the you can get in through our Hands Off Our Green Spaces in Torry Facebook page and share views on what future they would like to see St Fitticks Park. All ideas and view welcome.

To join the page on Facebook, go to 'Hands off our Green Spaces in Torry 'and click join. You can also email us on saint.fittick.torry@gmail.com.

Watch out for Friends of St Fitticks and Doonies coming soon!



St Fittick's Park

By Conservation Biologist David Hunter

St Fittick's Park is, in my eyes, a near perfect example of what a modern park should be. Our park has a brilliant balance between wildlife areas, open playing fields and pleasant walks for both locals and visitors alike. Strolling east from the car park to the north you can enjoy views of the only sizable freshwater reedbed in Aberdeen City, with dozens of wildflowers blooming in the summer, abuzz with a wonderful assortment of bees, butterflies and dragonflies. Reed buntings, sedge warblers and more ducks than you can shake a stick at dart between the reeds, and in the spring and autumn both the woodlands that surround the waterbeds and the reeds themselves thrum with the

wingbeats of thousands migrant birds of all shapes and sizes at the right time of year.

Given the park's proximity to the headland at Girdleness and the rich variety of insect life found here, our St Fittick's is ideally suited as a landing pad and buffet bar for any tired bird fortunate enough to survive the long trip over the North Sea. I have been very fortunate over the past two

years to be helping with the national ringing scheme to monitor and record the plethora of species found within this beautiful habitat, and sincerely hope that we as a community can continue to engage with and improve this phenomenal, special place.

If nothing else St Fittick's Park is, for many of us, our garden! We would be hard pressed to design a better habitat for Torry's most sensitive and precious wildlife, and to lose such an area would be a tragic loss to our area. I would go so far as to say that St Fittick's Park could well be the most biodiverse wetland habitat in Aberdeen city, and especially given how critical access to nature has been in lockdown – taking Torry's last greenspace away would be a devastating loss to our community. Especially as there is so much potential, both for wildlife and for people, in utilising this glorious area for the community as it exists in its present state.



Thank you to Stacy Kerr and David Hunter for the amazing photography



Protected with trial version of Visual Watermark. Full version doesn't put this mark.

AABODY'S TORRY ONLINE FESTIVAL

How did it come about?

It is amazing sometimes where a simple conversation will take you. That is how Aabodys Torry, the recent online festival came about. Just chatting with other community groups about all the fantastic initiatives that were happening on our doorstep and wondering why these were not being celebrated and shared. The event was not planned by large corporations or by a city council, just ordinary folk who wanted to shout out a positive message and give Torry groups and locals a chance to highlight the talents and community spirit that are alive and well.

The dream would have been for real Festival in Torry but the Covid crisis required a different path to reach out to folk far and wide so the Aabodys Torry Online Festival took shape in a very short space of time!

The date was set for the 21st June 2020 and the hard work began sending by an open invitation to as many groups and individuals as possible asking for submissions for a slot in

the festival which could be live or pre-recorded. The response to

take part blew us away and the timetable filled up quickly!

Anyone who took part could use this opportunity to fundraise for their individual group or for a Torry charity or group. A website was put together for viewing the festival, showing off all the groups, talented artists, and photographers and sharing stories celebrating Torry's rich history, and heritage.

On the day, we had 1400 visitors to the website. Wow!

Who was involved?

Cultivate Aberdeen and Greyhope Bay Project hosted the event and had slots in the final programme which also included Walker Road Dancers, Big Noise Torry,

Eden Project Communities Scotland, Penny Linemann Fine Arts, Stacy Kerr with her amazing photography of the wildlife in the area, Sweaty Mamas Health and Fitness, Spread the Cheer Torry, VictoriArt Road, ACC Communities Team, CFINE, Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership, the THAW Team, Louisa Craig Yoga, Go Green Café, animations of the 'Wreck of the Oscar' from Walker Road School produced by Renee

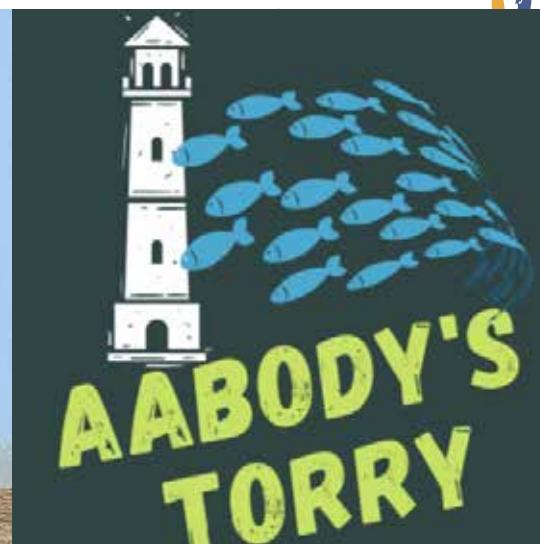
Slater. The day was kicked off on a serious note with a film called 'The Story of Plastic' and ended with Ghost Stories from Torry by Graeme Milne. Artists were invited to send a digital artwork using Torry as the theme for the online art gallery. The theme proved to be inspiring as some fantastic artworks were submitted!

