

Torry's **Vision**

Winter 2017



In this issue:

ABBEY PLACE PLAY PARK

VICTORIART

EXTREME SUMMER

TORRY FEST

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Image: Mark Reid

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Editorial

Welcome to the Winter edition of Torry's Vision community magazine. Read on for news from Torry Academy, Torry Memories and Heritage Society, Sanctuary Housing and Cash in your Pocket.

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team or if you have ideas for the community publication, you can easily get in touch with us. The staff at SHMU are able to support and train anyone living in the area who is interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading. So please don't be shy, this is your magazine written, edited and designed by the good folk of Torry.

If you live in Torry and would like to come along to the editorial meetings or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at SHMU on 01224 515013 or you can email her on laura.young@shmu.org.uk.

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

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- Equipment:
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 - 11 KOMPAN Double Tower Junior Unit ref PCM210303
 - 12 Existing Sand Digger
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- *Activity unit decks are HDPE & Aluminium
 *Activity unit panels are HDPE
 *Swings have antiwip/twist chains

ABBEY PLACE PLAY PARK

A Torry play park is to receive a face lift in the next few months.

The play park on the corner of Victoria Road and Abbey Place will receive a £44, 000 refurbishments.

Aberdeen City Council held a public consultation in Old Torry Community Centre in June this year to allow residents to discuss the proposed plans for the site. Children from local schools were asked to vote for their favourite site. Existing play equipment has been removed from the park and new kit should be installed later this year.

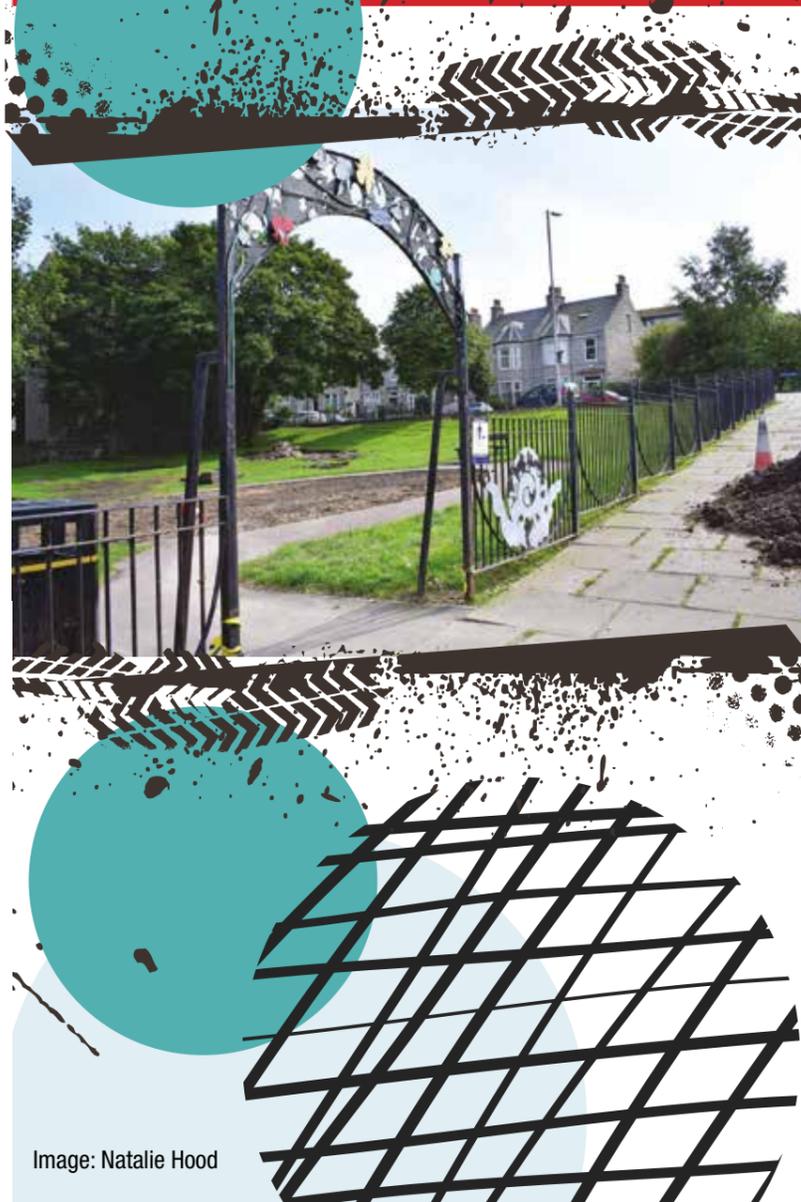


Image: Natalie Hood





Torry Memories and Heritage Society

Torry Memories and Heritage Society have officially launched their memory room in Provost Hogg Court.

