

torry's vision

Autumn 2013

Woodland Ranger
Alan's Page
Councillor Comment
The Wreck of the Oscar

Features

A 'TURTLE' SUCCESS
LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL UPDATE
NIGG BAY
HARBOUR EXTENSION PLAN



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Quiz Answers

1. Moscow
2. Copenhagen
3. Australia
4. Statue of Liberty
5. A Mountain to Japan
6. Rio de Janeiro
7. Mount Everest
8. The Nile
9. China
10. Hawaii
11. A clock in London
12. In Jerusalem
13. Egypt
14. Paris
15. The Isle Gran Banarca

Editorial

Welcome to the Torry's Vision Autumn Edition.

This magazine is put together by local residents of the Torry Community and the content inside the Torry's Vision is a fine representation of the activities and events which happen on a daily or weekly basis in our community.

We are a vibrant and creative village with a big heart. Torry's Vision is here to give a voice to the citizens of Torry. We all have something to say about our community – whether it's about bin collections, seagulls, traffic or more positive aspects like our artistic and musical talents. We now have an opportunity to ensure all of our community has an input.

If you would like to get involved in your community magazine or find out more, please contact Mary Clare at SHMU on...

Telephone (01224) 515013 · Email maryclare@shmu.org.uk
 Thanks for reading and enjoy the rest of your magazine.

Cover image - Mandy Roy

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Successful re-launch for Torry Sports Facility

A group of local volunteers held an open day at Torry Outdoor Sports Centre to re-launch the space and get the local community more involved in using the facilities.

The centre, situated on Victoria Road, has seen limited use in recent years despite having dedicated spaces for tennis, football, bowls, putting and a large pavilion.

On a sunny Saturday at the start of August, the team from Old Torry Community Centre hosted a family fun day, with Aberdeen FC mascot Angus the Bull kicking off proceedings at 10am. The morning session involved football coaching and in the afternoon there was tennis coaching and games, organised by Tennis Scotland and Torry-based former tennis professional and coach Keith Meisner.

New equipment was provided thanks to a generous donation from local firm PK Hydraulics, which paid for racquets, balls and other coaching equipment. There was a healthy turn-out too, with around 30 children and adults taking to the courts – assisted by a guest appearance from Sport Aberdeen’s mascot Murtle the Turtle, whose tennis skills need a bit of work, but showed promise. There were also stalls, a raffle, kids’ games and live music from Alana Wyness.

Big thanks for help on the day go to Sport Aberdeen, Aberdeen Football Club, Dee Football Club, Tennis Scotland, Station House Media Unit, local Police and the City Wardens.

Having proved there is plenty of interest in getting the outdoor centre up and running again,



Photos by Vicky Mitchell

the organising committee and now looking for people who would be interested in either joining the club or even volunteering to help run the space.

All enquiries can be directed to Old Torry Community Centre in person or via email at oldtorry@gmail.com – it’s our sports facility and together we can have a thriving sports club in the heart of the Torry community, so please do get in touch if you’d like to be involved.



Balnagask Community Centre

We have had a very eventful summer!

Children from our Junior Club have planted a memorial garden in remembrance of our Treasurer Nora. We had help from Aberdeen City Council Ranger Stephen Bly, who also helped the children make clay monsters. We all had a brilliant time!

We held a keep fit club for primary children at the centre and our youth group have been taking part in different activities at Transition Extreme and Segway Aberdeen as part of our team building exercises. These have been very successful projects and we plan on trying to keep these groups running in the future.

Our play scheme has been very busy and we have been to Stonehaven Open Air Pool, the Circus, Codona's and the Beach Leisure Pool. We have also had a puppet show and went to a concert at the Lemon Tree. We have had a great time. As well as our trips, we have had great fun bouncing on our bouncy castle; we have played games and taken part in lots of different activities!

We shall run another play scheme in the October school holidays, Monday to Thursday from 12.30pm – 3pm. For babies to p7 (under 5s must be accompanied by a responsible adult) it is a chance for the children to have lots of fun, take part in games and spooky activities. Admission is 60p and there is a snack bar for the children to have lunch - hope to see you there.

We hold many social events at our centre. On Wednesday 11th September we have a country and western afternoon as part of Aberdeen City Councils over 50s festival. Entertainment from Country Editions and refreshments are free. Doors open from 1.30pm.

On 10th November we shall be holding a family prize bingo (children must be 5 and over). We have bingo, bottle stall and raffles. Admission is adults 60p and children 30p - this includes refreshments. All proceeds go to our fund to buy Christmas gifts for the residents of Balnagask House and Torry Nursing Home to send to Santa. For more information about our social events please contact the centre.

