

JOURNALOLOGICAL

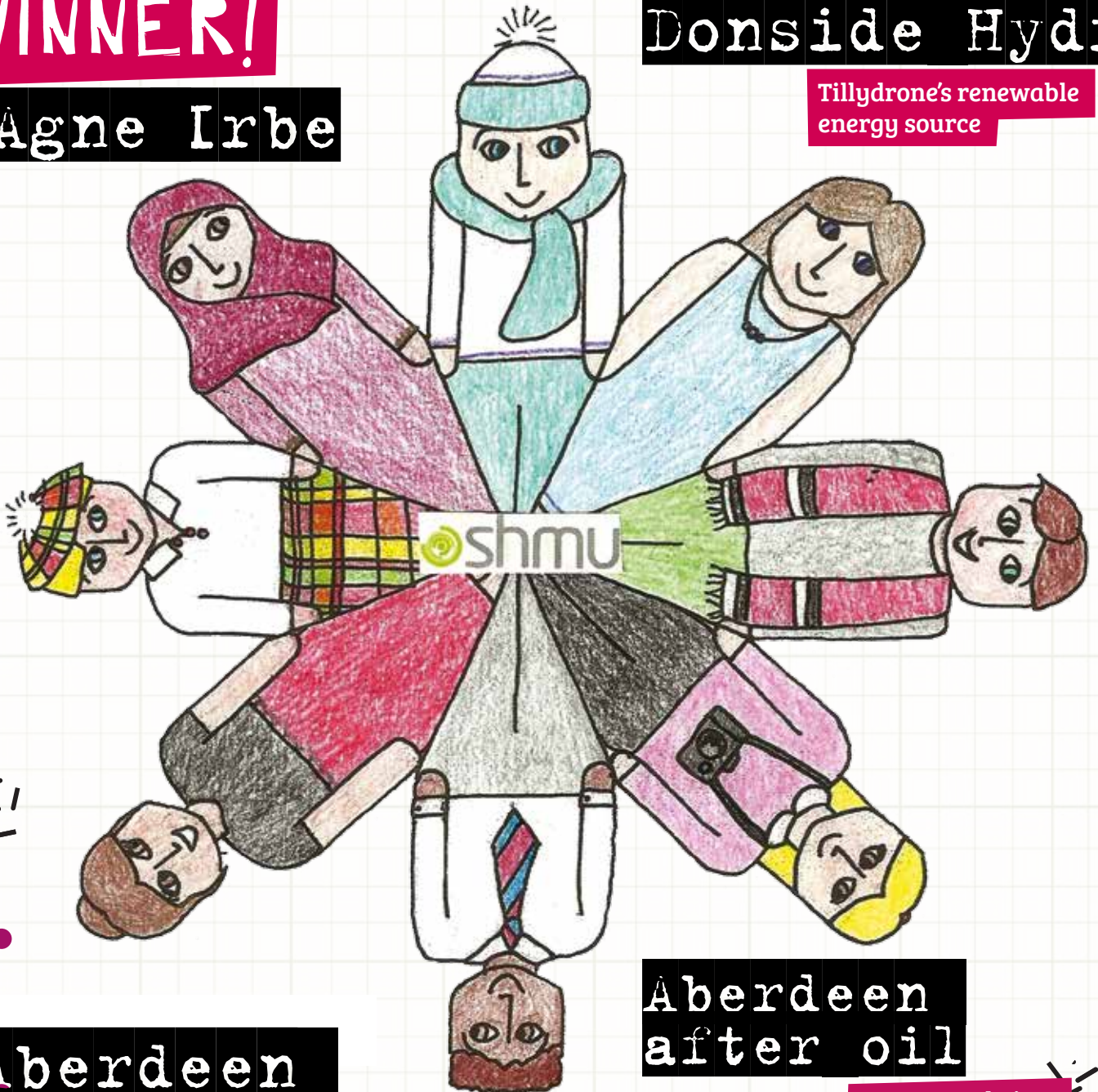
I'M FREE

COMPETITION
WINNER!

Agne Irbe

Donside Hydro

Tillydrone's renewable
energy source



Aberdeen
Treasure Hub

New art facility
in Aberdeen

Aberdeen
after oil

A personal view

British Sign
Language

A Youth Media how-to



HELLO

Welcome to the fourth edition of Journalogical

We have been working hard over the last term to bring you news about news and events from across Aberdeen city. In this edition you can find information about Aberdeen Community Energy and the Donside Hydro, Aberdeen Treasure Hub, a handy guide to British Sign Language and news on developments of equality groups in Torry and St Machar Academies.

Just in case you missed our last edition we'd like to tell you a bit about this magazine and where it came from.

Journalogical is put together by young people for young people who are part of the youth media team at shmu. We started off writing articles to go with the community magazines which shmu produces already and we had such a great time writing these articles that we wanted to produce our own magazine. shmu applied for funding and now here we are with our very own magazine!

There will be three editions a year (spring, summer and winter)

and this is our winter edition. We will be focusing mainly on the regeneration areas of Aberdeen (Woodside, Seaton, Tillydrone, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park and Torry) but we are always open to ideas about any topic that affects young people. If you live or attend school in one of those areas and would like to get involved in Journalogical then please get in touch. We're always looking for writers, photographers, proof readers and ideas people. Let us know what you think is important to you and we will try our best to cover it.

The team involved in this edition has included Fern, Yasmin, Glen, Lukasz, Stacey, Karis, Connor, Lee, Rosa, Kiera and Kacper. The group meet every Tuesday between 4 and 5pm at shmu.

We have had a great time producing this magazine and we really hope you enjoy reading it. If you would like some more information, then get in touch with Laura at shmu. **You can email laura.young@shmu.org.uk or call 01224 515013.**

We hope you'll have as much fun reading the magazine as we did making it.

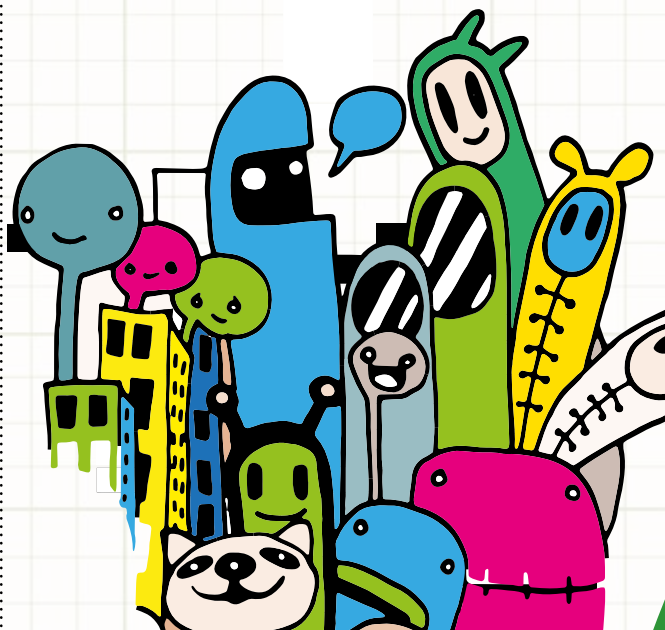
shmu offers an exciting and vibrant Youth Media programme to young people, prioritising those living in the regeneration areas of Aberdeen aged 12 -19, to actively participate and engage with our enhanced youth media platforms (radio, film, music and journalism); increasing confidence and self-esteem and encouraging communication with the wider world in a creative, balanced and informed way.

The programme offers the opportunity for our young participants to share their experiences with the wider world by digitally sharing all content produced through the SHMU website, social media pages, 57 North and our YouTube channel. If you have an interest in media and would like to find out more then contact our Youth Media Manager on denise@shmu.org.uk or call Denise on **01224 515013**

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Donside Hydro

by rosa

The Donside Hydro, Aberdeen's first community energy initiative, was set up by Sinclair Laing and other members of the Donside Community Association in 2015. Aberdeen Community Energy (ACE) is a multi-award winning community benefit society and was set up by Donside Community Association to build, own and run their own hydro-electric scheme for the community.

The ACE team are dedicated to delivering a project that is aligned with local and national government policy on energy, climate change and sustainable. They have worked to successfully deliver the fully functioning Donside Hydro last September. The hydro can power around 100 homes. Originally, the plan for the hydro was to power homes in the area, however, this was changed during the construction of the village. Now electricity is sold to the National Grid and the payment will be used to benefit the Donside and wider Tillydrone area.

The Hydro scheme works by short-cutting a bend in the River Don as it loops around Tillydrone. The energy is made from potential energy in the water when it drops 2.5 metres down the hill. The water rushes through the lade and hits the screw which turns the gearbox which goes into the generator and takes the electricity up the connection point at the top of the hill.

Aberdeen Community Energy has several aims, one of which is promoting green energy and finding replacements for fossil fuels. One of the other reasons the scheme was

created was to generate an income for the local community. Tillydrone is a regeneration area and they wanted to be part of the regeneration by putting it on the map in a really positive way and attract people to the area and give it a bit of a lift.

Jane Fullerton, secretary of Aberdeen Community Energy said: "We have all this natural energy on our planet. All this energy is there and it's just a matter of harnessing it and using it in a way which doesn't harm the planet and I just think that's a very simple idea.

"Tillydrone comes under one of the most disadvantaged areas of Aberdeen and we want to put it on the map for the right reasons."

"Tillydrone comes under one of the most disadvantaged areas of Aberdeen and we want to put it on the map for the right reasons."

Donside Hydro took 15 weeks to construct. Work started on the 9th of June and the hydro was generating electricity by the 21st September.

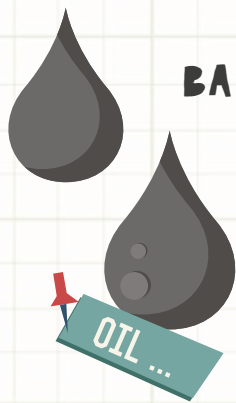
Donside Community Association and Aberdeen Community Energy are working together to make improvements to the area. The aim of the Hydro is to have an income which they will be able

to use for the good or groups in the Tillydrone community. Eventually groups in the area will be able to bid for funding and local people will be able to decide what the money is spent on.

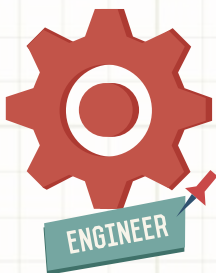
Jane continued: "People love it and it's been a bit of a breath of fresh air to the area. Once we've got all the landscaping and that's all accessible to everybody it's going to be a beautiful local amenity."

ABERDEEN AFTER OIL

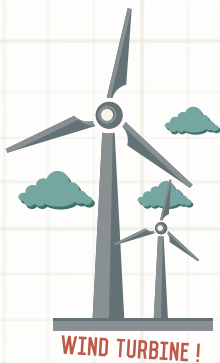
By Lukasz



38 BILLION
BARRELS OF OIL
EXTRACTED
FROM THE
NORTH SEA
SINCE THE
1970s



MASS JOB LOSSES



WHAT
NOW
FOR
ABDN?

As some of the people who live in Aberdeen know Aberdeen is known as the oil capital of Europe as it is estimated that over 38 billion barrels of oil have been extracted from the North Sea since the 1970s. It is a very good source of jobs for the city as it provides most jobs in the area and the whole city thrives off it. When the oil price began to drop in 2016 the city was hugely affected as many jobs had to be cut and those that were lucky to stay in work were paid less and had to take on more work. It wasn't just jobs that were affected - it even had an impact on schools because a lot of school projects/events are funded by oil companies so when some of those oil companies shut down the school trips/events had to be cut too.

This then of course gets your brain thinking - 'what's going to happen when the oil runs out?' As it stands right now Aberdeen has started slightly thinking about its future as evidenced by the fact that there have been talks of converting Aberdeen into the renewable capital of Europe. There have been some windfarms placed near the coast and the Donside Community Association built a hydroelectric dam on the River Don which has the facility to power around 130 homes. Aberdeen should start formulating a solid plan for the future because as it stands now the city is still too dependent on oil. We saw what happened when the price per barrel dropped: it was an absolute mess but imagine what it would be like if the oil runs out entirely?

Before we start panicking there is still time to solve this (roughly 40 years). To some that may not seem that long but if we stop the usual process of sweeping it under the rug until it comes back to bite you or telling the next generation it's their problem and they have to fix it then something could be done.

One of the things we can do is encourage a wider range of employers to attend careers fairs in schools. From my experience, I have noticed a huge presence from engineering companies and fast food or retail outlets. There are lots of other options out there, from art to agriculture, and we should make these accessible to young people at the start of their career. We need more groups like Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group, who celebrated their 10th anniversary in 2016. They aim to ensure that our businesses and organisations play a major role in the global energy revolution by transferring existing skills into renewables to create a complete energy mix and diversify the local economy. One of the issues also includes the types of jobs which are available to young people after school/college or university - at the moment many students enrol in engineering courses because they were previously pretty much guaranteed a highly paid role straight out of university. We need more courses which help build up young people's resilience, life skills and knowledge of employability.

We do have time to fix the problem - it is slowly approaching but I'll say it again we can't sweep it under the rug or try telling the next generation that it is their problem and they must fix it. It's our future and it's our chance to do something about it.



Loch Eil is an Outward Bound course in Fort William, set on the shores of the Loch Eil, it's nearby Ben Nevis which opens a lot of opportunities for the centre.

It is a remote education centre. It's owned by the Chief of the Clan Cameron and was a former shooting lodge. It accommodates 120 people in bunk rooms of 2-10 people, with separate accommodation for group leaders in rooms of 2-4 with a boat house, a washing drying room, a dining room and a gift shop. The employees are amazing and have safety as a priority.

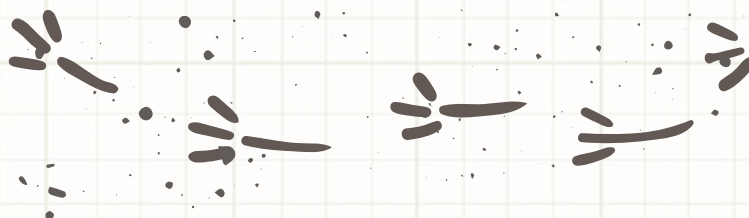
It was used for sailor boys to learn the ability to survive the harsh conditions at sea by teaching confidence and perseverance. A tradition that is still used to this day is the jog and dip which is when you run around the centre then jump into the loch. Today it is used as an experience for young and old people. With a staggering view of the loch, the centre has facilities for hill walking, rock scrambling, canoeing and orienteering just to name a few. It also teaches people to conserve the environment and the importance of the eco system. It is a great bonding experience and you learn life lessons.



When I was there I went with my school. I got put in a room with 6 other people. That night we did the Jog and Dip, we put on lifejackets and jumped in the loch. The next couple of days we did a variety of activities like hillwalking, rock scrambling and a lot more. Also, there were competitive activities in the evening. They talked to us about comfort zones and we found out that there are 3 sections. There is a comfort zone, there is a push zone and a panic zone. I was told to try to be in your push zone so that I would be challenged to do the activities. It teaches responsibility, independence, determination and teamwork to children and adults alike.

I really enjoyed my time at Loch Eil and I learned a lot of life skills. I had a great bonding experience for myself and others. I loved all the activities I would recommend this to anyone who wants to learn skills and experience some adventure.

For more information go to www.outwardbound.org.uk/centres/loch-eil





Mr Neil Hendry

HEADING TO PASTURES NEW

After four years working hard to improve the perception of Northfield Academy in Aberdeen by cultivating a positive ethos and telling people to get their jacket off, Mr Neil Hendry's reign over Northfield Academy has come to an end. Mr Hendry announced that he was leaving the school to be the new Head Teacher at Lochside Academy, a new school amalgamated from Kincorth and Torry Academy.

What will you miss the most?

Mr Hendry said, "I will miss people", as when he first takes on his new role as Head Teacher of Lochside, all he will have is a building site and a hard hat. Mr Hendry has also said he is looking forward to the first day of Lochside Academy being filled with pupils as that is when the building starts to function as a school and not just a fancy building. Lastly, Mr Hendry says a fond farewell to the whole Northfield community.

What has been your best moment?

One of the greatest nights in the school's calendar is the Celebration of Success' Awards Evening, which highlights just how successful pupils at Northfield Academy have become. Year on year the event just gets bigger with more of our young people receiving awards for being successful in and around our school and city. This event also brings the whole community together to make it feel like one giant Northfield family.

What has been your greatest achievement?

Mr Hendry mentioned his three goals when he first took on the role; making the community proud of their school, creating more opportunities and increasing the school roll.

Focusing his first goal, Mr Hendry said: "I think we have all really worked hard to do that and people are now proud to be at Northfield Academy."

His next goal has been achieved through the various connections the school has made under Mr Hendry's direction. Finally, the number of students has increased by around eighty since Mr Henry took over from his

predecessor, completing this goal too. He added: "I'll leave the school in reasonable heart. Not finished yet, but in reasonable heart."

What is the most valuable lesson you have learnt?

Mr Hendry told us that he couldn't name one specific thing but rather the many little things he has learnt along the way. Expanding on this, he went on to mention the school's aspirations and how the school has also learned from change too. He said: "It's been about raising aspirations and that's key."

He continued: "I will always wear the Northfield tartan with pride and I'll never forget my role as Head Teacher here."

Over the past four years we have been privileged to have such an ambitious man as our Head Teacher. Before Mr Hendry arrived, our school was not well spoken of in Aberdeen. Telling people that you went to Northfield Academy and in return receiving a disgusted look, was never a nice feeling. But since the man of the hour arrived in 2012, more parents have felt comfortable with putting their children to our school and children have been willing to join the Northfield family. He has really turned the expectations of Northfield Academy around. The students can now proudly say, with a large grin on their face that they go to a school which has changed dramatically since 2012.

Thank you, Mr Hendry, for the amount of effort that you have put in, for encouraging all students to stick in and achieve their goals and for making the school a place where all students feel comfortable and proud to be in, Mr Hendry. Good luck at your new school and make sure to continue wearing our tartan with pride.

Aspired to be outstanding; and was.

**Thank you,
From all of us at Northfield Academy.**



What game

SWITCHIN' IT UP

By Glen

March 3rd 2017. This date could mean many things to you. Maybe it's your birthday, or you were looking forward to Ed Sheeran's new album, 'Divide'. Not me though, nope I like many others around the globe was looking forward to the release of the Nintendo Switch!

Nintendo's latest venture into the home console market. It was originally announced back in October 2016 through a video uploaded to Nintendo's Twitter feed. I was in an Ihop in Florida at the time and was certainly excited to see the newest Nintendo console. Then in January of 2017 they held a press conference in Japan showing off many games for the Switch and all of the consoles capabilities and feature including its release date and price. 3rd of March 2017 for £280. This had the world in a huge buzz and then suddenly adverts popped up everywhere and pre-orders were made around the world, including my own.

Come the day of release and I was like Neo from the Matrix dodging spoilers for Zelda and reviews for the system and come 3:25 I bolted home to see my brand new child. And I can proudly say... I'm very, very pleased.

The console has 3 main ways to play. Docked mode is when the switch is connected to its included dock that connects it to the TV allowing you to play on the TV. The second mode is handheld. This is when the controllers (JoyCons) are connected to the side of the system via a rail. This mode is

mainly for out and about and commuting. The third and final mode is tabletop mode. This is when the switch is propped up by its connected kickstand and the JoyCons are used.

All of these modes have their flaws and bonuses. The TV mode is good and does a decent job of upscaling the 720p tablet screen to 1080p but it isn't as nice as say a PS4. The handheld mode is probably my favourite way to play with the screen looking gorgeous and the Joycons at their most comfortable. Table top mode is fine, it's ok for solo -play say at lunch but I can see trouble occurring for multiplayer. This mode makes the most of the JoyCons though. These little controllers are jam packed with tech from HD rumble to very responsive and fantastic gyroscopes. My only two gripes with the controller is that my hand did start to cramp up after an intense play session in something like Zelda and that the analogue sticks have a small circumference making it hard to get precise movements.

Speaking of Zelda. Wow. Just. Wow. It's incredible. Get it if you are thinking of getting a Switch and get it if you have a Wii U. It is one of the best launch games I've seen in a long time. In conclusion the Switch is a very impressive piece of hardware that is well made and has one of the best launch games of all time. Yet I wouldn't get one now - wait until halfway through the year when there are more games and the console has time to grow. Anyway. I'm away to play Zelda.

WOW. JUST. WOW.
IT'S INCREDIBLE.



Torry Squad

Improving Recognition and Access for Disabilities

Torry Squad is a youth forum that helps give a voice to the youth and improve Torry as a community. As they have finished their previous topic they are moving onto a new topic about disabilities. specifically they would like to improve the access and recognition in the Torry community. For the access part they would like to see more accessible ramps as there are a lot of stairs.

To see what needs to be done all around Torry, the Torry Squad will be doing a walk around Torry in different section to see if there are things to be improved like: steep hills, handrails, ramps, high curbs, cracked pavements because of roots, crossings and disabled friendly playgrounds. They hope that this will give them a better idea of different situation in different areas.

