

Torry's **Vision**

Summer 2020

In this issue:

CULTIVATE ABERDEEN

VICTORIA ROAD SCHOOL

RSPB DOLPHINWATCH

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Photo Credit: Natalie Hood



Torry's Vision

Summer Edition 2020

contents

3	Keep Growing Aberdeen
4	Tory Memories
5	The Big Lunch
6	Community Updates
7	Dolphinwatch
8&9	School Page
10	Rotary Club
11	Victoria Road School
12 & 13	Elected Officials
14	shmu
15	Community Updates



editorial new

Welcome to the Summer edition of Torry's Vision community magazine. Read on for news from the local schools, Boogie in your Living Room and Cultivate Aberdeen as well as your elected officials.

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 (which are online at the moment) or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at SHMU on **0752586312** 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.

Torry's Vision is a community publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team or of shmu.

happy reading.



Supported by





Partnership to distribute free growing packs in Aberdeen

A new partnership was formed between Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE), One Seed Forward, Tullos Community Garden, and Granite City Good Food to launch an initiative called Keep Growing Aberdeen. Keep Growing Aberdeen will distribute growing packs to the residents of Torry, including seedlings, compost, plant pots, and instructions on how to get started.

The coronavirus outbreak is causing insecurity around food supply and people are experiencing cabin fever due to the confinement at home. Contact with nature is proven to improve mental health, which makes food growing a great remedy for the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The partners of the project are recruiting individuals and families who live in Torry and are interested in growing herbs and vegetables in their homes, gardens or community growing spaces such as the Tullos Community Garden, following the social distancing guidance. Participants are asked to share their surplus seedlings with their neighbours, connecting with those who live near-by through plants on windowsills.

Rebecca Dunn, CFINE Community Growing Development Worker, said:

"The Keep Growing Aberdeen project encompasses everything that we stand for as an organisation: improving health, well-being, and the environment, as well as tackling poverty."

"CFINE is delighted to participate in this great new initiative which will help people look after their mental and physical health and we look forward to seeing the good food that the local community will grow."

Bob Donald, One Seed Forward Chair, said:

"As a community growing initiative, One Seed Forward is pleased to support local projects such as this."

"Gardening is acknowledged as having mental and physical health benefits and we hope that the families taking part also have fun in taking care of their seedlings as they grow."

The growing packs will be prepared at the CFINE premises. The charity will deliver the packs by electric cargo bikes or car as part of their emergency food delivery routes to those who signed up, following strict health and safety procedures.

Keep Growing Aberdeen received £500 funding from Aberdeen City Council.

Spread the Cheer in Torry

Spread the cheer Torry is a small project, which Catrina Robb recently got funding for thanks to Inchgarth Community Centre. It started off with my daughter, her friends and neighbours' kids and I making a banner to thank keyworkers and spread some cheer around Torry.

I took a photo and put it on Torry community page. The response was amazing, so I made the Spread the Cheer Facebook page to try and get as many local kids as possible involved in making the banners. The highlight was getting a message from a NHS keyworker saying that the banner really touched her.

We have now done four banners altogether, with a few more Torry kids drawing for us, which is great but I would love many, many more to join in. The next mission is collecting as many kids drawings as possible to be displayed in Provost Hogg Court and Torry Care Home, to cheer up the residents and let them know they have not been forgotten about amid Covid19, and hopefully to make the old folk and the kids involved feel a little bit less isolated.

To get involved look up Spread the Cheer on Facebook.



In Memory Of...

Sadly, 2020 has seen us lose two of Torry's finest.

John Will passed away in March and Bob Gibb passed away in May.

John was an active member of the community, involved in the running of Old Torry Community Centre for many years. He was a talented artist who took part in many of the classes held at the centre. John was also a longstanding member of Torry Community Council and Torry Heritage Group.

Bob was a professional journalist and a well-known figure in the Torry community, serving on the community council for many years and he was also active in sustaining the heritage of Torry, including Victoria Road School. Bob was also on the Old Torry Community Centre Committee with John Will. When Bob was on the community council he produced the Torry Trumpet, a community newspaper.

We would like to thank them for everything these men did for the Torry community. Our thoughts are with their families at this sad time.



TORRY MEMORIES & HERITAGE SOCIETY LISTED MONUMENTS IN THE TORRY AREA

Girdleness Lighthouse and Fog Signal

Following the sinking of the whaling ship Oscar of Girdleness on 1st April 1813, where 42 men from a crew of 44 lost their lives, Aberdeen shipmasters requested that a lighthouse be sited at Girdleness.

This eventually came about in 1833. The engineer was Robert Stevenson (Grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson, author of Treasure Island and Kidnapped). It was built by James Gibb, an Aberdeen contractor.

The light was first lit on 15th October 1833. The lighthouse was finally automated in 1991.

The lighthouse is a Category A listed monument. The Fog Signal (known locally as "The Torry Coo" because of the sound it makes) was erected around 1890 and discontinued in 1987.

For all you Torry history buffs out there, how many listed monuments can you name in the Torry area. Get your thinking caps on during lockdown and contact us by e-mail on torrymemoriesheritagesociety@gmail.com with your answers and we will let you know how you got on in the next edition of Torry's Vision.

Pat Robertson

BOOGIE IN YOUR LIVING ROOM

As we know life has changed quite a lot due to the health crisis and one community event that had to go on hold was Boogie in the Bar at the White Cockade. Sadly, we had to cancel it - but even a pandemic couldn't stop the music!

Tracey Buchan, our Wellbeing Coordinator came up with the idea of an online boogie and with Mag Campbell from the Transforming Health and Wellbeing team we thought we would give it a go. We approached Javier Buron who had done a great job volunteering as the DJ at the White Cockade. But would

he fancy doing it from his own living room?

Our Spanish DJ didn't let us down - the answer was "Si!" and so the living room boogies started via the Communities Torry Facebook page. The show was broadcast every Thursday at 2pm and listeners could request their tracks in advance or on the message feed. It has been a learning curve - but our excellent DJ has kept the show on the road, and it's been great fun with listeners messaging live that they're dancing in their sitting room or out in the garden.

The originators of Boogie in the Bar are also loving the living room concept and are now doing a pre-recorded city-wide Boogie on YouTube each Monday - with Javier as the DJ. Move over Calvin Harris! We think it is likely that this will be the main boogie from now on.

But on a serious note Javier has been so helpful and keen to bring some cheer to Torry residents at this challenging time that we couldn't help but get him his very own Boogie in the Bar beer mug for his volunteering efforts.

'THE BIG LUNCH LAUNCH' FOR ABERDEEN FROM TORRY

Sunday 8th Mar 2020; a beautiful, sunny day and perfect to hold a community gathering. The Cultivate Aberdeen Team were excited to co-host 'The Big Lunch Launch' in Aberdeen with Eden Project Communities Scotland. Held at The Old Torry Community Centre, the event was a fantastic opportunity to present the ideas around The Big Lunch and to share plans for 'The St Fitticks Edible Garden'.

A great turnout was promised from local residents and groups. They didn't disappoint and were treated to informal talks from Mo Odling at Eden Project Communities and George Bellamy, Chair of Cultivate Aberdeen. The Big Lunch is an annual event held in villages, towns and cities throughout the UK and is a chance for individuals and communities to come together, share food, company and even

fundraise. George showed plans for The St Fitticks Edible Garden and then invited everyone to a 10-minute walk to see first-hand the site and an opportunity to imagine how it will be developed.

Of course, no Big Lunch Event would be complete without food! On their return, the walkers enjoyed homemade soup and bread, fruit and refreshments. The soup was kindly provided by The Go Green Café from Old Torry, with many folks asking for second and third helpings! Also, C-Fine very kindly donated all the refreshments for the event.

Young and old enjoyed wild flower seed bomb making, sharing stories and meeting new folks. The Walker Road Dancers entertained all with some amazing dancing. Finally, at the close of festivities, free seed packs were given to budding green-fingered attendees.

Thanks to all who took part and gave their time to make this a fantastic event for Torry. Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions, Cultivate Aberdeen were unable to host a full Big Lunch event in Torry this year, but fully intend to do so next year when hopefully we are all able to be together again.

For more info on the edible garden go to www.cultivateaberdeen.co.uk or follow us on Facebook.

For Big Lunch info go to on Eden project Communities Scotland or follow on Facebook



Free Exercise Classes

Annamaria Vincze has been doing her bit for the community during lockdown by running free online exercise classes.

Before lockdown happened Annamaria was planning to launch her clubbercise sessions, a disco fitness class, in Torry but unfortunately, she hasn't been able to do any face to face classes.

Formerly an English teacher at Torry Academy and now based at Lochside, she was running free fitness activities for senior pupils and their parents in the school building before we went into lockdown.

To help people's mood, health and physical fitness she has been providing these online sessions at 8:10pm every Thursday evening and she hopes the class in Torry will be on the same day once it is safe to run them out of a community facility.

The session is suitable for all fitness levels and the only equipment you need is a tablet, laptop or PC to tune into Zoom.

For more information on how to join look up Clubbercise Annamarie Aberdeen or email annvincze@yahoo.com.



Torry Festival After Lockdown

Is anyone interested in organising a Torry festival for after the lockdown?

We need a few people to use their skills to put it together online.

The festival Facebook Group has been set up to encourage residents of Torry to think of a positive outcome after the Lockdown. We want involvement by musicians,

artists, photographers, bonny babies, dog obedience, best dressed shop window competition etc. Any contributions by the community is welcome. Apart from the input above we'd like anyone with admin skills also.

Look up Torry After Lockdown on Facebook for more information.

.....

'SHARP RESPONSE' - MOBILE NEEDLE EXCHANGE

In normal circumstances, Alcohol & Drugs Action operate once-weekly needle exchanges in Northfield and Mastrick, alongside a daily service from their base at 7 Hadden Street, Aberdeen. But coronavirus changed normal circumstances into extraordinary times for us all. The lockdown and social distancing presented significant challenges for everyone, including those at risk of increased harm through repeated use, and perhaps sharing, of injecting equipment.

So, Simon Pringle and his Direct Access team launched 'Sharp Response' a twice weekly, mobile needle exchange service for those in need of clean injecting equipment (and wishing used works collected).

Five weeks into this endeavour, the service has grown in popularity and has been warmly received by those using it. Where possible some food is sometimes provided too. Deliveries have been city-wide, from Peterculter to Seaton, Torry to Bucksburn and many other areas in between.

Deliveries take place on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Customers will be phoned on Sundays and Wednesdays generally, sometimes on the day to confirm delivery. For more information or to place an order, please call our Helpline on **01224 594700**.



RSPB DOLPHINWATCH REFLECT ON THE SPRING OF 2020

Sadie Gorvett discusses how the popular project has been affected and the possibilities of doing Dolphinwatch from a distance later this year.

At the time of writing this, lockdown restrictions had just begun to ease in Scotland.

As you can imagine, Dolphinwatch has not gone quite as planned this year. Along with many other organisations, we had to cancel all upcoming events as a result of Covid-19.

We'd been looking forward to a summer at Torry Battery – one of the best places in Europe to see bottlenose dolphins – engaging with the thousands of visitors that share our passion for the incredible marine wildlife that call the coast of North-East Scotland home.

However, even before lockdown, it became clear this was not going to be possible. Despite it being essential, it was upsetting for us all. In particular, the moment we decided to cancel DolphinFest, a five-day festival aimed at celebrating the marine environment and bringing people together to learn more about what we can do to protect it. There was also the realisation that the

Dolphinwatch Schools programme would not be possible this year. Running for almost two years, it has introduced hundreds of children to the wonders of the marine environment and brought them to Torry Battery for a chance to spot the bottlenose dolphins that frequent the area all year.

Although we're in very challenging times and it can be disheartening to think of all we are missing, Dolphinwatch has been successful in engaging thousands of people with the marine environment. We wanted to continue to try to do that. So, using video from previous years, we've made two-minute films of some of the most popular marine wildlife seen at Torry Battery, from the charismatic dolphins to the elusive otters. We've been sharing our favourite facts and cherished wildlife encounters through 'Trivia Tuesdays' and 'Throwback Thursdays' on Facebook and sharing blogs from staff and volunteers. We're also enjoying seeing posts and photos from locals who can walk to Torry Battery or along Aberdeen beach and are lucky enough to see dolphins, seabirds or seals.

We have also started to develop plans to run DolphinFest next April and hope that some form of Dolphinwatch viewing might be possible later this year, if Government guidelines allow and the safety of staff, volunteers and the public can be assured. Not only do the team miss the spectacular wildlife, we miss the communities, the friends we have made over the years and the excitement on everyone's faces when they see a dolphin breach for the first... or hundredth time.

For more information about the project visit: rspb.org/dolphinwatch or facebook.com/RSPBNorthEastScotland.

Dolphinwatch is a project led by RSPB Scotland in partnership with Aberdeen City Council and Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC). It comprises Dolphinwatch Schools, Viewing and DolphinFest. Dolphinwatch is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters – celebrating the water that makes the country's landscape so special and loved.

SCHOOL PAGE

Lochside Academy

Hello, I am a student at Lochside Academy, and I am going to be writing about my experience during the lockdown. A lot has changed over the last few months; for me at least, schooling has changed the most.

One thing that has changed the most is my social life. Before the lockdown I was not the most social person, but I did have a few close friends who I miss. One good thing that has happened is that the lockdown has allowed me to cut a few toxic people out of my life. I also miss a lot of my teachers from school.

School work has changed a lot since the beginning of lockdown (I have even gone up a year in school since it began!). Now I get all of my work on Google Classroom via my computer. It allows me to be more efficient when working. I can do all of my schoolwork with little breaks and I can finish my schoolwork an hour earlier than actual school (just what I need - more free time). All in all, I am doing a good job in all of my schoolwork at the moment and I am doing NAT5 in all of my classes.

Since lockdown began, I have had a lot more free time on my hands. I have used some of that time to exercise and go for runs about the local area. I go for a run almost every day.

Overall lockdown has been hard for everyone and I hope whoever is reading this is healthy during these hard times. During these hard times the best thing you can do is to be kind to those around you and to stay at home.

Walker Road Primary

The P1/2 class at Walker Road Primary School have been completing lockdown diaries! Here are some of their diary entries...

A website I enjoy exploring is... I like reading Cat Ninja books on Get Epic!

The best game I played this week was... frisbee!

The best thing I saw outside was the beach, I love visiting there.

My funniest moment of the week was... I stood on a dead crab at the beach. I thought it was alive.

Something creative I did this week was... I made chocolate crispies

The exercise I did this week was the Joe Wicks PE classes and I have been playing lots of frisbee.

**My Home Learning Diary
20/05/2020**

During lockdown I have done lots of fun things. My favourite thing has been making a black teepee with my

dad. We built it on a very sunny day!

The best thing about lockdown is we get to spend precious time with our families. I also got to do my home schooling with my parents.

I enjoy exploring the following websites, Education City, Teach Your Monster to Read and Get Epic.

The best games I played this week were tabletop football, snakes and ladders and hide and seek.

The best things I saw outside were beautiful flowers, a big toy airplane and a dustbin truck.

I did some creative things this week like drawing a rainbow, making a sword out of paper and a train track out of a cereal box.

My funniest moment of the week was when I watched the movie Shrek with my brother.

I did a lot of exercise this week in our compound such as playing

football, jumping on the trampoline and running. I did all of this with my brother.

Next week I hope to read at least three story books, help my parents to tidy up the house, go out for shopping with my dad, do my school work and take a walk around the area.

**My Home Learning 2020 Diary –
20/05/2020**

My day has been great and awesome. I woke up early this morning and I went to the bathroom to brush my teeth and have my shower. After that I had my breakfast which was a delicious cereal. Then I started my schoolwork. I did lots of reading, writing and painting. I also did some problem solving from my maths and numeracy workbook. Finally, I went out to play with my brother in our garden.

The pupils of Primary 7 at Tullos Primary School worked together to design this submission to Torry's Vision. They have been working on cinquain poetry, a specific type of poetry which has a five line format.

Tullos Primary - Room 20

Cinquain Poetry



Doctors
Earth Superheroes
Amazing, astonishing, caring
We are all grateful
Thanks!
Nadia P7



Police
Very Cool
Trusting, helping, trying
They are working hard
Brave
Krists P7



NHS

Is Wonderful

Amazing, Fighting, Nursing
Trying to stop Coronavirus

Angels

Nicole P7



Nicola
Bold Leader
Inspiring, Loving, Caring
Protecting our nation's lives
Cheers.
Aaliyah P7



Servers
Supermarket Workers
Smiling, stocking, scanning
Feeding the nation daily
Brilliant!
John P7



Nurses
Everyday Heroes
Saving, helping, giving
Keeping the NHS going
Thanks
Alkali P7



Teachers
Missing you
Creating, Helping, Listening
Still working very hard
Selfless
Marcus P7





Rotary Club of Aberdeen St Fitticks

Rotary International is a worldwide humanitarian organisation of over 1.2 million and we are the local club for Torry. We're ready to offer a helping hand where we can. With the impact of the pandemic affecting everywhere, we have offered support to the Hub at Tullos Primary School and this initiative was led by Sheena Anderson, a former Club President.

We also held our Annual Quiz in March in the Old Torry Community Centre just before the lockdown and

were pleased that seven teams of young people, from the schools to girl guides enjoyed and evening of fun and friendship, turning the quiz points into pounds to support their own activities. We also organise and support the annual quiz involving all the primary schools in Torry, Kincorth and Cove, and again, got in just before the lockdown.

We undertake projects on a worldwide basis. For over 30 years, one of the most successful and exciting projects undertaken

by Rotary International working in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is to rid the world of that dreadful disease - polio. Over many years we have worked tirelessly to vaccinate children across the globe to the extent that there were only 113 cases of polio reported in 2019 and they were only in a handful of countries in the world.

So, we're happy to help and look forward to hearing from you. For more information please contact: secretary@stfittick.rotary1010.org

Holburn Medical Group

Holburn Medical Group have moved out of the Torry Neighbourhood Centre for the time being.

If you are registered at Holburn Medical Practice you will now be seen at their centre on Albyn Place.

The number for the Holburn Practice is **01224 400800**.

Victoria Road School

Grampian Housing Association and Torry Development Trust announce that Aberdeen City Council has granted planning permission for their major redevelopment of the former Victoria Road School.

Initial reactions from the partners demonstrate the commitment to this key community regeneration project in Torry.

Neil Clapperton, Chief Executive of Grampian Housing Association said: "It's heartening to get such positive news in these difficult times and to know that we are still doing great things for communities in Aberdeen.

Responding to people's housing and social needs is at the heart of the project. We will deliver our ambition by continuing to engage with the community to collectively build its future."

David Fryer, Lead Trustee with the Torry Development Trust said: "This is most welcome news, as securing planning consent for our regeneration project at Victoria Road is a big step towards restoring the fine granite buildings of old school. Our joint working has brought in support from across all sectors and will build a long-term project that will

bring benefits to Torry and Aberdeen as the granite city."

David Murray, David Murray Associates Chartered Architects said: "It is fitting that this project absolutely meets the Scottish Government's guidance for communities to be resilient and to take control of their circumstances. In the spirit of the age, it builds on the new sense of community we are all experiencing."

For further information visit www.victoriaroadschool.co.uk



Elected Officials

Stephen Flynn MP

Dear Readers,

I don't think anyone can overstate how hard the last few months have been for so many.

Huge sacrifices have been made to protect our NHS and save lives. Sadly, too many have been lost and those mourning loved ones have been unable to do so with their family and friends as they normally would.

We cannot forget how hard that has been and continuing to do our very best to comply with restrictions now will help ensure that as we come out of lockdown we will do so in a way that minimises further harm.

As we've worked through this pandemic, it's been heartening to see the local community come together to support those most vulnerable.

When we come through this, and we will, it will be in no small part thanks to the actions of individuals but also the enormous collective community effort.

As well as assisting those facing immediate challenges, my mind is very much focused on making sure that the society we create on the other side of this terrible virus is more equal than what came before.

If this pandemic has done anything, hopefully it has shown everyone what truly matters is a society that cares for all.

My small team are working hard from home to help as many people as possible so please do not hesitate to get in touch with my office.

**Kind regards,
Stephen**

**stephen.flynn.mp@parliament.uk
MP for Aberdeen South**



Maureen Watt MSP

At the time of writing, Scotland and indeed the whole United Kingdom has been in lockdown for over two months in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. My deepest sympathies go to those who have lost friends and loved ones to this terrible disease.

The impact of the virus on our society cannot be understated. My office, working from home, are still working hard with me to help many people who up until now had never approached their MSP for help. Many cases have involved people needing clarity on their rights during lockdown and local businesses

seeking advice on available support to help tide them over.

Despite these challenges I am keeping in touch with many key organisations, including Scottish Parliament committees and portfolio questions, through the wonders of video technology. I have been participating in regular NHS Grampian video calls to keep updated with the progress of the virus in north-east Scotland and what action is being taken to suppress it.

On the matter of health, I was informed during a briefing that

people often call medical services apologetic, feeling like they are diverting attention away from the virus. If you believe your condition is urgent, then it is vital that you get in touch with the appropriate service (GP or 999) to let them know – it is still “business as usual” for urgent and emergency cases.

As always, if there is any matter you think I can help with, then certainly let me know via email (**maureen.watt.msp@parliament.scot**) or **by calling my office on 01224 876743.**

Councillor Audrey Nicoll

I hope you are keeping safe during this difficult time. It's been a long haul, but your efforts to stick to lockdown regulations have been a credit to you all. Lockdown saw many – but not all - council services reduced or suspended, understandably some residents found this difficult. Council staff worked hard to ensure nobody was left unsupported or vulnerable, and volunteers working in a range of charities and community groups supported those most in need, a tremendous community effort visible

across Torry. I know only too well the toll lockdown has taken on many constituents and ask that you get in touch with me if you, or someone you know, is struggling as a result of the pandemic. Despite lockdown I have continued to work with residents about a range of issues including antisocial behaviour, graffiti, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles.

Finally, the Local Development Plan is being updated. It contains lots of information about the plans the Council has for the city commencing 2022. The Plan will impact on Torry

so it is vital you know what it contains and how it will impact you. If you would prefer to discuss the plan with me, please feel free to get in touch. Here is a link to the draft Plan:

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building/local-development-plan/aberdeen-local-development-plan/aberdeen-local-development-plan-review

Email: audnicoll@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Phone: 079717 07278

.....

Councillor Christian Callard

Stay home to save lives has been the call for us all in spring, Summer will see us slowly coming out of lockdown with schools starting to reopen in August. It wasn't easy to adapt our lives to the safety messages during lockdown and it is not going to be easy to come out of it.

As councillors, we are spending a lot of our time in meetings online. Some of those meetings have been about how to support third sector organisations, two I have responsibility as a member of the

board of the Racial Equality Council and as an observer at the board of the Aberdeen Foyer. Let me take this opportunity to thank all who work and volunteer to support the people struggling the most in Torry and across Aberdeen.

Many are working from home, others are furloughed and some unfortunately are losing their employment during the pandemic. It is going to be a great challenge at city level to support people, public services, other organisations and businesses in the months to come.

NHS Grampian and Social Care workers locally have put their lives at risk to protect us, we should never forget this. Many families are grieving for loved ones in the pandemic. Let's make sure that we as a city don't come back to where we were but invest instead our time and energy to prioritise the wellbeing of people and to make our communities more resilient.

Merci
Christian
callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

.....

Councillor Yvonne Allan

Hi to the good folks of Torry. I am so proud of all the folks who have joined the support team and all of you who are doing their best to help each other. We must all be grateful for care staff and those who care by visiting the homes of people who need home care. You may have noticed the lights at the top of the multistory blocks have gone blue. This was done at the request of the tenants to show their appreciation of the work all the carers are doing.

Good news for the folks who have been working hard to get Victoria Road School building back into use

with their next stage of planning being approved. I'm sure we are all looking forward to seeing work starting whenever possible and watching it develop into completion.

It is great to see the Tullos Community Garden reach its second birthday. However, it is disappointing that the birthday celebrations could not take place at this time, but I am sure that the occasion will be marked in the future. Thanks to the volunteers who have transformed a piece of waste ground into a lovely peaceful community garden where birds sing, and flowers and vegetables grow.

The Dolphin Watch project has been granted the lease for the land necessary for the project to go ahead for five years. I am sure we all wish the project well and again look forward to watching it grow when circumstance allows. It is a project which I think has stolen the hearts of the folks of Torry.

Please stay well and safe and looking after each other as Torry folks always do

Email:
yallan@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Mobile: 07802 332725

Volunteers receive award which is equivalent to an MBE

shmu has been honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK - the equivalent to an MBE.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service recognises outstanding work done by volunteer groups in their local communities and was established in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

We support over 200 volunteers on a weekly basis, and our CEO Murray Dawson said "It's an incredible honour for our organisation to have secured the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. We just wouldn't exist without our amazing volunteers and everyone has played a part in our story over the last 20 years. Absolutely fantastic news."

Our Volunteer Coordinator Tracy Ewing summed up the importance of our volunteers by adding: "We're incredibly lucky to have so many talented and committed volunteers at shmu, with almost 100 volunteers still volunteering and rising to the challenge during COVID-19. Whether writing

articles for community magazines, recording radio shows, participating in our Tell Us campaign, or supporting other volunteers with technical queries our volunteer community has never been stronger. I'm proud to support and be part of such a loyal and creative team who are very deserving of such a huge award."

The commitment and dedication of the staff and volunteers was also praised by Trustee and volunteer Abeer Eladany who said they have a "profoundly positive impact on the wider local communities", and that she was "thrilled that they have been recognised with this prestigious award as shmu always inspires, motivates and holds the cultural banner across the region".

Finally, our Chair Jillian Evans paid tribute to the volunteers who "make SHMU one of Aberdeen's most valuable assets. Their energy, enthusiasm and



commitment to support local communities says a lot about who they are, and the vital part they play in our great big shmu family".

Representatives of shmu will receive the award from Barney Crockett, Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeen later this summer, with two volunteers from shmu being invited to a garden party at Holyroodhouse in July 2021, along with other recipients of this year's award.

Shmu - very much open for business!

Due to the current Coronavirus outbreak, shmu have had to adapt how we work with our target communities while we are on lockdown.

In light of the guidance from the government and NHS we made the difficult decision to close our building. This means we are working remotely and providing our communities with information in a different format.

It is even more important to share information and celebrate communities at this challenging time. There are a significant number of people who do not have access to the Internet in their homes. We believe that community magazines and community radio will provide useful content for these people.

We are working with community partners to ensure information is

relevant and up to date and have launched our "Tell Us" campaign which allows shmu to reach out to all service providers in Aberdeen to give them a platform to share their information. If you have something to share please email tellus@shmu.org.uk. Remember to tune in to 99.8FM or online at www.shmu.org.uk/fm.

While we may be apart, shmu is connecting us together.

HELP TO HEAT YOUR HOME

Scarf launches new fund to help households in need

Local charity Scarf has launched a new emergency fund that aims to help households across Aberdeen access support to heat their homes in these difficult times.

The Scarf Heat Fund will help provide instant access to heat for those who need it most.

The new Scarf fund can provide help and support in the form of:

Plug in heaters

Prepayment cards

Costs for emergency boiler repairs

Lawrence Johnston of Scarf, said: "We recognise that with more of us stuck at home for the coming weeks we'll see our fuel use rise and of course, worries about fuel bills increase.

"Our advisors are on hand to help guide you through the best way to keep your bills down and ensure that you're aware of the funds that can help take away the immediate

fuel bill worries. By calling **0808 808 2282** you can check your eligibility for the Scarf Heat Fund and other grants and schemes.

"If you, or someone you know, is struggling with fuel bills or heating your home the new fund could be the answer to your problems."

Each application will be treated on a case-by-case basis with those needing the most help given priority.

Scarf works with Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Government to provide free and impartial advice on reducing fuel bills. To get more information on how to cut your energy use while at home you can check out the Scarf website, www.scarf.org.uk or access free and impartial advice from the Scarf team by speaking to one of our experienced advisors.

Call Home Energy Scotland at Scarf on 0808 808 2282 for more information on how to access Scarf's fund as well as other grants and schemes.

GRAMPIAN CREDIT UNION

Are you a member of Grampian Credit Union?

Do you live in Aberdeen and need quick access to cash?

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

If you need a loan, we aim to support our members through this uncertain time.

We can assist with first loans and our payroll partner and fast track loans can help too.

These loans can assist with short term credit and give members financial assistance when needed.

We also have NIVO app for membership and loan applications – see links.nivohub.com/.

We are also happy to hear from you if you are not yet a member – 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.

Details of savings and loans are on our website: **www.grampiancreditunion.co.uk**

Contact us by email: **admin@grampiancreditunion.co.uk**

Telephone: **01224 561506**

Office: **250 Union Street, Aberdeen AB10 1TN**

Contact us, we are always happy to help!

PATHWAYS

ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Our dedicated and experienced team of Employability Keyworkers are working from home during lockdown, but we can still help you to look for work, or help you prepare so when things open up, you are ready to go!

We can get you registered to work with us at Pathways. A few simple questions to get to know you and what kind of work you would like to do.

Write a new CV for you or help update an existing CV.

Set up an email address for you if required.

Carry out jobsearch and help you apply for any suitable vacancies.

One for you to do! If you have a smartphone or tablet, go to your app store and download the app for, Indeed, the job site. Create an account with your email address and a password and then upload your CV to your account. Your Keyworker can help you with this if required.

Contact Pathways:

Call **01224 692939** or **07835 567 997**, Monday to Friday, between 10am and 2pm. Or, email **davidcook@pathways-online.org** stating which area of Aberdeen city you live in.

This article was written before the Government Update on Thursday 7th of May. To keep up to date with current operations and assistance available please visit our Facebook Page here: www.facebook.com/PathwaysAberdeen1A

Community Contacts

Aberdeen City Council Helpline - 0800 0304 713

Virtual School Helpline - 01224 523322

ALCOHOL

Alcoholics Anonymous - 0800 9177 650

Drinkline - 0300 123 1110

CRIME

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

DRUGS

Alcohol and Drugs Action Helpline

01224 594700 or 07927192706

Narcotics Anonymous

0300 999 1212

DENTIST

Emergency - G-Dens - 111

DOCTORS

NHS 24 Emergency - 111

POLICE

Non-Emergency - 101

ELECTRICITY

If you have a power-cut - 105

GAS

Gas Emergency - 0800 111 999

WATER

Scottish Water Emergency - 0800 0778 778

HOUSING

Emergency Repairs - 03000 200 292

Family Planning - 0345 337 9900

Mental Health Aberdeen - 01224 573892

Breathing Space - 0800 838 587

Samaritans - Need to talk

01224 574 488 or 116 123

SOCIAL WORK

Adult Protection - 0800 731 5520

Joint Child Protection Team

01224 306877 or 0800 731 5520

VSA Carers Support - 01224 358631

Age Scotland - 0800 1244 222

CFINE 01224 596156

Financial Advice at CFINE 01224 531386

Pathways 01224 682 939

Citizens Advice 01224 586255

Torry Medical Practice

8am – 6pm

Contact: 0345 337 9977

Holburn Medical Practice

01224 400800

Local Councillors

Councillor Alan Donnelly

07747795870

Adonnelly@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Audrey Nicoll

0791707278

Audnicoll@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Christian Allard

Callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Yvonne Allan

07802332725

Yallan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

Domestic Abuse is not acceptable. It is not your fault and you are not alone. Domestic Abuse is when you are hurt, bullied or frightened by: Your husband or wife, your boyfriend or girlfriend, your current or ex-partner

Their behaviour can be; controlling, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

Help and support

There are services available to support you, and they are still open. You do not have to wait for an emergency to get help. Tell someone you trust or contact:

Police Scotland

If you are in danger and it is an emergency, call 999. For non-emergencies call 101

National Domestic Abuse Helpline Free and confidential advice. Open to all. 24 hours a day.

Telephone: 0800 027 1234. Website: sdfmh.org.uk

Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381. Website: grampian-womens-aid.com

Rape Crisis Grampian Telephone: 01224 590932. Website: rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk