

torry's vision

Spring 2015

Cover Image: Chaz Milne

Street Sport
Torry Academy
Community Woodland Ranger

Features

TORRY AGAINST THE STENCH

LASTEST UPDATE

BIG NOISE

EXCITING MUSIC PROJECT COMES TO TORRY

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Editorial

Welcome to the spring edition of Torry's Vision. In this issue we have an update on the Torry Against the Stench campaign, as well as exclusive interviews regarding the closure of Torry Academy and news on the upcoming Sistema Project.

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 the Torry area and would like to come along to the editorial meetings or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at SHMU on 515013 or you can email her on laura.young@shmu.org.uk.

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website www.shmu.org.uk then click the 'PRESS' option.



Supported by





DENIS LAW LEGACY TRUST STREETSPORT

StreetSport is a 'diversionary tactics initiative' based at RGU: SPORT in Aberdeen that actively reduces instances of youth crime and anti-social behaviour. Established in 2006, the project uses sports and other creative activities to provide alternatives for young people during the evenings by deploying mobile activity arenas into locations throughout the city, taking activities directly to young people within their own communities. The overall aim of the project is to 'reduce instances of youth crime and anti-social behaviour; promote health and wellbeing and encourage inclusivity through sport, physical activity and creative endeavour'.

StreetSport currently has 5 active sessions per week in Aberdeen City; RGU:Sport, Bedford, Torry, Garthdee and Northfield.



The Torry session is situated at Torry Academy from 7.30-9pm and attracts on average over 25 participants per session. Due to the demand for StreetSport, in the near future two further deployment areas will be set up in the Torry to accommodate for as many young people between the ages of 10-18 years old in the area. These areas are yet to be confirmed, however, discussions are taking place with schools and members of the local community to determine the best sites for deployment.

'Positive Pathways' – Torry

In partnership with Aberdeen Asset Management, the Streetsport Denis Law Legacy Trust (DLLT) has created an exciting opportunity for young people (16+) from the Torry area to upscale their qualifications and CV in a specific profession or sport. The 'Positive Pathway' Project will run for a total of two years for each participant and provide an extensive range of courses and qualifications.

Streetsport will fund participants on selected courses and a course based on their chosen profession



or sport. In return, participants must complete a minimum of 50 hours voluntary work in the first year and a minimum of 60 hours voluntary work in the second year of the project.

The pathway is aimed at individuals between 16-19 years old and is situated in the Torry area. Each person must be either unemployed or involved in learning, training or work opportunities with future aspirations to develop their career.

StreetSport plan to open an application window for interested applicants in August 2015, however, this date is still to be confirmed.

What goes on at Old Torry Community Centre?

Don't know? Read on to find out!

From our Parent and Toddler Group on Mondays to our Fitness Frolics Group on Wednesdays, a chair based exercise group for older people (our youngest lady is 85), we have something for everyone.

Fancy learning a new language?

Our Spanish for adults group on a Wednesday or our Spanish for kids group on a Friday could be just for you.

For the artistic, we have an art group on Wednesday mornings and in the evening we have our Yak 'n Mak group where you can knit, crochet or sew while you chat away amongst yourselves.

Looking for something more energetic? Try line dancing on a Thursday or Zumba Gold on a Friday.

We also have yoga on a Tuesday and Tai Chi on a Monday.

The Torry Heritage Group meets every second Friday to share memories, stories and photographs of Torry, old and new, over a cuppa or you can join the Granite City Photography group which meets every second Thursday.

For more information on any of the groups and how to hire the centre for a party or other event contact us at:

Old Torry Community Centre
2 Abbey Place, Torry, Aberdeen
AB11 9QH 01224 894925
www.oldtorry.org.uk/
contactus@oldtorry.org
www.facebook.com/oldtorrycommunitycentre
www.twitter.com/oldtorry



Torry Heritage Book

Following the loss of most of Old Torry in the 1970s, something needed to be done to record the history and heritage of Torry, its buildings, industries and people. The Torry Heritage Group was set up to bring the idea to reality.

Following the wealth of material and information the Heritage Group received from people, both local and further afield - we even have an Italian connection - it was suggested we could possibly produce a pictorial book. An editorial group was set up and, with the promise of financial backing from the Torry Development Trust, we decided to go ahead with the book.

We felt this was particularly important following the decision to demolish part of Torry's granite heritage, Victoria Road School opened in 1878 and Craiginches Prison opened in 1891.