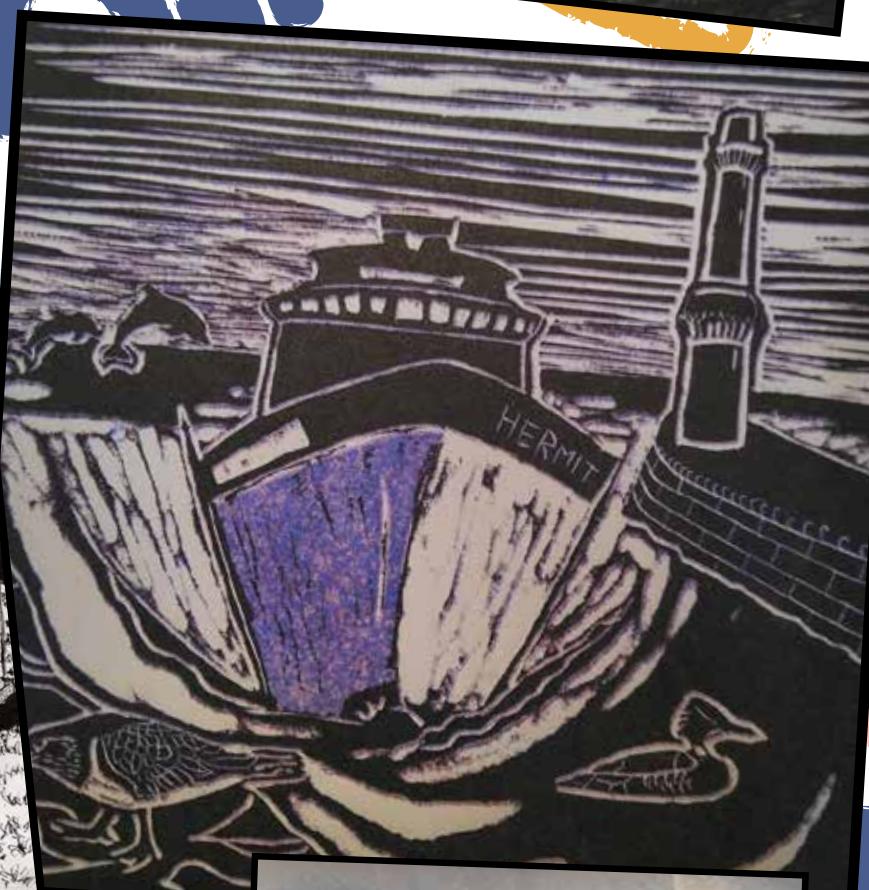
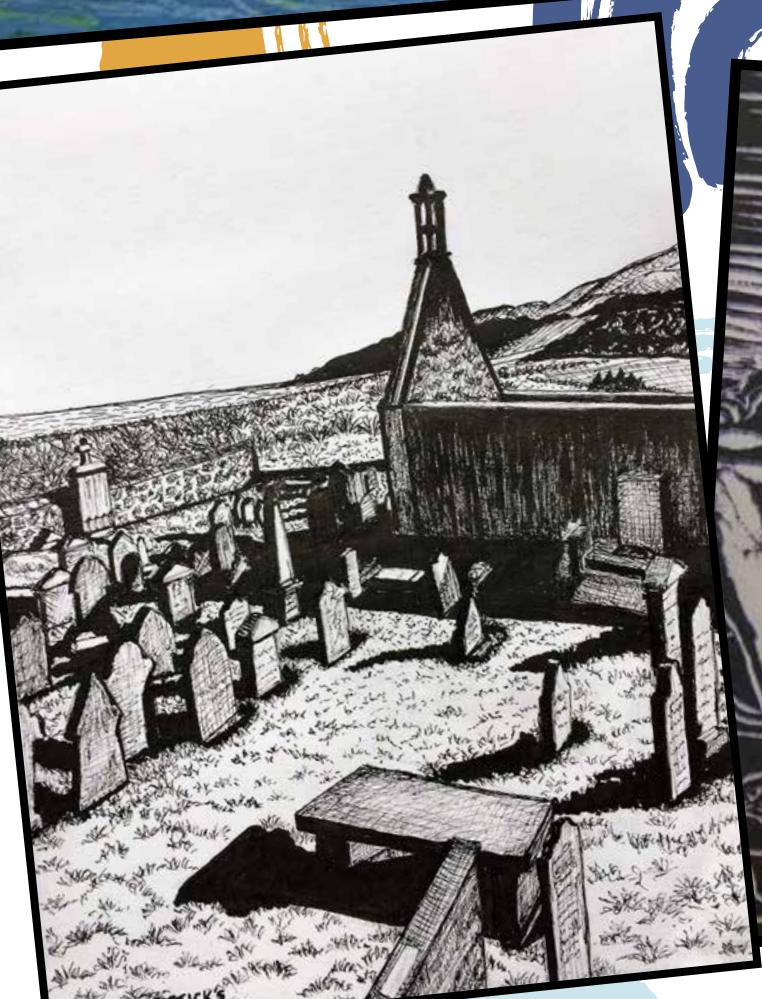
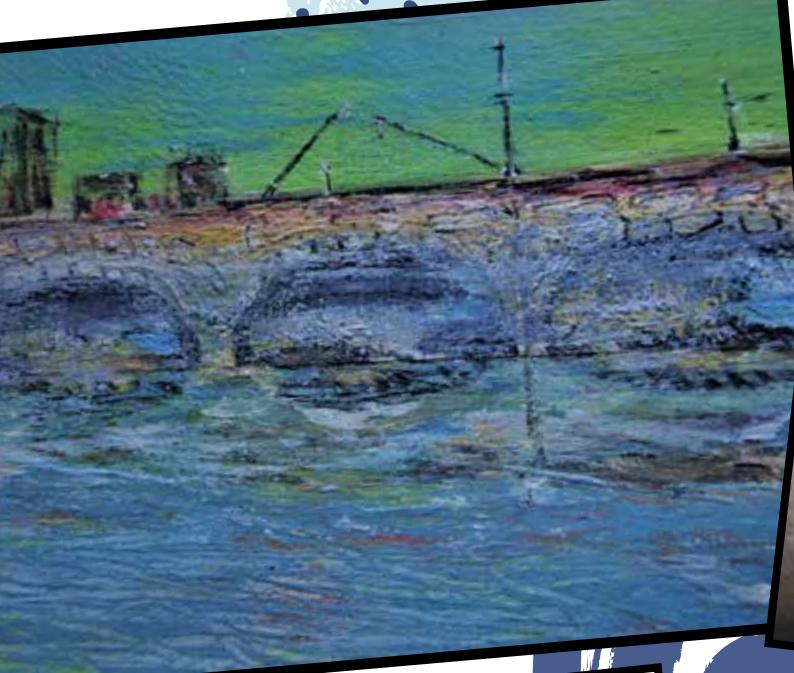
Will It happen again?

