

# Torry's **Vision**

Spring 2016

## In this issue:

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ABERDEEN HARBOUR  
EXPANSION

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

TORRY SQUAD

PLAY MEMORIES OF TORRY

TORRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

[www.shmu.org.uk/press](http://www.shmu.org.uk/press)



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Cover Image:  
Mark Taylor



## Editorial

Welcome to the Spring edition of Torry's Vision community magazine. Read on for the usual updates from Professor Rob Jackson and Torry Community Council. We also have news from Aberdeen Harbour Board and the Save the Bay of Nigg Campaign.

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 or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at SHMU on **01224 515013** or you can email her on [laura.young@shmu.org.uk](mailto:laura.young@shmu.org.uk).

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website [www.shmu.org.uk](http://www.shmu.org.uk) then click the 'PRESS' option.

All meetings are held at Old Torry Community Centre on a Tuesday at 2:30pm.

**First meeting – 3rd May**

**Second meeting – 17th May**

**Content deadline – 31st May**

**Page plan – 7th June**

**Proof – 14th June**



# BALNAGASK COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Balnagask Community Centre have a brand new kitchen. The management committee received a donation from a Torry lad from the past who wishes to remain anonymous. The rest of the cost was met by the profits raised from the fundraising events the community centre hosts throughout the year.

The new kitchen has proved a hit with centre users, particularly the younger generation. Hazel and

the rest of the team put together old fashioned 'mix-ups' and let the kids pick their sweets through the perspex window.

The centre also have a really successful group on a Friday morning for vulnerable and socially isolated people in the community. Balnagask Community Centre put on the entertainment for the people who came along and hold a sing-a-long session.

Hazel said: "It's amazing the difference in the people who come along, they pick up the words to the songs and join in."

This free group runs between 10:30am and 12pm on Friday mornings and is free to attend. If this would be of interest to you or someone you know get in touch with the centre on **01224 871206**.



BETTY ALLAN -

## THANK YOU BETTY

Our Treasurer, Betty Allan, retired as a committee member from Balnagask Community Centre at the end of February 2016. She has been a member for over 34 years and is part of the original group of committee members from 1982. Over the years Betty has done every role in our centre from Chairperson to Treasurer to tea lady! She helps with our children's groups, play schemes, the bingo and our new o.a.p. group. She's promised us that she will still come and see us every week at the Wednesday night bingo. Good luck in your retirement Betty, love from all at Balnagask Community Centre.

## 20th Co. Boy's Brigade in Balnagask

There has been a Boy's Brigade (BB) Company in Balnagask from the 1970s and the 20th Company are still meeting in Tullos School every Friday evening from September to April.

The Boys Brigade is a Christian organisation, and our company is affiliated to Torry United Free Church in Grampian Road. We currently have around 25 boys, ranging in age from 5 -15 years. The BB is divided into sections - at the moment we have around 13 Anchors, 9 Juniors and 3 Company boys, who all meet in the school from 6.45 to 8.30pm every Friday.

We have 8 volunteer leaders this session, including Captain Ian Duff who said: "We undertake a variety of different activities including marching, quiet time,

team games, crafts and drama. The boys seem to enjoy the structure and discipline of Boys Brigade and it gets them away from their Xboxes and computer games for a while! The boys are also encouraged to take part in activities out with a Friday evening - for example the Anchors will soon be attending their annual Fun Time at BB HQ in Crimon Place, and in November the Juniors took part in a 5-a side football tournament at the Beach Leisure Centre. We also encourage the Company Boys to help with the Anchor and Junior activities wherever possible."

This year one of our Company Boys, Austin Munro, is working towards his Presidents Badge, which is a great achievement.



Austin has been in Boy's Brigade for more than 10 years and is a great asset to the Company!

For more information please don't hesitate to contact Ian on 01224 898372 or feel free to drop in with your boy(s) and see what we are doing!

## Participatory Budgeting in Torry!

The Young People and Children of Torry had the exciting opportunity to take part in a participatory budgeting exercise recently; which was one of the firstly of its kind in the city.

Aberdeen City Council allocated £100K to be used to fund new youth projects and initiatives across the regeneration areas of the city. Torry was allocated £20K which was further broken into £8K for the under 12's and £12K for the over 12's age group.

Groups from the local communities as well as city wide organisations working with young people were invited to put in bids for the money along with a short video to promote the project bids they proposed for the area.

We then held three local events

supported and hosted by Walker Road and Tullos Primaries and Torry Academy. At the events all the pupils present in school were given the opportunity to watch the videos, then at the end they all submitted their vote for their favourite project. The primary children voted with blocks and lolly pop sticks and the academy pupils used ballot papers.

In total 340 young people and 636 children participated across the three schools.

It was very exciting for the young people and children to get to vote on their favourite projects. They were engaged and enthusiastic, enjoying the process of having their say!

A varied selection of projects were successful from a digital project



looking at building small computers, robots and Minecraft games, football sessions with tea time treats as well as opportunities

# Torry Squad

**We are the Torry Squad, a youth forum that wants to help our local community and give young people in Torry a voice. We also want to change people's perspectives of the Torry community. We meet twice a week in Torry Youth and Leisure Centre.**

**The Torry Squad has been involved in many pieces of work since we started. Examples of some these are:**

Consultation at the Tullos Learning Centre to discuss the problems in the Torry community.

