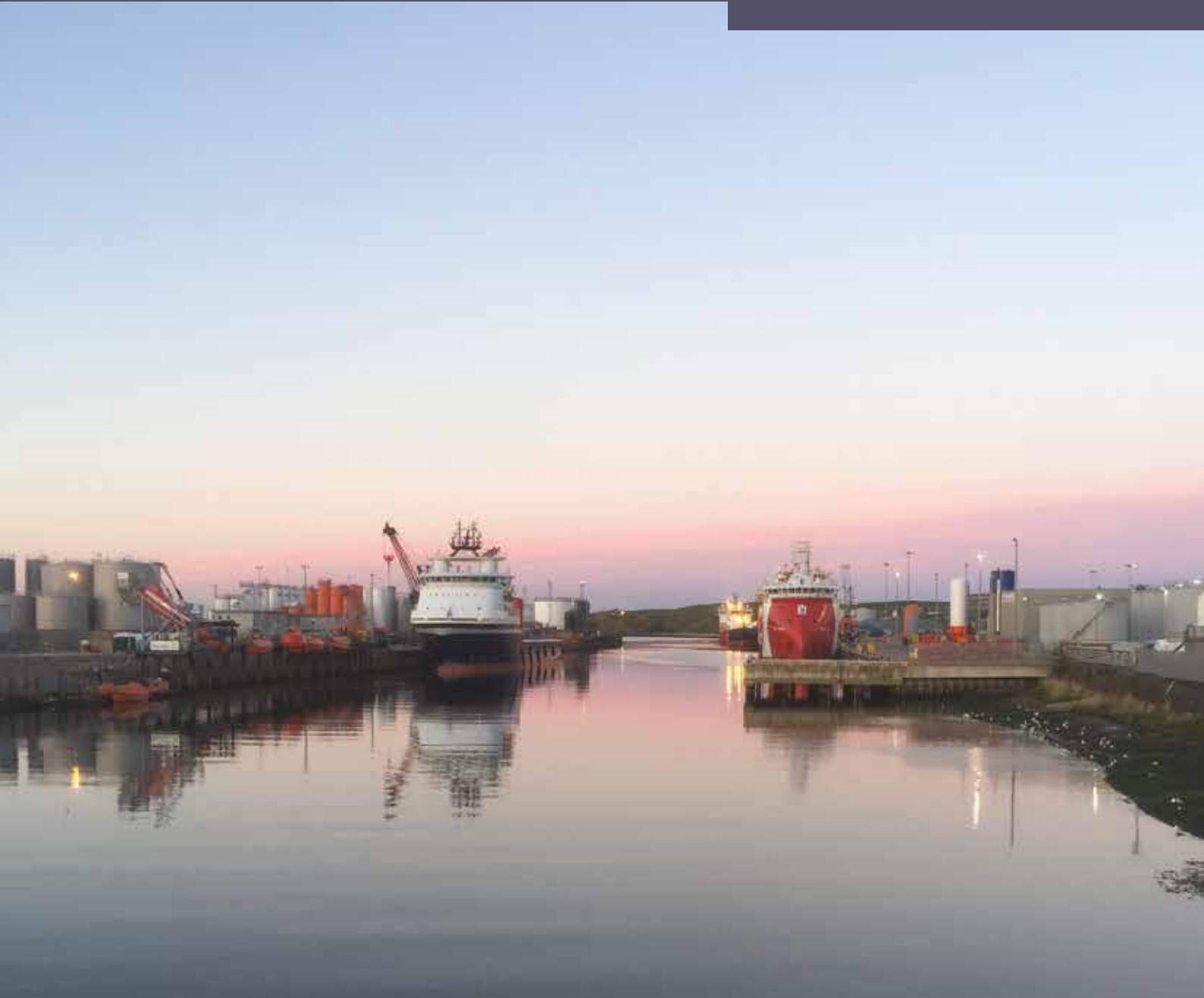


Torry's **Vision**

Summer 2017



In this issue:

.....

END OF AN ERA

VICTORIART

BIG NOISE

TORRY MEMORIES

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Image: Natalie Hood

Contents

This Summer...

3	Torry Memories
4	Victoriart
5	Local News
6	End of an Era
8	Big Noise
10	Dare to Swear
11	Rotary Club
12	Community Update
14	shmu
15	Potholes



Editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of Torry's Vision community magazine. Read on for news from RSPB Dolphin Watch, Greyhope Bay and the Participatory Budgeting team in Torry.

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.

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

Meeting dates for the Autumn edition:

First meeting - 30th August

Second meeting - 13th September

Content Deadline - 27th September

All meetings take place at Balnagask Community Centre at 9.30am

Supported by





Torry Memories and Heritage Society

The Torry Memories and Heritage Society is designed to give the people of Torry the opportunity to enjoy the company of others and reflect on their memories and experiences of Torry in a safe and friendly environment. We would like to encourage people to share and ultimately preserve their memories and the rich heritage of Torry. The society hopes to help eliminate the isolation that many of the older generation experience living at home. We also hope to enhance community participation by encouraging local schools to participate, learn and enjoy inter-generational conversations and experiences.

We are in the process of creating a memory room. It is well documented that memory rooms can help people with memory loss and dementia. The rooms evoke memories and help stimulate conversation for those with memory problems. We believe that this will be the first memory room available to a community in Aberdeen.

Aberdeen City Council's Housing Department have very kindly given us a room in Provost Hogg Court which was previously not used. We are going to decorate it to make it look like a 1940s-style living room in the hope it will provide comfort and pleasant memories for the residents. The strip lighting and modern fittings have been removed and more vintage style objects are being added. We have an old-fashioned fireplace and lots of ornaments which we will be putting in the room. We're looking for a sideboard and two fire retardant chairs which can be set up by the fireplace. Hopefully our room will be up and running by September and will be lovely space for the residents to use, whether they just want a bit of peace and quiet or to spend some quality time with their families.

We're also making up memory boxes which will all be themed, for example washing day. We're looking for little bits and bobs which will spark people's memories

and could be included within these boxes.

We are mapping all the shops in Torry over a specific time period – thinking particularly of the 1950s. Pat has been doing research on the shops in Victoria Road at the time. It might expand in the future but just now we're focusing on that area and time frame. We're looking for photos and information on the shops. If you have anything you would like to pass on look up Torry Memories and Heritage Society Facebook page.

We are based in Provost Hogg Court and meet every second Friday from the 12th of May between 1 and 3pm. If you have anything you would like to donate to our new living room or the memory boxes please get in touch with Laura at shmu on 01224 515013 or email laura.young@shmu.org.uk who will pass your information on to the group. You can also look up Torry Memories and Heritage Society on Facebook.

victoriart road uses creativity to spark regeneration

A local community is calling on residents to get involved and help them deliver a project that will spark people's curiosity and create civic pride in Torry by regenerating Victoria Road through public art.

Inspired by the recent Nuart festival from Aberdeen Inspired, VictoriArt Road is the brain child of local residents and is backed by artists, activists and community workers from Aberdeen City Council's Communities team. In line with the Locality Plan for Torry, the scheme aims to brighten up Victoria Road and spark people's curiosity in the local area.

The project was boosted by £10,000 grant funding from the National Lottery Awards for All, Scotland. The funds will be used to commission artists, purchase materials for public participation and deliver community engagement workshops.

The first stage of this project was to form a steering group made up of local residents. The group will ensure that VictoriArt Road is community led and reflects the needs and wishes of people of all ages living and working in Torry.

On Friday the 16th June a hands-on learning session entitled 'Street Art, Graffiti and Civic Engagement' took place with the Primary 7 class at Walker Road School.

They worked with representatives from Aberdeen Inspired, who are

supplying the printed art works, Aberdeen City Council and local business owners to paste-up life size figures on the external walls of the school and surrounding buildings in the neighbourhood. This is an aspect of the Outings Project spearheaded by Julien de Casabianca who undertook large and small scale paste ups during the Nuart festival. The aim of the community based aspect of this project is to make young people aware that they can influence the way their neighbourhood looks and feels and provide information about how to do so.

A week later on Thursday the 22nd of June, there was a presentation entitled 'From Painted Doors to Nuart' at Torry Academy Library. Local artist and blogger from 'The Mood of Collapse', Jon Reid discussed the cultural shift that Aberdeen is undertaking with the help of Aberdeen Inspired's city centre initiatives.

A community mapping walk took place on Saturday the 25th of June where the steering group undertook an audit of Victoria Road. This involved looking closely at the aesthetics of the area, taking pictures and counting vacant shops. The resulting data will inform where art installations are placed in the coming months.

The next stage of the project will be for the steering group to recruit

the artists and organisations they would like to work with for the benefit of Torry. This phase of the project is expected to conclude by April 2018 when Nuart will return to the city for the second time. There are a number of opportunities available to those who are interested in taking part and influencing the project, including joining the steering group, or offering wall space for art works. If you would like to get involved please email cabbott@aberdeencity.gov.uk in the first instance or visit the website which you can find at www.victoriartroad.weebly.com



Torry Community Council – reporting back – July 2017

LOCAL SCHOOLS

The new Academy at the back of MAKRO is being built and the local parent councils and the Community Council keep a watching brief on how this develops. Road safety and transport issues are still to be publicly announced.

ODOURS IN TORRY

Major works over the last 18 months have seen some £12 million pounds' worth of work however there are still problems, so we are not out of the woods yet! We are not happy and have agreed to make a case direct to the Scottish Government and the Parliament in Edinburgh. We agreed at the February meeting to write to the Chief Executive of Scottish Water to invite him to meet us in public however he has declined. The job is not done by anyone measure and we remain committed to campaigning to get the problems solved.

PROPOSED INCINERATOR

The Community Council's stated position is that IF, and that's a big IF, this plant is really needed then it should only be built well way (many many miles!!) from any residential community given major air pollution and environmental problems that go hand in hand with incinerators. We will continue to make our concerns known at every opportunity and we will continue to oppose this toxic titian at every stage we can for the future health and wellbeing of everyone in Torry, Aberdeen and landwards areas.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

**secretarytorrycommunity
council@gmail.com**

Phone: 07759276769

Facebook:

Torry Community Council

**Meetings: Third Thursday
of the month, 7pm in Torry
Academy Library**

ST FITTICKS'S COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Some exciting news!

A group of local residents are planning to develop an area of ground on St Fittick's Road into a community orchard – plus community growing space.

The idea emerged from the UDecide Torry project earlier in the year. Although the orchard didn't quite make the final winners list it was very popular with the local community. So the group (with support from the council) are developing their plans to get Torry growing and flourishing with fruit and veg. The vision is that the area will be a tranquil oasis in Torry with open access for the community

to come and grow their own or simply relax in the greenspace.

Do you want to get involved? Well now is the time to do so. We are in the middle of getting the ground asset transferred to the local community and then we will design and develop the orchard.

Remember – this is your orchard and growing space so why not come along to our meetings?

For further information and to find out the time of the next meeting please phone Teresa on 01224 498164.

CAMPBELL'S BAR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Were you sad to see Campbell's Bar close?

Well don't be - because a local community group is working hard to get it reopened as a social enterprise bar whose profits will go to benefit the people of Torry.

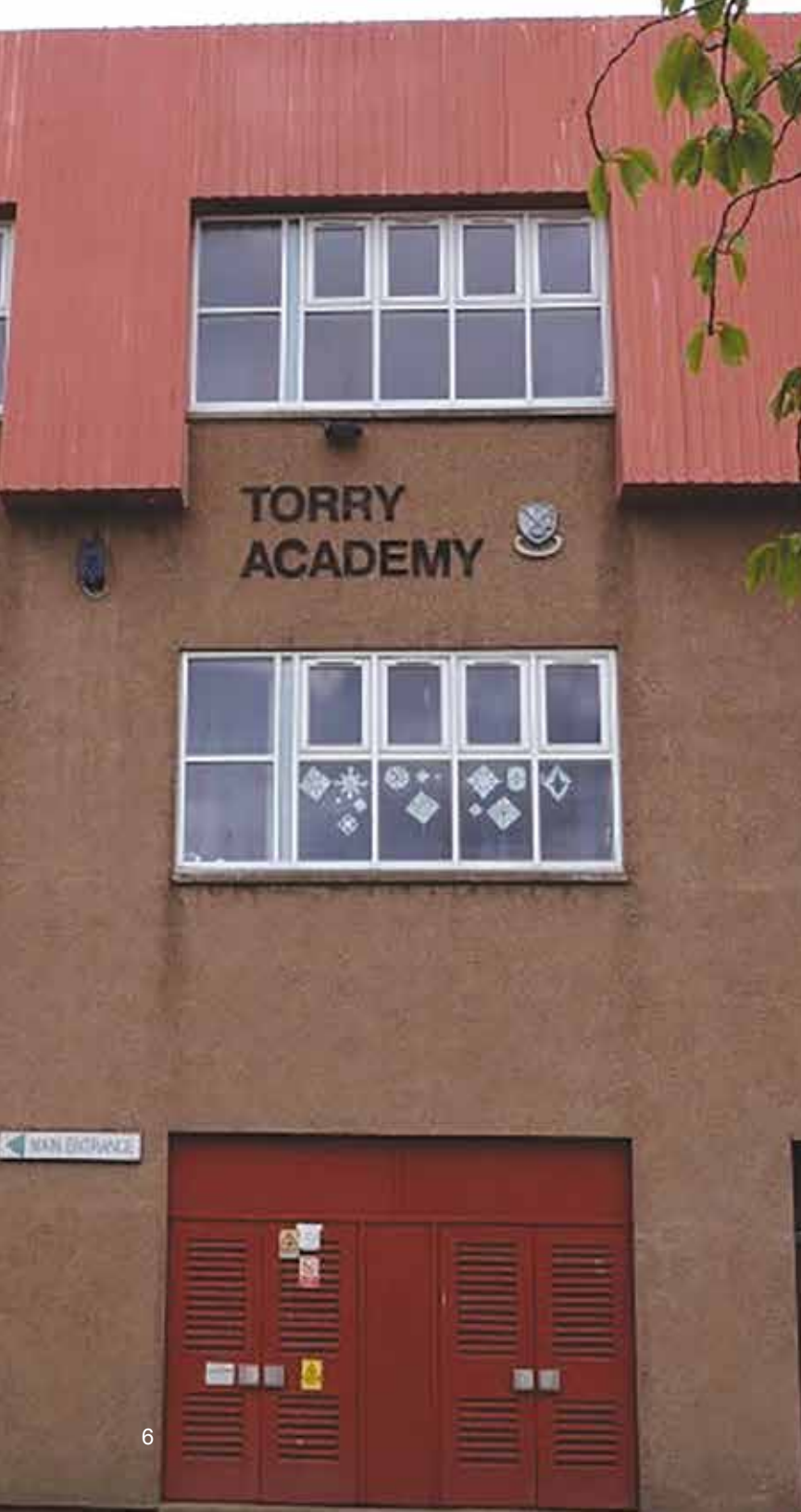
The original idea was popular with residents during the UDecide Torry project earlier in the year. Although it didn't quite make the final winners list it received a lot of interest and now a steering group has been formed to reopen the bar. These are exciting times for community buy-outs and asset transfers, so why not get involved? Along with putting profits back into the community the project also hopes to provide training for local people and promote Torry as a buzzing place to be.

Torry Social Enterprise Group is still looking for more members to join. So now is the time to express your interest. Let's get Campbell's reopened – for the benefit of Torry!

For further information or times of meetings please message the group's facebook page – Torry Social Enterprise group. You can also contact Teresa on tedufficy@aberdeencity.gov.uk or by calling 01224 498166.

An End of an Era...

Written by Mandy
"The Quine fae Torry"



For many of the loons and quines who have lived within Torry over the last 90 years, Torry Academy has been a central part of our lives whether you have been a great grandparent, grandparent, parent or a pupil yourself. Some families have 2, 3 or more generations that have attended the educational establishment since its inception as Torry Intermediate in 1920's. In my personal experience, my father attended Torry Intermedia in 1938/39 and then 40 years later his own daughter attended Torry Academy in the late 1970s/early 1980s.

The original school building was built from Peterhead granite on the brow of Torry Hill and was opened in August 1927 with its first headmaster, Robert Bain. After the Second World War, around about 1947, the rear block granite part of the current school was expanded (which currently houses the departments for English, Mathematics, Science, Design & Technology, Creative Arts, Physical Education, Support for Learning and Guidance areas, together with a range of Offices (including the Heads), the Staff Room, and Medical Suite). Then after the Aberdeen Education Department adopted the Comprehensive System, the school became Torry Academy in 1970 and a new front extension was completed in 1977 on the site of The Moundie. This was created to accommodate an additional 3 storey block (currently housing the departments for Modern Languages, Humanities, Home Economics, Physical Education and ICT together with the School Library and the canteen) necessitated by growing numbers of pupils. As of June 2018, the building that is at the heart of the Torry and which has educated thousands of local Torry folk will no longer exist. It has been deemed surplus to requirements for

the area as a new state-of-the-art Academy "Lochside", a £46.9M south of the city school is being built to accommodate pupils from both Kincorth and Torry Academies, to be opened for the school academic year in August 2018. As quoted within the Aberdeen City Council Press Release in November 2016: "The complex will provide both pupils and staff the opportunity to enjoy learning/teaching in a modern, flexible environment, built on delivering the Curriculum for Excellence."

With around a year left to go before the gates close for the final time, the school has launched a Year of Celebration. Torry Academy's Head Teacher, Jenny Cranna has organised for the school to host a variety of events throughout the school year for current and former staff and pupils as well as the wider community to look back at the 90-year history of the school. In spring 2017, as part of the UDECIDE Torry the school was awarded £15,000 worth of funding to put on the year-long celebration.

Head Teacher Jenny Cranna, who has been linked with Torry Academy for about 29 years in total, was interviewed recently by the Quine fae Torry.

Mandy asked Jenny what her fondest memory of Torry and the school. Jenny said: "Torry is one big family and those who have gone through their education in Torry tend to stay in Torry in later life then their children come to Torry and the school is the heart of that. One memory that will stay with me is that this family is very supportive of the school and the community and that we all work together."

The Quine fae Torry enquired about the Year of Celebration – The Final Countdown project and

subsequent events that are to be held over the year.

Jenny Cranna replied: "It was very sad that Torry Academy is closing, but what Torry Academy wanted to do was celebrate its final year that the Academy is in existence. So, we have a planning group consisting of some ex-pupils, current staff, councillors and anyone that has played a major role over the last 90 years, as in the case of Larry Officer who had been the Head Janitor for a number of years."

The planning group has set aside a calendar of events, where there will be 2 or 3 events every month between August and until when the school closes on 6th July 2018, organising a range of activities so that it involves the whole community, not just pupils and staff. This will also include participating in a couple of Guinness World Records for the Torry community. There are other events like spooky evenings where we tell ghostly stories of Torry and will have some role plays involved there, we are going to have a formal Burn's Supper which has never taken place within Torry. The aim is to bring back some local pipers and a ceilidh band which should be a fun event! Throughout the whole year, there will lots of events for those people who have a connection with Torry to come along and take part and meet up with old friends.

The final big event of the whole year is for the pupils. We have obtained the performance rights to the School of Rock, an Andrew Lloyd Webber stage musical of the hit film "School of Rock. This will be performed at the Tivoli Theatre on 28th May 2018 to the 1st June 2018. Pupils from both Kincorth

ASG (Associated Schools Group) and pupils from Torry Academy as well so when they attend the new Lochside Academy in August 2018, it is hoped that it will be the start of the process of making new friends across both communities. Jenny advised that she and her colleagues have been participating in a road show within the local primary schools where they are told a wee bit about the musical, with a wee bit of music and a wee bit of acting. So far over 600 parent consent forms have been distributed so hopefully there will be lots of budding actors involved!

Furthermore, for the final staff/ex-staff of Torry Academy there will be a dinner at the Beach Ballroom where they are trying to get hold of as many ex-staff as possible and there should be around 350 in total along with current staff. It's a really exciting time over the year and hopefully there will lots to take part in. There is a Facebook Page 'Torry Academy Year of Celebration – The Final Countdown' where we will have updated events that will be going on monthly, there is also torrycelebrations@gmail.com email address for people wishing to contact about the events etc. as well as the website on Torry Academy Website

So for those loons and quines who have lived within Torry over the last 90 years and have graced the grounds of Torry Intermediate/ Torry Academy, this is our time to celebrate the end of an era over the next year with the Torry Academy's Year of Celebration – The Final Countdown before the historical grounds we adore are no longer standing. Torry and its community holds its breath to see what the future will be for our beloved academy!



BIG NOISE ORCHESTRA

Research by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health has revealed that Big Noise Torry has enhanced participants' ability to learn in school, as well as improving emotional wellbeing.

Big Noise, which is run by the charity Sistema Scotland and supported by Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Government, provides free, immersive, instrumental music tuition, as well as an orchestra programme, to pupils and pre-school children in Torry's Walker Road and Tullos Primaries, during and after school. It currently works with more than 500 local school children aged 3 to 9 years in Torry.

The report which the Glasgow based centre is working on is a long-term study into the impacts of the Big Noise centres in Stirling, Glasgow and Torry. The GCPH report found after only 18 months, Big Noise Torry is a

large scale, high quality, social intervention which is already positively impacting on the lives of children. Key findings of the study which was funded by NHS Health Scotland and supported by Players of the People's Postcode Lottery, include:

- Teachers reported improvements in academic and behavioural skills including listening, concentration, creativity, communications, cooperation, emotional intelligence and conceptualising goals.
- School attendance rates are higher among Big Noise afterschool participants than for other pupils. Although there may be a range of factors at play here, this finding is consistent across the three current Big Noise sites.
- 100% of the children who were asked to draw a picture of how they felt expressed consistent feelings of happiness, enjoyment

and pride in playing their instrument and being part of Big Noise.

- Big Noise is working with some of the most disadvantaged children including those from low income families and pupils "looked after" by the local authority. Pupils of ethnic minority background and with English as a second language are also equitably represented within Big Noise provision.
- The programme is well embedded within the Torry community and is underpinned by close working with schools and a range of delivery partners. Big Noise musicians and staff are described by partners as skilled, dedicated and passionate.

Chris Harkins, Senior Public Health Research Specialist at GCPH said: "Our research demonstrates that the Big Noise Torry programme is



already having positive impacts on the wellbeing, education and learning of participants as well as on the development of important social and life skills.

"We found that the strong partnerships which exist with local schools and the broader community, the intensity and accessibility of Big Noise alongside the teaching methods used by the musicians, are pivotal to the positive impacts observed to date. Looking to the future, if the programme continues to engage with children and the community in this way, it will have a central role to play in the regeneration of Torry over the long term."

Cllr Jenny Laing, Leader of Aberdeen City Council said: "We are particularly pleased with the strong partnerships Big Noise Torry has built within Walker Road and Tullos Primary Schools and the wider Torry community. By working alongside our dedicated teachers and committed parents and carers we are delivering the best possible curriculum to pupils and giving them the best start in life."

Nicola Killean, Chief Executive of Sistema Scotland added: "We are now building a convincing

body of evidence across all our Big Noise centres which clearly demonstrates that children from the most disadvantaged communities can gain significant life-changing skills by learning to play an instrument and being part of a Big Noise programme. Children are growing in confidence, improving their concentration, team working & communications skills. We now have more than 2000 children across Scotland participating in Big Noise from babies to school leavers, with a fourth centre opening in Dundee this year. Our next step is to begin tracking school leavers who joined Big Noise 10 years ago to establish what destinations they are moving onto, and to continue to sustain the work and monitor the impact long term."

The GCPH has described the key to the Big Noise programme design as seven delivery principles including longevity and commitment, developing meaningful relationships, inclusivity and accessibility, intensity and immersion, innovation and flexibility, collective and cooperative learning and excellence, aspiration and inspiration.

Big Noise Torry

When people think of Big Noise, they maybe just think about primary school kids playing tiny violins. But in the last few months, we have begun our Little Noise programme for babies and toddlers. Every Monday at 10:15 in Tullos Learning Centre (Torry Academy in the holidays), Laurie meets with mums and dads (and little ones!) to tell stories, make music and catch up of a cup of coffee.

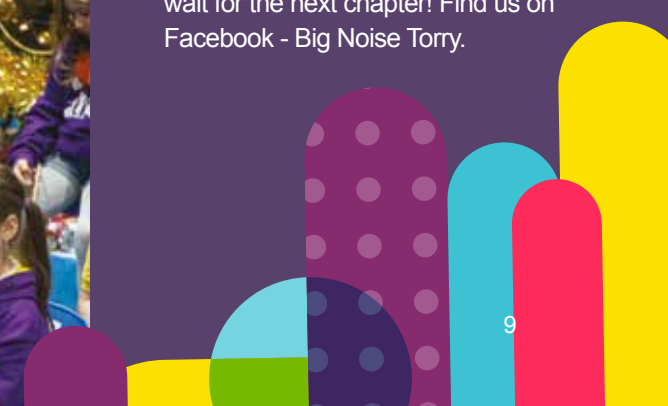
At the other end of the scale, we've begun our Adult Orchestra! Parents of our P3 and P4 children have been invited to take part. So if you think that Big Noise is just for P4s, it's actually for Four Month Olds to Forty-Somethings!

We are getting ready to welcome a new academic year to Big Noise Summer Club in July. As well as music, the new group will get lunch and extra activities like dance and football for a whole month. Holiday Clubs are always a special time, it's a great opportunity to get to know the children better and for them to make great progress on their instruments.

As we grow, we need even more great volunteers to help with walking the children to the school and supporting them in their learning. You need absolutely NO musical experience to be a Big Noise volunteer, so if you're interested, please do contact us.

For the P4s, there will be a residential trip to Stirling in July, to play with orchestras from other Big Noise centres, as well as other fun events. We are so excited for them to build on their confidence, see a new part of Scotland and strengthen their feeling of community in Big Noise.

All in all, it's been a really exciting few months at Big Noise, and we can't wait for the next chapter! Find us on Facebook - Big Noise Torry.





TORRY LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

For the past couple of years Children's Parliament has been working with children living in Torry and going to Tullos Primary School. We have been imagining Aberdeen as a city where children are healthy, happy and safe – and doing their best. Some of the Torry children were part of our big mural and film project – you might have seen the mural as it has toured around the city. At the centre of the mural is the lighthouse and on it are all the important messages children want adults to understand.

The lighthouse messages are so important for our children that it got us thinking about what Children's Parliament could do with local families so that we could all make Torry a place where children flourish. Staff from Children's Parliament have started to talk with local people and organisations about our idea to create the Torry Lighthouse project – this would be about supporting families through playing, learning and eating together.

Colin from Children's Parliament is working on putting the idea together and applying to the Big Lottery for funding. If you would like to keep in touch with the idea as it develops just email Colin. He will be sharing more about how the project might look over the summer. You can also let him know what you think families need in Torry and what you are already doing because it's important that Children's Parliament understands what is working well locally.

You can contact Colin on colin@childrensparliament.org.uk

Walker Road Launch Anti Swearing Campaign

DARE NOT TO SWEAR

During the last month of the school term, Walker Road Primary School has launched an anti-swearing campaign with all pupils taking part. The hope is that this will promote opportunities for personal development, respect to their peers and give the chance for children to be in a position to use appropriate language in all arenas of life as they transcend through their schooling.

Whilst a lot of work has been classroom based, parents and the public can see the practical work that the children have carried out with posters attached to the top and bottom playground fences with individual signs and flyers promoting the anti-swearing campaign.

The school hopes the message of the campaign will filter through to parents and guardians when

dropping off / picking up their children as the playground becomes a swear free zone. With this campaign the school hopes everyone involved will show more consideration to those around them.

It is hoped that in the future the playground will become a far more inviting environment for the children to express themselves without finding a need to swear as well as having the confidence to challenge their peers with the motto of 'DARE NOT TO SWEAR' when they hear them do so.

The campaign will carry on during the next school year and will be revisited throughout the school terms, so we can all continue to build this positive message into the working fabric of the stakeholders involved at Walker Road.





St. Fittick Rotary Club

The Torry Schools and Youth Groups

Rotary's motto is "Service above Self." An important part of the service which Rotary Clubs offer is for the benefit of young people. St. Fittick Rotary Club has therefore been delighted to have had contact and involvement with the schools in Torry over many years. The co-operation of the schools is excellent and the club and schools work closely together in a variety of projects aimed at providing additional educational and developmental opportunities to both primary and secondary pupils and youth groups.

The Sandy Wilson Quiz – organised by St. Fittick Rotary Club

Building on the success of the inaugural quiz in 2016, the second Sandy Wilson Quiz took place in the Old Torry Community Centre on Thursday 16th March.

St. Fittick members were pleased to host a group of over 30 youngsters representing various youth organisations based in the Torry area. Once again, it was a pleasure to spend the evening in the company of such enthusiastic and fun-loving young folk who all did their clubs and communities proud.

The Sandy Wilson Quiz is a general knowledge quiz open, free of charge, to youth organisations based in the Torry area of the city. All teams win cash awards for their organisations based on

the number of points gained in the quiz. St. Fittick Rotary was delighted to receive so many expressions of thanks and appreciation from the participants. They all obviously enjoyed the Quiz.

RYLA – (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)

If you are a senior student at Torry Academy, then this is for you.

RYLA events are for young people aged 16 to 17 years, who are about to start their working lives or to enter higher education. 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.

Activities may include canoeing, abseiling, scrambling, hiking and camping overnight under canvas.

The students must be prepared for a range of tough physical and mental challenges, such as getting wet, problem solving and practical group leadership exercises where each student has the opportunity to develop key leadership skills.

The course is run in the Outdoor Centre near Nethybridge and St. Fittick Rotary Club meets the course costs. If you want to know more, speak to your Guidance Teacher.

Primary School Quiz

Rotary clubs in the area have 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 and Kincorth areas.

This year's heat was held at Kirkhill School on 22nd March with teams from Abbotswell, Kirkhill, Loirston, and Walker Road taking part. At the end of a keenly fought contest, Kirkhill were victorious.

Millennium Bursary Fund

This is another one for senior students at Torry Academy.

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. Interviews for applicants this year will be taking place very shortly.

If this is you then speak to your Guidance Teacher for more information.

Cllr Yvonne Allan

Can I firstly say how pleased I am to be re-elected to represent the people of Torry and Ferryhill on Aberdeen City Council.

There is a good programme of housing improvements in various parts of Torry this year. Some of these are window replacements, roof repairs etc.

It is going to be quite a year of celebration this year as Torry Academy is doing a lot of activities to mark the last year of the school in its present situation before they move to the new Lochside Academy so do look out for these events as the whole community is invited to get involved.

We have recently seen the completion of the 'Backies Project' in Tullos Crescent and the improvements at the east end of Victoria Road are progressing well.

The play parks have had a face lift and the Abbey Place/ Victoria Road one is next to be upgraded. Let's hope we get a decent summer so that families can enjoy these newly upgraded facilities. I'm sure the kids will also enjoy the various summer clubs that will be going on in different venues over the summer period.

01224 523013

yallan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillors' Comments

Councillors Christian Allard and Catriona Mackenzie

We are delighted to be newly elected Councillors for Torry/ Ferryhill, and would like to thank everyone who went out to vote on May the 4th. We will be dedicated councillors for the community and are committed to working hard for everyone. We campaigned on local issues and have been hard at work since being elected to make sure Torry is well represented in Aberdeen City Council. We spent a lot of time going door-to-door to speak to people and find out what you want us to prioritise in our work on community issues. One thing that came up time and time again was the local environment of Torry, and in particular trying to resolve various problems with odours and concerns over possible pollutants near the Wetlands.

Just a couple of weeks after being elected we responded to reports about alarming materials floating in the East Tullos Burn. For now we have very clear advice for everyone in Torry and especially those living near the burn and that is: keep people and pets away from the area, and do not go near the water. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) sampled our burn and found the presence of a large algal growth on the surface which, due to its colour, can easily be mistaken for visible human waste. A sample was tested and it was found to have potentially toxic blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) in it. You will see signs at the site warning about this, but it is vital that we spread the word amongst folk

who live here too. We want you to know we will continue to work on this issue as long as it poses any risks to people's health, especially in the drier and warmer summer months.

Elsewhere in the community we have been attending sessions on the Torry Livings Streets audit and have been interested in their recently published report findings on how to improve our local streets to make them more pedestrian friendly and encourage walking in the community. We have also been attending the Torry Locality Partnership meetings and networking events which have been fantastic group conversations with people living and working in the area on how we can work to make improvements to life across Torry. These sessions are very useful not just for us as local councillors, but for active members of the community and city council services teams too, so we want to urge more people living here to come along and give your input into the sessions. It is vital that we have residents in the community having their say on local services.

And finally, as newly elected councillors we would like to encourage all Torry residents to get in touch with us over any issues or concerns you may have by emailing cmackenzie@aberdeencity.gov.uk and callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Maureen Watt MSP

for Aberdeen South and North Kincardine

There has been a lot happening in Torry, and my office on Victoria Road has taken on a lot of new cases this year, particular for people affected by harsh UK Government austerity measures. One case in particular which we worked hard at was for a constituent who was being chased for £7500 by the HMRC due to a tax credits mistake on their part. It took weeks of correspondence with HMRC but our perseverance paid off and HMRC realised they were in the wrong, so I would urge anyone with concerns about changes to their tax credits to contact my office about it.

Some fantastic news for Torry which I am delighted about is that during August the first tenants of the key workers housing being built on the old Craiginches prison site are expected to move in. As the local MSP I spent time pushing forward the case for more affordable accommodation in Aberdeen, and the Scottish Government recognised those calls and supplied Sanctuary the £8million needed to make this £21million project possible. The new homes represent commitment from the Scottish Government to affordable accommodation in attracting and retaining key workers such as NHS staff, and I am looking forward to welcoming the new residents to Torry as they move in between now and March next year.

As your MSP I keep local issues at the forefront of everything I do and encourage all of my constituents to contact me with any issues that may be concerning you in the community.

Maureen Watt MSP
01224 876743 or email maureen.watt.msp@parliament.scot



Applications open for full training and placement programme at Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project

Dragados UK, principal contractor for Aberdeen Harbour Board's development of new harbour facilities and associated infrastructure at Nigg Bay, have developed the Community Ambassador Programme (CAP) in order to ensure access to non-construction based work experience opportunities on the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project.

The CAP will engage currently unemployed Torry residents in a voluntary training and work experience programme. It will run twice a year, offering 6 months' work experience placements plus a full training programme.

The volunteers will work as part of the Dragados UK Community Engagement Team, supporting the delivery of the visits from schools in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire to the project's temporary Visitor Centre, which will be open from August 2017 to June 2020.

They will also support other events taking place at the Visitor Centre, such as talks to professional and community-based groups as well as external talks, meetings, etc.

The conditions of the programme have been agreed by the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project Community Benefit Steering Group, which includes Dragados UK; Aberdeen Harbour Board; Aberdeen City Council; North East Scotland College; CiTB; Skills Development Scotland and ACVO.

If you are interested in completing this full training and work placement, don't hesitate to drop an email at contactusAHEP@dragados.com.

Aberdeen Streetwork Project

We are a service that uses informal learning to help young people aged 10-25 years to make positive changes in their lives and take action in their communities.

Aberdeen Streetwork Project Staff meet with young people in public places to offer information, advice and support on a range of issues including alcohol, employment, drugs, sexual health and education. We focus on building up positive relationships with young people.

When needed we will challenge anti-social behaviour and work alongside our partners to allow mediation between young people and other groups/residents to take place to resolve such issues.

Aberdeen Streetwork Project Youth Workers are employed by Aberdeen City Council, Youth Development Team and are PVG checked.

Contact info – Ellie Hepburn, Development Officer EHEPBURN@aberdeencity.gov.uk Or Ann-Marie Morrison, Community Learning Youth Worker AnnMMorrison@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Aged 16-19? Passionate about
film? Want to work in the
film industry?

Applications are open for the fourth Aberdeen BFI Film Academy course, which runs from September 2017 until February 2018. Funded by the BFI and working in partnership with North East Scotland College and the Belmont Filmhouse, the prestigious course will include masterclasses from a range of professionals, culminating in the production of two short films. Participants are expected to commit to weekly sessions and occasional training and filming over weekends.

As a student of the Aberdeen BFI Film Academy you will;

Explore your own creativity and passions in a supportive and dynamic environment.

Watch a range of cinema from British Independent to specialised films.

Gain invaluable experience working alongside industry professionals who are respected practitioners in their field.

Get hands-on filmmaking experience which will help you to develop practical knowledge and skills.

Work on the production of a short film.

Once you have completed the course, you will become part of the growing BFI Film Academy alumni network with access to events such as BAFTA career talks. You can also apply for one of BFI's seven intensive residential programmes taking place throughout the UK.

How to take part:

If you are interested in finding out more about the course please contact us directly for more information.

Email - bfi@shmu.org.uk
or phone the office on 01224 515013
if you'd like to apply, then download the application form below and follow the instructions.

The closing date for applications is Friday 1st September 2017.

We really look forward to hearing from you.

When is a Pot Hole not a Pot Hole?

Are you aware that UK motorists are facing a postcode lottery of road quality due to the failure of local authorities to agree a definition of what is exactly constitutes a pothole? It may sound like a simple question, but councils up and down the country have failed to agree on an answer. It has been estimated that potholes have caused as many as 1 in 10 mechanical failures on UK roads and cost motorists an estimated £730 million every year. There are around 295 square miles of potholes on our UK roads with the average pothole costing about £590 each to fix. Although harsh weather - particularly freeze and thaw cycles in winter - creates potholes in the first place by cracking the tarmac, motoring organisations such as the RAC have blamed cash-strapped councils "patch and dash" approach for exacerbating the problem.

Potholes are a major factor in causing axle and suspension failure, which costs British motorists an estimated £2.8 billion every year and according to potholes.co.uk results in local authorities paying out more than £30 million in compensation claims due to poor roads. An exclusive investigation into the state of Scotland's crumbling roads found that local authorities have recorded more than 632,000 carriageway craters over the past three years, a cost to taxpayers of at least £108,000 in compensation payouts.

So what about the motorists within the north-east? Motorists left with damaged cars after hitting the north-east's worst potholes have successfully claimed back tens of thousands of pounds in compensation from local authorities. According to figures released by the Press & Journal in 2014, Aberdeen City Council have made compensation payouts of £83,846.01 between 2009 and 2014 whilst Aberdeenshire Council

compensation payouts were around about half that amount (£43,087.84). However many potholes reported by members of the public are not classed as such. Aberdeen City Council defines a pothole as a sharp edged hole anywhere in the road surface where part or all of the surface layers have been removed. In order for them to consider the pothole to be a defect the issue would need to be more than 50mm deep. Furthermore, how quickly Aberdeen City Council can fill in said pothole will depend on the severity and location of said issue. If the pothole is on a footway, it will need to be more than 20 mm deep before it would be classed as urgent (www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/web/includes/template/ShowFAQ.asp).

It was announced this year that the roads within Aberdeen are set to be resurfaced under a £2.2 million project revealed by previous Finance Convener, Willie Young. Aberdeen City Council stated that it would use the finance of said project to fix 57 roads (to include Market Street between Palmerstone Road / Guild Street and sections of Hilton Road, Union Glen, Abergeldie Road and Deeside Gardens) in the 2017 / 2018 period which unfortunately doesn't include any of the roads within Torry such as Walker Road (at the Polwarth Road side), Baxter Street, Baxter Place to name but a few pothole infested streets within Torry. Over the previous 5 year term of Aberdeen City Council, it was deemed that the roads were back up to a better standard because of the investment that had been made and that the council had been able to repair the potholes quicker. This meant that the compensation



Potholes on Walker Road

claims made by motorists have decreased from 279 claims made in 2011/12 to 107 in 2015/16.

So the only way we as residents of Torry to get the road that we deserve and expect from our City Council is to complain and complain by reporting the fault relating to road surfaces/potholes via Aberdeen City Council Website (online.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/faultreport/FaultReport.aspx) or by other means of correspondence: Aberdeen City Council Customer Service Centre, Ground Floor, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB (Telephone: 0845 608 0910)

Another way of reporting problems with road surfaces / potholes is through www.fixmystreet.com or you can download the App. This site allows the complainer to map and report street problems to the council.

So let us not at any point suffer in silence, report those road surfaces / potholes in and around Torry so that we can receive the road sources that deserve and expect from our City Council!

Community Contacts

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 9177 650

Drinkline 0300 123 1110

Crime

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Drugs

Drugs Action Helpline 01224 594700

Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens 111

Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency 111

Electricity

If you have a power-cut 105

Family Planning

Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village 0345 337 9900

Gas

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999

Gas emergency with a meter 0845 606 6766

Housing

Emergency Repairs 01224 219 282

Call Centre Emergency 0845 608 0929 or 116 123

Police

Non-emergency 101

Samaritans

Need to talk 01224 574 488 or 116 123

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team 0800 7315520

Emergency Out-Of-Hours 01224 693936

Young Carers 01224 212021

Water

Scottish Water Emergency 0800 0778 778

CFINE

01224 596156

Home-Start

01224 693545

Pathways

01224 682 939

Cash in your Pocket

0800 953 4330

Citizens Advice

01224 569750

Balnagask Community Centre

01224 871206

Old Torry Community Centre

01224 894925

Tullos Learning Centre

01224 291882

Walker Road Primary School

01224 879720

Tullos Primary School

01224 876621

Torry Academy

01224 876733

Torry Medical Practice

01224 01224 894600

Torry Community Council

contactus@torrycommunitycouncil.org.uk