It is hoped that Aabodys Torry can take place as combined real and virtual festival next year. It has the potential to keep growing year on year opening a space for all to contribute and be part of an amazing community event. Planning is already afoot about how to carry it forward and you can be part of it. There are many ways for anyone who wants to take part to do so including for organisers, contributors, even if you want to just share the word with your neighbour you can!

For more details contact us at hello@greyhopebay.com

Many thanks to AABODY who took part on the day it wouldn't have happened without you!





Elected Officials

Maureen Watt MSP

It is likely that many of you will have already heard that it is my intention not to seek re-election to the Scottish Parliament at the elections in May next year. It has been the privilege of my life to represent the people of the North East region and then the constituency of South Aberdeen and North Kincardine for a total of 15 years.

It has also been an honour to be part of the Scottish Government as Minister for Schools and Skills, Public Health and then the UK's first ever dedicated Minister for Mental Health.

As you know, I chose to locate my constituency office in the heart of Torry which is easily accessible to all as it is also near bus routes and the bus station itself is not far away. My staff and I enjoy being part of Torry with people being able to pop in

and discuss their problems and the issues of the day and for us solving difficulties constituents experience is the most important service we offer.

I felt honoured when the community in Torry wanted me to chair the Nigg Waste Water Treatment plant stakeholder group and am pleased that the smells from the plant are virtually eliminated and the plant and community engagement is now positive. I consider securing the site of Craiginches prison for affordable housing for key workers was a significant achievement. It is essential too, that Torry benefits from the advent of the Aberdeen South Harbour and the ambitions for Torry Battery and other tourist opportunities benefit the local community.

There is certainly still work to be done and recently I have had video

meetings with many organisations and individuals to discuss the Council's Local Development Plan and the potential impact an Energy Transition Zone could have on Torry's green space at St Fitticks Park and Doonies Farm. I have made clear the many, many concerns Torry residents have told me about this issue.

Due to this terrible pandemic, it is difficult to know when I can open the office again and resume having surgeries throughout the constituency. However, I am more than happy to help with any issue you think I could be of assistance with.

**I am best reached by email
(maureen.watt.msp@parliament.scot) or telephone (01224 876743)
– please do not hesitate to get in touch.**

Councillor Audrey Nicoll

I hope you enjoyed the summer despite ongoing restrictions. We had such fine weather! A huge well done to pupils, teachers and staff who returned to school safely and adjusted to new arrangements in school buildings.

Many council services are being reinstated, please be patient with council staff who are working hard to clear the backlog of essential work including grass cutting and weed spraying.

Many folks had a good clear out over summer! Please use the council collection service for bulky items, don't leave them beside communal

bins which is a fire and hygiene risk. You may be eligible for four free uplifts a year so check the council website for information.

Seagulls have been an issue for residents this summer. Please do not feed gulls or leave food waste in bins where they can scavenge.

Work has been completed at the South Breakwater to restore a collapsed bank however during reconstruction many local residents experienced significant noise levels and lorry traffic. Councillor Allard and I worked with the council on this however construction work continues at other sites around Torry. Please let us know if this issue is affecting you.

Finally, Covid is still with us, its more important than ever that we follow FACTS:

Face coverings

Avoid crowded places

Clean hands regularly

Two metre distance from others

Symptoms - arrange a test if you have any

Stay safe everyone.

Please contact me anytime on tel 07971 707 278 or email audnicoll@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Christian Callard

This year has been like no other and the pandemic has caused much harm to many of our family, friends and neighbours. My thoughts are with the families who lost a loved one in those unprecedented times.

We all hoped to be out of the worst by now, unfortunately the threat is still there with the latest increase of the number of people being hospitalised with the virus. Times are challenging for people losing or seeking employment. At council, we all agreed that schools should reopen as the future of our younger people can't be compromised.

Traffic has been more than halved during summer, we recently had unexplained increase of heavy goods

vehicle traffic on Victoria Road.

After Councillor Audrey Nicoll and I inquired, Council officers apologised for not giving prior warning to the Greyhope Road Embarkment Works that started without notification to local councillors or to the community. The officers changed the preferred truck route and amended the early morning starting time of the works after our intervention.

