

Torry's **Vision**

Summer 2018



In this issue:

LOCHSIDE PARENT VOICE

TORRY CRUYFF

DOLPHIN WATCH

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Image: Natalie Hood



Contents

This summer...

3	Birthday Honours
4	Aberdeen Reads
5	Lochside Academy
6&7	Community Update
8&9	Dolphin Watch
10	Torry Heritage
11	Tale of Two Benches
12	School Grants
13	Local News
14	shmu
15	Beach Clean

Editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of Torry's Vision community magazine. Read on for news from RSPB Dolphin Watch, Lochside Academy Parent Voice, Communities Torry and much more.

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.



Supported by



BIRTHDAY HONOURS FOR TORRY QUINE!

Hazel McAllan, Chairperson of Balnagask Community Centre is amongst the sixteen people from the North-East and Moray who have been included in the Queen's Birthday Honours list this year.

Hazel has received the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the community, including going above and beyond when the community centre had to be used as a shelter in December 2015 after fires at a car service centre on Girdleness Road.

In Hazel's own words she said: "I am absolutely over the moon to let you all know that I have received a B.E.M (British empire medal) in the Queen's Birthday

Honours for services to the community. I have stayed in Torry all my life and worked within the community for over 40 years. In that time, I've had the pleasure of making some fabulous friends, seeing kids grow into adults and have their own children. Coming to the Kermit club for parties, mother and toddlers and to enjoy our clubs and play schemes like they did. Along the way I've worked alongside some amazing people who prove that team work really does make the dream work. This honour isn't just for me but for all of you who have helped in some way or another. Thanks for your continued support and making working in

the community a joy over the years. Here's to the next 40!"

Tributes came pouring in from family members and members of the community, including Torry Community Council and Old Torry Community Centre who wanted to congratulate Hazel on her award and all her hard work in Torry over the last 40 years.

The Torry's Vision editorial team asked Hazel if the award would change her, jokingly asking if we needed to curtsy in her presence now to which she replied "I've never changed all my life and I'm not starting. It won't change me at all. I'll still be the person I've always been."





ABERDEEN READS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!

This year we have a brand-new reading challenge: Aberdeen Reads! This challenge is open to everyone, so get family and friends involved and encourage each other to keep reading over the Summer holidays!

Aberdeen Reads will run from Friday 5 July until Saturday 24 August and will challenge you to read for at least 6 minutes every day. All kinds of reading will count: picture books, fiction, non-fiction, e-books, talking books, magazines, news articles...anything you enjoy!

There will be mini challenges each week to help you explore the library and find new things to read. Keep an eye on Aberdeen City Libraries' website and social media to discover the new challenges as they are announced each Saturday.

The website will also have more fun activities and reading suggestions.

Exciting free events will take place in libraries throughout the holidays for families taking part in the Challenge – don't forget to book your place!

Everyone who takes part in Aberdeen Reads will be entered into a prize draw, and those who complete 3 or more mini challenges will be entered into an additional draw.

Regular Bookbug Story and Rhyme sessions will continue in libraries across the city throughout the holiday period.

Bookbug Story, Song and Rhyme Sessions

Torry Library
Thursday 18 July
2.15 – 2.45pm

Torry Library
Thursday 1 August
2.15 – 2.45pm

Torry Library
Thursday 15 August
2.15 - 2.45pm

Aberdeen Reads Event:

Torry Library
Friday 9 August
2.30 – 4.00pm

Booking essential
Contact details

Torry Library
T: 01224 879037

E: TorryLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Or visit the website www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library

Lochside Academy Parent Voice

The Lochside Parent Voice are keen to extend an invite to all parents/carers of young people attending Lochside Academy to participate and contribute to the life of the school and make the school the best it can be.

The Lochside Parent voice held its first official meeting on Wednesday 27th March 2019. There are four office bearers who have been appointed to the Parent Voice, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who help to oversee the running of meetings, contribute and deal with all relevant administration and financial matters and are a point of contact. We are governed by the rules set out in our constitution.

The Parent Voice meet monthly at Lochside Academy, if you are a parent/carer of a young person at the school you are warmly invited to come along to these meetings.

Dates and times of forthcoming meetings are advertised well in advance via email and on the school website.

The work of the Parent Voice is crucial in maintaining and improving the learning environment for our young people.

Our aims are:

To encourage and promote a positive relationship between the school, pupils and all parents/carers – ensuring there is good communication and information for all.

To provide a voice for parents/carers views and on any topic that relates to the education and wellbeing of pupils and their families.

To work with the school to develop opportunities for parents to be more involved in their young person's learning

- valuing their time, skills, knowledge and life experience

To work with the school to develop and engage in joint activities which support the education and wellbeing of pupils and their families by maximising community resources

To work alongside the pupil council to involve young people in capturing their views and opinions.

If you have any questions, views or concerns that you feel that we can help with please do not hesitate to contact us via email: pclochside@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk or through our Facebook page by searching for Lochside Parent Voice.

We look forward to welcoming you to our next meeting.

**Lochside Academy
Parent Voice**



Boogie in the Bar in Torry

The second Thursday of the month are proving to be excellent fun at the White Cockade. The dementia and disability friendly boogies are very popular with the folk who come along. After soup and sandwiches pensioners take to the dance floor – and those that might not be able to “twist again” happily clap along to the old hits from the 50’s and 60’s. Thanks go to our partners in the Health and Social Care Partnership who support this and a big thank you to Dragados – who not only helped with the funding but also come along and volunteer to spin those discs and get the party going. Here’s a picture of our DJ Javier getting birthday wishes from 3 of our dancers!

Boogie in the Bar happens on the second Thursday of every month in the White Cockade between 11:30am and 2pm.



Photo Credit - Stuart McKenzie

BONNY TORRY – TORRY IN BLOOM

The Torry Older People’s Network has been inspiring community action yet again! Following their idea to resurrect a gardening competition that recognises and promotes bonny gardens in Torry a group of local people has come together to get this competition going. With support from the community council by way of prizes and Walker Road school

pupils who have designed the publicity and posters, it’s going to be a marvellous time in Torry this summer.

If you want to enter just pick up a form at the library, contact the Communities Torry Facebook page or phone 01224 498164. Entries close on the 31st July. Judging to take place during the first fortnight in August.



Torry Cruyff Court

As you may know, a Cruyff Court will soon be built on the Tullos pitches, replacing the current astro turf pitch.

Cruyff Courts are outdoor, artificial football pitches that are free to use by the community. We are delighted that the Torry Community is going to have access to this fantastic free facility and the opportunity to participate in activities associated with the Johan Cruyff Foundation and Denis Law Legacy Trust.

The design for the hard surface element of the court as selected through a series of community engagement sessions, including speaking with Schools and a variety

of community groups has now been submitted to the architect. The hard surface pitch will include:

- One full size basketball court with adjustable hoops;
- This will be overlapped with two 5 ball dodgeball courts;
- Two mini tennis courts to the left with two freestyle football circles in between

This then leaves the top and bottom sections for chalked activities such as hopscotch or tic-tac-toe and the potential to add some outdoor gym equipment.

The plan is for there to be a solar lit path (not pictured) leading from the

Tullos Learning Centre to the court, and a disabled access ramp will be installed so the court will be fully accessible.

We are currently working with the local community to decide on what the 10 rules for the Torry Cruyff Court will be and are working behind the scenes to come up with a name for the court.

We do not have a start date for the work to begin, although all being well and depending on weather, we hope that you can begin to enjoy using the Cruyff Court by the end of 2019!

Jade Leyden,
Torry Communities Team

RSPB DOLPHINWATCH LAUNCHES PROGRAMME OF SUMMER EVENTS FOR 2019

RSPB Dolphinwatch prepares to entertain visitors this summer with new wildlife events in Aberdeen.

Dolphinwatch will celebrate Scottish marine life this summer with three engaging family events, as well as regular rockpooling sessions and beach cleans. Now in its seventh year, the RSPB Scotland-led project, is based at Torry Battery, a spot which has a growing reputation as one of the best places to see bottlenose dolphins in Europe.

Returning by popular demand, the first family event of the year was Marine Mammal Madness in July. Otherwise known as the Dolphinwatch sports day, visitors had the chance to take part in several active games and challenges to learn about the special adaptations of saltwater mammals and see how their own skills matched up. Leaping like a dolphin in the long jump, diving into the limbo or racing their way through man-made threats in the obstacle course, participants were put through their paces in this competitive family fun day.

On 10 August, Detective Day will offer visitors the chance to dive into some food chain forensics to solve

a series of mysterious clues and reveal the truth behind a perplexing crime scene. Aimed at children aged 7-12 years, this event will explore the wildlife food chain whilst introducing some iconic local species and building team working skills.

The season will finish with the Big Wildlife Picnic on 17 August, which will celebrate spending time with loved ones outdoors. Everyone will be invited to bring food, a picnic blanket and to take part in games and activities that will help them to discover and identify the wildlife around them.

The dedicated team of RSPB Scotland staff and volunteers will also be running rockpooling sessions on the last Saturday of every month and beach cleans on the last Sunday of every month. These activities will be led by a member of the Dolphinwatch team who will assist and support participants to get the most out of their experience and provide them with the necessary equipment.

The RSPB Dolphinwatch team also provide community outreach talks for local groups interested in learning more about the bottlenose dolphins seen in Aberdeen. These

interactive sessions are bookable by contacting dolphinwatch@rspb.org.uk

Dolphinwatch viewing is free and runs every Thursday to Sunday from 11am until 5pm until 18 August.

For more information about the project and the 2019 events visit: facebook.com/RSPBNorthEastScotland or twitter.com/RSPB_NEScotland (#RSPBDolphinwatch; #DolphinsABDN).

Dolphinwatch is a ScottishPower Foundation and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded project led by RSPB Scotland in partnership with Aberdeen City Council and Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)





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Torry Community Council

Dates and venues for the remainder of 2019 – all meetings start at 7pm

August 15th – Torry Youth and Leisure Centre on Oscar Road

September 19th – Tullos Primary School – back door entrance

October 17th – Torry Youth and Leisure Centre on Oscar Road

November 21st – Tullos Primary School – back door entrance

For more info email secretarytorrycommunitycouncil@gmail.com



Torry Memories and Heritage Society

On the 18th of May most members of our society visited the Gordon Highlanders Museum.

The members were divided in to three groups, with a tour guide. Each group was shown a film of the history of the Gordon Highlanders, and given a tour of the museum which included the armoury, the silver room and the officers’ dining room. The tour guides were extremely knowledgeable and gave snippets of information and stories that are not included in the displays. Unfortunately due to the weather we were unable to view the new WW1 Replica Trench.

We are working on a programme of talks and visits for the remainder of the year. We have two talks arranged. The next one is on Friday 13th September by Fiona Musk NHS Archivist for the Grampian Region. We are also trying to tie up dates for a talk on Thomas Blake Glover “The Scottish Samurai”, and a return by popular demand of singer Donny Vass and other talks and visits. Our talks are open to members of the public. To keep in touch with our meetings, talks and visits follow us on Facebook.



A tale of two benches

On the 13th of January 2010 a real Ambassador for Torry lost his battle with ill health, at the young age of 64. George Bruce Noble genuinely loved Torry and worked for the community on many levels, often behind the scenes and out of public gaze. Bruce, a resident of Wood Street, had retired from his TV repair business, and threw himself into all sorts of community projects. He was one of the founding members of the community council and saw it through some fairly turbulent times. He chaired the children's panel, carrying out vital and difficult work with children who need help at turbulent times in their lives. Not content with that he also was chairman of the school allocation board. He was a trusted friend and "go to" for many small fishermen who needed repairs to various electronic pieces of equipment, not just televisions. His love for things associated with the sea was probably born out of his father's love of the sea, and the fact that he had a yawl called "Jeanie Grey." Bruce himself had a small boat "Excellent Way" which he had placed at the bottom of his garden in Wood street, with

the idea of restoring it back to useable condition. Sadly, this very busy and motivated man did not manage to complete this job. Bruce and the late John Main became a very strong partnership while on the community council, and were involved in many community projects, like Christmas trees, lights, pocket parks, and many, many more.

Following his death members of the community including John Main decided that he should have a lasting memorial in the form of a bench near to Torry Battery and on the seaward side of the road.

It is somewhat ironic that John himself has been honoured in the form of a granite bench beside the stainless-steel cross near the battery. This has become a focal point of remembrance and comfort for lots of families who have loved ones who never came back from sea. Something which would have delighted John, whose family were all involved with the sea in many different ways.

Bruce's bench has recently had a refurbishment courtesy of two members of Torry Heritage Group.

Jim Fettes found the bench with its seat starting to rot and with thick tummocks of grass and litter all round it. First job was to clear all of the litter, mostly beer cans and bottles, amounting to about two bags. Then the thick unruly grass was cut back, and the ground lowered and levelled. The rotting wood of the seat was removed by Bill Esson, and new timber was ordered and prepared, before being given a several coats of good quality preservative and stain. I think we can all agree that they did an excellent job to restore the bench back to as new.

No community can afford to lose two such gentlemen, both of whom would modestly tell you that they were just Torry loons, and nothing special, but actually, both trusted colleagues, committed community workers, and proud of their heritage and surroundings. It is fitting that their memory lives on in these two benches, and it would be nice to think that the benches will be respected while being used by many who did not have the privilege of knowing either of them, and all that they did for Torry.

John Dunn MBE

PATHWAYS IN TORRY

A client contacted Stan our Pathways Keyworker who works in Torry for help as he found himself out of work for over a year due to a takeover of his previous employer. The client lived on his own with little support and was feeling a bit overwhelmed. Stan met with the client and reassured him that help was available and the first they did together was to review his CV and make it more appealing to prospective employers. Stan also helped with job search and identified several positions and together they applied for various jobs across Aberdeen. After a few false starts the client was successful in gaining an interview and a few days later was delighted

to find out that he had been successful and started working at the end of May 2019! The client said: "Pathways helped me when I was struggling and if I need help again, I'll call Stan."

Pathways have been actively working in Torry helping people to find work for over 15 years now and our Employability Keyworker, Stan Smith, meets with people looking for help at Old Torry Community Centre on Wednesday afternoons between 12.30 and 4pm. He is also at the same venue on Thursday afternoons from 1.00 to 4.00pm. As Stan is often fully booked it is always better to call for an appointment on **01224 682 939**.

GRAMPIAN CREDIT UNION

Are you a member of Grampian Credit Union?

Do you need quick access to cash for summer holiday or special event?

Why don't you contact us today and see how we can help?

We are also happy to hear from you if you are not a member, as it's easy to join the credit union.

Grampian Credit Union is a savings and loans co-operative for everyone living or working in the Grampian area.

Website: www.grampiancreditunion.co.uk

Email: admin@grampiancreditunion.co.uk

Telephone: 01224 561506

Office: 250 Union Street, Aberdeen AB10 1TN

Contact us or come into our office – we are always happy to help!



Did you check the detectors in your house lately?

Have you pressed the test button?

Changed the battery?

Checked that the detector is not past its use by date?

Given it a clean?

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Tullos Community Centre Management Committee

Tullos Community Centre have a new management committee!

The group have organised a variety of fun events for kids and are organising more for over the summer holidays.

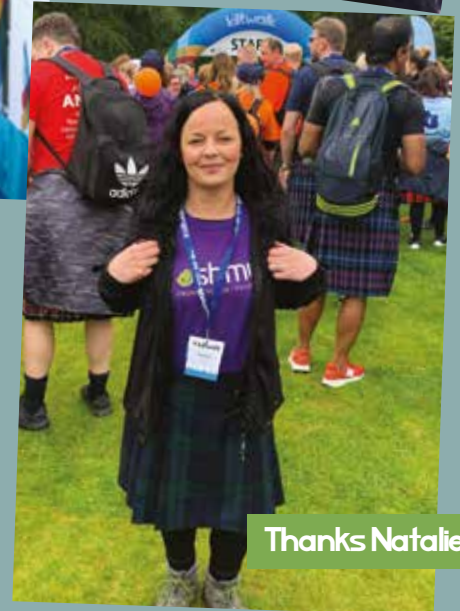
They have been holding regular coffee mornings in Tullos Community Centre (during school term time) on a Tuesday morning.

If you would like more information about the group and to find out about events look up 'Tullos Community Management Committee' on Facebook or pop into the community centre.



Well done Michelle!

Kiltwalkers



Thanks Natalie!

On Sunday the 2nd of June this year members of the shmuCREW took on the Aberdeen Kiltwalk to raise money for shmu.

The day started off dreich and the walkers were wrapped up warm with lots of waterproofs on before setting off from Potarch to do the lengthy 26 miles back to Aberdeen. Thankfully the sun came out later on in the day, making the experience a little easier!

Amongst the walkers were Natalie and David Hood. Natalie volunteers at shmu and her husband joined her for the walk.

Natalie said: "I did the Kiltwalk to raise money for a charity that I feel super passionate about right here in the heart of Aberdeen."

We'd also like to say a massive thank you to Michelle and Laura who also completed the Kiltwalk and in total have raised £1082.65 which will receive a

40% top up from the Hunter Foundation. Well done guys!

We're so proud of our Kiltwalkers and really grateful to everyone who has donated. The money raised goes towards supporting shmu's work in Aberdeen's regeneration communities from children as young as 10, all the way up to our oldest adult volunteer!

If you would like more information about volunteering with shmu email info@shmu.org.uk.



BEACH CLEAN IN TORRY

It's getting worse! I've always been one to try and see the positive in any situation but I fail to see any positives in this, everywhere I look there are bits of plastic, cans, bottles, crisp and sweetie wrappers, tyres, carpet, trolleys, more plastic... the list is long!

It's beginning to make me feel a bit emotional as I start to plod on home and I stop. It's what I would normally do when I was here so why not? I turn around again heading back down the embankment as I pull out my camera equipment and start shooting a few pictures and a video too, that might be worth posting to social media. I wonder if there are other people out there who feel the same way about this as me?

It would appear that that they do! And a few days later I receive a phone call that only dreams are made of "Natalie, you might want to get yourself down to the your wee Torry beach. There are some people there doing a beach clean" - I ran.

Who are they? What are they doing? I start asking as soon as I get there not being able to contain my excitement that there are other people out cleaning the beaches in our local community. I was swiftly introduced to Hannah from Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) whom in conjunction with Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish National Heritage (SNH) and the staff from Inverdee House who had

all organised to spend their own lunchbreaks cleaning the seashore in Torry. Working locally in the community they had also noticed a dramatic increase in the rubbish lying on the beach from their offices and are looking to make this a regular event and we at Torry's Vision cannot wait to hear all about it!

And you can get involved too! Marine Conservation Society www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch and Surfers Against Sewage www.sas.org.uk can help you organise a beach clean in your local community it only takes 2 minutes www.beachclean.net but let's all start with the little things by putting our rubbish in a bin even if it does mean taking it home with you.

Natalie Hood

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**