The room aims to transport people back in time and is filled with furniture, appliances and newspapers from a bygone age.

The launch event was open to all residents of Provost Hogg and other people in the community who had helped pull the room together.

The Dowager Duchess of Hamilton, Kay Hamilton, originally

a Torry Quine, cut the ribbon and, most importantly, the cake at 1pm on Friday the 29th of September 2017.

Aberdeen City Council's Housing Department gifted the group a room which was not being used and allowed them to decorate it like a 1940s living room. All the modern fittings were removed and vintage items were put in, including an old-fashioned fireplace and other furniture of the age.

Memory rooms have been proven to help people who have dementia and help stimulate conversation for

those with memory problems. The group hopes to help to eliminate the isolation that many of the older generation experience.

It's not just the older residents of Torry who will benefit from the room. The Memories and Heritage Society hope to open it up to local school children who would be able to use it as a learning tool to discover how people used to live.

For more information contact the group by email torrymemoriesheritagesociety@gmail.com

Communities Torry

The Communities Team in Torry have been working in partnership with Tullos Primary School, the City Wardens and the NHS to deliver an improvement project to reduce the level of dog fouling in Torry.

The Living Streets Report Torry (available on the Communities Torry Facebook page).

"Dog fouling was the most commented on issue by participants in all activities... pavements along Girdleness Road and Rockall Road are particularly bad, and form a key part of the route to school."

Given that this was identified as the most commented on issue throughout the street audit, it was felt that it was an important issue to address so that residents can see our commitment to improve the area of Torry and also so that children and young people can

have a cleaner, safer journey to school.

The hoped outcomes of the project were that:

- % of dog fouling in the Torry area is reduced from the baseline used
- Decreased complaints with regards to dog fouling in the targeted area

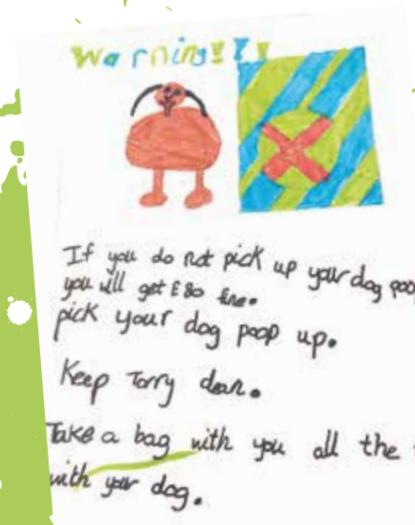
In order to know that the change we planned to test was effective, we first needed some baseline data. Jade from the Communities Team committed to carrying out a 'poop count' once a week for four weeks to get an average amount of poops per week. Before starting, the Environmental Driving team took to the targeted streets to carry out a scheduled street clean so we were starting with a clean slate.

We have recently worked with the school and the City Warden

team to deliver a workshop to Tullos Primary School pupils to raise awareness of the health risks associated with dog fouling and also to develop dog poo bag dispensers. The children's dispensers provide what is needed for people to pick up after their dogs should they be unable to provide this themselves and through having posters spread widely around the area of focus and the surrounding areas, it is hoped that this will draw attention to dog owners and encourage them to pick up after their dogs.

Now that the dispensers have been put up, Jade will continue to count for an additional four weeks to see if this will decrease the amount of dog poop in the targeted area.

If you would like to hear more or get involved, please contact Jade on jhepburn@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Maths Camp 2017

In March 2017 Torry Academy took a group of around 30 senior pupils and staff away for a weekend of revision, study and fun!

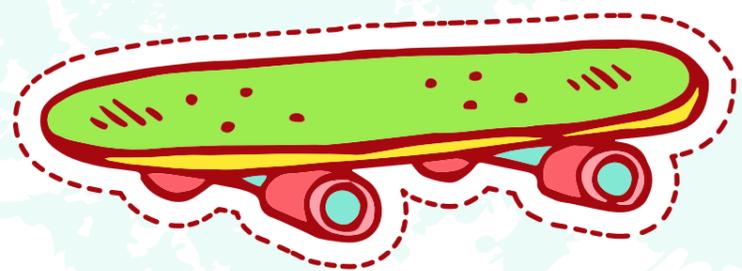
Having been inspired by other schools' maths camps they decided to take the plunge and arrange their own. They had a great deal of support in this from a number of different places. The Edinburgh Mathematical Society, the JMA trusts and the UDecide Torry all contributed financially which meant that the weekend was totally free for participants.

They chose Alltnacriche Outdoor Centre near Aviemore as the venue which provided food, accommodation and plenty of classroom space too. In addition they delivered some outdoor activities on the Saturday afternoon.

Over the course of the weekend they had 8 study sessions, delivered in small. They had developed workbooks for each level for the pupils to work through although time was made available for those who had questions to ask; we tried to take everyone's needs into account. Within the 8 sessions there was also time for studying other subjects so that all homework would be handed in on time when they got back to school.

They collected feedback from all pupils and staff who attended. Almost all were very positive overall about the weekend with really encouraging comments about the study session in terms of building confidence, gaining understanding and working with different teachers and the variety that brings.

EXTREME SUMMER 2017



In March of this year, Transition Extreme became one of the winners of the UDecide Torry Participatory Budget process. Their proposal aim was to run an 'Extreme Summer' programme in the Torry area over the School holidays during 2017. With the help of the U Decide funding, the project started on Monday 3rd July and ran for 7 weeks.

The Extreme Summer project is an outreach programme targeted to provide young people with positive engagement opportunities. The project offered young people the chance to take part in dynamic coaching from their skatepark staff.

They equipped the young people to develop their skills in skateboarding and BMXing as well as provide a safe environment for the young people to hang out at their local skatepark. Not only were the skatepark sessions provided, there was also Street Dance delivered by Streetsport and HITT (High-Intensity Interval Training) provided by Warehouse Health Club.

Police Scotland also arranged for an officer to be present during each session to engage with local youngsters and provide a positive sense of community. Grampian Fire and Rescue would also come for an hour and show the young people around the fire engine and interact with the young people whether that was kicking a ball or being a positive influence with the young people.

They had 18 young people with 100% attendance who showed great passion for the sports being provided. Through this they were also able to offer them access to the centre to enable them to continue to develop their sport and support them to reach their full potential.

Young people:

"I wish this was on all the time, I would be able to become a pro skateboarder."

"It's so much fun when TX (Transition Extreme) come down, we get to do stuff like tricks when they're here."

"I really want to get my own BMX but I can't afford it so it's great TX bring BMXs so I can ride around and do cool tricks. Ross (TX staff) taught me how to do the spine (ramp) and no one my age can do that."

Parent:

"I think it's a fantastic opportunity for the young people to take part in. It brings the community together."

"It's great, there is plenty for everyone, even the parents to enjoy."

"Excellent project during the school holiday. Easy access, friendly staff."

"My Son can't get enough. He wants to skateboard all the time and always asking when is the next session?"

Christmas is in the air at Walker Road School

Preparations are underway at Walker Road School for the school's annual Christmas Fayre, organised by Walker Road Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Walker Road PTA are currently appealing for stall holders for the fayre which will take place at the school on Saturday, 25th November from 10am - 2pm. The cost for a table is £12 plus a raffle prize.

Kath McGhee, Chair of the PTA said: "We are hoping to get a real

mix of stallholders at the Christmas Fayre and to get lots of people from the whole Torry community to come along on the day and support the school."

The PTA are also looking for raffle prizes for their grand prize draw. Anyone interested in taking a stall or donating a raffle prize can contact Kath McGhee on kath.mcghee1@gmail.com or via the school office.

CROQUET AT OLD TORRY OUTDOOR SPORTS CENTRE

Aberdeen Saints Croquet Club has been established at Torry Outdoor Sports Centre on Victoria Road. Although the season is from April to October and we play in winter only occasionally when the weather is suitable we would like to give advance notice that we welcome new players to come along and have a go. Croquet is a ball game of skill and strategy where men and women of all ages can compete on equal terms. There are 2 forms of the game: Association Croquet which is predominantly played by our members, and Golf Croquet which is often used to introduce new players to the game. A handicap system allows inexperienced players to play experienced players, even experts, on equal terms.

Coaching and equipment is provided. Aberdeen Saints has been set up by people experienced in croquet and in organising clubs and we especially welcome residents of the Torry area to join us as we feel you will enjoy the benefits of playing locally. There will be more publicity nearer the start of the 2018 season but if you want further information please contact Club Captain Charles Henderson on 01224 313555/318448, or 07721 834098 or by email at Charles@hendersonfinancial.co.uk

See you on the lawn,
Charles

Craiginchies

Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association are redeveloping the site of the former Aberdeen's Craiginchies Prison, to provide 124 new properties. These new homes will become an integral part of Torry and will provide wider benefits for the community.

18 houses and 106 flats for mid market rents will be provided. They are classed as mid market rent because the monthly cost is higher than social rent but lower than the market rate. These properties are aimed at households who have low to moderate incomes who wish to rent a property with the flexibility of a Short Assured Tenancy.

The first of the properties are due for completion during October 2017, with the remainder of the properties due for completion between November and March 2018.

Sanctuary Scotland goes beyond building new homes. We also fund community projects in the neighbourhoods where we work, drawing on commitments from our development partners including labour, materials and equipment.

As part of the Craiginchies development we have working with our development partner Robertson on delivering community benefits in Torry. We will be supporting seven local projects:

- At Torry UF Church we have installed a new ramp, improving access to the church and hall;
- At Balnagask Community Centre we have repainted the café area making it a more pleasant place for people to enjoy company and a cup of tea;
- We are creating a new bench for the Torry Battery Memorial Garden, which will include granite from the old prison wall;
- We are doing internal decoration and some other

small works at St Fittick's church hall;

- We are creating a fabulous new outdoor teaching space at Walker Road Primary School;
- We are carrying out some small repairs for Jesus House church;
- Our biggest project is the Phoenix Building where we will be doing major works to make the building wind and watertight to allow it to open as a dedicated Youth Centre. Aberdeen City Council are also investing in this project which will bring a much-needed new facility to Torry.

Lina's 'Break Free' wins prison garden poll

The site of Aberdeen's former HMP Craiginchies will soon feature a communal garden inspired by the historic prison's past.

Architecture student Lina Khairy's 'Break Free' design topped a public poll of Torry residents, narrowly beating the creative efforts of two of her course mates.

Lina's design includes the face of the old prison clock and granite blocks from the perimeter wall.

Housing provider Sanctuary is creating the garden as a community benefit of the 124 affordable homes it is building in partnership with the Scottish Government and Aberdeen City Council.

Lina, a second-year student at Robert Gordon University (RGU), said: "It must have been very saddening to see this wall come down but at the same time very liberating – that's how I came up with 'Break Free'.

"The design is quite simple. I basically reconstructed the wall but in a way that's more interactive. The wall will be quite bulky at one end but slowly break down as it progresses through the garden. The people of Torry will be able to sit, relax and play around this wall.

"I considered myself a winner just by participating in the design competition because it was a big learning experience. To actually win – I still have no words for that."

Members of the public had a week to pick a winner after the designs were revealed at Torry St Fittick's Parish Church.

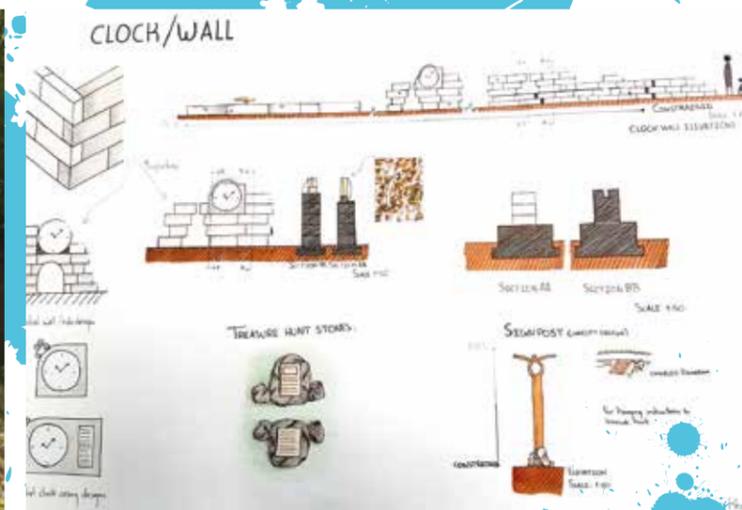
Sanctuary's site contractor Robertson Construction will work with all three students to create Lina's garden on the corner of Walker Road and Grampian Place.

Keith Taylor, managing director of Robertson Eastern, said: "Engaging with and involving the local community was an important element of our bid to develop the Craiginchies site for Sanctuary. The garden design project very much embodies this.

"We're really pleased that we've been able to work with the Robert

Gordon University students in this way and involve them as part of our project delivery team. It will provide them with valuable practical experience which I'm sure they will take forward into their careers."

A short film on the project can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/HYL19W3SonE>



where artists meet victoria road

VictoriArt Road Collective

In spring this year someone thought it would be a great idea to use art for the regeneration of Victoria Road and hence the VictoriArt Road project was born. Funded by Awards for All Scotland, Aberdeen City Council and driven by eight local volunteers the project intends to brighten up Victoria Road, spark people's curiosity, encourage a sense of civic engagement and establish a lasting movement

Three artists have been commissioned so let's meet them:

Justin Lawrie (aka Honk) is no stranger to Torry with his father having a kitchen design studio and his mother having worked in Rosco's. His current work revolves around a bearded character and he intends to create a new character based on his experience of Torry. This is Justin's first job of this scope so he is super excited albeit a tad nervous at the same time.

Stuart Allan feels the project is a great idea and will bring life and colour to the streets of Torry. He has worked on several community projects having worked on Painted Doors and the recent Anchor

Project. He has recently completed a giant mural in the Ohio Brewdog Brewery. Stuart plans to create a large, eye-catching piece to try and capture the "essence" of Torry using landmarks and heritage as inspiration. He is also excited to be involved and hopes his piece will be something everyone can relate to.

Ugly People (aka Lee) has also worked on Painted Doors and the Anchor Project. He is looking to create a small trail starting and one end of Victoria Road and dotting smaller pieces along the street. He will also have stickers of his main design for folks to take away and place in other areas. Lee feels the artwork has created a much-needed buzz and splash of colour and hopes this will encourage folk to look outside the city centre.

Art workshops will also be running in the area so meet two of the hosts:

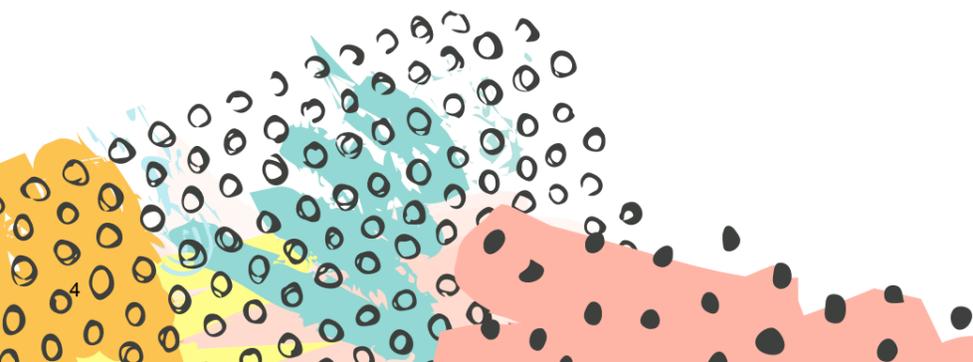
Kevin Andrew Morris is doing a pop up museum gallery incorporating objects from Torry. Kevin is often referred to as a "Nomadic Ceramicist." He has exhibited worldwide. Kevin is looking forward to researching

Torry and is keen to contribute his skills and experience to the project.

ThrowUpGallery are running workshops that will engage with the Torry community. A talented and versatile collection of artists with multiple experience in many areas. Skills range from customising shoes to stencilling. They feel the community involvement and residents' ideas will inspire them.

There will also be a workshop taking place on the 11th of November from 10am to 3pm, for more information email victoriartroad@gmail.com to find out or reserve a place.

The street is going to become our gallery and we invite everyone to get involved with this fantastic project. We can't guarantee you will love every picture because that's art but we do guarantee that it will create a buzz and get folk talking.



Torry Saint Fittick's Parish Church News

There is a community food outlet (CFO) in the church which is run by volunteers from CFINE. You can purchase fruit, veg, healthy snacks, pulses and other healthy snacks at an affordable price.

The CFO runs on a Tuesday and a Thursday from 9:30am to 2pm.

For more information about the CFO you can call CFINE on 01224 596156 or email info@cfine.org.

The church also run a community café which is open at the same time as the CFO and this is open to everyone in the community. The café also has a takeaway option and you can pre-order your food by texting 07723778788.

They are always looking for volunteers to help run the café and it's a great opportunity to do something new, meet friendly people and learn how to make tasty family meals on a budget.

Find out more by calling Valerie on 07723778788 or email vtaylor.torrystfitticks@gmail.com

Dolphinwatch makes biggest splash yet

This year has seen record numbers of people visiting Aberdeen's RSPB Dolphinwatch at the city's Torry Battery.

Between April and August, there were 5471 visits to the popular attraction and people have enjoyed looking for dolphins, watching their often acrobatic behaviour and learning more about bottlenose dolphins, marine wildlife and how they can help protect it.

This is the fifth year that the RSPB Dolphinwatch project, which is a partnership between RSPB Scotland, VisitAberdeenshire, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Harbour Board and Whale and Dolphin

Conservation (WDC), has run in Aberdeen and since it started there's been nearly 20,000 visits by visitors from more than 24 countries. Most visitors were not disappointed, with dolphins being seen on an impressive 81% of the days the team were on site.

Jen Wright, RSPB Scotland Dolphinwatch Officer said: "It has been an amazing season at Dolphinwatch, with so many enthusiastic visitors coming along to learn all about our bottlenose dolphins and the other incredible marine wildlife around Scotland. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed to making the project such a success especially our dedicated volunteers."

Pathways in Torry

Since our last update there have been many changes at Pathways. In August we had a team of canvassers conducting a neighbourhood survey around parts of Torry asking residents questions about employment, skills and training as part of a European Social Fund (ESF) project being administered by Aberdeen City Council and Pathways called Progress Through Positive Partnerships (PTPP). Aberdeen City Council is working to help city residents facing a range of difficulties to improve their lives and job prospects. Through PTPP this will help people to develop confidence and new skills, as well as find work, education, training

and volunteering opportunities. We completed a lot of forms on the doorstep and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated. If we missed you or you didn't have time to complete it on the day the forms are now available online. You can find the form at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YDTFWT3

Pathways also continue to offer our one to one support for people to find suitable employment and our colleague Stan meets people at Old Torry Community Centre on Thursdays between 1 and 4pm. As Stan is often fully booked it is always better to call for an appointment on 01224 682 939.

Maureen Watt MSP for Aberdeen South & North Kincardine.

As we move into the Autumn months it's important to reflect on developments since the last edition.

Firstly, there was the launch of the much-anticipated baby-box. The box provides all new parents with a safe place for their baby to sleep as well as clothes, a bath towel, books, changing mat and bibs. It is essential that we give every child the best chance in life and this box helps to put the starting blocks in place.

Just prior to the roll-out of the baby-box came a welcome

announcement in July from the Scottish Government that a pilot scheme offering free sanitary products to both women and girls in low income households will be trialled here in Aberdeen. Available through the Community Food Initiative North East (CFINE) this will hopefully prevent period poverty and provide dignity for females in need.