Also for the recognition they would like to hold events in the community for everyone to come to as they would like to see the whole community come together and not exclude anyone by having an age limit or certain abilities . Although they try to give the youth a voice they would like to include all ages so everyone is aware of disabilities. Torry Squad chose to make disabilities as there next topic as it is a topic hey feel passionate about and think should be made more included in the community.

If you have a disability, live in the Torry community and have something that you would like to contact the group about you can email NMayers@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

EQUALITY GROUPS IN YOUR CITY

By Kacper and Yasmin

A great number of pupils have been negatively affected due to discrimination based on their gender identity, sexuality and because of who they are. In an effort to stop this kind of bullying secondary schools across Aberdeen come together to encourage young people to be themselves and to completely wipe out homophobia, sexism and harassing all together from schools in all of Aberdeen. St. Machar Academy and Torry Academy now hope to strengthen their relations with their pupils by creating equality groups supporting them and at the same time creating a safe space for everyone to come together and help each other to feel good in school.

Alliance Group St Machar Academy

The St Machar Academy Alliance Group first started 5 years ago, with the help of Mrs Mirza, then an RMPS teacher who wanted to help people who identify as LGBT+. Since then the group has grown massively winning various awards including the GREC Anne Frank Award 2016 and being in contact with other schools with the aim of encouraging them to start an equality group themselves with great success! There are now equality groups in many schools and we're planning on making a social event for all of them to discuss different issues and problems which we will then try and solve! Now as Mrs Mirza has left for a while it's Mrs Fraser who runs the group and helps us make the school a more friendly environment for everyone. Our primary aim this year was to raise more awareness about the LGBT+ community so we have been in contact with the Aberdeen City Youth Council as well as different councillors to organise meetings with other GSAs (Gay - Straight Alliances). We also have been raising awareness by coming on shmu's LGBT show with Alan Parker (Aber Dabba Doo) and spoke about our experiences and what we do in the group.

Our "motto" is "Simply Human" which covers what we all really are. We asked some of our members what the phrase meant to them and they answered:

"Labels sometimes make it difficult to 'fit in'. 'Simply Human' is a great motto because it shows we are all equal"

"I think simply human is a good term to explain how everybody is equal, no matter how different their backgrounds are."

"It shows that we don't need a label, we are just simply human"

Alliance Group interview - Lee

Can you introduce yourself?

I am Lee and I'm a member of the St Machar Alliance Group

What is the Alliance Group?

The Alliance Group is a Gay-Straight alliance. It is a safe place for people of the LGBT+ community and for people who support LGBT+ community and want to be educated and supportive to others.

Why is it important to have an Alliance Group?

It is important for people who don't know who to talk to about their sexuality and gender and for people who would like to get educated about LGBT+ issues.

Why did you decide to join the Alliance Group?

I joined the Alliance group because I am LGBT, but I hadn't come out yet and I wanted a place to talk about my sexuality and gender.

What are the group's plans for the future?

We hope to get more Alliance groups around the city and more pupils to join ours.

How often do you meet?

We meet every Thursday lunchtime

What was your best memory of the group?

When we made tie-dye T-shirts for a presentation at the GREC Anne Frank Awards.

You can find the group on Facebook - www.facebook.com/stmacharalliance

Aberdeen Football Club and the LGBT+ Community

While Manchester United partnered with Stonewall earlier this year and became the first in the UK to do so, Aberdeen has also started their campaign to kick homophobia out of football. In 29th February 2016 (over a year before Man Utd!), the Aberdonian team made a statement about the LGBT+ history month by being the first club in the SPFL to announce the formation of a fan group for its LGBT+ fans and their friends.

To know that you have support for who you are all around the city, not just a school or two, is huge and it's an amazing feeling to know how far we've gotten. The group is called "Proud Dons" and exists to provide a social group for LGBT+ Aberdeen fans and their friends to meet up and talk football, provide a safe and welcoming space, and campaign to kick homophobia out of our game.

Scott is a Dons fan from Queen's Cross Church and has given a speech in St Machar Academy before and is an inspiration

to a lot of people and has done a lot to help the LGBT community across Aberdeen.

Talking about the Club's new idea Scott said: 'I am immensely chuffed to see this happen, and for Aberdeen to be the first club in Scotland to recognise the need to address homophobia in football and to back a fan group for LGBT+ Dons fans and their friends. Most of the big clubs in England have done the same in recent years, and it speaks volumes for AFC's commitment to the whole community of the north east that they are the first in Scotland to do the same.'

The group has a Twitter and a Facebook Page which can be accessed through the following links or googling "Proud Dons"

<https://twitter.com/ProudDons>

<https://www.facebook.com/prouddons>

Torry Academy Gender Equality Group

The Torry Academy Gender Equality (GE) Group is a new group in Torry Academy which focuses on highlighting the issue of gender equality in the UK and other countries by having weekly discussions and using other methods to spread awareness. They also are planning to fundraise for the Malala Fund and other organisations which support girls' education in countries like Pakistan, India, Kenya and lots more!

The group hasn't been established for that long so at the moment they are focusing on spreading awareness and raising money to host more fundraising events. You should keep your eyes peeled as we will be planning some cool fundraising events in the time being. We want to raise money for The Malala Fund which works to make sure a girl has 12 years of education and that they can learn safely. We recommend you take a look at The Malala Fund website: www.malala.org

We look forward to you finding out more about us!

Does your group focus on one gender or is everyone welcome?

Everyone is welcome even though our group is majority girls. We are a gender equality group, but girls' education is one of our main priorities.

How did the idea of a gender equality group come into play?

The idea came from Katie and Yasmin during a modern studies lesson/assignment where one of them was covering a gender equality topic. They then decided it would be a good idea to have a gender equality group in the school.

Are you focusing on gender equality in the UK or worldwide?

Worldwide, but when it comes to girls' education, we focus on the developing world.

Why did you join the group/ help out with the group/or create the group?

"We thought it was an important topic that needs to be addressed."

"We wanted to make a difference."

What kind of discussions do you have at the group?

We discuss a lot of things but recently we've been talking about our aims and just recently we were discussing America's situation with gender equality and why the women's march happened.

Tell us a bit about the Malala Fund?

The Malala Fund was set up by Malala Yousafzai aiming to make sure girls in countries like Pakistan have a right to 12 years of education.

Malala Fact File

- **Malala Yousafzai is the youngest ever Nobel Prize Laureate.**
- **She is mostly famous for being the girl who stood up for girls' education, after she was shot by the Taliban on her way to school. The Taliban didn't believe that girls should go to school.**
- **She was born in Mingora, Pakistan.**
- **She was born on the 12th of July 1997 (age 19 years).**
- **She has written many biographies which send a powerful message to people of all ages.**



ABERDEEN TREASURE HUB OFFICIALLY OPENS

stacey, fern, yasmin and kacper

Council Leader Jenny Laing officially opened Aberdeen's multi-million pounds Treasure Hub at a family fun day launch on Saturday the 19th of November, 2016

The Treasure Hub, which was named by pupils from Northfield Academy, is designed to be a collections store facility which includes a public exhibition and activity space.

The family fun day included lots of activities including puppet making, games, face painting, meeting a Police Scotland dog and even handling some of the objects that form part of the Hub's collection.

shmu's Youth Media Team got a special tour of the gallery at the end of 2016 and interviewed Helen Fothergill, Head of Collections at Aberdeen Museums and Galleries.

Can you introduce yourself and tell us about your role?

Helen Fothergill, Head of Collections. I manage a team of professional staff who look after and interpret the collections. This includes recording details about the objects, checking their condition, arranging to lend or display the objects, photographing them, researching their

history or the artists of company that made them, wore them, owned them, used them or played with them.

Why is it called Aberdeen Treasure Hub?

We ran a competition for schools in Northfield to name the new storage facility. We wanted a name that explained that the site was more than just a store for stuff. We short-listed the ones we liked, and then asked the public to vote on their favourite. We hope that everyone will appreciate the "treasures" we look after for the city!

Why did you choose Northfield as the location of Aberdeen Treasure Hub?

We were looking for a site outside of the city centre. We chose Northfield for several reasons including great bus routes from the city centre, shops nearby, lots of positive community activities already happening, a site with the options to expand in the future. There are a few other reasons why it works for us, including the great relationships we've started to build with local groups and schools, and we really want the chance to get involved and add fun and interest to the things that are already happening there.



Images courtesy of Aberdeen City Council

When is it open to the public?

We are open now. It will be a bit of a slow start whilst we fill the building with our collections. We expect that this will take us into 2019 before we finish, but we'll be open for tours and activities as soon as we can.

What other things will be happening in the Treasure Hub?

We will take bookings from groups to have a look at the collections behind the big security doors, but we'll also be having regular fun days with family activities. We're hoping that people will start to use the space for research, volunteering or just as a place to be inspired by all the stuff we care for.

We also want to run small projects with local schools and groups, but we want to work out what might be the most exciting projects to do with the people who will be taking part. We've got some ideas, for example creating your own displays of peculiar objects; selecting clothes from our textile collection to recreate; up-cycling workshops; creative writing and much more.

What is your favourite piece of art?

My favourite work of art changes depending on my mood, what time of year it is or even what song I've just heard! There is a lovely watercolour by Charles Ginner that I saw for the first time the other day that I really like, but I also really like the painting we've adopted as a bit of a mascot for our fundraising campaign: To Pastures New by Sir James Guthrie.

aberdeen art gallery
was founded in

1884

making it 131 years old

The name was 'Aberdeen
Treasure Hub' was picked by
pupils at Northfield Academy

THE REFURBISHED ABERDEEN ART GALLERY WILL
REOPEN LATE 2017

Some of our oldest works

date back to 1430

British sign language

× language



hello & goodbye



sign for good



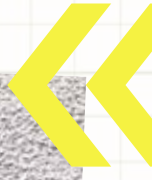
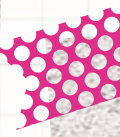
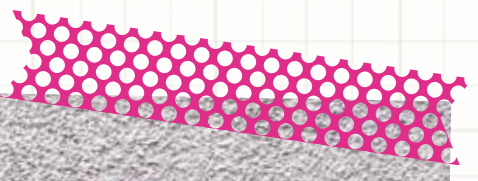
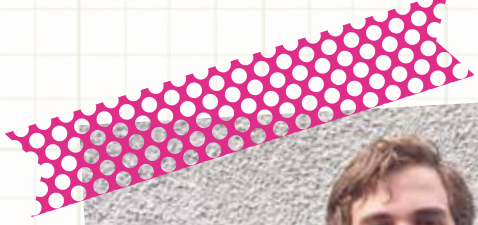
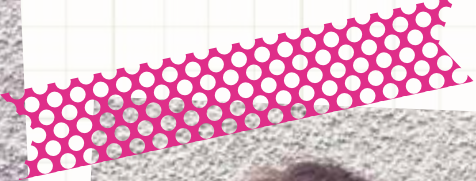
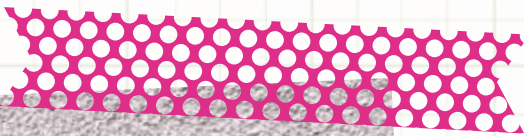
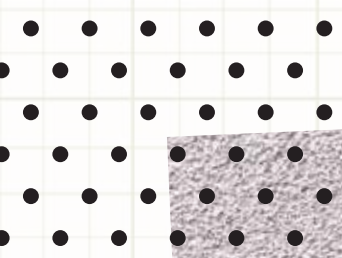
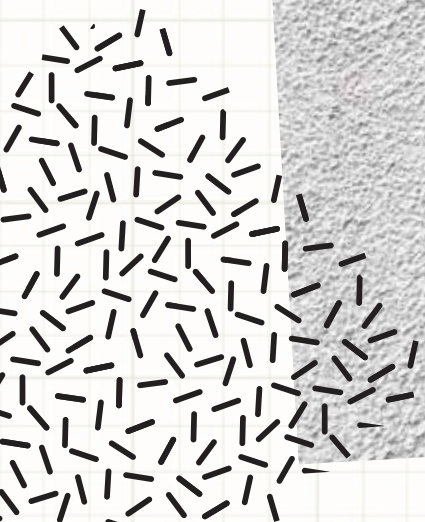
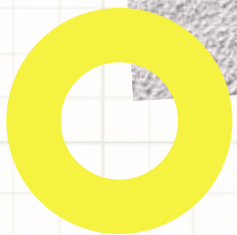
sign for morning



sign for afternoon



sign for night



WHY SHOULD PEOPLE LEARN BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE?

by stacey

British Sign Language (BSL) is a visual language which is used as a form of communication for deaf people. It is estimated that between 30,000 and 70,000 people use BSL to communicate as their first language but it is estimated that up to 250,000 people use some form of BSL every day. It is not exclusively deaf people who use British Sign Language. Many hard of hearing people need to use BSL to communicate with deaf relatives and friends.

Just like verbal language, many different countries have their own hand signs for their sign language. Many people who have never learned BSL have felt confused by BSL because they believed that the language was just a random bunch of gestures.

In March 2003 British Sign Language was first identified as a fully independent language. According to the BBC children in the 19th century would use it to communicate but many children were actually banned from using it in school and were forced to lip read which would have been more difficult for them. Many children in schools were bullied and ridiculed by pupils and teachers for using BSL. However, sign-language was used in secret as between 5 and 10% of deaf children had deaf parents so would use BSL in secret keeping the language alive to this day.

I've had a chance to research all about BSL and it helped me to open my mind and understand what deaf people are going through when using BSL. We have all had a chance to recreate some gestures from BSL.



thanks/please



how are you?

getting into film

IN ABERDEEN

by connor

I interviewed Nicci Thompson, who is an independent filmmaker and also develops the film work at shmu. He has made plenty of films, some of which have been played across the world. I decided to talk to him about his works, as well as filming opportunities in Aberdeen.

Connor: So Nicci, how are you?

Nicci: I'm very well thank you

Connor: So first question, what is your area of expertise in the filming community?

Nicci: My area of expertise really lies within directing, producing and screenwriting. That's what I stick to as it's what I'm best at, so I don't try and do anything else. I work with people who need help with that kind of thing.

Connor: Do you enjoy helping people out?

Nicci: Yeah, I love helping people. My work at shmu is a great opportunity to help out and show people how films work, how you make them and how you put them together out in the community. I get to work with people and help them make their films from showing them the basics of how films come to life and getting the idea from the page to on the screen. It's really nice to be a part of helping people discover that.

Connor: Whenever you make a film, whereabouts can people go to see it?

Nicci: A lot of the films I do now I make for festivals. The last film I did was released through various festivals around the world. It sounds a bit arrogant, but it did quite well in the festival circuits and was shown at various film festivals and people got to see it at different places which feels really good. It's finished at festivals now and is available online so you can just have a look and watch it.

Connor: What opportunities are there for potential filmmakers here in Aberdeen?

Nicci: At the moment, the opportunities here are really just within the mini networks and that's something we're trying to change. We're trying to get a better network going here, because there's a lot of talent. People do college courses, university courses and join various societies to make films. There are a lot of people who want to make films as well so lining up and working with them is a good way of finding opportunities and collaborating. Film is always about collaborating because it just isn't a lone wolf medium. You get people who make films on their own but you need a good crew beside you to do it properly.

Connor: So would you say that filming opportunities are better in places like Glasgow or Edinburgh than up here?

Nicci: Oh yeah, they are, which is unfortunate. The Scottish Film Industry is ultimately centred around Glasgow and Edinburgh, so because of that there's obviously more opportunities to work in bigger projects, get involved in bigger projects, there's more facilities, more equipment, more people that can do it. But there are people here, and finding a way to retain them is very important and finding ways to bring about opportunities for filmmakers to be able to express and do it is something that's getting better and it's something that we shouldn't give up on.

Connor: What do you think could be done to improve filming opportunities here in Aberdeen?

Nicci: In Aberdeen, if people keep making stuff and people keep getting out there with cameras and scripts and go out and make things, then the more projects the better. Good quality projects that people can get involved with and that is the best way of learning. With filming, you can read every single book there is on filmmaking and it doesn't really matter - you'll learn the best by just going out and doing it. I'll never perfect this craft, I'll never know everything about it. Until the day I die, with every film I make I will learn something new about every single one of them and go about doing it. It's a craft that's forever learning and that's the best way of improving it is just by people sticking around and making films and collaborating with people.

Connor: Have any of the films you've made been played anywhere in Aberdeen?

Nicci: Yeah, my last one won the Aberdeen International Film Festival and was screened at the Belmont as well. The one I made before that was also showcased at the Aberdeen International Film Festival and CineWorld, which was cool. The newer ones will be ultimately showcased here as well, and it's great to see your work go on the big screen.

EMILY'S FILM JOURNEY

Emily is a member of shmu's Youth Media Team. She joined the Youth Radio Project in 2013 and took a keen interest in film. We spoke to her about her experiences.

When I first started volunteering at shmu there was a project called ShmuTV. I thought this sounded interesting and I wanted to find out how to join. Unfortunately, that project was coming to an end so the filming side of things in shmu wasn't very busy.

Then in 2014 a filming opportunity came up and the first thing I remember filming was with the Youth Media Project at Hayfield Riding Centre, it was great! Later on in the year we had a staff changeover and I began to feel unsure of how film sessions would be. I wasn't sure if I would still enjoy them but I took the chance and went along to them. The sessions with Nicci helped a lot.

At the time, I was in school studying media, so the things I learnt with Nicci I could use at school and the things I learnt at school I could bring to the group. It was very interesting, I learnt how to use the camera and how to do different camera shots, the different frames per second and started learning how to write film scripts. I even learnt how to use editing software at shmu.

After filming a lot, I became more confident at shmu, and Nicci and Lori and other staff members could see that. I went to the first BFI Film Academy graduation as I knew Natasha and she was representing shmu. After the event Murray (shmu's Chief Executive) and Nicci had said to me that I should apply for the following year and I did. I was very nervous as I didn't know anybody, and meeting new people was a big challenge for me. Fortunately for me I had a friendly face there as Nicci was running some of the sessions. So, with a bit of ease, I made some great new friends at BFI and I successfully was able to make a short film. While at BFI I explored my talents in camera operation and editing. After editing at BFI I grew to enjoy it instead of hate it. When I graduated from the BFI Film Academy I was in 5th year and thinking of leaving school, but I was unsure of what to do. Nicci came up to me and said that he did a film course at college which would be good for me too. I applied for it and I got in, so I'm now currently at NESCOL studying HND Creative Industries TV. I'm through my first year and some friends that I made at BFI are in my course too. Over time it was easier to make new friends too. I'm making a documentary about shmu and how shmu helps young people like me across the city. The things I have brought into this film are things that I've learned in film over the years. Also, this film that I'm making, I'm making it the best thing I've ever done so far as it is my way of showing what I've learned and my way of saying thank you to shmu.

FILM AT SHMU

There are lots of opportunities for young people to get involved with film through shmu. Read on to find out more...

If you live or go to school in the Northfield, St Machar or Torry area you can join the

YOUTH MEDIA PROJECT

where there are opportunities to get involved in radio, music, journalism and film.

Positive Transitions

PROVIDES SUPPORT TO 16-19 YEAR OLDS LIVING IN ABERDEEN TO HELP GET THEM "JOB READY." THIS IS AN EMPLOYABILITY COURSE WHICH USES MEDIA TOOLS TO HELP INCREASE CONFIDENCE, IMPROVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND CREATE DIGITAL CVs THROUGH FILM.

BFI FILM ACADEMY

is a chance for young people with a passion for film to focus on developing their skills and gain invaluable experience working alongside industry professionals. For more information about any of these opportunities email info@shmu.org.uk or call us on 01224 515013.

DESIGN COMPETITION WINNER

The last edition of Journalological saw the launch of our cover design competition. Let's find out more about our worthy winner, Agne Irbe...

Whereabouts are you from?

I am originally from Latvia, and I live in the Rosemount area of Aberdeen.

How did you hear about Journalological's competition?

I heard about it when I picked up a copy in my local library, and saw it advertised on the back cover. I was very excited and worked hard to meet the deadline. I only just made it, and I'm glad that I did!

What inspired your design?

I thought of all the people who make up the communities in Aberdeen City and Shire, and decided to do something based on that. The 'ring of people' idea wasn't really inspired by anything- I may have seen something similar, or I might have doodled it sometime.

What are a few of your favourite things?

I like drawing, reading, writing, cooking, being creative, playing the cello and rock climbing.

What would you like to do when you're older?

I want to be an illustrator or designer.

The team behind Journalological would like to thank everybody who contributed designs to our competition. It was really hard to choose as all your designs were so lovely!

Thank you to Alex, Claudia, Chloe, Gemma, Jenna, Lea, Kieran, Marley and Lois from Hazlehead Academy and Belal from Torry Academy.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



- * ACIS Youth Counselling
01224 573 892
or iTEXT: 07758 360 095
- * Childline - 0800 1111
- * NHS 24 - 111
- * Police - 101
- * Aberdeen City
Youth Council
www.facebook.com/aberdeencityyouthcouncil
- * Sexual Health Services
0345 337 9900
- * Aberdeen Guarantees
www.aberdeenguarantees.com

THANK YOU FOR READING



Station House Media Unit, Station Road,
Woodside Aberdeen, Scotland AB24 2WB
01224 515013 • www.shmu.org.uk
info@shmu.org.uk