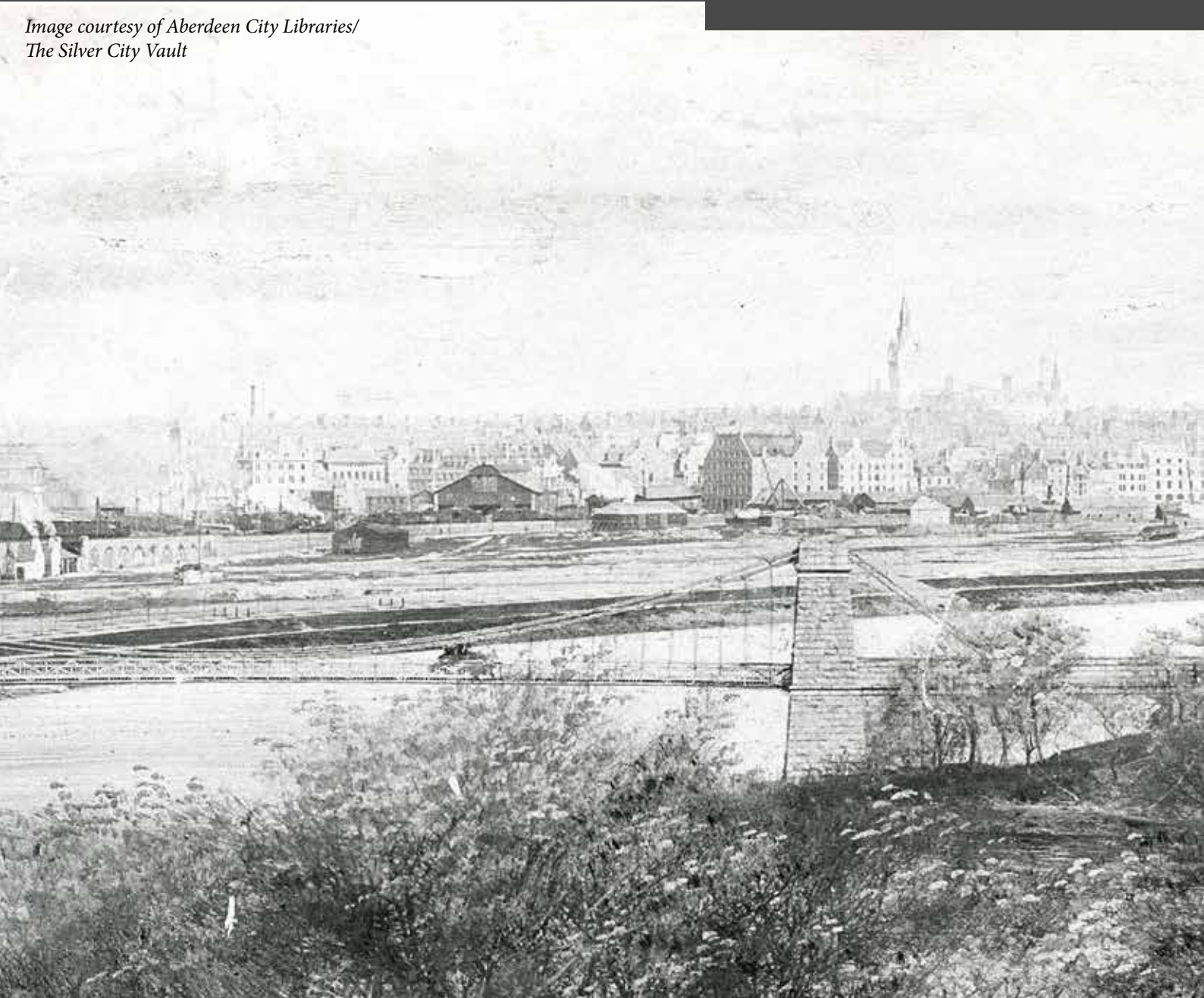


Torry's **Vision**

Summer 2021

*Image courtesy of Aberdeen City Libraries/
The Silver City Vault*



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LOCAL HISTORY

BIG NOISE TORRY

BRIDGE CENTRE

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Torry's Vision

Summer Edition 2021

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editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of Torry's Vision community magazine.

Read on to find out more about Greyhope Bay, the development at the old Phoenix Centre and the Torry Resilience and Recovery Group.

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.

You can be reassured that our distribution company is taking every measure to ensure they are delivering your magazine safely and within government guidelines.

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



Community centre to be open this summer

Renovations at the Bridge Centre, Torry, has begun and the space will look to open later this summer.

At the beginning of the year conversations between the King's Community Foundation (KCF) and Aberdeen City Council regarding the old Phoenix building in Torry restarted. Our goal is to have the centre open for the local community and having had the opportunity to speak to residents, we have heard great stories about what the centre brought to community in the past. In renovating the building, we want to transform it into a vibrant space that will benefit local people and provide a range of services and projects. We are excited to announce that in April

2021 KCF signed the lease and took ownership of the building! Along with this came the new name: The Bridge Centre. The renovation works on the site have begun and it is great to see it starting to take shape. A part of the refurbishment will include the input of a café and a kitchen. In addition to providing the food for the café, the kitchen will also be used for cooking classes that will promote healthy eating on a budget. We will also be partnering with charities that provide educational, employability and family support. The Bridge Centre will be a space for the community run by the community. To ensure this we will be engaging with local people and key partners every step of the way. We

are very excited to open the doors and hope it becomes a space that people are proud of.

For more information email help@kingscommunityfoundation.org



Stephen Flynn MP

The continued priority facing Aberdeen and Scotland is to chart a safe route out of the pandemic and back to normality. There may be bumps in the road, but the vaccine roll-out continues to give us firm hope that we are on the right track. In recent weeks some people have been unable to attend appointments for their vaccine. If you fall into this category please don't worry, and simply contact the COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline to arrange a new one - on 0800 030 8013.

Many of you will have been working throughout this pandemic in key roles across the city. As ever, your efforts cannot be praised enough and, as we seek to recover and rebuild from the

pandemic, my focus will be very much on ensuring that jobs are protected and that new jobs are created.

It's also vital that our young people have opportunities available to them and that families receive the support that they need. On that front - from August all three and four-year-olds, and many two-year-olds, will be eligible for more than 1,100 hours of free childcare a year and free healthy breakfasts and lunches will also be made available to all primary 4 children in Scotland as a further step towards expansion to all primary school children.

The challenge facing our NHS is also understandably huge. Many treatments have not been able to

take place over the last year due to the pandemic and the NHS Recovery Plan will be focused on ensuring that this backlog is overcome as quickly as possible.

If you have any concerns about this, or indeed any issue at all, please do just contact me. My small team are continuing to work hard from home to help as many people as possible and we are always here to help.

Contact your MP

01224 213114

stephen.flynn.mp@parliament.uk

Greyhope Bay

The team at Greyhope Bay are excited to release new images of their interior which show off the great views from their dolphin viewing centre, café and education space at Torry Battery.

The community-led organisation is creating this unique space by repurposing shipping containers as part of 5-year plan to establish Torry Battery as a destination. By building programmes of engagement related to marine environment, heritage and sustainable practice they are beginning a community-led conversation about what a

permanent solution for this historic monument could be.

Founder Fiona McIntyre said, “Our new green-powered community space will create a spectacular vantage point for visitors to take-in views of the city, coast, harbour and the many resident Bottlenose dolphins who regularly make an appearance.

We have recently launched our Founder Crew Membership which offers access to a bespoke community space that sits behind our new website where members can meet other founder crew,

empowering members to join the conversation, self-organise, participate and contribute to programming and activities hosted at Torry Battery. Direct benefits once open on site include exclusive pin badges, 5 free coffees and discounts on events.”

Individuals and organisations are invited to join Greyhope Bay as members to support their work. All information can be found on their new website:

www.greyhopebay.com



Big Noise Torry

Music in every corner of the community - making a Big Noise however and whenever we can

The children, staff and volunteers at Big Noise Torry have been busy this term keeping the corridors, classrooms and playgrounds of Tullos and Walker Road schools and Lochside Academy full of music -- uplifting sounds made by string instruments, glockenspiels, keyboards, percussion, and various digital devices! We have been adapting the music we play to suit our interests and to keep us all engaged in music, because - we're sure you'll agree - music is a language for everyone to use and enjoy.

We've loved doing our community orchestra 'The Noise', and our baby and parents' class, 'Little Noise' via Zoom and now we are beginning to get together face-to-face once again. So Torry will be buzzing with even more music.

The coming of spring has given us all a chance to hear, smell, see and feel the 'change'. We've loved being outside, discovering how the music we make can reflect the natural world. We really enjoyed making a video for RSPB Dolphinfest to show this - there is nothing better than putting your imagination to work!

Over the summer we'll be inviting nearly 170 young people to join us at Torry St Fittick's Church for outdoor and indoor activities, with free lunch and snack, lots of fun and loads of music making, as well as the chance to play in our new samba band! We'll also be taking Big Noise 'on tour' to visit each of the 'Fit Like' hubs. So, we are looking forward to sharing the magic of music with even more children and families as part of this 'Summer of Fun'. After all, music is for sharing.

We like to keep everyone informed and involved in the conversation with our weekly Facebook Live show and posts on our Facebook page - check out what's been going on at Big Noise and let us know what you think as you see the creative young people of Torry in action!

Have you heard or seen any music being made around Torry? Perhaps you have an idea on how Big Noise can get more involved in community events and help bring music to even more people of all ages in Torry? Perhaps you want to get involved, help out or make some music yourself? Please do get in touch with us, we'd love to hear from you.

Big Noise Torry
torryadministrator@
sistemascotland.org.uk
01224 974707



Opening Of Aberdeen's New Fish Market

ALAN JOHNSTONE

Aberdeen's new fish market opened in Commercial Road on 20th May 1889 and here are some extracts from the Aberdeen Evening Express report of that date. The photo of the market, c.1910, is credited to the Silver City Vault.

"At six o'clock this morning, the doors of the new Fish Market were rolled aside, and the place thrown open for the transaction of public business. The weather seemed to harmonise with the feelings of the fishermen; a mist hanging over the sea, and making the scene a cold and cheerless one.

"Shortly before eight o'clock all the fish were laid out in readiness for the salesmen. A new feature in the discharging of fish has now been introduced, namely, the employment of male porters. Women were wont hitherto to help in packing the barrels and making the fish ready for the markets. In this connection a rather humorous incident occurred this morning. Every porter has to wear a badge on the left arm to show that he has been duly licensed. One of these porters was spotted this morning by one of the officials without his ornament. Going up to him the official inquired how it was he was working without a badge. "Oh," replied the porter, "I have the badge, it's on my sleeve"; and thereupon he pulled out his sleeve from his pocket and displayed the missing ornament. The man has

but one arm, and the empty sling of cloth was thrust in his pouch. No more questions were asked."

"After most of the business had been transacted for the day, fishwives - or a few of them - began to indulge in what is commonly known as "high jinks". Forming themselves into a band they made a raid upon the various dealers in the place, levying blackmail upon them to "hansel" the auspicious occasion. They were most persistent in their attentions - their efforts would have proved invaluable at a bazaar - and badgering and cajoling everyone unfortunate enough to fall into their clutches, they invariably succeeded in their object, the sums given varying from sixpence to half-a-crown. In the case of resistance to the demand, compliance was sought by the use of the forcible argument "Pay Your Debt And Be Respected." Among those early victimised was Mr Cran, the City Chamberlain, who, taken aback by the clamour got up around him, and bethinking him that discretion in this case was the better part of valour, paid his shilling and bolted. But a special reception was awaiting the members of the Town Council. The Lord Provost was the first to preyed upon. His Lordship, however, would not "launch out", even

at a first, second, and third asking. and the women appeared to be their wits' end when, catching sight of Baillie Mearns and Treasurer Walker walking along the wharf some distance away, they gave the Provost up as an unprofitable job, and made tracks for the new comers. A big burly wife, redolent of fish, seized the Treasurer, while another devoted her attention to Baillie Mearns, the rest of the women forming a cordon from which it was impossible to escape. Like birds in the fowler's snare the two surrendered to the inevitable, making but one request - that they would be let off as cheaply as possible."

F I S H M A R K E T.
The TOWN COUNCIL of ABERDEEN HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the NEW FISH MARKET, COMMERCIAL ROAD, will be OPENED at Six o'clock on the Morning of MONDAY, the 20th inst., and that from and after that date the Old Fish Market in Market Street will be Discontinued.
P. M. CRAN, City Chamberlain.
Town House, Aberdeen, 17th May, 1889.





TORRY MEMORIES & HERITAGE SOCIETY

TORRY LISTED MONUMENTS

Wellington Suspension Bridge

PAT ROBERTSON

Aberdeen was undergoing rapid expansion in the early 19th century and landowners in Torry, the Menzies family of Pittfodells, wished to capitalise on the opportunities arising from the establishment of the turnpike road between Aberdeen and Stonehaven in 1799. A series of legal disputes as to exact ownership of the lands ended in arbitration.

An act of parliament was eventually obtained by the Heritor's of Nigg and the Road Trustees in 1828 for a bridge to replace the Craiglug Ferry. The city architect in Aberdeen, John Smith, and his rival, Archibald Simpson, were asked to tender design proposals for the bridge and its approach roads in June 1829. The design for the architectural sections was awarded to John Smith working in collaboration with Captain Samuel Brown who undertook the engineering designs of the suspension and span. The metalwork was manufactured at the nearby Ferryhill Foundry by James Abernethy, a cousin of James

Abernethy (of the same name), who was the engineer who supervised the work.

In March 1830 the trustees chose to name the bridge after the Duke of Wellington, although it was also known as the Chain Bridge and Craiglug Bridge. The foundation stone was put in place in 1829 and the bridge was in pedestrian use from November 1830. Six months later, in May 1831, it was opened to use by vehicles.

The approach roads, designed by John Smith with the bridge, were three miles in length and incorporated a slow ramp from College Street on the north side, a new road also ran from around Nigg to the Craiglug Ferry on the south approach. An octagonal toll house, also designed by John Smith, was sited on the northwest corner of the bridge. The north arch was added in 1886 and a stone engraved with the date is mounted at the apex of the arch to signify this.

The bridge underwent some restoration work in 1930 when steel replaced the cast iron bearers and wrought iron suspenders. The toll house was derelict in 1964 and demolished soon after. Further restoration work was done on the bridge in 1984 after the new Queen Elizabeth 2nd Bridge was finished, as this enabled the suspension bridge to be closed to vehicles. Due to safety concerns, in 2002 it was also closed to pedestrians. After Aberdeen City Council engineers carried out further work to preserve and strengthen the bridge, it resumed as pedestrian walkway and cycle lane in 2008.

The "A" listed Wellington Suspension Bridge is an important example of an early suspension bridge and the sole survivor of four of its kind that crossed the River Dee at various points along its length in the early 19th century. At the time it was built the bridge was only the second bridge to cross the River Dee at Aberdeen.



TORRY RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY ACTION GROUP

Covid has been a challenging time for many communities and hardship (whether via job losses or cutbacks) has had an impact and will continue to do so. The Torry Resilience and Recovery Action Group (TRRAG) was formed as a response to this situation. The group has been working hard with partners to promote recovery through the pandemic and beyond in Torry. It soon became clear that there would be a benefit in subdividing the group into three strands for the time being – food poverty, income maximisation and employability. Meetings have now been held with these sub-groups with approx. 25 partners engaged. Inclusion of community reps has been harder, so this is an area of focus as is mapping out provision to avoid duplication of services.

One finding of the food poverty strand has been that food poverty was a symptom of an individual's needs and that work was required

to identify the underlying needs of those accessing food services and how support to meet those needs can be achieved. There also is work being done on how best services can sign-post to each other. The employability sub-group is aiming to increase the overall awareness and delivery of training and employability and digital inclusion initiatives in the area. From one to one and small group work, at early stages to the offer of more advanced training and employability programmes. An option being explored: is a local shop front space for meeting and delivery of job-related courses – hopefully a vacant ACC/ business/office space. The income maximisation strand is looking at educating the public on sources of support and longer term to look at a hub locally where people can access support.

So far partners included are - ABZ Works (ACC), Aberdeen Foyer, Pathways, Family and Adult

Learning (ACC), shmuTRAIN, DWP, WEA, Lochside Academy, Kings Community Foundation, CFINE, the churches, Aberdeen City Council's Financial Inclusion Team, CAB, Social Security Scotland, Scarf, Big Noise.

Social media has been of great use in getting the message out there in times of social distancing. However, feedback on our survey so far is that trust and face to face contact is the favoured method of the community in accessing support. As life begins to open up again it is good to be mindful of this in our ever increasing digital/virtual world.

If you live in Torry and would like to know more about the TRRAG just get in touch by emailing tedufficy@aberdeencity.gov.uk. We are also looking for community reps who would like to take part in the meetings and contribute their thoughts of what they think would work best for their community.

SCARF

Warmer Homes Scotland scheme gets funding boost to help green recovery

The Warmer Homes Scotland scheme is open and helping Scots who are struggling with energy bills. The Scottish Government has increased funding for the scheme to help support a 'green recovery' from the coronavirus pandemic and help tackle fuel poverty in Scotland.

Over 22,000 Scottish households have already benefitted since the scheme launched in 2015. They've had help to fund energy saving home improvements like new heating systems, wall and loft insulation, draught-proofing and even home renewables. After support from Warmer Homes Scotland, homes are on average 20% more energy efficient, with households saving an average £300 per year on their energy bills.

To find out more call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282. They're open Monday –Friday 8am –8pm and Saturday 9am –5pm or go online www.homeenergyscotland.org/warmer-winter



New Network for Aberdeen's Equality Groups

Did you know that Aberdeen is Scotland's most diverse city? 17% of people who live here were born outside the UK – more than twice the Scottish average of 7%. Aberdeen residents also have many different languages (68), religions, disabilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. This adds to the vibrant culture of the city, but many people from these groups have trouble accessing services, and face problems like racism, homophobia, and other forms of prejudice.

Earlier this year, several equality groups came together to share information and help the Council understand their experiences. The Equalities Participation Network currently includes groups for ethnic minorities,

disabled people, LGBT+ people, women, men, minority religions, older people, young people, and several who cross different categories – and they welcome more groups to get involved.

The Network meets once a month online, with an email list to share information between meetings. So far, they've reviewed the Council's Equality Outcomes, created a contact list of Aberdeen's equality groups, written a guide for Council departments to better work with these groups, and spoken with Council staff about accessing services post-lockdown.

For more information, or if your group wants to get involved, please contact info@grec.co.uk

Multistorey Facebook pages show more residents interaction

With social media being more popular than ever, residents in and around mainstream multi-storey buildings across Aberdeen now have a group page for their building setup on Facebook.

These pages are aimed at residents to get to know each other, inform others of issues within their buildings, advertising unwanted items to anyone who may like to acquire them, informing others of repairs that have been reported to Aberdeen Council and getting involved with the local community groups, community councils and tenant/residents' groups within Aberdeen Council.

With social distancing still around and most meetings being held online. Councillors are also encouraged to join these pages as this gives them the chance to engage with tenants, also tenant

and residents' groups for the buildings and how they can help residents within these buildings.

Having these pages set up, we can hopefully highlight the positives and negatives for living in multi-storey buildings. We do hope more positive posts can be seen in the future. Residents are encouraged to do their own tenant-led inspections of their building, having a walk around making a note of repairs. Emailing or getting in touch with your local housing officer about this can help make a difference to the building in the future and potentially get repairs done quicker and get a response from Aberdeen Council regarding the progress being made.

We would love to see residents show some pride in their buildings, whether that means setting up a group of gardeners to setup a nice outdoor space for everyone to

enjoy, or even having a function for residents in their common rooms in the future. Now is the time to show what you enjoy about living in your building. This is something the Tenant Participation Team can help with.

Pages have been set up on Facebook for:

**Morven Court Residents
Grampian Court Residents**

The Citywide Multistorey Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held through Microsoft Teams. If you would like to find out more about this or how to setup a resident's group for your multi-storey building. Please get in touch with Carol Hannaford (Tenant Participation Officer) at: channaford@aberdeencity.gov.uk for more information.



Would You Like To Help Make Your Community A Better Place?

Have you ever asked yourself the question "Why doesn't someone do something about that?" Well, you can start to bring about a change by joining your local Community Council. The elections for Community Councils in Aberdeen take place in October 2021.

They usually meet once a month to discuss the issues of current concern in their area, particularly major planning applications and steps to improve our local environment.

They discuss and negotiate solutions to local issues and concerns, attend

meetings with relevant groups, liaise with City Councillors and officials.

Community Council candidates must be named on the current electoral register for the Community Council area in which they reside as a local government elector. The minimum age to stand for election as a Community Councillor is 16 years of age.

Election Timetable

Publication of Notice of Election - Wednesday 11 August

Close of Nominations - 4pm

Thursday 9 September 2021

Closing date for withdrawal of Nominations - 4pm Wednesday 15 September 2021

Notice of Poll (or Uncontested Election) - Monday 20 September 2021

Polling Day (if required) 8.00am - 8.00pm - Thursday 7 October 2021

Please contact the Community Council Liaison Officer (CCLO), Karen Finch on **01224 522723** or email communitycouncils@aberdeencity.gov.uk for more



Grampian Credit Union

We are a savings and loans co-operative open to everyone living or working in Aberdeen city, Aberdeenshire and Moray areas.

For over 28 years, we have helped more than 10,000 people in the Grampian area with saving and accessing affordable loans and credit - and now we can help you!

If you have not already joined us or benefited from our savings or affordable loans, contact us today and see how we can assist you with taking charge of your financial future.

If you need a loan for e.g. home or garden improvements, your next holiday or just for Christmas, we can help. With loans from as little as £200, you can contact us through any of the following ways:

Website: www.grampiancreditunion.co.uk

Email: admin@grampiancreditunion.co.uk

Telephone: 01224 561506

Office: 250 Union Street,
Aberdeen AB10 1TN

Pathways in Torry

By the time you read this hopefully our Employment Keyworker, Stan, will be back seeing people face to face at Old Torry Community Centre, depending on restrictions staying as they are now. Check our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PathwaysAberdeen1A for updates.

For the last week or so our team have been back in the office full time and we have been helping people to find work.

One of Stan's clients lost his job due to the Covid pandemic and contacted Stan for help to look for something else. Stan completed all Pathways registration paperwork with him and reviewed the client's CV which was far too long at three pages. Stan reworked the CV to the satisfaction of both of them and then through weekly calls they looked for and applied to

suitable vacancies that were available that week. After about 6 weeks, they applied for a position and the client was informed he had an interview. Stan coached the client through the interview process and likely questions he would be asked. Long story short, the client performed well at the interview and was offered full time employment with the company!

The client informed Pathways: "I'm so glad that I was referred to Pathways. I would still be unemployed if it wasn't for them. Stan redone my CV and helped me look for jobs that were suitable for me and helped with brushing up my interview skills."

If you would like similar assistance from Stan call him on 01224 682 939 or email him at s.smith@pathways-online.org

PATHWAYS – Free Help To Find Work!

Councillor Comments

Christian Allard

Last summer saw us slowly coming out of lockdown with schools reopening last August. We knew it was not going to be easy and that it would be a slow process. One year on, we are still dealing with a pandemic that doesn't want to go away. The virus new variants are challenging, we must stay vigilant. Like many who have family in continental Europe, I haven't seen my parents for more than a year. This summer is not the time for us to go and see them, for our own safety and more importantly for theirs.

Councillor Audrey Nicoll and I have been busy making Torry cleaner and safer by addressing littering and fly tipping. We called on a meeting with the council waste and recycling manager and the council environment manager to

get an action plan in place for Torry. I reminded officers of the council responsibility for clearing litter, dirt and debris from council-owned public spaces, roads and pavements. There is a duty from Aberdeen City Council to show leadership in the issue. A lot of our time as councillors is taken in reporting large objects left to uplift and other debris in places where safety is an issue, for example, broken glass found in the many lanes and paths across Torry. Audrey and I took the matter in our own hands when we cleared a huge amount of glass and litter from Victoria Lane off Victoria Road. The Council is searching to find out who owns the lane, We would welcome any feedback from folk who might know.

What would resolve the problem would be for everyone to stop

littering and fly tipping, in the meantime you can report those on the council website. Let me thank all individuals and groups who participate to litter picking, we have a lot of sessions organised on the waterfront, not so many sessions within our own community where we live. Finally, let me thank our young people who have had a very difficult start of the year studying both from home and at school, it has been another challenging year so far for them and their parents. I very much appreciate and admire them for the way they faced this pandemic. Your parents and teachers are very proud of you.

Stay Safe
Christian
callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Yvonne Allan

As I am sitting here typing this article the sun is shining as it has been for the past few days, and it is very welcome after all the rain we have had.

Which brings me nicely on to the Tullos Community Garden and the wonderful work going on in there. Keep up the good work and long may the sunshine for you and perhaps a little rain at night to water all your wonderful plants.

I was very proud recently to receive my Greyhope Bay Badge. This is another excellent project doing extremely well up at the Torry Battery. Again, very well supported

by a band of volunteers some of whom are from Torry.

On the council side we will soon see work going on at Baxter Court. I believe there is to be roofing works going on there and perhaps may have started by the time this paper reaches your door. This is just part of the ongoing commitment the city council has to keeping its housing stock up to standard and to making sure that Torry is well embedded into these programmes.

The massive gap has appeared where the Academy used to be and a sad end of an era. However, we will soon see the start of the

new build of a primary school and community facilities for the area. I believe our existing community centres are planning their reopenings after this long shut down we have all suffered.

Now that we are beginning to get a bit of our freedom back, I once again thank all of you for how Torry is getting itself through the pandemic, supporting each other and looking out for each other as Torry folks do.

Stay well,
Yvonne Allan
yallan@aberdeencity.gov.uk
07802 332725

MSPS

Audrey Nicoll

It is an honour to have been selected by the people of Aberdeen South and North Kincardine to be their new MSP in the new Scottish Parliament session. Whether or not you voted for me, I will do my absolute best to ensure your voice is heard and help with any issue you may be experiencing.

I must first pay tribute to my predecessor, Maureen Watt, who for ten years stood up for the constituency at every opportunity in Parliament. Maureen's impact on Torry can be seen through the work she did with Scottish Water and local stakeholders to reduce smell complaints, and the keyworker housing development now in place at the former Craiginches prison

site. Maureen is certainly not a small act to follow!

Looking forward, I am excited with the opportunities being an MSP will bring to reach out to people and stand up for those who need help. Having been a councillor for Torry and Ferryhill since November 2019, I have been aware of local issues facing residents, including "hot topic" issues such as proposals for an Energy Transition Zone in St Fitticks Park and a housing development application on land along the waterfront near Victoria Bridge. I will be remaining as a Councillor until the local elections next year and will be donating my salary to support local good causes.

The first priority for the new Scottish Government will be to continue navigating Scotland through the Covid pandemic. The progress we have all made this year has been fantastic, and we will hopefully continue to see restrictions lifted and a return to a more normal way of life. In the meantime, please continue to follow safety advice such as FACTS. At the time of writing, I am still in the process of settling in to Holyrood and getting my office set up. If you need to reach me with an issue you may have in the meantime, please email me at audrey.nicoll.msp@parliament.scot and I will try to get in touch with you as soon as I can.

Maureen Watt

Whatever your political views may be, I think we can all agree that it was wonderful to see such high levels of voter turnout at the Scottish Parliament election – this is democracy at its best.

I was especially delighted to see that Torry, and the people of the wider constituency, selected Audrey Nicoll as their new MSP. I have known Audrey for some time and had many a conversation with her on local issues facing Torry since she was elected as a local councillor. With Audrey at Holyrood, and Stephen Flynn at Westminster, I cannot

think of better representatives to stand up for Torry and Aberdeen at Parliament.

As I said in a previous edition, I decided not to seek re-election. For ten years as MSP for Aberdeen South and North Kincardine, I had the privilege of working with organisations to help make a difference to local peoples' lives. It was also a pleasure to meet with so many constituents from various backgrounds – you never knew what issue they may be coming to you to seek help on – and one of the most satisfying parts of being an

MSP was helping resolve a person's issue and getting that weight off their shoulders, giving them that peace of mind.

Although I am no longer an MSP I will continue to keep an eye on local issues facing people in Torry. Torry was effectively "home" for my office, and I will miss having people drop in for help or a chat.

I am incredibly grateful for the faith people placed in me as their MSP and wish everyone the very best of luck for the future.

Volunteers' Week

The first week in June is an important week for shmu as it is Volunteers' Week! Everyone volunteering for shmu does an amazing job but particularly over the last year we have been blown away by the commitment and creativity our volunteers have shown throughout the pandemic.

THIS YEAR IN NUMBERS;

2510 shmuFM shows recorded at home

300 articles written by shmuPRESS volunteers

Over 70,000 magazines printed and delivered

32 volunteers taking part in training courses

50,488 volunteering hours

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SHMU VOLUNTEERS?

We have a range of things coming up for our volunteers including new courses, a mentoring programme and the launch of shmu community TV.

Want to know more about volunteering at shmu? Email tracy.ewing@shmu.org.uk

Mike Melvin, Volunteer Coordinator at ACVO: "Woodside Free Press always brightens my day and more so than ever just now."

Fay, Torry's Vision: "It's so easy to get involved, meet different people and try new things because you're in the middle of it. One of the main benefits of shmu for the community is being able to coordinate across areas that might have similar things happening. People can learn from things happening in other areas and someone from a different community might have a solution to that problem so folk can learn from each other as they're meeting folk from outside their area. "I've found out a lot about my community from being involved and it's good to be able to help others do that too."

Suzanne Poppe Project Administrator "Volunteers are the very heart of shmu. I think it's incredible we have so many wonderful people willing to give up their time to produce content for their local communities and share their stories. I am also amazed at how well they have adapted to volunteering from home, although I really miss seeing them in the building and I hope it's not too long till we can meet again"

Megan Rollo Youth Support Worker "shmu volunteers to me are hardworking, creative and supportive individuals who continue to support and give voices to local communities. The camaraderie is ever present and it is amazing to see projects and ideas come to life through their dedication and hard work. The Youth Media Team are important to me, they are constantly teaching me new things and continue to amaze me every week with their perseverance over the past year and commitment to the team. They make me so full of pride as they are so welcoming and supportive of each other, creating a safe space to learn and build confidence in a fun and engaging way. They are constantly making me laugh and has been great to work with them over the wee while. Keep doing what you are doing, you are all fantastic!"

ST FITTICK'S PARK

The Edible Garden at the old St Fittick's depot is really taking shape. Our Saturday morning planting events have proved really popular. At the first planting session, Bob from 'One Seed Forward' kindly donated tatties and showed a keen audience how to plant them in our raised beds before everyone had a go themselves. Great fun and I am pleased to report the tatties are doing well and growing fast! Next, we held a soil testing workshop which was very interesting and well attended by the community. We have been overwhelmed by the generous donations of seeds and plants from folk. Thanks to 'Tulloch Community Garden' and 'Keep Growing Aberdeen' who helped plant more and gave away free donations of seeds plants at our Saturday session last week. Our regular garden sessions are now running Saturday mornings 11.30am and 1.30pm and Wednesday afternoons 2pm -4pm. Find out more how you can get involved on our Facebook page or our website.

As we look to the future of building the St Fittick's Edible Garden into well-loved and fruitful community garden we are often asked about its history. Did you know that it was previously a dairy farm and called South Kirkhill Farm? Fiona Singer, whose grandparents used to run the farm recently got in touch to talk more about the farm's history. It is 100 years since Albert and Georgina Corbett moved into South Kirkhill Farm as tenant farmers. The Laird at the time was Colonel Davidson of Balnagask House. The couple had 5 children, two daughters, Irene and Ethel, also three sons, Bert, Jimmy and Alister. Alister was named after Colonel Davidson's son, Captain Alister Davidson. Fiona's grandparents worked the farm until 1969. Barley and neeps were grown to feed the cattle and the family also grew their own vegetables whilst keeping chickens too. Georgina used to provide meals for the soldiers billeted at the bottom of St Fittick's Road during the war and put on concerts and dances in

the barn. During the war the whole site was a prohibited area and the family had permits to get in and out past the sentry guards. Uncle Bert discovered many incendiary bombs in the fields!

Sadly, Alister sadly passed away earlier this year in February and we are glad to share a bit of history with you. A tree will be planted for Alister Corbett at a memory tree planting event this autumn in the garden.

Please enjoy some fantastic photos of the farm as it was and the family who lived there. Perhaps you remember them and the farm?

Thanks, to the Fiona for sharing your precious memories and photos.

More of the history of the farm can be found on our website <https://www.cultivateaberdeen.co.uk/stepping-back-in-time/>

To find out more about getting involved please email us at info@cultivateaberdeen.co.uk. or www.facebook.com/cultivateABDN



Community Contacts

Aberdeen City Council Helpline - 0800 0304 713

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

Aberdeen City Carers Service - 01224 914036

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 Christian Allard

Callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Yvonne Allan

07802332725

Yallan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Audrey Nicoll MSP

audrey.nicoll.msp@parliament.scot

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: sdafmh.org.uk

Grampian Women's Aid

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

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