Finally, on the theme of supporting everyone in society, I remain acutely aware that for many the prospect of transporting kids to the new Lochside

Academy is still weighing heavily on minds. The council are in the process of assessing the options available and I've made my view clear that free transport must be made available for anyone in Torry who needs it.

I hope that they'll take heed of my views and that we'll get some clarity on this in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please feel free to drop into my office at 51 Victoria Road should you have any issues which you feel I can help with.

Councillor Yvonne Allan

Well that's our summer gone - I hope you all managed to see some sun in between the rain.

There are some exciting community involvement projects going on in Torry. We have seen the first planting of fruit trees in the community orchard. This is up where the old farm house used to be at the back of the Golf Club House. They are always looking for volunteers so if your keen please get involved. You will be made very welcome.

Staying with the garden theme we also have the wild nature garden taking place in the piece of land behind Tullos Place/Tullos

Circle. It is hoped to have a small education area for the school children and as well as paths there will be bird boxes at the back to attract a variety of birds.

A year of celebration is taking place, led by Torry Academy for the benefit of the community and all with connections to the Academy. There is something happening every month and something for all ages so get involved and be supportive and say goodbye to a great school. I personally thank all the staff for the hard work and dedication to the pupils, past and present, and the community of Torry.

Victoria Art Project is well on its way with artist chosen, so look out for all this happening. It should really brighten up the street and make interesting to walk done. Thanks to all the local folks who got involved with the selection of the artists.

I hope the winter is not too severe for us.

Any issue or problems please get in touch through telephone or surgeries

**Best wishes,
Yvonne Allan**

The BIG move

In our Spring edition, we announced the exciting news that the Station House Media Unit building in Woodside would undergo a million pound make-over following a successful application to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Fund. Work begins in late August on the new purpose-built accommodation, which will significantly extend our existing building. The new building will include new radio studios, a recording studio, TV studio, an IT suite, improved training facilities, an edit suite and some fantastic new social space. The building will also be the main office base for the organisation. During the estimated 12 month building period, staff and services will be based at Aberdeen City Council's Rosehill House Day Centre on Ashgrove Road West.

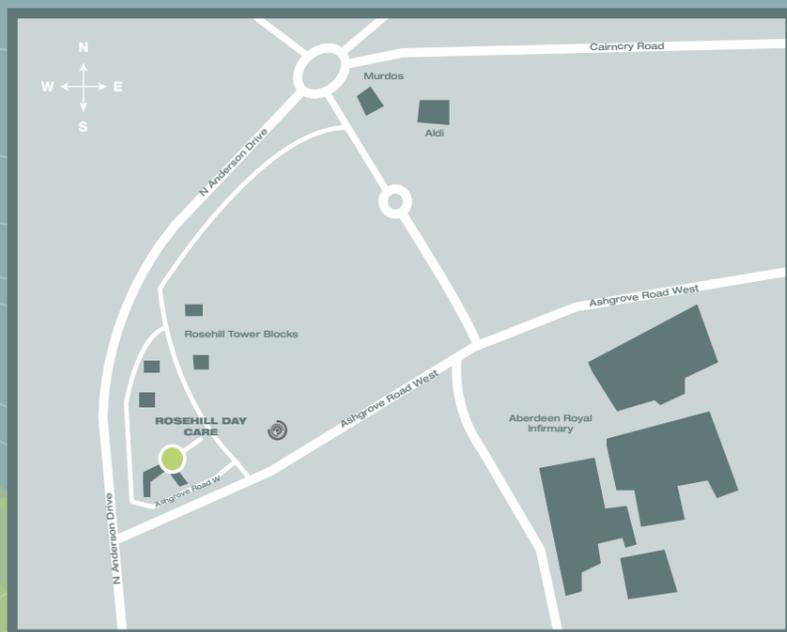
The relocation is due to take place during the week commencing 21st August with CHAP

Construction starting the building work on the 28th August. Although this is a time of upheaval, it is also a time of opportunity, with Rosehill House offering more space to develop our services and try out new work before returning to our new building. Staff will ensure that volunteers and service users are supported to continue their programmes in our temporary location, and look forward to sharing news of new and expanded projects and services in due course.

The organisation also continues to work on a fundraising plan to ensure the new building will meet all of our needs, and also for Phase 2 of the build, which will transform the existing building into a small community venue.

Bus Info

Get the Number 3 bus (First Bus) from Torry (you can get from Wellington Road side or Victoria Road side). The bus will take you to ARI. Get off there and turn left onto Ashgrove Road West. Walk towards North Anderson Drive, Rosehill Day Centre will be on your right just after Castleton Drive.



Get ready for Winter with Cash In Your Pocket In Your Pocket

Cash In Your Pocket (CIYP) have joined forces with SPAR, to offer information and advice on staying warm, keeping healthy, and making the most of your money, this winter.

By holding drop-in sessions within local stores, residents will be able to pick up information and get expert advice from the organisations taking part. The first of these sessions, will take place on Monday 13TH November in Torry Spar, 80-84 Victoria Road (11am-3pm), with SCARF, NESCU (North East of Scotland Credit Union) and NHS Grampian taking part.

CIYP Communities Officer Val Sutherland said: "It's important, as we come into winter, that people are made aware of the help that's available, especially those on low income. We're seeing first-hand how changes to the benefits system are affecting people, particularly the most vulnerable.

"It's also tempting, at this time of year, to borrow more than you can afford. We want to avoid people getting into bad debt, by encouraging affordable borrowing and savings through the credit union. We're hoping our presence in Torry will prove a success and by kind invitation of SPAR, are looking to hold similar sessions in other areas of the city."

Anyone can drop in for between 10-3pm, so if you're looking for information or advice, for yourself or someone you are helping, please come and see us.

You can also call our freephone number 0800 953 4330.

Grampian Credit Union

Saving for Christmas

Autumn already, and Christmas is just three months away.

Would you like your Christmas to be a special one without having to worry about the cost, or where will you find the cash?

Do you want to have money to cover the cost of Christmas spending, without having to pay it off on an expensive loan in the New Year?

Opening a credit union savings account can help you spread the cost across the months, helping you budget for the festive period ahead.

Christmas savings accounts are also available to Credit Union members, who can save regularly and access their money in November and December each year.

- Save from as little as £3 a week or £12 each month or more.
- Easy to join at any time of year, and take your Christmas savings out in November and December.

Set your money saving goals to start saving now and continue in future. You will be pleased how quickly your savings mount up without effort.

Building up a savings pot will take some of the strain of meeting the cost of emergencies, treats or big expenses like summer holidays and Christmas, and can avoid you having to go to payday lenders.

Call us on 01224 576990, or go to www.grampiancreditunion.co.uk to find out how easy it is to open a savings account with Grampian Credit Union.

Regular saving with Grampian Credit Union could help you get a loan in future. Loans are subject to status and affordability.

Grampian Credit Union is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

Community Contacts

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous **0800 9177 650**

Drinkline **0300 123 1110**

Crime

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

Drugs

Drugs Action Helpline **01224 594700**

Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens **111**

Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency **111**

Electricity

If you have a power-cut **105**

Family Planning

Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village **0345 337 9900**

Gas

Gas Emergency **0800 111 999**

Gas emergency with a meter **0845 606 6766**

Housing

Emergency Repairs **01224 219 282**

Call Centre Emergency **0845 608 0929 or 116 123**

Police

Non-emergency **101**

Samaritans

Need to talk **01224 574 488 or 116 123**

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team **0800 7315520**

Emergency Out-Of-Hours **01224 693936**

Young Carers **01224 212021**

Water

Scottish Water Emergency **0800 0778 778**

CFINE **01224 596156**

Home-Start **01224 693545**

Pathways **01224 682 939**

Cash in your Pocket **0800 953 4330**

Citizens Advice **01224 569750**

Balnagask Community Centre **01224 871206**

Old Torry Community Centre **01224 894925**

Tullos Learning Centre **01224 291882**

Walker Road Primary School **01224 879720**

Tullos Primary School **01224 876621**

Torry Academy **01224 876733**

Torry Medical Practice **01224 01224 894600**

Torry Community Council **contactus@
torrycommunitycouncil.org.uk**