We run clubs for all age groups from our Carers and Pre-school group to O.A.P bingo and a chat. Our junior clubs 0 – p7 run on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 6pm – 7.15pm. Our youth group p7 – s4 runs on a Monday from 7.30pm – 9pm. We have adult bingo on a Wednesday evening from 7pm. Our pre-school group is on a Thursday morning from 9.30am. We also have OAP Bingo on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Our timetable is always changing so please contact our centre for more information or visit - you will be very welcome!

We also hire out our hall on a Saturday and Sunday for children's parties. If you are interested please call Hazel for more information.

If you are interested in taking part in any of our clubs, play scheme or to hire the hall please call Hazel on 871206 or visit us at Balnagask Community Centre, we look forward to seeing you!

Balnagask Community Centre is situated at the bottom of Balnagask Road, behind Halfords.



HIDDEN TREASURES WITHIN TORRY:

BREAKING POINT

Written by - Mandy "The Quine fae Torry"



As a Quine growing up in Torry, what excited me most - and even now - was when I found hidden gems - and one of these is Breaking Point, a wee independent motorcycle shop tucked away down Cabels Lane, just off of Menzies Road. Blink and you may miss it.

Breaking Point, owned by Dek and George (pictured) since July 1996, initially set up the business as a 2nd hand motorcycle shop. The business quickly outgrew their original Torry premises, situated just down the lane from where they are now located, to become one of the largest stockists within Aberdeen as well as Scotland for used motorcycle parts for most makes and models.

Housed in over 30,000 sq feet, they carry a great selection of used bikes that will suit all budgets and pockets. Dek, George and their team - Gary, Joe and Eric - impart their drive, passion, knowledge and love for motorcycling.

First and foremost their philosophy is to match their clients to the motorcycles, as they feel it's important to recognize biking as a lifestyle choice, whatever the age, sex or background of individuals that walk through Breaking Point's door.

They want to be the shop where you would purchase not only your first, but your second or third motorcycle. As Dek mentioned, his love of motorcycles stemmed from an early age as his father was a mod with his motor scooter - however both George and Dek love their Harley motorcycles the most.

So what other services do Breaking Point offer within their workshop/shop? They do servicing and repairing of motorcycles including motorcrossers, those pre-MOT checks and MOTs, cylinder replating and reboring and other jobs from fork sealing to full engine rebuilds - they can tackle it all.

They are not only online but have a huge eBay site as well, so if they don't have your item in stock they can get it for you. Just drop off your motorcycle with Breaking Point in the morning and by the end of the day you can pick it up ready to head off into the sunset.

Also, there is no fuss or mess as Breaking Point will make sure that your old parts will be safely and properly disposal of as they are an environmentally-conscious business, supporting local companies to dispose of items such as old equipment, cardboard and even a boat (yes, a boat)!

Dek, George and the team love their location within Torry and play their part in the local community. They sponsor local youths through work experience each year in which the youngsters get a chance to experience all aspects of the workshop and shop (including how to make a proper cup of tea!). This will hopefully inspire them to either go to College to study Mechanics or to seek employment as an apprentice within another motorcycle workshop. Further to their commitment within Aberdeen / and Aberdeenshire, they are also sponsors of the Moped Race within the Grampian Motor Convention (organised by the Bon Accord Motorcycle Club) which is held every year for those lovers of the all types of motorcycles.

To summarise, as a Quine fae Torry, I must say that my time spent with Dek, George, Gary, Joe and Eric has been very memorable. Breaking Point is definitely a wee hidden gem that I would recommend to anyone that is looking for a business that not only presents knowledge of their product but the passion as well - a very rare commodity in today's environment of big business!



Hello From Your Woodlands Community Ranger

Hope you have all enjoyed the summer weather we have been enjoying over the last few months and getting out and about!

The Tullos Volunteer Ranger team and I have been busy on Tullos Hill and in the community of Torry itself.

Before I talk about all of that I am pleased to say, after only a few months on the ground, Tullos Hill and the community of Torry have received a "Highly Commended" classification in New Native Woods category of Scotland's Finest Wood Awards. As part of the nationwide creation of 60 "Special Diamond Woods", Tullos Hill received this classification due in part to the management of the site but mainly as a result of the focus to use the site as a resource for the community of Tullos.

This was based on my discussions with the judge (who spent 3 hours on site), detailing the groups worked with and those I look to engage with. It was clear that I was passionate about developing the site for nature but also as a resource to the community of Torry and Aberdeen City as a whole; if not, what is the point? Cllr Morrison, vice-convenor of Aberdeen City Council's Housing and Environment Committee, attended the ceremony at the Royal Highland Show on behalf of the Council. Well done to everyone involved (including the Volunteer Ranger Team), long may it continue.

Since the last edition of Torry's Vision, there have been a variety of activities by groups on Tullos Hill and here are some to name

but a few:

Cornhill Young People's Department have had 2 sessions where they worked on our emergency bivouac, developed the knot skills on the tarpaulin shelter and spent some time sketching and painting our activity.

A new Momentum "Energiser" group came onsite (sorry I couldn't do another session!) to make an emergency shelter, remove more litter and brew up using our storm kettles.

The first public event, "A Woody Experience", had families making natural shelters, natural art and brewing up for their break. They also checked out the Skirts & Tails group's willow shelter onsite and were very impressed.

The Tullos Volunteer Ranger Group, who meet on a Tuesday (and work on Tullos Hill or with any community facing project) have been very busy. Here's what we got up to:-

Deeside Family Centre - removed 2 tonnes of soil/plant material in the quad and then hand shovelled/barrowed in 3 tonnes of woodchip. Looking nice and tidy now!

Tullos Primary School Nursery - made 2 willow frames for throwing tarpaulin over, extended/formalised the digging pit and installed a set of seats for story/break time.

Greenwell Place - removed old rotten steps and installed new "rustic" steps which will improve access for all potential users. Having defined the path, they installed about 50ft of timber edging in order to prevent

the bank from collapsing and increasing access. This will continue through the year.

Tullos Hill - mapping all the new paths to double check against the development plan AND so as I know where they are (so I dinna get lost!!!).

If you are interested in joining the group or simply want to chat about it please contact me on stephenbly@aberdeencity.gov.uk or leave a message on 01224 897 400.

In addition to this I have worked at the Old Torry Community Centre, delivering a planter making session at Yak 'n' Mak. Thoroughly enjoyed it... especially the cuppa!!

I was lucky enough to be invited to talk about Torry/Tullos Hill at the St Fitticks Rotary Club. The presentation was well received with the main comments being "I never knew all that was there"...representing across the city for Torry!!! Hopefully taking them on a walk next year.

With the outdoor learning space coming together I hope to work with the local schools and groups to deliver Forest School/John Muir Award/Outdoor Learning sessions there so please feel free to contact me if interested. I am also interested in any local artists who would like to go for an inspirational walk or any local walking group...really... anyone interested in using Tullos Hill to add value to what they are doing...contact me and we can have a cuppa to chat about it!!Contact me at stephenbly@aberdeencity.gov.uk or 01224 897 400.

Image - Paul McDonald

Nigg Bay Harbour expansion plan

With the Harbour Board's expansion plan at Nigg Bay, more and more are wondering what this will mean for Torry residents and the rest of Aberdeen.

This will be a huge civil engineering project - but who exactly will benefit from losing this jewel in Aberdeen's coastal crown? It's fair to say that most Aberdonians now accept that for our City and Shire to prosper in the coming years, sacrifices must be made - but at what cost to the future generations that live in this proud city? There are two other sites being considered by the Harbour Board - one at North Beach and the other south of Cove Bay. However, these sites were deemed financially unviable. The old saying "to make money you need to spend money", for some reason, doesn't seem to apply here. If the expansion plan does get the go-ahead, what will it mean for Torry residents? Because

effectively Torry as a community will be completely surrounded by the harbour, Altens and East Tullos industrial estates - not forgetting the sewage works. Will there be apprenticeships for local youngsters and employment opportunities for Aberdonians, or will the work be contracted out to the lowest bidder? Let's hope good news will be forthcoming from the Harbour Board, Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Government - as far as jobs are concerned, only time will tell. So once again Torry residents are being asked to endure the increased traffic and noise pollution, as well as losing access to Nigg Bay, which thousands of Aberdonians have enjoyed over the years - whether it be for wildlife

watching, angling or family days out surfing or paragliding. Hopefully the Harbour Board will put our fears at rest over the coming months, as in all fairness big civil engineering projects in Aberdeen either don't happen or get bogged down in lengthy expensive court cases, and what Torry residents don't want is a beautiful natural bay enjoyed by all - free of charge - off-limits to everyone. If cruise liners and other large ships are to come to Aberdeen, then let's hope the Harbour Board and City Council will make sure that all Aberdonians benefit from the planned new facilities and the prosperity that it will bring to Aberdeen.

Torry Lighthouse Festival 2013: A Great Coo' for Torry!

Over 1700 people came along to the first ever Torry Lighthouse Festival held on Saturday 29th June at Tullos playing fields. Hundreds of local families and friends enjoyed the sunny afternoon and showed their tremendous support to all the performers who proved that Torry definitely has got talent!

Over 1700 people came along to the first ever Torry Lighthouse Festival held on Saturday 29th June at Tullos playing fields. Hundreds of local families and friends enjoyed the sunny afternoon and showed their tremendous support to all the performers who proved that Torry definitely has got talent! Harry Butler (Original 106 Radio), who kindly MC'd the event for us said: "I'll certainly be back next year to host the day, if you'll have me..." On the main stage, more than 15 acts performed throughout the afternoon keeping the crowds thoroughly entertained. Dancers, singers and comedians were all amongst those showcasing their talents. Sarah Allison commented - "It was a great day. Hopefully we get stuff like this in Torry again!"

Around 30 stall holders attended

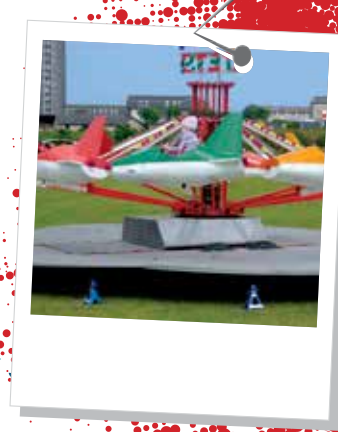
the Lighthouse Festival to provide the revellers with a variety of fun, food, information, advice, local consultations and a few freebies! Burgers and Arbroath Smokies proved to be popular with the crowds as there were queues most of the afternoon. The Business Community, both in and around Torry, showed a fantastic response by helping to provide essential funding, equipment and supplies to support the event and help make it happen. David Fryer, secretary of the Torry Community Council said: "Good to see so many folk enjoying a fab day out. This must be the beginning... watch this space!"

The children and young people appeared to be really enjoying the free pony rides, climbing wall and face-painting. Heather Whyte from ACC Communities Team said: "I thought it was fantastic

day and I spoke to a number of kids who told me that they had never even touched a horse before, let alone ridden one!"

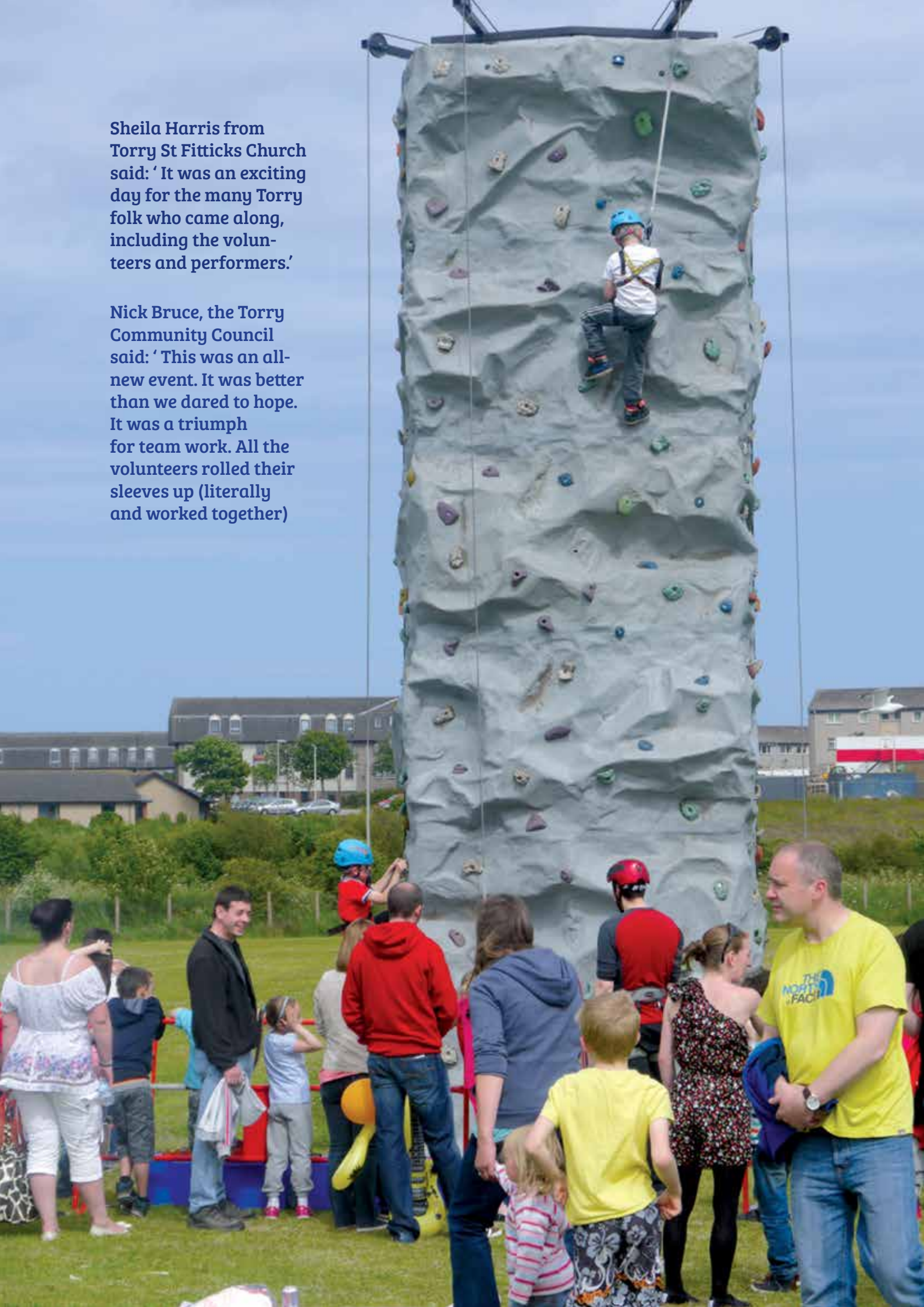
This event could not have happened without the organisation team with representatives from Torry Community Council, Police Scotland, Aberdeen City Council - Communities Team, Torry St. Fitticks Church and Safer Aberdeen.

It is anticipated by event organisers and the local community that the Lighthouse Festival will return again in 2014. If you are interested in helping to organise Torry Lighthouse Festival 2014 please contact Torry Community Council by email: torry.lighthouse@aol.co.uk



Sheila Harris from Torry St Fitticks Church said: ' It was an exciting day for the many Torry folk who came along, including the volunteers and performers.'

Nick Bruce, the Torry Community Council said: ' This was an all-new event. It was better than we dared to hope. It was a triumph for team work. All the volunteers rolled their sleeves up (literally and worked together)



Alan's Page

Memories

Memories of Torry

How many of you remember Walker Road Youth Club? How many of you went to Diana's Café on Sinclair Road?

On Dominic's in Craig Place, remember playing your favourite records on the jukebox? Remember the girls - weren't they beautiful?

It was great to be young then. It was in Dominic's I met my first girl Margaret, we've been married for forty-eight years. Times change but the memories live forever.

Old Torry Memories

Not many people living today know of Old Torry - maybe just a few older people and distant memories written in books. I'm not sure when Old Torry came into being, maybe 13th or 14th Century - who knows.

There were two Torrys - Upper and Nether. It was Nether Torry that became Old Torry in the early 18th Century.

The Torry Lighthouse Festival

The Torry Lighthouse Festival was held at Tullos Playfields on the 29th of June. It was a great success.

There were many acts, mostly young singers and dancers. The oldest act was a seventy-three year old, which was me.

There were hundreds of people there and we were blessed with a beautiful day. It was our own T in the Park. I've never seen so many happy people.

Here's looking to next year.

Remember Ogilvie's rowing boat, where we would take the girls up the River Dee i always got cramp and had to be towed back when i went with my girl she had to take me back

World Quiz

Where is the Kremlin?

What City's Harbour has a Mermaid Statue?

Where is Ayres Rock?

What stands at the entrance to New York Harbour?

What is Fuji Yama?

Where is there a statue of Jesus on a mountain?

Where is the biggest mountain in the world?

Where is the longest river?

What is the most populated country?

What used to be called the Sandwich Island?

What is Big Ben?

Where is the Dome of the Rock?

Where are the Pyramids?

Where is the Eiffel Tower?

Answers on page 2

The Word

in the beginning was the word and the word was with God

For the word was Jesus and he became man and he died for us

For he knew our suffering, that's why we are special

We are one with God and he is our eternal father.

Oor Torry and Oor Centre

Oor Torry is just marvellous: it's a wonderful wee place
Wi awfa friendly folk in it wi big smiles on their face.
There's just nae ither site in toon that I'd like to ca' my hame
Although it seems some foreign folk have gone and done the same.

We've got oor ane great special tongue - of that there is nae doot -
And if ye canna understand us: we couldna care a hoot.
We've got schools and we've got churches and if oor luck's right in,
Then come October o' this year, we can a' go for a swim.

A wa'k aroon the Bay, oh gosh - that's heaven jist for me.
The view, it is spectacular; the air is clean and free
But there's something I must tell you, so don't you get me wrong:
We really are quite infamous for oor horrible Torry Pong.

The lighthouse, it is tall and braw and as white as white can be:
A sure sign of the danger for a' the boats at sea.
It's there to mak' quite certain that they're safe to land
For a lang good nicht's sleep efter a pint in their hand.

There's anither thing we're famous for and loved by quite a few
A lighthouse on a paper bag, now does that gi ye a clue?
Spread wi butter, jam or syrup but, nae a combination o' a' three
Yes! It's an Aiken's rowie, fae the bakehoose in Glenbervie!

I mind fin I was young and went to the swings doon at the Dee
But now it's been updated and it's Billy's gym for me.
The Duthie Park's nae far awa an' it disna tak me minutes
To see the beauty o' this place wi God's creation in it.

Tullos Community Centre is a smashin' place to be -
I've done painting, I've done drawing and even played the Wii.
Now Graeme is encouraging me to do some creative writing
Along wi' ither in my class - now isn't that exciting!
The gym is there to keep me fit and there's ither things I've tried:
Belly Dancing, Zumba and even a bit of Jazzercise.
But my favourite is on a Monday morn when I can do Tai Chi
I think a' that's nae bad at a' for a Torry O.A.P.

There's loads o' ither things I've learned, too numerous to mention.
The classes have been mostly free 'cos you see I'm on the pension.
Craftwork, cooking and massage I've done to name jist bit a few
I've even jined in wi the Tullos kids and done some signing too.

In the past six years since coming here, I've made many new freens,
And the memories that I've built up go right back to my teens.
For it's here I met my Jimmy, he's the love of my whole life
And I bless the day he knelt to say: 'will you become my wife?'

So ye see great things can happen, if you'll only enter here.
Just open the door and ring the bell and sit in a cafe cheer.
Hae a blether, an' hae fun an' a, do whatever ye want to do,
But there's one thing sure, there will always be, a welcome here for you.

Betty Thomson

TEA BREAK READING - 30 SECOND TIP BITS

*Written by Mandy "The
Quine fae Torry"*

A wee read whilst you have
your tea break:

Need help studying? Study for
30-50 minutes and then
take a 10 minute break.
Repeat for success!

For those that are Job Hunting
- when at job interviews you
are always asked if you have
any questions, try asking:
"Is there anything about
my application that
concerns you?"

Run out of Shake n' Vac?
Why not sprinkle cinnamon
on the carpet? Yes you read it
right - the room will smell like
cinnamon after you vacuum.

Don't know what to get
someone for their birthday?
Have them make three
guesses of "what you got
them." BOOM! Three things
he/she wants.

Did you know: Hotels often
keep a large bin of left-behind
phone chargers if you've
forgotten yours!





Image - Renée Slater

Aberdeen Against The Bedroom Tax

A Personal View - by Renee Slater

The 'In-Tent On Action In Aberdeen Against The Bedroom Tax' in Union Terrace Gardens on Saturday August 24th attracted around 50 people along their with sleeping bags and tents. It was a part of a nationwide sleep-out protest happening in 50 cities and towns throughout the UK. There were also a group of people at the Edward VII statue on Union Street handing out leaflets.

This action taken by the people of Aberdeen who are concerned about the effects of the Bedroom Tax on the most vulnerable members of our society. The heavy rain unfortunately was a constant all day but it didn't dampen our spirit to show that we are against this legislation. There were people from Torry at the protest affected directly by the Bedroom Tax and others who know of neighbours and friends with direct experience. There will be more actions in the pipeline in the near future with a fundraising event in October. Our protests are a message to both Aberdeen City Council and the UK Coalition Government: Do not be complacent – your legislation WILL force families onto the streets!

This government wants tenants in Housing Associations & Council Housing (i.e. not private) who are

on Housing Benefit to downsize to smaller properties. There aren't the smaller properties for families to move into. This situation is common throughout the UK. One of our members in Aberdeen Against The Bedroom Tax has acquired information from ACC on the actual waiting figures regarding one bedroom properties in the city.

There are currently 3,855 people on the waiting list for one bedroom properties, but a mere 89 one bedroom properties available to rent – this really does not add up and shows the scale of the problem. How can they take money from people without offering an alternative place to live. It's not fair to move the goalposts after someone has moved in.

Other examples exist which show the problems with the legislation.

One of our members has an autistic son and has been told by Aberdeen City Council that she must leave her 3 bedroom house in Torry to move into 3 bedroom premises in Manor Avenue. There is no logic here. Apart from the massive upheaval it will bring for her and her child, she still has to pay the bedroom tax, only it will be without family and friends' support.

We have one major obstacle to overcome. We are faced with government propaganda machine that brands ordinary people on benefits as scroungers. They have a 'Jeremy Kyle' attitude to claimants that assumes that 'everyone is on the take'.

Discretionary Housing Payment is to help those who have paid for the Bedroom Tax from their general benefits - money that is used for food, clothing, travel etc.

Discretionary Housing Payments are worth only a small fraction of the total cut in housing benefit and are often only temporary, meaning problems can go unresolved. In Aberdeen, the City Council has decided not to repay the money to people affected but to add the cash to their Council Tax.

The system is creating a viscous cycle of debt for some of the most vulnerable in our society. Many people who have to pay the Bedroom Tax are now in arrears with their rent. Once tenants are in arrears they are excluded from the exchange list and therefore cannot move to smaller

properties – which would be one way to bring down their costs and thus get out of debt.

So charging this tax is actually counter-productive and is forcing people to make choices that nobody should have to make. This legislation has forced people to juggle paying rent and buying food for their children. Many have resorted to food banks.

We want to send a message to the government that you cannot pick on the poor to pay for the mistakes of bankers and politicians. The poor and vulnerable of the UK did not cause the current financial difficulties and while the

government may think it's an easy way to look tough and save money, we will come together to say this tax is utterly unfair and we demand it be scrapped. Thanks to everybody who was involved in the recent event – we will continue to campaign together with more events coming soon.

For more information, contact:

Renée Slater
Phone - 07582419674

Meetings will be on Tuesdays.
Venue to be arranged.
Phone for details

Councillors Comments

Cnclr Yvonne Allan

Hi Folks. I hope you all have had a lovely summer. The kids have certainly seen the sunshine this year.

The events over the summer all went well. From the lighthouse festival to all the varies summer events in the community centres and the churches. We also had the come and try day at the Torry Outdoor sports centre which was a big success and hopefully we will see more use of the facility as a result of the come and try day. The many volunteers who took part is all the events over the summer deserve our grateful thanks for all their hard work.

The St Fitticks Arts Festival (at the time of writing this has still to take place) so I wish it well and

hope that the Torry Folks give it all there support and it is a very successful festival. The outline programme certainly looks exciting with lots of hands on opportunities.

I am pleased to see a different kind of activity going on in various part of Torry. That Is all the house upgrading that is going on. From new windows, outside wall clading and general works in the area. We are trying hard to improve housing standards in Torry.

The upgrading of Tullos Swimming pool is coming along with them now putting in the new tiles in the pool. Keeping our fingers crossed that there are now problems with this we should

hit an opening latter this year. Once this happens we should have a good facility for the folks of Torry to use and can I thank you all for the support that you have given for this project and for your patience in the waiting for it all to happen.

The big noise issue is still on going and I have been to meetings with the Stirling people to see how we can progress this very worthwhile idea.

All the best for the autumn and here's hoping the winter is not to bad.

Councillor **Yvonne Allan**
Tel Home: 01224 987425
Tel Work: 01224 523013

WAR VETERANS ORAL HISTORY DOCUMENTARY

Over the summer our young volunteers and trainees have been busy with summer school, AIYF and our Positive Transitions course which runs throughout the year. One of their projects was to team up with Saint Fitticks Art Festival to create a documentary. Our young people interviewed veterans from the Gordons Highlanders and also spoke to other veterans and 'war babies' from Aberdeen to find out

their stories. Many of the conflicts spoken about happened long before some of our young people parents and even grandparents were born. Our young people found it fascinating to learn of the experiences the veterans had been through. The film will be shown as part of the 50+ Festival at the Belmont Cinema on Tuesday 10th September. www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/50plus

BAND OF THE WEEK

Here at shmuFM, we're a central part of Aberdeen's music scene and are always looking to help promote local bands and musicians. We use our radio station, website and social media to share local music with thousands of people – and if you're a solo artist or group then we could feature you as our Band of the Week.

If you'd like to be considered, then get in touch with Stevie by emailing sound@shmu.org.uk or give him a call in the office on 01224 515013.

What you'll need is to have at least three songs recorded in MP3 format so that we can play them on the radio.

Many of our former Band of the Week musicians have gone on to be played by BBC Radio 1 and 6Music, had albums shooting up the iTunes Chart or, in the case of Amber Wilson, joined Bombay Bicycle Club and toured the world!

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.

SHMUSOUND AUTUMN SESSIONS

Our music projects here at SHMU are coming along very well and we have lots of exciting work planned over the next few months. The recording studio has been in full operation since late last year and we've seen a lot of young people taking part in our Creative Scotland Youth Music Project. It is open to young people from Torry aged from 14-25. What we offer is expert music tuition and the chance to record some tracks in our state-of-the-art studio – and it's ABSOLUTELY FREE! We also hire our studio out and we provide a sound engineer. We can cater for everything from a solo acoustic act to electronica, a massive choir or jazz band.

For more info on anything related to music at SHMU or the recording studio, email Stevie Kearney on sound@shmu.org.uk or phone 01224 515013.

You can also check out our lovely new website by visiting www.shmu.org.uk/sound

The Wreck of the Oscar and Girdleness Lighthouse

The wreck of the Oscar was one of the final tipping points in creating opinion in favour of getting a lighthouse erected on the coast close to Aberdeen's harbour.



The need for a lighthouse was a long standing one, but it was given more impetus by the series of harbour improvements that were being carried out by the Harbour Commissioners in the early 19th century. They sought to improve navigation and create a more commodious harbour that could deal with the needs of modern shipping.

There had been earlier lighthouses in Aberdeen. From the 1490s there are references to lights aiding navigation on Aberdeen's Castlehill. By April of 1566 the council ordered to "make, repair and uphold a great lamp where the same was before on the east gable of St Ninian's chapel [Castlehill]...with three great flaming lights to burn continually there in the winter season from daylight unto night, and to begin upon the first day of September and continue unto the last day of March." This was to be paid for by a tax weighted on imports and exports - the collector of which was appointed to be John Tullydeff, and the Keeper of the Light - Sir John Wrycht.

The wreck of whaling ship the Oscar in April 1813 prompted the Harbour Commissioners and the Shipmasters' Society to petition the Commissioners of Northern Lights. The Commissioners replied after their meeting in July

1813 stating that they did not agree to erect a lighthouse near Aberdeen Harbour because "the harbour from its present situation on almost a straight line of coast, at the entrance of a rapid river and exposed to the whole Fetch of the German Ocean can never be so improved as to become the general resort of shipping in a storm..."

Despite this negative answer, the desire for a lighthouse was unabated in Aberdeen. After more negotiations and petitions Lord Provost Hadden of Aberdeen attended a Commissioner of Northern Lighthouses meeting in January 1830, wherein he made special representations for Aberdeen and presented a petition written by ship-owners and merchants of Aberdeen. This appeal was successful, and the Commissioners set out to erect a lighthouse.

"The light was first lit at sunset on the 15th of October 1833"

In Aberdeen, the Harbour Commissioners appointed a sub-committee to investigate where a lighthouse might be best situated. In June the sub-committee erected several flag-staffs along the Torry coast and hired a tug-boat. They went to sea in the boat to see which flagstaff was most visible - the one at Girdleness was felt to be the most visible.

In July 1830 the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses applied for ten imperial acres of ground at Girdleness, to erect the

lighthouse and a smaller piece of ground at Torry pier for a storehouse. The Council agreed and stipulated that there was to be no quarrying near the site, save for quarrying for stones for the lighthouse itself. Robert Stevenson was appointed and work was finally set to begin

The lighthouse was built by an Aberdeen contractor, John Gibb, in 1833 and was designed by Robert Stevenson, grandfather of the author Robert Louis Stevenson.

The lighthouse when completed had a new double-light system, showing two lights from the same tower - one above the other. This is not entirely uncommon in lighthouses and it meant that the lower light could be seen if the top was shrouded in mist or vice-versa. The lower light was discontinued in 1890 - however its corbelled gallery can still be seen today. The light was first lit at sunset on the 15th of October 1833.

The main light was altered in 1847 and the old lantern, which was then considered too small, was transferred to Inchkeith. In 1996 the original cast-iron lantern was found - it is now property of the National Museums of Scotland. In 1860 Girdleness was visited by the Astronomer Royal, Professor - and later Sir - George Airy, who described it as "the best lighthouse that I have seen".

The light was automated in 1991 and today it remains one of the most striking landmarks in Aberdeen and a strong testimony to Aberdeen's maritime heritage and future.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous **0845 769 7555**
Drinkline **0800 7 314 314**

Benefits

Benefits Agency Advice Line **01224 522709**

Crime

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

Drugs

FRANK – National Helpline **0800 776 600**

Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens **01224 558 140**

Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency **08454 242 424**

Electricity

If you have a Power-Cut **0800 300 999**

Family Planning

Square 13, Support & Advice **0845 337 99 00**

Gas

Gas Emergency **0800 111 999**

Housing

Emergency Repairs **08456 080 929**

Police

Non-Emergency **0845 600 5700**

Samaritans

Need to talk **01224 574 488**

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team **01224 522055**

Emergency Out-Of-Hours **01224 693 936**

Young Carers

Support & Information Service **01224 358639**

Water

Scottish Water Emergency **0845 600 8855**

Alkohol

Anonimowi Alkoholicy **0845 769 7555**
Problemy z alkoholem **0800 7 314 314**

Zapomoga

Agencja doradztwa w zapomogach **01224 522709**

Przestępstwa

Przeciwdziałanie przestępstwom **0800 555 111**

Narkotyki

FRANK – narodowa linia pomocy **0800 776 600**

Dentysta

Nagłe wypadki **01224 558 140**

Lekarze

Nagłe wypadki **08454 242 424**

Elektryczność

W wypadku odcięcia energii elektrycznej **0800 300 999**

Planowanie rodziny

Square 13 wsparcie i doradztwo **0845 337 99 00**

Gaz

Nagłe wypadki **0800 111 999**

Pomoc mieszkaniowa

Nagłe naprawy **01224 480 281**

Centrum pomocy **0845 608 0929**

Policja

Zgłaszanie przypadków nie wymagających nagłej interwencji **0845 600 5700**

Samarytanie

Telefon dla potrzebujących rozmowy **01224 574 488**

Praca społeczna

Dyżur pracowników społecznych **01224 522055**

Młodzi opiekunowie osób **01224 639 936**

starszych i niepełnosprawnych

Pomoc w karierze

Wsparcie i informacje **01224 358639**

Woda

Nagłe wypadki **0845 600 8855**