We are looking for original photographs of people and

places relating to Torry; school photographs, documents and any other items people may feel to be of interest.

If you have anything you feel might be suitable contact Pat Robertson at Old Torry Community Centre (01224 894925), email contactus@oldtorry.org.uk or pop in to the centre with it.

Anything handed in will be copied and returned to the owner. Not every item will be used but will be recorded on the Heritage Group Website and may be used if we decide to produce other books.

Balnagask Community Centre

Balnagask Community Centre has a new group starting which is aimed at vulnerable and isolated adults. This free group will run on Fridays and transport is available for people who wish to attend.

Our youth groups have been running since last year and are terrific. We have 98 young people attending each week so come along and get involved in our sessions. The groups meet on a Monday and Friday between 7:30 and 9pm and entry costs 60p.

The junior kids group runs every weekday, except for Wednesday

evenings, between 6 and 7:15pm.

If you are a carer and fancy a wee break on a Monday morning, come along to the centre between 9:30 and 11:30am.

Our mother and toddler group meets on a Thursday morning between 9:30 and 11:30am. This costs £2 for one child and snacks are provided.

On weekends, the centre is available for hire for children's parties. For more information about any of these classes or to book the centre for an event give Hazel a call on 01224 871206.

CFINE

Community Foods Initiative North East, or CFINE, is set to re-open their Community Food Outlet, within the Deeside Family Centre, in Girdleness Road.

The outlet will be open on a Thursday morning for a couple

of hours selling fresh fruit and vegetables and healthy snacks at affordable prices to parents and those using the Centre.

Why not pop in from 11.30am on a Thursday to find out more?



Move More Aberdeen, a new physical activity programme for people affected by cancer, took its first steps with walking groups in the second week of January 2015.

Five walkers, plus one buggy, were accompanied by the trained volunteer walk leaders in three venues across Aberdeen: The Aberdeen community libraries at Torry, Northfield and Tillydrone gave us a warm welcome, and the weather was kind too! The sun shone and the ice stayed away allowing all the groups to go ahead as planned.

People from various walks of life, pardon the pun, enjoyed the activity, the chat and a cuppa. There were people with breast cancer, testicular cancer, prostate cancer and lymphoma represented, some of whom had completed treatment and some still undergoing treatment. All found the walks fun and beneficial.

There are health walks running in Torry. They leave from Torry Library on Victoria Road at 6pm every Monday. Other classes will be starting in the area soon! In addition to those in attendance at the walking groups, 5 other people have benefitted from the provision of the 'Get Active Feel Good' home exercise diary and DVD and hope to join one of the Move More Aberdeen groups in the future. In the coming weeks and months the programme aims to help more people affected by cancer get active and feel good. The range of activities on offer will also expand into gentle movement classes, circuits based exercise classes and gardening.



Torry Development Trust

The newly-formed Torry Development Trust responded to a strong local view that Christmas lights would help brighten up Victoria Road and set about raising the funds to do this. With help from many folk in Torry including local shopkeepers, a donation from our bank, and a grant from the City Council, we were able to install nine lights this year. We plan to match this in 2015.

Thanks to everyone, we now own the lights and this is a base to make the lights an annual feature in Torry. You can help and support the Torry Development Trust by becoming a member, liking us on Facebook and following us to Twitter. All details are on our new website (www.torrydevelopmenttrust.org.uk).

We plan to hold a Community Day at Old Torry Community Centre on Saturday 25th April from 11-2pm to help bring together all the community organisations working in Torry, so please come along.

Thanks to local folk and local businesses who have contributed to the funds for our new Christmas lights!

Torry Community Council Reports Back - Feb 2015

Torry Community Council is a statutory consultee on matters to do with planning and key issues affecting Torry involving a wide range of organisations that have a remit or desire to work in Torry. We talk to and work with all organisations and groups that can bring benefits for Torry and enjoy good relationships with the local police and all the city councillors elected for Torry.

2014 was a very busy year for the Community Council and here is a brief summary of issues we have been dealing with:

Torry Academy

We still await formal replies to a long list of questions put to the Education Department by ourselves and parent councils on the decision taken last year to close Torry Academy. Despite being informed that closure of the Academy was part of the plan to improve educational achievement and required for securing funding from the Scottish Government for a new Academy for the South of the city, there is still no planning application or programme for this development which is now to be open by August 2017.

Overcrowding in our local schools

We await a reply from the Council regarding the chronic over-crowding in both primary schools and have stated our opposition to dual zoning as this short-sighted policy does nothing to address the lack of investment in our children over many years.

Sistema Project

Community Council members and local parents are getting involved in this project and will make up the Project Board. We await further developments of this new and innovative music project, set to roll out this year

SITA

We are closely following the proposal to put a waste recycling building at Altens, but are more

than concerned about a proposed Energy from Waste Plant (aka an incinerator) being put in to East Tullos. We will report on any proposal at the next Community Council meeting but also need to know your views on this.

Harbour Developments

We are maintaining an open dialogue with representatives of Aberdeen Harbour Board and held a special open meeting in November to enable a wider audience to attend and raise concerns. We currently await a further meeting to discuss proposals they develop, as this will affect all the roads south of the Dee which are currently heavily congested. We are very aware that the environmental and social impact will be greatest on Torry and that there are many views on any proposals to develop the Bay of Nigg. We will scrutinise any proposals very carefully, and we will consult Torry residents before making any final comments.

Victoria Road School

Despite a strong campaign waged by the Torry Heritage Group to retain the fine granite buildings for future use, which included a 2300 strong petition and delegations led by local folk, the City Council finally decided to sell the two sites to a major house-builder. There was a 2300 strong petition and delegations led by local folk. We now have to wait to be consulted on any future planning applications - which almost certainly means that the all the buildings will be swept away.

Supporting local groups

We do have an annual grant and will consider making a small funding donation once a written request with your proposal is received. We will always consider what help we can give to support local groups.

Road safety and traffic management

We are most concerned about speeding cars through Torry,

heavy lorries on our residential streets and bad parking outside schools. We are to meet Roads Officials soon to discuss practical measures that can be put in place to make roads and pavements safer for everyone.

Former prison site at Craiginches

We have raised a number of concerns regarding development options for this site and currently await a statement from the Scottish Prison Service on their plans and the likely timescale for development. The Community Council wants formal assurance on road safety and traffic management matters, use of materials, scale and the impact of any development on our local schools. We have consistently maintained that the granite and architectural features should be saved for future re-use, and wait to hear of any proposals from a future developer.



Keeping in touch

We have a new website (www.torrycommunitycouncil.org.uk) and this is now linked to Facebook and Twitter. Please sign on and keep in touch, and share updates etc. Want to know more? Then come along to our meetings on the third Thursday of each month (except July), all held at 7pm in the Library of Torry Academy, or contact the secretary, David Fryer at secretarycommunitycouncil@gmail.com.

David Fryer – Secretary, Torry Community Council – 4th February 2015.



Torry Against the STENCH

Part II

In July last year, two Torry residents started the Facebook campaign “Torry against the Stench.” Through this group they wanted residents of the community to come together and tackle the issue of smells coming from the waste water treatment plant in the area.

In the last edition of Torry’s Vision, we received comments from Scottish Water and Aberdeen City Council on the issue. In the months which followed, Torry Community Council became involved in the campaign and has been working with the relevant organisations to find a solution.

Secretary of Torry Community Council, David Fryer said: “Since July, very serious odours have hit Torry, and were especially bad when the fine weather arrived. The Community Council has supported folk badly affected by odours and led calls for action by the relevant authorities.

“Based on advice and experience of campaigners in Edinburgh who also were hard hit by odours from a local sewage treatment

works, we lobbied Scottish Water to appoint the same independent expert who had helped to solve problems in Edinburgh and Fife.

“In November, Scottish Water confirmed that Professor Rob Jackson was being appointed to work for the solutions that will help make Torry odour free. The Community Council met Professor Jackson in January and are pleased that he has made good progress in getting all the relevant statutory organisations to work together to problem solve the odours issues that have blighted Torry for too long. We need him to stay involved for at least two summers to prove that new measures do work before we will say ‘job done’.”

Professor Robert Jackson has recently been instructed by Scottish Water to undertake an independent review of odour complaints in the Torry community. His approach is to carry out an impartial and forensic investigation in to all potential sources of odour regardless of type, nature or location including the Nigg Bay waste water treatment

plant, landfill sites, industrial processes and the sewerage network. Prior to his engagement in Aberdeen, Professor Jackson has successfully helped in resolving similar cases in Leith, Edinburgh and in Leven and Methil in Fife. Since commencing his investigations in mid-January he has already received support for his wide ranging and holistic approach from local councillors and politicians and will be providing a written report on his findings and recommendations to all stakeholders.