Please stay in touch as without folk coming to us to address the problem, we would have not been able to address it.

Some of the Council services have restarted, my thanks to all at Aberdeen City Council who worked right through this pandemic. Teachers have worked very hard to have our

schools reopened and we have been assisted by officers all throughout which allowed us to continue our community work. Let me thank you for your patience when services have been interrupted or not delivered as we are accustomed to.

Volunteering has been very high. Local initiatives, like the small food bank a few streets away from where I live on Wood Street, have been a lifeline for many.

Stay safe, protect yourself, protect others

**Merci
Christian
callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

Councillor Yvonne Allan

Hi Folks,

Well what can I say this terrible situation we find ourselves in seems to go on and on. The Coronavirus is just not going away.

At last the kids are back to school and this must be a relief that they are now getting on with their education. Well done and thanks to all the staff who are back in school working hard looking after all the kids.

I must also congratulate all the families who have carried on doing their best in difficult circumstances for the kids during the break from school.

During this time there has been a lot of good work going on in our community. Our own Torry Support

Group have been out there and still are working away helping out folks wherever they can. The Tullos Community Garden folks have managed to keep their great garden going and have reaped the benefit along with other in the community of the vegetables they have grown. There have been many more groups in Torry who have been busy working away helping support those who have needed them and a big thanks must go to all of you.

I myself, although not been able to hold my usual surgeries, have still been working away through e-mails and telephone. There have been a variety of issues to deal with and through the use of the Internet they are being dealt with. A big percentage of council staff are still working from

home except for folks like cleaning staff, school staff etc.

I must give a special thanks to the Big Noise Staff. As well as working out ways to keep the children involved with their music, they have gone out of their way to help folks in Torry on a wide range of issues.

Well that's all for now stay safe stay well and I sincerely hope that there will be a light at the end of the tunnel and an end to this situation soon

**Take care,
Yvonne Allan
yallan@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Mobile: 07802 332725**

Youth Media Update

In line with Scottish Government Guidance face to face sessions for Youth Media sessions resumed in Station House on Saturday the 19th of September. It was great to have the young people back in the building, producing live radio. They are all wearing face masks

in the building and we have plastic screens installed in the studio in order to ensure everyone's safety.

While it is different to usual it's been lovely to have a sense of 'normality' back and have young people using the building again.



shmuTRAIN Update



ShmuTRAIN, our employability project, is now back up and running virtually and staff are currently supporting four young people regularly to gain employment, education and/or training.

There is currently a rolling recruitment process to get

another group started. If you know of a young person, living in Aberdeen city or shire, aged between 16 and 25 who would like some help with job-hunting please email michelle.trail@shmu.org.uk.

FANS Youth Film Festival

shmu is the fund-holder for two national projects for Film Access Scotland; the FANS Youth Film Festival and the Strategic Development of the Sector.

We are now in the third year of the FANS Youth Film Festival, which is designed and programmed by a team of young people and aims to

celebrate the films and interests of young filmmakers living in Scotland. There are two young people involved in the team from Aberdeen, who shmu Youth Development Worker, Lori is supporting, and there ten young people involved in total. They have been working remotely throughout

the COVID-19 lockdown to develop ideas for the festival in November. Originally the festival was going to be held in Aberdeen this year, but it is now looking like it will be completely online.

For more information visit filmaccess.scot/festival.



RSPB DOLPHINWATCH END AN UNUSUAL SEASON WITH BOOKABLE MARINE-THEMED ACTIVITIES.

RSPB Dolphinwatch reflect on how restrictions impacted the viewing season, bringing about a series of bookable activities.

At the time of writing this, stricter social gathering restrictions have been put in place across Scotland.

RSPB Dolphinwatch has run the seasonal viewing event programme at Torry Battery since 2013, with school visits, year-round community engagement and DolphinFest being introduced in 2018. Having reached the end of its funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, 2020 would have seen the final season of Dolphinwatch.

However, with lockdown, which saw events and activities in 2020 cancelled, our funders, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters Event Fund, were very supportive in enabling us to continue the project until April 2021. This meant we could start planning for both when restrictions allowed for small outdoor activities again this year and for what could be possible early next year.

Although past the peak season for dolphin watching, September and

October, and throughout winter, dolphins can still be seen from the iconic Torry Battery viewing point. So, the team put together a series of COVID secure activities which enabled families to get closer to the marine wildlife on their doorstep, learn more about the species in the area and take action to help protect it.

Dolphinwatch tours, family wildlife walks, rockpool explorers and beach cleans were all offered as small bookable activities with strict limits on numbers/ households and strict hygiene and distancing protocols.

The Dolphinwatch tours saw the best bits of our usual viewing wrapped up in a walk and talk style activity, with our most frequently asked questions being answered, top tips for spotting dolphins and our favourite facts being shared. The family wildlife walks aimed to excite families about the local wildlife in the area while learning fun facts about each species through games and activities. Rockpool explorers helped families explore the hidden world of rockpool creatures, discovering crabs, butterfish and anemones.

Finally, the beach clean held during Marine Conservation Society's Great

British Beach Clean week saw a small group support the vital citizen science data collection project along with cleaning a small area of the local beach for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

The Dolphinwatch team hope to continue holding some bookable activities throughout the winter months so keep an eye on Facebook.com/RSPBNorthEastScotland and rspb.org/dolphinwatch for more information. We are also hoping to use this experience to inform our planning of the postponed DolphinFest which we hope to run some time early next year and will undoubtedly be at least partially online.

Dolphinwatch is a project led by RSPB Scotland in partnership with Aberdeen City Council and Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC). It comprises Dolphinwatch Schools, Viewing and DolphinFest. Dolphinwatch is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters – celebrating the water that makes the country's landscape so special and loved.

Community Contacts

Aberdeen City Council Helpline - 0800 0304 713

ALCOHOL

Alcoholics Anonymous - 0800 9177 650

Drinkline - 0300 123 1110

CRIME

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

DRUGS

Alcohol and Drugs Action Helpline

01224 594700 or 07927192706

Narcotics Anonymous

0300 999 1212

DENTIST

Emergency - G-Dens - 111

DOCTORS

NHS 24 Emergency - 111

POLICE

Non-Emergency - 101

ELECTRICITY

If you have a power-cut - 105

GAS

Gas Emergency - 0800 111 999

WATER

Scottish Water Emergency - 0800 0778 778

HOUSING

Emergency Repairs - 03000 200 292

Family Planning - 0345 337 9900

Mental Health Aberdeen - 01224 573892

Breathing Space - 0800 838 587

Samaritans - Need to talk

01224 574 488 or 116 123

SOCIAL WORK

Adult Protection - 0800 731 5520

Joint Child Protection Team

01224 306877 or 0800 731 5520

VSA Carers Support - 01224 358631

Age Scotland - 0800 1244 222

CFINE 01224 596156

Financial Advice at CFINE 01224 531386

Pathways 01224 682 939

Citizens Advice 01224 586255

Torry Medical Practice

8am – 6pm

Contact: 0345 337 9977

Holburn Medical Practice

01224 400800

Local Councillors

Councillor Alan Donnelly

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Adonnelly@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Audrey Nicoll

0791707278

Audnicoll@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Christian Allard

Callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Yvonne Allan

07802332725

Yallan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

Domestic Abuse is not acceptable. It is not your fault and you are not alone. Domestic Abuse is when you are hurt, bullied or frightened by: Your husband or wife, your boyfriend or girlfriend, your current or ex-partner

Their behaviour can be; controlling, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

Help and support

There are services available to support you, and they are still open. You do not have to wait for an emergency to get help. Tell someone you trust or contact:

Police Scotland

If you are in danger and it is an emergency, call 999. For non-emergencies call 101

National Domestic Abuse Helpline Free and confidential advice. Open to all. 24 hours a day. Telephone: 0800 027 1234. Website: sdafmh.org.uk

Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381. Website: grampian-womens-aid.com

Rape Crisis Grampian Telephone: 01224 590932. Website: rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk