

# torry's vision

Winter 2014

**Choices Aberdeen**  
**Torry Community Council**  
**St Fittick's Summer Fayre**

## **Features**

**I WALKED 500 MILES**

**A QUINE FAE TORRY'S COMMONWEALTH EXPERIENCE**

**TORRY AGAINST THE STENCH**

**CAMPAIGN TO RID COMMUNITY OF BLIGHT**

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## Editorial

Welcome to the winter edition of Torry's Vision. In this issue we have articles focusing on Torry against the Stench, Craiginches Prison and Aberdeen Harbour Board.

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 the Torry area and would like to come along to the editorial meetings or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at SHMU on 515013 or you can email her on [laura.young@shmu.org.uk](mailto:laura.young@shmu.org.uk).

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

The provisional meeting dates for the next magazine are:

**Tuesday 6th of January**

**Tuesday the 20th of January**

**Tuesday the 3rd of February**

**Tuesday the 10th of February**

**Tuesday the 24th of February**

**All the meetings take place at  
Old Torry Community Centre at 12:30pm.**

Cover image - Mandy Roy



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## New Harbour

# A Step Closer?

*Aberdeen Harbour has always considered itself not just a supporter of the Torry community, but as forming part of the Torry community.*

**Renee caught up with Colin and Chris from Aberdeen Harbour Board during Torry Treasures which is broadcasts weekly on a Tuesday between 10 and 11am on shmu 99.8FM.**

**Renee: Are there any more building developments in the harbour area around Torry?**

**Colin:** We're still finishing off the development of Torry Quay. That's a £33 million investment on the new quay sides which were completed last year but the various facilities at the back of the quay to support our customers. There's more storage tanks going in there and we just finished the security gatehouse and I think there's still some work going on at the exit facility there. It's all progressing well and there's more resurfacing work to be done on the harbour area itself in the next few months as well.

**Renee: Have you met a lot of the people and the groups in Torry?**

**Chris:** Well last year we were involved in the Lighthouse Festival so we had a stall there and it was a super opportunity for us because we were able to get out there and show some of our plans for Nigg Bay and get some feedback from the local community.

**Renee: One of things about the Harbour is that there used to be lots of beautiful buildings around and now we don't have that.**

**Colin:** Well the railings are about security because we have to comply with the International Shipping and Port Security Code so that makes the Harbour a secure and safe place. Some buildings have had to go to make space for storing containers and a modern supply vessel can take up to 20 articulated lorry loads onto its deck to go offshore so that requires an awful lot of space.

**Renee: Let's have a chat about the developments up in Nigg because there are concerns about that, including light and noise pollution and increased traffic levels so could you give us more of an idea about what's happening there?**

**Colin:** Aberdeen Harbour has been a very successful place for the local business community because we generate a lot of economic impact. This demand means we've had to look at expansion plans. We've identified Nigg Bay as the preferred option. It would provide additional birthing for extra ships but also the larger style of vessels which are currently under construction and possibly larger ferries. We are currently engaged in an environmental impact study which will go through to summer next year and that will form part of the consent process. We would hope to be in a position of commencing construction late 2016 early 2017 with a 4 year construction period and that will future proof Aberdeen for what the local industry will require for many years to come.

**Renee: Where does the consent statement go and who will be involved?**

**Colin:** Well the whole consent process involves consultation which is what we're involved. Democracy in the planning process will involve residents and local businesses, communities, the lot.

**Renee: I understand there is the possibility of making a road from Nigg Bay out towards the Western Peripheral Route, is that correct?**

**Colin:** It's looking at the existing road with the bridge over the railway and looking at what can be done to improve that, so it's trying to avoid having traffic going down Victoria Road through Torry and taking advantage of a better route clear of the city.

**Renee: How will you gauge things like noise and light pollution?**

**Colin:** It's all part of this environmental impact assessment and that takes in visual impact, noise, traffic the lot. To have a safe environment you have to have a lot of lighting however we don't receive a lot of complaints about lighting in the existing harbour and you can screen lighting to avoid that. The construction phase will have an impact, there's no doubt about that but the impact it will have on the local economy and keeping what we currently have now and retaining and growing jobs will be high.



# Torry Community Council Reports Back

The Community Council is a statutory consultee on matters to do with planning and key issues affecting Torry that involve the City Council, the NHS, Scottish Water and a wide range of organisations who have a remit or desire to work in Torry. We talk to and work with all organisations and groups that can bring benefits for Torry, and enjoy good relationships with the local police and all the city councillors elected for Torry.

The last few months have been very busy and here is a brief summary of issues we have been dealing with:

## Former prison site at Craiginches

We have raised a number of concerns regarding development options for this site and currently await a statement from the Scottish Prison Service on their plans and the likely timescale for development. The Community Council wants formal assurance on road safety and traffic management matters, use of materials, scale and the impact of any development on our local schools.

Overcrowding in our local schools  
We have written to the Education Department regarding the chronic over-crowding in both primary schools and have stated our opposition to dual zoning as this short-sighted policy does nothing to address the lack of investment in our children over many years.

## Torry Academy

We await formal replies to a long list of questions put to the Education Department by ourselves and parent councils on the decision to close Torry Academy.

## Sistema Project

Community Council members and local parents have been invited to be part of the recruitment and selection of key staff and to help form a Project Board. We await further developments of this new and innovative music project that it set to roll out next year

## Odours in Torry

Since July, very serious odours have hit Torry, and were especially bad when the fine weather arrived. The Community Council has supported folk badly affected by odours and led calls for action by the relevant authorities. We currently now await a formal, written statements of action to eliminate odours affecting the quality of life in Torry.

## East Tullos Burn - St. Fittick Community Park

We are pleased with the colourful display of flowers surrounding the new wetlands and have invited the project manager to our meeting in October to discuss how this vital amenity can be maintained with involvement from the community and local schools.

## Harbour Developments

We maintain an open dialogue with representatives of Aberdeen Harbour Board and await a presentation on any proposals that they develop that will affect the likely expansion of Nigg Bay. We are very aware that the environmental and social impact will be greatest on Torry so will scrutinise any proposals very carefully, and we will consult with Torry residents before making any final comments.

## Supporting local groups

We do have small funds to help local groups and will consider making a small funding donation once a written request with your proposal is received.

## Keeping in touch

We have at last got a new website ([www.torrycommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.torrycommunitycouncil.org.uk)) and this is now linked to Facebook and Twitter. Follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook to grow these new and vital means of keeping in touch with us over the coming months.



Thanks go to Robb Duff for the copy of the magnificent aerial photo of Torry that is now being used on our website. Do check it out and help us build up the website to serve Torry.

## Want to know more?

Then come along to our meetings on the third Thursday of each month, all held at 7pm in the library of Torry Academy or contact the Secretary, David Fryer at:

[secretarytorrycommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytorrycommunitycouncil@gmail.com).

## Craiginchies

Low-cost homes will be built on the site of the former prison as part of a new plan to help fill public sector posts.

The plan is trying to target problems in attracting medics, teachers and care workers in the area.

The site will be sold to Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association to provide an estate of low-cost homes with the help of government funding.

The north-east of Scotland has experienced difficulties attracting public-sector staff as house prices are too expensive.

Health Secretary Alex Neil said: "There are record levels of staff working in our NHS but we know that some local areas like the north-east have experienced difficulties attracting staff."

Aberdeen City Council has resorted to offering cash incentives in an effort to fill vacant teaching posts. Residents of Torry are concerned over the potential increase in the number of pupils attending Walker Road Primary School which would push the school over capacity.

## VicTorry #nofailure

### Youth Work in Torry - A Choices Aberdeen initiative

Here at Choices Aberdeen we are passionate about supporting young people in the city to reach their full potential. We do this by promoting and supporting positive relationships. One of our out of school youth groups for teenage girls, known as VicTorry #nofailure, has been a great way to explore different issues with young people. We started by running a Romance Academy project which became a self-esteem project known as 'Unequally You'. The aim of this project was to support the girls in feeling more positive about their self-worth and for them to encourage others around them. This programme has led us to think about developing the girls' leadership skills, which is an area that we hope to explore more in the future with a young leadership programme.

A highlight of working with the girls has been using everyday experiences as a tool for promoting positive relationship building. Ice skating, rock climbing, high ropes course and art activities have had a powerful influence in these young lives, not only as memories, but as life tools that will be helpful in situations to come.

Our high ropes course was a prime example of this. The initial thought

of 'this will be easy' gradually disappeared as their feet touched a thin rope in which they had to place their trust. As fear took hold, team building took over. The ropes course was followed by a photo shoot for the girls. Confidence was evident in the group and the encouragement grew from one activity to the other.

The identity of these girls has been a crucial area for us to work on. They have used words, images, film and crafts to express and explore their emotions on the topic. Through discussion and activities we reached a point where the girls began to see themselves for who they really are.

Delivering projects and seeing the outcomes in individual's lives can only be measured as a great success for us here at Choices. We are appreciative for the openness of schools like Torry Academy who let us come in and continually support our work. We are looking forward to seeing this continue in the coming year ahead.

The group will be meeting every second Wednesday at Torry Outdoor Sports Centre between 3:30 and 5:30pm.

**For more information please visit [www.choicesaberdeen.org](http://www.choicesaberdeen.org).**



Billie's  
Recipe  
corner

## Shortbread

by Billie Arthur

Makes 8 wedges

Ingredients:

150G PLAIN FLOUR

60G RICE FLOUR, PLUS

EXTRA FOR SHAPING

180G BUTTER

60G ICING SUGAR, SIFTED

Method:

- 1) Pre-heat oven to 150 degrees or gas mark 2.
- 2) Put all the ingredients in a bowl and rub in butter with your fingers until mixture is like finest breadcrumbs.
- 3) Knead mixture to form a smooth dough with no cracks. Turn it on to a board, sprinkled with rice flour and form it into a flat round about 1cm thick.
- 4) Mark edge all the way round with your fingers and mark into slices or prick with a fork.
- 5) Lay the round in a tin lined with buttered greaseproof paper and bake for 45 minutes.
- 6) Cut it into pieces while it is warm if you like, but allow it to cool in the tin.

## Tea Break Reading 30 Second Tip Bits . . . . .

Written by Mandy

"The Quine fae Torry"

### **A wee read whilst you take yur Tea Break:**

Have you ever cut yourself from shaving or had a paper cut and not had a plaster in sight? My suggestion would be to immediately put chapstick onto the cut to stop the pain and bleeding whilst you look for the plaster.

Can't believe it – you have permanent marker on the following items and don't know how to erase the mark off them, well here how: on clothing – use hand sanitizer; on walls – use toothpaste or hairspray; on wood - rub alcohol, on carpet – use white vinegar and what of furniture – use a spot of milk!

Question? How long does it take you to try to find the end of the sellotape? Five minutes, ten minutes... especially if you are like me with nae nails! Why not use a Paper Clip to find the end of a tape roll easily!

Too broke to travel? WWOOF is an organization that allows you to travel the world, with food/accommodation covered in exchange for volunteer work.

It's a rainy day, you and the kids are stuck indoors and unable to get to the shops to get any craft supplies? Then why not make up your own paint by mixing the following together – 1 cup of salt, 1 cup of flour, 1 cup of water and finally food colouring!

Students, a wee handy hint - when you are finished with an assignment or essay, copy and paste it into Google Translate and listen to it. It's the easiest way to find mistakes before sending your assignment or essay to your tutor!

Do you have a muffin tin that is lying at the back of the kitchen cupboard which is unused and unloved? Why not make cookies with the muffin tin, by placing a scoop of cookie mix into each holder, this not only make the cookies stay soft and fluffy whilst baking, but it will not spread out really thin. A birthday party round the corner? Get cupcake cases and then a scoop of ice cream in each of the holders within the muffin tin. Not only does it become easy to serve but it reduces washing up! For convenient breakfast bites, why not cup bacon and eggs together within the muffin tin – what better way to start the day?

Did you know that pineapple juice is more effective than cough syrup? It also prevents the cold and the flu.

Have you ever accidentally poured too much salt into a dish whilst it was still being cooked? Then why not drop in a peeled potato, this will absorb the excess salt.

Love candles but hate the mess that burning them creates? Place the candle in the freezer for a few hours before using it, which will have it burn longer and drip less!



# Cash In Your Pocket Focus on Torry

Cash In Your Pocket Partnership promote available services and provide a one stop referral to ensure people get the help they need on matters relating to their finances. This includes help with benefits, reconsiderations, sanctions, debt, keeping warm, saving and borrowing, home insulation, repairs, low cost foods and getting back to work. Knowing who to contact to get the help you need can often be confusing.

Our new phonenumber service provides easy access to advice, information and where, necessary, onward referrals to a wide range of organisations and services that can help you get the help you need.

The phonenumber is available Monday to Friday (10:00-16:00) on 01224 686077, with a call back facility available.

You can visit our website [www.ciyp.co.uk](http://www.ciyp.co.uk) and click onto our online directory to find out more about the help that's available and make a referral.

CIYP have recently completed a period of 4 months activity in Tillydrone to encourage people to seek help at the earliest point by working closely with the introduction of a Welfare Reform hub, based at the Housing office. It is our intention to embark on a similar programme of activities, linked to the Welfare Matters HUB which is available on Tuesday and Thursdays

from 10am to 3pm at St Fitticks Church where you will be able to get 'Money Matters' help and advice.

CIYP are keen to engage with community structures, organisations and volunteers based within your community to raise awareness of the help available to local people. We can provide talks, information stalls and awareness sessions on the ways to access simple pathways to help. Anyone who is interested should contact the CIYP team on 01224 686077. If you work, live or volunteer in Torry, further information and publicity material is also available by calling us on the above number.

Get **help** with:



**BENEFITS Pension Universal Credit**

**HEATING YOUR HOME? STOP SMOKING**

**LOW COST LOANS FIRE/HOME SAFETY CHECKS**

**SAVING & BUDGETING Too Many Bedrooms**

**Repairs & Adaptation Food Parcels**



## A group of Torry residents have set up a campaign to get rid of the smell blighting their community.

Mary Fraser and Grace Angus set up the Facebook group “Torry against the Stench” at the end of July and within 48 hours the group had over 500 members. Residents have made several complaints about the smell coming from the waste water treatment plant and approached the team at Torry’s Vision to draw more attention to the issue.

Grace Angus said: “We just want the smell to stop and the air we’re breathing in to stop being polluted. We just want to breathe clean, fresh air like any other area of the town.”

We caught up with the Environmental Health Team and Scottish Water to discuss the issue. Aberdeen City Council spokesperson said: “We are

monitoring the local waste water treatment plant and liaising with the operators, Kelda Water. We have also made SEPA aware that we have received odour complaints from residents which may be linked to issues at the fish processing plant and have asked them to investigate in their role as the regulatory authority.”

### HELENA TORRY AND HER PAL – POWIS HILTON



STORY: RENÉE SLATER ART: MALCOLM WHYTE



## What Scottish Water had to say:

### **Why is there a smell coming from the plant?**

Sewage systems and wastewater treatment plants can generate different odours from different processing stages. The Nigg plant is relatively unusual in Scotland in that all sewage treatment is contained within buildings with ventilation systems which extract and treat odorous air. At all times we endeavour to minimise odour release and our investigations focus on general housekeeping and the efficiency of treatment systems. To assist our investigations we monitor a number of points within the community to measure hydrogen sulphide (characterised by a bad egg smell). Whilst we recognise the plant as being a potential source of odours, we need to make our own assessment to determine if other sources correlate with the complaints.

### **What classifies as an unsafe/unacceptable reading when monitoring the air?**

Monitoring equipment which measures hydrogen sulphide plays only a small part in our assessment of treatment efficiency. In terms of monitoring within the community, we find that levels of the smell are so low, if present at all, that they are below the detectable limits of the instrumentation and, therefore, well below any threshold that we would consider a concern. This is where the human nose comes in to play as we find that this can be more effective means of differentiating odours.

### **Are there no measures you could put in place to regulate it and improve the situation?**

Since the plant was made operational in 2002, significant additional investment has been spent on odour control. A key number of upgrade works took place in 2004 to control odours from the site, including a new odour control unit, the

sealing of odour leakage points and new covers and odour extraction being installed in the Digested Sludge Storage Tanks. Since 2006, the plant has been regulated under Scottish Government legislation to ensure that management practices take account of all process operations and odour risks. The Odour Management Plan is a live document subject to annual review and sets out how the operators minimise odours.

### **Are there safety concerns for staff?**

No. Just like any employer, the site operators at Nigg have health, safety and welfare obligations for operational staff. Kelda, the site operators, have been awarded a RoSPA safety award for their management and operational practices.

### **Would you consider leaving a monitor permanently in the community?**

This could be done if a specific location was identified as being a recurrent source of the smell. Unfortunately technology has not advanced to a reliable stage to allow an 'electronic nose' to be produced. To give us more reliable feedback, operational staff visit and monitor around 10 locations in the community to observe and log odour and weather conditions. This is used by plant management to assess the performance of the site.

### **How have you been keeping in touch with concerned residents who have been trying to contact you?**

We have a 24/7 customer helpline which is open every day of the year, a number of email addresses they can contact us through, a webform they can fill out and Facebook/Twitter profiles. We also engage with community representatives and regulators (SEPA and Aberdeen City Council Environmental Health) through the Nigg

Monitoring Group, a group which has met regularly since the commissioning of the plant and is a forum for the community to discuss odour and other issues.

### **What is the difference between the plant in Persley and Torry?**

The Persley plant is what could be considered 'conventional' in terms of sewage treatment in that all of the main process units are uncovered and have little in the way of odour treatment. We have numerous plants around Scotland that are of the scale and treatment type of Persley. Nigg is unusual in that all process units are within buildings and all air ventilated and treated. There is only one other plant in Scotland with the same process arrangement. Nigg also has the only advanced sludge digestion plant in Scotland. This highly effective sludge treatment process pasteurises the sludge for use as a fertiliser and yields a biogas which is used to generate renewable electricity.

### **Why is there waste coming from other cities and what route does it take through Torry?**

The facility treats sewage from the majority of Aberdeen and the surrounding area. It includes a sludge treatment centre (STC), which treats sludge from the other PFI works at Persley, Peterhead and Fraserburgh plus sludge imported from Scottish Water's surrounding works. The site is a strategic asset for Scottish Water and serves our wider environmental performance across Aberdeenshire. We encourage all of our tankers and lorries to access the site via the Coast Road. If access has to come through Torry (for traffic diversion or congestion reasons) then Sinclair Road must be used in preference to Victoria Road. We note that there are other hauliers, not associated with the plant, which may use other routes through Torry.



# TRIUMPH OVER SEAGULLS BY RECYCLING FOOD WASTE

*- Liina Roostoja, Waste and Recycling Team, Aberdeen City Council -*

**Aberdeen City Council began introducing a food recycling service to flats in June 2013. Around 14,000 properties received the service during the first two phases of the rollout, and food recycling bins are now in place at multi-storey buildings and tenements with on-street waste collection.**

By the end of 2015, all flats in Torry will have a food recycling service. The new service has been accompanied by the development of branded food recycling communication materials to encourage residents to use the new service.

Litter can be a major problem for the residents of Aberdeen. It was mentioned in the last issue of Torry's Vision and this is what I have noticed after living in Aberdeen for the last three years. Seagulls scavenge by eating food waste and cause a nuisance. They're tempted by leftover food smells - and it's an easy catch for the birds when the bins are too full to close!

Recycling food helps solve this problem. Dividing waste items between different bins helps to avoid bags piling up in the black

bin. The new food recycling bin has a self-closing lid and seagulls won't be able to access the contents of the bin. Seagulls: you'll have to find your meals somewhere else!

Waste is a resource and most of the litter is actually recyclable materials that have an economic value. Recycling food benefits your health and the environment. Sending food waste to landfill is environmentally unfriendly and an expensive way to dispose of waste. When food waste breaks down in landfill it gives off methane gas, which contributes to climate change. Using the new food recycling service diverts food waste from landfill, cuts down on pollution and allows it to be recycled into compost. Once collected, your food recycling is sent to a facility in Aberdeenshire

and made into compost which is a valuable resource used for horticulture and landscaping.

Information is now available in Polish. Until now, food recycling communications and engagement strategies have focused mainly on British audiences and have not engaged with members of other communities who do not use English as their first language. The new service aims to engage members of the Polish community and offers them information about food recycling in Polish. Visit Torry Library and pick up a leaflet with the information. Do contact us!

W celu uzyskania informacji skontaktuj się z name: 08456 08 09 19 [wasteaware@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:wasteaware@aberdeencity.gov.uk) [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/wasteaware/](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/wasteaware/)

# Torry St Fittick's Church Summer Fayre

Written by Mandy  
"The Quine fae Torry"

Although the day may have been wee bit overcast, it didn't hinder the Torry St Fittick's Church Summer Fayre or the local loons and quines, whom I had been advised by organisers formed a queue outside the Church side doors even before they opened at 10am!

With a steady stream of people buzzing through the doors of Torry St Fittick's Church Summer Fayre, it offered the loons and quines of Torry and possibly further afield a wonderful array of stalls within the large hall. There was anything fae raffles, brick-a-brac, candy floss and the Torry St Fittick's Parish Church's own Parent & Toddler Group were selling their version of potted plants in very unusual pots –

wellies - overseen by Rev. Dr. Edmond Gatima and his lovely wife Elizabeth.

As the day progressed, the winner or should I say winners of the link word quiz competition were revealed and the winners were sisters Alice and Jess. They were both in complete surprise as they both had entered the competition separately! However the unsung heroes of the day were not only the stall holders who I'm sure had been up bright and early but the individuals who were front and back of house like Dorothy, Ann, Ellen and Ernie. There was a constant supply of tea and coffee and affie nice fine pieces and rowies which streamed out of the kitchen for the tired and hungry loons and

quines who either fancied resting their feet or just wanted to sit doon for a wee drink and a natter!

As the Torry St Fittick's Church Summer Fayre ended, it raised £1,200 and the monies raised went to the refurbishment fund for all the works, which had to be undertaken within the church premises. However, the fundraising continues with Torry St Fittick's Church's monthly coffee mornings which run on the last Saturday of every month (except December) between 10am to 12 noon with all the usual stalls – cake, candy, bric-a-brac, dvd's, cd's, books, hand crafted items together with a fine cup of tea or coffee as well as a rowie or two!







## I WALKED 500 MILES . . .

*Written by Mandy “The Quine fae Torry”*

The 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics Games and the vision of these games are still vivid in everyone’s minds. The athletes and para-athletes were very impressive but we also have the unsung heroes of these games – the volunteers! These were individuals from all walks of life who made these games such an inspiration for the UK public and audiences around the world. I, like so many others, who watched from afar wished that we could have been part of history but never did I think that it would happen! At the beginning of 2013, an appeal went out for people to get involved in an opportunity as one of the biggest peace-time deployment of volunteers for a common cause that Scotland had ever seen. The emphasis was on finding individuals who were friendly, welcoming and dedicated to making the Commonwealth Games a success, by playing a key role in the event. Glasgow

2014 Commonwealth Games would be the largest multi-sport event ever held in Scotland, it would host around about 4,950 athletes from 71 Commonwealth teams participating in 18 sports events over 11 days of competition aided by an army of up to 15,000 volunteers known as ‘Clyde-siders’ who would be the heart of an unforgettable Games.

I was among over 50,000 applicants hoping to secure one of up to 15,000 Clyde-siders roles that were available. Of these applicants about 25,000 successful applicants were invited for informal interviews in April 2013. Around 1,000 interviews a week took place at the purpose-built Volunteer Centre based in Glasgow and I was lucky enough to be invited to attend. After that day in Glasgow, the days ticked on and I wondered if I had been successful enough to be part of 15,000 ‘Clyde-

sider’ volunteers. On the day of the launch of the Queen’s Baton Relay at Buckingham Palace on 9th October 2013, as I watched Queen Elizabeth II, place her message to the Commonwealth into the baton, I received a wee ping on my phone. I opened up the email and I read “Congratulations – You’re a Clyde-sider!” I read and re-read the email to be absolutely sure what I was reading and then jumped for joy. I was now a Clyde-sider and was offered the role as part of the Venue Operations Team based at Barry Buddon Shooting Centre which was one of the two satellite venues for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Between March and July 2014, as part of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games training programme, I attended up to 20 hours of training from Orientation and training specific to my venue and role which was based in both Glasgow and Carnoustie. There



## “ Congratulations – You’re a Clyde-sider! ”

was a further trip to Glasgow to be fitted for the Clyde-sider Uniform and to receive the accreditation pass, which would be needed as part of the journey to and from the Carnoustie venue.

As the days rolled around to the Opening Ceremony on the 23rd July, I could not believe that the day as a Clyde-sider Volunteer was about to finally arrive and that I was going to be part of history, however small my role would be. I could not wait to begin and to meet my fellow Barry Buddon Shooting (BBS) volunteers.

Each day I would drive between Aberdeen to Carnoustie and then walk for about 30 to 40 minutes before reaching security and then onto our work area. By the time we reached our desks, I had felt

that I had already done a days' work! The constant supply of banter, coffee, tea, biscuits with the occasional sweetie treat really kept us going. There was also an occasional trip out and about to see some of the shooting events taking place.

There were 12 of us (10 Clyde-sider Volunteers and 2 Supervisor split between 2 shifts) in the team. My role would involve being part of the control centre for all operational communications within the venue, providing a direct, simple and effective means of communication for all operations at the venue. One of the most important functions was to ensure that all communications were properly routed to the appropriate members of the venue team whilst tracking the issues until they had been resolved. We also assisted in passing on messages between people on different radio channels and providing information to all radio users. I remember the day that Sir Jackie Stewart came to visit the Barry Buddon Shooting Centre. He was nicknamed "Rubber Duckie." It was quite an interesting day plotting his walk around the venue! Another interesting occasion was when spectator services pitched some decoys into the airways on the last day of the games. They knew that we would be listening into the conversations, one of which was that one of the transport buggies had come across pink polka dot y-fronts and didn't know where they had come from. I joking

suggested that they may belong to Clyde, the Mascot!

The work was intense but what I discovered from the time spent with the rest of the team was that everyone had come with a wealth of experience. Some of them had volunteered for various major events including 2012 London Olympics!

As the gates to the Barry Buddon Shooting Centre and my last day closed, the team concluded our time at the venue by deciding to add a spin to our last sign off on the radio. My final signature over the air to my talk group was "Here to the heroes of the past, present and the future – you are an inspiration to us mere mortals!" As we ventured forth outside in the wonderfully sunny afternoon, bidding farewell to our colleagues, we came across the Spectator Services conga making its way through the site collecting volunteers as it went! As the volunteers conga'd off to the wrap-up party, held at the Spectator Pit Stop, it was a time to reflect our time there. What a nice way to round off by having one last get together before we went our separate ways.

It was an inspirational couple of weeks and such a surreal experience. It was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... at least, until the next Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast which I hope to be a volunteer for! My only regret was that I didn't have the courage to speak to two of my childhood heroes - Allan Wells and Sir Jackie Stewart.

**A WEE UPDATE...** The Lord Provost and Members of Aberdeen City Council held a wee civic reception celebration on Sunday 28 September 2014 at the Town House to honour Aberdeen's contribution to the success of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. They invited those who contributed fae the North East ie sports persons, coaches, Queen Baton Bearers and, of course, the Clydesiders. The room was filled with electrifying conversations by individuals who came dressed in their games uniform, meeting up with old and new colleagues, eagerly sharing their experiences. Councillor George Adam, the Lord Provost presented the crowd with a wee speech acknowledging the North East's contribution.

I was honoured to meet Viorel Etko who won Scotland's first wrestling medal at the Commonwealth Games since 1994. I did see the medal but wasn't allowed to touch it (it wouldn't have gone down well if I had dropped it!). Fellow Barry Buddonen's and I were very privileged to and chat to two of our Team Scotland Shooting Team. We also met Neil Stirton who participated in 50m Men's Rifle.

## VOLUNTEERING

Do you want to get involved in volunteering at SHMU? We are always looking for people to join the Torry's Vision editorial team or the Torry Treasures radio team.

Torry Treasures broadcasts weekly on a Tuesday between 10 and 11am. Full radio training is provided free of charge by staff at SHMU. The Torry's Vision editorial team usually meet fortnightly on a Tuesday at 12:30pm.

We are also looking for regular writers for the magazine and guests for the radio show. For more information on either of these projects contact Laura Young on 01224 515013 email [laura.young@shmu.org.uk](mailto:laura.young@shmu.org.uk).



## CREATIVE COMPOSITIONS

Station House Media Unit (shmu) will launch a cross-cultural music and film project with the Aberdeen Multicultural Centre and Aberdeen's Ethnic Minority Forum. Collective Compositions, which will be the first of its kind in Aberdeen, was funded by Creative Scotland and will bring together musicians from a diverse range of minority ethnic backgrounds to record and perform a range of unique pieces of music. shmuSOUND supports the local music scene and focuses on supporting artists and bands to record, promote and broadcast new music.

The project will be filmed by a team of volunteers and turned into a 'making of' documentary which will be premiered later this year. Collective Compositions aims to raise the profile of the city's minority ethnic musicians while creating a space where people from different cultures can learn through music.

Simon Gall, shmuSOUND Development Worker said: "It's important that cultural organisations in the city start to properly reflect the changes which have taken place over the last 10 to 15 years in the demography of Aberdeen. This is a valuable project which represents and celebrates the true cultural landscape of the city."

*Station House Media Unit (shmu) is situated just off Great Northern Road in the old Station House Community Centre, Woodside. We offer free access to, and training in video and radio production, and magazine and online publications to residents of all ages living in Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Northfield and Cummings Park.*

## LIVE LOCAL MUSIC FROM THE BAND OF THE WEEK SHOW

We've just released another free compilation album, this time with a twist – it's the Band of the Week Unplugged: Volume II!

Every performance was captured LIVE on the Band of the Week Show.

It features: Ashley Park, Suburban Saints, Nicky Aiken, Dave Angus, Descena, Margaret Finlayson, Victoria Sponge, Leanne Smith, Daniel Mutch and Will Leatherbarrow. Each of these artists has previously been featured on shmuFM.

To check out the album, visit our website [www.shmu.org.uk/sound/band-week-unplugged-vol-i](http://www.shmu.org.uk/sound/band-week-unplugged-vol-i)

We also have more free compilation albums available on our Bandcamp page - these contain 12 studio tracks each from previously featured bands, for free.

For more up-and-coming local talent, make sure you tune in to the Band of the Week Show on Monday nights from 8-10pm on 99.8fm. Alternatively, the show repeats on Fridays at midnight and you can stream it from our site, either live or as a repeat whenever you'd like by using the listen again feature. Enjoy!



# Councillors Comments

## Councillor Yvonne Allan

Hi folks,

Well that's the summer over for another year. We did not bad this year with quite a bit of sunshine so the kids could get outside for some play time this year.

There was a very successful playscheme at Balnagask Community Centre with mixed activities. The kids were also involved with Tesco where they took part in some interesting workshops. Thank to all the helpers and to everyone else who was involved in fun things with the kids over the summer holidays.

Now that the darker nights are on the way the clubs and activities will all be starting up for the winter again at all the centres so, come on, get out of the easy chair and take part in something new this winter.

The project at the "burnie" at St Fitticks' Park has been completed and I have had thank you letters from residents who are very pleased with the work which has been done. They have said how nice the area is looking now so I hope we can all help to keep it a nice place for the kids to play and for the adults to have a walk. A big thank you for all the team

involved in the work. The folks of Torry appreciate your efforts.

Sistema Scotland's "Big Noise Torry" project is continuing to move on. They have advertised for a Team Leader and Operational Manager and interviews should take place soon. Aberdeen City Council are working alongside Sistema Scotland to find a base for the team. Adverts for participants should be placed later this year and volunteer recruitment early next year. All good news and something to be looking forward to.

*Yvonne Allan*

## Torry Heritage Group by Alan Reid

The Torry Heritage Group, it was founded last December by David Fryer and fifteen other people. At the moment we have about 1600 members worldwide. It was founded with sole reason to collect memories of Torry by collecting old pictures, people's memories and factual evidence. Our purpose is to put everything into the computer and save it for future reference so it will leave a lasting story of the people who lived there in days gone by. I'm sure it would be nice for future generations to have first hand information so that the history of Old Torry will live forever.

## Save Money And Stay Warm With The Home Energy Advice Team

The Home Energy Advice Team from SCARF is looking to help you lower your fuel bills and make your home cheaper to heat.

Many householders find their home difficult to heat and may even find themselves in fuel poverty, spending more than 10% of the household's net income on energy bills. It can be particularly difficult in winter, especially as fuel costs are rising.

If you're struggling to heat your home and manage your fuel bills at the same time, call HEAT on freephone 0808 129 0888 or email [heat@scarf.org.uk](mailto:heat@scarf.org.uk) for free advice and information.

## How Much Could You Save?

We're looking to crown energy champions in your community and in other communities across Aberdeen to showcase just how much money can be saved through reducing your energy use.

## Thought for the day

"In my father's house there are many mansions. I go now to prepare a place for you."

This is saying that when you die your soul goes back home to be with the father, isn't it a nice thought? God bless you all, Alan



# COMMUNITY CONTACTS

## Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 769 7555  
Drinkline 0800 917 8282

## Benefits

Benefits Agency Advice Line 0800 587 9135

## Crime

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

## Drugs

FRANK – National Helpline 0800 776 600

## Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens 01224 558 140

## Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency 08454 242 424

## Electricity

If you have a Power-Cut 0800 300 999

## Family Planning

Square 13, Support & Advice 01224 642 711

## Gas

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999  
Gas Emergency with a Meter 0845 606 6766

## Housing

Emergency Repairs 01224 480 281  
Call Centre Emergency 0845 608 0929

## Police

Non-Emergency 0845 600 5700

## Samaritans

Need to talk 01224 574 488

## Social Work

Social Work Duty Team 01224 765 220  
Emergency Out-Of-Hours 01224 693 936

## Young Carers

Support & Information Service 01224 625 009

## Water

Scottish Water Emergency 0845 600 8855

## Balnagask Community Centre

Balnagask Road, Aberdeen, Aberdeen City  
AB11 8HX, 01224 871206  
[www.facebook.com/Hazel.Balnagaskcommunitycentre](http://www.facebook.com/Hazel.Balnagaskcommunitycentre)

## Old Torry Community Centre

2 Abbey Pl, Aberdeen, Aberdeen City, 894925  
[www.oldtorrycc.com](http://www.oldtorrycc.com), [oldtorry@gmail.com](mailto:oldtorry@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/oldtorrycommunitycentre](http://www.facebook.com/oldtorrycommunitycentre)

## Tullos Community Centre

Girdleness Rd, Aberdeen 01224 291882  
[www.facebook.com/tullos.community](http://www.facebook.com/tullos.community)

## David Fryer (secretary of the Torry Community Council)

[Secretarytorrycommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Secretarytorrycommunitycouncil@gmail.com)  
07759276769  
[www.torrycommunitycouncil.webs.com](http://www.torrycommunitycouncil.webs.com)  
Twitter: @torrycc [www.twitter.com/torrycc](http://www.twitter.com/torrycc)  
(Meetings are every third Thursday of every month at  
Torry Academy at 7pm. Except July.)

1. Where is Wallaces' statue in Aberdeen?
2. Which boat company sails from Aberdeen to the northern isles?
3. Which railway company comes to the city?
4. Which is the main bus company in Aberdeen city?
5. Name the school on Girdleness Road?
6. Where do children go when they are five?
7. What is shmuFM?
8. Where is there a bowling green in Torry?

# Alan's Quiz

Answers: Near Union Terrace Gardens. Northlink.  
Scotrail. First bus. Tullos Primary School. School  
A radio station. Top of Victoria Road