A spokesperson from Scottish Water said: “We are working closely with Professor Jackson to assist him any way we can with his independent investigation.

“Scottish Water met with Professor Jackson, Maureen Watt MSP and David Fryer to introduce all parties to each other earlier this month. Professor Jackson now has the findings from Maureen Watt’s survey which will be incorporated in to his independent study. We will continue to work with all stakeholders to investigate odour issues in the Torry area.”



A very special children's orchestra called Big Noise is about to launch in Torry. It will be fun, free and for everyone regardless of musical ability.

To begin, Big Noise will offer violin, viola, double bass or cello lessons, to children who are currently in Primary Two at Tullos Primary and Walker Road Primary. Big Noise will continue to work with these children as they grow through primary school and secondary school too. Younger ones will join every year. Eventually brass, woodwind and percussion instruments will be added until there is a full symphony orchestra in the Torry community.

Torry is only the third place in Scotland to have a Big Noise orchestra.

The first Big Noise was launched in Raploch, Stirling in 2008. A second centre opened in Govanhill, Glasgow in 2013.

Big Noise Torry is run by the charity Sistema Scotland in partnership with Aberdeen City Council. While the most

obvious result will be musical, the programme aims to equip children with confidence and resilience to succeed in all areas of their lives.

Education Scotland recently inspected the Big Noise orchestra already running in Stirling and gave a glowing report, saying it boosted the confidence, ambition and life chances of the children.

The Scottish Government commissioned an earlier report which says: "there is evidence that Big Noise is having a positive impact on children's personal and social development, including increased confidence, self esteem, a sense of achievement and pride, improved social skills, team working skills and expanded social networks.

For those children with special educational needs, behaviour issues or unsettled home lives, particular benefits include a sense of belonging, improved ability to concentrate and focus on a task, a sense of responsibility and positive behaviour change."

A survey of parents and carers conducted as part of the research

found that as a result of Big Noise, 100% thought their children were more confident, 93% thought their children were happier, 79% thought they were more willing to concentrate, and 43% thought they behaved better.

What happens next?

From April, the Big Noise teachers will be making themselves known around the community. They will begin working in the schools with Primary One and Two children after Easter. These children will then perform in a launch concert on Monday June 29th.

In July, there will be a summer school at Torry Academy running from Monday to Thursday for children who have just completed Primary Two.

When the new school year starts we will launch our After-School Club working with the children who by then will be in Primary Three. Younger children in nursery, Primary One and Primary Two will receive Big Noise sessions during their school day.



“INCREASED CONFIDENCE,
self esteem, A SENSE
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TEAM WORKING SKILLS
AND EXPANDED SOCIAL NETWORKS”



TORRY ACADEMY

The merger of Torry and Kincorth Academies was confirmed in October 2013. The new £30 million school will be located on the Bobby Calder Park site. The new school is expected to open in the school year of 2016-17 and will accommodate up to 1450 pupils. Building the new school means that Torry and Kincorth Academies will both have to close. Abby, Fern and Yasmin from shmu's Youth Media Team, who are also pupils at Torry Academy, held interviews with Torry Academy's depute head, Jason Currie and Councillor for Torry and Ferryhill, Alan Donnelly to discuss the new school.

Councillor Alan Donnelly

Abby: What are your thoughts on the new school?

Councillor Alan Donnelly: *I'm very excited about it. It's a £13 million school in a brand new location. It's a good school in a good community but it's only half full. Torry Academy can hold 900 pupils and there are only 400 odd at the moment which makes it difficult to deliver the full curriculum. This means senior pupils are moved to Kincorth and Harlaw for some classes. However, the new school will have 1500 pupils in it and a full deliverable curriculum, including the classes pupils are requesting to move for. I do know there are challenges about transport but I'm pleased the new school is going ahead.*

Fern: What do you think about the location of the new school?

Councillor Alan Donnelly: *It was difficult for us to find a site and we had various sites on the table through a consultation process. We needed a large site to accommodate a school this size. Bobby Calder Park is a large site which was previously identified for training and recreational facilities. We are trying to overcome the issues which surround the dangers of children walking up from the streets in and around Torry and Kincorth to the new school.*

We're selling the site of Victoria Road School and part of the deal is funds and money to provide a free bus service in the initial couple of years for Torry pupils. We're also putting in safe walking routes for pupils as well.

Yasmin: How will the new school benefit people?

Councillor Alan Donnelly: *It will have more facilities, particularly the swimming pool and there will be full and comprehensive curriculum so there'll be no more kids travelling to other schools to study particular subjects. We want modern buildings and this will be a modern building with all the technical infrastructure inside which a lot of the Victorian buildings don't have. A lot of people want to enhance in sports so there will be a lot more there on that larger site.*

Abby: What problems do you think there could be with a larger school?

Councillor Alan Donnelly: *This school is going to have a capacity of 1500 pupils. As long as it delivers a full curriculum and has enough classrooms to deliver then I don't see a problem. It's been built to accommodate a larger pupil roll and by merging two academies and phasing out Torry and Kincroth that gives us one building to maintain and look*

after which will save money for front line education.

Yasmin: What do you think the pupils of Torry and Kincorth Academy will think about the new school?

Councillor Alan Donnelly: *Well again, everything is mixed. People don't like change. People are often sceptical of change because it can disrupt their pattern of life but you always have to move on and move forward. It's like everything else, there will be teething problems at the start but people will begin to see the benefits once they settle in to it and realise change can be good and positive.*

I hope that people will realise that with the new academy. Also as a local authority, we get tax payers money to build that school. We've been offered £32 million from Scottish Government and a local authority can't knock back £32 million to build a brand new academy. People don't like to see schools closed down but we had to close down an academy so by phasing out Torry and Kincorth Academies and building a new school it solved a lot of problems for the council. Although we'll pay for the running and the teachers but the construction costs are being met by central government.

Depute Head of Torry Academy: Jason Currie

Yasmin: What are your thoughts on the new super school?

Jason Currie: *I think it is a fantastic opportunity for Torry and Kincorth. I think the facilities it will hopefully offer will be of great advantage to the pupils. Having seen some of the initial design plans I am very encouraged by how it will appear. People are going to go there and be really motivated to learn by their environment. I think you're going to see a big transformation compared to what you're used to here.*

Fern: What do you think about the location of the new school?

Jason Currie: *The location of the new school is okay because it isn't in any of the areas that it serves so it doesn't favour one community over another. I think that's maybe a sensible way of trying to bring together the three communities.*

Abby: Would you prefer to still have Torry Academy open?

Jason Currie: *We are past the stage of keeping Torry Academy open. The decision has been made by the council to merge the two schools already. My hope would be to ensure that there is an appropriate plan so the Torry Academy site can be kept open for community use.*

Yasmin: Are you looking forward to working with the other pupils from other schools?

Jason Currie: *Yes I am. I think it's going to be quite an interesting challenge to have folk from the different communities all coming in to the same place.*

I know that some folk do have certain reservations about, what I would say, are more historical concerns about how Torry and Kincorth would interact. We have some senior Kincorth pupils coming here and some of our pupils go to Kincorth so I think that really that's helped to build bridges between the two communities. That's something that in the run up to the new school, we'll have to work on and we'll have different activities so that you folk can get to work with your peers in Kincorth.

Fern: How will the new school benefit people?

Jason Currie: *I think the facilities that will be available will be high class in terms of the classrooms first of all but you're also going to get high quality equipment and labs for science. The sporting facilities look excellent - you're going to have playing fields on your doorstep and a swimming pool. You're going to have facilities for vocational subjects so there will be a wealth of different opportunities.*

Yasmin: What problems do you think there will be with having a bigger school?

Jason Currie: *I think the staff will have to work hard to make sure that they know all the pupils. I think getting a group of staff of around 80-100 individual faces to work together as a group will be a challenge as well but it can be overcome.*

Fern: Are you excited to meet other staff and pupils from other schools?

Jason Currie: *Of course, the more staff you have the more*

ideas you've got which will allow people to feed off other positive ideas that folk have of new ways of teaching a subject. Learning will take place between teachers I think that'll be a big advantage of having the staff come together.

Abby: What activities would you like to see happening in the new school?

Jason Currie: *We'll think about the activities we've currently got and add on to that any others you would like to see. What expertise do the Kincorth staff have that they can offer in extracurricular activities? Because of the school's location I guess most pupils will have to stay on campus for lunch time so it would be nice to see lots of activities available.*

Additional comments from Jason Currie: *A number of staff have been down to look at two schools which both have the same kind of overall structure that your new school will have. It's a case of working out how the actual classrooms will fit within that structure but they follow a central plan where you have classrooms either side of a central space, containing for example canteen, assembly hall and library. We've seen a lot of positives in those schools and I hope we get something that's the match of those. I'm looking forward to it but any concerns that you have you should feed them back directly to your teachers or the pupil council.*



Councillors Comments

Councillor Yvonne Allan

To all the folks of Torry, I hope 2015 is a good year for you. Some good news - you may have noticed that there is work going on at the Tullos swimming pool. Word has it that it should re-open in time for the kids summer holidays, if not before.

Thank you all for your continued patience in what has been a long wait in getting the pool back to being fit for purpose. I hope you will all use and enjoy the pool once it is back to full use again. Well done to all the community centres that had wonderful festive programmes. They were very

well received by all who attended and everyone had a great time. The effort put in by the volunteers is very much appreciated by all, then and throughout the year for the work they do.

The programmes for 2015 are now in full swing and I hope people make good use of the groups which will be running. The council house modernisation programme continues and we will see more Torry homes benefiting from this programme. Housing remains a major issue for the council as it does for the residents of Torry and they will

be doing their best to spread the much needed new build programme throughout the city.

I believe there is a group of Torry Academy Pupils planning a trip to the Atlas Mountains in Morocco in the near future. They will be working in classrooms and an orphanage for under privileged children.

The group have to fund this trip themselves so any fundraising or sponsoring ideas would be welcome for this excellent project. So come on, get your thinking caps on and help support the kids.

Tea Break Reading 30 Second Tip Bits

Written by Mandy "The Quine fae Torry"

A wee read whilst you have your Tea Break:

- Do you have a muffin tin that is lying at the back of the kitchen cupboard, unused and unloved? Why not stick an ice cream cone on top of cupcake batter and bake. The cake ends up rising into the cone and you can put ice cream or icing on top of the original birthday dessert. Another use for the muffin tin would be to make jumbo, long lasting ice cubes for a long cool drink, just pop them out by running under hot water at the base of the muffin container.
- Need help studying? By studying your notes within one day of taking them, the retention rates are 60% higher! Another tip would be if you write something out, it is the memory equivalent of reading it seven times! Also, when writing long assignments, set a 30-minute timer, and race it. This will prevent you from procrastination.

- For those that are DIY Enthusiasts on a budget – don't throw away any of your old paint brushes. Why not soap them in white vinegar for 30 minutes and then rinse under warm water, they will be as good as new!
- If you're a wee nail biter and need way to stop biting those nails, why not try chewing gum! In addition, it's been proven to improve a person's mood, while decreasing anxiety and stress.
- Have you ever shrunk your favourite item of clothing? No need to worry, soak the shrunk clothes in hot water with hair conditioner for five minutes and they'll be good as new!
- Want to save money and cut down on the drying time of your clothes? Why not add a dry towel to your wet laundry in the dryer, cutting the drying time by half!
- Looking for a bargain whilst shopping? Are you aware that the cheapest items will be on

the top and bottom shelves and not at eye level?

- Did you know? If you have your refrigerator pushed back as far as possible, by pulling it forward by one inch can reduce the energy usage of it by as much as 40%!
- Make dinnertime for the kiddiewinks a wee bit different by using a pizza cutter to cut up small slices of meats / vegetables / cheese for their omelettes. This is one way to make sure they have their five a day!
- Trying to increase your daily water intake? Why not wear 8 rubber bands (or however many) around your wrist each day and take one off every time you drink a glass of water? This will make sure you are staying hydrated! However, if you drink a caffeinated beverage, you will need to put a rubber band back on because it dehydrates you!



Proposed Altens Recycling Facility

An update from SITA UK

People were invited to find out more about a proposal for a new recycling and waste management facility at Altens East Industrial Estate when exhibitions were held earlier this year.

Plans for the new facility are to be submitted to Aberdeen City Council by SITA UK, the company seeking to build the new site, which aims to increase recycling, reduce waste sent to landfill and save £5m in landfill tax.

The company held two lots of exhibitions in January and February, where members of the public were invited to look at the plans and give feedback.

The Council's Planning Committee is expected to make a decision on the application during this summer.

The plans include:

- a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)
- a Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) facility
- a replacement depot for the Council's waste collection vehicles

Both the MRF and RDF will be housed in a modern enclosed building on the site.

Mixed recyclable material collected from the kerbside would

be taken to the MRF, where it would be segregated into constituent parts before being transferred on for re-processing. The RDF facility would process residual, black bag waste that has not been recycled. It would be shredded and any metals removed for recycling. The remaining material would then be baled and securely wrapped prior to onward transfer out of the area for use as a fuel to provide heat and power.

The development site would also include a replacement depot for the Council's waste collection vehicles, which is currently located on Powis Terrace. If the proposal is approved it is expected to be operational by late 2016 or early 2017, creating about 40 new, permanent jobs.

SITA UK's Operations Manager in Aberdeen, Colin Forshaw, said: "The proposed facility will enable the city to increase recycling and will process the remaining black bag waste so that it can be exported out of the area and put to good use as a fuel to help produce power and heat for homes and businesses."

Further information about the proposal is available online at www.sita.co.uk/altenseast

New in Torry -

Adult Learning

Torry Learning Centre & Computing Suite

We are pleased to announce the opening of the new Adult Learning Venue within the Torry Youth & Leisure Centre on Oscar Road.

This past year has seen the closure of the Torry Learning House and the opening of the new facility. It has a meeting area and a new up to date computing suite with internet access.

Aberdeen City Council's Adult Learning now offers learning opportunities here and in different venues throughout the Torry community. Learners also have the option to be supported to achieve a variety of qualifications.

Our current learning programmes and available resources include Beginners Computing, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), Confidence to Cook classes, Literacy and Numeracy Support, Confidence and Skills development courses, guidance and signposting for further learning and future employment, an area for other local groups and organisations to let, and kitchen resources to support cooking and healthy eating groups.

Those interested in our Learning Programme can either self-refer, be referred by another agency, contact us to find out more, and/or register for our available future courses.

For more information please contact:

Mandy Dambruoso -
Development Officer, Adult Learning, on 01224 878927

Alison May - Adult Learning Co-ordinator on 01224 878927 or 07900 134539

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SHMU pioneers groundbreaking prison project in HMP & YOI Grampian

Station House Media Unit (shmu) has secured a major funding boost of £896,326 from the Big Lottery Fund which will allow it to extend its work within the criminal justice sector with a 5-year media project based in HMP & YOI Grampian. The funding will enable shmu to work in partnership with the prison and a broad range of other relevant statutory and voluntary sector partners to develop the first cross-platform, peer-led, Creative Media Unit within a UK prison. The Unit will offer a range of innovative opportunities for beneficiaries to engage in a radio station; training in all aspects of filmmaking; a magazine production suite; and a music production programme.

Working with all sections of the prison population – young offenders as well as adult male and female prisoners - the primary aim of the project is to reduce the re-offending rates of prisoners released back into the community. It will also include the provision of an intensive support package in preparation for and during their reintegration back into the community. The ultimate aim is to support participants on to a positive destination – a job, education, further training or a volunteering opportunity.

The project has fully embraced the feedback from serving prisoners who participated in taster sessions with comments including; “I would like to show the younger ones that are easily led like I was that they don’t need to act like that”; “I enjoyed myself, I learned new skills”; “It’s really encouraging to see different people’s talents”; “Providing an incentive for change made me determined to put more effort into it”.

The shmu grant was one of 11 projects sharing in £5,717,872 from the Fund’s Investing in Communities programme announced in January.

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.



BFI

Hello, my name is Katie and I recently joined the shmu staff team as a sound trainee. I started volunteering in early 2014 doing a show on a Tuesday until I started college. I was always interested in sound engineering and SHMU helped me get some volunteering at their studio and at the jazz festival last year. My job at SHMU, as a sound trainee, involves assisting the shmuSOUND projects such as the Hip Hop project and I will also assist the sound engineer in the recording studio which has recently been moved over to Torry. We will be recording music from both the Hip Hop Project and the Collective Composition Project along with holding our positive transition and Youth media project sessions over there too. We are also hoping to take the Drugs Action workshops over to Torry too.

Reader's Letter

Torry folk must be wondering what they have done to deserve their lot! They will soon be forced to consider the prospect of one of their few remaining areas of public amenity, Nigg Bay, being blasted, filled with concrete and then surrounded by yet more high-security fencing. The community is already almost completely surrounded by a combination of security fencing (North and South), and Wellington Road, one of the most polluted roads in Scotland, to the West. Should the proposed relocation of some of the harbour's existing activities go ahead, the resulting further industrialisation of the area would likely add to the misery caused by the long-running pungent stench generated by the Scottish Water's Nigg Bay sewage treatment works resulting from the continuing failure of either (or both!) the Aberdeen City Council (ACC) and SEPA to use their powers and responsibilities under the Water Services Act 2006 (sewage nuisance) to prevent it.

In an apparent effort by outside interests to promote 'normality', the minutes of a recent local community council meeting suggest that Aberdeen City Council (ACC) are now advocating that children from the Torry area, and perhaps elsewhere in the city, are being encouraged to go paddling in the newly 'prettified' East Tullos Burn. The thinking behind this concept is not clear. However, it is surprising because the 'burn' and its newly constructed 'wetland' appears to constitute little more and open, unregulated industrial sewer that conveys a stinking cocktail of effluents away from the East Tullos Industrial Estate – plus drainage from the nearby landfill site.

In a further unwelcome development, ACC have now resurrected the idea of incinerating thousands of tonnes of the city's non-recyclable waste, together with similar materials gathered across Aberdeenshire, within the city's boundaries. Indeed, it was recently announced that the Council is considering constructing the incineration unit on a 'contaminated' site, currently owned by Scottish Gas, situated less than 300m from Tullos Primary School! Bizarrely, even at this early stage, ACC officials are going to great lengths not to use the word 'incinerator'. Indeed, this latest planning 'pup' is being promoted solely in terms of reducing landfill and 'sustainable energy' production from the proposed plant. To add insult to injury, the community is also being advised to suspend their disbelief that the positioning of the proposed huge, new recycling and waste management unit, to supply an incinerator, up on the green fields of Doonies farm will not constitute a powerful planning lever in support of a massive waste incinerator nearby.

Arguably, Torry's vision has long been overruled or simply ignored. Indeed, the area bears testimony to a community that suffers from the cumulative impacts of a long series of damaging visions by powerful interests based outside the area. Sadly, recent developments suggest that this process appears to be continuing unabated and with the tacit support of our non-resident, elected representatives.

Torry resident

If you would like to submit a letter to the Torry's Vision magazine then email laura.young@shmu.org.uk or call Laura on 01224 515013

Alan's Corner

A Quiz of Days by Alan Reid
Questions

- 1) What is the first day of the year?
- 2) What happens on the 25th of January?
- 3) When do we roll eggs?
- 4) What day is the 21st of June?
- 5) What do people mean when they say "going away"?
- 6) What does "wet and windy" describe?
- 7) What is "everybody day"?
- 8) What day do people go trick or treating?
- 9) What character is behind Fireworks night?
- 10) What is celebrated on the 25th of December?

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New Year Poem

A new year is upon us,
What secrets does it hold?
The dreams, the wishes,
We all yearn,
That will unfold.
So here's to you
And here's to me.
I wish you all the best
Whatever on the field
I wish you all the best
Alan Reid

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A Quote from the Bible

God made a quote.
"I will make man in my own image."

Does that not show that we
are special in the world
and God is love?

Answers
1) New Year's Day
2) Robert Burn's Day
3) Easter Day
4) Midsummer Day
5) A holiday
6) A rain day
7) Your birthday
8) Halloween
9) Guy Fawkes
10) Christmas Day

{ Hello from your Woodlands Community Ranger }

I have been out and about in Torry over the winter period with the Tullos Volunteer Ranger team and other groups.

November saw employees from Halliburton come in and refurbish the entrance area of the Deeside Family Centre. While one group removed litter, cut back shrubs and then barrowed in tonnes of woodchip, another helped Ranger Simon to redefine and refurbish the outdoor learning space for the young ones who visit the Centre. Well done everyone!!

The Tullos Volunteer Ranger Team finished off that work in between preparing the planting bed at the Torry Outdoor Sports Centre. This involved hacking out the over planted beds so they can breathe and drain and was

extremely hard work. The shrubs and plants which are intended to increase biodiversity and colour to the area have now arrived and will have been planted by the time this publication hits your doorstep. A great project driven by the community and one which we (like Deeside Family Centre) have been very happy to assist.



Ongoing litter picks and maintenance have also been carried out by the team on Tullos Hill along with installing more

Granite City Forest signs at the various access points to the hill....see how many you can spot!

If you have a community focused project in mind or one in progress where you would benefit from the team's efforts, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01224 897 400 or lochinch@aberdeency.gov.uk

To keep up with what the Ranger Service is up to, please visit our Facebook Page at "Aberdeen City Council Countryside Ranger Service" or listen to "Around With A Ranger" on SHMU 99.8FM or shmu.org.uk every Wednesday at 11 am and repeated every Monday at 2pm.