Make Your Mark Consultation to see what needs improved in the Torry area from the perspective of young people. We delivered assemblies in Torry Academy and Northfield Academy between the 21st September and 10th of October. We counted the ballot papers after the assemblies and Living Wage was the most popular choice in both schools, closely followed by mental health. The national priority for young people was mental health.

We introduced ourselves and some of the work we were doing at a Torry Learning Partnership meeting on the 6th October. We discussed local issues from young people's perspectives including the recent results from the Make Your Mark Survey.

We also met with MP Callum McCaig to discuss who we are as a group and what we do to help the local community. We also discussed the Youth Work Changes Life Manifesto and what impact Youth Work has to young people in Torry and Aberdeen.

We went on a weekend residential to Cromdale Outdoor Centre and participated in a variety of outdoor and team-building activities such as abseiling and Tyrolean and also some democracy sessions.

The Makers Space Project to promote Torry Squad as a group and create a brand which we can use to let people know who we are. It was a creative project where we created a logo and we then learned to embroider this onto hoodies which are bright green so people will notice them.

At the moment The Torry Squad

are in the process of creating a mindful wall for young people in the Torry area. After the results from the Make Your Mark Survey we decided as a group to meet with Lindsey the school counsellor to discuss the issues surrounding mental health and what we as a group can do to help. We decided to apply for money to create a giant colouring wall which the group hopes to have in the school so young people can use it as a tool for de-stressing. We chose this project because adult colouring is really popular at this moment and is used a lot to help mental health. By focusing on the small details of the colouring it will take your mind off of stress you have at work or at school.





## LOCAL SCHOOLS

The new Academy at the back of MAKRO has outline planning consent but there are still many outstanding issues that remain unanswered by the City Council that involve pupil safety and transport. That's now some two and a half years! Severe overcrowding also remains a crucial issue for Tullos and Walker Road, and no reply to us has been forthcoming. We now await a reply from the Council's Chief Executive on how this is going to be solved

## ODOURS IN TORRY

Works to the sewage works continue and by all accounts, things have improved but we are not out of the woods yet! We need to see that the sewage plant settles down to our satisfaction before any calls of job done are made, and believe that we need to see the summer out on this before such a view can be called. We continue to receive report backs from Professor Rob Jackson on a monthly report to the Community Council and will continue to share updates as widely as we can.

We are clear that Professor Jackson must stay involved until October of this year to prove that new measures do work before we can say "job done". We are working to ensure that lessons are learnt and that there is no going back to the way it was.

## SISTEMA

We receive regular reports from the local team and are encouraged by the enjoyment that

this is bringing to young folk and their families. We say "keep up the good work guys"

## PROPOSED INCINERATOR

We are still more than concerned about the proposed Energy from Waste Plant (aka incinerator) being put a mere breath away from Torry. Our stated position is that IF, and that's a big IF, this plant is needed then it should only be built well away (miles!) from any residential community.

## HARBOUR DEVELOPMENTS

We await the further consultation events being organised by the City Council and the Harbour Board and strongly encourage everyone to go and have their say. 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.

## ROADS IN TORRY, AND SOUTH OF THE DEE

We await a further meeting with the Council's Roads Director and local councillors to discuss infrastructure and development proposals as they will affect all the roads south of the Dee which are currently heavily congested, which leads to rat-running, congestion and air pollution. High on that list is to make our concerns known about speeding cars through Torry, heavy lorries on our residential streets and bad parking outside schools

## VICTORIA ROAD SCHOOL

A planning application by Barratt's for 62 units to be built

on a completely cleared site was submitted in early August 2015 and a revised plan this year attracted a record number of objections (271 being the highest in years) of which the vast majority came from folk in Torry. The Community Council made its comments before the last deadline was reached and strongly believes that this iconic building of our granite heritage should be restored to meet local needs

**Stop Press:** There will now be a public hearing on Wed 18th May in the Town and County Hall. Everyone should be there to help make the case for restoration of the School Buildings!

## FORMER PRISON SITE AT CRAIGINCHES

Our latest information is that building work is due to start in May or June. We still have no answer on what will happen regarding the proposed widening of Wellington Road by the side of the prison site.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Want to know more? Then come along to our meetings on the third Thursday of each month, and almost all are held at 7pm in the Library, Torry Academy, or Contact the Secretary, David Fryer at [secretarytorrycommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytorrycommunitycouncil@gmail.com) or 07759 276769.

**David Fryer – Secretary, Torry Community Council – 8th March 2016.**

# The Rotary Club of Aberdeen St Fittick

Although we are active throughout the city our main activities (as our name suggests) are focused in the areas of the city south of the River Dee and mainly in Torry, Tullos and Kincorth. We are an active club of almost 50 members and pride ourselves on our reputation for friendliness

Rotary is a volunteer organisation with more than 32,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. It initiates humanitarian projects that address challenges affecting the world today, such as hunger, poverty, and illiteracy.

Rotary club members represent a cross-section of business people around the world. These 1.2 million men and women donate their expertise and time to support local and international projects that help people in need and promote understanding among cultures.

## **What do we do in Torry? The Sandy Wilson Quiz**

This is our latest project with a planned launch in March 2016.

Sandy Wilson (of the William Wilson Plumber merchants) was a long standing member of St Fittick. Sandy died in November 2008 and although his health was failing his death was unexpected. Before his death he had spoken to his family about leaving a legacy in his will for the Rotary club to use for the benefit of youngsters. He didn't have time to do this before he died but his family decided to fulfil his wishes by creating the trust and asking the St Fittick Club to manage the project.

Sandy was interested in many sports and was a keen golfer and curler – as well as being a Dons fan. He also liked to help youngsters make their way in life. The Club was keen that the

project set up in his name was in line with Sandy's interests.

The Sandy Wilson Quiz will be an annual general knowledge quiz open, free of charge, to youth organisations based in the Torry area of the city. The participants will be aged under 18.

There will be a total prize fund of £2,000 available for distribution on the night.

Watch Facebook for more details to join in the fun, and to raise some cash for Torry Groups too!!!

## **Millennium Bursary Fund**

As the name suggests, the bursary fund was formed by the Club to mark the new millennium and supports pupils and former pupils of Torry Academy moving on to further education.

Since its formation the fund has assisted over 40 students further their education.

## **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)**

RYLA events are for young people aged 16 to 17 years, who are about to start their working lives or to enter higher education, and who have shown leadership potential and are likely, as adults, to become future leaders. Students are put into mixed groups of complementary ability where they take part in outdoor activities. They are placed in challenging situations to help develop leadership and team bonding skills and to increase personal confidence.

Students must be aged 16 to

17 years whilst on the course.

Activities may include canoeing, abseiling, scrambling, hiking and camping overnight under canvas. Students are closely supervised by specialist staff at all times.

The course is run in the Outdoor Centre near Nethybridge in July.

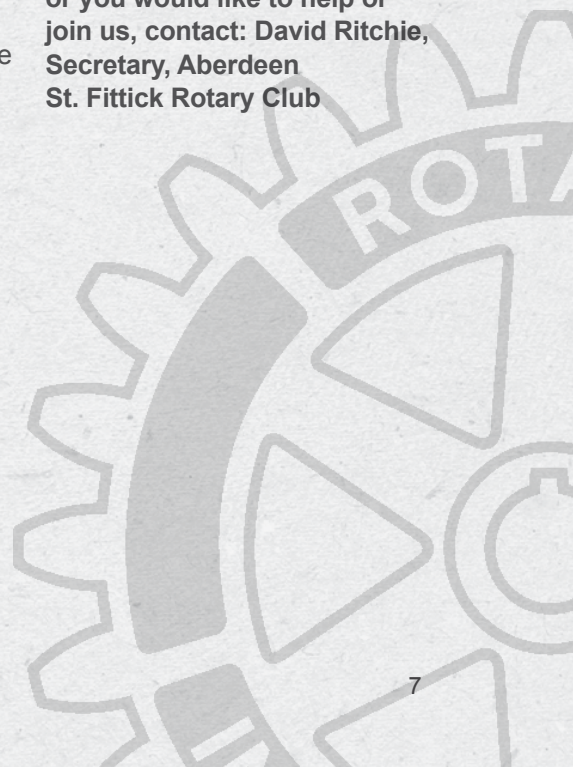
St Fittick would be happy to hear from any pupils of Torry Academy or members of youth Organisations in the area who are interested.

## **Primary School Quiz**

Rotary clubs in the area have for a number of years run a quiz for Primary 7 pupils, which starts with local heats and culminates in a district final. These events give great enjoyment to pupils, parents, teachers and Rotarians.

St Fittick runs the heat each year for Primary Schools in the Torry area.

**If you think we can help you or you would like to help or join us, contact: David Ritchie, Secretary, Aberdeen St. Fittick Rotary Club**



# Aberdeen Harbour Expansion

## What do you think?

Aberdeen Harbour Board's plans for expansion have caused much controversy in recent months. The Torry's Vision editorial team caught up with both sides of the argument to find out more.

### ABERDEEN HARBOUR BOARD UPDATE

*By Colin Parker,  
Chief Executive,  
Aberdeen Harbour*

**Aberdeen Harbour Board's plan to extend its facilities has attracted much attention in recent months, as the process, ahead of any final decision, reaches maturity.**

Although still a feasibility study, the project has progressed significantly and, during December 2015, the three main elements of the required planning consent application, a Harbour Revision Order, Marine Licenses and Planning Permission in Principle, were submitted.

The consultation process that preceded, and subsequently followed these submissions, resulted in a very low number of representations, with fewer than 50 in total being submitted, and less than 30 from members of the public. We believe this reflects the wide political, business and community support that the project has enjoyed since initial plans were revealed more than three years ago, and demonstrates that the potential benefits of the development have not been underestimated.

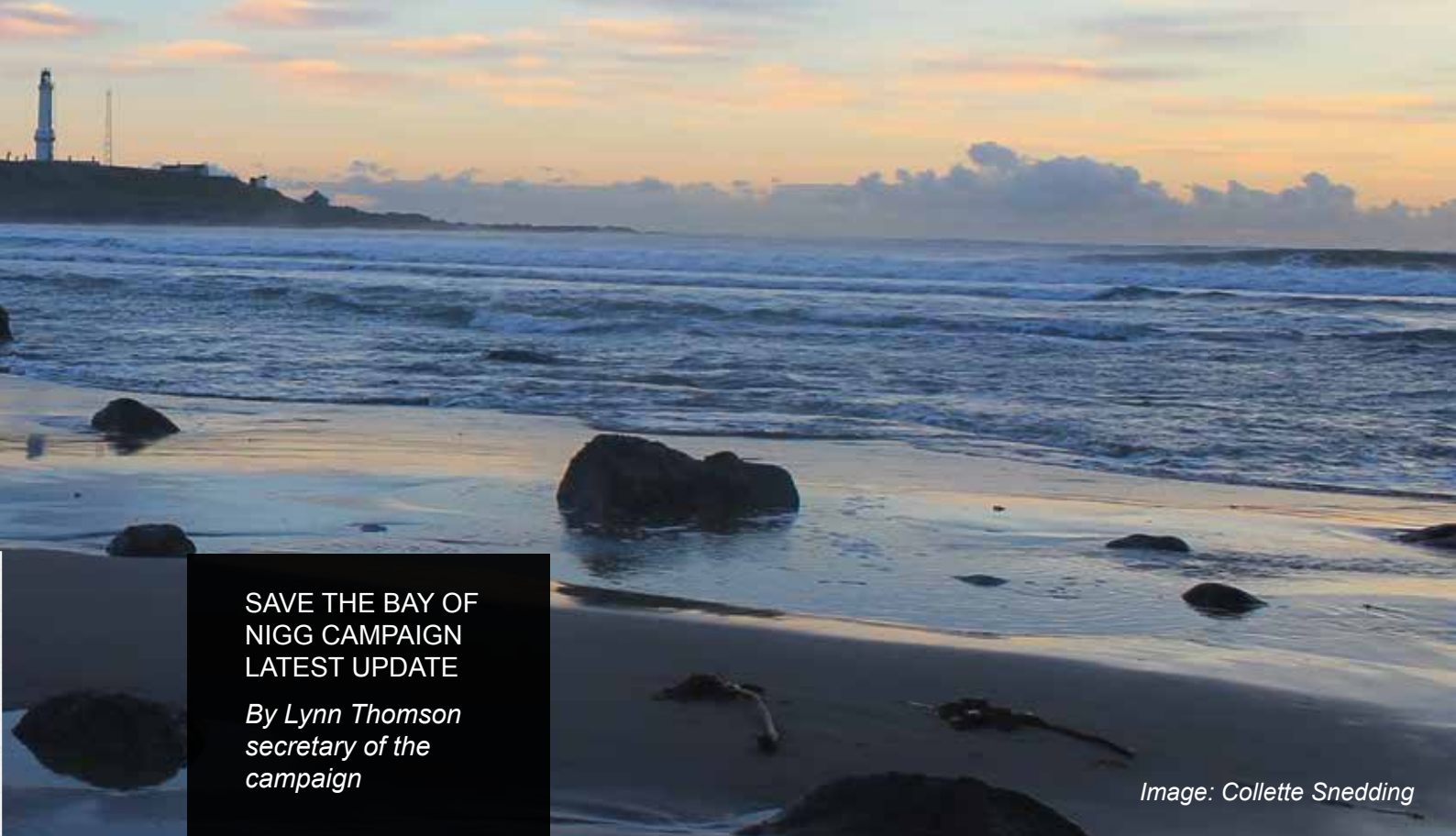
As has been our approach throughout, we have engaged with the communities and businesses that the proposed development

may impact openly and honestly through a variety of channels. This has seen us attend community council meetings, and undertake a series of public displays, inviting comment and questions, whilst ensuring the public was clear on how to make a representation to the appropriate consenting bodies. All of the feedback gathered at these events has been reviewed and considered as part of the wider process. Similarly, we are also looking at the detail of all representations and will be responding to these individually.

There is no question that this is a critical time for Aberdeen and its future. The timing of the development gives us a great opportunity to anchor decommissioning activity in the North East of Scotland, rather than losing out to other ports such as those in Norway, or the North of England. This doesn't mean that we are creating a scrap yard, rather it is a cost-effective base for shipping smaller pieces of decommissioned assets back to shore, where they can be taken directly to the appropriate licensed facilities in the region and processed in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner. Decommissioning work has long been carried out in Aberdeen Harbour, but the deep-water quays at Nigg Bay would complement the existing capabilities, experience and established suite of service

providers, that are already in place. Decommissioning is valued at £50 billion and represents a lifetime's worth of work, extending oil and gas activity and anchoring jobs for the city and the region for decades to come. It is vital that we grasp this window of opportunity.

But it is also very important that we continue to diversify our customer portfolio. The Cruise Ship industry has seen incredible growth in recent times, with reported global passenger numbers exceeding a staggering 22 million in 2015. More locally, a remarkable 290,000 passengers visited East coast ports, such as Lerwick, Orkney and Invergordon, in 2015 – enjoying our abundance of attractions such as castles, distilleries, famous golf courses, never mind wonderful Scottish scenery. But due to the inability to accommodate the larger cruise ships, Aberdeen received just over 1,000 of these passengers - so this is literally a major opportunity that is sailing past us every day. Facilities at Nigg Bay would allow vessels of up to 300 metres long to visit Aberdeen, injecting significant sums into the local and regional economies, and providing more local jobs. We believe that this is the very kind of diversification that Aberdeen City and Shire needs to attract if we are to remain commercially vibrant for future generations.



## SAVE THE BAY OF NIGG CAMPAIGN LATEST UPDATE

*By Lynn Thomson  
secretary of the  
campaign*

*Image: Collette Snedding*

**For generations the Bay of Nigg has played a huge part in the lives of Torry folk. From collecting buckies, to enjoying a good walk to scattering the ashes of our loved ones, it is a well-used, natural asset.**

Now the bay could be developed into a huge new harbour. You might have seen the pictures produced by Aberdeen Harbour Board of cruise ships sailing into the bay, however council planners have called these pictures “unrealistic” and “potentially misleading”. Cruise ships are predicted to be only a tiny part of the vessel traffic (just two or three a month), and that’s only if the harbour board manages to attract any.

The pictures don’t show the nine-foot high security fencing that will prevent locals accessing the bay and the new breakwaters, or the amount of land that will be used as “temporary” construction areas (including Walker Park, much of St Fittick’s Park up to the old church, much of the golf practice area and also land at Greg Ness). As construction is estimated to last

for three years, these areas will be out of bounds to us for a long time.

The pictures also gloss over the structures (gatehouse, welfare block for staff, fuel tanks, water tanks, bulk/composite tanks, electricity substation, 80 foot high lights) and the amount of land that the harbour will permanently take for a car park and to re-align Greyhope Road.

Make no mistake, this will not be a pretty, picturesque marina, but it will be a large industrial harbour. It will be used by supply boats, support vessels and for decommissioning (scrapping) of oilfield equipment. Cruise ships, if they visit at all, will only do so occasionally.

There is a lot of concern about traffic from the construction and also from the operation of the new harbour. Traffic from the harbour will use the Coast Road (which already gets congested around the railway bridge), Hareness roundabout (also heavily used) and Wellington Road (already one of the most polluted roads

in Scotland according to a 2016 Friends of the Earth study). The Harbour Board also proposes closing Greyhope Road (from the lighthouse to the bay) for 18 months.

Dredging, drilling and blasting during construction are estimated to last 19 months and piling 23 months. The Harbour Board’s own report says that the dolphins will probably disappear during construction as they are very sensitive to noise. Who’s to say that they will ever come back? What about the locals living near the bay who will have all this noise, vibration, dust and extra traffic to deal with as well as losing one of the last accessible green spaces in our area?

Also, with oil prices so low and the industry struggling at the moment, will this huge development still be financially-viable?

Is it worth it? Well, I’ll leave that to you to decide. At first I thought the new harbour might be good for Torry, but as I found out more and more about all the effects it would have on our community I changed

# PLAY MEMORIES OF TORRY

by soozy lai



Wee Hazel, 1949

Over the last couple of years I've done some work to promote play in Torry working alongside the fantastic Hazel McAllan, who runs the Balnagask Community Centre, I've heard some cracking stories about the things Hazel and her chums got up to as bairns growing up in Torry. Now that my time in Torry has come to an end, I thought 'what better way to round off the project, than to reminisce a little about some old childhood play memories of Torry?' So I've put together just a wee selection of quotes from a few folks who grow up in Torry.

"We played in the Grumps, at the Bay of Nigg, and Breakwater Bay. At the Grumps some would make wee fires and boil tatties at the bottom of the slopes. We played shops with things we found - docken leaves, daisies, berries and the like. The Bay of Nigg was surrounded by farmed fields, you could walk there straight from Balnagask Road. At Breakwater Bay there was sand and it was covered in shells. There was no fear of danger. For snacks we had butter and sugar sandwiches, for a treat to drink we had diluted National Health orange juice with a bit of liquorice in it. If it was wet you wore your wellies and played in puddles. There was no problem with the weather - snow, whatever!"

Hazel McAllan, 1945

"A gang of us used to have many fun times at the Grumps - building a den, playing on the Tarzan Swings, picking blueberries and eating them. We went up to the crannies for tadpoles and frogspawn."

Christine Geddes, 1949

"The Break Water was another favourite place - climbing the rocks, paddling in the water, picking shells and buckies to take home, where we would eat them with a pin." - Betty Allan 1935

"Lyndies, Chinese Ropies, Kick-the-Canny, walk-the-Plank and Join-the-Crew, PK Penny Packet (with a ball in the leg of a stocking), Dazzies (marbles), Beddies (Hop-Scotch now), Rounders...."

Hazel, Christine & Betty

"Me and my friends used to put cans in the back of our bike tyres, so it sounded like a motorbike used to love playing kerby and ballerina, ballerina with a big rope loved making tree swings up at the Gramps"

Gemma, Balnagask Parent & Toddler Group

"Football down the park, swimming in the sea, jumping off rocks into the water, two man hunt, jumping fences, assault course, camping (telling your parents you were staying out at your friends), building a base"

parent attending Balnagask Parent & Toddler Group

"My favourite childhood memory is my younger brother and I would get a carrier bag each, cut off the corners in the bottom of the bag and put our legs through, then our arms through the handles and run around having adventures"

Sarah Main, Balnagask Parent & Toddler Group

Unfortunately there's not enough space for everyone's memories or for further reflection! So I'll round off by saying a big thank you to everyone who have supported the Aberdeen Play Forum's work in Torry and also to those who shared their childhood play memories.

# Who we are and what we do

The Walker Road Parent Council, inclusive of the Walker Road PTA, has now been reformed for the past two years and although both groups have distinct functions we work closely together.

The Parent Council works in partnership with the school to provide a voice for parents. We share views and opinions with the head teacher, making sure that these are listened to and taken into account on a range of matters and try to ensure that these make a real difference to the work and life of the school in a positive manner.

Importantly we try and support the school in its development and improvement capturing the unique and varied skills, interests, knowledge and experience that parents can offer and how we can involve them, feeding this back at our monthly meetings.

Another vital voice we try and provide for all parents and guardians are on those issues within the school and catchment area with the local authority on concerns that are important to them, which can range from possible overcrowding at the school, to the building of a new academy that will affect children from the feeder schools.

The PTA group work primarily with the Parent Council and school on fundraising events which benefits all children attending. Some notable successes over the past year have been Valentines and Shorts and Shades discos, Christmas Fayre and a

magician who arrived at the end of last term and treated all the children to his show. These activities along with a trip for those children at nursery, who attended a show at the Lemon Tree, demonstrate how these fundraising events have a positive impact on the children.

Upcoming events for 2016 include the bingo night and summer fun day all of which are sure to raise more funds which will benefit all those attending Walker Road.

Both groups always try to encourage new members to come on board and this invitation is open to any parent or guardian who has a child attending Walker Road. Currently the Parent Council meets on the first Monday each month at 6pm, with the PTA meeting on the last Monday of each month at 9:15am.

The important message that both the Parent Council and PTA would like to emphasise is that we are there for you, the parents and guardians of children, who attend Walker Road Primary School and we positively encourage you to send any issues, concerns and ideas that you might have and would like us to approach at our meetings, so we can constantly strive to improve the roles that we play.

Should you wish to become involved in either group please do not hesitate to contact Chris Wright, Walker Road Parent Council chairperson via e-mail: [chris1903@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris1903@hotmail.co.uk)

## Pathways in Torry

Pathways have been actively working in the Torry area helping people to find work for a number of years now and our Employability Keyworker, Stan Smith, meets with people looking for help at Old Torry Community Centre, 2 Abbey Place on Thursdays from 10am until 4pm.

Stan has been working with a lady from Torry who had not worked for a few years to due health issues. On meeting with Stan they discussed various options and decided on small steps as she built up her stamina and confidence. With this in mind she volunteered with a local organisation and gained valuable experience and gradually got her health back and was now ready to apply for paid employment. After an interview and a few days wait she was successful in gaining employment as an administration assistant. She said: "Stan understood what I had been through and knew exactly what was needed for me to move on".

Pathways help people from the age of 16 upwards and from all backgrounds and help to identify the job or training that is right for you. We also help you to develop a plan to reach your job goal, help with CVs, assist in completing application forms and we also have access to funds to remove barriers to work e.g. clothing or equipment needs. Even in these more challenging times for employment in Aberdeen the Pathways team of Keyworkers continue to help people into work and they have assisted over 200 people in to work during this financial year.

**So, if you would like help to find work you can contact Stan Smith by phone on 01224 682 939 or by email at [s.smith@pathways-online.org](mailto:s.smith@pathways-online.org) or via Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PathwaysAberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/PathwaysAberdeen).**

# FUN MORNING AT SATROSPHERE

Tullos Primary and Family Learning invited the P1 children and their families to a fun packed morning in Satrosphere Science Centre.

The children made bubble pictures where they had to blow (not suck!) the paint to make bubble pictures. We then watched some 'Science on the Spot' where things fizzed and popped!

We watched a bubble show in the theatre space and the bubbles were so big even a grown up could stand inside one and dance! We then collected our pictures and it was time to back on the bus back home.

The parents and children told us the best bits were;

"Bubble pictures!  
Kids loved it"

"Logan really  
enjoyed the  
science show and  
the bubble show."

"Seeing the  
experiments and  
the bubble show"

"My daughter in  
the bubble"

"Bubble paintings"

"Going in the bubble"

## New Support at Torry Medical Practice

Torry Medical Practice has been working with Community Renewal to build stronger relationship with community groups and voluntary organisations to promote joined up services for their patients.

From the beginning of March two new information stands have been available for patients to visit and get information to help them get support to keep them healthy and fit.

One stand gives information on healthy activities available in the community and every Thursday afternoon the stand will be manned by a service provider who can help you find the activity best for you. So if you think you're too old for playing football but miss it or need to get some low level exercise you may want to try walking football or if you have a young child under two and want to keep fit but can't afford child care while you exercise why not go to a class you can take your little one with you? There is also information for people who have had specific health condition on classes to support you such as post-cardio classes.

The second stand will rotate between different community groups or voluntary organisations providing information on the services they offer to people living in Torry. Each group sets up on a Wednesday until the following Tuesday afternoon. Information of when the stand will be manned each week is displayed on the stand and above there is information on who will be coming over the next few weeks. On the stand you will find information from where to find support for a specific health conditions such as Alzheimer's, benefits information or what is available in the Torry library. If you're a patient of Torry Practice why not pop in and see what is going on in the waiting room.

### Cash in Your Pocket Offering Support to Torry Residents

Cash in Your Pocket helps people in need access the right support and advice to improve their finances and other services such as health and care. They provide a single point of contact and can refer people to the most appropriate agency.

Anyone can use the service either by contacting Cash in Your Pocket directly or through anyone working with clients who would benefit from using the services e.g. doctors, health visitors, support workers.

Cash in Your Pocket have recently built a stronger working relationship with Torry Medical Practice to help make sure patients know of the support available to them. Doctors and nursing staff are now encouraging patients to look after their own well-being and see Cash in your Pocket as a great way to access support for issues such as benefits and financial worries. Patients are being encouraged to access the support by calling Cash in Your Pocket on 01224 686077, completing a referral form available in the surgery and where necessary ensuring support is available to make the initial contact.

Cash in Your Pocket will be joining other community projects in a fun day on Saturday 14 May around the Torry Youth and Leisure Centre to promote health and wellbeing.

For full details on all the areas of support available by contacting Cash in your Pocket please look out for their special Torry leaflets available in community buildings and information points across Torry as well as at Torry Medical Practice or call 01224 686077.



## Local team bringing hope to Torry community

A group of big-hearted people have been busy bringing hope to lives in

The men and women from Aberdeen's King's Community Church are gathering attention for all the right reasons after reaching out to bring joy back into the community.

Led by local men, Darren Shinnie and John Alexander, the team have been working tirelessly to encourage folks who need hope, by organising a range of initiatives.

The outreach was birthed in the heart of Darren three years ago, when he felt the area where his family were raised, worked in and loved, needed life again.

What started off as a small meeting in Darren's living room has now expanded to a wide-ranging community drive, which includes a weekly outreach event, regular social and leisure trips, and much more.

At the core of the team's efforts is the Tuesday night Connect Group at Tullos Primary School, where around 60 people come together for food, fun and an inspiring Bible-based message; presented to encourage people that change, hope and personal transformation is possible.

As part of the evenings, they host an action-packed kid's programme for local youngsters, giving them the chance to enjoy Bible-based sessions in a colourful and energetic format.

Darren explained the idea behind the evenings: "We simply want to provide a safe, non-judgemental space and environment where folks can feel loved, accepted and be encouraged that their lives can change for the better."

"We regularly have a guest speaker – usually someone who has overcome their own struggles – come and talk about their own personal life story.

"We also often open up the evenings to a group chat and give people the chance to speak to people from the team on a one-on-one, personal level.

"The response has been fantastic, with many people taking real steps to change their lives. One of our friends, in particular, has moved from a life of alcoholism to now study at North East Scotland College, with a real sense of purpose and excitement for the future."

For three years now, King's Community Church has also hosted an annual Street Church, with around 200 people making their way to Torry's Logie Park for each event. At the gatherings, local people have enjoyed afternoons packed with kids' activities – including bouncy castles and face painting – acoustic music and life stories.

This year, the event will again be held in the summer and the church would love to welcome as many people from the community as possible.

Darren commented: "Our Street Church events have been fantastic opportunities to come alongside people and hopefully give them a good afternoon, full of fun, food and encouragement.

"We're simply a bunch of people who love God and love people and we want to help as many Torry men and women as possible break down their prison walls to live full lives."



# Waste as a Fuel?

Professor Robert Jackson's ongoing work for Scottish Water regarding the alleviation of odours from the Nigg Wastewater Treatment Works is progressing well with refurbishment of the facility due for completion. He has now been appointed by Aberdeen City Council to provide an independent overview of the proposed East Tullos Energy from Waste (EfW) plant.

## What does the proposed facility comprise?

The joint EfW project is a collaboration between Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and The Moray Councils to develop a regional waste treatment facility. The facility will utilise the waste as a fuel to produce heat and electricity.

Building an EfW facility in Aberdeen will allow heat and electricity to be generated from waste that cannot be reused or recycled. This will allow the city to benefit from heat and power produced from its waste resources, help to tackle fuel poverty, cut landfill costs and offer a source of sustainable energy.

## Why is the facility needed?

From 1st January 2021, Scottish Councils will be banned from placing any biodegradable municipal waste into landfill as it is not sustainable for the environment.

All waste has some value. However, there is a limit as to how much can be recycled due

to the difficulty of recovering the recyclable content material or unaffordable costs.

## When does the scheme need to be implemented by?

The full planning application was expected to be lodged with Aberdeen City Council at the end of February 2016.

If the planning application is approved the procurement phase will begin. Construction is likely to start in 2019 with the EfW facility first operating in 2021. There will be a refuse-derived fuel facility in Altens East as a short-term solution which will process and package waste ready for export to other regions. This does not offer a secure long term solution and the local area will not benefit from the energy produced.

## How will the facility operate?

Waste would be delivered into the proposed site from each Council. For Aberdeen, this will be via direct delivery from refuse collection vehicles. For the other two authorities, this will be via larger bulk vehicles. The incoming

waste would be incinerated with heat and electricity generated. The plant would operate 365 days per year but with waste predominantly being delivered during normal working hours.

## Who will operate the EfW plant?

The operational details of how the facility will operate are still under discussion between the three authorities.

## Where is the best location for the plant and where will the waste flows come from?

The site selection process has been very complex with many factors taken into consideration. For EfW facilities to meet the requirements of the Thermal Treatment Guidelines, local users of the resulting heat need to be identified. Aberdeen is able to satisfy this requirement due to its urban nature and, since Aberdeen generates the highest volume of waste in the north east of Scotland it makes commercial sense to locate the proposed facility close to the largest source of waste in the region.

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## Tea Break Reading 30 Second Tip Bits . . . . Written by Mandy "The Quine fae Torry"

When buying ice cream press on the top of the container, if it's solid it has been properly stored, however, if it depresses, it has thawed and then refrozen! In addition, why not add some sprinkles to the bottom of your ice cream cone, that way, your ice cream won't leak out the bottom, odds are that you'll have forgotten you did it and then given yourself your own sprinkle surprise.

Did you know that applying pressure to an itch is the best way

to get rid of it! This reduces the blood flow which will cause the itch to go away;

Students, some wee handy hints – Do you need to cram? The best way to study is 30 to 50 minutes at a time with a 10-minute break. Furthermore, did you know that writing down your worries before taking an exam has been proven to actually boost test scores!

Looking for something for the kids to sit on but do not want to pay the earth? Here is an idea, instead of buying a beanbag, why not take 4 pillows with cases and sew them together. This not only makes a great day mat, bed, TV pad, sleepover mat for the kids but if you flip one pillow back, it can be used as a head rest, great for watching those afternoon Saturday movies!

# Efforts to further degrade and contaminate our community gather pace...

*The horrors of two environmentally damaging developments on Torry's doorstep are now beginning to emerge. First, we've seen the release of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Aberdeen Harbour Board's (AHB) proposals to destroy Nigg bay. The tone of the report is arrogant and dismissive, with some key issues having been left out or dismissed. Apparently the consultants didn't meet anybody who objected to the proposals....!*

*Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has published its Nigg Bay Development Framework (NBDF). The document claims to reflect the results of both public and industry 'consultation'. However, this document does little to represent Torry and is little more than a slavish response to a list of demands from the Harbour Board.*

*Contrary to the relentless propaganda that is being promoted, perhaps a more plausible explanation for a placing a new harbour out of sight of city folk is the prospect of doing the dirty, lucrative stuff. It is possible to envisage the prospect of piles of stinking domestic or industrial waste - or contaminated incinerator ash being trucked and stockpiled. Add to this nightmare, the very real prospect of a harbour becoming a stinking, polluted lagoon, surrounded by the industrial squalor of marine decommissioning.*

*The Council's framework hints that 'there will be pressure for land... near the new harbour...'. Options for further industrial sprawl are*

*very limited. However, rumours of a new road linking a new harbour to East Tullos must raise concerns that St Fittick's Community Park – and any 'redundant' adjoining playing fields are under threat.*

*Surely, a key role of a Council is to protect and improve the quality of life of its ratepayers? Why then build a huge incinerator 300m from a primary school? Why should we suffer the potentially damaging environmental and health impacts of ACC actively endorsing the burning everybody else's trash?*

*The potential risks associated with industrial-scale waste incineration are well known. Waste incinerators discharge that are prone to accumulating in our body tissues and the soil. Nevertheless, we are being told by vested interests that they don't constitute a significant health risk. Perhaps they should explain why an incinerator that doesn't discharge polluting, and health damaging substances requires an 80m high chimney?*

*Recent 'consultation' events on the proposed incinerator were truly farcical: There was no mention of the potentially serious, long-term health impacts of burning 150,000+ tonnes of rubbish. No mention either of the plant's energy requirements and economics of 'waste management'; the contaminated ash produced; the potential for importing waste from elsewhere in the UK - or even completely ruling out the prospect of burning of sewage sludge. Rather, visitors were treated to a 'green wash' and*

*the outrageous spectacle of being 'consulted' on the design of the proposed plant's roof!*

*Undoubtedly, some readers will accuse me of painting both projects in the very worst possible light. Well – let's hope they are right! Supporters of industrial-scale incineration face a logical dilemma – a truly clean, reliable and safe system of burning rubbish should be able to be located anywhere where suitable services exist (BUT obviously nowhere near to the new city bypass, new industrial/business parks, the West end or the big energy users like ARI, or the city's universities and colleges!). However, such is the perverse zeal of our non-resident councillors, we are at real risk of being the victims of contrived arguments that there is nowhere else in the whole of Aberdeen city, Aberdeenshire or Moray (a total area of 3373 square miles!) capable of hosting such a plant – or using any resulting electricity or hot water.*

*We await full details of both proposals. The attitude towards Torry is damaging and often hypocritical attitude towards our community appears to be long-standing and politically endemic. ACC staff have been attending glitzy award ceremonies for the 'prettification' of the East Tullos Burn there are plans for two further and potentially overwhelming sources of industrial squalor and environmental degradation.*

**Torry resident**



## Exciting film opportunities for young people



shmu in partnership with the Youth Arts Collective are offering an exciting new filming opportunity to youth groups across the city and shire.

This course is designed to give young people (12-19yrs) across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire the chance to get a real hands-on film-making experience. During the course they will be trained in all elements of film production process including theory, script writing, pre-production,

directing and post-production. The end goal is to support the group to produce a 2-3 minute film that will be submitted for consideration for screening during the Aberdeen Regional Film Festival in the summer of 2016.

If this sounds interesting to you and you would like to find out more then contact Denise at shmu on 01224 515013 or [denise@shmu.org.uk](mailto:denise@shmu.org.uk)

## Under 25 and interested in a free music journalism & multimedia course?

Become a citizen journalist covering the North East's musicscene.

Our Multimedia Music Journalism courses have been running since October. Participants have been learning about written, audio and video journalism and are creating music-focused content for [57north.org](http://57north.org) as well as their own blogs and channels. They have produced video reports, filmed interviews with bands and artists, reviewed gigs, covered other music-related

events and more. Check out the articles and videos on [57north.org](http://57north.org) or at our ShmuTVOnline YouTube channel.

If you're interested in getting involved and learning these skills please contact [info@57north.org](mailto:info@57north.org) or call Simon Gall on 01224 515013 to book your free place.